



The Lonely Scarecrow

By Tim Preston, Maggie Kneen

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In this ornately embossed gift book, a group of animals learns the true meaning of friendship and acceptance

When winter descends upon the cornfield, the first snowfall brings about an amazing transformation: a lonely scarecrow, ignored and feared by everyone because of his flapping coat and jagged metal mouth, is covered by a thick blanket of snow. Before long, he is transformed into a jolly snowman and is welcomed for the first time into the animals' games. But what will the scarecrow's newfound friends think when the snow melts and he returns--jagged teeth and all?

Lavish embossing on every page gently illuminates the turning of the seasons--from coppery autumn foliage to sparkling snowscapes. Readers will be enchanted by the fondly rendered creatures, which include bright-eyed birds and field mice, a family of furry rabbits, and a wise old owl, as well as the poetic text printed in elegant calligraphy. This ornate gift book is a treat for nature lovers of all ages.

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The Lonely Scarecrow By Tim Preston, Maggie Kneen Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #795939 in Books
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- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
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- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Winter snow transforms a scarecrow into a friendly-looking snowman, no longer frightening to the local animals, in this warm-spirited story with dainty, embossed artwork. Preston, a newcomer to children's books, describes the scarecrow's emotions as inextricable from the changes in the seasons: "The happy song of the lark [was] drowned out by the whispering of the wheat. Marooned in his golden sea, the scarecrow lost hope of ever making friends." Fortunately, when the snow thaws, the animal friends he makes as a snowman still recognize him in his scary springtime guise. The book owes much of its strength to Kneen's (Milly's Wedding) delicate renderings of farmyard creatures and nearly lifelike views of the scarecrow bursting from square framed seasonal vistas. The pleasingly plump animals look as snugly as plush toys, and the scarecrow's emotions seem palpable. A lavish use of embossing defines snowflakes in wintry landscapes and adds texture to the many poppies, autumn leaves and animal tracks. This invitation to readers to touch the book's pages complements the story's tender theme of intimacy. All ages. (Sept.)

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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 1-A kindly scarecrow wants to be friends with the birds and animals that play at the edge of his wheat field, but they are afraid of him because of his clothing and "his beady eyes, his crooked nose, and his jagged metal mouth." Many animals watch him, but none dare to approach him. As winter arrives, the creatures run home to their burrows and nests. Then one night, snow falls and turns the scarecrow into a jolly snowman, and the animals play with him. Though he is happy now, he worries that when the snow melts, he will be alone again. But his fears are unfounded; the animals are surprised to learn his true identity, but they love him just the same. The story is trite and corny and has been told many times before. The excellent, delicate, realistic illustrations show many details of the fields and surrounding wildlife.

Unfortunately, the quality of the art cannot compensate for the poor story.

Anne Parker, Milton Public Library, MA

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From [Booklist](#)

Here's a fanciful tale about friendship in which a scarecrow resents his nature, which is, after all, to scare small animals. The scarecrow sits amid growing fields of wheat, wishing his big, floppy coat and stern demeanor did not frighten off all the field creatures. But when the wheat is harvested and the snow comes, he is transformed into a snowman, and the animals frolic around him. When spring arrives, the animals find that the scarecrow they had feared is the snowman that inspired their play. Decorated with sweet borders of berries, leaves, and flowers, the illustrations, on double-thick embossed pages, are very pretty, whether depicting golden wheat fields or silver snow. Kneen's background in china painting shows in the precise delicacy of her work. *GraceAnne A. DeCandido*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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William Black:

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