

We Recommend



Yellow Moon, Apple Moon

written by Pamela Porter
illustrated by Matt James
Groundwood Books, 2008
978-0-88899-776-0 (hc) \$17.95
for babies to Grade 1

Yellow Moon, Apple Moon lulls one to sleep with simple rhyming words and warm swirling illustrations. Like the classic *Goodnight Moon*, this gentle picture book revolves around a little baby preparing for bed, saying goodnight to all her favourite things.

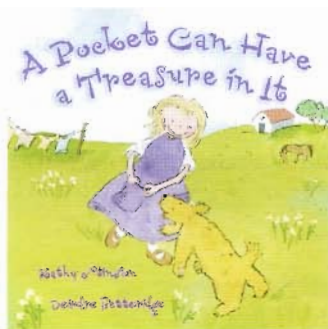
This lullaby verse is the latest from the talented Pamela Porter. Her verse novel, *The Crazy Man*, won the 2005 Governor General's Literary Award. Porter was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, immigrating to Canada with her family. In *Yellow Moon, Apple Moon*, Porter revisits these roots integrating a New Mexican lullaby "At the Gate of Heaven" into her original lullaby. The complete lyrics and music for "At the Gate of Heaven" appear at the end of the book.

The illustrations are delicious, rendered in acrylic and India ink on panel. This is painter and musician Matt James's first book. The thick acrylic paint gives weight and warmth to every page. Within the thick blocks of colour, details are delicately integrated. Bright yellow end pages decorated with children with wings refer to "At the Gate of Heaven." The child's favourite things – her tree and house – are decorated with smiling faces. I especially enjoy how the illustrations depict Mommy's dream of seeing her child sleeping, and the enchanting

transformation of the moon into a giant apple.

Yellow Moon, Apple Moon, /Time to sleep. See you soon. Who wouldn't want to imagine the moon as an apple, much sweeter than a round roll of cheese? Surely this highly recommended nighttime read will send many babes to sweet apple dreams.

Kallie George has recently completed her Masters of Arts in Children's Literature. Currently, she is writing, editing and teaching.



A Pocket Can Have A Treasure In It

written by Kathy Stinson
illustrated by Deirdre Betteridge
Annick Press, 2008
978-1-55451-125-9 (pb) \$6.95
for toddler to SK

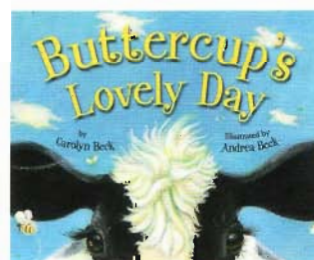
"A barn can have a horse in it..." So began the first draft of E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* (a beginning later changed to "Where's Pa going with that axe?"). White's original words, however, became opening lines of Kathy Stinson's *A Pocket Can Have A Treasure In It*.

A young girl living on a farm makes a series of simple but meaningful observations about the world around her. She reveals to us her discovery of how many things have hidden treasures in them. A shirt has a tummy in it and a spoon has a face in it, if we but stop, look and discover. But a special surprise is found in the wiggling blanket the girl's parents bring home from the hospital. The best treasure, though, is found in the relationships the girl enjoys with her parents and grandmother, especially in the time the mother makes – after giving birth

– to read a story to the new big sister.

This is a fun, touching and engaging story. The language is simple and spare, rhythmic and patterned – a wonderful read-aloud book. A series of questions also encourages responses from eager listeners. Deirdre Betteridge's pastel illustrations are soft and warm, visual treasures of delight, discovery and intimacy. Throughout the illustrations, we see the unfolding of the background story, leading to the new baby's arrival at home. One can wonder whether the young girl's series of discoveries are inspired by her realization of the treasure found inside of Mommy.

Ken Kilback teaches Kindergarten in Vancouver.



Buttercup's Lovely Day

written by Carolyn Beck
illustrated by Andrea Beck
Orca Book Publishers, 2008
978-1-55143-512-1 (hc) \$19.95
for preschool to Grade 1

In this poetic picture book a verbose cow describes all the things she loves about her life, which is everything! She begins with an ode to the day, then to the clouds which "whiff and waft/ and puff around/ dot the sky/ and spot the ground/ but never ever make a sound," then her tongue, the stream, and, ultimately, her barn and sleep.

True to her name, Buttercup is a sunny cow, conveying the love for the simple things of life, such as nature, friendship, and, of course, chewing her cud. Buttercup's overflowing optimism is uplifting and life-affirming. This is Carolyn Beck's second book with her sister Andrea Beck, following *The Waiting Dog* in 2003, and her alliterative, rhythmic verse is perfect for reading aloud.

Andrea Beck illustrated the well-known