

Holiday Settings

Angels & other Strangers Family Christmas Stories by Katherine Paterson

Read by Mimi Bederman. Reading time 3 hours, 1 minute

Nine short stories that illuminate the essence of Christmas in contemporary life. One of the characters, a little girl, voices the spirit of the collection when she exclaims, "Happy birthday, Jesus, and many happy reruns of the day." For grades 5-8 and older readers. Especially appropriate for family sharing.

[Angels & Other Strangers, DB16694](#)

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

Read by Barbara Rappaport. Reading time 1 hour, 38 minutes

Everyone agrees that the Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. When they hear about the free refreshments at Sunday school, the Herdmans not only show up, but also muscle their way into the lead roles of the annual Christmas pageant. For grades 3-6 and older readers.

[The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, DB38118](#)

Candy Cane Murder by Joanne Fluke

Read by Kristin Allison. Reading time 10 hours, 11 minutes

Three mysteries centering around candy canes and Christmas. In the title piece a storeowner is murdered after playing Santa to Hannah Swensen's elf. In *The Dangers of Candy Canes* a man dies installing Christmas decorations. In *Candy Canes of Christmas Past* Lucy Stone investigates a cold case. Includes recipes. 2007.

[Download Candy Cane Murder, DB73341](#)

Celebrations the Complete Book of American Holidays by Robert J. Myers

Read by Bill Wallace. Reading time 11 hours, 56 minutes

Hallmark Cards presents a detailed history and description of forty-five holidays and holy days celebrated in the United States, giving brief summaries of fifteen more. Includes widely observed celebrations such as Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as regional observations, religious feast days, and ethnic festivals. 1972.

[Download Celebrations the Complete Book of American Holidays, DB55381](#)

Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop: 'Tis the Season to Be Deadly; Stories of Mistletoe and Mayhem from Seventeen Masters of Suspense by Various.

Read by Ray Foushee. Reading time 7 hours, 59 minutes

Seventeen short holiday mysteries that involve Otto Penzler's New York City bookstore. In Mary Higgins Clark's "What's in a Name?" a valuable handwritten manuscript is misplaced. 2010. Edited by Otto Penzler.

[Download Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop, DB72892](#)

The Christmas Box by Richard Paul Evans

Read by Barry Bernson. Reading time 1 hour, 38 minutes

Richard and Keri Evans and their four-year-old daughter, Jenna, are living in a cramped one-room apartment when a unique opportunity arises. MaryAnne Parkin, an elderly woman with a large home, is looking for a live-in couple who can cook and do light housekeeping. And children are welcome. As the four become a family, Richard, who is starting his own business, learns a valuable lesson from MaryAnne and her Christmas box. Bestseller. Christmas Box series, book 3.

[Download The Christmas Box, DB43556](#)

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Read by Clark Niederjohn. Reading time 3 hours, 28 minutes

Classic nineteenth-century Christmas story set in England describes the conversion of grasping old miser Ebenezer Scrooge when he is visited by ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future.

[Download A Christmas Carol, DB43546](#)

Christmas in Plains Memories by Jimmy Carter

Read by Jack Fox. Reading time 2 hours, 44 minutes

Carter, who served as the thirty-ninth president of the United States, reminisces about family Christmases over the years, beginning with his childhood on a Georgia farm, through his years in the U.S. Navy, the Georgia governor's mansion, the White House, and then back to Plains. Bestseller. 2001.

[Download Christmas in Plains Memories, DB53307](#)

The Christmas Sweater by Glenn Beck

Read by Gary Tipton. Reading time 5 hours, 8 minutes

Twelve-year-old Eddie is mad that he didn't get a bike for Christmas--only a homemade sweater from his widowed mother. When Eddie's mom is killed on their way home from visiting his grandparents, his grandfather tries to teach the grieving boy about life, happiness, and faith. Bestseller. 2008.

[Download The Christmas Sweater, DB68511](#)

The Christmas Thief by Mary Higgins Clark

Read by Martha Harmon Pardee. Reading time 4 hours, 27 minutes

During a vacation weekend in Stowe, Vermont, lottery winner Alvirah Meehan and her friend private investigator Regan Reilly become involved in the case of a stolen Christmas tree. The tree, designated for Rockefeller Center, connects a scam artist, a swindled waitress, and a sparkling treasure. 2004. Alvirah Meehan series, book 4.

