

The Night Before the Night Before Christmas

Natasha Wing , Mike Lester (Illustrator)

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It's December 23, and Christmas is just around the corner. But one family is having trouble getting its act together. Once again, Natasha Wing follows the rhythms and meter of Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem, yet gives it her own entirely original twist.

The Night Before the Night Before Christmas Details


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Author : Natasha Wing , Mike Lester (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review *The Night Before the Night Before Christmas* for online ebook

Laura (Madsen) McLain says

In this very funny riff on the classic poem, the narrator, a clever young girl, comments on the ironic, hectic preparations for a modern American holiday celebration. One of my favorite passages:

*Things will get better, I thought, as I crawled into bed.
Maybe visions of sugarplums will dance in my head.
Instead, I lay wondering, gazing up at the moon.
What on earth is a sugarplum? Is it a candy or prune?*

Everything is a disaster, as Mom gets the flu, Dad nearly falls off the ladder hanging lights, bulbs burn out, the cat knocks over the tree, and little brother pees on the mall Santa's lap. Mom despairs that the holiday is ruined but Dad reminds her of the true meaning of Christmas:

*No, it's not, sugarplum,
These things are just stuff.
Christmas is about love.
And we have quite enough.*

Kristi Anderson says

One of my very favorite books for reading at Christmas.

Rachel says

I'm surprised at myself for giving this 4 stars. You have to sometimes try to make the meter work. However, I did think it was funny, and great that the story reflects what happens when we focus on the "wrong" things at Christmas time (in my opinion), even if those things could (and are originally meant) to enhance our celebrations.

Natalie Heavrin says

This Christmas book was a little different than most of the others I have read. It's about the chaos of Christmas and the stress when nothing can get finished in time. Everyone is grumpy and nothing is going right. Yet at the end, everything always comes together nicely. This is a cute rhyming book that is following the structure of "The Night Before Christmas" traditional story.

Meg McGregor says

A very cute story in the poetic style of The Night Before Christmas.

I particularly enjoyed this part.

"No, it's not sugar-plum,
These things are just stuff.
Christmas is about love,
And we have quite enough."

That is what Christmas should be!

The young girl wonders what a sugar plum is so I decided to look it up!

Sugar plum: 1. a small candy in the shape of a ball or disk : sweetmeat
2. word used to describe someone you care for.

I really enjoyed this story and it brought back many happy memories. The only reason it did not get five stars is because I did not like the illustrations!

Pam says

Absolutely everyone can relate to the holiday issues presented in this adorable book written by Natasha Wing and illustrated by Mike Lester. The rhyming text is wonderful and the illustrations are colorful, lively and full of emotions. I just loved the book perhaps because I too was sick for the holidays and illnesses and the stress of the season create disaster. Children and adults will love this book too!

Nick James says

A funny story for children that is a good book to read around the holiday season. It follows an average family getting ready for Christmas and a series of unfortunate events (not referring to Lemony Snicket) occurs, like mom getting sick and stockings having holes inside them. It's a funny book for adults and kids and currently with 4 days until Christmas, it's a perfect time to read this.

Odessa Green says

Love this entire series, this one was our first purchase in the series and is still our favorite.

Hannah Morrison says

A fun book! When I read this to the children I nanny they really enjoyed the rhythm and rhyming. The book does not offer much for diversity but is light and enjoyable, as well as a creative alternative to the original "Night Before Christmas". This book reflects the life most families lead in the days coming to Christmas presently. This again is probably not a book I would use in a class lesson, but would make it available for students to read.

La Coccinelle says

Yes, I know I'm reviewing a Christmas book in the middle of January. Shut up.

I take issue with the synopsis saying that "Wing follows the rhythms and meter of Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem". The rhythms, maybe. The meter? No. Some sections are so clunky that they'd be next to impossible to read aloud without tripping over your own tongue. There are parts that have too many syllables, others that have too few... and in both cases, the flow suffers.

The story of a harried lead-up to Christmas is relatable, but some parts of it just weren't believable: i.e. Patrick. The kid is drawn as a baby, most likely too young to even walk. And yet, he's some sort of wunderkind who can whine: "But I want to see Santa." The fact that he promptly pees on the jolly old man just further proves that he's a baby... so his grammar is ridiculously advanced for someone his age.

The pictures are just okay. They're colourful, but kind of rough in places.

I think I like the idea for this book more than the execution. Oh, well. At least I don't have to worry about getting on the wait list at the library for this book next December!

James Jones says

Some kids mom wasn't feeling good and they went to get a tree. She had to throw up. The cookies burned and her Mom needed a big nap but she couldn't get one because she had to do stuff around the house and the dad had to work selling trees for Christmas. They went to see Santa Claus and their stockings got ripped so the girl put up real socks instead of stockings so the toys wouldn't fall out. They read the big girl's favorite story and it started out "Twas the night before Christmas..."

Elisa Maher says

Nothing is going right for this family of four, on the night before, the night before Christmas! Stockings are singed by the fire, Mom is sick and is not feeling well. Life has been a blur and nothing is ready for Christmas. All the Christmas trees have been picked over, and Christmas will be ruined now..... until Dad save the day and says that "Christmas is about love and we have enough." Great for young elementary grades 1st-3rd grade .

Katie Markle says

Absolutely adorable. I grew up reading this book every Christmas Eve Eve. Great for kids. Very funny for adults. Everyone can relate to the chaos that comes with the magic of the holiday season and this book does a great job highlighting that.

Lexy Rabenberg says

This book is a hilarious and cute spin-off of the night before Christmas! It follows the same verse sounds of the original Night Before Christmas but talks about hilarious incidents that happen to this young child and her family. For example they get a charlie brown tree, there's holes in their stockings, and their mom is sick in bed with the flu. If you're looking for something different to read this holiday season, this is the book!

Cathi says

I love this book! It's funny and has comical, exaggerated illustrations (done by Mike Lester) that are perfect for this story of a frenzied, everything-is-going-wrong Christmas. I remember reading this to a group of kids at our children's elementary school in Texas years ago, and they roared with laughter at the funny rhymes and silly situations. It's a delight.
