

how tall is elf on the shelf doll

How Tall Is Elf on the Shelf Doll? Unwrapping the Size and Charm of This Holiday Tradition

how tall is elf on the shelf doll is a question many parents and fans of this festive tradition often wonder about. Whether you're new to the Elf on the Shelf craze or simply curious about the details, understanding the size of the elf doll not only helps in planning where to place it but also adds to the magic of the experience. This article will dive into the dimensions of the Elf on the Shelf doll, explore why its size matters, and provide helpful tips on how to incorporate it into your holiday décor.

Understanding the Dimensions: How Tall Is Elf on the Shelf Doll?

When it comes to answering the question, how tall is Elf on the Shelf doll, the standard figure stands approximately 12 inches tall. This makes it roughly the size of a typical action figure or a small stuffed toy. The elf features a soft body with a wired frame, allowing it to be posed in various positions, which adds to the playful and mischievous nature of the holiday tradition.

Standard Size and Variations

While the classic Elf on the Shelf doll is about 12 inches tall, you may come across various sizes in stores or online:

- **Mini Elf on the Shelf Dolls:** Some sets include mini versions that are about 5-6 inches tall, perfect for smaller spaces or for collectors who like to display multiple elves.
- **Larger Plush Elves:** There are also larger plush elf dolls that can reach up to 18 inches or more, often used for decorative purposes rather than the traditional interactive play.

Knowing these variations can help you choose the right elf doll based on your space and how you plan to use it during the holiday season.

Why Does the Size of the Elf on the Shelf Doll Matter?

The height of the Elf on the Shelf doll is not just a trivial detail—it plays a significant role in how you incorporate the elf into your holiday traditions.

Placement and Display Ideas

Because the elf is roughly one foot tall, it's small enough to be tucked into all sorts of creative spots around your home. From sitting on a bookshelf to peeking out of the Christmas tree branches, the elf's size allows for endless hiding spots and imaginative scenes.

- **On Shelves:** The elf can easily perch on a mantle or shelf without overwhelming the space.
- **In the Kitchen:** Its compact size lets it sit on countertops or among holiday treats.
- **In the Tree:** At 12 inches, the elf fits comfortably within the branches without displacing ornaments.

This versatility is one reason why the Elf on the Shelf tradition has become so beloved. The doll's manageable size makes it easy for parents to move the elf each night, creating new and surprising scenarios for their children.

Storage and Portability

Another practical reason the elf's height matters is storage. After the holiday season ends, the elf can be neatly packed away without taking up much room. Its size also makes it portable, so you can bring the elf to family gatherings or holiday parties, keeping the magic alive wherever you go.

The Design Behind the Height: What Makes the Elf So Unique?

The Elf on the Shelf doll's design, including its dimensions, is thoughtfully crafted to enhance its role as Santa's scout elf.

Proportions and Materials

The 12-inch height balances perfectly with the elf's other features—its pointed hat, big eyes, and rosy cheeks. The soft fabric body with a bendable wire frame allows for lifelike poses, which wouldn't be as effective if the doll were significantly larger or smaller.

Interaction and Engagement

Because of its size, the elf is just right for children to interact with. It's big enough to be a noticeable presence but small enough to fit into imaginative play scenarios. Kids can "catch" the elf, pose it with toys, or even create little stories that revolve around its nightly adventures.

Tips for Making the Most of Your Elf on the Shelf Doll

Now that you know how tall is Elf on the Shelf doll, here are some tips to enhance your holiday experience with it:

- **Use Its Size to Your Advantage:** Look for creative spots that complement the elf's 12-inch stature, like sitting on picture frames, lamp shades, or inside mugs.
- **Mix Sizes for Fun:** If you have mini elves or larger plush versions, mix them up to create a playful elf family scene.
- **Accessorize:** Because the elf is a manageable size, you can easily add tiny props like miniature books, food items, or tiny gifts to amplify the storytelling.
- **Be Mindful of Safety:** If you have very young children, ensure that the elf's wire frame is securely tucked inside and that small accessories are kept out of reach.

Where to Buy and What to Expect in Terms of Size

If you're in the market for your own Elf on the Shelf doll, most retail stores and online shops sell the standard 12-inch version as part of the official set, which includes a storybook explaining the elf's magical holiday role.

Official vs. Alternative Versions

- The ****official Elf on the Shelf**** doll usually comes in the classic 12-inch size.
- Alternative versions from third-party sellers might vary in size, so it's a good idea to check product descriptions carefully to ensure you're getting the size you want.
- Some sellers offer customizable or themed elves, including those dressed as different characters, but they typically maintain the same approximate height for consistency.

