

RAVE REVIEWS by Jean E. Eustance

We have two interesting takes on the Thanksgiving turkey in Pine Bush Area Public Library's Children's Department. One is **A Turkey for Thanksgiving** by Eve Bunting. The other is **A Thanksgiving Turkey** by Julian Scheer. Both are picture books.

In **A Turkey for Thanksgiving**, Mr. and Mrs. Moose are setting the table on Thanksgiving Day morning. Mrs. Moose says, "Everyone always has a turkey for Thanksgiving. Everyone but us." Mr. Moose promises to get one, right away. Off he goes, passing the houses of the other animals whom he has already invited to Thanksgiving dinner. They join the parade, down to where Turkey lives in his nest by the river.

Turkey blundered from his nest and ran. Mr. Moose tumbled after him. "Turkey! Don't run. We just want you for Thanksgiving dinner." Turkey ran faster.

They catch him and take him home. To turkey's surprise, they don't pop him into the oven. They seat him in a chair at the table. Turkey is one of the guests, not an item on the menu. Mrs. Moose serves a vegetarian feast which pleases Sheep and Goat and Rabbit and Porcupine and--- Turkey.

In the next book, **A Thanksgiving Turkey**, the narrator is a thirteen-year-old boy, recently moved to his grandfather's farm in rural Virginia. The story is set years ago, judging by the picture of the Model T Ford, and the fact that when the boy's mother saves her pennies, a store-bought turkey will cost one dollar and 80 cents.

Her father, the grandfather in the story, has been "hunting" a turkey for a long time, using a homemade turkey call to bring

the bird closer. When Thanksgiving approaches, the boy and the grandfather take their guns and go out into the woods, to finally shoot the turkey.

The turkey call works and the bird gets closer and closer to where the boy is, with his gun. At last they can see it, and the turkey is fine and fat and **old**. He has a "beard" of long feathers, some of them gray, hanging down his front. The boy is about to shoot, when the old man stands up and scares the bird. The chance is lost and the turkey escapes.

The boy asks his grandfather why. The man says, "Old bird, He's been in these woods as long, as long..." *As long as you, I thought.*

They go home and are happy to have a store-bought turkey on their table for Thanksgiving.

Come in and see our Thanksgiving books in the Children's Department.