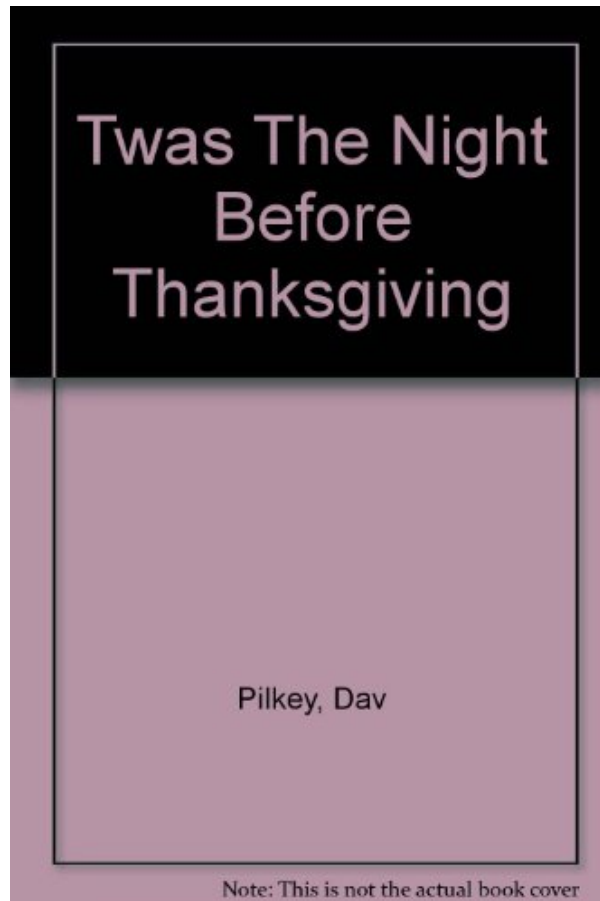


TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING BY DAV PILKEY



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Twas The Night Before Thanksgiving

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From Publishers Weekly

Patterned as a parody of the celebrated Clement Moore poem, this story of eight baby turkeys unfolds with joyous abandon and crackling vitality, as eight children embark on a Thanksgiving field trip that will change their lives forever. They are breathless as they catch sight of Farmer Mack Nuggett for the first time: "He was dressed all in denim, / From his head to his toe, / With a pinch of polyester / And a dash of Velcro." The exuberant turkeys--Ollie, Stanley, Larry, Moe, Wally, Beaver and Groucho--catch the children up in raucous barnyard antics until the merriment is quelled by the sight of the ax. Deeply touched by the turkeys' plight, the children--who have grown mysteriously fatter and have feathers sticking out from under their clothes--board the bus to go back to the city. The next night, family silhouettes can be seen--each with a grateful turkey guest--as "They feasted on veggies / With jelly and toast." This humorous, lighthearted story is adorned with bold, bright illustrations that convey a sense of wacky high-spiritedness sometimes lacking in traditional holiday fare. Ages 4-7.

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From School Library Journal

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Let the Scholastic Bookshelf be your guide through the whole range of your child's experience--laugh with them, learn with them, read with them! Twelve classic, best-selling titles are available now.

Category: Holiday

The incomparable Dav Pilkey adapts Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem to tell his wacky Thanksgiving tale. The day before Thanksgiving, eight boys and girls take a field trip to a turkey farm. They have fun playing with eight exuberant turkeys but are shocked to learn that Farmer Mack Nuggett plans to kill all the turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners. So the children decide to smuggle all the turkeys home, and all their Thanksgiving dinners become vegetarian this year. The turkeys' lives are saved!

- Published on: 2004-04-30
- Original language: English
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 10.50" w x .50" l,
- Binding: Turtleback
- 30 pages

From Publishers Weekly

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

So each one gave thanks for love and for living...

By Erinni

This book is not vegan propaganda. The author was not vegan or vegetarian at the time that he wrote this. He set out to write a fun, Thanksgiving-themed children's book set to the tone of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and he accomplished that. The kids are dreaming of drumsticks during the bus ride, but save the turkeys in the end. That isn't a bad thing and I don't get the complaint that some people seem to have with that.

This is a fun book that really shows the sweetness and sensitivity of children. We have rescued chickens and while kids sometimes meet them with a little reservation at first, once they realize that the chickens are friendly, they are eager to feed and spend time with them. For a lot of kids, meeting new animals is a magical experience. A couple of days ago, a little girl was over and my daughter introduced her to our adopted potbelly pig. Her eyes lit up and she was so excited to get to feed her carrots and have her roll for belly rubs. The girl's dad thought we planned to butcher the pig and his daughter's eyes grew wide in horror and then softened when we said that Elsa is never going to be eaten. Her dad seemed disappointed that he couldn't get in on the meat. In that way, he reminded me of Farmer Mack Nugget in this book. A nice enough guy, likes kids, but has no trouble with killing an animal he knows and eating the result. Most kids aren't like that. They want to help animals and be their friends. Kids can come up with pretty hilarious ways of trying to solve such problems. That is what happens here. As soon as the kids have a chance to save the turkeys, they do! It would never work in real life, but is fun to see on paper and little kids love looking at the feathers and feet sticking out from under coats and giggling. There is only one briefly scary part (when Farmer Nugget says what the ax is for. Who leaves things like that lying around for kids to pick up anyway?), but it quickly passes and everything else is very light-hearted.

Although I purchased this book for Thanksgiving, my 3-year-old enjoys it randomly regardless of the season. Yes, we are a vegan family, and I would recommend it to other vegan families, but I really think it is a book that most little kids can enjoy. The book ends with a very positive message of what to be thankful for and it is a message that all of us can use.

As a side note, what's the deal with offering water when someone is upset? Here, the farmer and teacher rush to the well to bring back water to calm the children, but it's in soap operas too. "Yeah, so I hate to break it to you, but the love of your life was in a boat that explodd and we can't find his body, but surely he is dead. Want some water?". I have always wondered about that.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Refreshing, sweet, and fun!

By Crow

This book offers a beautiful lesson rarely taught by children's stories: that showing love and compassion to ALL creatures may be more fulfilling than accepting the status quo! The author bravely challenges American cultural convention, and does so with grace, humor, and tact. The result is a very non-judgmental, but rather encouraging, message about the humanity naturally exercised by children's spirits, regardless of the unfortunate holiday traditions that may be taken for granted by adults. The last page ties the story together with warmth and a surprisingly happy ending! Written in up-beat, sing-song rhyme, and playfully illustrated, 'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving is a must-have for parents who encourage their children to think critically and lovingly.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Turkey Day Delight

By SW

Not part of the "Night Before _____" series that seems to cover every holiday and life event (though there is a "Night Before Thanksgiving" from that publisher that is also quite charming), this is the story of a pre-Thanksgiving field trip in the style of Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

This adorable tale definitely has a vegetarian agenda, but I certainly didn't think it was pushy about it and, heck, we read it every year while roasting turkey, though I see how this might cause some kids distress. (Like the kids in the story, actually.)

Our paperback copy was so worn, I was thrilled to find this hardcover version on Amazon. I think it deserves to be a children's classic and the art, and story, are both top notch and still laugh-out-loud amusing for my four-year-old, who has been reading this story for the past several years. (Only get it out at Thanksgiving time.)

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