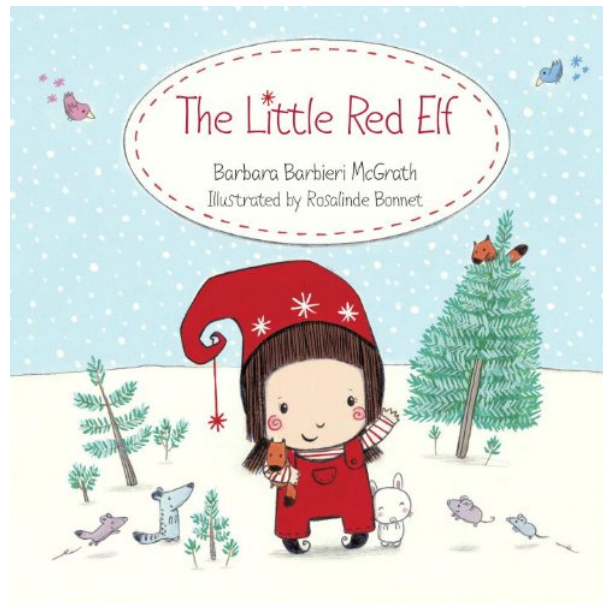
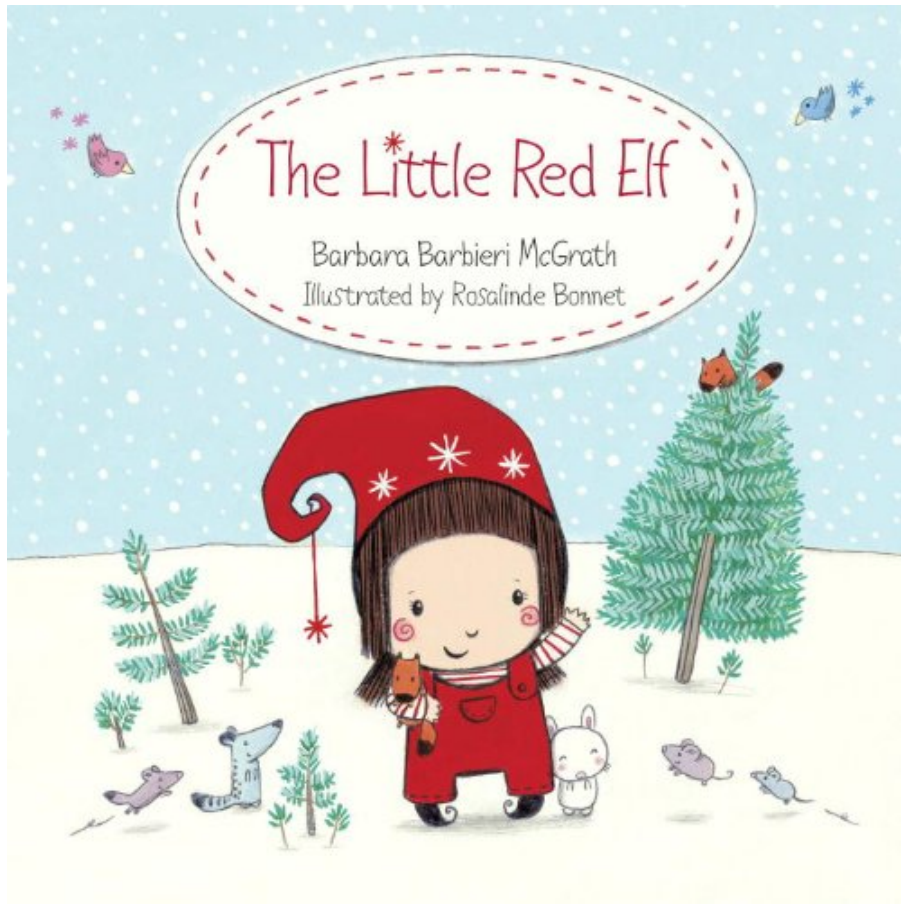


THE LITTLE RED ELF BY BARBARA BARBIERI MCGRATH



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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 1--The little red elf has a bunch of lazy housemates--a reindeer, a penguin, and a hare--who won't help out in the toy workshop or assist her in planting and caring for a little pine tree. When the tree is grown, she digs it up, decorates it, and bakes cookies. The next morning, she asks, &Who will help me open the presents? Only then do the housemates volunteer. In a sly wink from Santa, the presents turn out to be toy Little Red Hens. This sweet version is simply told but includes plenty of funny asides (&Well, I love being busy! the little red elf exclaims after yet another failed attempt to get help). The acrylic and ballpoint-pen illustrations are full of childlike humor, depicting cute North Pole characters who look like toys themselves. This is that rare beast--an endearing holiday book without a hint of treacle.--Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library END

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THE LITTLE RED ELF BY BARBARA BARBIERI MCGRATH PDF

Who will help the little red elf prepare for Christmas?

