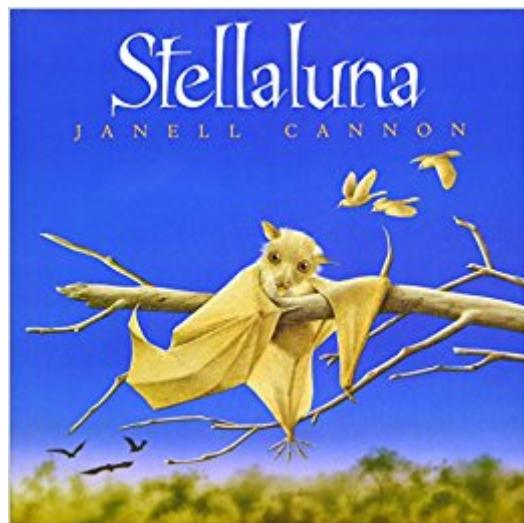


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# Stellaluna



## **Synopsis**

While out searching for food, fruit bat Stellaluna and her mother are attacked by a vicious owl. Stellaluna is separated from Mother Bat and taken in by a family of birds where she must put aside her bat habits to fit in with her new family. But one fateful flight when she is separated from her adoptive siblings, Stellaluna is reunited with her bat family and learns that even though we're different, we're very much the same.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD550L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1st edition (April 30, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152802177

ISBN-13: 978-0152802172

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 392 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,620 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #4 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Baby Animals #7 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mammals

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Baby bat Stellaluna's life is flitting along right on schedule--until an owl attacks her mother one night, knocking the bewildered batlet out of her mother's loving grasp. The tiny bat is lucky enough to land in a nest of baby birds, but her whole world has just turned upside down. Literally. Stellaluna's adoptive bird mom accepts her into her nest, but only on the condition that Stellaluna will act like a bird, not a bat. Soon Stellaluna has learned to behave like a good bird should--she quits hanging by her feet and starts eating bugs. But when she finally has an opportunity to show her bird siblings what life as a bat is like, all of them are confounded. "How can we be so different and feel so much alike?" one asks. "And how can we feel so different and be so much alike?" asks another. "I agree," Stellaluna responds. "But we're friends. And that's a fact." Anyone who has ever been asked to be someone they're not will understand the conflicts--and possibilities--Stellaluna faces. This

gorgeously illustrated book is sure to be an all-time favorite with readers, whether they've left the nest or not. (Click to see a sample spread. Illustration from *Stellaluna*, © 1993 by Janell Cannon, reproduced by permission of Harcourt Brace & Company) (Ages 4 to 8) --Emilie Coulter

Attacked by an owl, *Stellaluna* (a fruit bat) is separated from her mother and taken in by a bird and her nestlings. Dutifully, she tries to accommodate--she eats insects, hangs head up, and sleeps at night, as Mama Bird says she must--but once *Stellaluna* learns to fly, it's a huge relief when her own mother finds her and explains that the behavior that comes naturally is appropriate to her species. With a warm, nicely honed narration, Cannon strikes just the right balance between accurate portrayal of the bats and the fantasy that dramatizes their characteristics. Her illustrations, in luminous acrylics and color pencils, are exquisite. The appealingly furry, wide-eyed, fawn-colored bats have both scientific precision and real character; they're displayed against intense skies or the soft browns and greens of the woodland in spare, beautifully constructed (occasionally even humorous) compositions. Delightful and informative but never didactic: a splendid debut. (Picture book. 4-8) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

This is a classic book for pre-schoolers, and my 3.5 year old loves it. I had to call him *Stellaluna* for weeks, and answer by the name of Mother Fruit bat! We love our copy so much that we've been buying it as gifts for friends. This is a sweet story with just the right amount of plot and text for an older preschool aged child. *Stellaluna* is a baby fruit bat who is separated from her mother when a predator attacks. She lands in a bird's nest and is raised with baby birds until being reunited with her mother. The happy ending keeps this book from being too scary, and there is a lot of great information about fruit bats shared within the context of a fictional story. The illustrations are beautiful and make bats seems more appealing! There are so many children's books about bunnies, dogs, cats, etc - this is a nice change of pace and a great way to teach children about animals.

