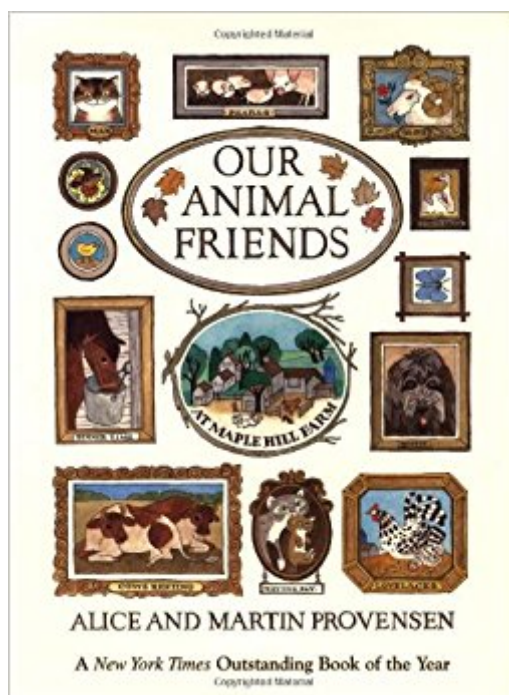


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Our Animal Friends At Maple Hill Farm



Synopsis

Who lives at Maple Hill Farm? Two dogs, five horses, a pig, some geese, lots of chickens, a few cows, a few goats, several sheep, and four special cats -- these are the animals at Maple Hill Farm. With simple text that is both affectionate and wry, and irresistible illustrations that burst with personality, Alice and Martin Provensen bring their barnyard friends to life for the delight of animal lovers both young and old.

Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #42,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Children's Books >](#)

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Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

We called the latter title from the Caldecott Medal-winning team behind *The Glorious Flight* "one of the Provensens' loveliest books. Those privileged to experience it are sure to be convinced that country life has special rewards." Ages 3-7. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Alice Provensen is the author and illustrator of *Murphy in the City*, *A Day in the Life of Murphy*, and *Klondike Gold*. She collaborated with her late husband, Martin, on many other highly acclaimed picture books, including the Caldecott Medal-winning *The Glorious Flight* and Nancy Willard's Newbery Medal-winning *A Visit to William Blake's Inn*, which was also a Caldecott Honor Book. The Provensens have been on the New York Times list of the Ten Best Illustrated Books eight times. Alice lives in California.

This is the best children's book about life on a farm ever written. Having grown up on a farm with cows named "#8" and "Fatty" and a lamb called "Geep the Sheep" this book resonates so deeply with me. The narrative is engaging and the illustrations are wonderful. So often children's books attempt to educate ("Cows have calves each year to produce milk") or entertain ("Beep beep! Sheep in a jeep!") but seldom do they do such a wonderful job of conveying the relationships that exist between farmer families and the animals in their stewardship. It also doesn't sugar coat the realities of farm life and living with cats (who it points out are not vegetarians!) I just bought copies for all my great nieces and nephews for Christmas!!

Beautiful, real book about a farm. You must own both this and "A year at Maple View Farm." I really enjoy reading this to my son, 16 months, who also loves it.

Alice and Martin Provensen give such a sweet picture of what life was like on their farm. Each animal is described in charming and humorous detail. This is not a book to read straight through if you have younger children; rather, I ask my child which animals he would like to read about and we look over a few pages at a time. Such a sweet book. It's quickly becoming a family favorite.

I love this book. Bought it for my daughters after we read Provensen's book about the seasons (Year at Maple Hill Farm), and liked this one even better. Anybody who has ever lived on a farm will be delighted with not just the illustrations, but the descriptions of the animals, from the ornery and stubborn, the arrogant and lazy, to the gentle and charming. Living on 70 acres, we've had many animals, from donkeys, horses, goats, chickens, ducks, cats, rabbits, dogs, turtles, fish, even down to the field mice that keep finding their way into our kitchen, and I felt like we were reading about our life. Animals that obey your every command, never make a mess, and live forever are all very admirable, but hardly realistic. This book is funny, and spot-on real life. I'd especially recommend it for kids who've never been around farm animals. It's quite an eye-opener.

I love all of Alice and Martin Provensen's books about life at Maple Hill Farm. They are full of wonderful illustrations done in a simple and charming style reminiscent of American folk art. The first one we found at our local library was *The Owl and the Three Pussycats*, which my daughter and I loved and read repeatedly. I looked for more books by the husband and wife authors and found that they had over a dozen, about half of which concerned life on their farm. The books portray farm life

in a natural and often humorous tone, focusing on the animals and their environs more so than the people who care for and observe them.

This book was a beloved favorite of my two children, and me, in the 1970's. I am so glad it is still available, I like to give it as a shower gift to expectant mothers. There is an objective yet loving relationship with the individual animals on the farm, each one has a name and personality description, but they are not cartoons or symbols. Each is appreciated, each has his own flaws and charms: the kind of understanding that comes from long, attentive observation. I love this book because it gives children a sense of connection to farm animals that they would likely not experience first-hand. The living and dying that is the cycle of life, all comes through this laid-back, good-natured catalog of the animals, domestic and wild, that are the "friends" at Maple Hill Farm. The illustrations are superb, they have detail without clutter.

This book is a combination of realism on the farm and yet a fanciful picture of the life of the animals.

This book is so much fun! My son is five years old and absolutely loves the silliness of the animals on this farm!

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