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Opening extract from

Polar Express

Written by

Chris Van Allsburg

Published by

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To Karen

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THE POLAR EXPRESS

Written and Illustrated by

CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG



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On Christmas Eve, many years ago, I lay quietly in my bed. I did not rustle the sheets. I breathed slowly and silently. I was listening for a sound – a sound a friend had told me I'd never hear – the ringing bells of Santa's sleigh.

"There is no Santa," my friend had insisted, but I knew he was wrong.

Late that night I did hear sounds, though not of ringing bells. From outside came the sounds of hissing steam and squeaking metal. I looked through my window and saw a train standing perfectly still in front of my house.

