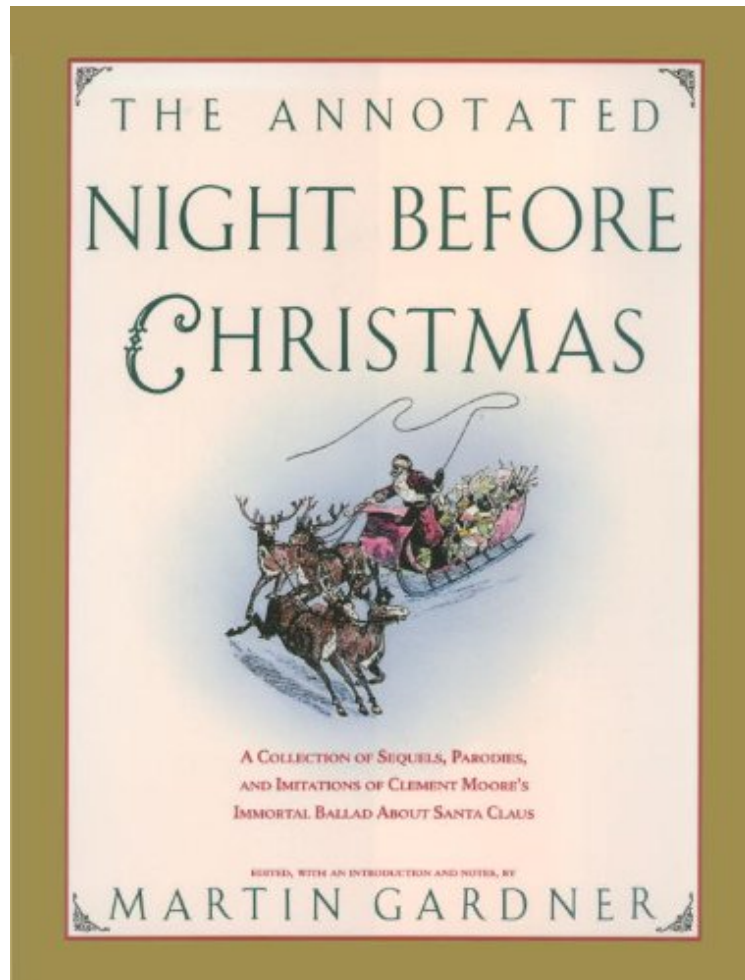


(Download free pdf) The Annotated Night Before Christmas: A Collection Of Sequels, Parodies, And Imitations Of Clement Moore's Immortal Ballad About Santa Claus

## The Annotated Night Before Christmas: A Collection Of Sequels, Parodies, And Imitations Of Clement Moore's Immortal Ballad About Santa Claus

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**From Brand: Prometheus Books : The Annotated Night Before Christmas: A Collection Of Sequels, Parodies, And Imitations Of Clement Moore's Immortal Ballad About Santa Claus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Annotated Night Before Christmas: A Collection Of Sequels, Parodies, And Imitations Of Clement Moore's Immortal Ballad About Santa Claus:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Gardner's annotations and parody anthology is great fun, and informative! By John Gough Martin Gardner's The Annotated Night Before Christmas This is, alas, not as brilliant as Gardner's epochal annotations of Lewis Carroll's Alice books, and The Hunting of the Snark. But they are very hard

