



The Bells of Christmas

By Virginia Hamilton

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Twelve-year-old Jason Bell waits impatiently for Christmas 1890. Set against the carefully researched background life of a middle-class black family in Ohio a century ago, “Hamilton’s story moves along at an elegant pace, giving readers time to savor the holiday preparations.”--*School Library Journal*

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The Bells of Christmas By Virginia Hamilton Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2213363 in Books
- Published on: 1997-10-15
- Released on: 1997-10-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.00" h x .22" w x 8.00" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 64 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Award-winning author Virginia Hamilton tells the story of a young boy's Christmas in 1890. Jason and his family live by the historic National Road in Ohio and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their relatives. Natural surprises such as snow from a clear sky and technical marvels such as a mechanical walking doll and the idea of "horseless carriages" make the day extra special. Illustrator Lambert Davis did extensive research to uncover the look and details of life in 1890 and his warm portrayals of the family complement Hamilton's poetic text. (*Children's Literature*)

About the Author

Virginia Esther Hamilton was born, as she said, "on the outer edge of the Great Depression," on March 12, 1934. The youngest of five children of Kenneth James and Etta Belle Perry Hamilton, Virginia grew up amid a large extended family in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The farmlands of southwestern Ohio had been home to her mother's family since the late 1850s, when Virginia's grandfather, Levi Perry, was brought into the state as an infant via the Underground Railroad.

Virginia graduated at the top of her high-school class and received a full scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs. In 1956, she transferred to the Ohio State University in Columbus and majored in literature and creative writing. She moved to New York City in 1958, working as a museum receptionist, cost accountant, and nightclub singer, while she pursued her dream of being a published writer. She studied fiction writing at the New School for Social Research under Hiram Haydn, one of the founders of Atheneum Press.

It was also in New York that Virginia met poet Arnold Adoff. They were married in 1960. Arnold worked as a teacher, and Virginia was able to devote her full attention to writing, at least until daughter Leigh was born in 1963 and son Jaime in 1967. In 1969, Virginia and Arnold built their "dream home" in Yellow Springs, on the last remaining acres of the old Hamilton/Perry family farm, and settled into a life of serious literary work and achievement.

In her lifetime, Virginia wrote and published 41 books in multiple genres that spanned picture books and folktales, mysteries and science fiction, realistic novels and biography. Woven into her books is a deep concern with memory, tradition, and generational legacy, especially as they helped define the lives of African Americans. Virginia described her work as "Liberation Literature." She won every major award in youth literature.

No Bio

Users Review

From reader reviews:

David Hernandez:

This The Bells of Christmas book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The

benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. This specific The Bells of Christmas without we comprehend teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry The Bells of Christmas can bring once you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even mobile phone. This The Bells of Christmas having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

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