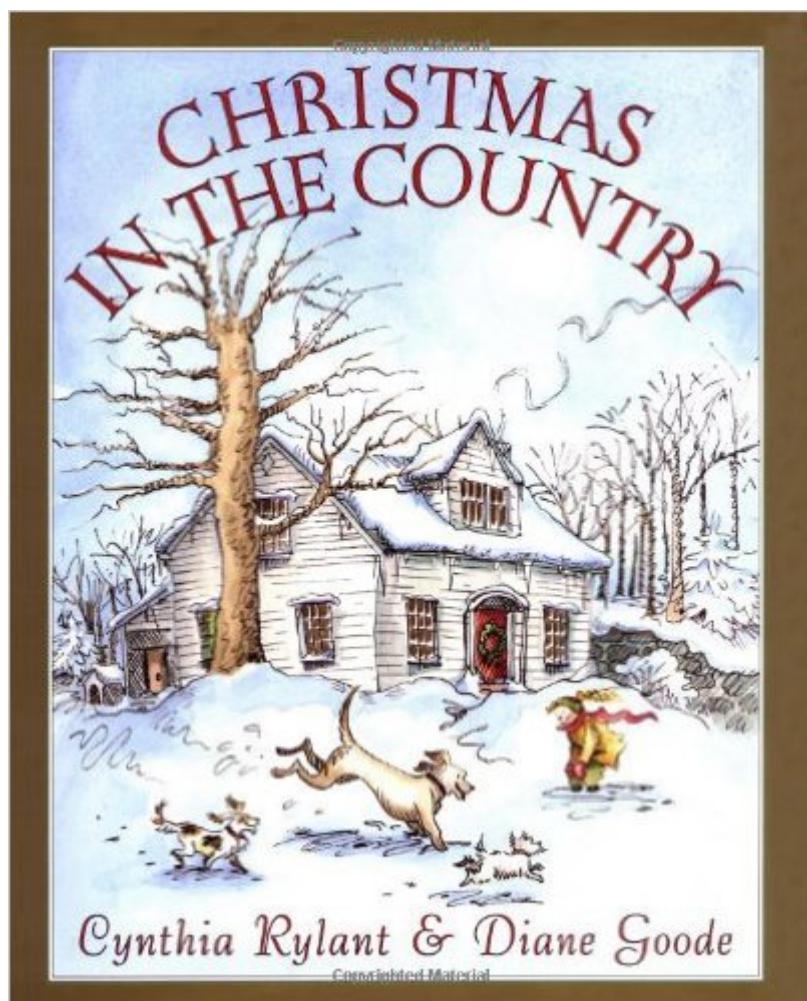


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# Christmas In The Country



## **Synopsis**

On the 20th anniversary of their first collaboration, Newbery Medalist Cynthia Rylant and Caldecott Honor artist Diane Goode reunite for a story about the joy and warmth of Christmastime. Cynthia Rylant returns to her Appalachian roots in this story of a young girl who lives with her grandparents in the country. As in her very first book, *WHEN I WAS YOUNG IN THE MOUNTAINS* (for which illustrator Diane Goode received a Caldecott Honor), Rylant evokes the warmth of the joyful Christmas season and celebrates the greatest gift of all--the love of family. Diane Goode's cheerful watercolors capture the festivities of the season, from Christmas trees loaded with homemade ornaments to the snow-covered countryside. A warm, evocative portrait of a loving family and a favorite season.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Blue Sky Press (October 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439073340

ISBN-13: 978-0439073349

Product Dimensions: 11.4 x 8.5 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #742,946 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #323 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #1444 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #1829 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Rylant and Goode return to some of the themes of their first collaboration, *When I Was Young in the Mountains*, for this evocative picture book about the simple things that make one girl's Christmas special. Rylant's idyllic subjects--enjoying cocoa and cookies, decorating the house and tree, singing at church--are as cozy as a kitchen warmed by a coal stove. Chipper ink-and-watercolor compositions, enhanced by cross-hatching and chock-full of homespun details (and the

ever-present family dogs), exude contentment. Ages 3-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 1-3-Bringing immediacy to a nostalgic story, Rylant describes a snowy Christmas in a rural setting. From the tree ("It was the prettiest thing we had") to the decorations retrieved from the closet ("Each ornament reminded me of my whole life"), this gentle, first-person narrative shimmers with affection. The text is well matched with Goode's humorous pen-and-ink and watercolor pictures. Though the illustrations present an idealized happy, busy, country house with snowy, woodsy exteriors and an integrated church and family groupings, the intensely personal text anchors the presentation and gives it credibility. A selection that holds up and retains interest after repeated readings.-S. P. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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