



A Kidnapped Santa Claus

Alex Robinson (Adaptation), L. Frank Baum

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First published in 1904, "A Kidnapped Santa Claus" by L. Frank Baum, the author of The Wizard of Oz, describes the action of some uncommon events in the land of Santa. Not far from the Laughing Valley where Santa and all his magical helpers live, and beyond the Forest of Burzee, there stands a huge mountain that contains the Cave of Demons. Each demon has a specialty: Selfishness, Envy, Hatred, Malice, and Repentance. Because the promise of Santa puts all girls and boys on their best behavior, the demons have hardly any visitors to their caves. In order to remedy their dismal foot traffic, they conspire to kidnap Santa. But oh even when it looks as if the demons might win, one can never underestimate the power of devoted (and magical) friends.

Adapted by Alex Robinson, author of several graphic novels, the action and menace of the tale will be enhanced and lightly spoofed. It seems a most appropriate treatment of Baum's work -- he was an author who often let his profound and unsettling meanings roil beneath the surface of his otherwise fanciful stories.

A Kidnapped Santa Claus Details

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Author : Alex Robinson (Adaptation) , L. Frank Baum

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Sherri says

It was a cute story, but my least favorite out of his other books that I've read. I think that the Daemons should have been mentioned in the first book for there to be a smooth transition into a sequel, and in the first book Claus a greed to always have the reindeer returned before morning on Christmas but that issue was not addressed in this book. :-/

Sasha Boersma says

What happens when Santa is captured by jealous demons? Pixies and varies to the rescue! It's silly, ridiculous, but what classic holiday tale isn't? This graphic novel version will be part of my seasonal holiday readings for many years to come :)

Hannah Givens says

A kind of children's story with some heft, like a cross between Nightmare Before Christmas and the Sandman comics. Quite enjoyed it, and the graphic novel adaptation/style Robinson chose blends well with the story.

Shqiponja Alshiqi says

As Hana said "it was very basic" lol anyways i think i would have enjoyed it if i had read the Wizard of Oz, i had to research a lot of stuff.

Victoria says

I had never before read L. Frank Baum's story, which was cute, and thought-provoking, but fluffy and feel-good enough for Christmas enjoyment. I also thought Alex Robinson's art style was great, and found myself poring over the panels. A nice short read for children, or children-at-heart, at Christmastime.

Emily says

A cute, quick read. The story teaches a lesson with strong characters leading the way.

Melki says

When the Big Man is kidnapped by cave daemons, it's up to a fairy, a pixie, and a sort of goat-like thing to save Christmas.

This b&w graphic novel, based on a story by L. Frank Baum, offers the same off-kilter charm of "A Nightmare Before Christmas," and would be great for older children and any adult with an imagination.

Need more reasons to read this one?

***My favorite sound effect - *YOINK!* appears in the book.

***There is an awesome knock-down, drag-out battle scene between the daemons and the immortals.

***Santa has a Tardis sleigh! (For any non-nerds out there, that means it is bigger on the inside than it appears on the outside.)

***The fairy girl wears glasses! (Bespectacled babes rule!)

Jennifer Choisser says

Good read, indeed. I love Frank Baum's imaginative writing style and he pulls off yet another charming story where we find all our questions about Santa Claus answered in a truly unique way.

Brian Manville says

Two years after writing "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus", L. Frank Baum wrote this follow-up story. In it, Santa Claus is still making toys at his home in the Laughing Valley. While everyone appears to enjoy the benefits Santa is providing the world, there are 5 notable exceptions - the demons of Hate, Envy, Selfishness, Malice and Repentance.

These demons are upset that Santa Claus has deprived them of misbehaving children. While not demons in the sense of Christian cosmology, they are not good or wholesome beings. Resolving among themselves to attempt to mute his influence in the world, the Demons (except Repentance) approach Santa in turn to tempt him to engage in the kind of conduct that they specialize in. At each turn Santa Claus shows none of the emotions they're attempting to solicit. After enticements fail, the Demons resort to kidnapping Santa as he flies in his sleigh outside Laughing Valley where he is protected by the immortals.

This short story stands in contrast to the earlier book in that this story is more based around the baser instincts of human nature. The demons are representatives of each of us. While the first four demons are demonstrably bad, the Demon of Repentance is more ambiguous. In fact, he only goes along with the kidnapping because he is not able to give people an opportunity for forgiveness without them seeing one of his brother demons first.

As a short story, it is almost too short. The character development is on the skimpy side and the plot is more

anecdote than story. However, that should not be used as a reason to read the story.

This book can be downloaded for free at Project Gutenberg at:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/519>

Blake Petit says

Excellent graphic adaptation of a little-known short story by L. Frank Baum. Alex Robinson expands on the story considerably, fleshing out some characters, adding others, and updating the whole thing in a way that brings it into the 21st century while still remaining true to the spirit and joy of the original. Highly enjoyable, highly entertaining.

Olivia Rosaria says

This story was far too short and seemed to be lacking a middle, it jumped from setting the scene to simply ending.

It also lacked an overall message for children to take away from the story.

Jena says

A must-read for Christmas! This was originally written by Frank L. Baum, the author of the Oz books...and you see a little of the language and magic of Oz in this story. Hopefully it captures the attention of readers so they will be ready to read ALL of the Oz books because they are so great!

Carol says

A Kidnapped Santa Claus is a little-known story written by L. Frank Baum, who is the author of the Wizard of Oz. The book is a graphic novel of the story. It is about Santa Claus who is kidnapped by the daemons who lived in caves of the laughing valley. They are Selfishness, Envy, Hatred, and Repentance. They devise a plan to kidnap Santa Claus on the Christmas Day so that children will not receive any presents. Their disappointment will turn into envy and hatred.

When Santa's magical friends cannot find Santa, they get the toys out to the children before they come into his rescue. However, without a list of names of presents, they make a mistake by giving the wrong presents to the wrong children. The children all look unhappy when they open their presents. However, they start swapping their gifts and they learn the spirit of sharing at Christmas. Despite the daemons successfully kidnap Santa Claus, the evils cannot defeat the righteousness.

The book gives a twist to the traditional tales of Father Christmas. It is in easy English and it is a good way for children to learn how to write a story with a complete story-telling structure. It is adorable and wonderful.

It offers an easy, quick read for children and children-at-heart.

Derek Emerson says

The publisher HarperCollins has created a new imprint called It Books to capture the popular culture audience, so it is no surprise they would release three graphic novel representations of three Christmas stories

While their publicity claims these are Christmas classics, few will be familiar with L. Frank Baum's "A Kidnapped Santa Claus" which is adapted here by Alex Robinson. Baum, better known for the "Wizard of Oz," created a short fable about Santa who is kidnapped in flight by the demons Selfishness, Envy, Hatred, and Repentance. His work is carried on by four helpful assistants who know how to get the sleigh around, but mix up the presents the children are receiving. All could be lost, but never count out the magic of Christmas. Robinson adds a small love story and a great deal of humor to Baum's story, which seems perfectly suited for the graphic novel format. Robinson's stark black and white illustrations are either filled with details or clear in their simplicity, depending on how he wants to move the story forward. Of the three books released, Robinson's style will be the most familiar to those with a long history of comics with several panels on a page and balloon text throughout. His adaptations to the story are an improvement and worth seeking out.

Theresa says

What a clever and sweet short story. I think children of yesteryear must of been very different of those of today because all of those daemon words would be lost on most kids I know.

Still, it was enchanting and I'm sure lead the groundwork for a lot of our Christmas movies we love today.
