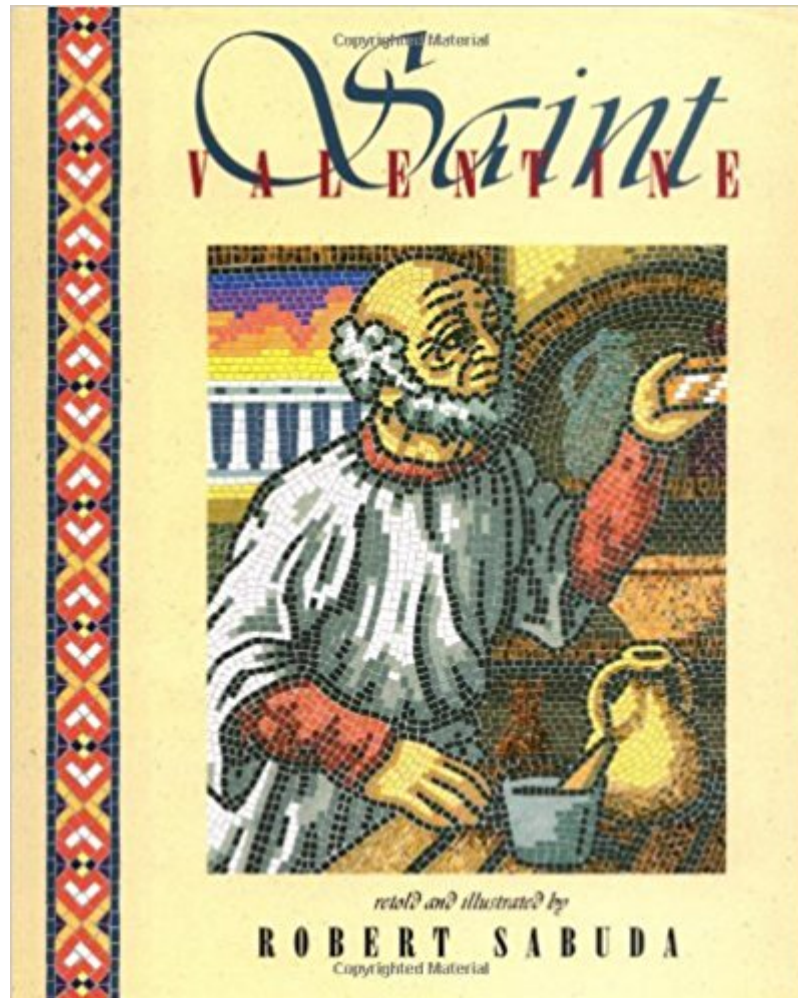




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Saint Valentine



Synopsis

In ancient Rome there lived a gentle and humble man named Valentine. He was a physician, but he was also a Christian priest whose life and freedom were in constant danger in a city of people who believed in so many gods, not just one. So Valentine tended to his patients in the daytime, but he prayed for them only at night. One day a jailer from the emperor's prison appeared at Valentine's door with his small child, a girl who was blind. Knowing the difficulty of curing blindness, Valentine vowed to do his best, and over the weeks of treatment and prayer the three became fast friends. But even his friendship with the jailer could not save Valentine when the Roman soldier came to imprison him. Here, accompanied by Robert Shabuda's dramatic mosaics evoking the time period in which the story takes place, is the story of a man whose goodness and faith brought about a miracle, and whose name lives on today in one of our most celebrated holidays.

