



# Stellaluna

*Janell Cannon*

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**Stellaluna** Janell Cannon

*Stellaluna* is the tender story of a lost young bat who finally finds her way safely home to her mother and friends. This award-winning book by Janell Cannon has sold over 500,000 copies and was on the bestseller list for more than two years.

## Stellaluna Details

Date : Published April 30th 1993 by HMH Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780152802172

Author : Janell Cannon

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals



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# From Reader Review Stellanuna for online ebook

## **Silk says**

Loved it so much!

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## **Kaethe says**

Such a sweet little bat. I love the effort Stellanuna makes to fit in with her bird fosters, and the efforts they make to be more like her. And it has a happy ending, which is always nice in a book about critters. [That's right, kill the kids all you want, as in [book:The Gashlycrumb Tinies|47558], but don't kill the critters, or I'll get cranky]

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## **Asalyn Holliday says**

I love this book! I think it would be great in a unit on animals and could lead to a discussion about nocturnal animals and what that means. This book reminded me of another book by Janell Cannon called Verdi that would also be good in an animal unit.

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## **Adam Silvera says**

This is my first favorite book ever. My mother bought it for me as a kid and it came with a Stellanuna plush doll. Manly, right? Mom read it to me whenever I asked until I lost Stellanuna in the first grade. (TRAGIC.)

My mother, being the most awesome of mothers, put up Missing Poster signs for Stellanuna. No one ever called with information, no ransom notes were left next to my lunch box, and Stellanuna wasn't hiding inside my hamper or under my bed. Stellanuna was gone. I thought back to the book, and how the birds cared for Stellanuna while she was lost - teaching her to sit upright during the day and all that - and how her time with the birds - and me - was short-lived so she could return to a life of living in the night and sleeping upside down.

I think maybe my bat went home.

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## **Andreea says**

Amazing book with a healthy message. Themes: identity, friendship, acceptance, kindness and the list goes on. Recommended to all children.

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## **Ronyell says**

I first saw this book on an episode of “Reading Rainbow” (my favorite TV series when I was little!) and I instantly fell in love with this book! “Stellaluna” is a gorgeous picture book by Janell Cannon and it is about how a baby bat named Stellaluna learns how to live with the birds after she is separated by her mother during an owl attack. “Stellaluna” is truly one of the best books for bat lovers everywhere!

Once there lived a mother fruit bat that gave birth to a baby bat named Stellaluna and one night, Mother Bat was carrying Stellaluna while searching for some ripe fruit to eat. Suddenly, an owl spots the bats and tries to catch them and Stellaluna ended up falling out of her mother’s pouch and ended up falling on a tree branch and then eventually falls into a bird’s nest. For awhile, Stellaluna had been living with the birds and learning their ways and started acting like a true bird, even learning how to fly!

Excellent! This book is simply truly excellent! Janell Cannon has certainly done an excellent job at both illustrating and writing this book. Janell Cannon makes the story extremely exciting and heartwarming as it details the adventures that Stellaluna embarks on after she is separated from her mother and lives with the birds. I loved the way that Stellaluna maintains a strong relationship with the birds even though she is a bat, which proves that no matter how different you are, you are still a special person on the inside. I also thought that it was really cute to see Stellaluna acting like a bird as she provides so much humor for the book by trying to act like a bird in a bat body. Janell Cannon also did a great job at providing tension in this book, especially when Stellaluna is separated from her mother and many children will definitely feel afraid for Stellaluna as the idea of losing one’s parent is frightening to a child. Janell Cannon’s illustrations are simply gorgeous and realistic, especially of the images of Stellaluna herself as she has huge brown eyes and has golden fur all over her body which makes her look beautiful and cute at the same time! I also loved the images of Stellaluna flying through the sky as she is the one character who stands out during the night sky as she seems to glow in the blue night sky while she is flying in the air.

All in all, “Stellaluna” is an instant treat of a baby bat’s amazing tale that you just cannot resist to read to your children! For anyone who love reading books about bats and the importance of a true family, this is definitely a book that I would highly recommend to children ages four and up.

**Review is also on: [Rabbit Ears Book Blog](#)**

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## **Calista says**

I love bats! I miss my bat box. So I enjoy this little story of a bat finding her way. My niece enjoyed this. I enjoyed it too.

The art shows just the right emotions. Could bats be any cutier?

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## Val says

I had only ever read the first few pages prior to today, and I thought this book would be sad. It isn't, it is freaking hilarious!!! The pictures (and the premise) add a lot to the humor -- the idea of a baby fruit bat being adopted by birds is about as hilarious as the idea of Simba being adopted by Timon and Pumba in *The Lion King*. My favorite moment would be Stellaluna hanging by her thumbs...just the very idea. Anyway, there is a lot to work with in this book for different character voices, and the pictures are also wonderful. The text is not overly-difficult. A good "read aloud" book, though if I were to purchase it myself I would definitely want the hardcover version, as the board book's illustrations are not large enough to easily read to a group of preschoolers.

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## Licha says

I bought some children's books and was about to gift them but decided to read them first before giving them away. This particular book I used to read to my daughter when she was little. Not surprising that I don't remember what the plot was about, as many times as I probably read this to her.

It is such a cute book about a bat who becomes separated from her mom and is raised by a bird family. She must adapt to the bird ways or abandon the nest so that Mama Bird's babies don't pick up Stellaluna's bad habits of sleeping upside down, flying at night, or making faces whenever she has to eat a bug Mama Bird brings back to feed her.

The illustrations alone merit five stars. Just beautiful artwork.

