

Thursday, December 4, 2008



Holiday gift guide >> B

Gift books



Critic's PICK

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree: The History & Lore of the World's Most Famous Evergreen

By Nancy Armstrong
(Cider Mill Press, 141 pp., \$12.95)

Everything you ever wanted to know about the famous New York City Christmas tree is right here in this beautifully illustrated little book. Did you know that a tree was put up on the site even *before* Rockefeller Center was built? (On Dec. 24, 1931.) Learn how the trees are selected, how they're transported to Manhattan, and how the ornaments and lights get to the top of those 90-foot-tall Norway spruces. The cover even sparkles. Great photos inside, too.

Plus:

The Purpose of Christmas

By Rick Warren (Howard Books, \$17.99)

The best-selling pastor is back to tell us that the true meaning of Christmas is the birth of Jesus.

The Curious World of Christmas: Celebrating All That Is Weird, Wonderful and Festive

By Niall Edworthy (Perigee Trade, \$16.95)

Amusing anecdotes about traditions and customs, plus trivia, famous quotes and recipes. Fun!

Holidays on Ice

By David Sedaris (Little, Brown, \$16.95)

This holiday collection of the humorist's classics includes six new stories "to help spread the cheer and mortification of the season."

Oneness With All Life: Inspirational Selections From A New Earth

By Eckhart Tolle (Dutton, \$25)

A glossy gift edition that highlights key phrases and sentences from the self-help guide embraced by Oprah.



Another magnificent evergreen towered over the sunken plaza in 1998.

By Craig Wilson

World's Most Famous Evergreen: Learn what it takes to get the tree set up in Rockefeller Center.