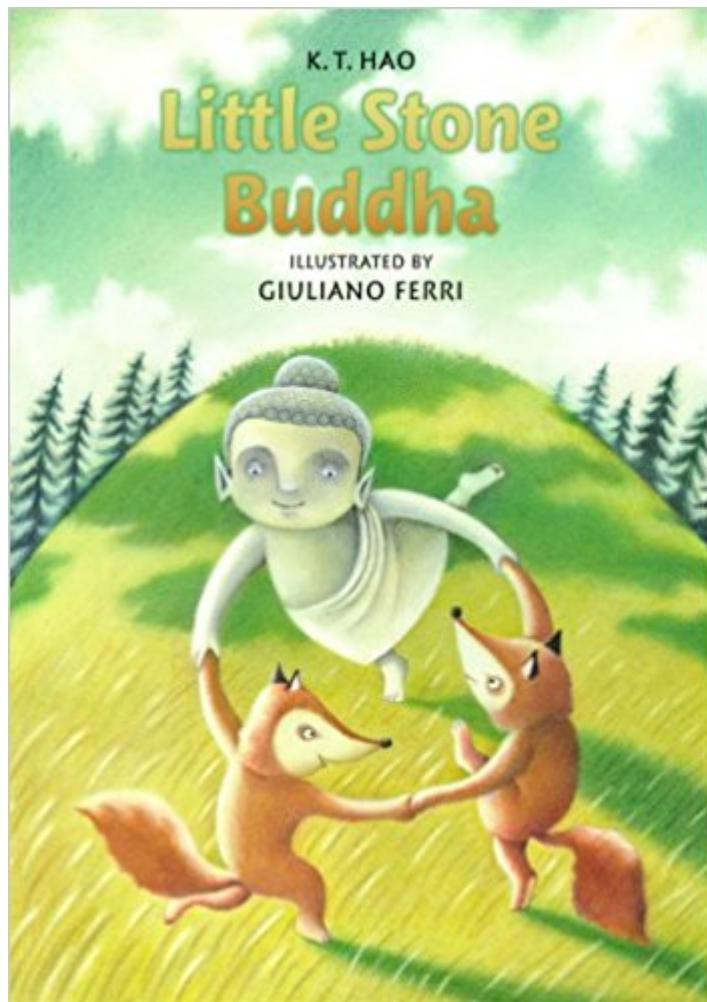


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# Little Stone Buddha



## **Synopsis**

This beautiful read-aloud tale begins with a thunderbolt flashing across the sky, striking a rocky cliff and sending a large stone tumbling down the mountain. A mason comes upon the stone and, inspired, chisels it into a statue of a little Buddha. Then, one moonlit night many years later, the statue moves â ´ and Little Stone Buddha awakens from a thousand-year sleep. From that day on, Little Stone Buddha wanders the mountainside helping travelers in need. He helps the animals, too, and one of his acts of kindness brings peace and security to foxes forever. Enlivened by charming illustrations and enchanting ideas, Little Stone Buddha holds appeal for children of all spiritual traditions.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Purple Bear Books (August 31, 2005)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 13.1 x 9.4 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,860,768 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Buddhist #1316 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction #2348 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Kindergarten-Grade 3â ´Vivid and slightly stylized illustrations, especially those featuring warm shades of yellow and brown, characterize this tale of a worn stone that a sculptor shapes into a Buddha. Little Stone Buddha awakes to enjoy the beauty of nature and to use his powers to hearten weary travelers and protect the foxes that share the forest with him. The large paintings invoke the interconnections of life and the creatures of all sorts that inhabit the planet. Ferris facesâ ´of the foxes, of the various humans who pass through the forest, and of the little Buddha himself--express delight, surprise, contentment, and dismay. Drawn in by the marvelous illustrations, young readers

may find the story itself somewhat static. The major plot element involves Little Stone Buddhas protection of the foxes from hunters and how, as time passes, the forest becomes a sanctuary for them. The didactic element is strong, embodied both in the statues benevolence and in its disapproval of the hunters activities, as well as in sweetened language such as Little Stone Buddha smiled happily at how beautiful the world was or an offering to the statue was almost too pretty to eat. Even so, the book is visually superior and will be useful in collections seeking more material on Buddhism.â “Coop Renner, Hillside Elementary, El Paso, TX Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreS-Gr. 2. This whimsical story, written by a well-known Taiwanese children’s author, reads more like a fairy tale than a Buddhist teaching. A large stone breaks from a mountain and lands in a forest, where it restores weary passers by. Then a mason transforms the stone into a small Buddha, and under a full moon (and while chanting a long "ooommm"), the little statue comes to life. Little Buddha continues to restore tired travelers and play in the beautiful woods, until he intercepts a hunter’s arrows. The grateful target, a fox, befriends the statue, and after the Buddha’s worshippers spot the fox and his pals near the little Buddha, the animals become revered and protected. Hao’s simple story of magic, compassion, and friendship is greatly enhanced by Ferri’s velvet-smooth illustrations, which extend the playful sense of enchantment in scenes of a frolicking Buddha and his animal companions. A brief, appended note explains more about Buddhism and the story’s few cultural references. Gillian EngbergCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

My 3.5 year old son loves this book!

easy read for bedtime, 5 year old loved book great story! I would buy it again anytime for other kids

Every so often I turn to children books for inspiration - particularly for the extraordinary art work that may be contained within. This book is one of my favorites - a graceful story of a sacred stone carved by a traveler into a stone buddha who comes to life and saves a fox from a hunter. From that event, people learn to value the foxes as sacred in themselves. The story has profound implications in how we think about our natural world and may be an important lesson for the young. The illustrations are all influenced by Chinese art - evoking Asian sentiments. Bottom line, you can’t go wrong in choosing this book. Even adults may be charmed by the story and paintings. If you like this book, reach for "Ramayana: Divine Loophole" - another brilliantly illustrated children’s book on an Eastern

culture.

My six-year old son loves this book, and the whimsical illustrations always delight him. Like Zen Shorts, it is a lovely introduction to buddhist customs and ideas, well suited for young children.

My oldest daughter absolutely loves this book, and so do I. To this day, she quotes the Little Stone Buddha: "No quarreling."Richard Klasen

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