



Morris's Disappearing Bag

Rosemary Wells

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Bestselling author Rosemary Wells tells a heartfelt holiday story *The Chicago Tribune* calls "One of the best."

It's Christmas day and Morris is missing. He was there to open his present--a teddy bear--and to watch his older sisters and brother open their gifts. His siblings went off to play with each other's new toys, but nobody wanted to play with Morris's bear. So Morris found something new to play with--a disappearing bag. He jumped right in and became invisible! Now he has something everybody wants to try. But they have to find him first. This warm and humorous story proves that sometimes the littlest bunny gets the last laugh.

*** "Irresistible . . . The author-artist does some wonderful things with Morris's cars and eyes, expressing exactly the sentiments of a put-out preschool rabbit."--*Booklist*, starred review**

Morris's Disappearing Bag Details

Date : Published September 24th 2001 by Puffin Books (first published 1975)

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Author : Rosemary Wells

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From Reader Review Morris's Disappearing Bag for online ebook

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

When my brother (who is five years younger than me) was little, he had this book - a much earlier edition, of course, with slightly different illustrations (different compositions, some of the details are different). I loved it, as I loved so many of his picture books, so I was full of excited nostalgia to read it again - and introduce it to my boy.

It's Christmas morning. Morris is a young rabbit with three older siblings: Victor, Rose and Betty. Victor gets a hockey outfit for Christmas. Rose gets a beauty kit, and Betty gets a chemistry set. Morris gets a bear. Victor, Rose and Betty have lots of fun with their presents, and when they've had a turn they switch:

All Christmas day Victor played hockey and Rose made herself beautiful and Betty mixed acids.

And then Betty made herself beautiful and Victor sorted test tubes and Rose played left wing.

And then Victor made himself beautiful and Betty played goalie and Rose invented a new gas.

Morris wants to play, too, but they say he's too young and too little and too silly to play with their things - and no one wants Morris's bear. His parents try to console him but he sulks and won't join them at dinner. While they're eating, Morris notices an overlooked present under the tree. In it is a disappearing bag. Morris climbs in side and disappears. His siblings can't find him anywhere, but when he comes out they all want a turn.

Victor, Rose and Betty all disappear inside the bag, and Morris plays with the hockey gear, the chemistry set and the beauty kit until bedtime.

This is one of my favourite picture books, and I'm so glad it's still in print. It's one that really makes me laugh, with jokes that I got as a kid and still delight me as an adult (I just love the line, "and Rose invented a new gas"; there are others just as funny). As one of the younger kids in my family, I could certainly identify with Morris who has older, more sophisticated siblings who won't let him play with their sophisticated toys. And I could certainly relate to Morris when he sits in the corner, sulking, and then crawls into a bag to disappear.

At its heart, it is of course partly about sharing, and being nice to people. But like all good picture books, it's so much more than basic messaging. The illustrations are really engaging too, not precise or too realistic, but bold and colourful and with a hint of childlike two-dimensional simplicity. I don't want that to sound in the slightest way negative. It's interesting, actually, comparing this contemporary edition with my brother's older version, and seeing how much Wells' illustrations have been fine-tuned and improved. The style is the same, but the lines are more confident and the composition better. Paired with the engaging story, this is truly a delightful book.

Incidentally, I remember back in Toronto on the kids' cartoon channel (what was it called, Treefrog? something like that) there was a cartoon that I didn't like very much, about two rabbit siblings called Ruby and Max. It was only while I was looking up this book that I learned the cartoon is based on other books

about those two characters by Rosemary Wells. I should have recognised the style of drawing, but I had forgotten all about this book until I had it in my hands again just recently.

Jamie says

Not a bad story about how children often share (Or don't as the case may be) also how they can be envious of anothers toy. Not a bad story, but not a great one. The artwork is acceptable, if simple, but not great. The rabbits in particular failed to impress me. Cute book about how children playing together, receive gifts, etc.

Meg McGregor says

I wanted to like this book much more than I did.

I just never believed the idea of a disappearing bag.

I liked his bear though and wondered why Morris didn't. And I didn't understand why he didn't want to make his bear a hat or take his bear for a walk.

Wytrnoire says

I re-read this every Xmas and often in between. Just re-read it last night and it is just as funny and charming as it was the first time.

