Helping your children choose books they will love



Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from **Polar Express**

Written by **Chris Van Allsburg**

Published by Andersen Press Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator



To Karen

This edition first published in 2014 by Andersen Press Ltd. First published in Great Britain in 1985 by Andersen Press Ltd., 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA. Published in Australia by Random House Australia Pty, Level 3, 100 Pacific Highway, North Sydney, NSW 2060. Copyright © Chris Van Allsburg, 1985. The rights of Chris Van Allsburg to be identified as the author and illustrator of this work have been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988. All rights reserved. Printed and bound in Singapore by Tien Wah Press.

$10 \quad 9 \quad 8 \quad 7 \quad 6 \quad 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 1$

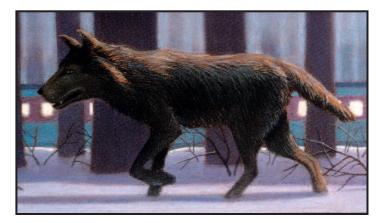
British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available.

ISBN 9781 783441815

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Written and Illustrated by

CHRIS VAN ALLSBURG



ANDERSEN PRESS

On Christmas Eve, many years ago, I lay quietly in my bed. I did not rustle the sheets. I breathed slowly and silently. I was listening for a sound – a sound a friend had told me I'd never hear – the ringing bells of Santa's sleigh.

"There is no Santa," my friend had insisted, but I knew he was wrong.

Late that night I did hear sounds, though not of ringing bells. From outside came the sounds of hissing steam and squeaking metal. I looked through my window and saw a train standing perfectly still in front of my house.

