



Illustrations from "Santa's Children," a photographic essay in *Harmsworth's London Magazine*, December 1904 – no photographer is credited.

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It's that time of year when strange men in red clothing appear in people's homes, deposit peculiar gifts, and depart as mysteriously as they arrive.

What is the true purpose of this peculiar ritual?

Who are these strangers?

Why are they obsessed with children, stockings, brandy and mince pies?

Do they really come down chimneys? Do modern homes even *have* chimneys?

Is it just a coincidence that Santa is an anagram of Satan?

And what's with all the reindeer?

I could tell you, but then I'd have to kill you... Seriously, you *really* don't want to know...



Cherish your ignorance and have a merry Xmas (or whatever) and a happy New Year!

Marcus L. Rowland