

Carolyn j Morris Captures the Heart at Christmas with a New Book

From the moment I held my copy of *Chick and Duckling's Christmas*, I could hardly wait to share it with my daughter. I imagined her delight in its rhymes, rhythms and repetition — I anticipated her fascination with the quaint and evocative watercolour illustrations. I was not disappointed. I showed my daughter the book, prepared to read it to her, but she eagerly took it from my hands, saying, "Can I read it to you?"

Before she began, I explained an added fun challenge; a candy cane hidden in each illustration. Quickly, she read, pausing at the end of each written page, her deep brown eyes dancing over the picture on each opposite page until three syllables

burst triumphantly from her smiling lips: "Candy cane!" With the final, "Hey Good News, the Angels Sing, Glory to the New Born King," and a sense of completion, she closed the book.

It was fun to share this book with my daughter. When she taught in a Montessori school, she would capture the children's attention with her animated story reading. She expresses her passion for children these days at Little Falls Public School, in St. Mary's, Ontario, where she is on the administration staff.

The latest children's book by author Carolyn j Morris, illustrated by award-winning artist Richard McNaughton is a delight. It describes Chick and Duckling's traditional Christmas. The book evokes memories of a simpler time and focuses on the "reason for the season," the birth of Jesus. It is sure to become a treasured keepsake.

Belinda Burston retired from a fulfilling career in social services in 2015. She now volunteers with True North Partnership, a charitable organization whose mandate is reconciliation and partnership with Indigenous communities, particularly Mishkeegogamang First Nation near Pickle Lake, Ontario. In addition, Belinda devotes time to two creative passions: a small pie business and writing. Belinda is a member of InScribe Christian Writers' Fellowship and The Word Guild. She also hosts and coordinates the monthly meeting of The Writers' Nest Writers' Group. www.whateverhesays.blogspot.com.

