

A New Coat for Anna



Harriet Ziefert • Anita Lobel







*A book based on a true story is best dedicated
to those whose reality provided the raw material.*

For Ingeborg Schraft Hoffman, M.D.,
who waited many months for a new coat and who showed
it to me some twenty-five years later.

And in memory of her mother, Hanna Schraft,
who at the start of it all had nothing—save her
persistence and determination—and who in the end
fashioned a beautiful gift.

H.Z.

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Summary: Even though there is no money, Anna's mother finds a way to make Anna a badly needed winter coat.

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A New Coat for Anna

by Harriet Ziefert · pictures by Anita Lobel



DRAGONFLY BOOKS



NEW YORK





Winter had come and Anna needed a new coat. The fuzzy blue coat that she had worn for so many winters was no longer fuzzy and it was very small.

Last winter Anna's mother had said, "When the war is over, we will be able to buy things again and I will get you a nice new coat."

But when the war ended the stores remained empty. There still were no coats. There was hardly any food. And no one had any money.







Anna's mother wondered how she could get Anna a new coat. Then she had an idea. "Anna, I have no money," she said, "but I still have Grandfather's gold watch and some other nice things. Maybe we can use them to get what we need for a new coat. First we need wool. Tomorrow we will visit a farmer and see about getting some."





The next day Anna and her mother walked to a nearby farm.

“Anna needs a new coat,” Anna’s mother told the farmer. “I have no money, but I will give you this fine gold watch if you will give me enough wool from your sheep to make a coat.”

The farmer said, “What a good idea! But you will have to wait until spring when I shear my sheep’s winter wool. Then I can trade you their wool for your gold watch.”



Anna waited for spring to come. Almost every Sunday she and her mother visited the sheep. She would always ask them, "Is your wool growing?" The sheep would always answer, "Baaa!" Then she would feed them nice fresh hay and give them hugs.

At Christmastime Anna brought them paper necklaces and apples and sang carols.







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“Ziefert’s tale, based on a true story, carries a simple lesson that will be understood and cherished by all ages.”
—*School Library Journal*

“Anna learns about patience and love, and she also sees how clothing is made and how hardship gives life to hope.”
—*Los Angeles Times*

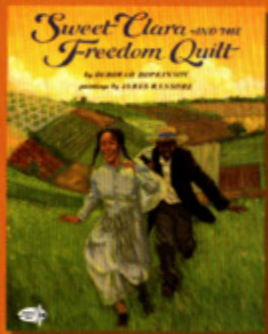
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