



Gingerbread Friends

Jan Brett

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That popular little character is back looking for friends, in an adventure he'll never forget. Confident and cocky, the Gingerbread Baby happens upon a bakery, where he dances and prances in front of a sugar cookie girl, trying to make friends. But she just stares and doesn't say a word, like all the other sweet treats he tries to meet.

Discouraged, the Gingerbread Baby runs home, chased by a long line of hungry creatures, where Mattie has a fantastic surprise for him? gingerbread friends that fill a giant fold-out page.

Irresistible images inside the confectionery and outside in the snowy Swiss countryside will delight Jan Brett fans.

Gingerbread Friends Details

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Author : Jan Brett

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From Reader Review Gingerbread Friends for online ebook

Catherine says

Jan Brett weaves elements of classic tales and a delicious recipe for Gingerbread into this tale of the Gingerbread Baby and his quest to find friends. Suitable for ages 3 and up.

Tehila says

includes recipe for gingerbread in sidebars of the pages

H says

Story is okay but pictures are adorable!

Laurie says

Horn Book (Spring 2009)

Brett brings new meaning to "making friends" in this sequel to Gingerbread Baby. The main character, a gingerbread cookie, embarks on a quest for companions. Meanwhile, a parallel story emerges from the decorative illustrations' borders: Mattie bakes a whole batch of gingerbread friends who surprise Gingerbread Baby in a concluding foldout illustration. A spicy extension of a classic tale.

Library Media Connection (January/February 2009)

Gingerbread Baby lives with a little boy but one day goes looking for more friends. He leaves the house and heads to the village. Through a bakery window, he sees a man and woman on top of a cake. He gains no response from them or the other cookie figures. Eventually he falls asleep in the bakery in a mouse hole and is awoken by a mouse nibbling on his marshmallow pom-pom. Narrowly escaping and making his way back home tired and sad, he goes up the stairs to see the many gingerbread friends that the little boy made for Gingerbread Baby. As with all Jan Brett's books, the illustrations are colorful. Each page has a side panel illustrating how to make gingerbread cookies. There is a foldout at the end of the book, which is a nice surprise for young readers. Librarians will enjoy adding this to the library's picture books collection. Recommended. Jo Monahan, Librarian, University of North Texas Libraries, Denton

School Library Journal (October 1, 2008)

PreS-Gr 2-Brett's highly detailed, luscious illustrations do a fine job telling this story for nonreaders, while readers and listeners will enjoy Gingerbread Baby's energy and enthusiasm. The roly-poly youngster lives in a gingerbread house in the bedroom of a boy named Mattie, but longs for fun and adventure. While Mattie is too busy in the kitchen to play with him, the Gingerbread Baby heads to the village to look for a friend of his own. He finds some good prospects at the bakery but ends up being chased by a mouse, followed by the baker and his wife, and eventually a red fox. The riotous run brings him back to Mattie's house where he finds an elaborately decorated cookie and candy village with a lot of gingerbread friends for him. Sidebars offer instructions for making gingerbread friends to eat and enjoy. The special foldout adds an element of surprise and delight for storytimes or one-on-one sharing. -Lisa Falk, Los Angeles Public Library Copyright 2008 Reed Business Information.

Abigail says

That mischievous cookie, Gingerbread Baby, whose adventures began in the eponymous picture-book, Gingerbread Baby, returns in this second story devoted to his adventures. Although happy to live in the gingerbread house his creator Matti had made for him in the previous book, our hero finds himself lonely from time to time, and sets out to find others like him. His quest leads him nowhere, and he returns home dispirited, only to find that in his absence Matti has provided him with just what he needs.

A sweet sequel to Gingerbread Baby's earlier adventure, Gingerbread Friends features a rhyming refrain, in which our cookie-hero continually asks the inanimate delectables he meets if they will be his friend, that put me in mind of the text of the more traditional tale, *The Gingerbread Man*, upon which these books are based. The artwork, as is always the case with Brett, is colorful and ornate, with beautiful details throughout. I appreciated the parallel narrative involving Matti and his baking, that is depicted solely in the side-panels of the illustrations. I also enjoyed the huge fold-out page at the end, in which Gingerbread Baby discovers what Matti has made for him. Recommended to all Jan Brett fans, and to anyone who has read and enjoyed Gingerbread Baby's first book.

Meg McGregor says

A wonderful story by the incomparable Jan Brett!

This time, the Gingerbread Baby is looking for friends since he is lonely.

He meets various unusual characters along the way.

.... a cookie couple on top of a chocolate tiered cake....

.... a sugar cookie girl....

.... seven white swans swimming on a sugar frosting sea....

.... a man and a woman dancing on top of a wedding cake....

All of these are so deliciously drawn, I get hungry, every time I read this book!

I love how Mattie makes the Gingerbread Baby's dreams come true!

The details in the drawings are so riveting, you might find yourself, getting lost in the illustrations, as I often do!

Kacie Blakley says

I would consider Gingerbread Friends to be a sequel to Jan Brett's book, Gingerbread Baby. In this adorable story, the gingerbread baby is lonely and decides to go on a hunt for some friends. All the while, Mattie is at home baking up something extra special! What does Gingerbread Baby find when he gets home? I knew what was coming, but I still didn't expect it to be quite so extravagant!

