

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Brad Hruska

Twas the Night before Christmas @ Your Columbus Public Library

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the Columbus Public Library not a creature was stirring, except Mrs. Poeffel frantically organizing the Dora, SpongeBob, and Dr. Seuss books. The stockings made by the StoryART participants were hung on the second floor landing with care, in hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The youth of Platte County were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of 2011-2012 Golden Sower Nominees danced in their heads including “The Circus Ship” by Chris Van Dusen, “Ms McCaw Learns to Draw” by Kaethe Zemach, and the “Evolution of Calpurnia Tate” by Jacqueline Kelly to name just a few.

Mrs. Braun in her ‘kerchief,’ and I in my cap, had just settled our brains from discussing the numerous marvels of the Dewey Decimal System when out on Library’s lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my plush, easy chair to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I walked (because we don’t run in the library), tore open the curtains and lifted the blinds.

The moon shining atop the snow on Rhea’s “Mother Reading Book to Child” gave the luster of mid-day to objects below.

When, what to my tired and dazed eyes should appear (not Bob Dierman), but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a heart-beat it must be St Nick.

More rapid than eagles his orders they came, “I need these particular Christmas books”... and he listed them by name: “A Wish to be a Christmas Tree” by Colleen Monroe, “Harry and the Dinosaurs Make a Christmas Wish” by Ian Whybrow, “Pieces of Christmas” by Teri Sloat, “Merry Christmas Stinky Face” by Lisa McCourt, “The Fourth Wise Man” by Susan Summers, and “Humphrey’s Christmas” by Sally Hunters.

The round little chap, he spoke not a word but went straight to work, skimming through each and every fantastic holiday book.

Then with a smile on his face, St. Nick sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, and away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ‘ere he drove out of sight, “Happy Christmas to all the residents of Platte County, and to all a good-night!”

On behalf of everyone up in the Columbus Public Library’s Children’s Room, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Please don't forget that this season is not just for giving, but can also be used to relax, kick back, and enjoy a great holiday read, including traditional classics like "Twas the Night before Christmas," "The Little Match Girl," "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Clause," "The Polar Express," "The Nativity," and Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

For more splendid holiday recommendations, stop by the Columbus Public Library or contact me at (402) 564-7116 option 4.