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THE WONDROUS STORY OF THE LITTLE SHOE

A LIFE MESSAGE TO DELIGHT AND INSPIRE YOUR CHILD AND THE
CHILD INSIDE YOU

Rochester, NY–November 22, 2020 - A study published in 2019 that involves MRI images of children's brain shows that taking away screens and reading to kids younger than 5 boost brain development. The MRI images indicates an increase in organized white matter that is involved in developing language and ability to learn.

"An enchanting story meant to be read aloud and enjoyed with loved ones. From the wondrous illustrations to the delightful rhyming cadence, The Wondrous Story of The Little Shoe has a lasting message for all ages."

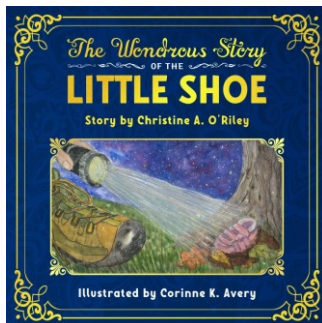
Donna Sloan,

Author, An Adirondack Grandma

"Chris O'Riley's generational, lost shoe story serves as a sweet reminder of God's generational love for each of us: Always there, always listening, always loving and helping. Corinne Avery's beautiful drawings make the story come alive."

Michael McMullen, M.D.

Family Medicine



In her new book, *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe* Christine O'Riley tells a timeless tale based on a true story. Walk with your child through the miracle of a precious thing wondrously found. Thrill to a father's tender discovery and to how the timeless tale unfolds once more many years later, when the faith of the one searching encounters wonder ... yet again.

A treasured journey that crosses generations, *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe* will delight and inspire. Read it to your children and grandchildren, and rekindle the joy of being found once again.

The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe

By Christine A. O'Riley

Pub. Date: November 22, 2020

List Price: (paperback) \$12.95, (hardcover) \$19.95, (e-book) \$5.95

Paperback, Hardcover, E- book

36 pages

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

“Chris”tine O’Riley has been writing since age 8. She is a wife, mother, grandmother and RN who has helped to birth many families. She also has a B.A. in English and in this season is birthing a book, *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe*, for children of all ages, 3 –adult. She lives in Rochester, N.Y. with her husband Dick and their feline companion, Jack.

Q & A Here

So have you always been interested in children's picture books?

Yes. As a little girl, I was enthralled with the classic fairy tales with the beautiful color illustrations. Within those pages, I could feel like a beautiful princess who lived in a land where anything was possible. Good triumphed over evil and there was a wonder about life that permeated everything.

In my growing up years I lost touch a bit with all of that, although it always lived quietly inside of me. As a young adult I worked in a local public library where once again I was awakened to the enchanting world of children's books. As I shelved newly delivered books, I found myself drawn to and delighting once again in the newest children's picture books that arrived each week.

As a mother of young children, I opened up that world to my five sons and one daughter. I continue to do so now with my grandchildren.

You've spoken of your mother's desire to write a children's book. Tell me more.

Thank-you for asking. When I was about age 7-8, I was exploring in my parent's bedroom, which was a fascinating and safe place to me. In a bedside drawer I found a manuscript of a story my mother had been working on. It was written in pencil and was entitled *Blinky the Blue-eyed Bunny*. She had done pencil sketches with it and it was very exciting to me. I asked her about it and I do not remember her response except that she never finished it and I thought that was sad.

I have thought about her many times as I have worked on *The Little Shoe*. I believe that in Heaven she is delighted for me and very proud.

So when did your own writing journey begin?

At age 8. I began writing poems and stories. I actually won some poetry contests in school and through local organizations where I lived in Watertown, N.Y. I made my own little neighborhood newspaper for a short time called *The West Ten Eyck Street News*.

My high school yearbook featured my poetry throughout it in my Senior year and that was the first time I was ever published with "by lines."

Over the years I would write special tributes with stories and poems for families and friends, given as gifts and testimonials. Each year at Christmas my "books" would be given as gifts. I always have wanted to publish but never stepped over the intimidation barrier of how to start...until now.

So what made you step over that barrier to publish *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe*?

Well, when I wrote the story I never planned to turn it into a book and publish it. It was born as a poem. It was based on a true story through which I was reaching out to bring encouragement to some dear people in my life. After I shared it with them, I brought it to work and read it to a co-worker. She marveled and said, "Chris...this is really good. I can see this as a book. It would be called *The Little Shoe*."

This was two years ago this month. At that time I began to step out and gather information to see what it would take to publish a book. Each door I approached opened up for me and I just kept going forward. I knew it was the right time. It has been a long, winding, amazing, challenging and fulfilling road.

Tell me more. What is the true story behind *The Little Shoe*?

When we lived in Halfmoon, N.Y. back in the 1980s, we took our baby daughter Katie and her three older brothers to fireworks in the nearby town of Mechanicville. She was wearing her first pair of shoes. They were pink sneakers which she delighted in. After arriving home in the dark that night, we discovered that one of her little pink shoes was missing. This was quite an emotional experience for her and me as well as these were her first shoes and very dear.

There had been quite a crowd there in this big field so the odds of finding the little shoe were low. I turned my heart to The Lord and asked Him to guard over this precious shoe and return it to us.

