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Review of *Goodnight Songs* by Margaret Wise Brown

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Goodnight Songs
Brown, Margaret Wise
Illustrated by Twelve Award-Winning Picture Book Artists
New York: Sterling Children's Books, 2014
978-1-4549-0446-5

Donkeys, abandoned towns, and the man in the moon are just a few subjects in this collection of lyrics from the late Margaret Wise Brown. Collected from her personal papers after her death, the collection consists of twelve sets of song lyrics written by Brown, each paired with an illustration by one of twelve notable illustrators. The book also comes with a CD of original music composed to accompany the lyrics. However, despite the beautiful and intricate illustrations and the Brown name on the cover, this book does not come together as one cohesive unit. The lyrics are not suited to reading, either aloud or to oneself, as they don't follow any poetic pattern and are awkwardly structured. The songs themselves do not contain stories of much depth, which is not so much of an issue as they are advertised as lullaby songs, but as a book, it seems this one is simply charming fodder for children's bookshelves – not one that will be read together or much beloved. Optional.

Courtney Raymond, Centennial Library Intern