

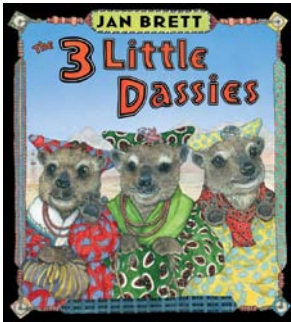
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New York Times #1 best selling author/ artist,
Jan Brett, brings us a Twist on a Classic Folktale

The 3 Little Dassies



New York, NY - *New York Times* #1 best selling and beloved author/ artist, **Jan Brett**, brings us a an African twist on the classic folktale, *Three Little Pigs*, set in Namibia in **THE 3 LITTLE DASSIES** (G.P. Putnam's Sons; hardcover picture book; \$17.99; 32 pages; ISBN: 978-0-399-25499-4; Ages 3-5; On-sale September 21, 2010).

With over **35 million books in print**, Jan Brett is one of America's most popular children's book author and artists and has brought to life lovable characters and imaginary landscapes for millions of children for more than 30 years. There is not a public library or elementary school library in the country that does not have at least one of Brett's books on their shelves (unless, of course, they are checked out!). Her popularity among preschool and elementary school youngsters, their teachers, and parents is unmatched.

Like many Brett bestsellers, including: *The Mitten*, *The Hat*, *Who's That Knocking on Christmas Eve?*, and *The Umbrella*, **The 3 Little Dassies** was inspired by travel. Brett went to Namibia in Africa to research the animals in this book including: dassies (rock hyraxes), agama lizards, and African eagles in addition to traditional African textiles. It was Brett's first encounter with dassies, who are curious, playful, guinea pig-like creatures (and of all things, distant relatives of the elephant), in the rocky mountainous region of Namibia. She was also inspired by the colorful long dresses and hats that the local Herero women have worn since Victorian times.

Vivid blue African skies, pinkish rocks, and green grasses capture the dramatic, dry desert country. Her signature borders and panel illustrations are filled with bold, eye-catching colors and fabric designs. The three little dassies, Mimbi, Pimbi and Timbi, go out into the world

to find a place of their own - "a place cooler, a place less crowded, a place safe from eagles!" Mimbi builds a grass house, Pimbi a stick house, and Timbi a stone house. But the next morning a hungry eagle flaps and claps his wings to try and get at the three sisters for his dinner!

John Stewig, an expert in children's literature at the University of Wisconsin, explains Jan Brett's popularity,

Her art work is beautifully crafted realism and is always very thoroughly researched for authenticity. She is one of our most prolific and most popular illustrators. People enjoy her stories for the multitude of detail that she includes, not only in the main pieces of art work, but also in her elaborate pictorial borders. The borders very frequently tell an additional story or they elaborate the main story line. So, hers is art to which children and adults can return over and over again, seeing something new each time they look.

Jan Brett lives in Norwell, MA. Her biography is attached.



The 3 Little Dassies by Jan Brett; G.P. Putnam's Sons; Hardcover picture book; \$17.99;
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For more information about Jan Brett and all of her books, please visit
www.janbrett.com

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