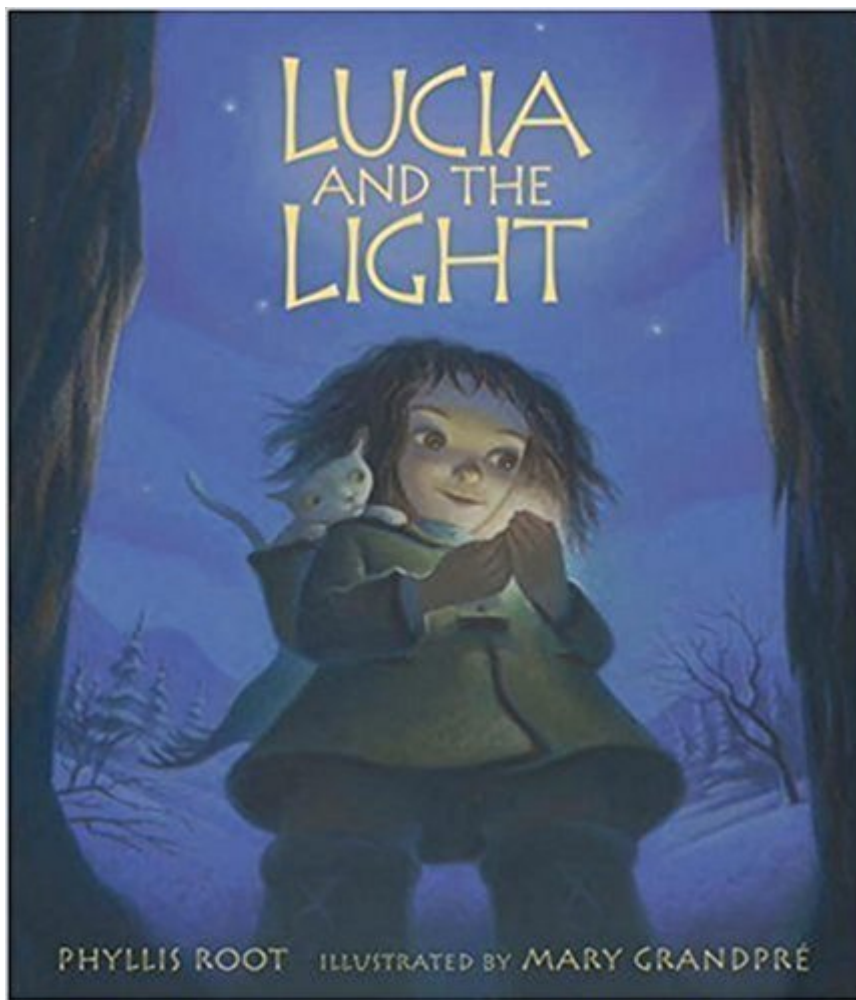


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# Lucia And The Light



## Synopsis

Luminously illustrated by Mary GrandPré, a timeless adventure from master storyteller Phyllis Root about the loss of the sun and one girl's brave quest to find it. In a cozy cabin high in the mountains of the Far North, Lucia and her family live a snug and contented life. But one day the wind screams fiercely and the sun does not rise over the mountain. Someone has stolen the sun! "Perhaps it has lost its way," says Lucia, who despite her mother's pleas sets out to find it with only a bit of bread, a tinderbox, and her milk-white cat to keep her company. In dramatic pastels, Mary GrandPré illuminates troll-pocked frozen mountains and wraps Lucia's family in a blanket of warmth. Inspired by Nordic lore, Phyllis Root spins a golden yarn of courage, love, and the age-old longing for the return of light.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.4 x 11.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #844,408 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Norse #663 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Weather #1818 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Cats

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Lucia, her mother, and baby brother live in a small isolated cabin in the Far North. As the snows mount and the winds howl around their tiny home, their food supplies dwindle. One morning, the sun does not rise. Darkness envelops Lucia's world and when the cow stops giving milk, the brave child decides to go out into the world and bring the sun home again. She skis and trudges on in spite of adversity and fear and faces the terrible trolls. Of course, Lucia succeeds, returning home to her mother's love and a beautiful light-dappled world. This

heartwarming adventure will delight girls and boys with its terrifying trolls and triumphant travails. Grandpre's illustrations illuminate the tale with soft, fluid multihued paintings that vividly convey both danger and sunlight-filled safety and warmth. This fablelike story is a wonderful companion to Mordicai Gerstein's *Carolinda Clatter!* (Roaring Brook, 2005) and perhaps a favorite version of Jack and the Beanstalk.

