

Spider's Gift

A Christmas Story

Written by
Geraldine Ann Marshall

Illustrated by
Rebecca Sorge



Spider's Gift



A Christmas Story

Written by Geraldine Ann Marshall

Illustrated by Rebecca Sorge

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Marshall, Geraldine Ann, author. | Sorge, Rebecca, illustrator.

Title: Spider's gift : a Christmas story / written by Geraldine Ann Marshall ; illustrated by Rebecca Sorge.

Description: Boston : Pauline Books & Media, [2015] | Summary: Present at the

birth of Jesus, Cricket sings a lullaby, Honeybee presents honey, and Spider wonders what she can give.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015034936 (print) | LCCN 2016010126 (ebook) | ISBN 9780819890580 (pbk.) | ISBN 0819890588 (pbk.) | ISBN 9780819890597 (epub)

| ISBN 9780819890603 (mobi) | ISBN 9780819890610 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Jesus Christ--Nativity--Juvenile fiction. | CYAC: Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction. | Christmas--Fiction. | Spiders--Fiction. | Gifts--Fiction.

Classification: LCC PZ7.1.M3728 Sp 2015 (print) | LCC PZ7.1.M3728 (ebook) | DDC [E]--dc23

LC record available at <http://lcn.loc.gov/2015034936>

Illustrated by Rebecca Sorge

Design by Mary Joseph Peterson, FSP

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

"P" and PAULINE are registered trademarks of the Daughters of St. Paul.

Copyright © 2016, Geraldine Ann Marshall Gutfreund

Published by Pauline Books & Media, 50 Saint Paul's Avenue, Boston, MA 02130-3491

Printed in Korea.

SGCS SIPSKOGUNKYO4-12053 9058-8

www.pauline.org

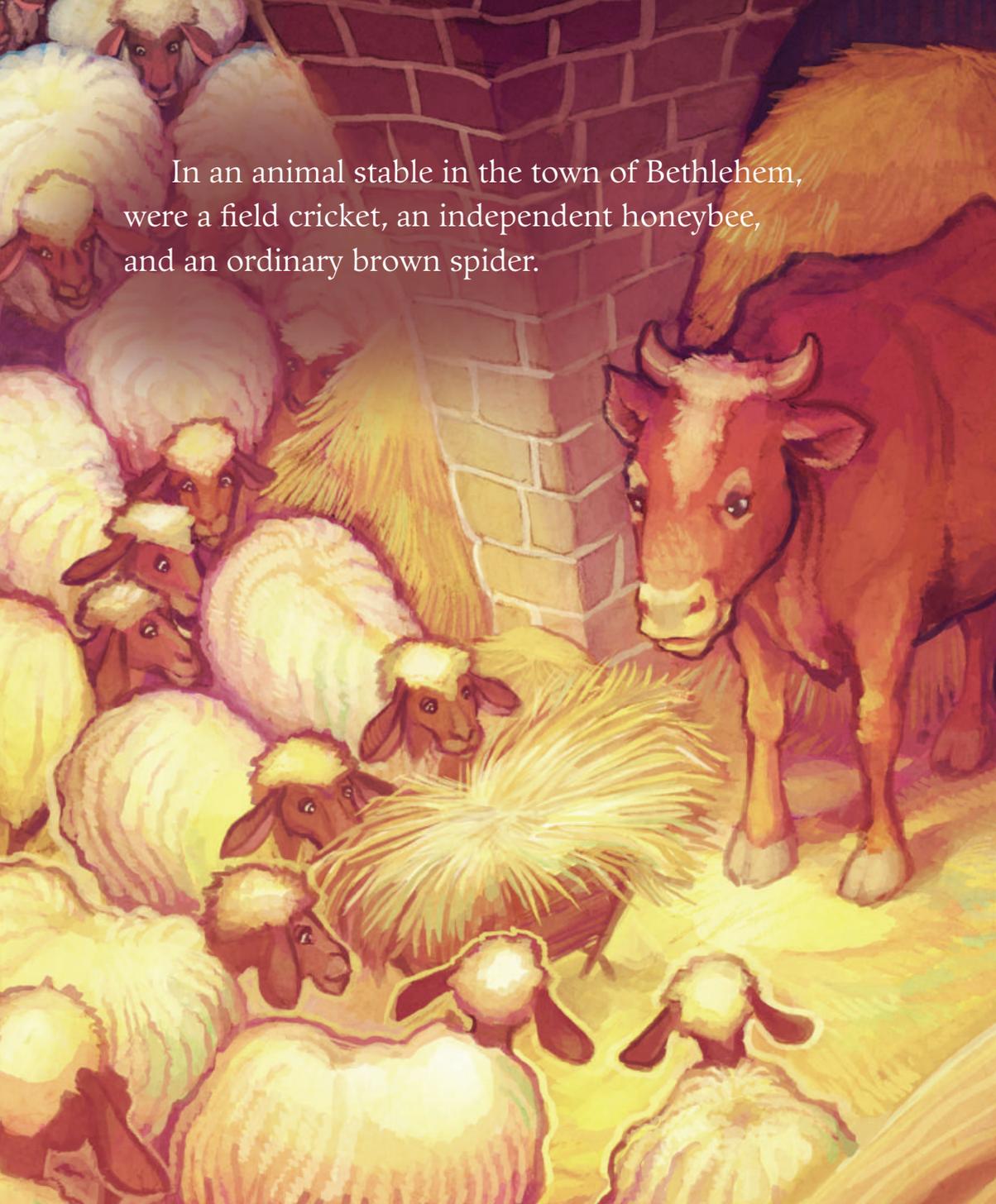
Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, an international congregation of women religious serving the Church with the communications media.

*For my daughters,
Audrey and Rachel,
for whom I wrote the Christmas stories.*

*For our family dogs
who've all given us their gifts of love:
Scamper, Frank Lloyd, Newton,
Wilbur, Stuart Little, Emmett;
and two cats,
Charlotte and Sac a dos.*



In an animal stable in the town of Bethlehem,
were a field cricket, an independent honeybee,
and an ordinary brown spider.





“Today, I want
to make music,”
Cricket said.

“I want to dance,” Honeybee said.

“Each one of my eight legs is twitching with
joy,” Spider said.

“Something special is going to happen!” the
three friends shouted.

That night a gentle man helped a young woman with soft, dark hair into the stable. The man put clean hay in a corner for the tired woman. The woman's stomach was large and round.

"She's going to have a baby," Cricket whispered.

"Oh, Joseph," the woman said, "is this where we'll be staying?"

"All the inns are full. There is nowhere else we can go, Mary," said Joseph. He helped Mary sit on the summer-smelling hay.

"This is such a rough place to bring a baby into the world," Mary said. "But I know God will keep us safe."





Later that night, the animals awoke when a baby began to cry. Then they heard heavenly singing, and the stable shone with bright starlight.



Soon shepherds and their sheep entered the stable. “We came to see if what the angel said was true,” the eldest shepherd told Mary and Joseph. “The angel said the Savior was born tonight.”