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## midnightfaerie says

We all loved this book. Apparently I reserved something called a "big book" so when I went to go pick it up, it wouldn't even fit in my bag. It was this big floppy paperback book that was roughly the size of my kitchen countertop. This made it very difficult to read. Trying to hold open the floppy book so that I could read and the kids could see the pictures was very difficult. But it was worth it. The bigger pictures kept my 3 yr old twins engaged while the story kept my 5 yr old interested. And the illustrations are actually quite detailed, making Stellaluna the bat look positively adorable. The big size of the book enhanced this. Somewhere around a level 2 reading book, It's the story of a bat who gets separated from her mother when young and tries to learn to ignore her nature and be a bird. A fun story about learning to fit in and being yourself, a good lesson for any kid. A friend on GR recommended this and I'm glad we read it. I hadn't heard of Cannon before, but hopefully can pick up some more of her books.

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## Kelley says

I read this book to a classroom of first graders

The children loved this story! When baby bat, Stellaluna, is separated from her mother, she tries to be a bird. She does not hang upside down; she stays in the nest, she does not eat fruit; she eats grasshoppers, she does not sleep during the day; she sleeps at night. It was so fun to watch the kids be distressed by the mother bird trying to make Stellaluna into something she's not. This is a classic story for a good reason!

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☆ **Ashley** ☆ says

☆ **4.5 Stars** ☆

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### **Dustin Crazy little brown owl says**

A simple story with profound ideas about family, friends, identity and environment. With beautiful illustrations, Stellaluna offers thoughts on how a life is shaped & educates on a fascinating flying mammal. A perfect bedtime story to enlighten young minds.

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### **Alyssa says**

Stellaluna is a baby bat that is separated from her mother when they are attacked by an owl. Stellaluna finds herself in a bird's nest, and her adventure of believing she is a bird, learning she is a bat and being reunited with her mother follows. Stellaluna attempts to unite her adopted bird family with her rediscovered bat community. The differences between them prove too difficult to surpass, yet She and her bird 'siblings' vow to stay friends.

This book includes themes of differences, friendship, fear, & perseverance making it appropriate for character education lessons and discussions about social skills. There are also two pages of notes on bats at the back of the book, lending this text to a science lesson or a unit on animals.

The reading level is for kindergarten to grade 2 students. The large full-color illustrations are accompanied by small sketch-like drawings that show Stellaluna's mother searching for her throughout the story. As with many picture books, the illustrations are so elaborate non-readers can tell the story in their own words using the pictures.

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### **Linda says**

Sweet story about a young bat who loses her mother after they are attacked by an owl and is subsequently adopted by a family of birds. It delightfully demonstrates how diverse creatures can coexist. The illustrations are lovely and luminescent.

From Kirkus:

"With a warm, nicely honed narration, Cannon strikes just the right balance between accurate portrayal of the bats and the fantasy that dramatizes their characteristics. Her illustrations, in luminous acrylics and color

pencils, are exquisite. The appealingly furry, wide-eyed, fawn-colored bats have both scientific precision and real character; they're displayed against intense skies or the soft browns and greens of the woodland in spare, beautifully constructed (occasionally even humorous) compositions. Delightful and informative but never didactic: a splendid debut."

From Booklist:

Cannon's delightful story is full of gentle humor, and even young children will understand the little bat's need to fit in. Cannon provides good information about bats in the story, amplifying it in two pages of notes at the end of the book. Her full-page colored-pencil-and-acrylic paintings fairly glow: Stellaluna's depiction reflects the starlight and moonlight of the bat's name, and the pictures of the creature hauling herself onto a limb, hanging by her thumbs, and "joy-flying" are truly amusing."

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### **Meghan says**

I have read this book to my children 752 times (well maybe that's an exaggeration). And I've cried 751 (that's not.)

It's that moment when the mom says, "You are MY Stellaluna." \*sob\* My kids weren't weepy, btw. Nope, just me.

This has to be one of my favorite books for the 6 and under crowd- amazingly beautiful pictures I was tempted to frame, a nice (but not annoying) message about acceptance and friendship, makes you laugh and cry.

Thank goodness I have kids or I would have completely missed out on this perfect children's story.

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### **? ???????? ? ?????? says**

I read this book so often when I was younger! It is so cute!

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### **smetchie says**

Can you *believe* Ellen Pompeo named her daughter after a bat?!? Not just any bat either. NO! One who is separated from her mother in a traumatic attempted murder by an owl and subsequently forced to live with birds and eat BUGS?!?!

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### **Kendare Blake says**

How cute is this book? A bat who tries to be a bird. Lovely illustrations. I bought it immediately and forced it on every child I knew.

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## Author Groupie says

My youngest squirt's first-grade book club met to discuss Janell Cannon's *Stellaluna*, the story about how a bat and birds befriend each other regardless of their differences.

stellalunagroupSince the bat in question is a fruit bat, various fruits were offered for snack such as kiwi, pineapple, and grapes. Once eating was underway, I had each girl lift her plate in order to find a sentence describing either a bird, a fruit bat, or both. After reading her clue, the bookie then told me where to put her name on the Venn Diagram.

As bellies neared fullness, each book club member shared a picture she drew of a favorite character or scene and shared a discussion question with the group. Open-ended questions ensued with . . .

What makes *Stellaluna* brave?

Which is your favorite character from the book, and why?

What amazed me the most was how thoroughly the girls had read the book, remembering even minute details.

From here, the girls watched a video adaptation of the book entitled *Stellaluna* (2004), directed by William R. Kowalchuk Jr. Book Club Babes II were also given the option of creating their own bat by following "How to Draw a Bat" instructions found on Pinterest.

Miss Elise, the young lady who selected the book for discussion, sent fellow readers home with a goodie bag filled with *Stellaluna* activity pages, a birdhouse, and paints. My squirt wasted no time in decorating her house.

Next discussion: Miss Piper's pick of *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes

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