

BOOKRAPT™

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***The Lion Classic Wisdom Stories* – retold by Mary Joslin illustrated by Christina Balit**

Publisher: Lion Hudson, distributed by New Holland Publishers

RRP \$27.99

The skilful retelling of these 28 classic tales is well-matched by the glorious illustrations. Mary Joslin builds up intrigue within each situation and holds suspense until the last moment when the point of the story is revealed. Wisdom is an integral part of each tale. Yet it is slowly unveiled, allowing readers to discover the message and add it to their own knowledge basket.

A few of the stories are familiar, such as *The Nightingale* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. However, the majority are little-known tales that accentuate the common humanity in stories that have been passed down through the generations. Values such as kindness, honesty, hard work and justice underpin many of the tales. Humour often lightens the mood and enhances the meaning.

The richly-coloured illustrations by Christina Balit have a luminous, timeless quality. They give life to the characters and showcase each culture represented. The diversity of the world's people are shown through their clothing, hairstyles and communities. Detailed borders and chapter motifs make turning each page a pleasure.

This collection of stories holds many delights for children and adults. The hardback publication is ideal for classroom use or sharing with the family. Insight and clarity are gained through the astute storytelling. A real treasure

Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett

