



## The Christmas Wish

*Lori Evert , Per Breiehagen (Photographer)*

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In the tradition of *The Snowman*, *The Polar Express*, and the many books of Jan Brett this cozy Nordic tale filled with extraordinary photographs will have readers of all ages believing in the magic of Christmas. This is one to pull out every year and savor.

Long ago, a brave little girl named Anja wanted to be one of Santa's elves. So she leaves a note for her family and helps her elderly neighbor prepare for the holiday, then she straps on her skis, and heads out into the snowy landscape. From a red bird to a polar bear to a reindeer, a menagerie of winter animals help Anja make her way to Santa. A generous trim-size, matte cover, and foiled title make this a special book for the holiday season.

## The Christmas Wish Details

Date : Published September 10th 2013 by Random House Books for Young Readers

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Author : Lori Evert , Per Breiehagen (Photographer)

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## **From Reader Review The Christmas Wish for online ebook**

### **Lucila Perez says**

This is the cutest book I ever read. It has wonderful pictures to go along with a magical story about a little girl who sets off to become one of Santa's Elves. It brings me back to what the holiday season is all about. The story brings back the innocence, magic and kindness that Christmas is all about. Story starts when main character, young girl Anja with big blue eyes, wants to become one of the Santa's elves. Anja doesn't want her family to worry so she'll leave them a message that she's good and where she went. And after she helped her old neighbor, on her skis she went to find Santa. On her way she'll experience a lot of adventures, and a lot of polar animals will help her until she finally reach her goal. Lori Evert and her husband Per Breiehagen together with their daughter Anja made this beautiful book in which the children will enjoy, because every child is certainly at least once wanted to do the best job in the world, helping Santa to distributing gifts to good children. I love the illustrations they are full of vivid colors. I highly recommend this story for reading it with children in Christmas. I think this story is focused on giving and meaningful exchange, a celebration of winter and activity, and I also love all of the adorable photographs.

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### **Kerry says**

This stunning book will take you on a magical Christmas journey. The story brings back the innocence, magic and kindness that Christmas is all about. The first time I read it to my six year he was completely transfixed and absorbed by the darling little girl and her kind animal friends. We all enjoy just looking at the beautiful Nordic setting and the amazing photographs. This book will be a holiday tradition in our family for years to come!

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### **Caligal says**

Darling story about a little girl's adventures to find Santa . She has delightful helpers along the way. Beautifully illustrated as well.

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### **Jeniece Goellner says**

I adore this book!!!

A sweet tale of a little girl Anja, whose greatest wish is to be one of Santa's elves. So she sets off one day on an adventure to do just that.

This book was written by little Anja's mother Lori Evert and the photographs of Anja were taken by Per Breiehagen, her father. What an amazing finish to what could have only been an amazing family project to work on.

The tale is wonderfully written, Anja's kind nature radiating off the page. But the real star of the book is the

photographs. They are breath taking balancing gorgeous scenery with the action and motion of little Anja and her friends. Each photograph could easily be in a frame on the wall.

This will be a great Christmas tradition in my house and will be a well loved classic.

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### **Gerald Dieterich says**

I am completely biased when it comes to this book. The Norwegian influence alone makes me love it. My daughter, Caroline, who is two, enjoyed it as well.

The pictures add more life to the story. And I wish I could find that outfit for Caroline to wear during the winter.

The story is charming and heartwarming. There are plenty of things to keep a toddlers, or child's attention. The pictures are great and I preferred them to illustrations in this particular book.

Great bed time story.

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### **Lynda says**

The Christmas Wish by Lori Evert takes the reader way up North to mystical, magical outdoor places as little Anja's greatest wish is to become an elf at the North Pole. She travels with various animals on her adventure. Each page is a different photo of Anja and that day's action. Simply marvelous!

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### **Carmen says**

This is a gorgeous winter/Christmas book by Lori Evert with photographs of her daughter by her husband, Per Breiehagen. The book looks like it was shot in Norway, but it's unclear if that's actually true, but for sure Per is Norwegian.

<http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I...>

Anja, the blonde-haired, double plaited little girl is very cute and very perfect, and Evert and Breiehagen dress her in very traditional Norwegian clothing.

<http://stmedia.startribune.com/images...>

Anja can talk to animals and she decides she will go off to meet Santa Claus. She is an excellent skier, and she rides a horse and a polar bear at various times. She flies on her skies while being pulled by one of Santa's reindeer. She ends up meeting Santa and flying in his sleigh, and also receives a magical bell from him (which will come into play in Evert's later book, The Reindeer Wish).

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get...>

The (obviously manipulated) photos couldn't be more beautiful or stunning.

<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-HduAkx2yIyw...>

Here's an example of the writing:

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get...>

*The cave was dark as night as Anja followed the ox downward, and luminescent blue as they climbed up a trail of ice and stones. When they emerged, Anja saw a tremendous fur blanket lying on the ground in front of her. Just as she was ready to collapse into its warm folds, it shifted. It rose!*

*It wasn't a blanket, it was an enormous bear - just like the ones in the tales her father told around the fire.*

*After Anja had thanked the musk ox for her help, the bear spoke. "I have come to take you north over the tundra," he said in a deep, soothing voice. "You may ski or ride as you wish, but we must hurry. Christmas is coming soon."*

<http://diapers-and-daydreams.com/wp-c...>

*When they stopped for a rest, Anja found a small book in her pocket. In the day's last light, she read a story to the bear about a troll and three silly little goats.*

*The next day was bright again. Anja skied, then rode on the bear's back. He was great company; they sang songs and made each other laugh.*

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get...>

<http://cdn.c.photoshelter.com/img-get...>

Tl;dr - I was charmed by this gorgeously illustrated Christmas story.

