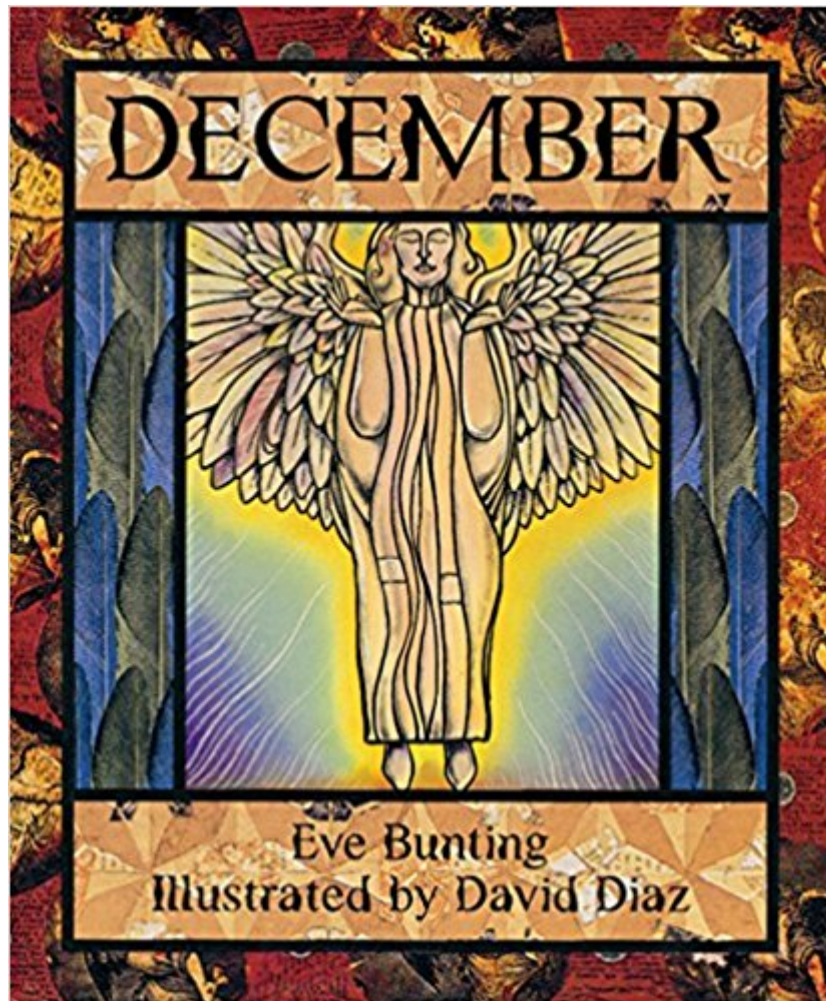




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# December



## Synopsis

Simon and his mom don't have much--the cardboard house they built for themselves, a tiny Christmas tree, and a picture of an angel pinned to one wall. On Christmas Eve they take in a frail stranger who needs a place to keep warm, and the next morning Simon wakes early to find that the woman has vanished. Instead, he sees December, the angel from the picture, with her wings fanned out over their cardboard house. Could she be real?

## Book Information

Paperback: 36 pages

Publisher: Sandpiper; 1 edition (October 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152024220

ISBN-13: 978-0152024222

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #462,602 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #153 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #905 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4. A story singular in its originality; its artwork; and its contemporary, multilayered theme that is ultimately filled with joy and peace despite its stark setting. On Christmas Eve, a homeless boy and his mother share their small cardboard-box home with an elderly stranger. The next morning, she is gone. And outside, the child thinks?but cannot believe?he sees an angel like the one on his December calendar page. The story ends a year later, when his situation has changed. His mother has a job and they have moved to a small apartment. It is then he observes that his calendar angel wears a rose just like the one the stranger had put on his Christmas tree. The message of charity as a risk worth taking in a dangerous world is a sobering, thoughtful holiday message. So deft in her writing, Bunting creates a mood or expresses an emotion with a simple sentence or phrase. Diaz's now-familiar angular, almost stained-glass figures dominate illustrations that are set against backgrounds so striking in their creativity and complexity that they would

overwhelm a lesser story. The artist uses a mix of media and repetitive patterns to create unusual designs that give each backdrop a multidimensional look. One of a very few holiday books that has both art and writing so strong that they effectively mesh to create a truly unique title. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An understated holiday story with dazzling art, by the duo behind *Smoky Night* (1994) and *Going Home* (1996). Simon and his mom live in a cardboard box, but they have a scrap of a Christmas tree, some found decorations including Simon's toy soldier, and an angel on the wall, named December, torn from an old calendar. On Christmas Eve, an old woman begs them to share their box, and they let her in, where Simon offers her one of the two cookies he is saving for Christmas day. In the morning, the old woman is gone, and the angel herself, singing softly, seems to fill the doorway before fading away. The next Christmas Eve finds Simon and his mother in a real apartment. She has found a job, and the December angel is on their new wall. Diaz's acrylic, watercolor, and gouache paintings have the monumentality and intensity of stained glass, with their flat planes of color and black outlines. The agitation of some of his work has been subsumed into a gentler and more emotionally resonant style, set against collage backgrounds full of roses and angels. The angel, with the wings of the feathered cloak of a Mesoamerican goddess, is a glorious creation. Seen in almost every spread in a glowing palette of rose and gold, she draws the eye and the heart again and again. (Picture book. 5-8) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was recommended to me by one of my second grade students. When I read it aloud to my class, every student was highly engaged and had many comments and questions. This book provided several days of close reading and comprehension instruction during the Christmas season when it is very hard to keep my class engaged. I was even able to use this story to encourage opinion letter writing. I highly recommend this story to all elementary and possibly even middle school teachers.

We've borrowed this book multiple times from the library & finally bought our own copy. I read it to my kids every December. I think it really opens their eyes to how lucky they are.

Beautiful story!

This is my Fairless holiday book. I've given it to several people as a gift.

This book is an awesome read aloud. Kids love it and it sparks some wonderful conversations about giving and caring. I also used it for many years in public schools. No one religious belief is highlighted, but rather the moral imperatives are featured.

Eve Bunting does not EVER disappoint... She is so talented in depicting sad situations in a way that is meaningful but not scary to children...

A very emotional book of compassion...quick delivery. thanks

I don't know why, but I just didn't care for this book. The art was pretty, but I wasn't super impressed otherwise.

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