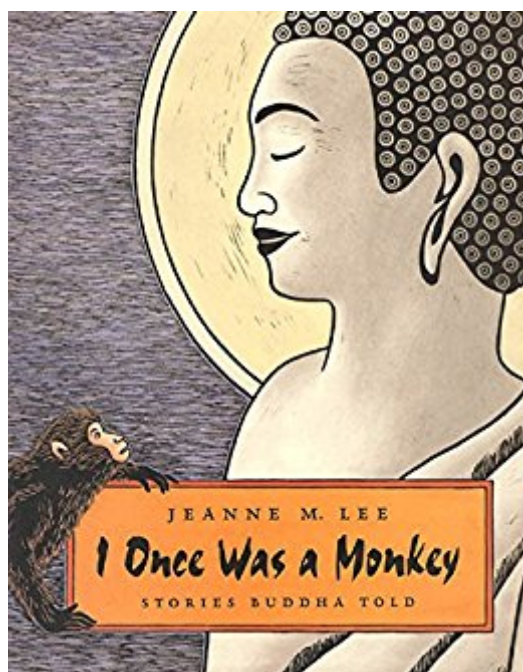


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# I Once Was A Monkey: Stories Buddha Told



## Synopsis

A colorful introduction to Buddhist fables A monkey, caught in a monsoon, finds shelter in a cave amid the rubble of a temple. The monkey is not alone. A lion, a jackal, a turtle, and a dove bicker in the cramped space, until a statue of Buddha comes to life. "Hush, children, hush." Buddha says. "I will tell you a story to pass the time." From the tale of the clever monkey outwitting a hungry crocodile to that of a bird and turtle rescuing a friend, the six amusing parables told by the Buddha will introduce young readers to the famous cycle of fables in Buddhist literature known as the Jatakas, or birth stories, which Buddha originally told to his disciples to illustrate his teachings. Joined with stunning linocut illustrations, Jeanne M. Lee's retellings form a book notable for both its beauty and its wisdom.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book to read with my 8 yr old son at bedtime. The book is very well written with the language being both accessible and engaging for young children. My son also loved the illustrations which have a wonderful clarity and warmth. Each Jataka we read gave us a great opportunity to talk

about kindness, fear, greed and the other myriad feelings we have every day. Best of all, after we finished the book my son went back and read it again himself. Which is a big deal for him since he usually goes for Captain Underpants before anything else.

Both my 3 and 7 year olds enjoy these stories. It is a great way to start discussions on topics like telling the truth, trust, careful thought, friendship and kindness. The illustrations are wonderful and inspire the imagination.

My five year old son loved this book with jakatas, or tales, that buddha told. The jakatas are all told through the stories and lessons that buddha learned through his life as different animals: a monkey, lion, dove, and jackal. There are valuable lessons learned and I would highly recommend this as an introduction for children to buddhism.

I purchased this book because it looked like a nice introduction to Buddah. My daughter and I both thoroughly enjoyed the book. My daughter is 4 and a half and she first went through the book to look at it's pictures and attempted to figure out each story. As we read each story she enjoyed guessing what was going to happen next and how each animal would react by her first impressions by the artwork. It is nicely written for a read aloud book and contains timeless stories about interaction. I highly recommend this book, even if you are not interested in Buddah as a religious figure, but looking for tales of common sense and relating to others.

My nine year old daughter and seven year old son loved this book. I have an eleven year old son who wasn't too interested. If you want a gentle introduction to Buddhist thought, or simply want to broaden your children's horizons, this is an excellent resource. Sadly, it is pretty short, but the illustrations are excellent and the stories profound.

I actually checked this book out at the library, with some others, for my children to start learning a little about the Buddhist teachings. We all enjoyed it and not long after returning it to the library, I decided I wanted to own it. It is refreshing to find stories for children that contain important lessons about character and consequences, without threats or bribes (like many religions teach). I recommend this book for children and adults alike. I hope to find more just like it to fill our ever growing library.

My five year old son loved this book with jatakas, or tales, that buddha told. The jatakas are all told through the stories and lessons that buddha learned through his life as different animals: a monkey, lion, dove, and jackal. There are valuable lessons learned and I would highly recommend this as an introduction for children to buddhism.

My 6 year old and 8 year old enjoy the story this book tells. It helps them to ask questions and start the process of understanding the "big picture". This book along with many others written for children about kindness and Buddhism are an important part of bringing up a well rounded person.

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