

# Santa

BY ROB COOK

What if Santa came to visit the day you were born?  
And what if, right then and there,  
he went ahead and gave you  
every gift he would ever give you?

So many gifts!  
Big gifts! Little gifts!  
All kinds of gifts!  
Enough for a lifetime.

But what if every year he climbed down  
the chimney and took a few of them back?  
You'd have no right to complain  
since they were, after all, *gifts*.

You didn't even ask for them  
and you wouldn't have  
had them in the first place  
except for his generosity.

But still, it feels kind of cruel —  
your very favorite, the one you'd  
played with endlessly and grown so attached to,  
no telling when the fiend might snatch it.

And that one hidden in the corner — *poof!* —  
gone before you even got a chance to open it.