Price and Quality Considerations

The size often correlates with price and quality. The official 12-inch elf tends to be well-made with durable

materials, while smaller or novelty versions might be less expensive but potentially less sturdy.

Final Thoughts on the Elf's Size and Charm

Understanding exactly how tall is Elf on the Shelf doll helps in appreciating the thought put into this holiday tradition. Its perfect size enables it to fit into many different environments, making the elf feel like a magical part of your home during the Christmas season. Whether it's perched on a shelf or hiding in the tree, the 12-inch elf brings joy, creativity, and a little bit of Christmas magic to families all over the world. So next time you move your elf, remember that its size is just right to spark wonder and delight in your holiday celebrations.

Frequently Asked Questions

How tall is a standard Elf on the Shelf doll?

A standard Elf on the Shelf doll is approximately 12 inches (30 cm) tall.

Are there different sizes of Elf on the Shelf dolls available?

Yes, Elf on the Shelf dolls come in various sizes, but the most common size is around 12 inches tall.

Is the Elf on the Shelf doll taller than a Barbie doll?

Yes, the Elf on the Shelf doll, at about 12 inches tall, is taller than a standard Barbie doll, which is approximately 11.5 inches tall.

How tall is the mini Elf on the Shelf doll?

Mini Elf on the Shelf dolls are typically around 6 inches tall.

Does the height of the Elf on the Shelf doll vary by manufacturer?

While most official Elf on the Shelf dolls are about 12 inches tall, sizes can vary slightly depending on the manufacturer or retailer.

Can the Elf on the Shelf doll fit on a standard bookshelf?

Yes, since the Elf on the Shelf doll is about 12 inches tall, it can easily fit on most standard bookshelves.

How tall is the Elf on the Shelf doll compared to a Funko Pop figure?

An Elf on the Shelf doll is taller, measuring about 12 inches, while a Funko Pop figure is usually around 3.75 inches tall.

Is the Elf on the Shelf doll height suitable for children to carry around?

Yes, at approximately 12 inches tall, the Elf on the Shelf doll is lightweight and easy for children to hold and carry.

How tall is the Elf on the Shelf doll's hat compared to the entire doll?

The Elf on the Shelf doll's hat typically makes up about 2 to 3 inches of its total 12-inch height.

Are there life-size Elf on the Shelf dolls and how tall are they?

Yes, life-size Elf on the Shelf dolls exist and are usually around 4 to 5 feet tall, designed for decorative or promotional purposes.

Additional Resources

****How Tall Is Elf on the Shelf Doll: An In-Depth Look at Its Size and Appeal****

how tall is elf on the shelf doll is a question that frequently arises among parents, collectors, and fans of this beloved holiday tradition. As Elf on the Shelf has become a staple of Christmas festivities, understanding the physical attributes of the doll—especially its height—provides insight into its design, usability, and overall charm. This article delves into the specifics of the elf's stature, compares it with similar holiday figurines, and explores why its size matters to consumers and enthusiasts alike.

The Standard Height of the Elf on the Shelf Doll

The Elf on the Shelf doll, introduced as part of a Christmas tradition that combines storytelling with playful surveillance of children's behavior, typically measures approximately 12 inches tall. This height is consistent across the majority of the official dolls sold by the brand, striking a balance between portability and presence. At 12 inches, the elf is large enough to be noticed and manipulated easily by children and parents but small enough to be discreetly placed in various locations around the home.

This height makes the doll comparable to other popular holiday figurines, such as traditional Christmas nutcrackers or small Santa Claus dolls, which often range from 10 to 14 inches. The elf's size supports its narrative function: it can "hide" in plain sight, making its movements and placements an engaging part of

holiday magic without overwhelming the environment.

Why Size Matters: Practical Considerations

The elf's height is not arbitrary; it reflects several practical considerations:

- **Ease of Handling:** At around 12 inches, the doll is easy for children to handle, pose, and move, which is crucial since its primary role involves daily repositioning.
- **Storage and Placement:** The elf's compact size allows it to be tucked onto shelves, mantels, or other household spots without requiring significant space.
- **Visual Impact:** The doll's height ensures it is visible enough to capture attention but not so large as to dominate a room's decor.

The balance achieved in the elf's dimensions enhances its versatility and supports the imaginative aspect of the tradition.

Comparing the Elf on the Shelf Doll with Other Holiday Figures

When investigating how tall the Elf on the Shelf doll is, it's useful to compare it with other familiar holiday figures to contextualize its size.

