The Turkey Girl: A Zuni Cinderella Story
To a young girl who tends turkeys for a living, an opportunity to go to The Dance of the Scared Bird seems but a distant dream.

**Synopsis**

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**Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 860L (What's this?)  
Hardcover: 32 pages  
Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; 1st edition (April 1, 1996)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 0316713147  
Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches  
Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces  
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #572,110 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
Age Range: 1 - 6 years  
Grade Level: Preschool - 1

**Customer Reviews**

Not everyone knows this, but authors don't always have control over the artists that illustrate their books. Sometimes a well-established author will be paired with an up-and-coming illustrator, and sometimes it's the other way around. In an ideal situation, the text and the art compliment one another flawlessly, making it so that the reader finds it impossible to imagine any other pairing for that particular book. If I had been Penny Pollock, I would have been initially overjoyed to learn that Ed Young had been selected to illustrate my work. After all, Mr. Young is a winner of the prestigious Caldecott Medal. His books include the beyond beautiful "Lon Po Po" as well as the technically adept and gorgeous "Seven Blind Mice". Which makes it all the more painful that Ed essentially slept through the making of "The Turkey Girl". While the book has a rather interesting and remarkable story, Young's illustrations look slapdash and amateurish. This is a book that has been ruined by its pictures. Worse still, it's been ruined by a formerly very talent artist. This Zuni tale is a kind of Cinderella story with a dour ending. It tells the simple tale of a girl who lived in her village and
was very poor. Her only means of sustenance came from tending the turkeys of the rich, thereby earning her the moniker, Turkey Girl. One day the Turkey Girl overhears that there is to be a fabulous harvest dance that everyone may attend. The Turkey Girl understands that she hasn’t the clothes or appearance for such an event, so she contents herself by telling her woes to her only friends, the turkeys. To her amazement, however, the turkeys respond by talking to her. Not the dumb birds we have taken them for, the turkeys present their mistress with a beautiful dress and jewelry for the dance.

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