

7-Imp's 7 Kicks #259: Featuring One Very Possible and Very Festive 2011 Holiday Illustration Before Breakfast #7

December 11th, 2011 by Jules



"And the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed are thou among women..."
(Click to enlarge)

Welcome to 7-Imp's 7 Kicks, a weekly meeting ground for taking some time to reflect on Seven(ish) Exceptionally Fabulous, Beautiful, Interesting, Hilarious, or Otherwise Positive Noteworthy Things from the past week, whether book-related or not, that happened to you.

I'm feeling under the weather this weekend, so even though I most certainly noted this week's kicks in my mind, I'm not going to include them here. Since it still aches to be upright, I'm going to share today's illustration and then get right back to being horizontal again. Sorry for this truncated post, but please do tell me your kicks. How about this: My one big kick is that I don't feel like this all the time. There we go. I'm extremely grateful for that. (Oh, I also spent an exciting Tuesday morning with a whole host of very smart second-graders and teachers studying picture books and illustration, but maybe I'll hold that for next week.)

Do you remember **this July post**, in which I featured **Katherine Paterson's *Brother Sun, Sister Moon***, illustrated by **Pamela Dalton**? Remember those intricate paper cuts? As a reminder (and as I wrote in that July post), Dalton uses the craft of Schereschnitte, which means simply "scissor cutting" in German, a method which was popular in early 19th-century Pennsylvania German communities. It involves paper-folding (lots), a heavy use of symmetry, and many craft knife blades. As I understand it, after cutting pieces for this book, Pamela laid her paper on large pieces of glass and completely covered them in coffee, which softens the contours and the watercolors she's painted on the papercuts. The pieces are then ironed many times to smooth out wrinkles and paper-buckling.

In this holiday book, released in November from Chronicle/Handprint Books, Dalton is back, having rendered the illustrations for the Christmas story as told in the King James Bible. If you saw Paterson's book, then you might believe me when I say that this book, ***The Story of Christmas***, is a delight, no matter your faith (or even lack thereof). That is, if you're an illustration junkie, this artwork is simply a wonder to take in.

And, wow, both books were published in 2011. Dalton did a lot of paper-cutting this year. (Er, well, I'm sure she did it all before 2011, but you know what I mean.)



Okay, back to my pillow. It so gently is calling my name. Sorry so brief. What are **your** kicks from this week?

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS. Illustrations © 2011 by Pamela Dalton. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Handprint Books, an imprint of Chronicle Books, San Francisco.