Classic Christmas Figurines

Many Christmas decorations fall within a similar height range:

- **Nutcracker Dolls:** These often measure between 12 to 18 inches, slightly taller than the Elf on the Shelf but similar in scale.
- **Santa Claus Figurines:** Small tabletop versions typically range from 10 to 14 inches, closely matching the elf's height.
- **Reindeer Decorations:** Depending on style, these can vary widely but tabletop models usually stand

between 8 to 15 inches.

This comparison highlights that the elf's size is well within the norm for decorative holiday dolls, reinforcing its suitability for home display and interaction.

Variations and Special Editions

While the standard elf doll is about 12 inches tall, the brand has expanded to include various versions that differ in size:

- **Mini Elves:** Designed for portability or as collectible items, these smaller versions can be as short as 6 to 8 inches.
- **Large Plush Elves:** Some oversized plush versions can reach 18 to 24 inches, catering to different display preferences.
- **Poseable and Articulated Models:** These maintain the standard height but offer enhanced flexibility for more dynamic positioning.

These variations allow consumers to choose an elf doll that fits their specific needs, whether for interactive play, decoration, or collection.

Material and Design Impact on Perceived Size

The elf's height of approximately 12 inches is complemented by its distinctive design features, which affect how large or small it appears in a space.

Proportions and Posture

The elf doll typically has a slender build with elongated limbs and a pointed hat, which can make it appear taller or more prominent than its actual measured height. The upright posture and bright red and white outfit also draw the eye, enhancing its visual presence.

Material Choices

Most Elf on the Shelf dolls are made from soft fabric bodies with a plastic face and hands, combining durability with a friendly aesthetic. This mix of materials ensures the doll maintains its shape and height over time without sagging or deforming, which can be an issue with purely plush toys.

How Height Influences the Elf on the Shelf Tradition

The elf's size is more than a physical characteristic; it plays a role in the success of the Elf on the Shelf narrative.

Interaction and Engagement

The manageable height facilitates daily interaction, encouraging parents and children to move the elf to new “hiding spots” without difficulty. This engagement is central to the tradition's appeal, as the elf's movements supposedly reflect its nightly journey to report to Santa Claus.

Versatility in Placement

Because the doll is not overly large, it can be placed in a variety of creative locations—on bookshelves, kitchen counters, or even nestled among Christmas tree branches—adding to the playful suspense of finding the elf each morning.

Storage and Longevity

A 12-inch doll is easy to store after the holiday season, fitting comfortably in boxes or bins without damage. Its size also makes it durable enough to be used year after year, enhancing its sentimental value.

Consumer Perspectives and Market Trends

Understanding how tall the Elf on the Shelf doll is also informs consumer decisions and market offerings.

Parent Preferences

Many parents opt for the standard 12-inch version due to its balance of visibility and convenience. Its size is large enough to be a meaningful part of holiday décor but not so cumbersome as to require special handling or storage solutions.

Collector and Enthusiast Insights

Collectors often seek out special editions or variations in size to diversify their collections. The availability of different heights—from miniatures to plush giants—caters to varied tastes and display preferences.

Retail Availability

Retailers typically stock the standard 12-inch elf doll as the flagship product, with smaller and larger versions available as complementary or seasonal items. This range reflects consumer interest in both traditional and innovative holiday decorations.

Final Reflections on the Elf on the Shelf Doll's Height

Inquiries about how tall is Elf on the Shelf doll reveal the thoughtful design considerations that have contributed to the tradition's widespread popularity. The elf's height of approximately 12 inches positions it perfectly as a charming, interactive, and practical holiday figure. Its size supports usability, display versatility, and a magical presence that resonates with families each Christmas season. As the tradition evolves, variations in size continue to emerge, allowing the elf to maintain its relevance and appeal across diverse consumer groups.

[How Tall Is Elf On The Shelf Doll](#)

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as a space where audiences and vloggers find a voice and a means of personal expression via the potentially subversive power of makeup and social media.

