



עמנואל!

Behold, a virgin shall be with child,
and shall bring forth a son, and they
shall call his name **Emmanuel**,
which being interpreted is, **God with
us.**

--- Matthew 1:23

Merry Christmas!

--Eric, Helen, Amelia, Benjamin,
Lillian, and Faith Rasmusen

http://rasmusen.org/special/_amazon/xmas2015.htm

1. **Anders Zorn** (1860-1920), a Swedish painter. Similar to John Sargent in style.

2. **Anything Goes** (1934), the Cole Porter musical. Belmont High School did a great job with it.

3. **The Shoe Horn Pro**, a 31 inch long shoehorn (when extended) with a flexible horn at the end.

4. **Upswich clams** are tastier and more tender than most clams because of the mud flats they live in. We disagree as to which is best: Woodman's or the Clam Box.

5. **Murder for Christmas: 26 Tales of Seasonal Malice** (1994). Thomas Godfrey (Editor). A collection of mystery stories by the classic writers.

6. **Blood Meridian** (1985) by Cormac McCarthy. An apocalyptic Western: the Kid versus The Devil. He dies, but is undefeated.

7. **Macfarland, U.S.A.** (2015), a Disney movie starring Kevin Costner. A true and heartwarming story about high school cross-country running in the Central Valley.

8. **Strange Defeat** (1946) by Marc Bloch. An economic historian who served in both World Wars writes about France in 1940.

9. **The New York False Claims Act**. I've used it to sue Citigroup for \$2.4 billion, and it's a good way to privatize tax collection and get round corrupt politicians who favor special interests. If I get the 30% reward, we'll be asking for help on where to donate it.

10. **Le Ton Beau De Marot: In Praise of the Music of Language** (1997) by Douglas Hofstadter. As good as Godel-Escher-Bach, it's remarkable how two so different books can both reflect the author's character.

11. **Inside Out** (2015) animation movie. Joy, Fear, Anger, Sadness, and Disgust move a girl this way and that until her family moves to California and she falls into melancholia.

12. **The Blade Buddy razor strap**. It's great for disposable razors-- just a little piece of silicone rubber, but cleverly designed and self-defensive.

Other finalists: Mass General Hospital. Huyghe Red Delirium cherry beer. Brookline's Board Game Cafe. The Wild China documentary. The Robe, and the Natural History of the Chicken (movies). The Peabody-Essex Museum. Lists of good things from other years are at http://rasmusen.org/_amazon/special/amazon.htm



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