



## Valentine Davies

*[Manuscript]: Miracle on 34th Street*

Los Angeles: Valentine Davies March 18, 1947

\$12,000

"MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET"

By

Valentine Davies

\*  
\*\*\*  
\*

"MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET"

By

VALENTINE DAVIES

Carbon typescript. 97 leaves typed rectos only. Bradbound into thin blue card wrappers typed: "Miracle on 34th Street By Valentine Davies." Small tears on the yapped edges of the wrappers, corners of a few pages of the text folded or creased, vertical crease, but overall very good. Contains a few handwritten corrections, presumably in the hand of the author.

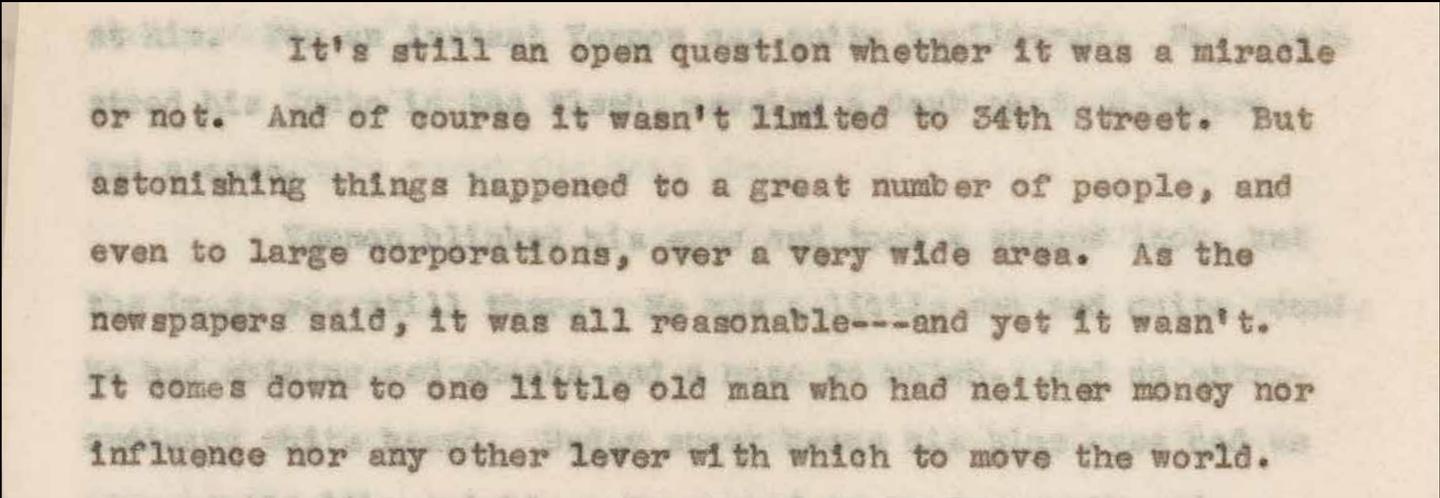
The evolution of both the film and the novel are complicated. Davies wrote the story on which the film was based, from which George Seaton wrote the screenplay. Davies was expected to write a novelization of his original story to be published simultaneously with the film - indeed the jacket of the first edition contained advertising for the film. Filming had ended just two or three weeks before this draft of Valentine's novelization. Davies' dated foreword in this version explains the evolution.

However, much apparently was left to be done, as this version shows very significant changes from the published version. For example the first chapter is completely different: the published version is set in an old age home where Kris Kringle talks with his doctor. In this manuscript version it begins with Kris "enjoying one of his rare excursions into town" not mentioning where it came from, and him interrupting young Vernon Koppelman, a window dresser who is setting up his North Pole display, rapping on the window and saying "I just want you to know how much I appreciate your very accurate display..." but correcting some mistakes with the reindeer.

Laid in are two Typed Letters Signed, both to personal friends in Santa Monica. The first is from Valentine Davies dated April 7, 1948 and Signed "Val" responding to a note of congratulations on receiving the Academy Award for this film: "The fact that George and Teddy got Oscars, too, made it a very exciting evening all around." Davies won an Oscar for Best Original Story, Seaton (who also directed the film) won his Oscar for Best Screenplay, and Edmund Gwenn won Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Kris Kringle.

The other letter is from George Seaton to the same couple dated April 8, 1948 and Signed "George", for the same purpose: "Thanks so very much for your kind words on the arrival of Oscar. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness." It is obvious from the letters that these were personal friends as each letter discusses upcoming plans and meeting again soon.

A likely unique manuscript of the story that resulted in a significant film and later a bestselling and beloved book. [BTC#422691]



It's still an open question whether it was a miracle or not. And of course it wasn't limited to 34th Street. But astonishing things happened to a great number of people, and even to large corporations, over a very wide area. As the newspapers said, it was all reasonable---and yet it wasn't. It comes down to one little old man who had neither money nor influence nor any other lever with which to move the world.

## FOREWORD

Like everything else about Mr. Kringle, his appearance in book form does not follow any accepted pattern. Instead of appearing first on the printed page and then making his bow upon the screen, Mr. Kringle completely reversed the procedure. His singular personality and the chain reaction which it started originally took shape in my mind as a motion picture story. It was only after he had come to full blown life upon the screen that he was invited to appear within the covers of a book.

I can, therefore, hardly take sole credit for this story in its present form. For George Seaton put Kris into a screenplay for Twentieth Century-Fox and then, as director, brought him to life before the camera. So many of his ideas have been incorporated into this book that it amounts to a collaboration; a collaboration which I gratefully acknowledge.

In behalf of Mr. Kringle I wish to say a very hearty thank you to William Perlberg for believing in him and for producing the picture "Miracle on 34th Street;" and to Twentieth Century-Fox for their generosity in allowing him to appear in book form; and finally to Dr. Walter M. Simpson, who introduced Mr. Kringle to his publishers.

Valentine Davies  
Los Angeles, California  
March 18, 1947

VALENTINE DAVIES

April 7, 1948

Dear Leon and Eve:

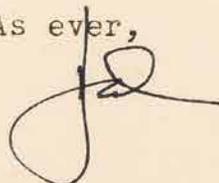
Thanks so much for your note of congratulations. The fact that George and Teddy got Oscars, too, made it a very exciting evening all around.

We are going East on a month's vacation and will be back the middle of May.

Liz joins in sending our best and hoping that we will really do something about getting together soon.

Thanks again.

As ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JD' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Dr. and Mrs. Leon Rosove  
421 - 18th Street  
Santa Monica, Calif.

GEORGE SEATON

April 8, 1948.

Dear Leon and Eve:

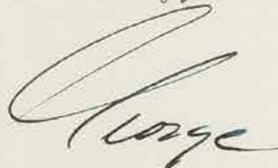
Thanks so very much for your kind words on the arrival of Oscar. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Phyllis and I saw Walt the other day and he seemed to be in pretty good spirits. Perhaps you have heard that they are now planning to spend the entire summer at Balboa. I do think the rest will do him good.

Phyllis, Liz, Val and I are leaving on Saturday for New York where we will take a freighter for a cruise around the Caribbean. We are looking forward to sun, books and rest. Will see you when we get back.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George".