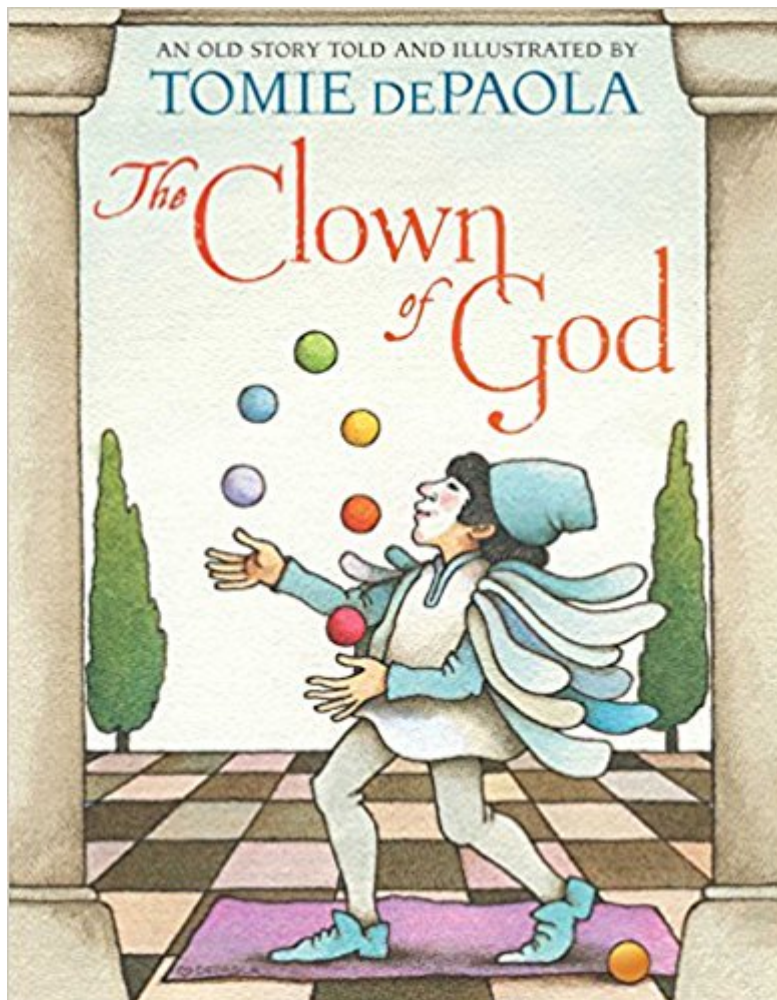


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# The Clown Of God



## Synopsis

This beautiful new edition of Tomie dePaola's 1978 classic retelling of a French legend stars a little juggler whose unique talent leads him to what might be a Christmas miracle. Little Giovanni is poor and homeless, but he can do something wonderful: he can juggle. The people of Sorrento marvel at his talents, and before long, he becomes famous throughout Italy for his rainbow of colored balls that delight the nobility and townspeople alike. But as the years pass, Giovanni grows old, and his talents begin to fail him. No longer a celebrated performer, he is once again poor and homeless, begging for his food. Until one Christmas Eve, when Giovanni picks up his rainbow of colored balls once more. And what happens next just might be a miracle.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (March 6, 2018)

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Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 94 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #681,766 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Renaissance #1593 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts #6146 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

In this retelling of the old French legend, a juggler offers to the Christ Child the only Christmas gift he has. "The full-color pictures with subtle tonal modulations are an integral part of the design of the lustrous pages full of movement and vitality. The Italianate aspects of the setting are beautifully realized." (The Horn Book) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Tomie dePaola is one of the most popular children's book authors and illustrators of our time and the recipient of the 2011 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, among other lifetime achievement

