

## Media Clipping



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# Bedtime stories to suit modern lifestyles

## LUCY GIBSON

“Whether you’re a parent on a business trip or stuck at work, or you’re a grandparent living interstate, you can now read a book to your favourite little ones no matter how far apart they are.”

Hallmark’s press release about its new range of recordable books may be a sad indictment of how hectic our lives have become but with an increasing number of families separated by geography — and some people seemingly too busy for a bedtime story with their children — you can’t help but applaud the folk at the world’s most famous greetings card company for capitalising on these changing times.

Hallmark’s recordable books are unashamedly sappy and, at present, there are only four on the market.

However, they are a fantastic gift idea

if you have little loved ones overseas and the books are exceptionally easy to use.

You simply lay the book flat, turn the page you wish to record and then read what’s written down.

After recording each page, you can play it back and listen to your voice. If you don’t like what you hear, you can delete it and start again.

Each page of the storybook is recorded separately so it automatically knows which page the reader is on, even if the child flicks it back and forwards.

There is even a dedication page on which you can leave your own personal message.

So, what’s the verdict? Over to my guinea pigs — my niece and nephew in England — who by all accounts were delighted to receive *All The Ways I Love You* by Theresa Trinder (read by Aunty Lucy in Australia).

“Is Aunty Lucy there” my three-year-old nephew Oliver asked my mum, gazing at the book expecting me to pop out.

My six-year-old niece Megan, not usually one to be rendered speechless, simply stood there open-mouthed.

She later took the book off to her bedroom and could be heard opening and closing the pages well past her bedtime. Now that’s what you call a Hallmark moment.

**All The Ways I Love You** by Theresa Trinder; **Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star: A Bedtime Story** by Scott Emmons; **Hey Diddle Diddle! Nursery Rhymes for Story Time**; and **My Little Princess** by Tom Shay-Zapien are priced at \$34.99 and are available from Kmart, newsagencies and gift shops and online at [www.hallmarkcards.com.au](http://www.hallmarkcards.com.au).



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Long-distance love: Oliver, 3, and Megan Gibson, 6, with a recordable book.