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The Trees Of The Dancing Goats (Aladdin Picture Books)



Synopsis

Trisha loves the eight days of Hanukkah, when her mother stays home from work, her Babushka makes delicious potato latkes, and her Grampa carves wonderful animals out of wood as gifts for Trisha and her brother. In the middle of her family's preparation for the festival of lights, Trisha visits her closest neighbors, expecting to find them decorating their house for Christmas. Instead they are all bedridden with scarlet fever. Trisha's family is one of the few who has been spared from the epidemic. It is difficult for them to enjoy their Hanukkah feast when they know that their neighbors won't be able to celebrate their holiday. Then Grampa has an inspiration: they will cut down trees, decorate them, and secretly deliver them to the neighbors, "But what can we decorate them with?" Babushka asks. Although it is a sacrifice, Trisha realizes that Grampa's carved animals are the perfect answer. Soon her living room is filled with trees -- but that is only the first miracle of many during an incredible holiday season. Based on a long cherished childhood memory, this story celebrates the miracle of true friendship.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Series: Aladdin Picture Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; Reprint edition (October 1, 2000)

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (37 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #87,445 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

[Holidays & Celebrations > Jewish](#) #85 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations >](#)

[Non-religious](#) #275 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life >](#)

[Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: [Preschool - 3](#)

Customer Reviews

This book is a rare find. Patricia Polacco grabs the readers interest with her usual warmth. The story tells of a winter on the farm when most of the rest of the families in the village have come down with Scarlet Fever. As Trisha and her family prepare for the upcoming Hanukkah celebration, they realize that the other families will not be well enough to celebrate Christmas. Trisha's family decides that they will take a special holiday dinner and decorations made from their Hanukkah presents to the other families homes to surprise them. The example of unselfish giving is one every child should be exposed to. I have read this book to my first grade class each year for the last three years. Each time I read it, there will be at least a couple of children who begin to cry. I cannot read this story without getting a lump in my throat. I recommend this book to EVERYONE!

This is my favorite new book of this holiday season. Here is a story for Christians and Jews alike...a story that celebrates the spirit of humanity. Through her rich, lively paintings, Polacco brings us a message of love, through the friendship of two young girls, who although they do not share the same religion and traditions, they in fact DO share this one particular holiday season. Warm your heart with joy as you read this story of two families and how we truly are all one.

My teacher does an "author study" program and our first featured author was Patricia Polacco. My teacher read some of her books to my class and during reading I would read them to myself. I read this book and it was one of my favorites. We bought it and I love it. I recommend this book for anyone who loves to read! The author writes about the time when she was a young child and a lot of her neighbors got scarlet fever. The girl and her family is Jewish, and since they are not sick, the girl, her older brother, her mom, her babushka, and her grandpa go out and chop down trees and decorate them with colorful animal figures. I won't tell you the surprise ending, but this book is awesome! I recommend this book highly.

A few years ago I was lucky enough to overhear our school librarian recommend this book to another parent at the school book fair. There was only one copy left so I took it. Now, each December I get out our family's box of holiday books and this is the first one we read. My youngest child handed me a tissue before I started reading it last December! She knows how this book touches my heart and warms my soul. I have given this book to family and friends ... young and old. Great book to spread the message of what is really important -- at the holidays especially.

This lovely tale of goodwill and friendship between Christians and Jews is a must for every

elementary media center and public library collection. Never preachy, Polacco's theme is clear to children as the touching story unfolds. You should have this one

Great book about sharing and looking out for your friends in need. My granddaughter heard me read it and ask I purchase it for her. She took to school in 3 grade and everyone wanted it. Her Jewish friend loved it. Grandma Cheryl

As with most Jewish families, we have always lived in communities where we are the minority. I love how this Hanukkah story shows the importance of everyone's religion -- and how being a good neighbor is universal. Highly recommended.

I have several of Patricia Polacco books and this is one of my favorites. I love reading about her family in her stories and this was just a great story. Beautiful artwork of course, and again, just a great story that you can read over and over again and not get tired of.

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