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Opening extract from

Grace at Christmas

Written by

Mary Hoffman

Published by

Frances Lincoln Children's Books

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For Julieta, Josephine and Joani – *M.H.*

To Beata – *C.VW Y-H.H*

JANETTA OTTER-BARRY BOOKS

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The characters as depicted in *Grace at Christmas* are based on Caroline Binch's original depiction of the characters in *Amazing Grace* and *Grace and Family*.

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Grace at Christmas

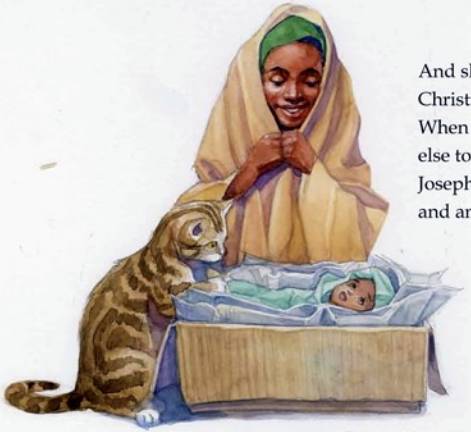
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FRANCES LINCOLN
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Grace loved Christmas. It was her favourite day of the year – even better than her birthday. She loved the tree with all its coloured lights and fancy baubles, the presents piled up underneath it, going to church with Ma and Nana on Christmas morning and then coming back for a huge dinner.





And she loved acting out the Christmas story too. When she couldn't get anyone else to join in she was Mary, Joseph, and all the shepherds and angels as well.





Paw-Paw had to be the animals in the stable, even though he didn't like dressing up as much as Grace did.



Grace specially liked it when Ma and Nana joined in and they could be the Three Wise Men together, carrying presents for the baby.

"This bit is better," said Grace. "Three parts and three of us. We don't really have enough people in our family to act out the whole story..."

As long as Grace could remember it had been just her, Ma and Nana for Christmas.