

BARTON

LIBRARY

Dare to know

Christmas Fiction

Fiction that focuses on the celebration of the Christian and secular holiday of Christmas.

A genre in which stories focus on Christmas as a framing device in order to explore various themes. Some authors may wish to discuss poverty and social injustice in the world, while others simply promote kindness and generosity. Christmas stories can possess a materialistic message, or those writing in **historical fiction** or **romance fiction** might use the holiday as a setting for the narrative. Drawing from **Christian fiction**, some stories may share “the Good Word” and the religious meaning of Christmas while emphasizing testimony, missionary work, and evangelism. E. T. A. Hoffman’s *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (1816), Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol* (1843), Hans Christian Andersen’s “The Fir-Tree” (1844), Fyodor Dostoevsky’s “A Christmas Tree and a Wedding” (1848) and “The Beggar Boy at Christ’s Christmas Tree” (1876), Arthur Conan Doyle’s “The Adventure of the Blue Caruncle” (1892), O. Henry’s “The Gift of the Magi” (1905), Dylan Thomas’s *A Child’s Christmas in Wales* (1952), Kurt Vonnegut’s “Christmas Contest” (1952), Truman Capote’s *A Christmas Memory* (1956), and Agatha Christie’s *A Christmas Tragedy* (1932) and *The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding* (1960) are classic examples.

Common Elements

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| Jesus Christ |
| Peace |
| Self-sacrifice |
| Redemption |
| Santa Claus |

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| Yuletide |
| Goodwill |
| Giving |
| Family gatherings and relations |
| Holiday traditions |

Benefits of Reading

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| Imparts to readers the significance of the Christmas holiday |
| Deepens the meaning of Christmas for the reader |

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| Allows readers to view new people, places, and family traditions |
| Broadens the readers’ perspective and cultural awareness |

Modern Literary Examples

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| <i>Blue Christmas</i> (2007) by Mary Kay Andrews |
| <i>Christmas at Harrington's</i> (2010) by Melody Carlson |
| <i>The Christmas Bookshop</i> (2021) by Jenny Colgan |
| <i>The Christmas Box</i> (1993) by Richard Paul Evans |
| <i>Christmas By the Book</i> (2021) by Anne Marie Ryan |
| <i>The Christmas Dress</i> (2021) by Courtney Cole |
| <i>Christmas Eve at Friday Harbor</i> (2010) by Lisa Kleypas |
| <i>A Christmas Journey</i> (2003) by Anne Perry |
| <i>The Christmas Letters</i> (2022) by Jenny Hale |
| <i>The Christmas Light</i> (2014) by Donna VanLiere |
| <i>A Christmas Memory</i> (2022) by Richard Paul Evans |

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| <i>The Christmas Pig</i> (2006) by Kinky Friedman |
| <i>Christmas Shopaholic</i> (2019) by Sophie Kinsella |
| <i>Comfort and Joy</i> (2020) by Kristin Hannah |
| <i>Home for Christmas</i> (1987) by Nora Roberts |
| <i>A Magical New York Christmas</i> (2021) by Anita Hughes |
| <i>Once Upon a December</i> (2022) by Amy E. Reichert |
| <i>Redbird Christmas</i> (2004) by Fannie Flagg |
| <i>The Shepherd</i> (1975) by Frederick Forsyth |
| <i>Skipping Christmas</i> (2001) by John Grisham |
| <i>Visions of Sugar Plums</i> (2002) by Janet Evanovich |
| <i>A Wreath of Snow</i> (2012) by Liz Curtis Higgs |