



**Take a trip into the deep
with
THE NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS,
DEEP UNDER THE SEA
author
Kathie Kelleher**

Q: *What was the inspiration behind the book?*

A: While on a family vacation to Mexico, I went snorkeling at Xel-há. It was a few weeks before Christmas. As I watched the brightly colored fish swim about, I began thinking about my Christmas preparations, and those two worlds merged. My book was born!

Q: *What makes this book special to you? What important message do you feel it brings to young readers?*

A: Christmas is a special time, so my book about Christmas is extra-special to me. The important insight contained in this story is to believe in the impossible.
“Imagination is the reality of the dreamer.” —Scott Ringenbach

Q: *What was your favorite book growing up?*

A: *Book Trails to Enchanted Lands*. This was a discarded library book loaded with fairy tales and stories from around the world. The stories were captivating, and the illustrations were wonderful.

Q: *What is your favorite memory from childhood?*

A: Traveling to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, to visit relatives. My father’s cousin, Charlie, had a bungalow on the Bra D’or Lake. We’d go for boat rides, have bonfires, and hear entertaining tales told by Charlie. Even learned some Gaelic, none of which I can repeat. Charlie is a rascal!

Q: *Did you have any pets? If so, which one was your favorite?*

A: We are a cat family. Shelby was my favorite because she'd curl up on my stomach and keep me toasty warm in the winter. Plus she'd purr so loud, you'd think she was about to explode.

Q: *What inspired you to write and when did you know you would become an author?*

A: My mother was an artist and my father was a poetry-writing English teacher. They both nurtured my vivid imagination with lots of pencils and paper. I can't remember a time I didn't want to illustrate and write children's books.



Q: *If there is one thing you could tell your readers about life, what would you say?*

A: It's not what you say, it's what you do. And whatever you do, you do your best.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, DEEP UNDER THE SEA

by Kathie Kelleher • illustrated by Dan Andreasen

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