



## Strega Nona's Gift

By Tomie dePaola

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### Strega Nona's Gift By Tomie dePaola

In Strega Nona's village, the holiday season is a time of celebrations - and nothing says celebration like a feast! All the kitchens are bustling from the Feast of San Nicola, when the children choose the food, to the Feast of Epiphany, when someone gets to be king or queen for the day. Even the animals share in the holiday spirit, and when Big Anthony smells the delicious treats Strega Nona is cooking for them, he decides that just a taste couldn't hurt, right? Wrong! Big Anthony gets his just *desserts*, while Strega Nona surprises everyone with a special gift.

Starring two of Tomie dePaola's best-loved characters, this funny story features beautiful art, introduces young readers to Italian holiday traditions, and lands Big Anthony in yet another silly predicament that will delight fans young and old.

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## Strega Nona's Gift By Tomie dePaola Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

The latest picture book in the popular, enduring series that began with Caldecott Honor Book *Strega Nona* (1975) weaves Italian holiday traditions into a lively story about Big Anthony, a tall boy, and his grandmother in their Italian village. From Christmas to the Feast of San Silvestro to the Epifanía—the Feast of the Three Kings—his Big Anthony celebrates and feasts through December and January, and along the way, he messes up. In one scene, for example, he gobbles up the delicious turnips that *Strega Nona* cooks for the goat, so the goat gobbles Big Anthony's blanket . . . Kids will enjoy the mischief and the turnarounds, shown with gentle humor in the joyful acrylic-and-watercolor pictures filled with food, singing, and dancing. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** *Strega Nona* holds a key spot in the pantheon of classic children's book characters; expect instant and enduring demand. Grades K-2. --Hazel Rochman

### Review

"Fans of *Strega Nona* and her bumbling helper will delight in this funny tale. . . . Infused with warm Italian flavor and decorated with dePaola's signature charming illustrations, this is a holiday selection that readers will savor." — **School Library Journal**

"Glowing watercolors in warm Mediterranean colors. . . . Community, piety, ritual, and food: *Strega Nona* and Tomie dePaola know exactly what Christmas is all about." — **The Horn Book**

"A lively story. . . . Kids will enjoy the mischief and the turnarounds, shown with gentle humor in the joyful acrylic-and-watercolor pictures filled with food, singing, and dancing." — **Booklist**

"DePaola delivers a hearty sampler of Italian holiday traditions and seasonal cuisine." — **Publishers Weekly**

### About the Author

Tomie dePaola was born in Meriden, Connecticut, in 1934 to a family of Irish and Italian background. By the time he could hold a pencil, he knew what his life's work would be. His determination to create books for children led to a BFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, and an MFA from the California College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, California.

It drove him through the years of teaching, designing greeting cards and stage sets, and painting church murals until 1965, when he illustrated his first children's book, *Sound*, by Lisa Miller for Coward-McCann. Eventually, freed of other obligations, he plunged full time into both writing and illustrating children's books.

He names Fra Angelico and Giotto, Georges Rouault, and Ben Shahn as major influences on his work, but he soon found his own unique style. His particular way with color, line, detail, and design have earned him many of the most prestigious awards in his field, among them a Caldecott Honor Award for *Strega Nona*, the Smithsonian Medal from the Smithsonian Institution, the Kerlan Award from the University of Minnesota for his "singular attainment in children's literature," the Catholic Library Association's Regina Medal for his "continued distinguished contribution," and the University of Southern Mississippi Medallion. He was also the 1990 United States nominee for the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for illustration.

Tomie dePaola has published almost 200 children's books in fifteen different countries. He remains one of the most popular creators of books for children, receiving more than 100,000 fan letters each year.

Tomie lives in an interesting house in New Hampshire with his four dogs. His studio is in a large renovated 200-year-old barn.

- He has been published for over 30 years.
- Over 5 million copies of his books have sold worldwide.
- His books have been published in over 15 different countries.
- He receives nearly 100,000 fan letters each year.

Tomie dePaola has received virtually every significant recognition for his books in the children's book world, including:

- Caldecott Honor Award from American Library Association
- Newbery Honor Award from American Library Association
- Smithsonian Medal from Smithsonian Institution
- USA nominee in illustration for Hans Christian Andersen Medal
- Regina Medal from Catholic Library Association

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Sylvia Dasilva:**

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#### **Evelyn Rodrigue:**

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#### **Joshua Matthews:**

Playing with family within a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, subsequently why you don't try factor that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Strega Nona's Gift, you may enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh occur its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't buy it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

#### **Audrey Patton:**

As a university student exactly feel bored in order to reading. If their teacher asked them to go to the library in order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just very little students that has reading's soul or real their passion. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading significantly. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and also can't see colorful pictures on there. Yeah, it is to become complicated. Book is very important to suit your needs. As we know that on this time, many ways to get whatever we really wish for. Likewise word

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