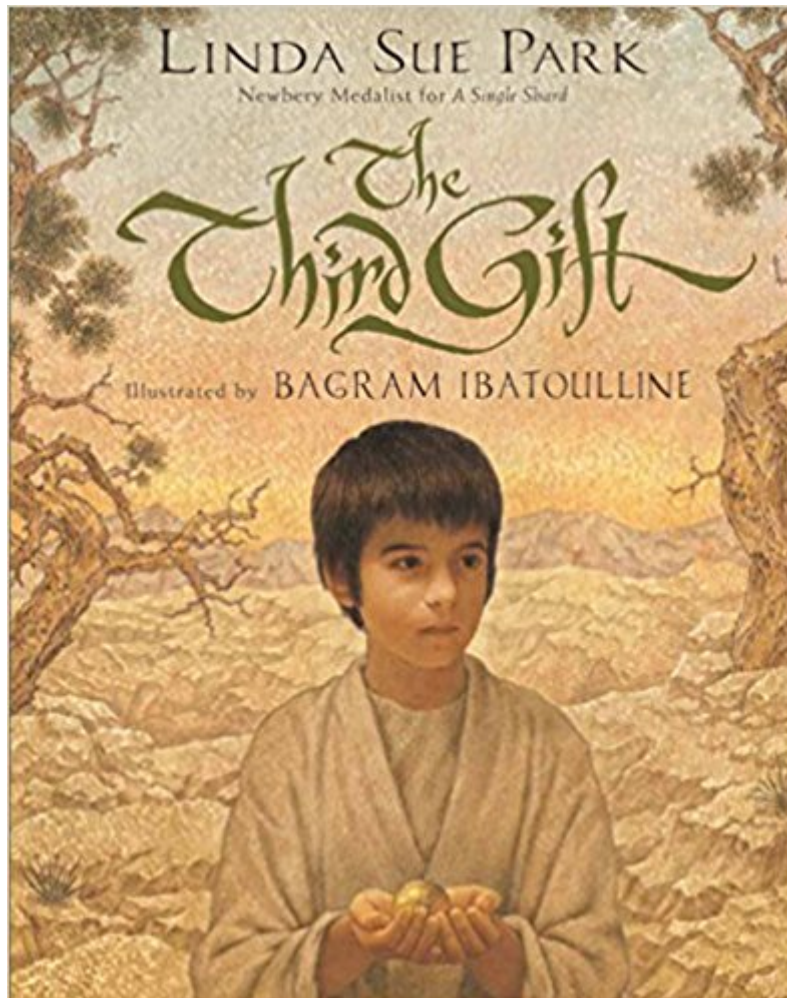




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# The Third Gift



## Synopsis

From two extraordinary talents, a beautifully crafted picture book for the Christmas season. The three wise men, or the three kings, are familiar figures in the Christmas tradition. Newbery medalist Linda Sue Park has taken the brief biblical references to the three as the starting point for a new story. In it we meet a boy who is learning his father's trade; a man who gathers resin from certain trees; a merchant in the marketplace; and three strangers in brightly colored robes who are shopping for a gift for a baby. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline with exquisite paintings, this simple, moving tale of ordinary people involved in an extraordinary event brings new resonance to the well-known gift list of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Includes an author's note.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books (November 15, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547201958

ISBN-13: 978-0547201955

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #831,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations #126 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Historical #171 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Religious

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

"Newbery Medalist Park's lean, well-paced story bridges the ordinary and the sacred to powerful effect."-Publishers Weekly, starred review "This gorgeous picture book sheds thoughtful light on a fascinating facet of the Christmas story."-School Library Journal "This is a beautiful book for giving and an excellent selection for sharing, both around the holidays and at any time of year."--Bulletin, starred review

Linda Sue Park is the author of historical and contemporary fiction, poetry, and picture book texts

for young readers. Her third book, *A Single Shard*, received the 2002 Newbery Medal. Ms. Park is now one of the most prominent figures in the children's literature community and has traveled widely, both nationally and internationally, to promote her books. She is Korean American, from the Midwest; was educated at Stanford University and University College Dublin; and has worked as an advertising copywriter, a journalist, and a teacher of English as a second language. She lives in Rochester, NY, with her husband. They have two grown children. Bagram Ibatoulline was born in Omsk, Russia, and attended the State Academic Institute of Arts in Moscow. He has worked in fine arts, graphic arts, mural design, and textile design, and is adept at painting in different styles. Among the many successful children's books he has illustrated is the Newbery Medal book *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. He lives in Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania.

