

the  
ELF  
on the  
SHELF<sup>®</sup>



A Christmas Tradition

by Carol V. Aebbersold and Chanda A. Bell  
illustrated by Coë Steinwart

## From My Family to Yours,

This charming tradition began for our family when my children were very small. Like most children through the ages, they wanted to know how Santa really knew who was naughty or who was nice. Their answer, as in my own childhood, came in the form of a small pixie-elf.

The first time the elf arrived at our home, my children officially adopted him by giving him a name. Each year he would arrive around the holidays, usually at Thanksgiving. His sole responsibility was to watch the children's behavior and report it to Santa each night. The next morning after the children awoke, they discovered the elf had returned from the North Pole and was now resting in a new and different place. My children would race each other out of bed to try and be the first to spy him in his new position.

To preserve the elf's Christmas magic the children were not allowed to touch it; however, talking to the elf was encouraged. My children shared many secrets with their elf; and while he was under strict orders not to talk to them, the elf was under no such orders where grown-ups were concerned.

Unwittingly, the tradition provided an added benefit: it helped the children to better control themselves. All it took was a gentle reminder that the "elf is watching," for errant behavior to be modified.

I never dreamed this simple tradition would lead to so many treasured Christmas memories for our entire family. It is my earnest desire that *The Elf on the Shelf*®: A Christmas Tradition will bring as much joy to your family as it has to mine.

Enjoy this tradition, and MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

With my best wishes for you and those you love,

Carol

Be sure to register your elf's name at  
[www.elfontheshelf.com](http://www.elfontheshelf.com)  
and receive a special response from Santa.







the  
ELF  
on the  
SHELF<sup>®</sup>



*Lianna,  
Always believe!*  
*Aebersold*  
2014

# A Christmas Tradition

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[www.ccaandb.com](http://www.ccaandb.com)





Have you ever wondered how Santa could know  
if you're naughty or nice each year as you grow?  
For hundreds of years it's been a big secret.  
It now can be shared if you promise to keep it.



NAUGHTY

NICE



SC

Santa's Pens



At holiday time  
Santa sends me to you.  
I watch and report  
on all that you do.  
My job's an assignment  
from Santa himself.  
I am his helper,  
a friendly scout elf.









The first time I come to the place you call home  
you quickly must give me a name of my own.



Once you are finished my mission can start.  
What will you call me-Sparkle or Hart?  
Will it be Foddle, Criddle, or Clyde?  
Fisbee's cute, too, but you must decide.



Fred

zart  
criddle

Markle

Fisbee

Oodde

Fodde





Each night while you're sleeping  
to Santa I'll fly  
to the North Pole  
right through the dark sky.  
Of course Christmas magic  
helps me to be quick.  
I laugh with my friends  
and report to Saint Nick.







SANTA'S  
INK

THE ARRIVAL  
OF THE  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON





I tell him if you have been good or been bad.  
The news of the day makes him happy or sad.  
A push or a shove I'll report to "the Boss,"  
but small acts of kindness will not be a loss.





In the car, at the park,  
or even at school  
the word will get out  
if you broke a rule.





I'll be back at your home before you awake,  
and then you must find the new spot I will take.  
You'll jump out of bed and come running to see:  
who'll be the first to spy little old me?













Maybe the kitchen, the bathroom, or den  
is where you will find me, your special elf friend.  
I can hide on a plant, a shelf, or a frame.  
Where will I be? Let's make it a game.





There's only one rule that you have to follow  
so I will come back and be here tomorrow:





Please do not touch me. My magic might go,  
and Santa won't hear all I've seen or I know.









I won't get to tell him that you've said your prayers,  
or helped to bake cookies,  
or cleaned off the stairs.

How will he know how good you have been?  
He might start to think you forgot about him.





I can't speak to you, so says Santa Claus.  
All of us elves have to follow his laws.





I'll listen to you. Tell me your wishes.  
Would you like a game or some tiny toy dishes?  
The gleam in my eye and my bright little smile  
shows you I'm listening and noting your file.



The final decision with Santa now rests.  
What do you think?  
Will you get your request?



The night before Christmas my job's at an end.  
The rest of the year with Santa I'll spend.



December

25





So blow me a kiss and bid me farewell.  
I'll fly away when I hear Santa's bell.  
Of course I will miss you,  
but wait 'til next year.  
When the holidays come I'll again reappear.











Until then I wish every girl and each boy  
a Christmas of peace and a year full of joy.





This tradition began for the

---

family

on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

We welcomed our elf  
by naming her

*Isabella*\_\_\_\_\_.

















Mother-Daughter team Chanda Bell(L)  
and her mother Carol Aebersold(R)

## About the Authors and Illustrator

**Carol V. Aebersold** travels around the world each year to share the magic of *The Elf on the Shelf*® with children and their families. She and her daughter, Chanda Bell, wrote the beloved Christmas tale, which was originally released in 2005 and has since become a holiday classic. A former music teacher, Aebersold also wrote the lyrics for a number of the songs that appeared in the animated special, "The Elf on the Shelf: An Elf's Story™," which debuted in 2011. She has given hundreds of interviews and lectures to media, schools and aspiring writers. Raised in Tennessee, Aebersold is a former music teacher, and has three children and four grandchildren. She lives with her husband, Bob, in the Atlanta metro area.

**Chanda A. Bell** is co-CEO of CCA and B (Creatively Classic Activities and Books), the publishing company she co-founded in 2005 with her mom, Carol, and her twin sister, Christa Pitts. In addition to directing the publishing program at CCA and B and working to produce "The Elf on the Shelf: An Elf's Story™," Bell serves as media spokesperson for *The Elf on the Shelf*®. A former teacher and remedial reading expert, she is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. Bell lives with her husband and two children in the Atlanta metro area.

**Coë Steinwart** is a renowned artist and illustrator whose stunning work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe and Australia. The mother of four grown children, she lives and paints in Marietta, Georgia.

*For more information about The Elf on the Shelf® books and products, visit [www.elfontheshelf.com](http://www.elfontheshelf.com).*





ISBN 978-0-9843651-7-3  
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9780984365173

02/25/2019 8:31-2