



# Santa's Twin

*Dean Koontz , Phil Parks (Illustrator)*

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**A contemporary Christmas classic for children**

**of all ages -- including those who pretend to have grown up!**

Charlotte and Emily are determined to save Santa from his mischievous twin -- Bob Claus -- who has not only stolen Santa's sleigh and stuffed his toy bag full of mud pies, cat poop, and broccoli, but has also threatened to turn Donner, Blitzen, and the others into reindeer soup!

How the brave but foolhardy sisters fly to the North Pole and rescue Santa from his "deeply troubled" twin is an utterly charming and unforgettable story sure to add sparkle to your holiday season.

Read it aloud, preferably to someone you love to hear laugh!

This perennial yuletide favorite was written by bestselling novelist Dean Koontz in 1996 at the request of his fans and has been pleasing readers every holiday season since. Winner of an *Atlantic Monthly* fiction competition while he was just a senior in college, Koontz today is a world-famous author whose books have been published in thirty-eight different languages and have sold more than three hundred million copies.

Lavishly illustrated with spectacular paintings by Phil Parks, this thoroughly modern masterpiece breathes new life and warmth into the world's most beloved legend.

## Santa's Twin Details

Date : Published September 21st 2004 by Harper Perennial (first published January 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780060572235

Author : Dean Koontz , Phil Parks (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review *Santa's Twin* for online ebook

### Josiah says

Dean Koontz, internationally renowned author of dozens of runaway bestsellers, is the big name associated with *Santa's Twin*, yet artist Phil Parks emerges as its star. The book's rhythmic verse is entertaining in a mildly naughty way (though never going too far for its young audience), but the imagination and depth of the artwork is extraordinary, running rings around most books awarded Caldecott Medals and Honor citations. Phil Parks works his magic on page after panoramic page, with stunning paintings that capture the feeling of Christmas wonder and mystery. Even if you have no interest in the story, *Santa's Twin* is worth leafing through purely for its art, a vividly expressive holiday appreciation you won't quickly forget.

"So let's look ahead to the big holiday  
that's coming, coming, coming our way.  
I'm sure you know just what day I mean.  
It's not Easter Sunday, not Halloween.  
It's not a day to be sad or listless.  
It's a day of wonder. It's Christmas!"

—*Santa's Twin*

The world has reason to worry this Christmas Eve night. That jolly old elf we're accustomed to seeing soar the skies with his magical reindeer isn't on his regular rounds; a wicked intruder has taken his place, a dead ringer for Santa Claus who breaks into homes and steals the presents given to children, swapping out their desired baubles with disgusting and dangerous substitutes (is anyone else reminded of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*?). Santa's embittered twin has it in his sights to ruin Christmas, framing the real Claus for his twin's misdeeds and setting back yuletide joy a hundred years or more. How will children trust Kris Kringle after he supposedly fills their stockings with gross and revolting substances? But like Cindy Lou Who in Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, a pair of sisters named Charlotte and Emily catch the ersatz Santa at his mischief. Unlike Cindy Lou Who, Charlotte and Emily overhear Santa's twin muttering about his plan to spoil Christmas forever, and recognize that they're the last line of defense if future merry holidays are to be preserved. Can the girls thwart the intentions of Santa's evil doppelgänger and rescue the real St. Nick from his bondage at the North Pole? And is there any way they can pull it off in time to save Christmas this year?

There are "Easter eggs" throughout *Santa's Twin*, mostly in the illustrations. On a small bookshelf in the entrance foyer of Charlotte and Emily's house is a copy of *Mr. Murder*, a 1993 Dean Koontz horror/mystery novel that I've heard contains the beginning verses of *Santa's Twin*. On main street at the North Pole, the marquee outside the free movie theater advertises that *The Bells of St. Mary's* is showing. Wouldn't it be fun to watch that Christmas classic in Santa's own village! I also wonder if the names of the two girls, Charlotte and Emily, are a nod to the Brontë sisters. But the best Easter egg, if you can call it one, is the snowman game in the illustrations. At least one snowman is hidden in every shot and readers are challenged to find it, making the book secondarily a game similar to the *I Spy* works of Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick. *Santa's Twin* is an interesting picture book, different from any other children's holiday fare I've encountered, and I'd definitely give it one and a half stars. If you're into offbeat Christmas treats to sweeten your December merriment, *Santa's Twin* might be the fix you seek.

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## **Mary says**

I love Dean Koontz and have for over 20 years. I respect him even more because he sent my class a free book and signed our classroom author quilt. (Check out his holiday poetry books for 4-6th grades) Santa Twin is a fun book for those who walk a little on the darker side, but not too Koontzish creepy. It is still kid appropriate and actually the illustrations are very eye catching and intriguing. My students can't pass the holiday book bin without wondering what it is, stopping and pulling the book out to look at it. Hey that's a big deal nowadays when you are trying to get reluctant readers to read!

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## **Mary says**

Well, here we go...Dean Koontz version of The Night Before Christmas. I loved this book...the rhyming poetry of it. The perversion of the original is so fun and disgusting and yet ...wait for it...a happy ending...well, it is Christmas, after all. This was so fun that it is now a tradition for Christmas eve. I think it best to read aloud to get the real flavor...and the most fun. Not a children's story but who cares about them!?:\_) The Illustrations are amazing.