Do you know what myrrh is? In this charming story you accompany a father and son in their quest to find the finest myrrh producing trees in the Arabian Peninsula. Your journey is enhanced by the beautiful full page full color illustrations. One gets the feeling of being right there in the desert because of the warm tones of yellow, brown and tan used in the illustrations. The father and son find a special large pearl of myrrh and take it to the spice merchant where it is purchased for a very special person. At the end of the book, the author gives historical information about the birth of Jesus, the Magi, Zoroastrianism, the trees from which myrrh is derived, and the many uses of myrrh. This is a delightful subtle Christmas story which can be enjoyed by all ages. Elementary school aged children in third grade and above will enjoy reading this story independently. The hardback book measures 11 3/4 inches by 9 1/4 inches. There is a full color pictorial front cover which beckons the potential reader to open the book and begin their journey in finding a prized piece of myrrh. Every page is in full color with just the right amount of text to help the reader appreciate and enjoy the whole process of finding and collecting myrrh. The story culminates with the selling of a large pearl of myrrh for a special person. I highly recommend this book for your family Christmas holiday reading.

What do you get when you combine a Newbery winning author and a fabulous illustrator? You get a book like this one. The story is told beautifully in just the right amount of words and illustrations that put you, the reader, into the background of the story. I felt almost like I was there watching the young boy and his father harvest tree resin. I remember the first time I heard the story of the wise men, I, like many others, had no idea what frankincense and myrrh were. Gold is pretty self-explanatory, but frankincense and myrrh? I had no clue. I admit I just barely learned that

frankincense came from trees. This book taught me that myrrh also comes from trees and has symbolic relevance to Jesus Christ beyond being a valuable gift. I had no idea that Myrrh was traditionally used primarily at funerals to show respect and caring to the departed. I appreciated the author's note at the end explaining the origins of the story and the author's interest in the subject. As for the illustrations, what can I say beyond that they are gorgeous. They show so beautifully the tender story of a father patiently teaching his son the art of harvesting the trees. What a sweet and powerfully symbolic story. I can't recommend this book highly enough. I loved it, definitely one of my favorites this year.

This book is wonderfully written and the illustrations are beautiful. It is very educational about the harvesting of myrrh. The illustrator depicted the characters with cultural accuracy. The author's notes about the Magi are very informative. I, like Linda Sue Park, as a child and even as an adult had no idea what myrrh really is. I now know what it is, how it is harvested and what it was used for in Biblical times. Last year I gave this book as a gift to a friend and her family and they love it. My friend read the story to her religious education class on the feast of the Epiphany and she said it was the perfect lesson for that day. This is a meaningful gift to give to those who celebrate Christmas.

I found this book while searching for new ones to add to our Advent reading. It seemed intriguing as it was based on one of the three gifts the Wise Men brought baby Jesus. I liked how it described the way Myrrh is harvested. My 9 year old said that now he knows where Myrrh comes from when we finished. So I'd say that the book served as a science lesson along with part of the Christmas season. What a good find.

This is included in my countdown to Christmas collection. It's very different from other Christmas stories, but ties into the nativity and three Wiseman's gifts beautifully.

This is an amazing book. A new author to me and I found her refreshing and the artist is now one of my favorites. Actually the artwork here is what made me pick up the book.

I read this book and plan to use it in children's religious education class at the Unitarian Universalist church I attend. It's a nice story about the Three Wise Men and tells the Christmas story from a different point of view than the usual Mary & Joseph looking for a place to stay. I'm looking forward

to using it.A+++ transaction.

A beautifully illustrated story for the Christmas season- a young Middle Eastern boy accompanies his father in securing myrrh, pearls of sap from trees that grow a distance from where they live. Only when they meet with the spice merchant and see the richly dressed trio that will purchase the pearls, do they learn that the pearl of myrrh will be part of a gift for a baby. A quietly powerful story of a father, son relationship and a gift. Eileen M.

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