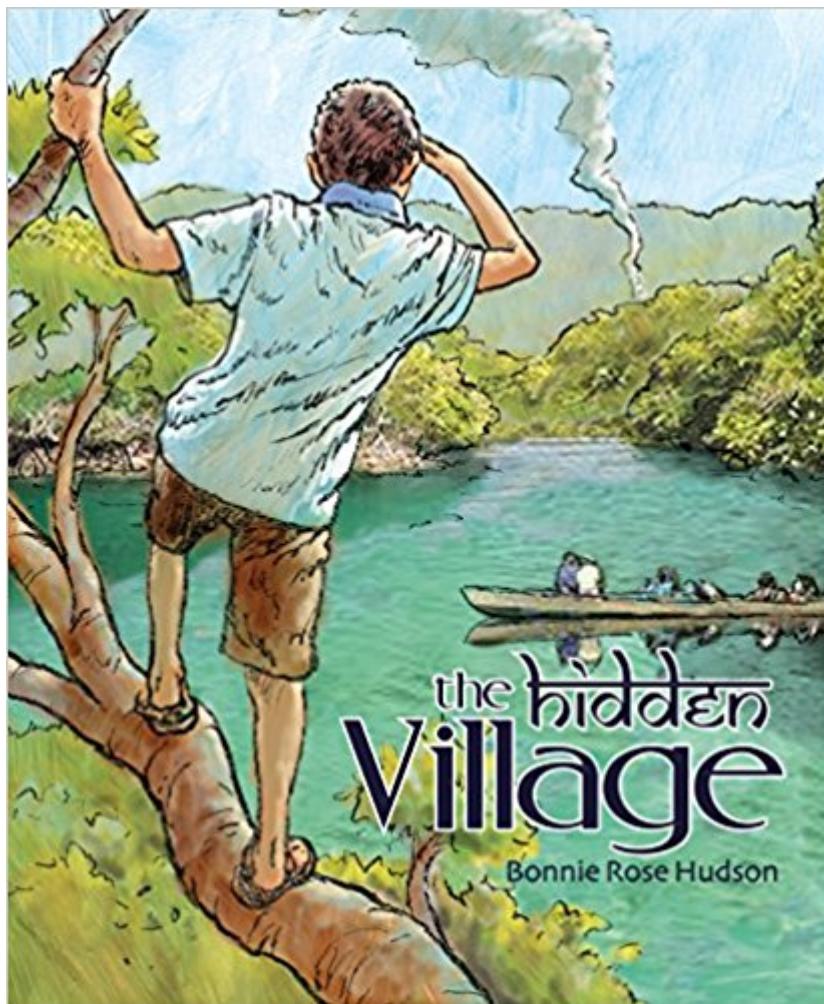


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# The Hidden Village



## **Synopsis**

When Manju acts out the story of Zacchaeus and the sycamore tree in the tallest mangrove tree, he finds a hidden village deep in the forest. He wants to do everything he can to help the hungry people in the little village. What can he do when the people in his village won't believe his story, and even wild animals and the weather seem determined to stop him from helping?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

Paperback: 72 pages

Publisher: BJU Press (May 31, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1628563117

ISBN-13: 978-1628563115

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,235,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #37 in Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > People & Places #90 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Social Issues #312 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Values & Virtues

Age Range: 6 - 7 years

Grade Level: 1 - 2

## **Customer Reviews**

An excellent book for children. Actually, I enjoyed it, and I'm an adult; and the messages contained are for any age. The descriptions of the setting are vivid and educational, given as a part of the storyline. Many people don't realize that these remote villages still exist; and those villages need to experience God's love through those who find them.

The Hidden Village tells the adventures of Manju, a Christian boy living in a village in West Bengal, India. I was quickly drawn into the story through Manju's eyes as he stumbled over the roots of mangrove trees, then climbed the tallest tree he could find and discovered a starving and impoverished village that no one in his village knew about. Manju has a big heart and wants to

help these poor people. But because his father believes Manju is making up the story about the village, Manju must find his own ways to help them. I discovered many interesting facts about the Indian jungle and life in a West Bengal village as the story unfolded. What I like best about this book: I felt I was right there with Manju from the very onset of the story. I like how the author wove details about many of the features of the jungle into the narrative without detracting from the story line. I liked reading about how Manju overcame obstacles as he put his faith to work through prayer and through giving what he could. I also loved the realistic and expressive illustrations in the book. What I disliked about this book: When Manju shared his faith with his new friends, it felt a bit awkward. But at the same time, that made it seem more realistic to me. When a young boy develops his faith, it comes in bits and pieces, not a polished presentation. I believe this book would be especially valuable in a Christian school library and with homeschoolers. I received a free copy from the author. This review contains my honest opinion, which I have not been compensated for in any way.

I enjoyed *The Hidden Village* by Bonnie Rose Hudson. I was able to read this short chapter book in a short time but could see how it would take an elementary child longer. It is very evangelistic in its aim, showing children what one child can do when he is persistent. This is a lesson for all Christians whether they are young or old. However, in this case, I felt as if a little child was leading the way so I should pay attention and learn, instead of being like his parents. The story jumps right into the plot of Manju finding a hidden village as he is tree climbing. This hooks the reader early into the story. The story continued to be interesting as it moved along with Manju's encounters, then problems he needed to solve as well as life in a jungle region. While I was not able to read this with a child, I thought of several places where discussion about Manju's actions, problems, along with his actions would fit so well. One last thought, is the illustrations were wonderfully dispersed throughout the chapters. Elementary children making the transition from picture books to chapters still need this. I was pleased to see these. Overall, an impressive book for children, parents and religious teachers. The publisher through Net Galley provided a copy.

Bonnie Rose Hudson has a gift for bringing us all, children and adults alike, into worlds we don't know. We all live in or pass by hidden villages every day of our lives. Will we stop to help those who live in them? Bonnie Rose's tone is clear, simple, and inviting. Buy this book for your children or grandchildren... and get an extra copy for yourself.

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