

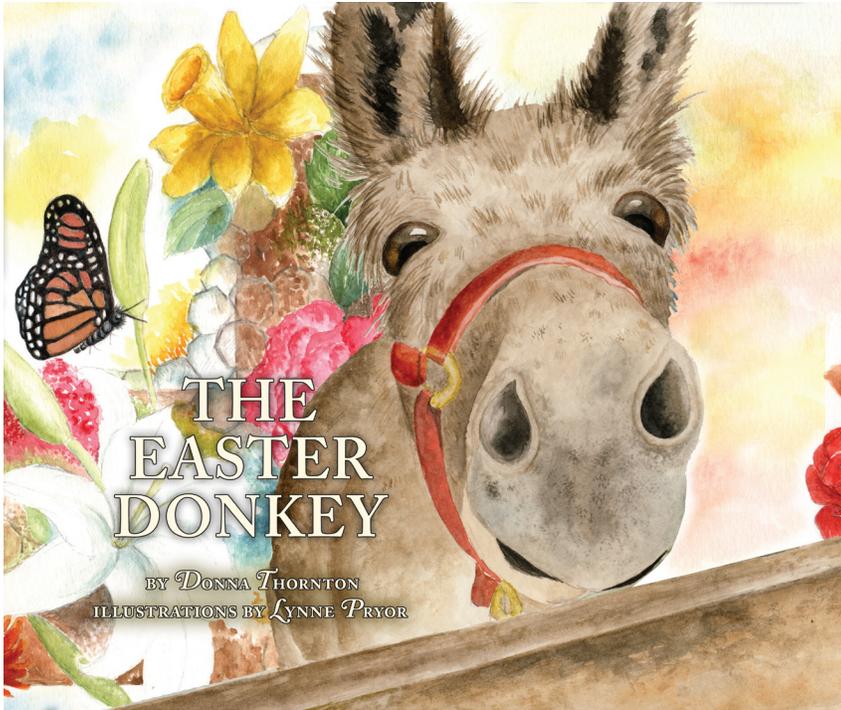


# news release

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## UPSTATE DONKEY GAINS FAME WITH NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR DONNA THORNTON AND ILLUSTRATOR LYNNE PRYOR BOTH LIVE IN UPSTATE



**For immediate release:** Drupelet the donkey, named after a tiny bump of juice on a raspberry, returns for another heartwarming tale in the newly released book, *The Easter Donkey* (Ambassador International; April 2014; \$14.99, hardcover). Along with her farm pals from the 2011 hit *The Christmas Donkey*, readers will enjoy a fresh telling of the Easter story while following Drupelet's journey to understand the gifts God has given to those who accept them.

Drupelet isn't just a character in a book—she's a real donkey living on an Upstate raspberry farm with a family that loves her just the way she is. Author Donna Thornton grew to love children's books while reading to her sons Robert and Stephen, but after they moved on to more mature stories, Donna started to write them. Her first book, *The Christmas Donkey*, experienced successful sales over the last three holiday seasons. "I hope *The Easter Donkey* is welcomed into many homes this spring," says Thornton.

RELEASE DATE: April 2014  
TRADE Hardcover  
PAGES: 24  
PRICE: \$14.99  
ISBN: 9781620202708

**About the Author:** Author Donna Thornton uses the animals on her mother's berry farm to re-tell the greatest story ever told. She wrote *The Easter Donkey* not only to offer a fresh telling of the Easter story but to remind everyone of its wonder. This work, along with *The Christmas Donkey*, tells of Drupelet's journey to understand the gifts God has given to those who accept them. She hopes her readers will also experience that wonder. Donna lives in the upstate of South Carolina with her husband, two sons, and two dogs.

**About the Illustrator:** Artist Lynne Ballenger Pryor was excited to provide the illustrations for *The Easter Donkey*, Lynne's second illustrated book. She says, "I feel as if I developed a special bond with each of these animals that God created . . . it has been an exciting adventure to work with Donna as we made these animals come to life." A professional artist who works primarily in watercolors, Lynne especially loves to paint landscapes and specializes in small town collages that represent unique parts of local towns. Lynne resides with her husband, three children, and two cats in upstate South Carolina.

**ABOUT THE PUBLISHER:** Ambassador International was founded in 1980 in Belfast, Northern Ireland and expanded to Greenville, South Carolina in 1995. Ambassador International's books and materials have been distributed in dozens of countries and are sold worldwide. For more information visit [www.ambassador-international.com](http://www.ambassador-international.com). You can also follow @AmbassadorIntl on Twitter or check out Facebook.com/AmbassadorIntl.

For interview requests please contact publicist Alison Storm via email at [media@emeraldhouse.com](mailto:media@emeraldhouse.com).

### **Suggested Interview Questions for the Author:**

1. What led you to write *The Easter Donkey*?
2. It's been three years since the release of your book *The Christmas Donkey*. What made you decide to do another children's book?
3. What lessons can children learn from Druplet?
4. What is Druplet like in real life?
5. Is this book just for Christians?
6. How is Druplet inspired by The Easter Story?

### **Suggested Interview Questions for the illustrator:**

1. How did you approach the illustrations for this book, after having the experience of *The Christmas Donkey*?
2. How do you describe your illustration style?
3. How do you come up with the plan for your images?
4. Do you plan to illustrate more books?
5. How did you put Druplet's personality into your paintings?

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# author bio

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## DONNA THORNTON Author of "The Easter Donkey"



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### Connect with Donna Thornton

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