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## **Vivian says**

Fresh take on the subject with bold and daring female protagonists who save Christmas. A good update and nice addition for middle age readers. Add in the cheeky, visceral rhyming and the illustrations and I found it a winner for time and money.

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## **Dustin Crazy little brown owl says**

This is really fun. This story started in the novel Mr. Murder when the main character was making up a Christmas story for his children. Fun verses by Koontz are combined with fun illustrations by Parks - the two have worked together before and the combination is excellent. In each picture is a snow man - some of them obvious and others hidden. Also each picture the artist has hidden his name and to further keep things interesting are items in the pictures such as a portrait of Dean Koontz (from when he had mustache and no hair on his head) and the book "Mr. Murder". This is a Delight on many levels and don't miss the continuing adventures of Santa's Twin in Robot Santa: The Further Adventures of Santa's Twin.

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## **Alex findingmontauk1 says**

A Christmas classic to be read every year!!

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## **Melissa says**

I've had this book for a long time, fifteen years,  
intended for my daughter's welcoming ears.

It's brought out every Christmas and put on display,  
and there it has sat to this very day.

Now that she is grown and out on her own,  
I wanted to read a book by Koontz (he's very well known).

With Christmas so near I should get in the mood,  
but in all honesty this story is a bit crude.

The rhythm of rhymes and number of lines,  
had me stopping a plethora of times.

The artwork, however, is colorful and fun,  
which upped my star rating by at least one.

There are better holiday stories it must be told,  
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" never gets old.

As authors go, Dean remains a favorite of mine,  
he's just better at stories that send chills up your spine.

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## **Jeanne25 says**

This book has its humble beginnings in the novel Mr. Murder by Dean Koontz. The main character is a successful mystery author who writes this story for his daughters and reads them bits each night before bed. We only receive glimpses of the story in Mr. Murder but the fans loved the story and from it - Santa's Twin is born. At our home, we don't read The Night before Christmas. Our family tradition is reading Santa's Twin. It reads like a wonderfully twisted and demented Dr. Seuss with much of the rhythmic nuances that are delightful. The artwork in the book complements the story quite well. I also have the audio version and it is wonderfully narrated. This book is a classic and a must for any Dr. Seuss fan with a bit of a naughty side.

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## **Athena says**

I have found that my generation are slightly jaded to wholesomeness and selflessness for the sake of it. This doesn't mean all things innocent are found lacking. We just have a stricter sense of affectivity. So when something does make our hearts pound with good 'ol cheesy sentimentality it is the "kosher" bomb of goodness. This book spoke to my warped sense of humor, but still left me feeling like a holiday had been parked inside me. I read it to my kids when they were in kindergarten, which might clue you in to the generation growing up right now. My library put this book in their adult collection, and I find that a terrible shame. When all you have is good, there is nothing to compare it to. How do you know it really is good after

all. The pictures are clean and invite you to look at them. Beautiful work on this book.

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### **Caitlin says**

5 stars all the way!

Every year since 1997 I read this around Christmas. I love it some much. This book is done in rhyme scheme!

About two little girls who hear a bump in the night and know something just isn't right.

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### **Angel Gelique says**

Dean Koontz' spin on the classic, *The Night Before Christmas*, featuring Santa's evil brother!

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### **Carlos Río says**

"Santa's Twin" es bastante corto, pero tiene un diseño muy cuidado: el formato es muy grande (es algo superior a un DIN A4), con las páginas apaisadas, donde se ven muy bien las bonitas ilustraciones de Parks. Los dibujos tienen el añadido de esconder muñecos de nieve que tienes que encontrar como si fueran Wally (¡qué bien me lo he pasado!) y un par de guiños a Koontz; además, algunas de las rimas son muy graciosas, y la dedicatoria de Koontz a su esposa es preciosa: "A Gerda, como recuerdo de nuestras primeras Navidades, cuando nevó solo para nosotros, y el mejor regalo fue estar juntos" (eso representa algo de Koontz que me encanta: incluso sus peores obras esconden un núcleo muy tierno).

Pero la historia en sí es un poco decepcionante, porque Koontz resuelve demasiado fácilmente los conflictos.

<http://www.elrincondelcarlosdelrio.com...>

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### **Cheryl says**

Fun children's (?) book. Santa's evil twin is thwarted by the two good sisters in Mr Murder. I liked looking for the snowmen on every page. Also, look closer and you can see Dean Koontz on a picture or two. Mr Murder, the book, is also pictured. Fun stuff!

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### **Peacegal says**

Good idea, wonderful artwork, bad execution. The text is just too dense and wordy to be appealing. Koontz could have pared this down a great deal and had a much better book.

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## **Rachel says**

I don't review many children's books, but as this was one of the worst, most tedious books I have ever had the misfortune to read to my son, I'm making an exception. Wow, I hated this book. The forced rhyming, the excessive length of the book, the words and "humor" far above a child's understanding level (I can only assume meant to entertain the adult reader, but didn't work!) were all awful. The book went on and on. Not to mention the picture in which it appears that Santa's evil twin brother is suffocating a rabbit which somehow got chosen as the cover art for this book. Maybe, maybe I would recommend this to middle school age boys who might think the humor is funny. But definitely not for kids. I absolutely hated reading this aloud to my son. But, who am I to complain? He wanted me to finish it (unfortunately).

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