

ETYMOLOGY OF
WHEN THE DEW FELL ON THE OKRA
(How it all began)

Dear Rebecca,

Would you be interested in doing the art for a Christmas book for children? If you would be, I can send you the script so you can read and think about it.

I wrote it in 1966 as a gift for some professors at college when I graduated in January 1967. I took 20 hours per semester most of the time and graduated in 3 1/2 years.

I have read it several times again and am thinking about which scenes I would like to have you illustrate. If you don't like the story, I will understand. Not everyone can get into angels, elves, and imps

I am trying to get into my theology book. It may take a while.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Paul,

I would absolutely love to work on illustrations with you, that would be fantastic.

Yes, please send the book and any further thoughts, if you would like to.

Can't wait to read it!

Thanks!

Warmly,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

Just an added thought: I even wondered if the elves should be guys and the imps, girls? Although, in the original story they were probably male and female elves and male and female imps. Or just all guys living together in perfect harmony.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Rebecca,

I got stuck with all the options for my book on theology. I decided to step back from it. I pulled out a short story I wrote in 1962 that was declined by a "confession" magazine in 1963. So I hope to have a novel for youth and older consumption after a time.

In the mean time, I wondered if you liked my children's story and if you have thought about your affinity to elves and imps and angels?

No hurry. Just checking in.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Paul,

I absolutely adore that story! It's wonderful!

I would be completely tickled to work on illustrations with you...

I apologize for the delay in my communications. I keep thinking I'm going to catch up one of these days!!!

I have come to realize I need to push new work back just a bit, toward the end of the month. Come August I could clear a good

chunk of time to work on the project with you. I expect it would take me about a month to create all of the illustrations.

Let me know if any of this is acceptable to you, let me know if you have any questions or anything else to share with me.

Thanks!

Warmest regards,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

That sounds good. The angel is probably not going to be difficult. It is the images of the elves and imps that concern me. You read all the ideas I have. Of course, since I am not as talented as you are as an artist, I couldn't draw anything like what is in my head. If I could, I would probably be an artist instead of a preacher/writer.

At the moment we have so many bills to catch up on. That excursion to the Dells was very expensive. Car repair costs, sick dog costs, eating out costs. By August I should be better able to judge how much money I will

have available. So doing it in August sounds good to me.

If you are wanting a deposit right now, let me know.

Fondly,
Paul

Fantastic, thank you!

I'll be excited to work with you again.

I'll touch base with you at the end of July but feel free to contact me via email any time before then as you like.

Thanks!

Kind regards,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

In thinking about imps and elves. Jack Frost is an image for winter. An elf is an image for fall. An imp is an image for spring.

The garden of imps and elves has lots of color and lots of work for the imps and the elves. It is never winter there.

Fondly,
Paul

Okay, fantastic! That is very neat, I love the idea of it never being winter.

Sketches are coming along nicely. You'll have something to see very shortly here.

Thanks, Paul!

Kindly,
Rebecca

Dear Paul,

I have worked on your revisions, thank you so much for your feedback and instructions, I

hope you are enjoying seeing your book imagery form and come to life.

The coloring of the imp and the elf now matches more closely, to make them appear more closely related. also, the imp has less sharp features now, and he is wearing a yellow beret. The elf has bigger ears and he is also in a more relaxed posture. We see a bit more of the imp sitting in the grass. The dew drops and okra plants have also been further painted.

Take a look and let me know what you think.

I'm going to (finally) send a deposit request for your illustrations project, if you have any questions or if you'd like to pay another way just let me know.

Thanks!

Kindly,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

Maybe it would help if I mentioned that the idea of imps being spring is like seeing them

as little people who dress like daffodils: White, yellow, green, a little bright orange. Like Spring.

The elves on the other hand dress in reds, burnt orange, beautiful browns. and muted yellows. Like Fall.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Rebecca,

I really liked your imp, on right in the green. But I think the imps and elves need to appear to be the same species.

Your elf is good, on the left. But the way he is standing, tense, ramrod up his . That's the posture of the imp. The imp says, silly elves. The Imp has the scientific mind. The problem solver.

The elf is the fun loving. Let's go have fun before winter comes kind of person.

I like the kindly look on the imp. Can you make his face a little more human than alien. I like the suit. It "suits" him.

I attached a picture of an Okra plant from Wikipedia.

