



The Legend of Holly Claus

By Brittney Ryan

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Santa Claus's daughter sets out to break a curse and free a magical kingdom

Though few mortals know his secret, Nicholas is more than a jolly red-suited man who visits children all over the world on Christmas Eve—he is also the king of Forever, Land of the Immortals. Each year he gets letters from millions of boys and girls, and helps make their Christmas wishes come true. But one year, a special little boy from New York City asks something Nicholas has never been asked before: “What do *you* wish for Christmas, Santa?” With that simple question, a magical story unfolds.

Nicholas answers that his only wish is for a child. And soon the immortal people of the kingdom celebrate the arrival of Holly Claus, the princess of Forever and the first child to grace its ground. But their happiness is dashed when an evil sorcerer places a spell on the infant, turning her heart to ice and freezing her kingdom in time. Many years later, just in time for Christmas Eve, Holly travels to New York, intent upon saving Christmas and freeing the land of Forever. Holly will make this the most magical—and memorable—Christmas the world has ever seen.

This ebook features a note from Brittney Ryan including rare images and never-before-seen documents from the author's personal collection.

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By *Brittney Ryan*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7—A letter written in 1878 to Santa Claus by a 10-year-old boy asking not for presents but to know what Santa himself wishes for allows the gent (aka Nicholas, King of Forever) and his wife to realize their greatest dream, the birth of a daughter named Holly. She is, however, cursed by an evil sorcerer, Herrikhan, who surrounds her infant heart with ice and promises to return to collect it one day. Holly grows up happy but lonely in the Land of the Immortals, and when she becomes a young woman, she takes a daring and possibly deadly trip to Victorian New York City, where she is determined to do good deeds. There she has adventures, brings joy to the hearts of young and old, and manages to foil Herrikhan with the shining purity of her love. The writing is acceptable, if a little precious, and the descriptions of Nicholas and his household are a pleasure to read, but the whole Herrikhan plot is jarring, inconsistent, and unnecessary; there are more than enough characters and subplots swirling through this novel already without the addition of a leering, black-tongued sorcerer. The drawings scattered throughout are detailed and a touch old-fashioned, a good match for the sentimental tone of the text. Fans of Alcott, Spyri, and Burnett may enjoy this long and convoluted tale.—*Eva Mitnick, Los Angeles Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3-6. Forever, the Land of the Immortals, is ruled by Nicholas Claus (aka Santa) and populated by a host of greats--ranging from Bach to Merlin to Zeus. Nicholas' daughter, Holly, has been cursed by an evil warlock and must forever dwell in the ice and cold so that her heart does not melt. Drawn to the Empire City (New York, December 1896) in an attempt to break the evil spell, pure-hearted Holly finds work in a toy store, creating lifelike dolls. There she meets Christopher, an adult whose boyhood letter to Santa opens the story, and comes face-to-face with Herrikhan, the wizard who would possess her. A large cast of mostly magical characters operating in a romanticized, cinematic snow-globe world populate this classic tale of good versus evil, which will grow on readers despite its excessive length. Booktalk this offering in the Julie Andrews Collection before Thanksgiving so that families in search of a holiday read-aloud have plenty of time to finish. *Kay Weisman*

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Review

“A pleasure to read.” —*School Library Journal*

“A large cast of mostly magical characters operating in a romanticized, cinematic snow-globe world populate this classic tale of good versus evil.” —*Booklist*

“A lush and leisurely Yuletide read.” —*Publishers Weekly*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mildred Perkins:

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