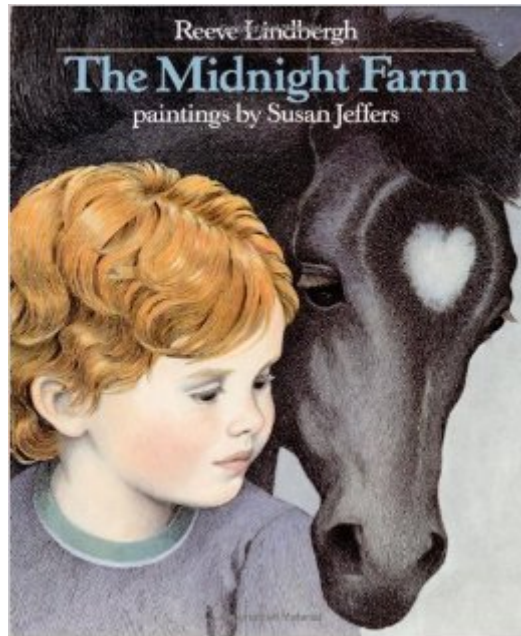


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# The Midnight Farm



## Synopsis

A mother helps her child overcome his fear of the dark by taking him on a midnight tour of their farm, and the two count their way in poetic verse as they encounter familiar sights in the darkness. Reprint. AB. K. PW. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Dial; 1st edition (September 30, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803703317

ISBN-13: 978-0803703315

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #132,723 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #65 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Westerns](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book was a favorite of my son many years ago (he's now 12) and is now a favorite of my daughter (2). Both love/d the idea of the mother taking her child out of bed to visit everything in the dark -- the dog sleeping in the chair, the geese milling outside the barn, the horses dozing in their stalls, the mice sleeping in the old stone wall, etc. Miss Lindbergh's prose is comforting and lulling: "Here is the dark of the midnight farm, safe and still and full and warm, deep in the dark and free from harm, in the dark of the midnight farm..." A great book.

Really the title should have been "here is the dark" as this is the repetitive line on every page that is such a great line! The book starts off in the bedroom of a little boy whose mother is telling him of what is happening in the darkness. She talks of the darkness in the room. Then they move out into the hall and outside, each step along the way she is pointing out what is in the darkness (the same things as were there when it was light). When they go outdoors they see both wild animals and farm animals and they see what they are doing in the dark. In the beginning the rhyme points to one item, then goes up to ten as the pages are turned. The last page summarizes that all the animals are "safe and still and warm, deep in the dark and free from harm, in the dark of the midnight farm". The

text does not say so but it is apparent that the little boy was afraid of the dark and that this is the mothers' creative way to show him what is happening in the dark and that "life goes on" in the dark and that everyone and everything is safe in the dark. The last image is of the boy sleeping in his bedroom alone while mother looks over him. The illustrations are beautiful. My children and I loved the rhyme and the repetitive nature, along with the counting up from one to ten. Despite the publisher's age range, I feel this is fine for two year old's.

I discovered this book when my now-adult sons were little, and am re-discovering it now with my young daughter. A beautifully simple story....mom and child take a walk around the farm at night, to see what the animals are doing (and to reassure the child that the world around him is "safe and still and full and warm.") The illustrations by Susan Jeffers are lovely, and the text is full of soft yet striking imagery ("two white cats have a leftover glove"...). A great bedtime read, especially for the child who may be nervous about the dark (which is most children at one time or another)! find it especially poignant that the author wrote this book, considering that one of her siblings was abducted from the house at night and subsequently murdered when he was a toddler. I wondered whether writing this book was part of the author's personal healing from that event, as well as her own refutation of the "dark" and affirmation of a love which holds us safe and secure. With or without that bit of context, it is a wonderful book.

What a Beautifully illustrated Picture Book! Soothing Words and Cadence in conjunction with the Artwork bring enjoyment and assurance that the night is to be understood as a time of rest for all creatures.

I'm a HUGE fan of Susan Jeffers, and she did not hold back here. AMAZING once again. The story line is so nice as well - something any child will cherish. And by child I mean a child of ANY age be it 4 or 67 or more, for there is a child that lies in the center of all of us that still needs a good book to hold on too.

This lovely story is so soft and lyrical, it is a joy to read and a pleasure to listen to. As night falls, a mother and child visit all of the animals on the farm, settling down for the night.

I love the amazing illustrations and the simple lyrical soft tones of the text. I read it before nap time, or anytime I want the mood of the class to soften and slow down. It's very lulling and soothing. My

kids had fears of the dark, until I began to read this to them each night. It showed them all the wonderful loving things that feel comfortable in the dark.

This book is weird. It tries to be a poem in some places, and in other places it doesn't. It's a book that teaches counting, so it's not really about a child afraid of anything. The mom walks around the farm with her son and counts the animals - the end. If you buy it, buy it for the pictures. They are beautifully done and so detailed. I just wish the story had revolved more around the little boy and less around counting random animals.

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