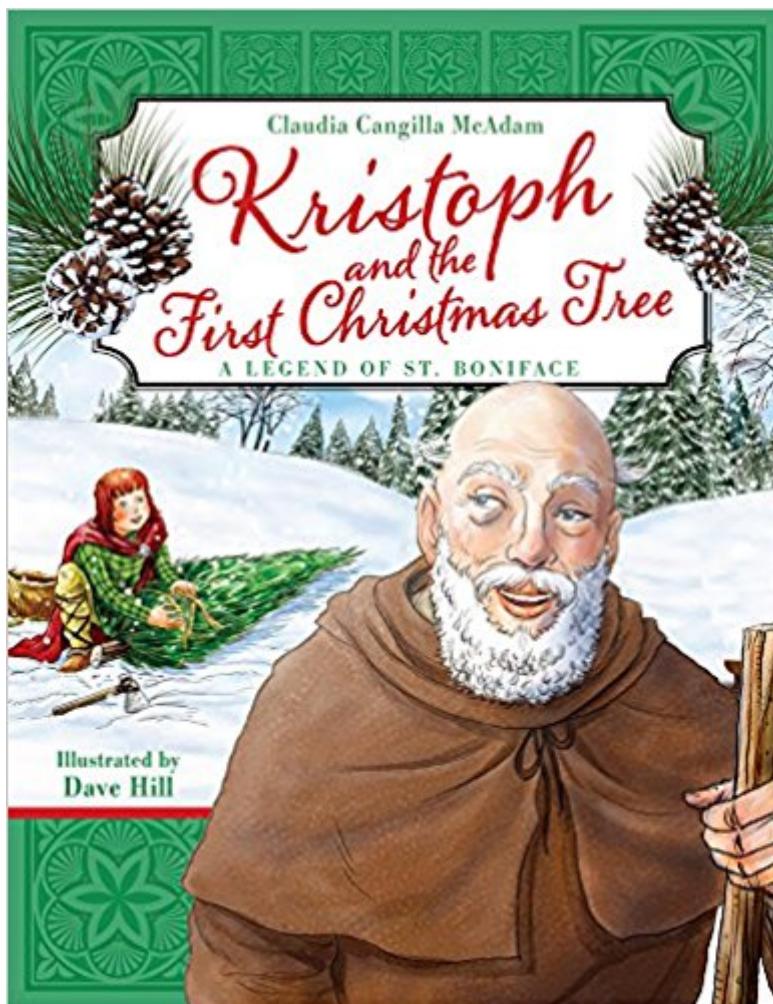


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# Kristoph And The First Christmas Tree



## **Synopsis**

It's Christmas Eve 722, and Kristoph, a young orphan boy, is accompanying the missionary priest Boniface through the German countryside. They are hurrying to reach the next village by nightfall when they come upon a group of people in the forest worshiping an oak tree and preparing to sacrifice the son of the village chieftain. To prove that the oak is powerless and that there is only One True God, Boniface miraculously fells the giant tree with a single ax stroke. In its place stands an evergreen. Calling it "the tree of the Christ Child," he instructs the men to mend their lives and take the tree home where it will shelter "loving gifts and lights of kindness." Now rescued, the son of the village chieftain invites Boniface and Kristoph to share Christmas with his family ...around another evergreen that Kristoph cuts down for their own celebration.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree is a moving retelling of an early story of the prayer of St. Boniface for a Christmas Tree. The year is 722, and the date is December 24, in a cold forest village in Germany. A young orphan boy named Kristoph follows the priest Boniface into the forest ... and encounter a group of pagan men who are about to sacrifice a young boy, the son of the village chieftain, before a huge old oak tree. Boniface tells the men they should worship the true God, and not a tree, and they laugh and taunt him to prove the power of God. Boniface promises the men that

through the power of God, he will fell the mighty tree with one axe stroke... With one mighty whack of the axe, he fells the oak giant. This is mystifying to the pagan men, but even more strange is a fir tree as tall as a man that seems to spring immediately from the stump of the old oak tree. Boniface tells the men the fir tree is a wood of peace, that points towards heaven, a sign of endless life with its evergreen branches. He declares it should be known as the tree of the Christ Child, displayed in their homes where it will shelter loving gifts and lights of kindness rather than evil deeds or sacrifices. Thus Boniface ... began the tradition of the blessing of the Christmas tree. Filled with colorful, realistic, narrative illustrations of the story, "Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree" describes an ancient Christian miracle through the fresh eyes of a child, making this lovely book a beautiful holiday gift to celebrate the coming of Christ."Midwest Book Review

"New Christmas stories of the saints are hard to find, so readers will savor the retelling of this nearly-forgotten legend as told by seasoned children's author Claudia Cangilla McAdam." "Regina Doman, author of *Angel in the Waters* This tender tale told in lyrical language and illustrated with old world charm, not only explains the origins of the first Christmas tree, but also reminds us that we too, like the tree of the Christ Child, are called to be beacons of hope and grace and light amidst the darkness." A Christmas story to cherish and share and spread good cheer throughout the season. "Kathleen T. Pelley

My eyes welled up with tears as I read this beautiful book, *Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree*. It is a wonderfully crafted story that will forevermore influence what I think about as I look upon my own Christmas tree. My heart will be reminded of the reason for Christmas, the celebration of God with us. My grandchildren are receiving this book for Christmas, and may this touching story keep them mindful of God's love and power in their lives.

Brilliantly illustrated and sweetly told, this story of the first Christmas tree weaves history and fable together in a heartwarming tale. Whether they read it themselves, or sit snuggled into their parent's lap while they're being read to, children will be entranced by the plight of the orphan "Kit", and his benefactor, Fr. Boniface. This story leads the heart and the imagination to God in a delightful way. "Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree" could become a cherished Christmas tradition for your tender little ones.

Five stars for another masterful book by Claudia Cangilla McAdam with wonderful illustrations by

Dave Hill. It is a magical and faith-filled book. The characters in Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree are as dear as family members; they warmed this reader's heart. Boniface and Kristoph's courage and faith bring back the true meaning of Christmas. Claudia Cangilla McAdam gives the reader her usual delightful surprises. Every family, with or without kids, will enjoy this Christmas story, a future classic.

This is beautifully written and beautifully illustrated! Claudia McAdam masterfully takes the reader back in time to teach about the origins and symbolism of the Christmas tree while telling a tender story. Through his illustrations, David Hill artfully transforms the 8th-century setting into a more modern-day scene. The kindness and faith of the priest, Boniface can't help but raise our hearts and minds to God. What a wonderful gift, especially as the season of Christmas approaches!

Delightful story about the origins of the Christmas tree, thoughtfully told by Claudia McAdam. Lovely illustrations by Dave Hunt make the story come even more alive.

Clearly, a Christmas treasure! This beautiful story will become an important part of family holiday traditions. The well-developed descriptions and colorful illustrations will make everyone feel part of the story. Along with the wonder of Christmas, inspiration and special values are gifts tucked into this book!

Once again, Claudia Cangilla McAdam cleverly carves a tale from history, enriching your die-a-log, bringing you closer to your roots than you would have thought to venture--and by implication, introducing you to a saint who just might have ordained the first Christmas tree.

Claudia Cangilla McAdam's children's stories are always enlightening. This one is no exception. It contains mystery, fear, involvement, and happiness which will delight a child's mind, and give them the opportunity to determine right from wrong as well. Bravo!

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