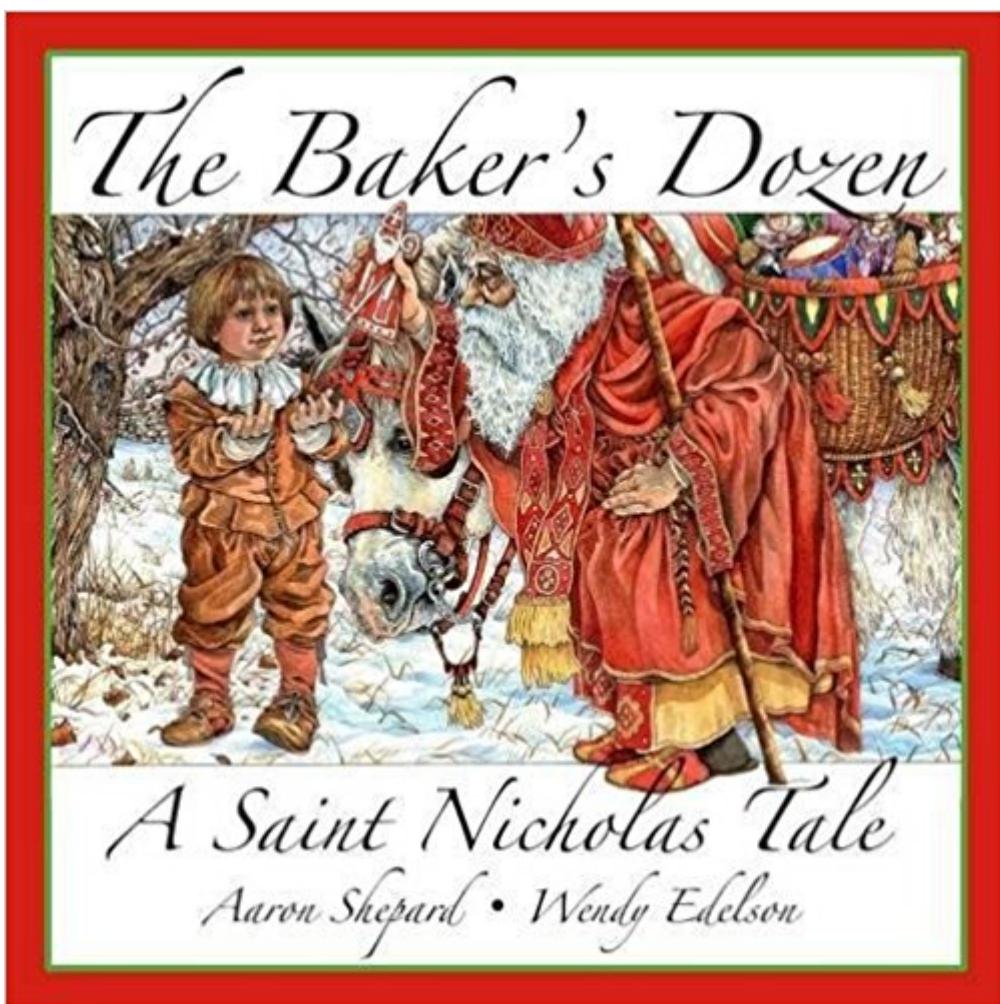


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# The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale, With Bonus Cookie Recipe For St. Nicholas Christmas Cookies



