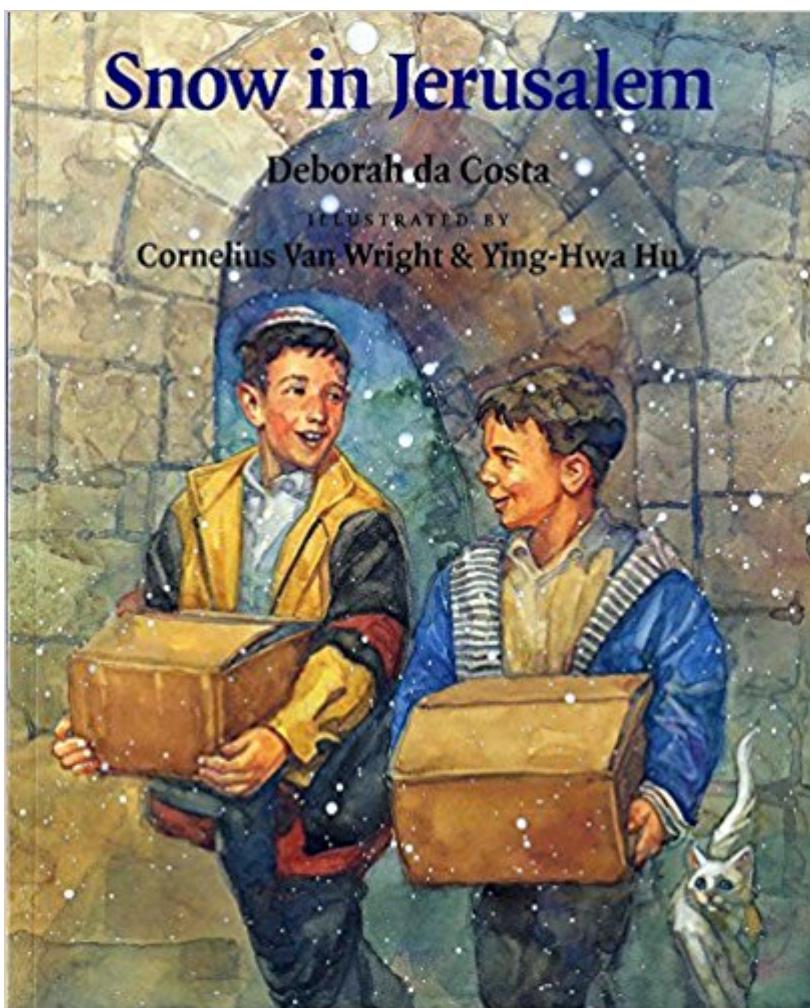


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Snow In Jerusalem (Albert Whitman Prairie Books (Paperback))



Synopsis

Avi and Hamudi are two boys who live in Jerusalem's Old City--Avi in the Jewish Quarter and Hamudi in the Muslim Quarter. To each boy, the other's neighborhood is an alien land. Both are caring for the same beautiful white stray cat.

Book Information

Series: Albert Whitman Prairie Books (Paperback)

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #609,943 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #167 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #325 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

In her affecting but message-driven debut children's book, da Costa relays the story of two boys who live in Jerusalem's Old City Avi in the Jewish Quarter and Hamudi in the Muslim Quarter. A fluffy white cat wanders between the homes of the two boys, relishing the scraps each feeds her. Then weeks pass without any sign of the cat, alarming each boy. Looking skinny and dirty, the cat at last visits Avi, who then follows her to Hamudi's neighborhood, where the youngsters begin to argue, each claiming the cat is his. As a rare snowfall begins, the boys stop bickering and, fearing that the beloved animal will freeze, follow her through Jerusalem to a dark alley where they discover four kittens in a box. As the mother purrs loudly and rubs against the boys, they conclude, "She does not want us to fight.... She wants peace." The watercolor art by this husband-and-wife team (Mei-Mei Loves the Morning) balances precise, close-up portraits of the boys with softly focused backgrounds that depict the various cultural nuances of the setting. A glossary defines the Hebrew

and Arabic words integrated into the text. Ages 6-10. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

K-Gr 3-As the problems in the Middle East continue to rage, this didactic story of finding common ground and a way to make peace seems both simplistic and apropos. Both Avi, who lives in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, and Hamudi, from the Muslim Quarter, love the white stray cat they feed. After she disappears and reappears, Avi follows the feline and discovers Hamudi feeding her. As they argue about ownership, snow begins to fall, and she runs away. Predictably, when they find her, she has four new kittens, which they argue over and finally agree to share, each taking two of them home. The narrative flows smoothly, and da Costa's language makes the story seem more a legend or folktale than a modern tale. The watercolor-and-pencil illustrations are done in a realistic style that suits the narrative, but the boys look alike except for their different jackets and the fact that Avi wears a yarmulke. The endpapers, which depict the old city with the Wailing Wall and the Dome of the Rock practically touching, are quite effective. School libraries may want to consider this serviceable title for opening discussions about the Middle East. Amy Lilien-Harper, The Ferguson Library, Stamford, CT
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This book is a wonderful edition to my son's multicultural/religious book category...this was suggested reading By Isra Hashmi, Saturday, 11th April 2015 for the "10 Must Have Books for Muslim Children" and it is definitely worth to buy...I love how the author makes a parallel with each boy...they both say the same thing to their cat and has the same feelings that this is their cat and she is a miracle from God. to Avi, his mom states, " my love, are you feeding that cat again?" his mother teased from the kitchen window. "We'll never get rid of it now!" But Avi loved this fluffy white cat. "there is no other cat like you in all of Jerusalem, " Avi whispered. "you are a miracle-a gift from Hashem, the Holy One." later Hamudi's Mom says, (the Muslim boy's mom) " Hamudi, my darling, are you feeding the cat again? his mother teased from the open doorway. "It will never leave us now!" But Hamudi loved the silky white cat. "There is no other cat like you in all of Jerusalem," he whispered. "I know you must be a miracle-a gift from Allah!" so the story continues until one day Avi follows his cat to Hamudi and an argument erupts of who's cat it is? Finally she shows them that she has 4 kittens which they end up agreeing to share because they are not thinking about their differences anymore rather about the wellbeing of the kittens and that it is upsetting to the mama cat to see them fighting...So this is a simple and beautiful story about overcoming your differences for

