

'Tis the Season!

• Keep 'em Reading •

by | Debbie Archer

The Librarian's Night Before School Starts

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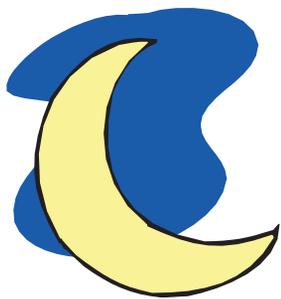
'Twas a night in mid-August
in a quaint little house
Ms. Eliza, the librarian,
was clicking her mouse.

With one final click,
she headed for bed
as visions of new books
danced in her head.

She reached down beside her
and scratched her dog's ear.
Her furry friend, Molly
was always quite near.

The dog wiggled and pranced
and let out a woof,
for outside was a sound
like a loud, gusty poof.

To the window they dashed!
The moon was quite bright.
Mosquitoes were buzzing
in the warm, humid night.





**“Howdy,” said someone
from the front of the house.
“Who’s there?” asked Ms. Eliza.
“It’s me. The name’s Klouse.**

**I’m here with your order.
I have stuff for your school.
Yep, this is the house,
I-8-2 South Poole.”**

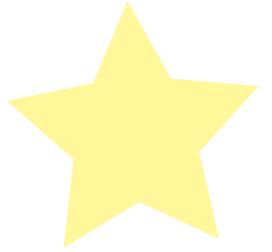
**“You’re as fast as a comet!
I just clicked my mouse.
You do look familiar.
You say your name’s Klouse?”**

**“You’ve seen me on T.V.,”
he said with a drawl.
“On the School Shopping Network,
spring, summer, and fall.”**

**“Why not the winter?”
Ms. Eliza asked with a frown.
“That’s another guy’s territory.
He’s well-known around town.**

**Big guy with a beard.
Hate to say it; he’s tubby.
Usually covered in soot.
He looks kind of grubby.**

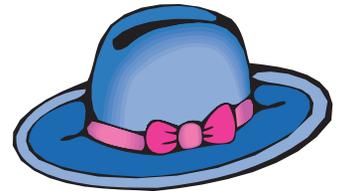
**But don’t tell him I said so,”
Klouse looked to the sky.
“He’s a jolly cool dude.
And I wouldn’t lie.**





Now, about all these boxes.
Does twenty sound 'bout right?
Plus, I have your free gift,
a handy nightlight."

Ms. Eliza was in heaven,
tearing open each box.
She found her Miss Nelson.
She found Goldilocks.



She counted the bookmarks
two thousand in all;
three boxes of biographies,
and one Madeline doll.



Five boxes of puzzles;
two boxes of tapes,
three boxes of hats
in all sizes and shapes.



There were puppets and crayons
and big books galore.
Little books with bright covers
littered the floor.



Seven boxes of games;
four boxes of fiction.
There were books about airplanes,
and magnets and friction.



Hardbacks and software;
paperbacks by the score.
There was even a book
about a magic red door.





But one special package
she just didn't see.
She nibbled her lip.
"Klouse, where could it be?"

It's tall and it's slender.
It's skinny and long.
To begin school without it
is simply just wrong!"

Klouse worried and paced
And fretted and moaned.
"It must be here somewhere."
Then he let out a groan.

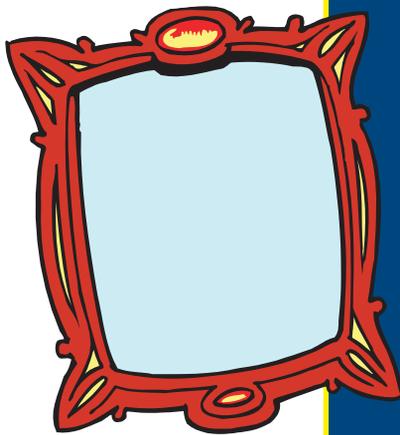
"It's under the seat,"
he sighed, shaking his head.
"It seemed kind of fragile.
I'm sorry," he said.

Ms. Eliza ran out
and yanked open the door.
She pulled out the package
that was packed on the floor.

The woman was thrilled.
"Now the library's complete."
"But, what is it?" asked Klouse,
frantically scanning his sheet.

Unwrapping the package,
she sat it upright.
"The children will love it.
It's just the right height."





**“But ... it’s simply a ... mirror.”
Klouse stared, quite confused.
“I can’t figure this out.
Would you give me some clues?”**

**Ms. Eliza just smiled
and patted her mirror.
She gestured for Klouse
to come a bit nearer.**

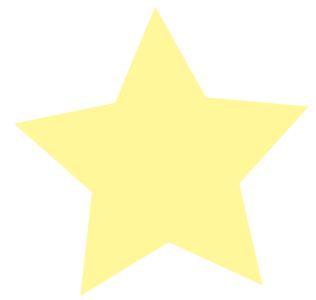
**“All people are special
when they step through my door.
They all love good stories, good books,
and much more.**

**When the children come in
I want them to see
their own special faces
smiling at me.**

**The reflection of a person
never quite leaves.
It lives in our hearts.
It shines and it breathes.**

**And when they must go
their reflections will stay.
I’ll keep them protected
'til their next library day.”**

**“I get it,” nodded Klouse,
as he climbed in his van.
“Your library will be awesome.
I’m glad to help with your plan.”**



**Klouse revved up his motor
and turned on his lights,
honked his horn once
and prepared to take flight.**

**Then she heard him call out
as he zoomed out of sight...
“LIBRARIANS ARE INCREDIBLE!
Enjoy that nightlight!”**

The End



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Debbie Archer, MLS is a K-8 media specialist and an adjunct professor at Williams Baptist College. During the summer, she works as a professional development consultant for K-12 teachers in all disciplines of education. She is an active member of the International Reading Association, Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, Arkansas Curriculum Council, and is the founder and creator of the LAMP (Literacy and Media Partners) Program, which strives to place books in homes of children who can not otherwise afford print material. Prior to receiving her masters degree, Debbie was an elementary teacher. She lives with her husband, Mack, and their five furry, four legged “children” in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas.