P.S. You can click the "Preview" button on the GR page of this book in order to see a few more pictures.

Ages 0-7

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## **Samantha says**

I had a feeling that this book might've stemmed from a family project when I was few pages in...and I was right!

In this magical adventure a little girl named Anya wants to be one of Santa's elves so she sets off on a journey to the North Pole. Different animals help her along the way including a musk ox which is fast becoming the new "it" animal in children's books.

The photography in this book is beautiful and full of those ooohhhh and ahhh moments associated with the Christmas season. Santa is a little skinny, but that's my only complaint.

This would be a great gift book for the holiday season. PreK-2.

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## **Katy says**

A sweet Christmas story with darling photographs.

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## **Regina Spiker says**

Anja is a rosy cheeked, big blue eyed girl who wants to find Santa Claus. Since she lives in the snowy north, Anja skies off into the woods with a cardinal to guide her. As she travels, Anja makes many friends with the animals who help her along the way, including a solid, strong horse, a shy musk ox, a kind polar bear, and finally a tired reindeer that leads her right to Santa. When Anja wakes up the next morning and peaks out the window, she wonders if it was all a wonderful dream and then.... she remembers the magical bell..

The husband/wife team of Per Breiehagen and Lori Evert have written and taken beautiful photographs for this children's book. Anja is their daughter and she looks so much like my little grand-niece with her rosy cheeks and blonde hair! A wonderful new Christmas book to read to your little ones.

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## **Kathryn says**

Gorgeously illustrated, very sweet, full of wonder and the beauty of nature and childhood. The story is just okay for me.

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## **Patricia Tilton says**

Lori Evert has written an enchanting Nordic Christmas tale that is pure magic. The author was inspired to write the story when she saw an image of her daughter, Anja, with a reindeer. Award-winning photographer Per Breiehagen captivated this beautiful story with his extraordinary photographs of breathtaking landscapes and touching scenes of Anja. This was a beautiful collaborative effort by this husband-wife team, and their daughter Anja. The Christmas Wish is a treasure you will want to keep on your book shelf for years.

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## **Julie Barrett says**

The Christmas Wish by Lori Evert

Anja's dream is to become one of Santa's elves.

She prepared by doing things for others to get ready for the big day.

Besides her horse she has help from a red cardinal and she knows what other signs to look for: stars, Northern lights, etc

She has help from others and they are able to tell a tale from a book she is carrying.

She is given something special by Santa and she wonders if she has dreamed all of this..

What I like about this book besides the story are the pictures, brilliant colors and so many creatures to point out in their native land.

I received this book from Edelweiss and Random House in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Linda Abhors the New GR Design says**

I've gifted two of these books to my great niece (who's 6 now), and she absolutely adores them. The pictures are precious, and the story is pretty good, too. The large size (bigger than a 9x11) makes you appreciate the photos more. There's enough text on each page that the child will be challenged, but not enough to get them bored. Soon, she'll be too old to be entertained by these, but when I took her "The Reindeer Wish" two years ago at Thanksgiving, she asked me to read it to her every night for quite a few nights.

(As an adult, I have to wonder how much time poor little Anna-the author and photographer's daughter-got off from school in the US to go and shoot the photos in Norway!)

Her (and my) favorite continues to be "The Tiny Wish", where she shrinks down to the size of a flower, and has a ton of adventures in the forest (riding home on a bunny's back).

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### **Favola says**

Bei "Die wunderbare Weihnachtsreise" finde ich nur schon den Hintergrund wunderbar, es ist nämlich ein Familienwerk. Inspiriert wurde Lori Evert von der Tochter Anja, die sehr naturverbunden ist. Statt mit Bildern wurde die Geschichte dann mit aussergewöhnlichen Fotos ihres Mannes Per Breiehagen versehen. Seine Fotos, die unter anderem im 'National Geographic' erscheinen, wurden schon mehrfach ausgezeichnet.

Und so tauchen wir mit Anja ein in den hohen Norden, in den tief verschneiten Winter und begeben uns mit ihr auf die Suche nach dem Weihnachtsmann. Unterwegs trifft sie auf die unterschiedlichsten Tiere, die ihr auf ihrem Weg zur Seite stehen.

Die schöne, einmal etwas andere Weihnachtsgeschichte, ist das eine, doch dieses Buch lebt vor allem durch die ausdrucksstarken Fotos. Man merkt sofort, dass Per Breiehagen ein Profi ist, denn er setzt seine Tochter und die unterschiedlichen Tiere gekonnt in Szene. Und genau diese Bilder sind es, die die Kinder faszinieren: Anja, die sich auf Skiern vom Pferd verabschiedet; Anja, die auf einem Eisbären reitet; Anja, die dem Rentier einen Apfel anbietet.

Ob Anja den Weihnachtsmann wirklich findet, verrate ich hier nicht. Ich finde das offene Ende aber sehr gelungen. So kann man nach dem Vorlesen noch darüber diskutieren.

Das Buch ist mit 48 Seiten recht umfangreich für ein Kinderbuch ab vier Jahren. Doch die Geschichte mit den Tieren und dem Weihnachtsmann und vor allem auch die atmosphärischen Fotos wissen die Kinder zu fesseln. Ein rundum gelungenes, aussergewöhnliches Buch!

Fazit:

"Die wunderbare Weihnachtsreise" ist eine schöne Geschichte mit eindrücklichen Fotos. Ein Bilderbuch, von dem sich nicht nur die Kinder verzaubern lassen. Unbedingt reinschauen!

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