## Synopsis

\*\*#1 .COM BESTSELLING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS BOOKS (NOV. 2013)\*\*\*\*\*#1 KINDLE (US) BESTSELLER IN CHRISTMAS BOOKS (NOV. 2016)\*\*\*\*\*#1 KINDLE (US) BESTSELLER IN BAKING (DEC. 2014)\*\*\*\*\*#1 .COM BESTSELLING CHILDREN'S COLONIAL FICTION (NOV. 2013)\*\*Â NOW WITH A BONUS COOKIE RECIPE AND PATTERN FOR ST. NICHOLAS CHRISTMAS COOKIES!Â Van Amsterdam the baker was well known for his honesty as well as for his fine Saint Nicholas cookies. He always gave his customers exactly what they paid for -- not more and not less. So, he was not about to give in when a mysterious old woman comes to him on Saint Nicholas Day and insists that a dozen is thirteen!Â The woman's curse puts an end to the baker's business, and he believes it would take Saint Nicholas to help him. But if he receives that help, will it be exactly what he imagined?Â Find out in this inspiring legend from Dutch colonial New York about the birth of an honored American custom.Â TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS -- A READER'S THEATER SCRIPT OF THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE IN AARON'S BOOK "FOLKTALES ON STAGE," OR FREE ON AARON'S WEB SITE.Â //Â Aaron Shepard is the award-winning author of "The Baker's Dozen," "The Sea King's Daughter," "The Monkey King," and many more children's books. His stories have appeared often in Cricket magazine, while his Web site is known internationally as a prime resource for folktales, storytelling, and reader's theater. Once a professional storyteller, Aaron specializes in lively retellings of folktales and other traditional literature, which have won him honors from the American Library Association, the New York Public Library, the Bank Street College of Education, the National Council for the Social Studies, and the American Folklore Society.Â Wendy Edelson has applied her award-winning skills to a wide range of illustration projects, including picture books, pet portraits, posters, puzzles, and fabric design. Her clients have included Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the U.S. Postal Service, and the American Library Association.Â //Â HONORSAmerican Bookseller Pick of the ListsÂ Trumpet Book Club selectionÂ Valerie and Walter's Best Books for ChildrenÂ "The good will of legendary Saint Nick resonates in this tale about the origin of the term 'baker's dozen.' . . . Shepard's easy-to-follow retelling has an appropriate Old World flavor." -- Publishers Weekly, Sept. 18, 1995Â "A particularly nice holiday story accented by paintings full of detail. . . . Well-paced and a good length for groups or individuals, this is right on target for audiences. Edelson's artwork is filled with marvelously-alive characters who almost step from the pages." -- Ilene Cooper, Booklist, Sept. 15, 1995Â "A lush new version of a traditional

tale. . . . Well-chosen words and a nicely-paced text that begs to be told aloud. A treat for the holiday season." -- School Library Journal, Oct. 1995 "Aaron Shepard retells a favorite colonial legend with the voice of the storyteller." -- Jan Lieberman, TNT, Fall 1995 "A fine tale of generosity for St. Nicholas Day or any day." -- Marilyn McPhie, Storybag, Special Review Issue 1997 "A story with a message to be heard during the holidays and all year long." -- Children's Book Review

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 40 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 201 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #436,519 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Holidays & Celebrations #264 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #449 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 12 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 6

## **Customer Reviews**

Â HONORSAmerican Bookseller Pick of the ListsÂ Trumpet Book Club selectionÂ Valerie and Walter's Best Books for ChildrenÂ "The good will of legendary Saint Nick resonates in this tale about the origin of the term 'baker's dozen.' . . . Shepard's easy-to-follow retelling has an appropriate Old World flavor." -- Publishers Weekly, Sept. 18, 1995 "A particularly nice holiday story accented by paintings full of detail. . . . Well-paced and a good length for groups or individuals, this is right on target for audiences. Edelson's artwork is filled with marvelously-alive characters who almost step from the pages." -- Ilene Cooper, Booklist, Sept. 15, 1995 "A lush new version of a traditional tale. . . . Well-chosen words and a nicely-paced text that begs to be told aloud. A treat for the holiday season." -- School Library Journal, Oct. 1995 "Aaron Shepard retells a favorite colonial legend with the voice of the storyteller." -- Jan Lieberman, TNT, Fall 1995 "A fine tale of generosity for St. Nicholas Day or any day." -- Marilyn

McPhie, Storybag, Special Review Issue 1997Â "A story with a message to be heard during the holidays and all year long." -- Children's Book

