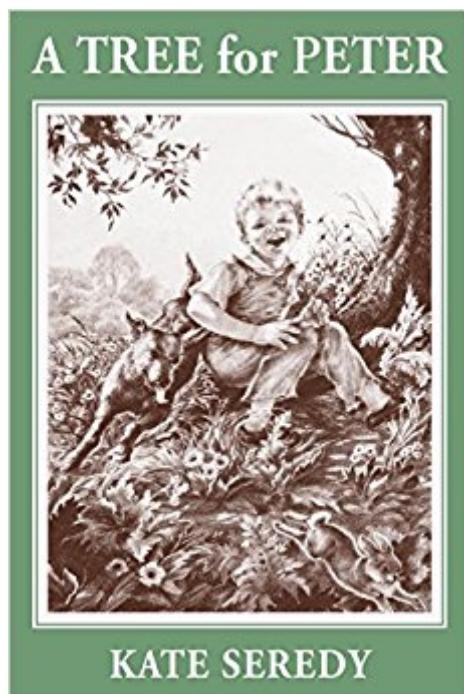


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# A Tree For Peter



## **Synopsis**

A modern Christmas miracle makes for a good read all year round. No one had ever seen big Peter before, and no one ever saw him again, and no one ever saw him at all but small Peter who lived in dingy, squalid old Shantytown. Yet it was big Peter's gift to small Peter a shiny toy spade with a red handle, and a small green Christmas tree lighted with tiny candles that caused Shantytown people to have hope again. And with new hope the grass grew, and there were gardens, and the junk heaps were cleaned up and the sagging doors were put back on their hinges. This is a modern miracle, through which sad and beaten houses became white and neat and shining, and desolate, hopeless people found that love and hope can still move mountains. There are no saints and angels; just a tramp, an Irish cop, a small boy, and City Hall, but Shantytown becomes Peter's Landing and faith was reborn.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 102 pages

Publisher: Purple House Press (November 24, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1930900805

ISBN-13: 978-1930900806

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.5 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #132,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations #308 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas #855 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity

Age Range: 6 - 12 years

Grade Level: 1 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

"A Tree for Peter is an inspiring chapter book that once read will be long remembered. This is a treasure of a book with much chance for meaningful dialogue!" --Jane Claire Lambert, author of Five In A Row "A moving story of a little lame boy whose faith and dreams transformed Shantytown from a place of ugliness and desolation to one of beauty and hope." --ALA Booklist Not every child would like this story, but those who see beyond the immediate implications of the story itself to its spiritual

significance, its idealism, will love it. A boy in a Pullman car glimpses briefly the little lame boy of shanty town -- and never forgets his urge to do something about lives like that. Years later, now a successful "builder", he comes west to meet another "builder" -- and finds his little shanty town boy grown up, and learns the story of how a mysterious friend brought faith and light and happiness, not only to the little lame boy, but to his neighbors in shanty town. --Kirkus, Starred Review

"A small blond boy is seen clinging to a rusty iron fence against a rain-drenched backdrop of any 'shanty town' and A Tree for Peter happens. "From such small sparks were all my books written. I never really know what the story is going to be; soon after I start writing, the very people I am writing about take over and tell me what they want to do." Kate Seredy

I became a fan of Kate Seredy in elementary school when I read THE GOOD MASTER and THE SINGING TREE in the library. Her wonderful stories combined with her evocative illustrations were as good as pied piper songs. In junior high I found a new favorite, THE CHESTRY OAK, and in college THE OPEN GATE. Ironically my least favorite book of hers so far is the one that won the Newbery Medal, THE WHITE STAG. I'd heard about A TREE FOR PETER for years, but never had a chance to read it until its recent republishing. There is a Christmas element to the story, but it's not really a Christmas story. But yet it is, if you believe in the story of hope and renewal that is essential to the Christmas mythos. Small Peter is a lame boy who lives in a shantytown of abandoned homes, the only place his mother can find to live after his father's death and medical bills have stripped her of everything. She works in a laundry six days a week to feed and clothe them, while Peter stays alone. Shy and afraid, six-year-old Peter hides from the rough boys in the area and even the tall policeman who comes every day, until he befriends a tramp also named Peter, Peter King. It's "King Peter" who stills his fears and brings joy (and the gift of a little red spade) to his life. And doing so plants a seed of hope in the community. Cynics will find it a corny story. The rest of us will find it inspiring, a modern-day parable about what kindness and community can do. One wishes the illustrations in the new edition were not so muddy, as they are beautiful examples of Seredy's art.

I bought this book because everyone said the book was so amazing and it changed their life. The book is probably one of the best i have ever read. Enjoyed it tremendously. We used it as a read aloud with my 8 year old. My 16, 14 and 10 year old read it independently in about an hour. They enjoyed it also. I would give this book 10 stars.

A timeless classic. I am happy that it is now available--and now in paperback so that I can buy it more economically for friends. I have loved this book for nearly 50 years and recommend it to everyone. My husband read it to me again this Christmas season and we both enjoyed it immensely.

This reprint of a precious book is a marvelous gift for any child. It is heart touching and a great family read aloud.

This book tells a great Christmas story. Its message is one of hope and is particularly powerful for someone for whom life isn't going so well. It's an example of how faith and believing in the goodness of God through times of deprivation can lead to wonderful outcomes when continued. I haven't re-read it recently, so I don't recall how much of this message is stated outright and how much is through symbolism (some definitely is symbolism), but that's what I recall about the message. It's a story for children through adults who want to be inspired at Christmastime. I hope we find time to re-read it as a family this Christmas!Background: My wife remembers this book from Christmas visits as a child with an elderly couple (their "Adopted Grandparents"). Years later, the elderly woman, Rosamond, wanted to give a copy of this book to our family and other relatives. She found it was out of print, but with the local book store obtained permission to make photocopies which she gave that Christmas. It's about 6 years later now, Rosamond has passed away, and the photocopy we received from her wasn't very good quality. We were able to replace it with a nice bound book for a price that was quite reasonable (not sure it will still be on sale when you're reading this :-). A Tree for Peter.

... and I write about children's books. I grew up reading my mother's copy of this book, and I can truthfully say that it has helped form my world view. I am sure that I am a more compassionate person, less judgmental, and more socially activist because of this book. The illustrations are every bit as compelling as the story. I am now reading to my daughter from the copy my husband paid several hundred dollars for. A few years ago, when I heard from used bookstores that many people tried to find the book, I tried to interest some children's book publishers in the book. One wrote back to say that the book was "too dated" and "too narrow in its viewpoint." I think they were referring to the Christ-like character that Peter meets. Although I am not myself a practicing Christian, I find \*their\* view far too narrow, and I fear that one of the best children's books of all time will remain out

of print until that view changes. By the way, my mother told me that this book was a runner-up for the Newbery Award when it was first published. Not sure if that's true and would love to find out.

This is one the loveliest books I've ever read and I'm a voracious reader! It is by far my favorite Christmas time read aloud with my family.

Like others who have written here, I was first introduced to this book as a child. I remember being told by my grandfather, who was a professor of education, that *A Tree for Peter* was a runner-up for the Newbery Award in the year it was published. I've never checked on that, but I believe it. A few years ago, after the book I read in childhood was passed on to my brother (his name is Peter), leaving me without a copy, I contacted several publishers trying to get them interested in reissuing the book. The only publisher that got back to me (and will remain nameless here) said that the content was too outdated. I believe they were referring to the overt Christian imagery. Although I'm not a practicing Christian, I was infuriated by this implication. I hope some enterprising publisher reads these reviews and reissues the book.

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