



The Stupidest Angel: A Heartwarming Tale of Christmas Terror

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Move over, Charles Dickens—it's Christopher Moore time.

Twas the night (okay, more like the week) before Christmas, and all through Pine Cove, California, people are busy buying, wrapping, packing, and generally getting into the holiday spirit.

But not everybody is feeling the joy. Little Joshua Barker is in desperate need of a holiday miracle. No, he's not on his deathbed. But Josh is sure that he saw Santa take a shovel to the head, and now the seven-year-old has only one prayer: *Please, Santa, come back from the dead.*

But hold on! There's an angel waiting in the wings. (*Wings*, get it?) It's none other than the Archangel Raziel come to Earth seeking a small child with a wish that needs granting. Unfortunately, our angel's not sporting the brightest halo in the bunch, and before you can say "Kris Kringle" he's botched his sacred mission and sent the residents of Pine Cove headlong into Christmas chaos, culminating in the most hilarious and horrifying holiday party the town has ever seen.

Only Christopher Moore, the man who brought you the outrageous lost gospel Lamb and the hysterical fish tale *Fluke*, could have devised a new holiday classic that tugs at the heartstrings and serves up a healthy slice of fruitcake to boot.

The Stupidest Angel: A Heartwarming Tale of Christmas Terror Details

Date : Published (first published October 1st 2004)

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Author : Christopher Moore

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Florence (Lefty) MacIntosh says

3 ½ stars: It starts weak, you know that snarky humour that can wear thin real fast? Then he switches to crude. Crude done well can be hilarious and Moore's a master. It's a bizarre story packed with quirky characters, an action packed little page turner. Throw in a cemetery full of gossipy dead people, a murder, an archangel on a mission, zombies and a fruit bat. It's even got a few decent though admittedly twisted love interests. My favorite the pot addicted cop and his warrior babe wife (a loveable sword wielding psycho who hears voices). I thought it rocked until the ending, which was okay, just pointless. A fast, fun read.

"No one knows why, but second only to eating the brains of the living, the dead love affordable prefab furniture. IKEA!! IKEA!!"

Eric says

How else but in a mad lib could you have a book involving an idiot angel, a pot smoking sheriff, a zombie Santa, a talking fruit bat, and Kendra, Warrior Babe of the Outland? From the mind and pen of Christopher Moore, that's how!

This is typical Moore fare, which is to say, atypical, irreverent, and funny as hell. It's a short, quick read that never takes itself the least bit seriously, and, best yet, it's a Christmas story (I really hope they make a movie out of this, as is allegedly in the works. I would watch it every holiday season, assuming they didn't fuck it up).

I honestly don't want to say more about the plot, because it's probably funnier if you don't know what is coming, but I will leave this quote, which comes from the end of Chapter One, to give you an idea of the tone of the book.

In another Christmas story, Dale Pearson, evil developer, self-absorbed woman hater, and seemingly unredeemable curmudgeon, might be visited in the night by a series of ghosts who, by showing him bleak visions of Christmas future, past, and present, would bring about in him a change to generosity, kindness, and a general warmth toward his fellow man. But this is not that kind of Christmas story, so here, in not too many pages, someone is going to dispatch the miserable son of a bitch with a shovel. That's the spirit of Christmas yet to come in these parts.
Ho, ho, ho.

Bark says

There's nothing more to say here really. I'm throwing in the towel. I am on disc 3 and have been so completely zoned out I feel like I may have to go all the way back to the beginning. I don't know if I'm just distracted, completely humorless or falling into another slump but this book could not entertain me and I have far too many others sitting here to force it upon myself. The angel is indeed stupid as promised but so are most of the other characters (and there are MANY of them) and it's all a little too wacky/zany for my current pissy mood.

SheriC (PM) says

A dimwitted and incompetent angel loses a bet and picks a town full of zany characters in which to fulfill it. Hijinks and frantic hilarity ensue.

I found it entertaining enough to occupy my mind while running errands. Audiobook version via Audible. Good performance by Tony Roberts.

John says

What is not to love about a book that has a pot smoking law official married to a crazy woman who runs around naked with a broad sword, brain sucking zombies lead by Santa who want to go shopping at IKEA, incompetent arc angel who likes snickers, and a talking fruit bat? I found the story to be very entertaining with several laugh out loud points (I listened to it on tape). I'd recommend this book to anyone who can just let go of reality and enjoy a tale.

Marvin says

I just picked this book for our book club's December read but couldn't wait until December to read it. I guess you can say that a little Christmas mayhem is good for any time of the year. And if you think Christmas tales are rather lame, peruse this single paragraph at the beginning of the novel.