— Tamara E. Richman, Somerset County Library System, Bridgewater, NJ

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**\*Starred Review\*** Lucia has always loved the cozy mountain cabin that she shares with her mother, baby brother, a cow, and a milk-white cat. Then comes a winter when the sun disappears altogether. Mama is loving and reassuring: "We will be each other's sun until the real sun returns." But brave Lucia is determined to restore daylight, and with her cat tucked into her parka, she sets off on her skis. Grandpre's evocative, dimly lit acrylics capture the eerie mystery and shivery suspense of the adventure, as Lucia treks through spooky, starlit forests and finally finds the sun, held hostage by a band of deliciously gruesome trolls. Root's rich language and well-paced story are sure to capture a young crowd of eager listeners, and children will connect with the messages about friendship and cooperation; as intrepid as Lucia is, she still needs the help of her white cat to carry out her quest and return safely home. A final note extends the story's pourquoi-tale elements by suggesting that Lucia's battle is an annual event: each winter, the days will only lengthen after a courageous person has battled the trolls and reclaimed the sun. Gillian Engberg

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I bought this book for my 2 year old daughter to read on St Lucia day, as a nod to my husband's Swedish heritage. I was a little concerned that it would be too long or difficult for her to understand at this age, but it was the only story book I could find in print, in English, with a remotely Lucia-inspired theme. Turns out, this is now one of her favorite stories, and mine and my husband's, too! To begin with, the illustrations are amazing. They draw you in and bring the little cabin in the Far North, in all its darkness, to life. I have never seen darkness illustrated with such vibrant detail. And, when the sun begins to return, you can almost feel the warmth in each picture growing stronger and brighter. Then, there is the story itself, which is charming and exciting, and just a little bit scary, (the first time we read it, my daughter seemed uncertain about the trolls, but now asks gleefully for the "troll" book, so I guess it didn't scare her too badly!). It takes about 20 minutes to read if you go slowly and pause to look at the pictures. The first time I read it, my daughter looked at me when we finished the last page and had one word to say in response: "Again?" Finally, the page

and binding quality seem good, so the book should last (although I wouldn't leave it alone with a little one for too long as even decent quality pages will rip when a toddler is around!). This may not be a book that every 2 year old can enjoy, as mine does happen to love stories and has strong verbal skills, but certainly by age 3 I think most kids would really like it, and as a parent, this is a story you won't mind reading many times.

This is an absolutely lovely book, beautiful illustrations and a wonderful story. It was a Yule gift for my two year old, and she just loves the story.

Lucia - not literally Santa Lucia, though the parallels are obvious - is a small child living way way waaaaay up north in... gosh, Sweden? Norway? One of those places where winter MEANS something. But even in the winter, her family is happy. They have a cow to give milk, and a little house, and they keep each other company. Until the sun doesn't rise. And it doesn't rise, and it doesn't rise, and it doesn't rise. And it keeps on not rising until the cow dries up and they run out of flour and it is cold cold cold. And Lucia decides to go up into the mountains and find out what's wrong. I credit the author in making clear that her mother does NOT condone this act. Little girls really shouldn't be wandering in the endless night where child-eating trolls dwell. So Lucia just sneaks out. And finds the trolls and gets the sun back from where they've hidden it, and turns them all to stone. Quite a job for a small child! It's a great book. I love it. Great story, sounds very traditional (though I don't think it is), lovely illustrations. Only thing is that it's really a bit wordy. I can't point to an adjective or a sentence that I'd cut out, every word fits neatly in its place, but this book is probably best to be read to older children, or at least those with good attention spans.

I've been trying to find some St Lucia books for Christmas/solstice time, and it's not easy. This is a lovely story and I'm glad we bought it. It's exciting without being overly scary for the 3 old right before bed (trolls steal the sun and Lucia and her milk-white cat get it back). that said, I'm still looking for a more historical/traditional St Lucia story or two.

Very Nice book for children 7 or older, although perhaps for some 6 year olds. It's quite adventurous which is right up the alley for 7 year olds. The pictures are nice but a bit over whelming at first, especially for the very young. Girls especially like this book. A little pricey, I'd wait for a sale price on this one.

The pictures are beautiful and the story is delightful. My 7 year old and her class really enjoyed the story.

I hate to admit it, but I'm sort of a childrens book snob. My 4 year old has a large collection of books with many Caldecott winners (and other awards) among them. Her library was carefully assembled using book reviews, lists (eg The Read Aloud Handbook, etc), recommendations, etc. So when we randomly checked out this wonderful book from our local library, I was surprised that it was completely off my radar. Also, as the father of 2 girls, I always appreciate stories with strong, brave female protagonists. I was a little concerned that my very sensitive 4 year old would be frightened by the troll encounter (they discuss eating Lucia!) but it didn't seem to bother her at all. Still, it's something to keep in mind if your kid is very young and/or sensitive. The trolls are drawn to be quite menacing and ugly. Anyways, I would highly recommend this book, especially for girls 4 and older.

The writing in this book is fantastic! It is written with simple but beautiful language and every sentence and every twist and turn in the story is engaging. My 2 1/2 year old god-daughter sat through the entire story completely engrossed and wanted more- and she does not have the longest of attention spans. I find that many beautiful picture books are lacking in the writing department. This is not the case here. You get the best of both worlds with this book. Beautiful illustrations matched with a fantastic story. LOVE THIS. I want to go out and buy five more!

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