[Download The Christmas Thief, DB58834](#)

A Christmas Treasury; Very Merry Stories and Poems by Various Read by Constance Crawford. Reading time 38 minutes

An anthology that includes a selection from *Wind in the Willows* (DB 24592) depicting Mole's hospitality and Rat's resourcefulness; "Christmas at the Hollow Tree Inn," a story featuring a dog who plays Santa Claus; two traditional carols; and Clement Moore's poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." For grades 3-6 and older readers. 2001.

[Download A Christmas Treasury, DB56658](#)

The Christmas Wedding by James Patterson

Read by Gabriella Cavallero. Reading time 4 hours, 27 minutes

Fifty-four-year-old widow Gaby creates a video to invite her grown children and their families to her Massachusetts farm for Christmas. She informs them that they will also be attending her wedding, but refuses to tell them who the groom is--right up until the ceremony. Strong language. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download The Christmas Wedding, DB74075](#)

The Cricket on the Hearth, and other Christmas Stories by Charles Dickens

Read by Gary Telles. Reading time 6 hours, 15 minutes

Three short Christmas tales written in the 1850s. In "The Cricket on the Hearth" and "The Holly-Tree," misunderstandings between lovers are cleared up in time to make the holiday cheerful. Similarly, in "The Haunted House," lovers are eventually united.

[Download The Cricket on the Hearth, DB45381](#)

Esther's Gift by Jan Karon

Read by Gary Tipton. Reading time 22 minutes

Christmas Eve. Esther Bolick bakes special orange marmalade cakes for gifts but wonders what they really cost. When her husband calculates forty-three dollars per cake, Esther decides to shorten her list. But the words of a Christmas song change her mind. Mitford Christmas series, book 2. Includes recipe. Bestseller. 2002.

[Download Esther's Gift, DB55329](#)

The Gift by Nora Roberts

Read by Michele Schaeffer. Reading time 4 hours, 51 minutes

Holiday stories of love and romance. In *Home for Christmas* a young man returns to his hometown after a ten-year absence. In *All I Want for Christmas* twin boys ask Santa for a mom. Includes three holiday recipes. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1986.

[Download The Gift, DB59472](#)

A Gift to Last Debbie Macomber

Read by Rosie Berrido, Reading time 5 hours, 37 minutes

Two novellas. In *Can This Be Christmas?* passengers create an impromptu celebration at a New Hampshire depot when their train is stranded by a blizzard on Christmas Eve. In *Shirley, Goodness, and Mercy* three hapless angels reform an aging man. 1998.

[Download A Gift to Last, DB73638](#)

Gingerbread Cookie Murder by Joanne Fluke

Read by Kristin Allison. Reading time 9 hours, 17 minutes

Three short Christmas mysteries. In the title piece, bakery owner Hannah Swensen of Lake Eden, Minnesota, discovers the body of her neighbor Ernie Kusak in his condo. Suspects in the murder of the recent lottery winner include his ex-wife. Includes recipes. 2010.

[Download Gingerbread Cookie Murder, DB72467](#)

Glad Tidings by Debbie Macomber

Read by Jill Ferris. Reading time 11 hours, 31 minutes

DB 63563

Two tales of Christmas. In "Here Comes Trouble," Maryanne and Nolan Adams spend Christmas Eve telling their children how they met as reporters on rival Seattle newspapers. In "There's Something about Christmas," columnist Emma Collins falls for the pilot hired to fly her to cover a fruitcake contest. Bestseller. 1991.

