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Santaland diaries essay pdf printable full text free

Writer David Sedaris's true account of two Christmas seasons he spent working as an elf at Macy's department store in New York. When a shorter version of this story first aired on NPR's Morning Edition, it generated more tape requests than any story in the show's history to that point. David's latest book is A Carnival of Snackery: Diaries (2003-2020). (30 minutes) My first exposure to the writing of David Sedaris came fifteen years ago, at a reading he gave in Seattle. I couldn't remember laughing at anything before quite so hard as I laughed at the stories of the author and his fellow French-learners struggling for a grasp on the language. I fought hardest for oxygen when he got to the part about his classmates, a veritable United Nations of a group, straining in this non-native language of theirs to discuss various holidays. One particular line has always stuck with me, after a Moroccan student demands an explanation of Easter: The Poles led the charge to the best of their ability. "It is," said one, "a party for the little boy of God who call his self Jesus and... oh, shit." She faltered, and her fellow countryman came to her aid. "He call his self Jesus, and then he be die one day on two... morsels of... lumber." The scene eventually ended up in print in "Jesus Shaves," a story in Sedaris' third collection, Me Talk Pretty One Day. You can read it free online in a selection of three of his pieces rounded up by Esquire. Sedaris' observational humor does tend to come out in full force on holidays (see also his reading of the Saint Nicholas-themed story "Six to Eight Black Men" on Dutch television above), and indeed the holidays provided him the material that first launched him into the mainstream. When Ira Glass, the soon-to-be mastermind of This American Life, happened to hear him reading his diary aloud at a Chicago club, Glass knew he simply had to put this man on the radio. This led up to the big break of a National Public Radio broadcast of "The Santaland Diaries," Sedaris' rich account of a season spent as a Macy's elf. You can still hear This American Life's full broadcast of it on the show's site. True Sedarians, of course, know him for not just his inimitably askew perspective on the holidays, but for his accounts of life in New York, Paris (the reason he enrolled in those French classes in the first place), Normandy, London, the English countryside, and growing up amid his large Greek-American family. Many of Sedaris' stories — 20 in fact — have been collected at the web site, The Electric Typewriter, giving you an overview of Sedaris' world: his time in the elfin trenches, his rare moments of ease among siblings and parents, his futile father-mandated guitar lessons, his less futile language lessons, his relinquishment of his signature smoking habit (the easy indulgence of which took him, so he'd said at that Seattle reading, to France in the first place). Among the collected stories, you will find: 20 Great Essays and Short Stories by David Sedaris. And, just to be clear, you can read these stories, for free, online. Note: If you would like to download a free audiobook narrated by David Sedaris, you might want to check out Audible's 30 Day Free Trial. We have details on the program here. If you click this link, you will see the books narrated by Sedaris. If one intrigues, click on the "Learn how to get this Free" link next to each book. Related Content: Be His Guest: David Sedaris at Home in Rural West Sussex, England David Sedaris Reads You a Story By Miranda July David Sedaris and Ian Falconer Introduce "Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk" David Sedaris Sings the Oscar Mayer Theme Song in the Voice of Billie Holiday Colin Marshall hosts and produces Notebook on Cities and Culture and writes essays on cities, language, Asia, and men's style. He's at work on a book about Los Angeles, A Los Angeles Primer. Follow him on Twitter at @colinmarshall or on Facebook. NPR's sites use cookies, similar tracking and storage technologies, and information about the device you use to access our sites (together, "cookies") to enhance your viewing, listening and user experience, personalize content, personalize messages from NPR's sponsors, provide social media features, and analyze NPR's traffic. This information is shared with social media, sponsorship, analytics, and other vendors or service providers. See details. 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Adapted (abridged might be more accurate) and directed by Joe Mantello, "Santaland" features actor Timothy Olyphant (decked in green velvet smock, pointy shoes and candy-cane leggings, courtesy of Isaac Mizrahi) regaling the audience with anecdotes about his season in elfland. With an understated delivery that seems a tad sweeter than Sedaris' droll writing voice, Olyphant makes an appealing guide through the author's skewed sugarplum visions. Beginning with a humiliatingly exhaustive application process — "even worse than applying is the very real possibility that I might not get hired, that I couldn't even find work as an elf" — and taking us through Christmas Eve, the character soon to be known as Crumpet relates with wide-eyed disbelief the excesses of Christmas in the shopping emporium. Appalled by insensitive parents ("Rachel, get on that man's lap and smile or I'll give you something to cry about!"), too-serious bosses and abusive customers, Crumpet's bemusement fades into something more mischievous. Instructed to point out Santa to the boys and girls, the bored elf instead says, "Look through the window and you can see Cher!" Sedaris' best lines are reserved for Crumpet's co-workers, mostly actor wannabes and other disgruntled types. "That dwarf is coasting on her looks," he sneers about one height-appropriate elf. Lusting after another male elf, Crumpet sniffs, "Snowball just leads elves on. Snowball's playing a dangerous game." Olyphant's laid-back approach is in sync with most of the deadpan wit, although a gradually more pointed, bitchier style toward the end might provide "Santaland" with the momentum it currently lacks. Mantello punctuates the anecdotes by dimming the red-and-green lights and having Olyphant move to another part of set designer Ian Falconer's beautifully rendered, vaguely cartoonish Santaland. A planned curtain-raiser starring Karen Valentine presenting another of Sedaris' bitter holiday stories was scrapped days before opening when producers decided the essay couldn't make the jump to the stage. That left the slight, hourlong "Santaland Diaries" on its own, a theatrical stocking-stuffer.

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