

Gifts of the Heart – Reviews

"When Christmas gets too hectic and commercial, turn to this book that has a wonderful tale and beautiful illustrations. This is a simple feel good story of gift giving wrapped up with cute and silly events that will warm the heart of all who read, and should not be missed."

- Lynette Latzko, DelGal's Book Reviews, <http://delgalreviews.com>

"This is a delightful book about the Christmas season, involving grandparents arriving bearing gifts for their grandchildren. However, the real message is about the heart-warming aspects of giving and the pleasure of knowing that someone else has joy in their heart from receiving a gift. The gifts were lost in transit and the story involves everything from **Bo Peep's lost sheep wearing red socks to spiders on skates to flying aloft in a distinctive red sleigh pulled by the sheep wearing socks**. It closes with the people in Bo Peep's village giving the grandparents and children gifts to replace those lost in a storm. **Presented in a rhyming style that reminded me of "The Night Before Christmas"** this is a book that I would have both loved and hated to have read to my daughter. The love part is because she would have enjoyed it and the hate part is because I would then have had to read it over and over and over..."

- Charles Ashbacher, Amazon

"This is a wonderful story about giving to people who are in need, and it shows kids that giving is just as much fun as receiving. This is a wonderful story that should be on every shelf!"

- Haley Mathiot, Goodreads, <http://www.goodreads.com>

"I love this book for these reasons. 1) It's a holiday story for ... grandparents to read to grandchildren. 2) It promotes the idea of giving to those in need. 3) It shows that Christmas isn't all about presents...It's beautiful. The illustrations by Marilyn Brown are soft and Christmasy. I'm not sure how to describe them but they are gorgeous. The story itself is magnificent. **This book is self-published at the moment but I can see a large publisher picking this book up for sure.** I know I'd be honored to have my name or company name in the inside cover. I HIGHLY recommend this book to all grandparents who celebrate Christmas."

- Callista, SMS Book Reviews, <http://bookreviews.blogspot.com>

"What a wonderful book! It teaches that when you see someone in need and you give to them, it makes your heart glad. The message is that it's better to give than to receive, and that when you give to others, you will be blessed. The story is told in rhyme and the illustrations are beautiful. I think this is a great book for any child as it teaches them to give to others."

- Vicki Newell, Reading at the Beach, <http://ilratb.blogspot.com>

"*Gifts of the Heart* is a wonderful Christmas book. I love how its message is about giving from the heart and helping others in need. This message was wonderfully portrayed through the beautiful illustrations and rhyming story. I loved how they combined the Christmas story with some Mother Goose stories. This was a really cute touch. **The rhyming text was fun and even at points sounded like Dr. Seuss style.** My children really enjoyed listening to this book and looking at all the fun illustrations!"

- Colleen Burgess, The Princess and the Monkey, <http://kennedyandzach.blogspot.com>

"*Gifts of the Heart*, by Karen Boes Oman, is a treasure. It's a wonderful story about giving rather than getting. The repeated message is, "When you give, you're giving your heart." **The secondary message is, when you give, others give, too.** And the story is beautifully wrapped in a gentle, rhythmic rhyme. It's easy to read aloud and easy for children to hear. **I read it to my granddaughters, and they snuggled down and listened to the entire book—quite an accomplishment for a two- and four-year old.** Marilyn Brown's illustrations are beautiful, too, and very reminiscent of Tasha Tudor. They fit the book perfectly—gentle, detailed, soft—gifts of the artist's heart. I enjoyed the book, and so did my granddaughters. Their favorite part? The very last page, where it says, "The End." It's the page that shows Grandma lovingly re-attaching the tail to the repaired rocking horse. A gift of the heart."

- Penny Watkins, BookPleasures, <http://www.bookpleasures.com>

"*Gifts of the Heart*" has become a new Christmas favorite for our family. It is a wonderfully illustrated story that describes a grandparents journey to celebrate Christmas with their grandchildren. Along the way their car is thrown off of the road and the grandchildren's presents are scattered. The grandparents eventually find all of the presents but they discover that the finder of the present was in need. They decide that it is better to give to those in need and that grandchildren will understand why they will not have presents this Christmas. **"Gifts of the Heart" may be secular but it is a wonderful story that illustrates that presents that are given from "the Heart" are the pinnacle of kindness and the Christmas season.** Karen Oman has incorporated crisp illustrations and a very catchy rhyming scheme that is sure to become a child's favorite. I know I am laying it on a bit thick, but in many ways this is a great story. **I would highly recommend the story as a gift from a grandparent to any child ages 3-10.**

- Charles Evans "Call me Kevin", Amazon

"Gifts of the Heart, a new holiday...book written by Karen Boes Oman and illustrated by Marilyn Brown, was a surprising, fun, and whimsical read. I can't praise this book enough. It's not only gorgeous to look at the pictures, but the message is both fun and meaningful. I have absolutely found my new favorite holiday book.

- Kristen Andrews, A Writer's Pen, <http://www.awriterspen.com>"

Gifts of the Heart is a beautiful book, and the moral to the story is that when you see something is needed and give it it warms the heart. Interesting the story twists some common nursery rhyme characters to add humor to this unique tale. The illustrations included are beautiful and add to the treasure of this book. In the spirit of the holiday we will continue to read this throughout this holiday season. **For families with young children this is an awesome book to own.**

- Jackie O'Mullane, Book Whisperer, <http://book-whisperer.blogspot.com>

"Gifts of the Heart takes the children on an imaginary flight where they could see all their gifts blowing to various people and animals that could use them. After a while, Little Bo Peep knocked at the door and offered to fly them all in her sleigh to take them to see how the various recipients were using the gifts that had blown to them. **This is a child's fantasy that teaches the value of seeing how others can benefit from gifts they normally would not have and how those gifts are given from the heart.** The illustrations alone make this book great. Naturally as in many children's books, the imagination has to wander with the story but the lesson is good."

- Cy Hilterman, Amazon

"Told in verse, the story is one of the best I've read this season. The illustrations are also fresh and colorful, making this book an instant holiday favorite."

- Barbara Davis, The Serenity Room, <http://www.theserenityroom.blogspot.com>

*"You will enjoy reading this wonderful book to your children! Gifts of the Heart is truly a children's story with an important message about giving that will most certainly touch your heart. **In fewer than 700 well-thought-out words, complemented by most stunning illustrations, Gifts of the Heart will become a Christmas standard to be read every year in your house.** Gentle rhyming and vivid images presented in words paint a picture that is enhanced by the colorful illustrations by Marilyn Brown. This book would make for an Awesome Gift."*

- Jill Page, Frugal Plus, <http://frugalplus.com>

*"I read this book to my children and it really held their interest. It has good rhythm and pacing. It is both silly and sweet. The illustrations really work with the text, they loved seeing Little Bo Peep and her sheep pulling the flying sleigh past the moon. **I liked the message about giving to others especially at Christmas time when it is easy to be focused on getting gifts and coveted toys. Sometimes the best gift isn't the one that costs the most. I can foresee my children requesting to hear this story again and I will enjoy rereading it with them.**"*

- Jill Buck, Goodreads, <http://www.goodreads.com>