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The Stupidest Angel is anything but the normal Christmas tale. Christopher Moore has revived the residents of Pine Cove, and some other characters from his other novels, with all their silliness and insanity and added an angel that is one part the Terminator and two part Jim Carry from *Dumb and Dumber*. This rather short novel has more one-liners than a Henny Youngman convention and more laughs than a barrel of tea party congressmen. I especially loved the return of Roberto T. Fruitbat from *Island of the Sequined Love Nun* but you do not need to have read any of Moore's other novels to enjoy this one. Put this on your Christmas list

and hope someone doesn't kill Santa Claus before December.

Stephen says

I generally enjoy Moore's comedies but this one's just too silly.

Raziel, God's stupidest angel has been sent to earth to grant a Christmas miracle to a lucky child. In the quaint village of Pine Cove, he meets 8 year old Joshua, a recent witness to the death of Santa (actually the accidental killing of local jerk Dale, in a Santa suit, by his ex-wife), who fears Christmas is lost. Raziel seeks to rectify the matter by raising Santa--and every other corpse in the graveyard--from the dead on Christmas Eve. Chaos ensues, said zombies ultimately subdued--hacked back to death--by retired B-movie actress Molly, reprising her signature role of Kendra, Warrior Babe of the Outland complete with sword. If that doesn't put you in the Christmas spirit, you're just not ready for the holidays. Some fun moments, but nowhere near the cleverness of Moore's better books like *Fool*, *Lamb* and *A Dirty Job*.

Mauoijenn ~ *Mouthy Jenn* ~ says

Santa?

Murdered?

WTF!!

This book had me rooting for the poor dippy angel trying to help the poor boy.

I almost dropped this book into the bathtub from laughing so hard.

IT's that cute.

Carol says

The Stupidest Angel really is one crazy, twisted book! This is the warning from author Christopher Moore just prior to the first chapter.....so take heed:

"If you're buying this book as a gift for your grandma or a kid, you should be aware that it contains cusswords as well as tasteful depictions of cannibalism and people in their forties having sex. Don't blame me. I told you."

Anyway, I did have a few laughs resulting from the freakish conversations between the undead in the graveyard, and did like Theo, the incompetent pot-smoking resident lawman as well as the bizarre church scene with the zombies, but it is unlikely this book will become a Christmas tradition for me.

Paula says

Its utterly rediculous, but its also laugh out loud FUNNY. Im listening on audio book and I've never enjoyed doing laundry more. Its totally odd ball, irreverent, immature, deviously clever and just plain silly, as are most of Moore's books. It doesn't matter if you find the story "believeable" its TOO FUNNY for me to care.

C'mon, washed-up female-battle-warrior cult movie star whos totally nuts (in a friendly crazy neighbor sort of way) married to pot smoking sherrif. DEA helicopeter subcontractor helps woman he's never met clean up a crime scene, and introduces her to his pet fruit bat. Oh, yeah, and then there is the stupidest angel, and the sherrif's biologist friend who's doing some pretty wierd stuff with conditioning rats that just might work on him too... something about batteries and electrodes and underwear models... a little "goy" kid and his ruminations on whos got better holidays, and what's gonna get him on the bad list at the north pole.

Kinda throws believable out the window before you even start the book. Its not something you'd want to discuss with the church book club, no worse than your average cable stand-up from a vulgarity standpoint and much funnier than most. I've been laughing for the last 3 hours straight. Its silly, go with it.

Leslie says

If you're sick of all the sentimental Christmas stories and looking for something a little different and have a twisted sense of humor. This is the book for you.

My favorite scenes were when the dead people would talk to each other in the cemetery. I also liked how a lot of characters were very crochety and not shy about cussing.

Christopher Moore is the greatest at twisted, dark humor :)

Lyn says

This is another Christopher Moore book I have enjoyed reading, and they have all been hilarious.

Very funny and it had that Christopher Moore kookiness, even some returns of fun characters.

If you like zombies, you may like this.

But this is not one that I would recommend to begin reading his works. If you have never read any of his books try Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Pal or A Dirty Job first.

Still pretty good.

Jason Koivu says

Kitchen sink wackiness and a troop of tropes parade through a book not half as hilarious as I hoped.

In a barely fictional California coastal town - that's about two hours from where I live and, to the writer's credit, I feel pretty sure I've been there - the locals of a sleepy tourist town prepare for Christmas. A handful of middle-aged divorcees, lonesome loners, curmudgeons, and crazies bitch and bumble their way through a hair-(and more)-raising couple days. A celestial visitor scares the bejesus out of the local constable, who's got his hands full sorting out a town's worth of mischief and mayhem.

Do all of Christopher Moore's books include angels and a undercurrent of Christianity? I've only read two Moores so far, but I'm two for two on the jesus and god shit. I should probably look for titles without "gospel" and "angel" in them.

This isn't as funny as I'd hoped. In fact, neither of his books lived up to the hype I built up after reading a few reviews. I got a snort or two out of *The Stupidest Angel*, but generally I find his humor to be dated and easy, as in, he goes for the easy gag. There were a few insightful satirical jabs, but not enough to make me feel it was worth the read.