Lisa says

Our family reads this story every year before Christmas. I love that the kids play with each other's gifts, with no regard for gender stereotypes: boy and girl bunnies alike play hockey and experiment with a chemistry set and "beautify" with cosmetics. I also love that Wells provides no explanation for where the disappearing bag came from or how it works. Matter-of-factly charming!

Amy says

Still one of the most delightful books from my childhood!

Chrissy says

A Christmas story where the child enjoys it so much more when his older siblings disappear for the day...realistic I guess.

Miriam says

Aww, every one shares the presents! What nice siblings. They aren't trying to be mean to little Morris, they just think he is too young for hockey and chemistry and lipstick.

Ronyell says

I have read many books by Rosemary Wells ever since I was a child and this book is no exception! "Morris's Disappearing Bag" is a children's book by Rosemary Wells that is about a young bunny named Morris who had received a teddy bear that none of his siblings wanted to play with, but later on finds a mysterious package under the tree. "Morris's Disappearing Bag" is a really cute book that children everywhere will definitely love!

Oh my goodness! This book has always been an adorable treat for me for many years! Rosemary Wells had done an excellent job at both illustrating and writing this cute story about sharing and what I really loved about Rosemary Wells' writing is that it is cute and creative, especially during the part where Morris receives a gift that no other child could ever receive! I also enjoyed the theme of this story as it portrays the importance of sharing and I thought that it was really cute about the way that Morris shared his gift with his siblings after he receives the special gift. Rosemary Wells' illustrations are extremely cute, especially of the images of Morris himself as being the youngest rabbit in the family, he is drawn with Christmas styled overalls that have hollies all over it and I loved the way that the rabbits all have round bodies and short little ears that really make them look extremely cute!

Probably the only con in this book is that Morris's siblings seem to snub Morris because of his gift, even though Morris is too young to play with their toys. However, I think this situation is redeemed towards the end, but it would be great to see Morris's siblings try to make an attempt at sharing with Morris so that way Morris would not feel left out.

Overall, "Morris's Disappearing Bag" is a truly cute and great book for kids who love Christmas books and learning about how to share with siblings. I would recommend this book to children ages four and up since there is nothing inappropriate in this book.

Review is also on: [Rabbit Ears Book Blog](#)

Maria says

This book perfectly encapsulates what I imagine it is like to be the baby of the family. Plus Rosemary Wells has a quirky sensibility. You have got to love an author that writes: "All Christmas day Victor played hockey and Rose made herself beautiful and Betty mixed acids". The words and pictures are equally sweet and silly. Besides, who hasn't wished to be invisible every now and then?

Amy says

The kids both liked this one, and were laughing at how much fun Morris was having messing with his siblings' minds. I loved how Rosemary Wells captured the way in which children play with each other's gifts on Christmas. If all bags were like Morris's, I can see why packaging is often so much more entertaining than the toy that comes in it!

Elaine says

I have much to say about this book, but to simplify: CHEMICALS.

Elizabeth says

As a child, this was my brother's and my favorite book - happy memories of my grandmother reading this to us. Now I read this book to my children. I read it for the first time to my 4-year old last night. After I finished, he recounted the book to me in a way that I had never seen the book before. To him, it is a book about injustice. The injustice of the youngest not getting a good toy and painfully observing his older siblings. And of justice, when he finds the best toy of all. And of redemption, as we see a look of pure joy on the underdog's face going up the stairs at night. A message I would have missed, were it not for my son's interpretation. No wonder this book has lasted from one generation to the next.

Kara says

I love Christmas books so I was excited to read this one to the kids just for that. The story was really cute so that made it even better. It made me grateful yet again for Rosemary Wells and her bunnies.

Heidi-Marie says

I think this is one of Rosemary Wells' best. I've always loved her illustrations. This one I like seeing the youngest child (-) being clever and being able to still enjoy the things that he is told he is too young for. I wouldn't have minded just having the teddy bear, though.

12/10/14 I was sure I'd read this before in storytime. Hmm. Oh well. Used as my opener for today. I've been

getting more of a 3-year old crowd than my usually 4-5, so I've been pointing out more in the illustrations and such. I asked the kids if they would like the different toys that the kids got. That hooked them at the beginning, then I had them looking for Morris in the pictures and that kept them in. It went very well. A great choice.