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how tall is elf on the shelf doll: *Children's Thinking* David F. Bjorklund, Kayla B. Causey, 2017-01-04 The Sixth Edition of David F. Bjorklund and Kayla B. Causey's topically organized Children's Thinking presents a current, comprehensive, and dynamic examination of cognitive development. The book covers individual children and their developmental journeys while also following the general paths of overall cognitive development in children. This unique and effective approach gives readers a holistic view of children's cognitive development, acknowledging that while no two children are exactly alike, they tend to follow similar developmental patterns. Supported by the latest research studies and data, the Sixth Edition provides valuable insights for readers to better understand and work with children.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: All Together Now Cindy Dell Clark, 2019-06-14 In a hard driving society like the United States, holidays are islands of softness. Holidays are times for creating memories and for celebrating cultural values, emotions, and social ties. All Together Now considers holidays that are celebrated by American families: Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Halloween, and the December holidays of Christmas or Chanukah. This book shows how entire families bond at holidays, in ways that allow both children and adults to be influential within their shared interaction. The decorations, songs, special ways of dressing, and rituals carry deep significance that is viscerally felt by even young tots. Ritual has the capacity to condense a plethora of meaning into a unified metaphor such as a Christmas tree, a menorah, or the American flag. These symbols allow children and adults to co-opt the meaning of symbols in flexible and age-relevant ways, all while the symbols are still treasured and shared in common.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: *The Life* Mike Wilson, 2024-11-14 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6 The Life is a fifty-two-week devotional book that chronologically reflects on the life of Jesus to help readers learn from the perfect example he set. Jesus is the life. He is the way to eternal life in heaven and to the good life on earth. He is the truth

that leads to wise living and to healthy relationships. Everything good comes from him. Therefore, the ultimate goal of life is to build a relationship with Jesus, and when people do that, they learn how to build healthy relationships with other people. Jesus came to earth to do more than die and resurrect. Jesus lived the most impactful life in human history, and in doing so, he demonstrated the way humans should live. When he lived as a human on earth, Jesus showed people how to lead, how to build lasting relationships, how to cope with pain, how to resist temptation, and so much more. When people live like Jesus, they live well.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Another 365 Days of Flash Fiction C.M. Simpson, 2022-11-17 From 6-words to 1,000, and from werewolves to wizards, these pieces of flash range from an imagined past to an imagined future, exploring new heroes and old, and trying to understand where some of the traditions of today, might fit in a time when mankind explores other worlds among the stars.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Santa's Book of Knowledge Santa Al Horton, 2011-07-05 Have you ever thought what the world would be like if I didnt carry that sack and make that sleigh ride each year? I know one thing; there wouldnt be a need for a Naughty and Nice list anymore. Can you imagine all those children and their sad little faces? I could never give up this cause because the children are so angelic with those bright and cheery smiles when they look at you or the presents you leave on Christmas morning. -- Santa Claus

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Setting for Eight, Dinner for Two B.G. Thomas, 2019-12-01 To overcome the bad ending of a relationship, Charlie Brooks and a friend plan to decorate his home for the holidays—including elaborate table settings like those made by local ceramicist Tory Phillips. The pieces are exquisite, but Charlie's on a budget. So Tory convinces him to take his classes and try his hand at making his own dishes for the dinner party Charlie dreams of hosting. As they work together, they grow closer, and the fantasy gathering feels less important than what's happening between them. When the big day arrives, it might be more magical than Charlie ever imagined. A story from the Dreamspinner Press 2019 Advent Calendar Homemade for the Holidays.

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how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Eyes and Spies Tanya Lloyd Kyi, 2018-03-27 Who is watching you... and why? Written for middle-grade and older readers, Eyes and Spies looks at the way information and data about us is collected and used by individuals, governments, companies, and organizations. Each chapter covers one aspect of the subject, from data collection to computer surveillance to personal privacy. Arguments for both increased security and increased privacy are offered, which encourages readers to think critically about issues and decide for themselves. The book asks three simple questions: Who's watching, and why? Where is the line between public and private? How can you keep your secrets to yourself? "Creepy Line" sidebars highlight controversial real-life scenarios and ask readers where they would set their own boundaries. Action Alerts encourage readers to find out more about how surveillance & data mining affects them. Other topics include how students are tracked at school; cyberbullying, and cyber safety. Colour illustrations and a dynamic design make this an enlightening and engaging read.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Father Solstice: A Legends of Lasniniar Short Jacquelyn Smith, 2016-09-19 (Previously published as Legends of Lasniniar: Father Solstice by Jacquelyn Smith.) A Solstice tradition in the making. Barlo and Iarion return to the human city of Nal Huraseadro for the holiday. This time, Barlo's nagging guesses about his Solstice gift must wait. Both he and his elf friend plan to find something under ten silvers within the city itself as a challenge. They arrive to find things changed since their last visit. But some things stay the same. Nothing can stop the pair of friends from finding trouble. ...Even on Solstice Eve. A fun, holiday short novel from the Legends of Lasniniar fantasy series and a follow-up to "A Solstice Tale" by the author of the Fatal Empire series, Jacquelyn Smith. (This adventure takes place between the prologue and first chapter of the World of Lasniniar novel Storm Rider.)