Scarlet Cameo says

Con la advertencia más divertida que hay al iniciar la historia nos adentramos a la historia de un pequeño pueblo afectado por las estupidez de un ángel...que no es la primera vez que se equivoca

"No era su primera misión de navidad. No, de hecho, había sido el encargado de la primera de todas, pero como se había entretenido echando una partida de pinacle, llegó con un retraso de 10 años y había anunciado al propio hijo prepubescente que encontraría un bebé envuelto en mantillas en un pesebre"

Si bien su primer error fue vergonzoso el segundo es mortal. En su afán de cumplir el milagro de navidad termina metiendo en terribles, y graciosas, dificultades. Aunque siendo sincera el enfoque de este libro no radica en ese "milagro navideño" sino en las acciones que llevan a ese milagro y en los personajes involucrados; estos últimos un catalogo de personas extravagantes que se ven reducidas por los personajes bastante raros, y que terminan siendo opacados por el murciélagos Roberto.

Si bien la historia da muchísimas vueltas antes de llegar al climax, todo el transcurso antes de ello es divertido, cargado de humor negro y personalidades cuestionables, que van juntando las piezas para llegar la batalla final, aunque todo ese trabajo es reducido a nada por una resolución por demás decepcionante, con un *deus ex machina* en toda la regla y que no puede más insatisfactorio si lo intentará.

A pesar de la historia no es nada del otro mundo, en ningún momento aburre dado que se desarrolla en un 70% humor y 30% en acción holliwodense, y no hay más que eso, los personajes están poco profundizados y el pueblo no es excesivamente descrito, de hecho estos aspectos están tan presentes que me atrevo a decir

que este es un libro únicamente para una tarde lluviosa en la que no haya nada que hacer porque a pesar de que no es un libro del tipo profundo pero es tremadamente entretenido.

?Susan? says

My favorite Christmas read. Just so off, it's funny. My third year to love this odd story.

Shayantani Das says

Three frequently repeated reactions while reading this book:

Arghh!! How lame/ irritating/ silly!!

Arghh!! Stop swearing you *****!!

Arghh!! This is not funny, its STUPID!!

The Stupidest angel was a **stupid** book, with stupid angels, and other stupid and irritating characters and stupid jokes which gave me a headache and were **not funny**, and I am not stupid enough to read it anymore. I GIVE UP!!

Chris says

3.5 stars.

This really had some potential, and some of the stuff was downright hilarious. But it did seem to run a bit long at times. Still, Christopher Moore is a funny dude and I'll read more of his stuff.

Plus, the audio was dead-on. The narrator, Tony Roberts, had a great voice for narration and nailed the characters. His delivery of Moore's punchlines was spot on too.

Sandi says

I don't think a book has made me laugh this much since Good Omens The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch. I want to be the Warrior Babe of the Outland and fight zombies who want to eat brains and go to IKEA. I saw the movie *Zombieland* this past weekend and that might have just put me in the right frame of mind for this book.

Humor in literature is a very subjective thing. What makes one person laugh his butt off is just dumb and annoying to someone else. I love the humor of Connie Willis and I am amused by the Thursday Next series by Jasper Fforde. I've had quite a few laugh-out-loud moments reading Jim Butcher's Dresden Files series. Personally, I just didn't find The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy or the first book in the Discworld series, The Color of Magic, funny at all, but a lot of people I know love these books. So, if you read The Stupidest

Angel and hate it, don't blame me. We just might not have the same taste.

I don't know why I haven't read any of Christopher Moore's work before. If this is anything like his other books, I now now where to turn when I need a book that will make me laugh.

Oh, and there is a parental caution. This book is definitely R-rated for sexuality, language and adult situations.

Aoibhínn says

The Stupidest Angel: A Heartwarming Tale of Christmas Terror was my first Christopher Moore novel. This novel is not the type of book I normally read.

The plot was quite thin but there were tons of funny scenes that made me giggle and snicker (it wasn't funny enough to make me laugh out loud). However I got bored with this book pretty quickly. The humour in this book is very "in your face" type humour. The humour was just so repetitive that it started to get on my nerves after a while and the jokes just stopped being funny. I didn't like the second half of the book as it just got too far-fetched and stupid. I really struggled to finish it.

I don't think this sort of book is for everyone and I'm not sure that I'll ever read another book by Christopher Moore. He's the type of author I would get bored of very easily. If you like movies like *Scary Movie*, *Date Movie* and *Epic Movie* then you'll probably like this book.

2 stars!

Kevin says

Heartwarming? (meant ironically) A stupid angel is supposed to give a child his Christmas wish. The 7 year old child sees "Santa" getting hit with a shovel and wishes that Santa was still alive. Santa comes back to life with a group of his dead friends as zombies. This book had a couple of very funny scenes but in my opinion was definitely not worth the time.