Jan Brett definitely does not disappoint with this book. Her paintings are exquisite and impress me every time I read one of her books. I love how little clues are shown in the hearts on the sides of every page. Her use of repetitive and catchy phrases are super easy for kids to remember and make them (and me!) want to read this picture book again and again!

Sandybear76 says

Loved this book. I read it to several classes and they still want to read again and again on their own. The Gingerbread Baby is back in this second about him. He is lonely as the boy is busy doing something in the kitchen. So, Gingerbread Baby decides to explore the town, looking for someone to play with. The Gingerbread Baby leads a chase through the village and makes it back home after his adventures. At home, there is a big surprise waiting for him.

I love Jan Brett's books. The illustrations are wonderful and so colorful. This book had the main story going on but the sidebars had pictures describing another story going on as the main story did. This book gets checked out a lot.

Mandy J. Hoffman says

Jan Brett does not disappoint. This is a charming little story with illustrations that will real you into the story and having you pouring over this book.

The Gingerbread Baby wants some friends and starts his search in the bakery. Despite his cute sing-song rhyme no one can be his friend. But when the adventure heightens and he finally gets home he finds something sweet just for him!

This book if finished by an fold out poster of the last seen that is colorful and bright as every other page. And you will enjoy the wonderful gingerbread recipe that unfolds on the sidebars with each turn of the page.

If you like gingerbread and lollipops, you will enjoy this book!

Jill says

This was sort of the sequel to Gingerbread Baby. I read it today just for fun.

In the book, our buddy Gingerbread Baby has no friends and tries to find some. He has a difficult time until his bff Mattie comes to the rescue and bakes him some buddies. That part was featured on a huge pop-up page that the kids LOVED!!

One thing that annoyed me about this book was that in Gingerbread Baby, the boy's name was spelled Matti. In this one, it was Mattie with an E. Hello, editor?

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

I'm giving this 3 stars for the story, which was ok, but I'd like to give it 5 stars for the illustrations, which were, as always, GORGEOUS! Gingerbread Baby is lonely when his boy goes off to play with his friends, so he sets out in search of friends of his own at the village bakery. I was fascinated with the details of the drawings of cakes and breads and candies and all their intricate icings. Made me hungry!! I liked the addition of the cat who is in the background watching Gingerbread Baby's quest. As with every Jan Brett book, little pictures in the side panels tell another story, which later becomes part of the main story. In this case, the side panels give a recipe for gingerbread, and show how to bake gingerbread boys. The penultimate picture in the book is a big 2-page spread that opens out to twice the size, filled with details to feast the eyes. A scrumptious book!!

Jeannie says

How could anyone not love Jan Brett? "Sweet" story with her delightful illustrations on the sides....which include a recipe for gingerbread. Lovely!

Rosa Cline says

If you pick up any of Ms Brett's storybooks you won't be disappointed! Between her actual story, the illustrations and on each page in the corner or somewhere on each page is another 'story within the story' being told within those illustrations! Fabulous!

In this story Gingerbaby lives in a little boys room in the house by himself. He is lonely so he ventures out to find his own friends one day when the little boy has gone away. He sees a couple that looks like him but bigger in a window so he goes in to visit.. he greets them but closer look they just stand and star out ahead of them. He tries this several time with several things he encounters... discouraged and unhappy he returns home. And when he gets there the little boy had been making him the biggest of all the surprises... not one friend but LOTS!

The story within the story in this book is actually a recipe for gingerbread cookies! How well they are I don't know as I haven't made them but it was a wonderful idea to include it.

Fun Holiday story for you and your little ones, or if your a kids at heart just a fun book to read at the holidays (or anytime for that matter).

Hallie Adkins says

This story basically continues from the story “Gingerbread Baby”. It begins with the gingerbread baby happy as could be in his gingerbread house (inside Matti’s house). After a little while, gingerbread baby becomes lonely. Matti leaves to ski with his friends. Gingerbread baby runs off into town, trying to find a friend. Everyone he tries to meet is a statue or an animal trying to eat him. In the end, gingerbread baby realizes the best place for him is home, and he runs back to his gingerbread house at Matti’s house. Moments later, after returning home, he is surprised with a whole bunch of gingerbread friends.

Teaching idea: This could also be used at a winter party in which the kids get to decorate a cookie or a gingerbread house, just like from the story.

Calista says

Did I get this because my nephew still obsesses over Gingerbread Men or did I get this because I am obsessed with Jan Brett? Some of both.

This is a continuation of Gingerbread Baby. The baby has everything he wants and is happy as long as Matti is around. So when he goes off to school, the baby goes looking for friends. I love the sleigh he makes of a rocking chair and the rooster that pulls it with it poofy white mop top. Her visuals are so sweet. Baby has an adventure and comes home to find a surprise from Matti.

There is an amazing pullout at the end that doubles the size of the book. It's amazing. It's also difficult to fold back up, at least in a library copy. Everything about this book, my nephew simply loves. I think this one is more simple than the other stories and it still does it's job. I have been entertained.
