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Red Ranger Came Calling



Synopsis

Using glowing, hypnotic images and a funny, provocative text, the narrator relives his father's most amazing childhood Christmas. A moody young boy living with his aunt on an island, "Red" Breathed sees himself as the "Red Ranger from Mars", his hero from the movie serials, and cannot picture life without the gift of a Red Ranger bicycle. Red is far too "swanky a human being" to believe in Santa Claus, but nevertheless he pays a visit to the aged island hermit, Lord Sander Clos, rumored to be the legendary man himself, now living in lonely, joyless retirement. This meeting triggers an emotional response within the self-absorbed Red and leads to the most remarkable bicycle ever delivered on Christmas morning. This book represents Berkeley Breathed at the top of his form.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (September 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316102490

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 120 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #150,650 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Humorous #342 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas #1126 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

For Breathed (A Wish for Wings That Work; Goodnight Opus), 'tis the season to be laugh-out-loud funny one page and cause a tiny tear to well in a reader's eye the next. Retelling the autobiographical story that his late father related every Christmas Eve, Breathed introduces a cynical young man (self-named The Red Ranger of Mars) who meets his match in a retired Santa (When Red snaps, "They say you're Santa Claus," the old man retorts that Santa is "a foolish story for small children. He's a big jolly bribe to control their criminal instincts"). Breathed's hallucinatory artwork is as wondrous and as unpredictable as his tale. Reaffirming a reader's belief in the spirit

that is Santa, this could become a perennial seller. All ages. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 3-5, younger for reading aloud. Spending the Christmas season with his aunt on a "damp little island somewhere off the country's upper left-hand corner," Red discovers that the reclusive, ill, and ancient man living nearby is Santa Claus. Red (short for his hero Buck Tweed, the Red Ranger of Mars) is too jaded to believe in Santa, and yet when the Santa asks him to believe, he tries. On Christmas morning, hoping against hope for his heart's desire, a Buck Tweed bicycle, Red finds instead a treasure unlooked for, within himself. While Breathed, author/artist of the cartoon strip "Bloom County," often seems to look over the heads of children to wink at the adults in the audience, there's enough that's childlike to keep kids involved, whether its the reassuring homeliness of the hero or his wholehearted longing for the bicycle. The extraordinary, full-color illustrations seem three-dimensional and will intrigue children and adults alike. A most original Christmas book. Carolyn Phelan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Everyone should have the opportunity to read this wonderful Christmas book with it's fun twist ending! The illustrations are marvelously created and the expressions on the characters pull you in to the story even more than the eloquently written story already does. The author's easy-to-read style of writing seamlessly weaves an intriguing childhood tale of a young boy torn between childish hopes and dreams and the unsettling realization of life's hardships. The feel good ending leaves you with your own sense of childlike curiosity and blissful happiness.

I was first introduced to this great book at my son's house. It was a book that had been around their household for many years. You could tell because of the natural aging that happens with books. I was fascinated, read it, and immediately thought of my great-grandchildren whom I knew would love this book. Bought it. The book arrived in time for family gathering at my grand-daughter's house over the Holidays, and soon everyone had to know what this book was about. It was read out-loud to all of us, and as I left the party, my grand-daughter told me it was going to be a Holiday family tradition to bring out this wonderful book each Christmas, read it out loud and ponder it's fantastic mystery. A great find. A great buy! I encourage those interested to purchase it. You won't regret it. Great for any age.

Easily my favorite Christmas book. Great to reading in Christmas time or as a gift

Always a pleasant read and the artwork is the greatest. Love all Berkeley Breathed books etc.

Wonderful story

What a wonderful story. I absolutely love the illustrations! You must read the introduction to really get the whole picture, and it is worth it! The face of rage is drawn more perfectly than you can possibly imagine. For parents who are working too hard to please children who appreciate too little, this is just what you need too!

Love

This has been a favorite with our family for years. My 23 year old son asked for a personal copy of his own now that he no longer lives at home. He has a few roommates his age and they all loved it too! Now the grandkids are enjoying it as well. You don't HAVE to be a fan of Berkeley Breathed to appreciate this story (but I can't imagine why anyone wouldn't be). :)

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