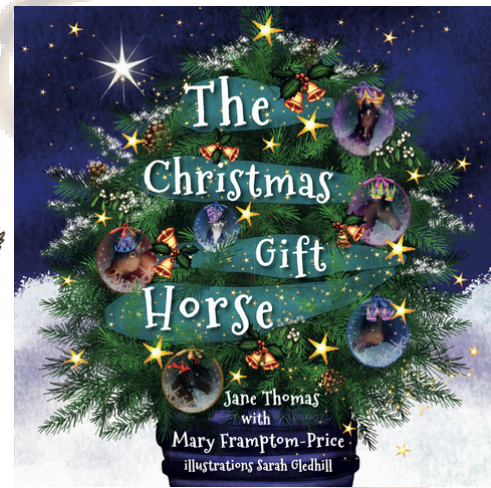


The 'Cornish Stories' series

by Jane Thomas, with Mary Framptom-Price

*"The greatest gift
at Christmas
is the gift
of being kind..."*

Out 25th
September



The Christmas Gift Horse is the third in the Cornish Stories series, following on from *Blackberries Aren't That Scary* and *Hoofbeats in the Moonlight*. Baz, a former racehorse, and his Dartmoor pony sisters are visited by the Gift Horse on Christmas Eve. In an enchanting rhyming story, the Gift Horse's threat to deliver a single gift is overruled, and it is he who gets the greatest gift of all.

This is a charming story of kindness, family, and the true meaning of giving. The book also features the lyrics to *Jingle Bells - Cornish Stable Style*.



Jane has spent decades travelling the world and poking her nose into other people's lives, so it's perhaps unsurprising that her books are about adventures in obscure places with an intention to reveal hidden truths. Oxford educated, she sees research as a sport and writing as an opportunity to share her discoveries.

When seething over injustices and stark realities becomes too much, Jane invariably retreats to the coast. She is often found with her van, Flo, armed with a large crocheted octopus and glaring at a cryptic crossword.

Born and raised in the USA, Mary began riding at the age of 5 and has never been far from a horse since. With a PhD from Boston College she spent most of her professional life in academia, before a somewhat whimsical late-life adventure when she moved to Cornwall with her English husband.

Replacing showjumping and cross-country gallops for gentle hacks along Cornish lanes, Mary spends her days with her former racehorse, Baz, and his three rescued Dartmoor Pony sisters. When not peering out at the world from atop a horse, she can be found with her nose buried in a book and dreaming of future travels.



Q. What is the purpose of the story?

Baz and his sisters are excited to be visited by the Christmas Gift Horse, who visits all the stables in all the lands on Christmas Eve. But the handsome horse is not to be trusted: he asks the horses what gifts they would like, then laughingly tells them only one can receive their Christmas wish. Baz steps in to comfort his sisters and comes up with unusual ways of ensuring they all get just what they wanted; the Gift Horse receives the greatest gift of all and leaves the stable a changed horse.

Q. How is the book linked to the Mare and Foal Sanctuary?

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary has rescued over 600 horses from life-threatening situations. Each of these horses has been gifted the promise of a new life: they are rescued, rehabilitated and, if possible, rehomed. Kindness is at the heart of everything this charity does, making it the perfect fit for the story. £1 from the sale of every copy of 'The Christmas Gift Horse' goes to supporting the Mare and Foal Sanctuary.

Q. What makes the books eco-friendly?

Produced as part of Books & Bicycles Press, the books are as eco-friendly as possible. They are printed in the UK on recycled paper and can only be bought either in indie bookshops or via a website; when bought from the site they are sent out in eco-friendly packaging via Royal Mail. Furthermore, 5% of profits go to small, grassroots literacy charities around the world. While copies are available elsewhere, we encourage readers to choose the eco-version that is readily available to them.

Q. Is the book relevant to schools?

Absolutely. While not sticking rigidly to a single part of the curriculum as many books do, it offers children the chance to engage in conversations about kindness and the true meaning of Christmas. The book would fit particularly well into schools in the heart of disadvantaged communities since children can learn that there are multiple ways to give - and they don't need to involve money. This is a fun story created to spark young minds and imaginations; it would make for a wonderful alternative Christmas play.

'The Christmas Gift Horse'

ISBN - 978191738304

RRP £7.99

Release date: 25th September,
Perfect timing for Christmas!



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Available for interview? Yes!