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Opening extract from

Katy's Christmas Gift

Written by

Bernadette Watts

Published by

Floris Books

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Katy's Christmas Gift

Written and illustrated by
Bernadette Watts



Floris Books

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One snowy, snowy December evening, Katy and her mother were setting the table together.

"Mama," said Katy, "when I took the eggs to the innkeeper today, I saw a man and woman at the door of the inn, looking very tired."

"Poor people," said her mother. "It's hard to travel in this winter weather."

"The innkeeper didn't have a room for them, but he let them stay in his stable," said Katy, who liked the idea of sleeping on hay bales near all the warm drowsy animals.



When she went up to bed, a brilliant star shone in the dark night sky outside Katy's window. It was right above the innkeeper's stable, high on the hill.

"Look!" whispered Katy to her cat, Sasha.

Below the window, her father was talking with the people who took care of their sheep. The shepherds told him that a baby boy had been born in the innkeeper's stable. They were on their way to visit, taking a lamb as a gift.



As she walked along the edge of the forest, a reindeer wandered out looking for food. It came right up to her.

"This loaf of bread is quite big," thought Katy. "I can give some away and there will still be enough left over."

As she broke the bread, other forest animals gathered round, cold from searching for food in the snow. Katy dropped crumbs for them, and ate a few mouthfuls herself. Soon all the bread was gone.

Katy was sorry she didn't have anything to give the baby's parents. "But I still have my wooden bird, and that's the best gift of all."







