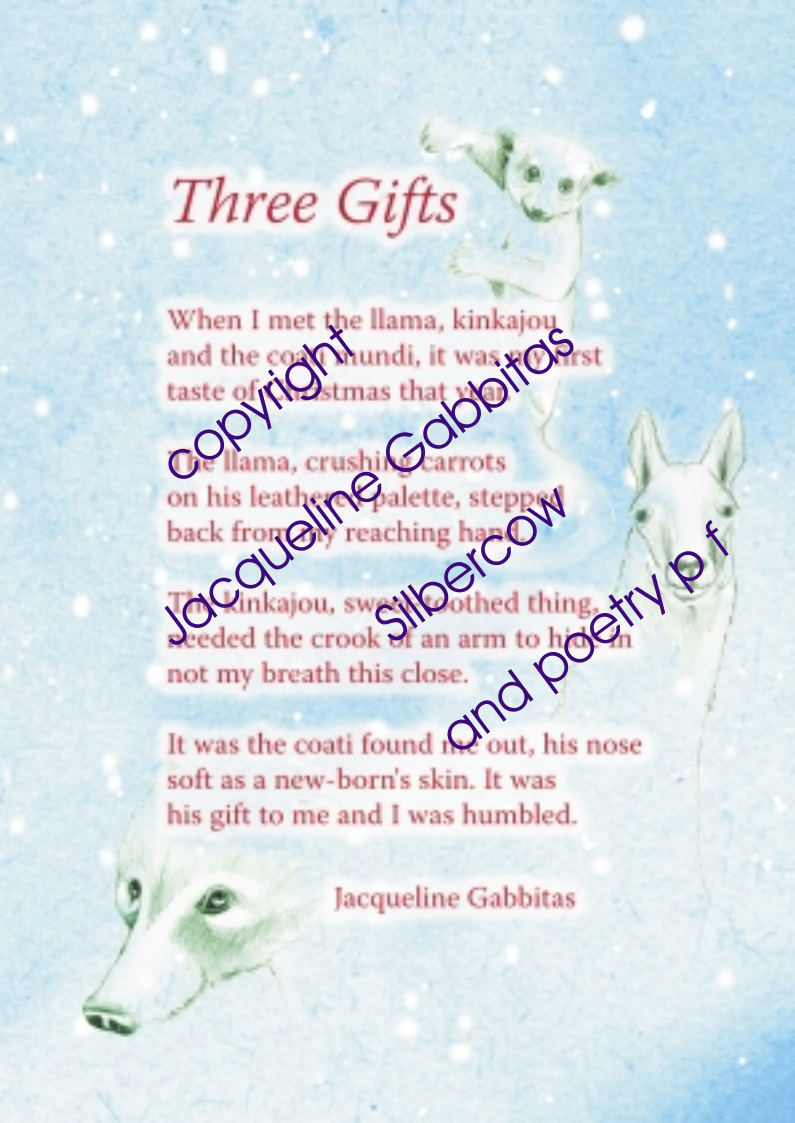


## Three Gifts

The background is a light blue gradient with scattered white snowflake-like patterns. In the upper right, a small, light-colored llama is shown in a jumping or dancing pose. In the lower left, the head of a coati is visible, looking towards the right. In the lower right, the head of a kinkajou is visible, looking towards the left.

When I met the llama, kinkajou  
and the coati mundi, it was my first  
taste of Christmas that year.

The llama, crushing carrots  
on his leather palette, stepped  
back from my reaching hand.

The kinkajou, sweet-toothed thing,  
needed the crook of an arm to hold in  
not my breath this close.

It was the coati found me out, his nose  
soft as a new-born's skin. It was  
his gift to me and I was humbled.

Jacqueline Gabbitas