ReviewÂ ////////////////////////////////////Â SAMPLEÂ In the Dutch colonial town later known as Albany, New York, there lived a baker, Van Amsterdam, who was as honest as he could be. Each morning, he checked and balanced his scales, and he took great care to give his customers exactly what they paid for -- not more and not less.Â Van Amsterdam's shop was always busy, because people trusted him, and because he was a good baker as well. And never was the shop busier than in the days before December 6, when the Dutch celebrate Saint Nicholas Day.Â At that time of year, people flocked to the baker's shop to buy his fine Saint Nicholas cookies. Made of gingerbread, iced in red and white, they looked just like Saint Nicholas as the Dutch know him -- tall and thin, with a high, red bishop's cap, and a long, red bishop's cloak.Â One Saint Nicholas Day morning, the baker was just ready for business, when the door of his shop flew open. In walked an old woman, wrapped in a long black shawl.Â "I have come for a dozen of your Saint Nicholas cookies."Â Taking a tray, Van Amsterdam counted out twelve cookies. He started to wrap them, but the woman reached out and stopped him.Â "I asked for a dozen. You have given me only twelve."Â "Madam," said the baker, "everyone knows that a dozen is twelve."Â "But I say a dozen is thirteen," said the woman. "Give me one more."Â Van Amsterdam was not a man to bear foolishness. "Madam, my customers get exactly what they pay for -- not more and not less."Â "Then you may keep the cookies."Â The woman turned to go, but stopped at the door.Â "Van Amsterdam! However honest you may be, your heart is small and your fist is tight. Fall again, mount again, learn how to count again!"Â Then she was gone.Â

Â PICTURE BOOKS AND EASY READERS BY AARON SHEPARDÂ THE BAKER'S DOZEN: A Saint Nicholas Tale. Illustrated by Wendy Edelson. Van Amsterdam, the baker, is as honest as he can be -- but he may have something left to learn. Ages 4-13.Â THE SEA KING'S DAUGHTER: A Russian Legend. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. A poor musician is invited to play in the Sea King's palace, where he's offered more than riches. An A.L.A. Notable and N.Y. Times Best Illustrated. Ages 7 and up.Â THE ADVENTURES OF MOUSE DEER: Tales of Indonesia and Malaysia. Illustrated by Kim Gamble. Mouse Deer is small, and many animals want to eat him -- but first they have to catch him! Ages 4-9.Â THE LEGEND OF LIGHTNING LARRY. Illustrated by Toni Goffe. A cowboy with a huge smile, a gun that shoots bolts of light, and a hankering for lemonade takes on Evil-Eye McNevil's outlaw gang. Ages 4-12.Â THE LEGEND OF SLAPPY HOOPER: An American Tall Tale. Illustrated by Toni Goffe.

Slappy is the world's biggest, fastest, bestest sign painter, but he's TOO GOOD -- his pictures keep coming to life. Ages 5-12. **ONE-EYE! TWO-EYES! THREE-EYES!: A Very Grimm Fairy Tale.** Illustrated by Gary Clement. Two-Eyes is different from her sisters and others, because she has just two eyes. A New York Public Library selection for "Children's Books 2007: One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing." Ages 7-12. **KING O' THE CATS.** Illustrated by Kristin Sorra. Peter is notorious for telling wild stories -- so who will believe him now, with his crazy claims about cats? A Junior Library Guild Selection. Ages 4-12. **THE PRINCESS MOUSE: A Tale of Finland.** Illustrated by Leonid Gore. When a young man seeks a wife by way of family tradition, he finds himself engaged to a mouse. A New York Public Library selection for "Children's Books 2003: One Hundred Titles for Reading and Sharing." Ages 4-12. **THE MAGIC BROCADE: A Tale of China.** Illustrated by Xiaojun Li. To save his mother's life, a young man must retrieve her weaving from the fairies of Sun Palace. Ages 4 and up. **LADY WHITE SNAKE: A Tale from Chinese Opera.** Illustrated by Song Nan Zhang. When a thousand-year-old snake takes human form and marries for love, she must fight for both her marriage and her freedom. Ages 7 and up. **SAVITRI: A Tale of Ancient India.** Illustrated by Vera Rosenberry. The princess Savitri must use all her wit and will to save her husband from the god of death. A California Collection selection. Ages 7 and up. **THE MAIDEN OF NORTHLAND: A Hero Tale of Finland, from the Kalevala.** Illustrated by Carol Schwartz. Two epic heroes vie with magic for the hand of a sorceress's daughter. An Aesop Accolade winner. Ages 9 and up. **MASTER MAID: A Tale of Norway.** Illustrated by Pauline Ellison. When Leif goes to work for the troll, only the advice of a remarkable young woman can save him from his foolishness -- if only he'll listen! Ages 4 and up. **MASTER MAN: A Tall Tale of Nigeria.** Illustrated by David Wisniewski. Shadusa thinks he's the strongest man in the world -- till he meets the real Master Man. Caldecott Award-winning illustrator! Ages 5 and up. **THE GIFTS OF WALI DAD: A Tale of India and Pakistan.** Illustrated by Daniel San Souci. Wali Dad, a humble grass-cutter, never asked for wealth -- so why can't he give it away? An Aesop Accolade winner. Ages 4 and up. **THE CRYSTAL HEART: A Vietnamese Legend.** Illustrated by Joseph Daniel Fiedler. The mandarin's daughter did not really see the boatman who sang from the river, but she's sure he's her destined love. A Bank Street College Best Children's Book. Ages 7 and up. **FORTY FORTUNES: A Tale of Iran.** Illustrated by Alisher Dianov. When a young man's wife makes him pose as a fortuneteller, his success is unpredictable. Ages 7 and up. **THE ENCHANTED STORKS: A Tale of Bagdad.** Illustrated by Alisher Dianov. The Calif and his Vizier try a spell that changes them into storks, then find they can't change back. Ages 7 and up. **THE**