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(Short Novel) A Solstice tradition in the making. Barlo and Iarion return to the human city of Nal Huraseadro for the holiday. This time, Barlo's nagging guesses about his Solstice gift must wait. Both he and his elf friend plan to find something under ten silvers within the city itself as a challenge. They arrive to find things changed since their last visit. But some things stay the same. Nothing can stop the pair of friends from finding trouble. ...Even on Solstice Eve. A fun, holiday short novel from the Legends of Lasniniar fantasy series and a follow-up to "A Solstice Tale."

(Previously published as Legends of Lasniniar: Father Solstice.) A Solstice Feast (Short Story) A Solstice tradition continues... Once again, Barlo and Iarion travel toward the human city of Nal Huraseadro on their way to Dwarfhaven. The dwarf and elf make an effort to spend the holiday in the city every time Barlo's rounds to the other dwarven outposts bring them to the area. The trips consist mainly of banter and misadventure. The perfect way to spend Solstice. Only this time, their journey takes them on an unexpected detour. A fun holiday story from the Legends of Lasniniar fantasy series and a follow-up to Father Solstice. (Previously published as "Legends of Lasniniar: A Solstice Feast.")

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Revolt at the North Pole Cora Buhlert, 2020-12-21

Rebellion is brewing at Santa's compound at the North Pole. The elves and the reindeer both are overworked, underpaid and angry, so they unite to take down Santa. However, there's still Santa's most fearsome enforcer, the horned, clawed and fanged holiday monster known only as Krampus... This is a short holiday horror story of 3900 words or approx. 14 print pages by Hugo finalist Cora Buhlert.

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: The Christmas Collection Cora Buhlert, 2020-12-16 Sixteen tales of Christmas by Hugo winner Cora Buhlert. Romance, cozy fantasy, murder mysteries, pulp thrillers, science fiction, post-apocalyptic fiction, horror and humor - we have all that and more. Watch young people find love in the pre-holiday shopping rush at Hickory Ridge Mall, at a Christmas tree lot, on the parking lot of a shuttered outlet mall and at the one bar in town that's open on Christmas Eve. Experience Christmas in Hallowind Cove, the permanently fog-shrouded seaside town, where strange things keep happening. Watch as Santa's various helpers unite to depose him. Massachusetts 1695 AD: Follow apprentice witchfinder Matthew Goodson and condemned witch Grace Pankhurst, as they try to dodge both witchfinders and a creature that lives in the woods and hunts around the winter solstice. Follow Detective Inspector Helen Shepherd and her team as they investigate the death of a robber dressed as Santa Claus as well as a wave of thefts at a Christmas market. Meet Richard Blakemore, hardworking pulp author by day and the masked crimefighter known only as the Silencer by night, as he fights to save an orphanage from demolition in Depression era New York City. Watch Alfred and Bertha, an ordinary married couple, as they decorate the Christmas tree and live their marvellous twenty-first century life. No one ever expected the robot apocalypse to begin in the little town of Brighthaven. And no one ever expected it to involve murderous robot turkeys and their even more terrifying brethren, robot Santas that fire laserbeams from their eyes. Experience Christmas on the space colony of Iago Prime as well as after the end of the world. Enjoy sixteen novellas, novelettes and short stories in six genres. This is a collection of 136000 words or approx. 420 print pages. Contains the following stories: Christmas Gifts Christmas Shopping with a Broken Heart The Crappiest Christmas Ever Christmas Eve at the Purple Owl Café Driving Home for Christmas The Bakery on Gloomland Street Revolt at the North Pole The Solstice Horror A Bullet for Father Christmas Santa's Sticky Fingers St. Nicholas of Hell's Kitchen The Tinsel-Free Christmas Tree The Robot Turkey Apocalypse Invasion of the Robot Santas Christmas on Iago Prime Christmas after the End of the World

