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Off the Shelf:

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System

December 2, 2011  
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What's the wackiest gift you ever received? Unmatching socks? Used shoes? What's the weirdest thing that ever happened to you at Christmas? The tree toppled over in the middle of the night? Your girlfriend's dog ate your gift? Whatever befell you on those occasions, you probably now look back and laugh. Perhaps it would also be fun to share someone else's tale of a rollicking holiday, and with that in mind, here are some suggestions.

Try Wally Lamb's delightful and nostalgic tale, "Wishin' and Hopin'" for one. Set in 1964, the tale of young Felix – third cousin to Mouseketeer Annette Funicello – is both funny and heartwarming. Some other delightfully fun Christmas reads and views:

- Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris
- A Christmas Story by Jean Shepherd (also available as a DVD)
- When Elves Attack by Tim Dorsey
- Elf (a fun movie --check out Bob Newhart in tights!)

This is just the tip of the iceberg – or should we say “only the top of the tree” -- when it comes to fun reads for the season. Lots more laugh-out-loud gems can be found by asking at the Information Desk of your local branch or by using our electronic resource NoveList (found by going to “Electronic Resources” on our webpage – <http://www.pwcgov.org/library>).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

If you are thinking of asking for an ereader or tablet for your holiday gift, make sure you check out our free downloadable ebooks. Our ebooks work with virtually every type of device – from iPods, to iPads, to Android phones to Nooks and more. Go to <http://www.pwcgov.org/library> and click on the button at the top that says “Download ebooks and audiobooks” to begin to explore. If the bestseller you want is not available, keep in mind that excellent titles you missed when they first appeared are also there for you to discover. Show the family you appreciate that ereader and join the ranks of the free e-reading enthusiasts. Or, on the other hand, if you find yourself sitting down after Christmas completely baffled by the device you received, you might want to attend the North of 50 program at Bull Run Library on December 29th at 12:30 called “New Tricks for Old Dogs” to learn just how that ereader works.

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