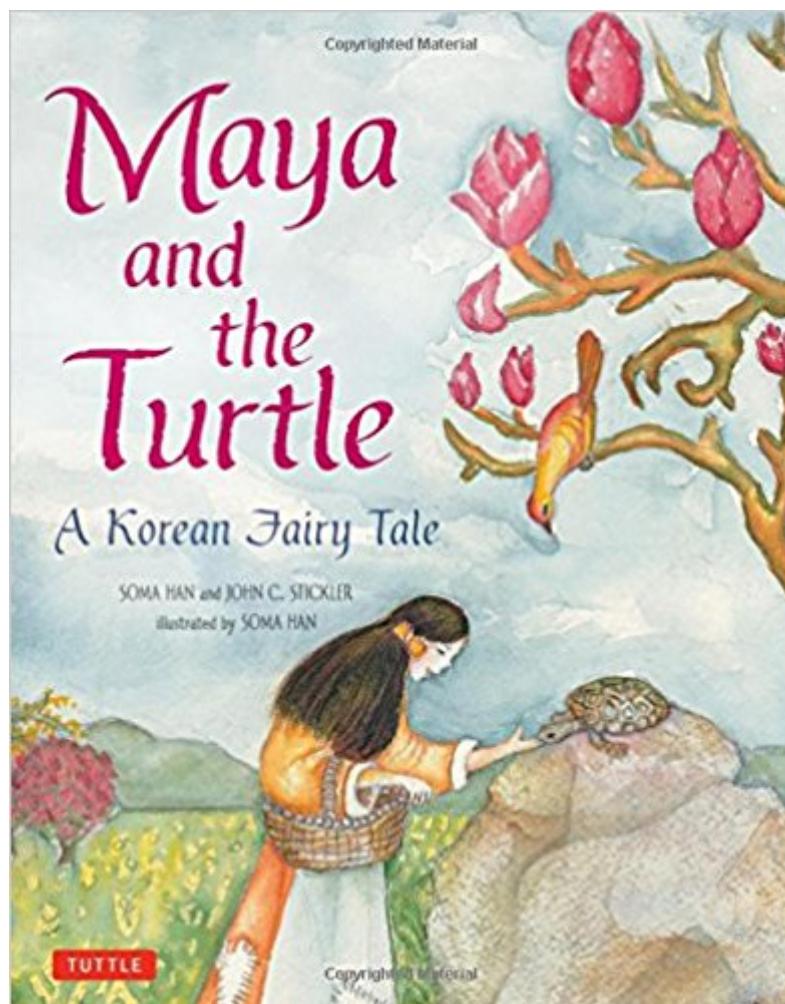


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# Maya And The Turtle: A Korean Fairy Tale



## **Synopsis**

\*\*WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL 2013-2014 MORNING CALM MEDAL\*\*This multicultural children's book presents a heartwarming Korean fairy tale about a little girl and a fortunate encounter. Poverty is all Maya has ever known, but she doesn't allow it to stop her from caring for her father, and others, as best she can. Kind and gentle, she is a lovely young girl who always puts others first. One day, she finds a little turtle and takes him home, raising and loving him, never knowing that he will play an instrumental part in her destiny. Similar to The Korean Cinderella, Maya and the Turtle, is an original Korean fairy tale by authors John Stickler and Soma Han that teaches children that the road to greatness lies in selflessness and that the loving kindness of a pure heart can awaken great love and power in another. Beautifully illustrated by Han, this book contains fascinating bits of information about Korean culture and is a poignant tale about the rewards of kindness, patience and courage.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Hardcover with Jacket edition (September 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804842779

ISBN-13: 978-0804842778

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #926,863 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #103 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #218 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Turtles #629 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

K-Gr 3-A folktale about self-sacrifice and love and how it is rewarded. Maya is foretold her destiny by her dying mother, who proclaims, "You will be a princess." But Maya grows up contentedly poor, loving, and humble. One day she finds a baby turtle and raises it as her pet as turtles are considered lucky in her culture. Her simple, happy life changes dramatically when her father falls ill

and Maya needs money for his medicine. She has heard that a neighboring village will pay her to place herself up for sacrifice to a monster centipede that visits the village once a year. Maya confronts it but is saved by her fearless friend, the turtle, who fights it to the death. The village is elated and news spreads quickly to the Emperor of heaven and earth. Maya is betrothed to his son, and the two reign peacefully ever after. The tale is simply told and includes supplemental notes on each page that explain certain aspects of Korean culture, such as the legend of the turtle and artifacts of the people and their beliefs. Unfortunately, the notes sometimes interrupt the flow of the text. For the most part, the illustrations are traditional Korean depictions, but elements of American expressions and facial features find their way onto the page, especially in the couples' wedding portrait in which the bride favors a certain American iconic doll. The illustration of the many cultures represented at the wedding also attempts a certain diversity that borders on stereotype. The tale itself is a familiar one with a lovely sentiment, but it's an optional purchase.-C. J. Connor, Campbell County Public Library, Cold Spring, KYÂ (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