[Download Glad Tidings, DB63563](#)

Holiday Magic by Various

Reading time J. Michael McCullough. Reading time 14 hours, 8 minutes

DB 71933

Four Christmas romances. In the title piece by Fern Michaels, single mother Stephanie works at a Colorado ski lodge and briefly dates her boss Patrick. Patrick fears commitment but after a crisis decides to give love a chance. The other tales are set in Cedar Key, Maui, and Montana. Bestseller. 2010.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.nls/db.71933>

Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris

Read by Erik Sandvold. Reading time 4 hours, 32 minutes

Short Christmas tales by humorist, playwright, and National Public Radio commentator. Sedaris relives his stint as a department store elf in "SantaLand Diaries." In "Seasons Greetings to Our Friends and Family!!!," a housewife facing homicide charges updates loved ones in her annual holiday newsletter. Some strong language. 1997.

[Download Holiday on Ice, DB68134](#)

Journey into Christmas and other Stories by Bess Streeter Aldrich

Read by Camille McCurdy Ali. Reading time 5 hours, 25 minutes

A dozen short stories that embody the traditional warmth and sentimentality of the Christmas season. In addition to the title story, includes "The Drum Goes Dead," "The Man Who Caught the Weather," and recollections of an Iowa childhood in "I Remember."

[Download Journey into Christmas, DB44446](#)

Kwanzaa Karamu Cooking and Crafts for a Kwanzaa Feast by April A. Brady

Read by Shona Tucker. Reading time 1 hour, 26 minutes

Explains the meaning of this African American celebration. Provides recipes for children and adults to prepare together for the feast and instructions for making decorations and gifts. For grades 3-6 and older readers. 1995.

[Download Kwanzaa Karamu Cooking, DB60693](#)

Making Spirits Bright by Elizabeth Bass

Read by J. Michael McCullough. Reading time 12 hours, 41 minutes

Four Christmas novellas filled with romance. In the title story, single Melanie McLaughlin applies to an adoption agency to fulfill her wish for children. Meanwhile, her friend's brother, professor Bryce Landry, falls in love with Melanie--and comes through for her when two orphaned siblings need a home. Bestseller. 2011.

[Download Making Spirits Bright, DB74037](#)

A NASCAR Holiday Three by Various

Read by Kate Kiley. Reading time 7 hours, 38 minutes

Four romantic holiday tales. In Jean Brashear's "A Family for Christmas," NASCAR crew chief Gib Cameron returns home to Tennessee for Christmas and rediscovers romance with his high school flame, Cassie. Includes "Have a Beachy Little Christmas," "Winning the Race," and "All They Want for Christmas." Authors: Liz Allison & Wendy Etherington, Brenda Jackson, Marisa Carroll, Jean Brashear. 2008.

[Download A NASCAR Holiday Three, DB71100](#)

Once upon a Christmas a collection by Pearl S. Buck

Read by Esther Benson. Reading time 5 hours, 17 minutes

A lifetime of Christmas reminiscences along with a collection of the author's own stories reflect the joy and spirit of the holiday. Mrs. Buck's memories are first of festivals in China and later of the traditional American celebrations of snow covered Vermont and Pennsylvania. 1972.

[Download Once upon a Christmas, DB27990](#)

Paula Deen Celebrates! Best Dishes and Best Wishes for the Best Times of your Life by Paula H. Deen

Read by Erin Jones. Reading time 7 hours, 25 minutes

Host of the Food Network's Paula's Home Cooking presents recipes for celebrating an entire year of holidays and special occasions, including New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, Elvis's birthday, Mardi Gras, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Many of the holidays and individual recipes include Paula's reminiscences and her "Pearls of Wisdom." Written with Martha Giddens Nesbit. 2006.

[Download Paula Deen Celebrates! DB64012](#)

The Perfect Christmas by Debbie Macomber

Read by Tavia Gilbert. Reading time 4 hours, 16 minutes

Cassie Beaumont looks to professional matchmaker Simon Dodson to find true love for her. Simon assigns Cassie three holiday tasks: raise money for charity, dress up as Santa's elf, and prepare dinner for neighbors. After completing these duties Cassie will meet her mate. Commercial audiobook. 2009.

[Download *The Perfect Christmas*, DB69967](#)

A Redbird Christmas a Novel by Fannie Flagg

Read by Fannie Flagg. Reading time 5 hours, 33 minutes

DB 58836

Terminally ill Oswald Campbell leaves Chicago to spend his last Christmas in a small Alabama town. The single women there want his attention, and an abandoned young girl who is lame needs a Christmas miracle. Commercial audiobook. 2004.