awards. A Newbery Honor winner, he has written and illustrated a number of books for Simon & Schuster, including Caldecott Honor book *Strega Nona*, as well as *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, *Charlie Needs a Cloak*, *Michael Bird-Boy*, and *Andy, That's My Name*. A native of Connecticut, Mr. dePaola studied at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and now lives in New London, New Hampshire. Visit him online at [Tomie.com](http://Tomie.com) and [TomiesBlog.Blogspot.com](http://TomiesBlog.Blogspot.com). Tomie dePaola is one of the most popular children's book authors and illustrators of our time and the recipient of the 2011 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, among other lifetime achievement awards. A Newbery Honor winner, he has written and illustrated a number of books for Simon & Schuster, including Caldecott Honor book *Strega Nona*, as well as *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*, *Charlie Needs a Cloak*, *Michael Bird-Boy*, and *Andy, That's My Name*. A native of Connecticut, Mr. dePaola studied at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and now lives in New London, New Hampshire. Visit him online at [Tomie.com](http://Tomie.com) and [TomiesBlog.Blogspot.com](http://TomiesBlog.Blogspot.com).

Our two-year-old adores this book. She made me read it over and over when it first arrived, sometimes three or four times a day. We adjusted the ending to suit her age -- Giovanni falls asleep at the end instead of dying. It's worth reading once through if your child is very young to decide how you want to handle that. On the plus side, she loved learning the interesting words like Sorrento, Giovanni and maestro. She caught on to the concept that Giovanni was aging throughout the book, and had a lot of fun spotting him in each picture and saying, "There's Giovanni!" She also learned the words "serious" and "stern," which came in handy when trying to explain other books to her. ("Why is Olivia's mommy mad?" "She's not mad, she's just \*stern\* because Olivia wants to read five bedtime stories and her mommy just wants to read one.") Lastly, it teaches the beautiful concept that bringing joy to others also honors God.

One of my all time favorite books. Beautiful, albeit very sad story and some of dePaola's best illustrations.

I bought a copy of this picture book for myself...although I do share it during school programs with kindergarteners and first graders. This is a magnificent book...Tomie dePaola is a master storyteller and an incredible illustrator...and this book is one of his best! This is a simple, yet poignant retelling of an old folktale...and the beautiful pictures bring the story to life. The children who hear it always want me to read it again. What a lovely story to read during the Christmas season...or any time of

the year. This is a book that belongs on every young child's bookshelf. Vivian Kirkfield Author of Show Me How! Build Your Child's Self-Esteem Through Reading, Crafting and Cooking

Classic story told expertly.

Some stories are offered and they are nice to listen to, and that is all. Other stories are told and they linger in your mind, they captivate the possibility that life, my life, can be live differently. The Clown of God remains for me an enchanting tale that I return to time and time again. My three year old son loves hearing the story! The pictures are simple and reflect the simple nature of the story without overwhelming the words and meaning. De Paola has fashioned this story more than adequately. As to its meaning? Well, a good story never has just one meaning and each time I read The Clown of God, something that was once hidden is revealed, even if just for a moment. Perhaps what is so captivating is the possibility that God delights even in something as a person who is a skillful juggler. God delights in people expressing the beauty of who they are, even in old age when everyone else ignores them or derides them. A timeless classic which will remain on my shelves, and be shared with as many as possible, child and adult, for many years to come.

Tomie dePaola has written some of my families most beloved books. Without a doubt our favorite is Clown Of God. It is a heart warming story of a clown who's dying gift brings a smile to God's face. My children and I read and reread the story to each other for years. It is a story that helped me teach my kids that they are loved and that their lives have value. I decided to pass this wonderful tradition on, gifting my most recent purchase to a friend's child on the occasion of her first Communion. Both mother and child love the story and have spent many nights reading it together.

I give this book to as many kids I can (afford). I find this book about the poor little talented boy who goes through phases of life, learning and perfecting his profession (as a clown) and later accepts the limits of life and success, and ends up performing in front of a picture of Mary and her boy child, where he dies, tells a deep, yet simple truth about the richness and limitations of life. The drawings are wonderful, too. A book that should be read (and read again) for all children. In all countries. At all times.

This is a very special book with beautiful illustrations!

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