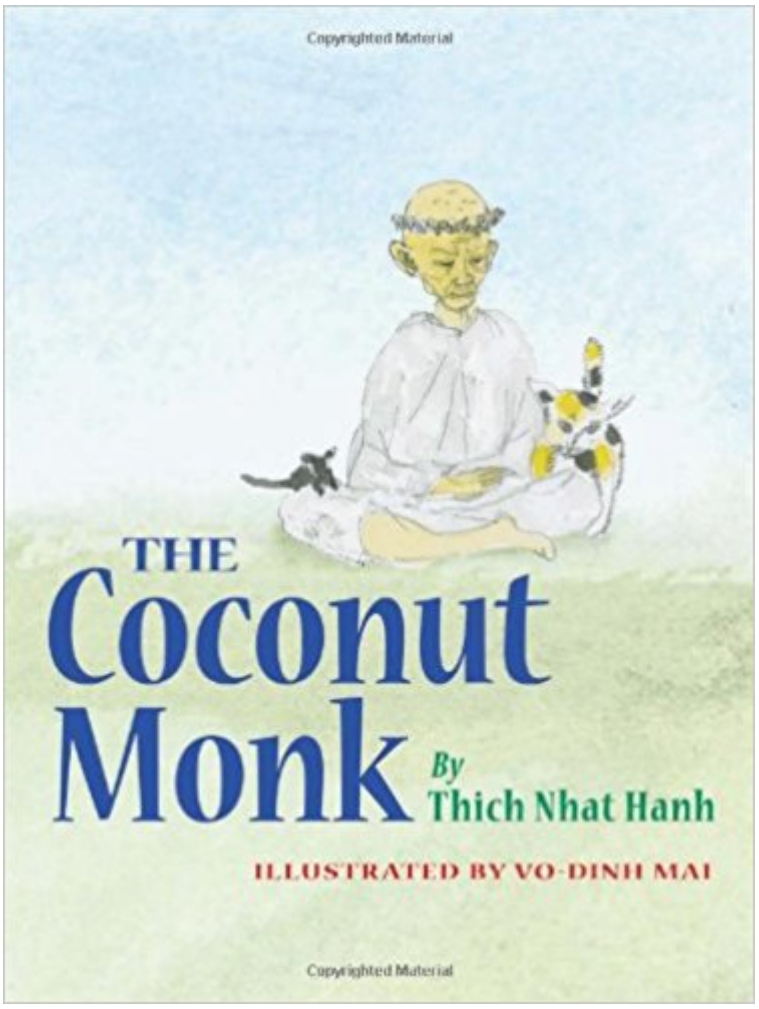
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The Coconut Monk



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Synopsis

Zen Master Thich Nhat HanhÃ¢â ¬â„¢s second childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book is the story of a monk, a cat, and a mouse learning to live together in peace in the midst of war. Set against the background of the Vietnam War and based on an actual person, The Coconut Monk uses the image of an eccentric monk who has found a way for archenemies to live together peacefully. Based on a talk given directly to children Thich Nhat Hanh uses the image of a cat and a mouse as metaphors for overcoming seemingly unconquerable divides of nature and opinion. Using the example of extending unbiased kindness and remaining calm and centered in the midst of upheaval, the story teaches children the Buddhist principles of equanimity, compassion, and perseverance. Amidst adversarial circumstances the figure of the Coconut Monk remains focused on his practice and continues to radiate all-encompassing love. ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s direct expression Ã¢â ¬â œ a Buddha like smile Ã¢â ¬â œ is an image well familiar even to those children that have not been previously exposed to Buddhist ideas and principles.With full-color oil-paintings by Vietnamese-American painter Vo-Dinh Ma,illustrator of award-winning childrenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s books including First Snow and Hermit and the Well.With a new introduction by the author.

Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Plum Blossom; Reprint edition (February 9, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1888375973

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Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.1 x 11 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,347,635 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Buddhist #27 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Religions > Buddhism #74 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Religions > Eastern

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Thich Nhat Hanh is one of the most revered Zen teachers in the world today. His best-selling books include Happiness and Peace Is Every Step. He lives in Plum Village in southwest France,his

meditation and retreat center in France, where he teaches the art of mindful living. Vo-Dinh Mai was born and raised in Hue Vietnam. He studied at the Sorbonne and the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. He has illustrated numerous books for children and adults, including The Moon Bamboo, The Stone Boy, and the award-winning First Snow, and The Hermit and the Well. He lives in Florida.

Excellent! Highly recommended. A very unknown true story in the midst of beautiful illustrations.

Love Thich Nhat; this book is not very relevant to our urban young kids. Still love him & will buy his books to support his work.

"The Coconut Monk" is a children’s story about a real person named Dao Dua (?-1990), a Buddhist monk of Viet Nam who established a religious community on Phoenix Island in the Mekong River in the 1960’s centered on a multicultural tradition of pacifism. Called the Coconut monk because his vegetarian diet was mainly coconuts, Dao Dua built a sanctuary which became a haven for many of the population who were fleeing the ravages of the war in Vietnam. The Coconut Monk and his two companions a cat and a mouse tries to go to the president of Viet Nam and ask him to stop the war. But soldiers throw him in prison and his cat and mouse friends come with him. Though there is little food in prison, all three share what they have, and the cat does not eat the mouse. Eventually people find out about the Coconut Monk’s imprisonment and they visit him and write letters and the guards of the prison finally release him. His question to the President remains, "If a cat and a mouse can live together in peace, don’t you think we humans can too?" "The Coconut Monk" is beautifully illustrated in delicate cool shades and tints that visually reinforce the central message of peaceful solutions and mindfulness that permeates the story. "The Coconut Monk" is suitable for children of all ages.

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