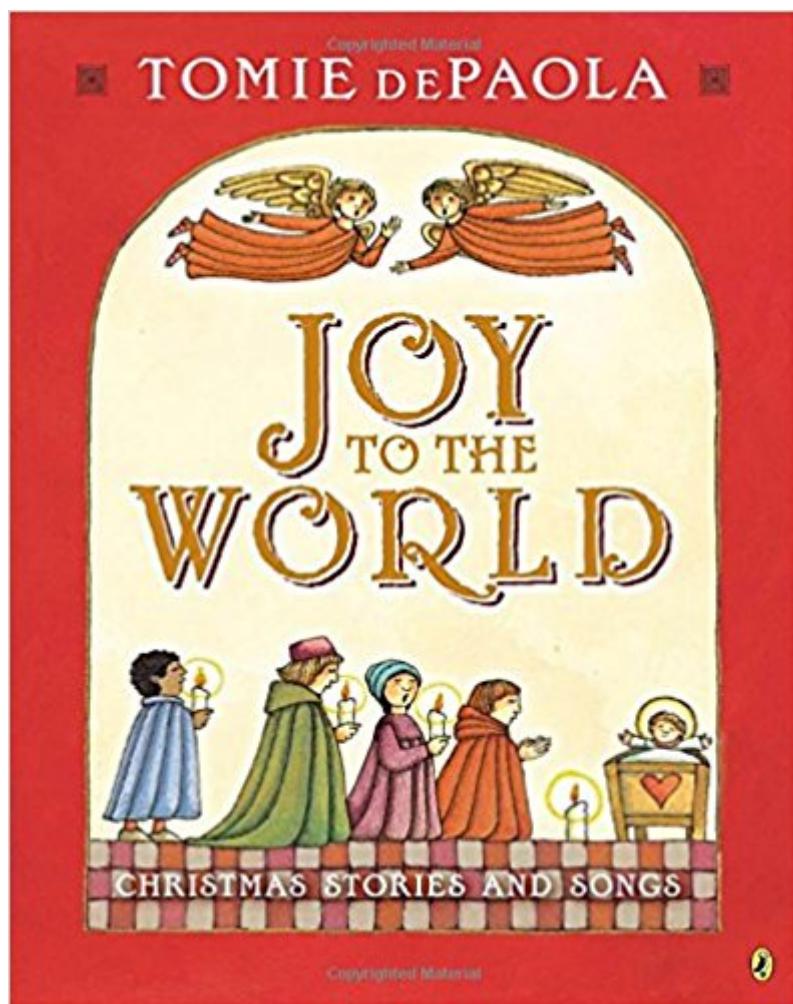


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# Joy To The World: Tomie's Christmas Stories



## **Synopsis**

A timeless celebration of Christmas from the legendary Newbery and Caldecott Honor winner Tomie dePaola! This collection unifies three of the incomparable Tomie dePaola's most beloved Christmas stories into one handsome volume. Vividly portrayed and expertly crafted, *The Night of Las Posadas*, *The Story of the Three Wise Kings*, and *The Legend of the Poinsettia* are sure to enchant and mesmerize the whole family during the holiday season.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 112 pages

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #653,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations #1301 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas #3912 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

Eric Carle and Tomie dePaola: Author One-on-One Eric Carle is the creator, author, and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and many other children's books. Tomie dePaola is the author and illustrator of *Strega Nona: Her Story* and countless other books. They recently had a conversation about their careers as picture book authors. Tomie dePaola: When I was only four years old, I announced to my family in particular and to the world in general that I was going to become an artist, and write stories and draw pictures for books. I never swayed from that early declaration. I've always been curious to know, what inspired you to become a creator and illustrator of picture books? Eric Carle: My career began as a graphic designer and for a number of years I worked as an art director for an advertising agency in New York. In the mid 1960's Bill Martin, Jr. saw an ad of a red lobster that I had designed and asked me to illustrate his *Brown Bear*,

