



The Santa Trap

Jonathan Emmett , Poly Bernatene (Illustrator)

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Bradley Bartleby is bad - very bad. He's greedy, naughty, selfish and spoiled - and Santa Claus knows it. But when beastly Bradley empties his Christmas stocking to find nothing but a pair of socks, he does quite the baddest thing he has ever tried to do - he builds a Santa trap!

The Santa Trap Details

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Author : Jonathan Emmett , Poly Bernatene (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The Santa Trap for online ebook

Agaughan68 says

Interesting Santa Claus/Christmas story. I had never heard of it (I have read many Christmas stories to my classes). I would say it was okay. Something different to try next year.

Melki says

A bratty rich boy gets exactly what he deserves for Christmas.
This would make a great Tim Burton movie.

*No Santas were harmed within the pages of this book.

Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

Bradley Bartleby is a very spoiled and self-centered little boy. He makes demands and expects those demands to be obeyed. He has even dared to make demands of Santa Claus. He demands Santa to bring him every item he has on his long list.

Santa sees all the bad things Bradley does all year round. So every Christmas Bradley receives only one pair of lovely socks under the tree from Santa. This was the last time this would happen he thought. He went into a rage and his parents tried to pacify him by telling him they had bought all of the gifts on his list. But that was not going to satisfy Bradley. Evidently he wanted Santa to meet his every demand just like everyone else in his life.

So he schemes and steams, rants and raves. Then he starts setting traps all through his house to trap Santa next Christmas and take every toy and gift from Santa and his sleigh.

What will the other children do if Bradley traps Santa and steals all the toys and gifts? What kind of Christmas will that be without Santa?

The author has given an extreme example of the behavior of many children's expectations of Santa and Christmas. Then she shows our children how such horrible behavior is looked upon by others and how this behavior is rewarded by Santa not giving into the child's demands. Negative behavior meets negative consequences.

The illustrations WOW! BOLD! VIBRANT! Very in sync with the story. They will delight and tickle every child's imagination that opens this book.

Be sure to get the book before Christmas. It may help children to have a more positive and realistic attitude about their wishlist for Christmas. I need to send a copy to my five daughters so they can share it with my

fifteen grandchildren. Hey, maybe Santa's list will be a little shorter this year. NOT!!

I highly recommend this book.

I rate this book a 5 out of 5.

Disclosure

I received a free copy of this book from Peachtree Publishers for review. I was in no way compensated for this review. It is my own opinion.

If you found this review helpful vote yes or no here

Joella www.cinjoella.com says

“Bradley Bartleby was bad. He’d been born bad. Before baby Bradley even left the hospital...he’d bitten the midwife on the bottom, stolen the doctor’s stethoscope, and emptied his diaper into his grandmother’s handbag.”

Thus starts this hilarious book. Bradley Bartleby is bad. And he is frustrated when over and over again he just gets one present from Santa Claus. (Never mind the fact that his parents get him everything he wishes for since they are terrified of him.) No, this will just not work. If Santa doesn’t give Bradley more than a pair of socks each year (he should be glad it isn’t coal) then he is going to trap Santa and make him pay! So Bradley spends a year making the ultimate Santa Trap. He is sure that the dynamite, tigers, guillotines, and trip-wire will trap Santa. And then Bradley will make him pay for the years and years of socks!

This is a funny look at a kid who goes to the extreme to make being bad a hobby and trying to outsmart the master of the naughty and nice list. Of course Bradley doesn’t understand the magic of Santa being able to do what he does. Plus Bradly is just a wee bit forgetful himself. All in all, this is one holiday book that will help kids laugh themselves into being good...and won’t worry them about trying to be good even though it is so hard.

Homewood Library says

MULTI-STAFF REVIEW:

This is a story about a not so nice little boy and his attempt to blow up Santa because he's mad that Santa only gives him socks for Christmas. You heard right. He wants to blow Santa up. All kinds of things are wrong about this book and I'm so glad that I decided to read it before putting it out on the Christmas book display. - Miss Jolyce - 1 star

The artwork in this book was enjoyable to me, but the story didn't seem to know it's audience to me. If this book had language geared towards older kids who no longer think about the man in the red suit, then the dark humor and the lack of a positive resolution or lesson learned would just be funny. But it feels like a story for a parent to share with a child, and I do not enjoy stories about kids who do bad things and never learn. The colors and art are the only redeeming qualities for me. - Miss Kelly - 2 stars

Darren Hartwell says

Upon finishing this book the first thing I did was a quick internet search for the author's names, just to see whether he really existed or was in fact a pseudonym for Tim Burton for in my opinion *The Santa Trap* is up there with *The Nightmare Before Christmas* as a perfect alternative (and dark) Christmas story. It is certainly the perfect antidote to those saccharine sweet Christmas stories and fairy tales that get wheeled out every year, and it would be a crime if this does not one day find itself on the screen, whether big or small.

The Santa Trap is the story of Bradley Bartleby, a truly despicable child who, in the words of the story, was "born bad". Bradley is every spoiled and demanding child you have ever come across, all rolled into one nasty package that his parents are terrified of. As such he gets everything he wants (including an elephant as a house pet), when he wants it..... except for that one special time of the year. For Father Christmas knows about Bradley, and doesn't even bother to read the extensive list of presents Bradley demands every year. However, being a kindly old soul Santa does not want Bradley to go completely empty-handed and so each year he leaves him the same, simple gift..... a pair of socks.