acts to follow. And Carroll was a polymath who wrote large, and very complex fantasies. (But I digress, )Setting high expectations aside, however, Gardner does an excellent job of providing background to the original Night Before Christmas. In essence, he argues that Moores poem, and the great Santa Claus illustrations of Thomas Nast, established North Americas contribution to (Christmas) mythology Santa Claus as we now know him, the jolly fellow who flies around the world, at Christmas Eve, on a sleigh pulled by eight named reindeer, dropping down chimneys, and leaving gifts. Gardner concludes by considering the background to the later, other major North American contribution to mythology, the invention of the NINTH reindeer Rudolph of the famous red nose. In truth, there is little to actually annotate in Moores short poem. What, for example, is a sugar plum? Does Moore mean that Santas belly shakes like a bowl full of jello? What is a kerchief, and why does someone wear a cap to bed, and what kind of cap? Many of these verbal details are, typically, glossed (however imprecisely) by visual details in accompanying illustrations. Moores original Night Before Christmas is a short poem, and actually needs relatively little explanation of the less familiar words or allusions. Gardner does a good job, however, of this minor task. Beyond this, Gardners exploration of the background of the poem, and the life of Moore, and the cultural impact of Moores poem, is masterly. (Gardner is, or was, a master!) The collection of parodies is extremely varied, and not always fascinating. But they are often very amusing, and certainly display a wide variety of cultures and historical circumstances! Having written my own variants, with an occasional Australian flavour (available at as an eBook as Before, During, and After Christmas Five Homages to Clement C. Moores Original The Night Before Christmas, and having done my own research into The Night Before Christmas and its imitators, I am aware of the huge challenge Gardner faced in choosing these parodies. He might have included, for example, the prose variant (available on-line) created by James Thurber, of all people: A Visit from Saint Nicholas IN THE ERNEST HEMINGWAY MANNER, The New Yorker, Dec. 24, 1927: It was the night before Christmas. The house was very quiet. No creatures were stirring in the house. There werent even any mice stirring. The stockings had been hung carefully by the chimney. The children hoped that Saint Nicholas would come and fill them. Gardner might, in a revised version of his Annotated book, have included Melody Carlsons Twas the Night: The Nativity Story (BH Publishing, 2004), a verse retelling of the Gospel narrative, using Moores verse-patterns and some homage-lines: Twas the night before Christmas when all through the stable, Not a creature was stirring, though plenty were able. The ox and the cow and the goat and the sheep All comfy and cozy, had drifted to sleep. In fact, there are HUNDREDS of parodies, adaptations, elaborations, alternative, and more respectful variants. Wikipedias entry says, The very well-known poem, A Visit from St. Nicholas, has inspired many parodies, adaptations and references in popular culture, and cites: David Emerys web-site (focused on Urban Legends) with a large list of parody examples: [http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/historical/a/twas\\_the\\_night.htm](http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/historical/a/twas_the_night.htm). and, the THOUSAND-PLUS (!) alternative versions compiled in: Mathew Monroes Canonical List of Twas the Night Before Christmas Variations: <http://www.alchemistmatt.com/twas/twasallmain.html>. Overall, as a thorough scholarly, historical discussion of the background to Moores classic, and an amusing compilation of parodies, Gardners book is highly recommended! Informative and fun! John Gough Deakin University (retired) jagough49@gmail.com 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. WSJ recommended it By Susan Lyon Of all places, the Wall Street Journal did a clever review (in verse, an imitation itself) on Saturday, December 3, 2005. Since you have to subscribe to see their web site a sample of the review goes like this: "Twas the month before Christmas and all through the city Like the influx of shoppers along came this ditty.... That what to our wondering eyes should appear But a whole sheaf of send-ups to tickle the ear." With 9- and 12-year-old sons, we've outgrown the usual picture books for Christmas, but they have developed great senses of humor. This book sounded like a lot of fun moving into the teen years, so I ordered it sight unseen. (They liked the review and were interested in the idea of the parodies.) 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Annotated Night Before Christmas book By Wendy Hale This is a fun and interesting book with sequels, parodies, and imitations of Clement Moores The Night Before Christmas poem. I collect different versions of this poem and really found this book a perfect addition to my collection. Recommend for all ages.

These familiar words begin the classic poem that has become a staple of Americas annual Christmas ritual along with Dickens A Christmas Carol and Dr. Seuss The Grinch Who Stole Christmas. But how many people know anything about the origin and history of this enduring holiday favorite? In this engrossing, superbly researched, and beautifully illustrated book, Martin Gardner traces the beginnings of this beloved poem and its gradual rise to fame as an indispensable part of our yearly Christmas celebration. Beginning with a discussion about whether or not to allow children to believe in Santa Claus, Gardner recounts the history of the famous poem. In 1822, Clement Clarke Moore, a scholar of classical and Oriental languages, dashed off the ballad merely as a way of entertaining his two young daughters at Christmas. Originally titled "A Visit from Saint Nicholas", the poem describes an elf-sized Santa Claus and "tiny reindeer," so getting down the chimney was no stretch of the imagination. After the poem was published in a Troy, NY newspaper, its popularity quickly grew and the cult of Santa Claus took off. Copious illustrations show Santas evolution in the hands of various artists. After setting forth the original poem, Martin Gardner proceeds to later imitations, parodies, and sequels, beginning with a series of hilarious specimens all titled "The Night After Christmas." The book concludes with a discussion of the only significant addition to the Santa Claus legend since Moores Rudolph

the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Born as the hero of a Montgomery Ward Christmas giveaway pamphlet, Rudolph became famous when songwriter Johnny Marks put him into a song that swept not only the nation but also the world. This wonderful tribute to the greatest Christmas poem of all time is the perfect holiday gift and a superb addition to Christmas book collections.

"Martin Gardner collects these diverse imitations and I recommend them....This book is a tribute to the appeal of [Moore's] words." - Wall Street Journal "Gardner has done a service in his annotations and searching out of new fodder." - Denver Post Rocky Mountain News "[A] richly illustrated volume....there are lots of fun things here." - Statesman-Journal/Salem "Edited by Martin Gardner, the familiar words of Clement Clarke Moore's beloved poem have been the jumping off point for all manner of parodies, sequels, and imitations. Shamelessly and hilariously, this book collects them for the pleasure of readers who cannot get enough Christmas cheer out of the original work. For golfers, there's even 'A Visit from Jack Nicklaus.' There's Santa in Florida and Santa the astronaut and, of course, 'Get With It, Santa Baby.'" - Bookviews About the Author Martin Gardner (1914 - 2010), the creator of Scientific American's "Mathematical Games" column, which he wrote for more than twenty-five years, was the author of almost one hundred books, including The Annotated Night Before Christmas, The Annotated Snark, Martin Gardner's Favorite Poetic Parodies, From the Wandering Jew to William F. Buckley Jr., and Science: Good, Bad and Bogus. For many years he was also a contributing editor to the Skeptical Inquirer.