Brown Bear, What Do You See? Well, I was set on fire! I was so inspired by this book, and the opportunity to illustrate it changed my life. After that, I started to create my own books, both words and pictures, and really it was then that I had found my true course in life. Now, I have a question for you, Tomie. How would you describe your artistic style, and has it changed over time? Tomie dePaola: My illustration style is heavily influenced by folk art--strong simple shapes, bold lines, color, color, color and a deceptive simplicity. My style began to develop early in art school, and through the years, it hasn't changed very much, but it has refined itself. How would you describe yours? Eric Carle: My aim with my work is to simplify and refine, be logical and harmonious. I like to use simple shapes, bright colors and a lot of white space. I write for the child inside of me. That is always where I begin. Tomie dePaola: I do, as well. The only audience I keep in mind is that four-year-old in me. People sometimes ask me what advice I would give to young artists. I always think of the wonderful advice I received from my twin cousins when they were in art school in the late '30s. They told me, "Practice, practice, practice and don't copy." Eric Carle: I often tell people about the four magic letters: DO IT. I want to be encouraging but I can only offer the example of my own experience, which is just one approach. There are many wonderful artists to learn about, which is important. But you must use your own imagination. You have to just do it. Tomie dePaola: How do you feel knowing that a copy of The Very Hungry Caterpillar is sold every 30 seconds, somewhere in the world? Eric Carle: It is hard for me, maybe for others too, to grasp this concept. But I am truly honored that my story is enjoyed by so many and that it is now being shared by a generation of parents who grew up with my book. How about your Strega Nona. She is one of your most popular characters. Can you share how she came to be? Tomie dePaola: In the '70s when I was teaching at a college, we were required to attend faculty meetings. I always sat in the back with a yellow legal pad. Everyone thought I was taking notes. At one meeting a doodle appeared of a little lady with a big nose and a big chin. I named her Strega Nona, and the rest is history. Speaking of history, how will you be celebrating the third annual Very Hungry Caterpillar Day this year? Eric Carle: On The Very Hungry Caterpillar Day, March 20th, I will probably be at home with my wife, Bobbie (I am a bit of a hermit, actually). But I will be saying a little toast to the caterpillar for whom I have a special place in my heart. And speaking of holidays, isn't your favorite holiday Christmas. Do you have a special Christmas memory? Tomie dePaola: Christmas is my favorite holiday. My favorite Christmas was the one when I received tons and tons of art supplies: everything from an easel to paints, pads and pads of paper, and "how to draw" books. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Exquisitely wrought story. dePaola's talent for crafting folktales is honed to near-perfection, and his pages glow with the soft sun-washed hues of the Southwest. • Publishers Weekly, starred review of *The Night of Las Posadas* “dePaola's illustrations are not simply pictures designed to expand the text: his illustrations are the text. dePaola uses the influence of Byzantine and Romanesque art to depict and enlarge our understanding of character and humanity. • SLJ, starred review of *The Story of the Three Wise Kings* “The story has a simple dignity, but it is the artwork that takes center stage here. The spreads, which feature everyday occurrences are magnificently staged. • Booklist, review of *The Legend of the Poinsettia*

The book jacket states that Christmas is Tomie dePaola's favorite holiday, and this collection of stories and carols is proof. The three stories, *The Night of Las Posadas*, *The Story of the Three Wise Kings*, and *The Legend of the Poinsettia*, have been previously published, but if you don't own them already, the opportunity to buy all three is a bargain. The first and last stories blend legend with real life stories of Hispanic Catholics, but all show dePaola's love for his Catholic faith. The carols are "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night," "The First Noel," "Away in a Manger," and "Joy to the World." Each includes music, words, and illustrations. We are already dePaola fans, but this book gave us more to love. Thanks Tomie!

We love Tomie dePaolo. We love that his gives the Catholic vantage point without being offensive to Protestants. This is a compilation of stories, with some Christmas songs. Our kids only get three Christmas gifts (Jesus only got three gifts, and it is His birthday, after all!). One gift is "gold"--more valuable. One is "Frankincense"--holy gift. One is "myrrh"--for the body. I got this for my son for his "Frankincense" gift. However, I also use it to read to my Faith Formation students. You can never go wrong with Tomie dePaolo books!

This is a collection of previously published single-story books, at least two of which are now out of print. In between the stories are nice arrangements of Christmas carols. The Posada story is original, and very moving, and tells us about traditions in Mexican culture. The miracle of the first poinsettia is also a Mexican legend and is really compelling. The three wise men seem an odd match for the other Mexican cultural stories, but it is beautifully illustrated and pretty close to the

original text.

The children love this book and are fascinated with all the stories. DePaola is our favorite author and illustrator and is a great addition to our library.

Love Tomie dePaola and this collection is a great way to celebrate the season of Advent!

This was the perfect book collection for a Catholic household. I especially loved the story of the 3 wise men. It was perfect to read for Epiphany

Special book by my favorite author

Such a great compilation! My children loved singing the songs and hearing the stories all Christmas season!

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