



Baxter, the Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher

By Laurel Snyder

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While waiting for the bus, a man tells Baxter the pig about the joys of Shabbat dinner. But before Baxter can find out how he, too, can join in the fun, the man has boarded the bus. Soon after, Baxter learns that he certainly cannot be a part of Shabbat dinner because he's not Kosher. So begins one pig's misguided quest to become Kosher. Will Baxter succeed or will his dreams of taking part in Shabbat dinner remain unfulfilled? Readers will cheer as a series of misunderstandings leads to a warm message of welcome and community.

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Baxter, the Pig Who Wanted to Be Kosher By Laurel Snyder Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreS-Gr 2—Baxter desperately wants to experience Shabbat dinner, the special Friday-night meal that ushers in the Jewish day of rest. He wants to see for himself how “the candles gleam and glow and dance while our sweetest voices lift in song.” When he learns that pork is a forbidden food according to Jewish law, he stuffs his face with kosher pickles and raisin challah, hoping to become kosher. He even tries, unsuccessfully, to become a cow. Finally, an encounter with a kind rabbi sets him straight. She explains that while he's not kosher to eat, never will be, and really wouldn't want to be, everyone is welcome at Shabbat dinner. Baxter enjoys a marvelous evening with the rabbi, pigging out on kugel, a Jewish casserole dish, and realizing that it is much better to be a guest than an item on the menu. The delightfully expressive and comical pen-and-ink illustrations are digitally enhanced with photographs of storefronts, deli counters, pickle jars, and traditional Jewish foods. While animals celebrating Shabbat isn't new—think Sylvia A. Rouss's *Sammy Spider's First Shabbat* (1998), Diane Rauchwerger's *Dinosaur on Shabbat* (2006), and Jacqueline Jules's *Once Upon a Shabbos* (1999, all Kar-Ben)—the idea of a pig wanting to become kosher will entertain children and the adults reading to them, especially those familiar with Jewish traditions. *Rachel Kamin, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, IL*

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Review

Starred Review, *Publishers Weekly*, June 28, 2010:

"Snyder and Goldin go together like matzo balls and chicken soup: the bright, daffy prose and ebulliently goofy cartoon and photo collages will persuade readers that they don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Baxter's spiritual journey—which ends, happily enough, at the Shabbat table of a kindly rabbi. Yes, of course he's a guest. What did you think?"

Review, *School Library Journal*, August 1, 2010:

"Delightfully expressive and comical..."

Review, *The Horn Book Magazine*, September & October, 2010:

"In-the-know readers will be tickled pink by *mensh* Baxter...while the uninitiated will quickly catch on."

Review, *Kirkus Reviews*, July 15, 2010:

"This will...find plenty of use in Jewish homes, particularly among families in which one parent is not Jewish."

Review, *Curled Up With A Good Kid's Book* (site), December 2010:

"The smart dialogue ... effortlessly educates readers about the Jewish holiday called Shabbat right alongside an adorable pig who shares the same goal ... charming story with equally charming illustrations ..."

About the Author

LAUREL SNYDER is the author of *Any Which Wall*, *Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains*, and *Inside the Slidy Diner*. In addition to her books for children, Laurel has written two books of poems and edited an anthology of nonfiction called *Half/Life: Jew-ish tales from Interfaith Homes*. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and an occasional commentator for NPR's *All Things Considered*. Laurel lives in Decatur, Georgia.

DAVID GOLDIN has written and/or illustrated a number of picture books including *Go-Go-Go!*, *Twisted Crosswords*, *Lost Cat*, and *Science Fair Winners: Bug Science*. David lives in Willow, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Thomas:

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Paul Douglas:

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