



The Story of Holly and Ivy

Rumer Godden , Barbara Cooney

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Ivy, Holly, and Mr. and Mrs. Jones all have one Christmas wish. Ivy, an orphan, wishes for a real home and sets out in search of the grandmother she's sure she can find. Holly, a doll, wishes for a child to bring her to life. And the Joneses wish more than anything for a son or daughter to share their holiday. Can all three wishes come true? This festive tale is perfectly complemented by beloved Barbara Cooney's luminous illustrations, filled with the warm glow of the Christmas spirit.

The Story of Holly and Ivy Details

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Author : Rumer Godden , Barbara Cooney

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From Reader Review The Story of Holly and Ivy for online ebook

LydiaMae says

This has to be one of my favourite Christmas books ever. Rumer Godden is an incredible writer, and just hits the spot when it comes to Christmas and dolls!!

Dhanaraj Rajan says

Another lovely piece of children's literature.

It is a lovey story for the season of Christmas. No regrets that I have read it out of season. It is a small gem that can be brushed quickly every Christmas season.

It is about an orphan girl who longs for a small toy to chase away the emptiness that occasionally wells up within her and searches for a family that will take her during the lovely season of Christmas. By now you would have guessed the story and the possible ending. There is no prize for guessing that. But the presentation is just lovely. It is a story for children between 5 and 8. From that perspective it is a superbly written story. It will make for a lovely bed time reading to small girls in the season of Christmas.

The message of the book: Always wish for something good and wish for it with whole heart. It will certainly come to pass. It might look far fetched and unrealistic. But the story will certainly succeed to instill positive attitudes in a person from his/her childhood. That, I think, is a great achievement by Rumer Godden.

Great Book Study says

Every Christmas I check this out of the library to read to my kids. It is super sweet and heartwarming. I need to get my own darn copy!

Cheryl says

Sweet enough to melt the heart of a curmudgeonly atheist. Much honor to Godden's magic way with words, and Barbara Cooney's pictures certainly helped the edition I read.

Elsa K says

Such a sweet Christmas read aloud. I remember having this book as a kid. I think it probably appeals more to girls (my boys couldn't get into the importance of having a new doll), but my boys still enjoyed it. Abracadabra made it more appealing to them. Ha! I love the pictures and the old fashioned feel.

Celia says

A beautiful Christmas story about a doll who needs a person and an orphan who wants a doll.

Hilary says

This was a lovely short read about a doll needing a girl and a girl needing a home. A christmassy magical book about hopes and wishes. Lovely illustrations. We think the owl in the toyshop must have been inspiration for hoot from old bear.

Lisa Vegan says

Although this is a 32 page long picture book, it's text heavy, so it's actually a fairly long story for a picture book.

This is my new favorite Christmas story. I'm not big on gooey holiday stories, or holiday stories in general, but I just loved this.

I appreciated how the doll and the six year old girl are both important characters.

This is a sweet story about wishing for and finding a loving home, wishing and finding for both doll and girl.

The illustrations are just lovely. Every detail is wonderful. It's fun to look at all the toys, but every setting is just wonderful: the orphanage, the train ride, the town, the store, the couple's home.

This would make an ideal gift book for Christmas, or for any occasion.

Susan says

This is an absolutely enchanting and extremely moving Christmas tale for children. It centres on a little orphan girl, called Ivy, who is shunted off on Christmas Eve to the Infants' Home, as there is nobody to look after her. Stubbornly, Ivy declares she will go to her 'grandmother' but she has no grandmother and so Miss Shepherd puts her on the train. However, Ivy gets off and goes in hunt of the home that must belong to her.

In the toyshop, a pretty doll called Holly is dressed for Christmas and longs for a little girl of her own to love her. When Ivy sees her through the window, they both know they belong together – but Ivy has no money and the glass separates them and then the shop closes...

Meanwhile, a lady called Mrs Jones puts up her Christmas tree and waits for her policeman husband to return

from his beat. Mr Jones scoffs kindly at her preparations, but knows that she longs for a little girl of her own. The way that Rumer Godden brings together these three characters is absolutely masterly. This is story telling at its best, which will undoubtedly leave you feeling a little wrung out, but absolutely cheering at the end! If you read one story to your children at Christmas which absolutely invokes the spirit of the season, this should be it. At under 100 pages it is ideal to be read aloud to children of 4+.

booklady says

A beautiful story about wishing ... which is really childlike-prayer, or the prayer of the innocent. Holly, a little doll, looking for a girl to love her and Ivy, an orphan girl looking for a home (and a doll of course too!) are inevitably brought together in this charming and timeless Christmas tale for all ages.

Abigail says

The Story of Holly and Ivy, illustrated by **Adrienne Adams**.

I have always loved Rumer Godden's The Story of Holly and Ivy, a delightful little Christmas tale in which a lonely doll named Holly, and a lonelier orphan named Ivy, find one another and a home, all thanks to the magic of the season. But as I was rereading it this Christmas Eve past, it suddenly occurred to me that this wasn't the story of two lonely souls, but of three. Which, if you've read the book, might seem obvious. How odd that, as a younger reader, I breezed on past Mrs. Jones, and her quiet longing for a child, concentrating more on Holly and Ivy, whereas this time around, Mrs. Jones' narrative seemed particularly poignant to me.

It's a testament to Godden's skill as an author, I think, that this brief early reader/chapter-book - only sixty-four pages - can feel so fresh, after being read so many times, and still have something new to offer, upon each successive reading. The illustrations in my vintage edition were done by Adrienne Adams (as opposed to the more recent version with artwork by Barbara Cooney), and have a soft, dreamy quality that greatly enhances the charm of the story. I think my favorite is the end-paper illustration, with the bare tree standing in the village square!

All in all, The Story of Holly and Ivy is a sweet little holiday tale, one I would recommend to little girls who love doll stories, to young readers who enjoy magical Christmas adventures, or to Adrienne Adams fans.

Loretta says

A feel good story for this time of year! ??

Cynthia Ainsworth says

This edition is in a picture book format with illustrations by Barbara Cooney. It's nice but my favorite (and the one I read when I was seven) is in a chapter book binding with illustrations by Adrienne Adams. I scour

antique stores for these older copies to add to my collection (is it weird to want multiple copies of the same book?) This is a Christmas story, a story of belonging, a story of loss and finding, a story of family. As a kid reading this book, it captured for me the power of being wanted and loved. My paperback copy that I first read is falling apart...but it still delivers the same delicious feeling of joy.

Favorite quote:

"All day long people were coming in and out of the toy shop. Mr. Blossom and Peter were so busy they could hardly snatch a cup of tea."

Don't you hate days like that? So busy you can hardly snatch a cup of tea? A good day is with a great book and a whole pot of tea! (And maybe some toast and jam to go with it!!)

Kathryn says

What a sweet, beautiful story! All about the magic of wishing, and of love and belonging.

The edition I read is quite old, 1950s, and has soft, old-fashioned illustrations by Adrienne Adams.

June Jacobs says

I used to read this book to my first grade students each December before we went on winter break. I think I'm giving this story the highest compliment possible by saying that after the holidays, the girls and the boys begged me to reread this touching story to them again. Most years we read the story at least three times!

It's an awesome story with delightful illustrations. I have owned a copy of this book for twenty-seven years, and I still read it every holiday season for my own pleasure.

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