By the way, I think I finished **My Shotgun Wedding**.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Paul,

Thank you so much for the feedback on the angel in the tulip and the angel crying, I will work on the revisions for you.

Meanwhile, attached here is another illustration, the elf and imp explaining themselves to the angel.

Please take a look and let me know what you think.

I love the picture of the okra you sent for the front cover, I will see what I can do with it, thanks!

Kindest regards,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

You did such a wonderful job on the cover with the okra, imp, and elf. Here is a question I did not ask before: Do you do interior design of children's books for createspace?

You have the text, minus a few corrections. And you have the illustrations. Is it something that you do?

Createspace said they would charge about \$350 to do it for me, but they had a backlog of work and a three-month waiting list.

The freeform ebook requires illustrations that are 800 x 600 pixels. I think that is how they put it. At this time, I do not want a fixed form ebook that only works with the upper end Kindles and I pads etc. I want the broadest possible exposure, hence the freeform ebook and the createspace book at the same time.

Since the idea of the story is to encourage people to think and do: AGAPE and not simply Filios or Eros, I like the idea that the beginning illustration is: Imp and Elf waiting for something to happen with the Okra. And what happened was LOVE. Turn the book around and the back cover is the Angel showing us how to give God's love, not simply a gift to someone. I LOVE the suggestiveness of that image. "Love came down at Christmas" -

Christina Rosetti. That was the whole point of my story.

I had just finished editing a Christmas Cantata for use in my father's church. I was the unpaid youth minister at that time. I was at college graduating in January. (end of the first semester). I edited my college's creative writing journal for that fall publication. I pulled together about thirty Christmas carols into a narrative for a Christmas cantata including 10 solos, a trio, a duet, etc. And I wrote **When the dew fell on the okra** to give to my advisor, my acting/director professor, an ex-girlfriend, and a couple of other people that I would never see again.

And since I worked for the college publication office at the time, I personally put together each one of the creative writing journals myself: Stapling, collating, trimming with the cutter.

It was a very busy semester. And I got a 4.0.

Let me know. It is hard to guess what is on your mind, if you don't tell me what you think.

There were times when I could read minds like my characters in Katya and the two sequels, but it was too scary to pursue and some people absolutely resented it. My sequels are about the complications of actually

being able to meld with someone and become one mind.

Well, I digress. Let me know what you are thinking about all of this. I can be so caught up in my day to day that I miss the facial cues I can't see on your face as you write to me about the illustrations, etc. So tell me. I like working with you. If I survive my surgery, I have several more children's books and two more novels for you to illustrate.

Very Fondly,
Paul

Dear Rebecca,

I really want to use the Love cover you sent as the back cover. No other writing on it. I really like the idea that anyone picks up the book and sees the imps and elves waiting: For what? LOVE. And turn the book over and you see what they found.

Createspace seemed to have a specific spot they wanted to put the ISBN if I got it from them. It was in a space so many inches by so many inches in the back of the book.

I would prefer the bio to be inside the back cover or as the last page in the book or not include it at all.

Fondly,
Paul

Dear Paul,

I love doing print covers, they are a lot of fun! I've done lots of Createspace covers, they have a very nice product.

For now I can use the back cover text that you sent, however you may want to consider taking a look at some different back covers at the store and let me know. I can put a bio and pic on the back cover, whatever you want.

The barcode is not a problem, they can apply the barcode during print. Or, if you prefer, you can buy one via Bowker and give it to me to apply. I believe that choice will depend on your distribution options, too, so take a look and let me know. The barcode can be placed anywhere on your back cover so I will work it into the design based on the other items you may want on there.

Attached here and now are a couple of the final illustration files so you can begin with the insertion process for your interior.

I will send the rest tomorrow.

Thank you!!

Kindly,
Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

I love your second cover so much. I love blue. It is my favorite color. Would you send me that second cover. I would like to use it as page 31. Page 32 is the bio. Page 31 is opposite page 30 which is the paragraph that ends the story: The elves and imps in the land of imps and elves always celebrate Christmas now, but not really because the dew fell on the okra.

The book is open and on the left is that paragraph and on the right is the Angel and the apple heart in blue. Please. Right now, the book has three pink Angel apple heart pictures. I would really like to have the blue

one as page 31. The pink one is on page 23 and on the back cover. The blue one would be a lovely way to end the book on the inside, with the title and my name.

As I said before, I will pay for that second cover.

Fondly,

Paul