

The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow by Jackie Morris

New compact edition by the Kate Greenaway Medal-winning author.

Publication 20 August 2020. £14.99.

- *Sunday Times* bestseller Jackie Morris conjures a magical collection of twelve short stories set in a world of music and folklore, now in a new compact edition at £14.99.
- This new compact version is in addition to the ever-popular large format book first published in 2016. The smaller edition allows the reader to escape into the enchanting winter landscapes of these folkloric tales wherever they find themselves.
- The twelve illustrations were first created as Christmas cards for the musicians charity Help Musicians UK and formed the creative basis for this series of stories, serving as 'catalysts for the imagination', as Jackie describes, from which the narratives had full freedom to flow.
- The high-quality edition features a silver foil printed linen textured hardback cover and printed paper dust jacket, a silver page marker ribbon and textured natural white paper, retaining the feel and reading experience of the original in this classic book design.
- The first edition of *The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow* was nominated for the prestigious CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2018.
- 'The brilliance of this book is that Morris has devised a far more interesting and fruitful method for tapping into the subconscious world of the folk tale. ... Music, painting and words have long been close acquaintances, but in *The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow* Morris has discovered a way of bringing the three art forms together in a truly organic, intuitive amalgam.' **Jon Boden**

Praise for *The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow*:

'In this collection of 12 illustrated stories, music weaves with universal themes to make new magic. A collection of original folk tale-style stories inspired by her own music-themed paintings, [*The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow*] is an ideal gift for any Jackie Morris fan, and will appeal to adults and children alike.' **BookTrust**

'In summary this is a picture book for readers and picture explorers of all ages... Whilst the style will be



The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow

Author: Jackie Morris

Format: HB, 210 x 148, 120 pages

ISBN: 9781912654987

Price: £14.99

.....
especially inviting to folk-tale, fantasy and musical enthusiasts within these pages are complex delights and joys for all.' **The School Librarian**

'The accompanying evocative tales tell stories of love, longing and forgiveness, of kings and their courts, and of the beauty, ugliness and cruelty of the world. Yet they leave the reader smiling and daydreaming about what happens next to the young lovers, musicians and numerous animals as they share music, wisdom and life with one another . . . a delightful blend suitable for children and adults.'

Shelf Awareness for Readers

Notes to Editors

Further book description:

The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow: Case bound with a round spine, jacket printed full colour on Munken Print White paper, cover silver foil blocked title over green Wibalin cloth. Text pages printed in colour on Munken Print White paper, sewn and bound with a silver marker ribbon and silver headband.

Jackie Morris

An internationally best-selling author, artist and illustrator, Jackie Morris has over thirty years' experience in writing and illustrating books. Amongst her many titles, *East of the Sun* has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, *Little Evie in the Wild Wood* and *Something About a Bear* have been nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal and *The Lost Words* received the prize in 2019. Jackie was also the winner of the prestigious Hay Medal for illustration in 2018. Her most recent work includes *The Unwinding and other dreamings*, a collection of poetry for children, published by Unbound in July 2020, and the sequel to *The Lost Words*, *The Lost Spells*, with Robert

Macfarlane, forthcoming from Hamish Hamilton in October 2020. Other titles by Jackie Morris published by Graffeg include the Welsh-language edition of *The Lost Words – Geiriau Diflanedig*, *Tell Me a Dragon*, *The Snow Leopard* and *The Ice Bear*.

Graffeg produce and publish children's and illustrated books with an amazing team of authors, illustrators, designers and photographers. We believe great content and design and high quality production values make our books stand out. Some of the authors and illustrators we work with include Julia Rawlinson, Tiphonie Beeke, Tracey Hammett, Nicola Davies, Jackie Morris, Joyce Dunbar, James Mayhew, Zeb Soanes, Jason Korsner, Anna Bruder, Jane Russ, Tom Ferris, Max Low, Roy Noble, Karin Celestine, Peter Waller, Huw Jones, Gilli Davies and David Wilson.

Review Copies & Editorial: To request review copies, interview or images for editorial use, please contact Bethan Blake or Daniel Williams at media@graffeg.com / bethan@graffeg.com.



The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow

The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow

Listen.

In the still, cold air of early morning there would be only silence, but for the quiet music of gently falling snow.

No leaves cling to the trees.

Beneath stone-hard ground snakes sleep, coiling in cold dreams.

Winter.

Not a bird stirs.

The only movement is falling flakes, and as they fall she can see each intricate pattern, each individual, unique. And as they fall she can hear the note as the crystal merges with others to become a tapestry of white covering the earth.

Many musicians had played that night, but she had arrived late. Everyone was waiting.

It had not been hard to find. She had followed the path of music through the trees and slipped silent, unnoticed, between the notes of a fiddler's reel into the warm, golden light.

The lion waited outside, for a while.

She had a way about her, could disappear into any crowd if she desired to be invisible. She wore this glamour like a cloak. And so, while the fiddler played up a storm to fill the waiting hours, she sat in a quiet corner, casting her eyes around, tuning her instrument.

12

The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow

When the dance ceased and the last echo of notes died away, people stood, breathless, waiting for the next song. She dropped her glamour of invisibility and began to play.

And her song told a story as her voice blended with the notes and all voices hushed and all eyes, all ears turned to her, for this was what they had all been waiting for.



13



Then she saw a young man walk out from the wood to the heart of the camp, beside him a great grey wolf. He sat beside the tiger, leant against its side and began to play, moving his bow across the strings. The tiger began to purr out a drone note and together the two made a wild, gentle music. The wolf looked straight at her.

The wolf walked across the clearing, stealthy in his step, stalking her. He took her hand gently in his mouth and drew her out from the wild wood and into the circle of light.

33

Cavalcade

From that day forward she was never alone again.

From that day forward she knew she would never love anyone as much as she loved the young man, the tiger and the great, grey wolf.

From that day forward she travelled onwards with the happy band of people and creatures.

She had been scared of the tiger to begin with. His eyes, his heavy head, his great claws all spoke of wildness. The young man seemed so at peace in his company, resting easy against the tiger's side.

After supper, cooked over the fire, more music filled the woodland and, as the stars turned above them, she filled some of the silences between music with her own voice, her own story, a song that quickly threaded its way into the young man's heart.

And so, before the night was over, before the stars were gone, melted by the light of the morning sun, as the band packed up their camp to move on, he offered her his hand and she climbed onto the back of the great silver cat. She closed her eyes, felt the tiger leap high into the sky and, while the young man played on, they flew through constellations.

Far below, the forest gave way to a snow-covered land as the cavalcade moved on. For now she was content to travel with them, feeling for the first time in her lonely life that she had a family.

34