

# Goodnight Opus

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Opus the penguin decides to leave routine behind and launches into a night-time adventure. Opus has always listened quietly while Grandma reads him his favourite bedtime story. But this time Opus decides to finish the story his way.

Berkeley Breathed is a cartoonist, novelist, director, and screenwriter, best known for the popular comic strip Bloom County. He has written and/or illustrated many books for young readers, including Red Ranger Came Calling, The Last Basselope, Goodnight Opus, and A Wish for Wings That Worked.

Grade 1 Up-This imaginative bedtime story pokes gentle fun at a childhood classic and encourages children to "depart the text" occasionally and search for new adventures. Opus the penguin is snuggled up in bed, wearing his bunny jammies and listening to the 210th reading of his favorite bedtime story when his sweet old grannie starts to snooze. With a friend or two in tow (one cleverly constructed from a pillow and a smiling balloon), Opus decides to head for the Milky Way. After several brief stops (one to take a dip in the reflecting pool with Abe Lincoln; another to commiserate with an overworked tooth fairy), the penguin and his pals arrive at their destination, where they feast on ice cream with a crowd of cheerful cows. Back home, Granny wakes up to discover Opus asleep on the kitchen floor with a pint of ice cream clutched in his hand. The comical illustrations allude to Margaret Wise Brown's Goodnight Moon, as does the bouncy, rhyming text. The art is similar to that in Breathed's cartoons, but has a broader, more Disney-film feel. Animals and people are not realistically portrayed, but are rounded, exaggerated caricatures. While there are occasional glimpses of Breathed's typical barbed wit, the general tone of the story is less sarcastic than that of his cartoon collections. This gentler tone, along with the popularity of the title he parodies, makes the book accessible to a wide age range. While the most likely audience consists of "Bloom County" and/or "Outland" fans, even libraries without his previous titles may want to consider this one.

Lisa Dennis, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

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Other Books

The Founder of Opus Dei: The Life of Josemaría Escrivá, Volume III, Dream, and your dreams will fall short, Saint Josemaría Escrivá told early members of Opus Dei. This third and final volume of the most extensively researched work on the founder of Opus Dei covers his years in Rome, from 1946 until his death there in 1975. It describes how Opus Dei overcame major obstacles and blossomed from a handful of members in Spain into a worldwide institution, with more than 60,000 members of 80 nationalities. Andres Vazquez de Prada, a Spanish diplomat, writer, and historian who knew Saint Josemaría personally, narrates the story, using previously unpublished letters, diaries, and other sources from the archives of the Prelature of Opus Dei.

... The Divine Ways on Earth Andres Vazquez de Prada ... So you have to take care of yourselves, and die old, very old, squeezed out like a lemon, accepting, from this moment on, ... Later he would think, "Well, God does know best."