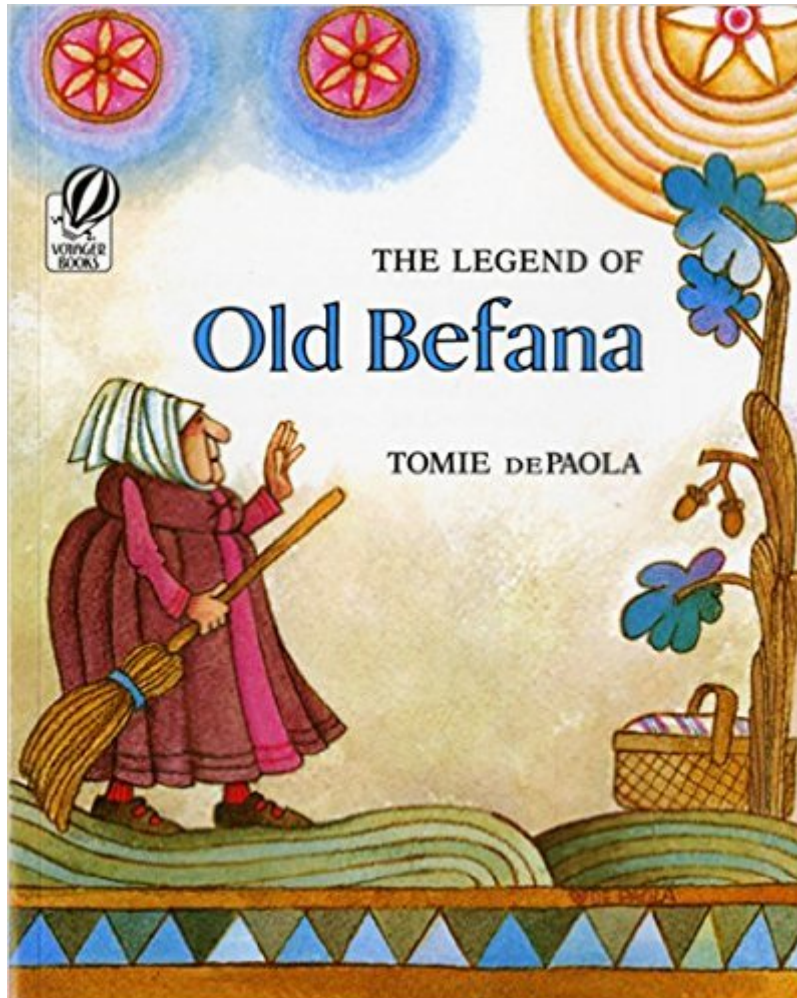


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The Legend Of Old Befana



Synopsis

This is a delightful reading of the favorite Italian Christmas story about an eccentric old woman and her never-ending search for the Baby King.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 460L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 2, 1980)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152438173

ISBN-13: 978-0152438173

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (95 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #28,892 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #66 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Folklore & Mythology](#) #110 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

Written 30 years ago, this Christmas legend presents the story of an old grandma who meticulously takes care of her home and surroundings, as if that was all life had to offer her. Living in a small village in Italy, she kept to herself and seemed unfriendly. The children called her cranky; they remarked that she was always sweeping, starting with her house, her front step, the walkway to the street, and down to the road. Those who passed her house would notice sounds of a woman singing lullabies, and they would sense a delicious smell of freshly baked things, like bread and cookies, and cakes. Every day, the routine was the same, ending up with locking the door and shuttering the windows, climbing into bed, blowing out the lamp and falling asleep. One night, she awakened to a bright light, right in the middle of the night. When she went to look out the window, she saw a brilliant star growing before her eyes. She mumbled, "How will I ever get my sleep when the dark has turned into day?" Without sleep, she remained in bed; the next morning, she was up, sweeping, just as she always had done. Now, as she swept the path down to the road, she heard

bells ringing, birds singing, and she saw a glorious procession of animals and people walking down the road. Three men wearing crowns were dressed in beautiful robes, and when they approached her asking for the way to Bethlehem, she said she never heard of it. They told her they were searching for the Child. She told them that there were many children [in town], and she continued sweeping. They told her this Child is a King, and would be guided by a bright star. All she could say was that that star kept her up all night, and that she had to get back to her work.

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