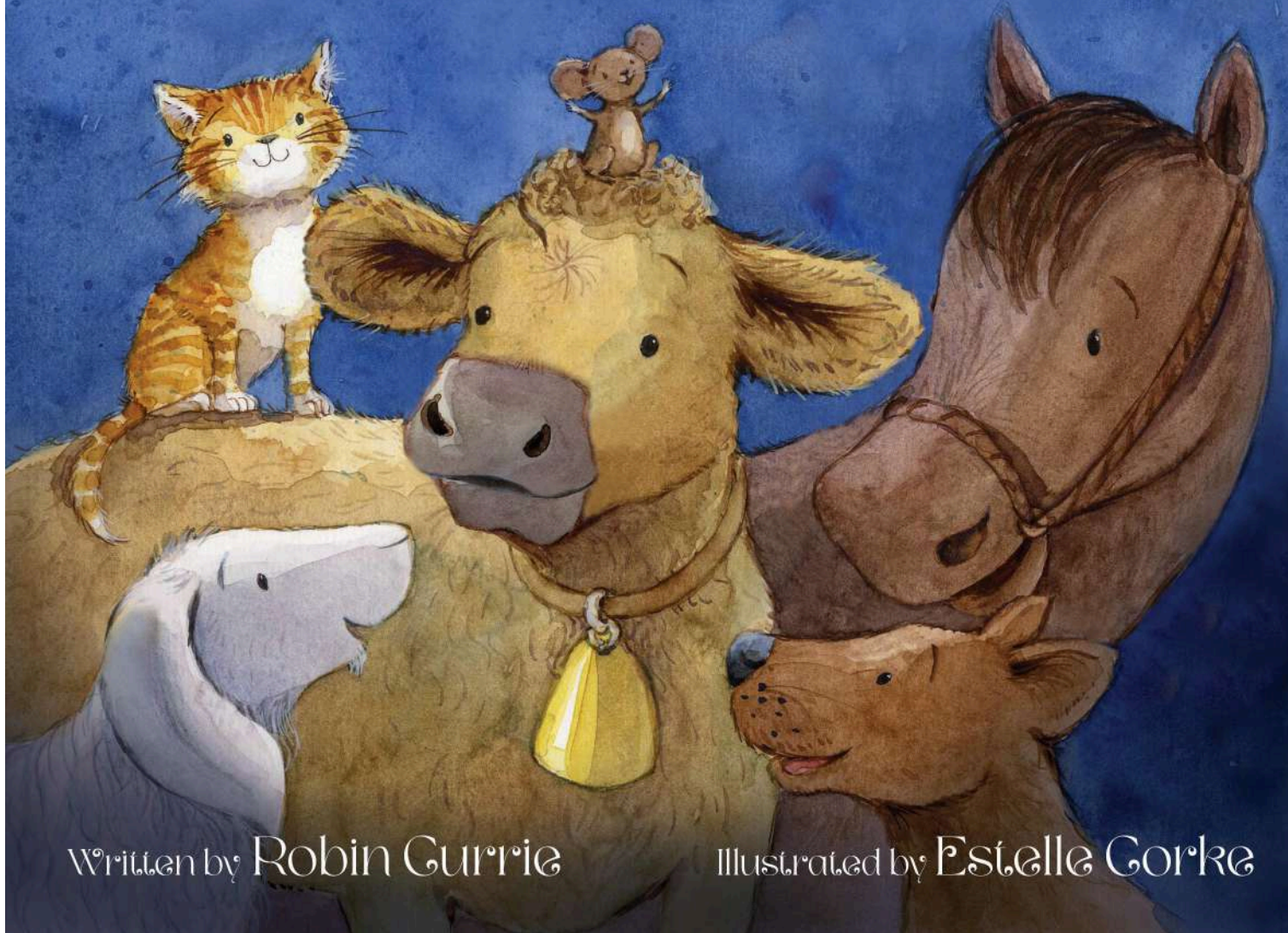


Just Enough Room for Christmas



Written by Robin Currie

Illustrated by Estelle Corke

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Old Hannah, the milk cow, lived in a small Bethlehem barn, with just enough room for one.



One night a cold wind blew. Old Hannah heard a knock-knock. A traveler called:

“Old Hannah, Old Hannah, let my horse in, please!
Your barn is so warm and out here, he will freeze.”



It was a small barn for Old Hannah, but just enough room for two.

The traveler brought him in and said, “Do not stomp.”



Old Hannah and the horse heard a knock-knock.
The goatherder called:

“Old Hannah, Old Hannah, let my goat in, please!
Your barn is so warm and out here, she will freeze.”



It was a small barn for Old Hannah, and the horse, but just enough room for three.

The goatherder brought her in and said, “Do not bump.”



Old Hannah, the horse, and the goat heard a knock-knock. A boy called:

“Old Hannah, Old Hannah, let my dog in, please!
Your barn is so warm and out here, he will freeze.”



It was a small barn for Old Hannah, the horse,
and the goat, but just enough room for four.
The boy brought him in and said, “Do not bark.”



Old Hannah, the horse, the goat, and the dog
heard a knock-knock. A girl called:

“Old Hannah, Old Hannah, let my cat in, please!
Your barn is so warm and out here, she will freeze.”



It was a small barn for Old Hannah, the horse, the goat, and the dog, but just enough room for five. The girl brought her in and said, "Do not meow."





It was very crowded in the little barn,
but they wiggled and twisted until . . .



... a tiny mouse scampered through a crack in the wall and ran right past the cat.



SQUEAK!

The cat heard the squeak: MEOW!





The dog heard the meow: BARK!



The goat heard the bark: BUMP!



The horse heard the bump: STOMP!



Old Hannah bawled, “MOO!”
louder and louder until . . .



STOP





The animals listened. Knock-knock!



It was a man and woman, cold and tired.

“Old Hannah, Old Hannah, may we come in, please?
Your barn is so warm and out here, we will freeze.”



It was a small barn, but just enough room for the tired humans.





The horse stood very still. The goat quietly chewed some hay. The dog rested his head on his paws. The cat curled up in a corner. Old Hannah let the mouse snuggle safely in her feed trough. Not a MOO or STOMP or BUMP or BARK or MEOW. Not even a tiny SQUEAK.



But later that night there was a new sound.



Waa-waa! A new baby!



Later shepherds would come, and rich visitors. Later angels would sing, and a new star would shine.



Old Hannah and the animals were there
from the beginning, in the small barn . . .



... with just enough room for a newborn King.

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