This clever retelling of "The Little Red Hen" features a little red elf and her lazy friends: the hare, the penguin, and the reindeer. When the cheerful elf can't get help planting the pinecones or decorating the Christmas tree, she knows just how to reward her friends.

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Most helpful customer reviews

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This book is so stinkin' CUTE!

By Jennifer

This book is so stinkin' CUTE! I can't believe it, it's adorable. Now, it's not like the world needs yet another version of the Little Red Hen, but this is a sweet Christmas version of the story and definitely worth the read. McGrath has integrated the holiday theme nicely into her version of the tale. The little red elf is a really hard worker and she has some of the laziest friends in the North Pole.

Once upon a time, there was a reindeer, a penguin, a hare, and a little red elf. They all lived together in a comfy, cozy workshop.

The reindeer liked to snooze in the straw.

The penguin liked to relax in the bathtub.

The hare liked to hibernate by the hearth.

That left the little red elf to get all the workshop work done.

She was filling some bird feeders, by herself, when she found a pinecone. Since none of her friends would help her plant it, she decided to do the job herself. When the time came to water it or bring it in to the workshop once it had grown, she was on her own.

By the time she had strung the lights, decorated the tree, and baked cookies for Santa without any help, she had gotten a bit frustrated but tried to keep her holiday cheer. Of course, when she needed help to open all of those presents her friends came running.

"I will!" said the reindeer.

"I will!" yelled the penguin.

"I want the big one!" screamed the hare.

This is the point where the little red elf loses it and yells that she is going to open the presents by herself. Of course her friends are shocked and begin to cry. The little red elf feels terrible, apologizes, and lets the open the gifts. Boy did they dive right in. Inside every box from Santa was a Little Red Hen doll. The reindeer, penguin, and hare are confused (as are some younger readers) but the little red elf understands and thinks they've gotten the perfect gifts.

It's a cute story but I had two tiny issues. I wish there had been a bit more discussion regarding the reindeer, penguin, and hare's horrible and selfish behavior. Even my younger kids were aghast; we just talk about it a bit in class, so it's not really a big deal. (If you're looking for a version where the animal's realize how rude they've been, pick up Philemon Sturges's *The Little Red Hen (Makes a pizza)*.) My other issue is the ending - younger kids don't get it. I think the ending's humor is a little bit too sophisticated for the little ones.

The real star of this book, the entire reason you want to check it out and pour over it with your kid (or by yourself), is Bonnet's absolutely scrumptious and adorable illustrations. She uses a style of drawing that I tend to associate with Japan (but it's not manga or chibi style) and she throws in fantastically funny little details. I just want to hug this book.

Verdict:

I will say it again, this book is so stinkin' cute!! Bonnet's illustrations are just wonderful and really make this Christmas version of *The Little Red Hen* worth the read. *The Little Red Elf* is a sweet holiday book that you should pick up from the library.

Featured at an Abundance of Books, read full review here - [...]

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A Christmas Hen

By Catherine W. Hughes

In an off-take of the traditional tale of *The Little Red Hen*, the little red elf finds some pine cones and plants them and waters them till a pine tree grows. She brings the tree inside and decorates it with lights and ornaments. Again and again, she asks her friends for help. But again and again, no one will help; and the little red elf does it all by herself. But, finally, the penguin, the reindeer and the hare all cry to help open the presents, only to reveal a collection of little red hens. Children ages 4-7 will embrace this Christmas tale.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great Christmas twist to Little Red Hen

By J. Sweeney

I wanted to expand our Christmas book collection this year, and upon recommendation of a blog I frequent, I ordered *The Little Red Elf*. It's a cute story with great illustrations, fun humor, and the great message of the *Little Red Hen* (with a Christmas theme). My kids are 4 & 6 and they both enjoyed it. I did too!

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