The next morning, my husband returned to the scene. Everything looked different. The field grass had been cut. No one was around. My husband saw no shoe anywhere but as he was leaving was drawn to and walked over near a tree. Under the tree's shadow was a hole in the ground. As he approached, he spied something in the hole. Upon closer inspection, he saw the little pink shoe lying lengthwise, up and down in the hole. How strange! His heart smiled. He knew I had prayed.

He put the shoe in his pocket and drove home. When he walked into our home, he hung his head as if to be sad, and then suddenly turned around holding the little shoe on his palm.

The rejoicing was great! How could something so little be so important? We were all so aware that something extraordinary and tender had happened and Katie grew up knowing the story.

Fast forward 35 years. Katie has a little boy named Colin. She had been sick and was just home from the hospital when I took over a pot of soup for her family. Colin had an ear infection and his Daddy had taken him to the doctor that day, then to the pharmacy and

store and now home. He was sad because on top of it all, he looked down to see a special little brown shoe missing from Colin's foot. They were his first pair of shoes that Katie had bought him.

As I sat across the table from Katie, our eyes met and she smiled for the first time in days. She shared with Colin's Daddy, Kevin, the amazing story of her little shoe that had been protected and found. As she did, my heart heard a tender voice inside me. It told me that it would lead me to the lost shoe. Papa God wanted to show His gentle compassion and provision in a meaningful way that would encourage Kevin and Katie. Colin would have his own special story.

I asked to have the remaining shoe and the story tells the rest. At the end of my day's search, the lost shoe that had been kept safe in a hidden place was placed into my hands in the doctor's office. It was surreal. I truly had been led. I was so thankful. Tender tears came.

I went out to my car and had a good cry. I sat there holding the shoes with gratefulness washing over me. Then the words to *The Little Shoe* came to me in about ten minutes time. I heard them and they just flowed through me. I wrote them down on a piece of scrap paper and they just kept coming. That Christmas I typed the verses, framed them and gave as a gift to Katie, Kevin and Colin.

I thought that was the end of it until I took a copy to work with me to share with someone. It was like I was sharing my soul. That person was very touched by it and told me I needed to make it into a book. So...here we are.

How did you find your illustrator?

Corinne Avery has been a friend whose artistic gift I have admired for several years. She had worked mainly with nature landscape painting but I felt directed to ask her if she would consider illustrating my story. As I shared my heart with her it became very apparent that she not only loved my story and its message, but believed in it and could see it coming to life inside her and in her watercolor creations. We worked together on it for over a year and I am so very grateful to her.

You said that this book is for children aged 2 to adult. Why is that?

It celebrates and restores wonder.

It is really a story with a life message about how lost things can be kept safe even when they are in the dark for a time. It is about how they can be found. It is about hope. It is about trust. It is about a God who tenderly cares for lost things, lost people, lost dreams and has the power to restore and fulfill in a way you never thought possible. It is about kindness. For my family it has been a legacy of faith and encouragement over the

generations. Each one of us has the heart of a child living inside of us. This story nurtures that precious heart within and restores wonder to us as adults.

Is there a particular children's author who has influenced you?

Yes there is. Nancy Tillman. She wrote *On the Night You Were Born*, *Wherever You Are My Love Will Find You*, *The Crown on your Head*, *You're Here for a Reason*, and many more. Her books inspire me to want to write stories like hers. She restores wonder, illuminates purpose, releases love and truth. My little girl heart adores what she creates and brings to children of all ages.

Is it your hope that someday she may see your story of *The Little Shoe*?

Absolutely. Yes. That would be an honor.

More PRAISE FOR *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe*

“This is a simple, beautiful, delightful story full of hope and promise with profound impact. It is a story of loss and recovery, separation and reunion. A story also of One who always deeply cares and has the power to keep the precious lost and the power to bring forth a joyful restoration. I highly recommend this book to children everywhere and to a child’s heart in every adult.”

Lina Luz Castaneda, M.D.
Retired Psychiatrist

“The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe” will pull on one’s heartstrings and may pull up a tender memory of something repeated in a past or current generation. Indeed, celebrating the miracle of a lost shoe found twice creates hope in a legacy that can continue unto future generations.”

Diane M. Beaudoin, MS Ed.
Retired High School Teacher

“Christine is the Mom you wish you had and the Grandmother you adored – all rolled into one package. Her heart is for the lost, on any level. In this story, which is totally true, we are shown all those attributes – all rolled into one package. Your child will love the story and the child in you will read so much more than words. Enjoy The Little Shoe, over and over, because it is a story of redemption and love – all rolled into one package. His name is Jesus.”

Carol Du Pre, Writer, friend

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christine A. O'Riley

Christine O'Riley is an author, poetess, speaker and storyteller living in Rochester, N.Y.

Her new book, *The Wondrous Story of the Little Shoe*, based on a true story is available from Celtic Cottage Press, which features inspirational stories that restore the wonder to life.

Christine has a way of capturing life moments and transposing them into poetic scripts with which to inspire, encourage and bring healing to others. She has written much on birth, loss, nature, identity, life in the spirit.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English, cum laude from SUNY Brockport, NY. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is also a seasoned RN having practiced for two decades in a local Birthing Center. In post-retirement she practices part-time in a local Family Medicine office.

Christine is a mother of six and grandmother of four. She has been married to her summer romance lifeguard sweetheart, Dick for 45 years.

She is a sought-after inspirational speaker and storyteller who has presented at local and extra local venues, including women's retreats, conferences, journaling workshops, poetry readings and intimate gatherings.

She is the founder of the Pencraft Creative Writing Group in Rochester, NY.