Overall I think the story is a fun one which ultimately teaches children to be generous to others, especially during the holiday season. My only qualm with the way the book is advertised, however. The listing states it is a book with "bonus cookie recipe and pattern." I am planning on reading this with my children on the Feast of St. Nicholas (December 6) and spending time baking the cookies. I \*assumed\* a cookie "pattern" meant a cookie "cutter." Indeed it does not. The bonus "pattern" included is simply the large image of the cookie on the back cover of the book. I would have to make a paper template from which to cut out all the cookies which is time consuming and messy - especially with children. If you plan to order the book, know you will probably end up having to purchase an additional actual St. Nicholas cookie cutter, unfortunately none of which look anything like the one in the book.

The pictures were beautiful in this interesting Christmas Tale. The story is about a baker that provides his customers with no more and no less than what they pay for. It is trying to teach a parable about not being greedy, but I don't really think it does the concept justice. If I was just rating on the illustrator it would get five stars. The story did keep my child's attention (8), but at the end we were kind of left with "huh?".

This is an enjoyable short children's story that tells one version of the account of how the term Baker's Dozen was started. The book is very graphics heavy with original artwork on about every other page on the Kindle version. While the pictures look okay with an e-Ink Kindle reader, they really come to life on a Kindle Fire as they are in color. Children should enjoy this one and I'm certain parents / grandparents will like reading it, also as it is not too simplistic to read and it does tell a good story. I originally picked the Kindle version of this one up for all of one penny which adds one star to the review because it makes it a heck of a deal. If you're looking for a good children's storybook to read, I would recommend this one.

This is quite disappointing for the price. It's very short and I didn't really understand how to make cookies using the cardboard figure. My kid expected a cookie cutter and for the price, it could come with an actual cookie cutter.

This was a lesson on giving and kindness. It is also a tale of the "baker's dozen," which is thirteen.

Interesting, but I'm not certain it is a good tale for young children. A bit on the scary side for them, and the lesson learned was driven by punishment and bad fortune ... until the baker decides to be more generous and add that thirteenth donut. There are other stories and lessons that are better for young children.

One of the best illustrated children's e-book I have seen; with a story that reminds me of the tales of my youth, reminiscent of folktales of the 18th century. A loveable tale of how and what a baker' s dozen came to be is easy to read and follow along with young readers. The illustrations are wonderful as well as the storyline with St. Nicholas as the main character. The bonus is the recipe to make your own cookies. Children will enjoy this tale throughout the year. Bon Appetite

The story is informative & simply told while the illustrations are incredible! It's wonderful to be able to obtain a book to read to my niece but be able to enjoy it myself.