[Download *A Redbird Christmas*, DB58836](#)

Silver Bells a Holiday Tale by Luanne Rice

Read by Constance Crawford. Reading time 5 hours, 47 minutes

Widowed Canadian farmer Christopher Byrne journeys to New York City every December to sell Christmas trees. Last year his teenaged son stayed on to pursue a photography career. Manhattan librarian Catherine Tierney buys her trees from Chris and looks out for the boy. Love is soon in the air. 2004.

[Download *Silver Bells*, DB59402](#)

Skipping Christmas by John Grisham

Read by Steven Carpenter. Reading time 3 hours, 58 minutes

Tax accountant Luther Krank calculates that a Caribbean cruise will cost less than what he and his wife, Nora, spent celebrating the holidays last year. Since daughter Blair is in the Peace Corps, they plan to skip Christmas. Luther, however, doesn't anticipate the town's reaction. Some strong language. Bestseller. 2001.

[Download *Skipping Christmas*, DB52929](#)

Snow Angels by Fern Michaels

Read by Margaret Strom. Reading time 13 hours, 47 minutes

Four Christmas novellas centered on finding unexpected love. In *Snow Angels* Olympic skier Max plans to spend the holiday alone, until a social worker and her two charges need help during a snowstorm. Includes *The Presents of Angels*, *Decorations*, and *Miracle on Main Street*. 2009.

[Download *Snow Angels*, DB70106](#)

Snowy Night with a Stranger by Jane Feather

Read by Erin Jones, Reading time 10 hours, 17 minutes

Three short seasonal romances. In "A Holiday Gamble," Ned Vasey, the viscount Allenton, is caught in a blizzard on Christmas Eve. He finds refuge at Selby Hall, where he encounters the beautiful Lady Georgiana. Includes "When Sparks Fly" and "Snowy Night with a Highlander." Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008.

[Download Snowy Night with a Stranger, DB68380](#)

Something to Celebrate by Felicia Mason

Read by Catherine Byers. Reading time 9 hours, 29 minutes

Three stories of holiday romance by African American authors. As the New Year approaches in Monica Jackson's "Truly Everlasting," Trask and Felicia discover they are meant for each other. Others find love in "The First Noel" by Felicia Mason and Margie Walker's "Kwanzaa Kupendi." Some explicit descriptions of sex. 1999.

[Download Something to Celebrate, DB57518](#)

Thanksgiving: The True Story by Penny Colman

Read by Laura Giannarelli. Reading time 3 hours, 48 minutes

Examines the origins and history of the Thanksgiving holiday as observed in the United States, including information about twelve locations that claim to have held the "first" celebration. Discusses traditional family gatherings, activities (sports and parades), food and menus, and Thanksgiving's broader meaning. For grades 6-9 and older readers. 2008.

[Download, Thanksgiving, DB69151](#)

This Year it will be Different and other Stories a Christmas Treasury by Maeve Binchy

Read by Michele Schaeffer. Reading time 4 hours, 55 minutes

Fifteen tales set in England, Ireland, and Australia telling how family members come to terms with Christmases that circumstances make "different." In the title story, a mother's listlessness leads to a change in the way her family observes the holiday. In another a resentful stepdaughter finds love within her new family. Bestseller.

[Download This Year it will Be Different, DB43325](#)

That Holiday Feeling by Debbie Macomber; Robyn Carr; Sherryl Woods.

Read by Kristin Allison. Reading time 7 hours, 47 minutes

Three holiday romance novellas. In Silver Bells (1996), the Manning siblings return home for a wedding at Christmastime. In The Perfect Holiday (2002), a bachelor hopes to wed. In Under the Christmas Tree (2009), a Virgin River veterinarian falls in love. Some explicit descriptions of sex. 2009.

[Download That Holiday Feeling, DB71428](#)

Note: This list was compiled by Wolfner Talking Book readers advisors Ginny Ryan and Diann Stark. Rhode Island Talking Books Plus members should order these titles through RI Talking Books Plus. To download, Talking Books Plus members should be signed up for [BARD](#).