"It explores the idea of filial piety and the gorgeous illustrations with the text teach us a great deal about Korean life. It is a beautiful tale that we have read many times in our home. It inspires children to care for others and respect their environment and living beings. Maya is rewarded for her goodness. This tale has been passed on for generations and we are all lucky to share in the magic and beauty of Maya and the Turtle." Â•Product Mommy blog"The book has fun lessons about Korean culture on the pages such as terminology and more explanation on traditions and stories within the culture. This is a great book to continue your child's love of fairy tales as they learn from another culture." Â•Parenting Healthy blog"This is a great tale that teaches a good moral and gives insight to Korean culture." Â•Multicultural Fairy Tales blog"An original folk tale set in Korea tells the story of a selfless young maiden who is sacrificed to the monster in the neighboring village. [Â•] The core of the story (a girl sacrifices herself to aid her ailing father) is both strong from a plot point and a significant theme in Korean tales." Â•Kirkus Reviews"Â•almost every page has a contextual note explaining something cultural, historical, or just downright tongue-in-cheek; and the multi-culti angle gets celebrated with a strikingly detailed, full spreadÂ•the royal couple is indeed flanked by "people from many lands," many colors, many cultures and backgrounds. Hope springs eternal for world peace." Â•Book Dragon blog"The husband-and-wife team of Stickler and Han retells a fairy tale from Han's childhood, in which a young woman's kindness and bravery are rewarded handsomely." Â•Publishers

Weekly" I liked this book because I like turtles. I liked that the Turtle saved Maya after she saved it. I thought the people were pretty and had pretty clothes and I thought the Turtle was fun to look at."   
"Maya and the Turtle' is a beautifully illustrated and poignant tale about the rewards of kindness, patience and encouragement, and a lesson in how true glory must be earned. Maya's selflessness and generosity perfectly illustrate the deceptively simple moral of this bookwhen a heart is pure and kind and loving, surprising and wonderful things can happen. Even when hope seems lost." Adoption Today magazine

We have bought many books for a granddaughter in recent years, and this one appealed to us thanks to the beautiful illustrations and the uplifting story, based on a Korean fable. When we gave it to our granddaughter, now 8 years old and able to read almost anything you give her, she raced through it and pronounced it "excellent." As she was reading, she was delighted to find a haiku verse, a form she had learned about in school. Although it is really meant more as a read-aloud book, it has lasting value and would be especially valuable for any family wanting to introduce some elements of Korean culture.

Loved it! Great story and art!

I really enjoyed reading "Maya and the Turtle". This Korean Fairy tale by John Stickler and Soma Han is beautifully told - the story is brought to life by the wonderful illustrations, bound to capture the attention of readers of any age. I strongly recommend this book to anybody, who would like to expose their loved ones to a different culture. Such a classic!!

Soma and John have produced a lovely book about a brave girl who triumphs over adversity when her love of family and the natural world is returned. The illustrations are fresh and beautiful and recall some of the traditional Korean culture that was still extant when I last saw John there 50 years ago. A copy of the book is waiting for my year-old granddaughter!

Maya's compassion is sure to warm your heart in "Maya and the Turtle". This is an endearing Korean folktale enhanced with beautiful illustrations by Soma Han. A keepsake book and a story to be enjoyed by generations.

This is a beautiful story from deep within Korean culture. The illustrations are radiant. I highly

recommend this book to any parent who would like to in acquaint her child with traditions from another part of the world.

I ordered this because my daughter is named Maya, and I'm so glad I did. The illustrations are beautiful and I liked the storyline. In fact, I have since ordered a few more Tuttle publishing books about Eastern fairy tales. I'm excited about introducing my daughter to more stories from around the world.

A wonderful Korean folk tale. Illustrations are beautiful. Suitable for children of all ages. I plan to read it to my grandson

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