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: Black Tie and Tails Wen Spencer, 2025-09-02 From the Romantic Times Sapphire award-winning author of the Internationally best-selling Elfhome series, comes the sequel to The Black Wolves of Boston Joshua Tatterskein's life has been strange. He's become a werewolf, lives with a three-hundred-year-old vampire named Silas Decker and a ginger kitten called Trouble. Then things get even weirder when he encounters a talking penguin who wants to hire him for a job. Joshua just wants to graduate from his new high school. The school is

owned by Boston's werewolf pack, and while the teachers might not realize the owners are wolves, all the kids with special abilities—the Goths—know. The good news is the Goths are happy to help Joshua, but the bad news is one of them has gone missing. Silas Decker has been waking up earlier than normal—very odd after three hundred years of being dead to the world when the sun is up. He enjoys the change—but what does he have to do for it to continue? Elise Grigori's day starts bad: her angelic family has discovered that she's dating Jack Cabot, Thane to the Wolf King. It gets worse when Central Office calls to say that her cousin Francis is missing from his Vermont monastic retreat. He's a Power, God's strength manifested in flesh, which means he's a walking nuke. His car is in Boston, which is very bad news for Boston. Seth Tatterskein is just trying to hold his life together until he's old enough to leave the Wolf King's castle in New York and return to Boston as its Prince. His departure requires keeping his emotions in check—not an easy thing to do when your brother starts texting things like, "What kind of penguin talks?" At the publisher's request, this title is sold without DRM (Digital Rights Management). Praise for *The Black Wolves of Boston*: "Complex and funny series perfect for late-teens." --Fantasy Literature Praise for Wen Spencer's *Elfhome* series: "Spencer's intertwining of current Earth technology and otherworldly elven magic is quite ingenious." —Booklist "The melange of science fiction and fantasy tropes, starships rubbing shoulders with proud elf warriors, is uncommon but tasty. Established fans will enjoy this installment, and those unfamiliar with the series or Spencer may find it an intriguing introduction to her work." —Publishers Weekly on *Wood Sprites* "[A]nother vivid, action-packed addition to the fray that is Tinker's World. . . . fast-paced, unpredictable, and character-driven to the point that it's hard to put down. Newcomers and prior fans of Tinker alike will find the story absolutely riveting." —Midwest Book Review on *Storm Furies* Praise for *Eight Million Gods*: "Eight Million Gods is a wonderfully weird romp through Japanese mythology, culture shock, fan culture and the ability to write your own happy ending. It is diverting and entertaining fantasy." —Galveston County Daily News Praise for Wen Spencer: "Wit and intelligence inform this off-beat, tongue-in-cheek fantasy. . . . Furious action . . . good characterization, playful eroticism and well-developed folklore. . . . lift this well above the fantasy average. . . . Buffy fans should find a lot to like in the book's resourceful heroine." —Publishers Weekly on series debut *Tinker*

how tall is elf on the shelf doll: On Press Matthew Pressman, 2018-11-05 A study of how mainstream journalism transformed from 1960 to 1980. In the 1960s and 1970s, the American press embraced a new way of reporting and selling the news. The causes were many: the proliferation of television, pressure to rectify the news media's dismal treatment of minorities and women, accusations of bias from left and right, and the migration of affluent subscribers to suburbs. As Matthew Pressman's timely history reveals, during these tumultuous decades the core values that held the profession together broke apart, and the distinctive characteristics of contemporary American journalism emerged. Simply reporting the facts was no longer enough. In a country facing assassinations, a failing war in Vietnam, and presidential impeachment, reporters recognized a pressing need to interpret and analyze events for their readers. Objectivity and impartiality, the cornerstones of journalistic principle, were not jettisoned, but they were reimagined. Journalists' adoption of an adversarial relationship with government and big business, along with sympathy for the dispossessed, gave their reporting a distinctly liberal drift. Yet at the same time, "soft news"—lifestyle, arts, entertainment—moved to the forefront of editors' concerns, as profits took precedence over politics. Today, the American press stands once again at a precipice. Accusations of political bias are more rampant than ever, and there are increasing calls from activists, customers, advertisers, and reporters themselves to rethink the values that drive the industry. As *On Press* suggests, today's controversies—the latest iteration of debates that began a half-century ago—will likely take the press in unforeseen directions and challenge its survival. Praise for *On Press* "The ultimate story behind all the stories. In tracing the evolution of news over the past half century, Matthew Pressman has produced an account that's deeply historical and not a little troubling. In an age when the press is alternately villain or hero, Pressman serves as a kind of medicine man of journalism, telling us how we got from there to here and warning us what must change." —Graydon

Carter, former editor of Vanity Fair “Pressman helps us understand how we came to our current, troubled media moment with his deeply researched, engagingly written history of America’s press in the 1960s and ’70s. This is an important and original contribution—and a needed one.” —Margaret Sullivan, media columnist for the Washington Post

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