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Opening extract from

The Animals' Christmas

Written by

Elena Pasquali

Published by

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The starlight led the men to the place where Mary and Joseph had taken shelter. As they halted, they exchanged puzzled glances.

"The star was the sign that a king had been born," said one. "Can this really be his birthplace?"

"It is little more than a barn."

"But then, he is to be a king, such as the world has never seen. Come, let us take our gifts."

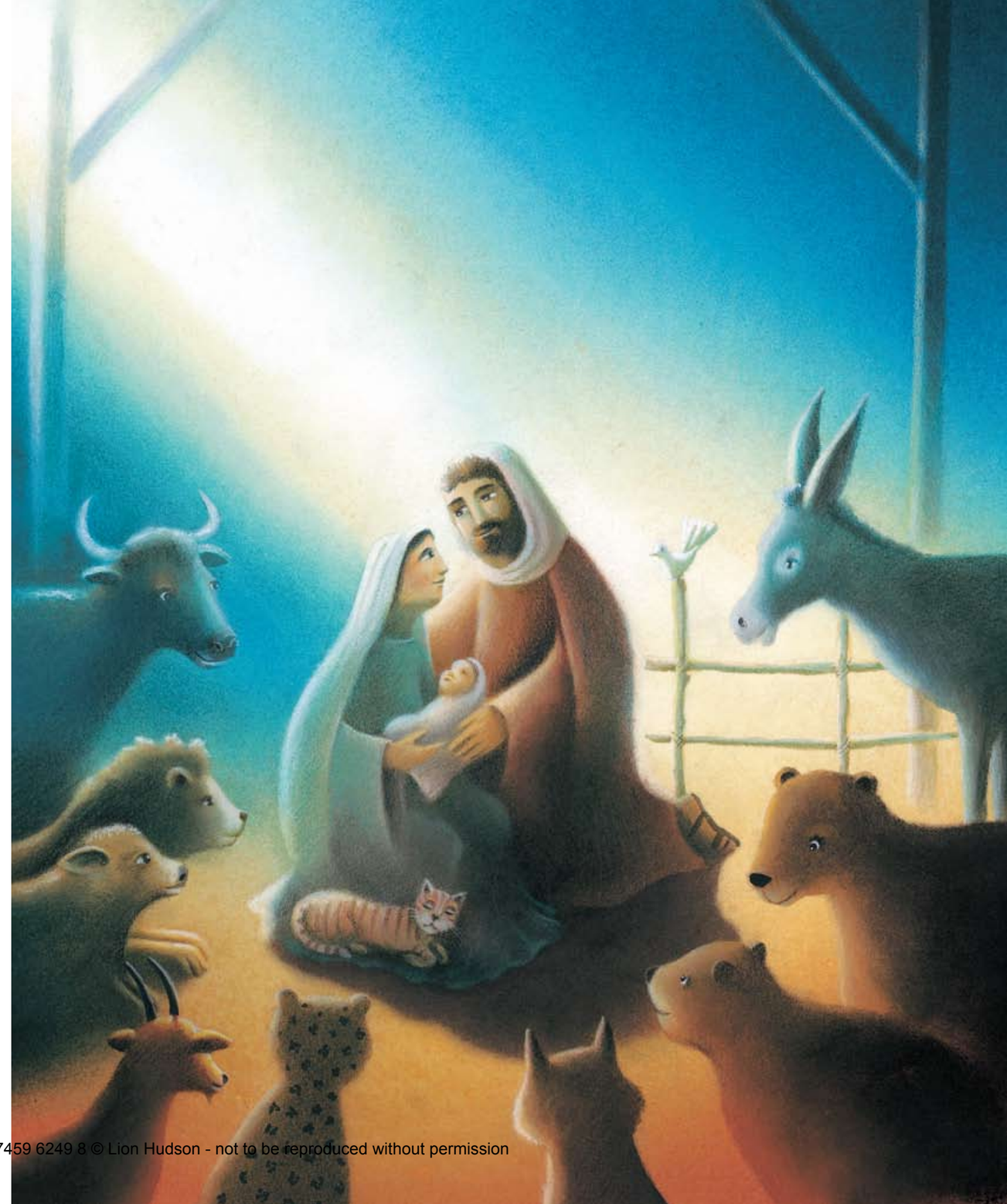
So they unpacked their gold and frankincense and myrrh and took them inside.

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Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men: they all believed that the baby born in Bethlehem was a king, such as the world had never seen.

He was the one who would establish a peaceable kingdom, where animals both wild and tame would live together.



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