



Christmas is a time for children and the Library has, as usual, some lovely books for children of all ages.

For suspense, there's Christopher Pike's series. The Library now has most of them. For horror fans, there is the Fear Street series by R.L. Stine, the Stephen King of teen readers. Great stuff for late at night. Vampires, a collection of short stories, including one by Ottawa Sci-Fi writer Charles de Lent, is another book for the I-don't-really-want-to-sleep crowd.

Or try the nightmarish The Night the whole Class Slept Over by Stella Pevsner. Hero Dan, whose parents suffer from wanderlust, tries to fit in by joining the sleepover at the library. (Don't even think of suggesting this to our Librarians!). Sequels seem to be going in the wind in the youth section as well. Dixon Scott has taken up the adventures of Toad, Mole, Rat and Badger in A Fresh Wind in the Willows. Brian Jacques has more swashbuckling adventures in his Mariel of Redwall, with searat pirates and mouse slaves. Jane Leslie Conly sends Rosco and the Rats of NIMH against a computer programmed

to destroy their homes. Beverly Cleary continues the adventures of an older Leigh Botts, age 14, still keeping a diary and now accompanied by Strider, his dog. Ann Petry, who introduced Harriet Tubman to thousands of readers, now gives us Titura of Salem Village, a tale of witchcraft set in 1692. Robert Siegel introduced Whale, in Whalesong, continues with Hruna's son Hralekana, a White Whale (among greys) who seeks his place in whale society.

For the much younger reader Ron Hirschi has a photographic essay on What is a Cat? For Waldo fans, take a gander at Alastair Graham's Full Moon Soup or the Fall of the Hotel Splendide. A pipe-smoking she frog is the central character in Tololwa M. Mollé's Maasai tale called Rhinos for Lunch and Elephants for Supper. And the artwork in Demi's Chingis Khan, a biographical-history, is a joy for both parent and child.

For a Christmas theme there are Aliki's Christmas Tree Memories and Ets and Labastida's Mexican Nine Days to Christmas. May you and yours have a lovely holiday (with lots of reading time!). Happy Channukah and Merry Christmas.
Jose Mann



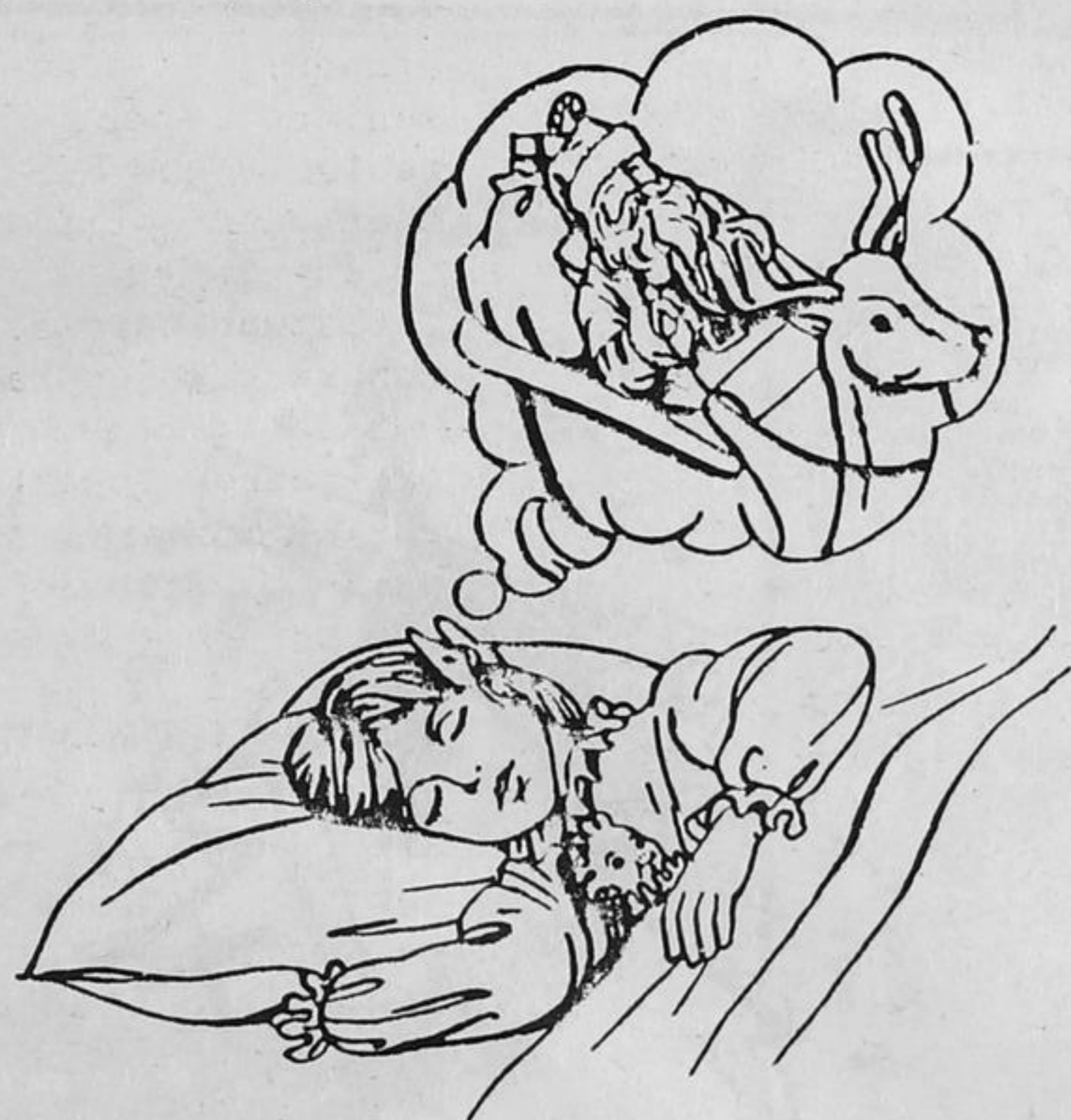

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