

# You really have to believe in Santa Claus

I love Christmas a lot. My name is Lindsay Holmes. I'm only 13 but yet I still try to keep my heart young for Christmas and

## The orphan girl

By CHRISTA RIGNEY

Once upon a time in a big orphanage there lived a little girl - Carol. It was not two weeks before Christmas and like all the other children, Carol, too, was writing her Christmas list. But unlike everyone else, she had only one wish and that was to have a mother and father of her very own. As she sealed the envelope and addressed it, she tried to imagine what her new parents would be like.

Two weeks passed and Carol waited for her Christmas wish to come true. She began to wonder if

her wish would ever come true. That night was Christmas Eve and Carol could not sleep because she was dying of curiosity. Would her wish come true?

The next morning as Carol slid out of bed and descended the stairs, she could hear the cries of joy and glee from the children below. Suddenly a girl came bursting upstairs, calling out for Carol. "Your wish came true," she cried, "you better hurry up. They're waiting to take you home, so go pack your bags and get going."

So Carol lived happily ever after, with her new parents.

preserving the idea of Santa Claus is part of this. When I see a Santa who fulfills the fantasy, our hearts are gladdened and when I see through a child's eyes a Santa who is indifferent or inept, we all lose.

I saw my first Santa of the season, here in Brampton. A child was on his lap, and Santa looked great. Suddenly he pulled down his beard and blew his nose. The child stared. The look on his face was as if someone had stolen

his favorite toy or something.

I visited another mall and another Santa. This was a small plump Santa, about five-foot-six-inches tall. He excused himself to go feed his reindeer, but when Santa returned, he was six-foot-two-inches tall.

I then went to a third mall with my mother to go Christmas shopping and I found a Santa Claus in his workshop. I peered through the window and looked at him. He was fantastic, his bear a thick,

whipped mass of white curls and his eyes clear and blue. No phony "Ho-ho-hos" echoed from the workshop. It looked as though Santa was really listening to the children like no other I had seen before. When the child came out to her waiting mother, the mother asked her child what she had asked him for Christmas and the five-year-old girl replied, "I didn't have to Santa already knew what I wanted."

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Monday, Dec. 24: 10:00 a.m. until 12 Noon; 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m., 12 Noon (note NO 8 a.m. Mass)  
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