If I HAD to answer the question: What is your favorite children's book?, I would have to pick "Stellaluna." There, this children's librarian committed, but I think my students would know that. It's one of their favorites, too!!What makes this book so special? E-V-E-R-Y-T-H-I-N-G!! The story line, the embedded lessons, and the sweet, sweet illustrations. I don't know how well you can see the young bat's face on the cover. If you can, notice that darling tongue sticking out, like a puppy's. Notice her struggle, expressed with joy, to hold on to the limb. And we have not even opened the book yet!This is the story of a young bat who is separated from her mother after an owl attacks them

in flight. She falls into a tree, then into a bird's nest filled with three hungry babies who are already fully feathered. The mother bird adopts her but insists she eat bugs like her babies. Stellaluna is a fruit bat, but adopts the ways of birds, except for hanging by her feet to sleep. Her new siblings try it one day. Mother returns and expresses her dismay. The babies are hilariously portrayed with their bird feathers hanging down from their heads. When they learn to fly, poor Stellaluna is so clumsy trying to land upright on a limb with feet equipped for hanging, not perching. At night her bat radar comes into play and she goes weird on them flying by radar. Eventually, her bat mother finds her and Stella's world is restored. She discovers she eats mangoes, not bugs. She is delighted! And the second best part is that she remains friends with her bird friends. Embedded lessons: 1. Bats are what they are; birds are what they are. 2. We can accept each other's differences and be enriched by the experience. 3. It's good to walk in another's shoes just a short time. 4. There are some artists with stories sweet and heartwarming without being saccharine. 5. The author furnishes "Bat Notes" on the last two pages for further educational value. This book belongs in every child's personal library and on the shelf in every children's library. Highly recommended. Other favorite books by Janell Cannon: Pinduli Verdi

Stellaluna is incredibly richly detailed, the illustrations are extraordinary. Even if your child is too young to read with comprehension, the book is so well put together that your child will understand the story simply by the pictures. And what a story it is. It speaks to acceptance of others and yourself, despite apparent differences. Stellaluna gets lost and finds herself in a nest of baby birds and their mom. When Stella gets scolded for sleeping hanging upside down by the momma bird she has found herself living with, it's funny and touching. The "Bat Notes" at the end are interesting and engaging. I like that an animal as misunderstood? misjudged? as a bat is used in this friendly story about acceptance, what home means, and how friendship transforms us. I bought this for a baby shower where the invitations asked for no cards, money, gifts, etc. Just a book with a little note in it to the baby, and who the gift was from. It made me want to get my own copy (again....). Stellaluna

I bought this book to prepare for a reading project I was doing at a local elementary school for English as a second language children. I spent many nights reading this to my own kids as I feel that's something that will help instill in them a lifelong passion for reading. I really liked the fact that the message is about how even though we're different (and we all are), we can still get along and even be friends. The artwork is well done, and the actual 'sciency' part at the end about bats in real life was also well done. One of the things I didn't notice at first was the fact that even though the

main story is about the young bat Stellaluna, there's artwork on each page depicting what the mother bat is doing while Stellaluna is having the adventure with the bird family. The story and artwork combine well enough to keep kids interested in it over multiple readings and I would highly recommend getting this one to read to your kids.

If everyone read this book and wrote the message on their heart for safekeeping we wouldn't need governments and laws to feel or be safe, all the bad isms would be eliminated and we'd all be a little more patient and happy with ourselves and the strange people we love but cannot make sense of, God help us. I give this book as a gift at basically every baby shower/child's birthday/grown adult friends birthday, what-have-you, usually with an inscription that I'm sure makes the parents-to-be/parents/friend roll their eyes or chuckle as they shake their head, depending on their disposition.

One night, Stelleluna, a baby bat, gets separated from her mother. Lost, she is taken in by a friendly bird and her nestlings but their lives are very different than what Stellaluna is used to. This wonderful book has a happy ending. I've given away many copies to parents and it has always ended up being one of the children's favorites. Besides the great text, the book is beautifully illustrated. Canon said her intention was to write a sympathetic story about creatures we don't usually like. You may never like bats but you'll love Stellaluna.

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