



THE APPLE DOLL

Written and Illustrated by Elisa Kleven
(Farrar Straus Giroux, July '07)

Lizzy loves the big apple tree in her yard. So when the first day of school comes, she picks a beautiful apple, turns it into a makeshift doll she names Susanna, and takes it along to keep her company. But her teacher tells her that dolls aren't allowed at school. Even worse, her sister says that Susanna won't last forever. Then Lizzy's mom shows her a way to turn Susanna into a real apple doll. And with the help of Susanna the Apple Doll, Lizzy overcomes her shyness at school and makes plenty of new friends to bring home to play in her beloved apple tree.

Instructions for making an apple doll just like Susanna are included!

My story THE APPLE DOLL grows organically out of my deepest roots -- a bad pun I realize , but true! My mother and grandmother were both masters at animating art materials, who brought clay and metal, ink and paint to life in fantastic, creative ways. Like many children, I also liked animating everything around me, from the clay and paper I'd turn into characters to the apples I'd draw faces on and later dry, just like Lizzy does in THE APPLE DOLL. --Elisa

If you want to make your own apple friend, click on the link below. I hope these directions from my book will help. Enjoy!
<http://hbpub.vo.llnwd.net/o16/teachersguides/9780374303808TG.pdf>

Winner, 27th Annual Northern California Book Award, Children's Literature category.

"...A plot summary does little to recreate the charm of this delightfully well-written picture book. Like the first illustration of the apple tree, where Lizzy lies happily on a branch surrounded by birds, cats, and squirrels, the pictures teem with life and intriguing details, but have at their heart the clear expression of the character's emotions..."

-- Booklist, starred review

"Kleven's lovely mixed-media collage illustrations, especially those that depict the four seasons and Lizzy's neighborhood and school, are filled with eye-catching detail and activity. A sweet story about accepting change, working together, and forming new friendships."

-- School Library Journal