Following another disappointing Christmas morning Bradley decides that enough is enough, and that he is going to set a trap for Santa, a trap that will take all year to create. And so, through Poly Bernatene's wonderfully dark illustrations we see him construct the ultimate scenario, including tigers, guillotines, explosives and trap doors. Come the following Christmas Eve Bradley then sits alone, waiting for his prey to arrive (his parents, by the way, have taken themselves off to a hotel, as their home is now far too dangerous to be living in). He sits and waits, and waits and sits, until.....

What? You think I'm going to give away the rest of the story and ruin it for you? No way!

This book is a fantastic picture story, although some younger (more delicate and fragile) children may find the concept of blowing up Father Christmas and/or feeding him to ravenous tigers a little too upsetting. Jonathan Emmett's words are funny and well paced, but for me the real strong point of the book is the illustrations. Poly Bernatene has done an incredible job in creating the image of this truly nasty boy - imagine the young Damien from *The Omen*, but looking fifty times as evil and devious and you will be pretty close to having a good mental picture of this young devil.

Sandy says

Bradley hates socks. The socks Bradley hates are the ones he receives from Santa every year. This spoiled child has been getting socks from Santa for years because Santa knows he is a "beastly brat" but Santa is nice and feels everyone should get a present so Bradley gets socks every year. His parents spoil him rotten every Christmas with presents but Bradley does not care about that, he wants presents from Jolly Old Saint Nick and this year he is going to take what he feels he deserves. Bradley is setting up a trap for Santa so he can steal all the presents. This trap was spectacular, it was huge, it was extreme and it was devious but would it really work? It takes a lot of work and it takes time and concentration to get it all ready but Bradley is committed and finally he is ready for the big night. It was Christmas Eve and Bradley was anxiously waiting Santa's arrival, the night grew long and Bradley was getting cold. Bradley was not thinking as he decided to warm himself and suddenly his eyes get wide and he realizes what he just did. But it's too late, what can he

do now to stop the action he just put in place? Great colorful glossy illustration showcase Bradley's antics as he tries to outsmart Santa in this holiday novel. The ending is comical and his commitment to his task was fun to watch played out in the illustrations and in the writing.

Nichola Harris says

The story of a spoilt little boy who demands and gets everything he wants from his rich parents.

Knowing his true colours, all he gets from Santa Clause year after year is a pair of socks.

Fed up and angry, he sets up a trap to catch Santa and to steal all of the presents, ruining Christmas for all.

Tasha says

Bradley Bartleby was born bad and as he got older, he got even more bad. Bradley's parents were immensely rich and gave Bradley everything he wanted because they were scared of him. Every year, Bradley would make an enormous list for Santa Claus but Santa knew about how bad Bradley was and never looked at the list, instead giving him a small token gift of socks. Even though Bradley's parents gave him everything he had put on his Christmas list, Bradley hated that Santa himself didn't give him what he wanted. So Bradley decided to build a trap for Santa. He worked on it for a year, until by Christmas Eve his parents had moved out of the house because it was so dangerous. Now all it would take was Bradley to stay awake and watch the trap work. But staying up and waiting for Santa on Christmas Eve is notoriously difficult to do.

Emmett has created a holiday picture book with a lot of edge, plenty of weaponry and some pretty spectacular explosions. This is a holiday book that will appeal to children who feel a bit too old for elves and reindeer. Happily though, at the heart of the story there really is a Christmas spirit about what the real meaning of Christmas should be. Emmett though does not let that ruin the fun, delighting in turning Christmas on its ear in this picture book.

The art by Bernatene works so well here. It has plenty of zing and pop with its bold colors and modern feel. One just has to look at the cover to know this is not your normal holiday book. The illustrations were done digitally, adding to the modern feel, but they are also made warmer by brushstrokes showing on the images.

A dynamic and very funny holiday book that will work particularly well for elementary-aged children who will delight in the weaponry, the trap, and the twist at the end. Appropriate for ages 4-7.

Tina says

Clever story with awesome illustrations.

Trudy Zufelt says

Absolutely loved this book as did every one of my kids, even the adult ones. Here is my review from my blog:

To the beastly Bradley Bartleby, no behavior is too bad. After all, he was born bad. The older he gets, the badder he becomes. His selfish demands are always met by his rich parents for the sole reason they are terrified of their spoiled son.

Every year Bradley has the audacity to make demands of Santa with such a huge list, his father has to hire a team of secretaries to type it up. And every year the kindhearted Santa leaves the spoiled brat the same thing, a pair of socks.

Bradley becomes so enraged, he spends the next year building a trap for Santa Claus. By Christmas Eve, his parents have to move to a hotel to escape the danger. Luckily for Santa, Bradley's evil plan backfires and he finds himself looking through the wrong side of metal bars. Never one to leave a child with nothing, Santa gives Bradley the usual socks with a few surprises.

The digital mixed-media illustrations complement Emmett's witty humor. Bernadette's impeccable skill using dark colors and shadows enhance the sinister actions of a ghastly little boy. Not a nice and fuzzy Christmas book, but destined to become a holiday favorite for those who can't resist a little naughty. I HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, The Santa Trap as a well-crafted picture book to be enjoyed by parents as much as children.

I received the book from the publisher for review purposes. No financial compensation was received.

Patricia Kemp Blackmon says

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April says

very funny book, maybe not for the really young.

Kristen says

Bradley did some very appalling things as a baby that absolutely shocked my three year old in the best way. She couldn't believe him!

Jolyce Abernathy says

This is a story about a not so nice little boy and his attempt to blow up Santa because he's mad that Santa only gives him socks for Christmas. You heard right. He wants to blow Santa up. All kinds of things are wrong about this book and I'm so glad that I decided to read it before putting it out on the Christmas book display.