Book Information

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 49 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Stunning mosaics crafted from marbled and hand-painted paper depict this legend of Valentine, a humble Roman physician and "priest of the Christians" whose patients include a jailer's blind daughter. Recognizing the danger of praying to a single god (rather than to the numerous gods most Romans worship), Valentine prays for his patients only at night, but he is eventually imprisoned. Aware of his fate, he writes to the jailer's daughter, who receives her sight when a crocus drops into her hand from the scroll her father reads is "from your Valentine." The book's matter-of-fact narrative (some explanations are simplified for the intended audience) rightly points

the reader's attention to Sabuda's intricately conceived mosaics. The marbled paper creates subtle textures and shading, while vertical illustrations exude drama and compassion. Sabuda extends his mosaic motif onto the white space by constantly expanding and fragmenting it with full-page illustrations; tall, rectangular frames; patterned border strips and blocks of type. The resulting interplay of geometric shapes and color lends an especially appropriate classical appearance to this singular work. Ages 6-9. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

In ancient Rome there lived a gentle and humble man named Valentine. He was a physician, but he was also a Christian priest whose life and freedom were in constant danger in a city of people who believed in so many gods, not just one. So Valentine tended to his patients in the daytime, but he prayed for them only at night. One day a jailer from the emperor's prison appeared at Valentine's door with his small child, a girl who was blind. Knowing the difficulty of curing blindness, Valentine vowed to do his best, and over the weeks of treatment and prayer the three became fast friends. But even his friendship with the jailer could not save Valentine when the Roman soldier came to imprison him. Here, accompanied by Robert Sabuda's dramatic mosaics evoking the time period in which the story takes place, is the story of a man whose goodness and faith brought about a miracle, and whose name lives on today in one of our most celebrated holidays.

This book is by no means religious. I was disappointed that there was only one line mentioning that Saint Valentine was a priest. The story also ended very abruptly. I realize it was written for children and is unpleasant that this holy man was killed, but he is a martyr. We teach children from a young age that Christ was put to death, so it makes sense that many of His followers were also. Especially now, with Christians all over the world being persecuted and executed for their faith, mentioning his martyrism would be appropriate. I bought for my 6 yr old Goddaughter, still waiting to hear if she enjoyed the book.

I couldn't find a good St. Valentine book for toddlers, so I bought this one even though I knew it would be too old for my 2-year-old. But he sat through the whole thing (with some paraphrasing by me)! This will be part of our Valentine's Day celebrations for years to come.

Wonderful book to introduce children to the roots of St. Valentine's Day. Perhaps qualifies as historical fiction, but well based on facts known. We have used the book to remind the children that Christians originally spent St. Valentine's Day in prayer for martyrs - not for sending love notes and

chocolates. They also enjoy looking for glimpses of modern day Valentine traditions: notes, flowers, kindness. The mosaic illustrations are beautiful reminders of the ancient Rome in which Valentine lived.

We used this book in our homeschool as part of Valentine's Day study. The illustrations are beautiful! The story is age appropriate for 2nd grade and under (Valentine's execution is simply alluded to, it's up to the parent how detailed to get into that). Also good if you're Catholic or Protestant...no mention of canonization in the story itself, so it's up to the parents to go in depth on that issue. Nicely done for a broad audience.

I like that this book gives an overview of who St Valentine was, the milieu in which he lived, and how the tradition of exchanging valentines began. It is not too simplistic, but neither is it too deep or heavy for a very young audience. The illustrations did not particularly excite me - I read it aloud to 20 homeschooled children ages 2-9 and the art did not seem to excite them much either! I would have appreciated a more explicit emphasis on the holiness of the man! Sabuda concentrates on St Valentine's profession as a doctor - the fact that he was a priest is downplayed and his prayer life is as well. I have been doing some on-the-spot editing as I read aloud to my 4 children to put a little more emphasis on his priesthood and sanctity.

Well done, art work is capturing. Good introduction to St. V. MY only wish is that it told a more complete story of his works ie., his refusal to obey the law that banned anyone from contracting marriage. His steadfast willingness to put himself in harms way so that new families through holy matrimony might be formed. Seems particularly relevant for today. However, I think anytime you can find a book that makes a saint "real" to children you've found a keeper and this book does that.

The mosaic style of the illustrations casts the mind back to yesteryear even without reading the story. For those who know and love the tale of St Valentine, who was historically a martyr of the early Church in Rome, this book presents a basic overview of his story for young readers without upsetting them with the details of the harsh reality.

Nice little book

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Saint Valentine Medium Raw: A Bloody Valentine to the World of Food and the People Who Cook

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