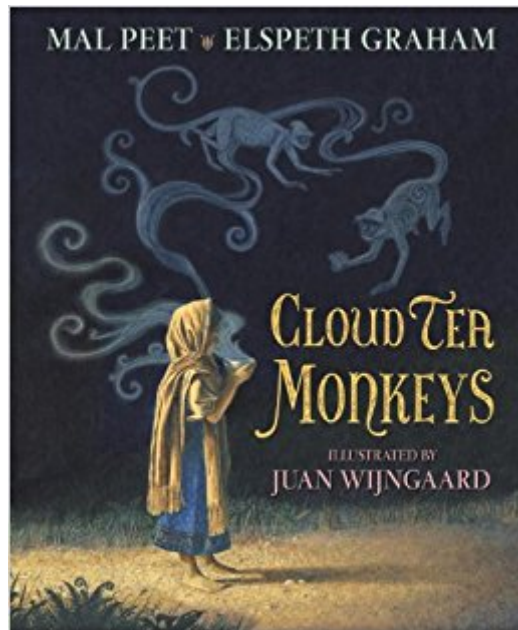




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Cloud Tea Monkeys



Synopsis

Carnegie Medalist Mal Peet and his wife, Elspeth Graham, team up for a captivating, lushly illustrated tale evoking a Chinese legend. A Junior Library Guild Selection Tashi lives in a tiny village at the foot of the mountains, below the tea plantations where her mother works. When her mother falls ill, Tashi goes alone to the plantation, hoping to earn money for the doctor. But she is far too small to harvest the tender shoots, and her clumsy efforts anger the cruel Overseer. She is desolate, until *chack-chack-chack!* • something extraordinary happens. Inspired by a centuries-old legend of tea-picking monkeys, here is a richly told tale full of vivid characters: the heartless Overseer, the enigmatic Royal Tea Taster, and *far away* • an empress with a penchant for tea.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850L (What's this?)

Series: AWARDS: Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Awards 2013 Grades 3-5

Hardcover: 56 pages

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Product Dimensions: 7.9 x 0.4 x 9.5 inches

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #293,064 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in *Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian* #103 in *Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty* #233 in *Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia*

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3 • Tashi's mother labors on a tea plantation in the shadow of the Himalayas. One day she is too ill to get out of bed. Tashi knows that without her day's wages, they won't have money for a doctor, but without medical care her mother won't get well enough to work. "The problem went around and around. It was like a snake with its tail in its mouth, and Tashi was

frightened by it." The child tries to pick tea herself, but she is too small to reach the tops of the plants where the tender new leaves grow. She retreats in tears, only to be comforted by a troop of monkeys she has befriended. And then the magical element of the story emerges: the monkeys climb into the mountains and pick the rarest and most sought-after tea leaves in the world. The Royal Tea Taster samples the leaves in Tashi's basket and pays her a handsome sum, with the promise of more in the future. This story, inspired by tales of tea-picking monkeys of the Himalayas, would be merely pleasant were it not for Wijngaard's expressive, richly detailed ink-and-gouache illustrations. Tashi's solemn face as she comforts her bedridden mother, the dynamic depictions of the Tea Taster swishing tea and spitting out a mouthful, the play of light through the branches under which the monkeys eat fruit, and even the delicate tracery of a decorative pattern on the bottom of each page all contribute to the thoughtful bookmaking. —Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Taking cues from Chinese legend, husband-and-wife team of Peet and Graham create a unique story set in an unspecified past. Tashi, a young girl, walks with her mother every morning to the tea plantation. While her mother and other women pick tea leaves under the scrutiny of a slimy overseer, Tashi heads off to share fruit with a group of feisty monkeys. When her mother becomes too ill to work, Tashi attempts to fill her shoes, but gets laughed off the field by the overseer. Distraught and worried there will be no money to pay for a doctor, she retreats to her secret spot. The monkeys snatch up her tea basket and disappear up into the mountain mists, returning with a basketful of nearly glowing tea. When the Royal Tea Taster appears, he nearly swoons over the rare tea in Tashi's basket and pays her handsomely for the bounty. The tale has the feel of a time-honed fable — simple, elegant, and moving — which is especially well complemented by Wijngaard's sumptuous illustrations. Grades 2-4. —lan Chipman

This book deserves to get a lot more attention. It is one of those children's books that may be remembered into adulthood. The basic plot is easy for young readers to follow, but within the deeper layers and greater complexity, there are themes of class, poverty, kindness, women's working conditions/equality, unlikely heroism, the value and capability of animals, and a touch of magic. My son and I both declared *Cloud Tea Monkeys* as a "very special book" upon first read, and cannot wait to read it again and again.

This is a beautifully illustrated book with a long but well told tale. It has a touch of magic, a big helping of multicultural exposure, and captivating artwork on every page. When I finished reading it to my daughters for the first time, the four and a half year old immediately took the book from my hands and started turning the pages herself, reviewing the full color pictures. "I liked this book" she said solemnly. Me too. It's worth getting your hands on.

Me and my 6 & 8 year old girls loved this book. It's a quick read ...about 15/20 minutes. Very descriptive writing style. You can really picture yourself in the author's surroundings. We've reread it a number of times.

This book was about the struggles of a Mother and daughter. The daughter saves the day, with the help of her friends. The book was a present for a six year old, it was perfect.

Gorgeous book - great story, sumptuous illustrations and magical prose. The story stays with both my daughter and I long after we read it. We have started picking leaves off our bushes and pretending it's monkey cloud tea. :)

An excellently written story with charming illustrations. I found and bought some monkey picked tea to sip while reading. If you want to get in touch with your Inner Monkey, there is no better way than this.

Beautifully illustrated. Wonderful story about sharing and kindness and how life rewards such actions. Good for primary school ages.

Stunning illustrations, really great story

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