2015

My Pen Pal, Santa

Aylea Stephens

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**Book Review**

**Title:** My Pen Pal, Santa  
**Author:** Melissa Stanton  
**Illustrator:** Jennifer A. Bell  
**Reviewer:** Aylea Stephens  
**Publisher:** Random House Books for Young Readers  
**Publication Year:** 2013  
**ISBN:** 9780375869921  
**Number of Pages:** 32  
**Interest Level:** Preschool  
**Rating:** Excellent

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**Review**

In January, Ava writes a thank-you note to Santa Claus that starts a whole year of being pen pals with Santa. Santa replies to her questions, so Ava writes to Santa about Valentine’s Day in February, the tooth fairy in March, Easter in April, gardens in May, the naughty list in June, the Fourth of July, vacations in August, birthdays in September, Halloween in October, Thanksgiving in November, and her questions about Christmas in December. Ava keeps being told that Santa isn’t real, but thanks to her letters, she knows that he is!

This is a cute, beautifully illustrated book perfect for young children at Christmas. The story even answers the hard questions, like how Santa feels about dressing up and pretending to be him and what happens when a house doesn’t have a chimney. Parents should be aware that there is some doubt expressed about if Santa is real that may cause some children to start to wonder if Santa does exist. Still, this book teaches about letter writing, the months of the year, and about the magic of Christmas.