the wellbeing of others. Very poignant and hear warming...it is not biased towards either religion...My 6year old son loved listening to it and guessing what is gonna happen next. It is important for me to point out that I have a BS in Special Ed. with a certificate in Eng. Literature. Thus, it is very important for me that there are no language mistakes and that it is a well written story. The only reason I am giving this book four stars is because I do wish it was a bit longer ...it seemed quite short, I believe that the way it is written it could be for 3-5th graders but because it is short and portrayed through a simple act of caring for a cat k-2nd is appropriate as well, depends on your own child... I also loved the pictures they are absolutely beautiful and detailed, and the pages are the nice thick shiny ones, even though this is paperback it is not flimsy at all and a very nice gift even as a paperback book. I bought it used in very good condition and in my opinion it is in Like new condition...If this is the kind of book you like, you would love Cinderella: An Islamic Tale by Fawzia Gilani can't say enough about it. Same premise but focus is on how she prays, is kind, works hard, and is humble. If you want to teach your children princess stories but do not like that they are based on flaky main characters than this is the one for you whatever your beliefs are.

One of the main characters in this book is a fluffy white cat with blue eyes. She wanders the streets of Jerusalem. By becoming engaged in the stray cat's journey, the reader learns about the four unique sections of the Old City. The title page includes a simple map that points out the Armenian, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Quarters. The neutral cat befriends a Muslim and a Jewish child. Both boys become emotionally attached to the cat. Each feeds it whenever it comes to his respective neighborhood. Toward the end of the story, the wandering cat brings the boys together. They learn that the cat has a litter of kittens. As rare flakes of snow fall on Jerusalem, the boys cooperate. The kittens will be evenly divided. The white cat will split her time between the Jewish and Muslim Quarters of the Old City. Watercolor illustrations by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu provide a glimpse of the four sections. The artists used Uri Yaffe's photographs to create their muted illustrations. While the pictures are intentionally subdued, readers should be able to recognize symbols, outfits, and structures associated with each group. The illustrations and the text provide a starting point for discussing the multicultural aspects of the Old City. Modern pictures from the Four Quarters can be used to reinforce some of the obvious differences between the ethnic groups. Learning to acknowledge and accept cultural diversity is the key to the boys' friendship. Compromise became a possibility when the boys were able to work toward a common goal. A neutral party (the cat) was able to bridge the geographic and cultural gap. Snow in Jerusalem has multicultural messages that should be shared with children. The

book also includes a glossary of Hebrew and Arabic words and an author's note. Since I am not an authority on life in the Old City, I do not know whether everything stated in the author's note is still true 13 years later. Even if day-to-day life in the Old City has changed, this delightful multicultural picture book should continue to be read aloud to children. Take a look at these impressive honors and awards: A Junior Library Guild Selection, A University of Wisconsin Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice for 2002, An Association of Jewish Libraries Notable Children's Book of Jewish Content for 2001, A Children's Literature Choice List of Books for 2002, A Jewish Theological Seminary Notable Book for Younger Readers, Harold Grinspoon Foundation PJ Library Selection.

I think *Snow in Jerusalem* is a heart warming story. It brings two young boys together who are from different religions, one Jewish and one Muslim. The story includes colorful illustrations that represent the old city of Jerusalem and its different sections. Another aspect of this story that I like is the glossary. Throughout the story both boys speak a few words in Arabic and Hebrew. The glossary offers definitions and a pronunciation guide.

The premise of the book is fine, but it's oh so telling that it's not written by a local. This may be a good read for children in general, but it specifically does not address the very children it tries to depict. B+ for effort, but C- overall.

Snow In Jerusalem is a thought-provoking children's picturebook written by Deborah da Costa about two young boys who live in Jerusalem's Old City - Avi in the Jewish Quarter and Hamudi in the Muslim Quarter. Though neither boy knows it, both of them are caring for the same, beautiful white stray cat. One day the boys follow the cat across the boundaries between the city's quarters, and something wonderful happens, as unexpected as a snowfall in Jerusalem. The muted, softly blurring yet endearingly memorable color illustrations by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu bring to life this gentle parable. *Snow In Jerusalem* is an uplifting, very highly recommended children's story with a core message of hope and love.

A little white cat roams freely between the Jewish Quarter and the Arab Quarter in Jerusalem, seeking food and love from two boys unaware of each others' existence. When each boy decides to follow her, they discover that they can share this cat they both love. It is a simple, yet profound story of unity in a divided city.

Great book. Quick delivery.

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