The Baker's Dozen is a story about how a baker in New York began to give 13 items when people asked for a dozen. He was a fair and honest baker, never cheating anyone, but never giving anyone more than they paid for. He is visited by St. Nicholas in disguise as an old woman and when he refuses to give her 13 cookies instead of the dozen ordered, she puts a curse on the baker. It takes him an entire year to learn that giving is better than receiving. This is a short book, but the illustrations are beautiful and I highly recommend it as a Christmas story for all families.

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The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale, with Bonus Cookie Recipe for St. Nicholas Christmas Cookies Cookies: 365 Days of Cookie Recipes (Cookie Cookbook, Cookie Recipe Book, Desserts, Sugar Cookie Recipe, Easy Baking Cookies, Top Delicious Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holiday Cookies) COOKIES: THE TOP 250 MOST DELICIOUS COOKIE RECIPES (Cookie recipe book, cookie bars, making cookies, best cookie recipes, recipe book) 555 Cookie Recipes: Best Delicious Cookie Recipe Cookbook (Chocolate Cookie Recipes, Dessert Recipes, Festive Cookie Recipes, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easy Baking Cookies) Welcome to Cookie World: Unlock EVERY Secret of Cooking Through 500 AMAZING Cookie Recipes (Cookie Cookbook, Best Cookie Recipes, Gluten Free Cookies Cookbook,...) (Unlock Cooking, Cookbook [#16]) 51 Christmas Drop Cookie Recipes à “Traditional Drop Cookies, Seasonal and Unique Drop Cookies (The Ultimate Christmas Recipes and Recipes For Christmas Collection Book 6) Christmas Kisses and Cookies: A Fabulously Funny Feel Good Christmas Romantic Comedy (\*\*\*\*Newly Edited Sept 2016 - Plus

Secret Cookie Recipe!\*\*\*\*) Sally's Cookie Addiction: Irresistible Cookies, Cookie Bars, Shortbread, and More from the Creator of Sally's Baking Addiction Raw Vegan Cookies: Raw Food Cookie, Brownie, and Candy Recipes. (Healthy Recipes, Sweet Recipes, Healthy Desserts, Nutritious and Delicious Snacks, Cookies and Bars) Baker's Secret Chocolate Truffle Cookbook: 22 Great Recipes and Lots of Baker's Secrets! (Baker's Secret Cookbooks Book 1) Christmas Gifts for Kids: Colouring Book Merry Christmas; Colouring Books Christmas in all Departments; Christmas Colouring Books for Kids in Books; ... and Games; Christmas Stockings in all Dep Baking with Cookie Molds: Secrets and Recipes for Making Amazing Handcrafted Cookies for Your Christmas, Holiday, Wedding, Tea, Party, Swap, Exchange, or Everyday Treat Cookie Molds Around the Year: An Almanac of Molds, Cookies, and Other Treats for Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Other Holidays, and Every Season Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen Sherlock Holmes: A Baker Street Dozen (Dramatized) Christmas Cookies and Kissing Bridge - The Complete Set: A Laugh Out Loud Romantic Comedy Series ( With FREE BONUS BOOK!) Chicken Pot Pie Recipe : 50 Delicious of Chicken Pot Pie Cookbook (Chicken Pot Pie Recipe, Chicken Pot Pie Recipe Book,Chicken Pot Pie Cookbook) (Karen Gant Recipes Cookbook No.4) CAKE COOKBOOK: The Top 100 Cake Recipes: cake recipes, cake cookbook, cake, cake recipe, cake recipe book, delicious cake recipes (cake recipes, cake ... cake recipe book, delicious cake recipes) Ninja Recipe Book: Quick, Easy And Delicious Ninja Smoothies For Your Ninja Professional Blender (Ninja Bullet Recipe Book, Ninja Blender Recipe Book, ... and Smoothies for Weight Loss Book 1) Christmas- The Story of Christmas Reusable Static Sticker-Children s Bible-Christmas Carol-Christmas Gifts-Angels-Baby Jesus-Joseph-Mary-Manger-Bright ... 2nd Edition Soft Cover (Static Sticker Bible)

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