



The Christmas Bus

Melody Carlson

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The people of Christmas Valley always celebrate Christmas to the fullest extent. The mayor plays Santa, every business is holiday themed, and there's a nativity for the kids each Christmas Eve. This town knows Christmas. But this year nothing goes according to plan.

The Christmas Bus Details

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From Reader Review The Christmas Bus for online ebook

Janet C-B says

This was an inexpensive Kindle download to added to my inventory of Christmas "feel good" books. The story was folksy, small town, and engaging. I enjoyed it as light Christmas holiday reading.

Kayce says

During the Christmas season my mom reads a lot of Christmas themed books. She just loves a good Christmas story. Years ago she bought The Christmas Bus and thought of my paternal grandmother, who drove a school bus. After passing it around the family, it's been sitting on my desk for a while waiting for me to get to it. And I'm glad I finally did; it is such a cozy little read!

This is a quick read, but it's a great kick off to the holiday season! With Thanksgiving tomorrow, Christmas is just around the corner and it's that time of year to watch Christmas movies and read the stories and just smile and be thankful. The Christmas Bus offers valuable lessons about how we treat others during the frenzied holiday season. Things aren't always what they seem, and while a predictable story, this was still a good book. Simple and to the point, the reader doesn't feel overwhelmed with the details of several side stories.

When the bus rolls into town, folks in the small town setting get riled up about it's taking up space in the streets. Lonely widows, young couples, new moms, and a crotchety older woman are among the strangers that Edith invites to the inn for Christmas. Grab a cup of hot cocoa, a fuzzy blanket, and read this short novel as we begin to prepare for the most wonderful time of year!

Ley Mesina says

Edith Ryan is the owner of The Shepard's Inn, a bed and breakfast located in the town of Christmas Valley - a town that celebrates Christmas all year long. When Edith finds out that her children will not be spending Christmas with her and her husband, she decides to open her business up for those that have no plans or no place to go for the holidays. The townspeople and local busy-bodies are instantly intrigued by Edith's guest, especially with the colorful bus that is parked in front of the Inn which occupy a young couple expecting a child.

The Christmas Bus is a book that I have read every Christmas since 2006. It always gives me a heartwarming feeling inside and it puts me in the mood for the holidays (which is my favorite time of year). It shows a selflessness that captures the true meaning of Christmas and makes you believe that angels and miracles really exist.

Becky R. says

I understand that Melody Carlson, author of *The Christmas Bus*, has actually written many Christmas themed novels. This was my first, however, and it was cute. While this second novel played a bit more obviously on Christmas story themes, such as the Mary & Joseph story with a young expecting couple that have rolled into town in an old rickety bus, it was still a fun read. In Christmas Valley, the little town there plays on every bit of Christmas that they can to draw tourism. For the owners of The Shepherd's Inn, this would be an interesting holiday, as their own children would be unable to come for Christmas. In exchange, they have opened up their inn for any wayward travelers who needed a place to stay for the holidays.

In a faintly obvious mixing of tales, *The Christmas Bus* is a story about sharing Christmas with everyone, including those who might not be quite so lovable or even likable! There are the lonely, the homeless, the expecting, and the scrooges in this story, all interacting with one another to make one memorable Christmas. I did enjoy this short little novel, even with its faint predictability. As a quick Christmas read, it was fun to revel in the spirit a little longer.

Darla Damron says

Very fun Christmas story

This was a very fun and entertaining Christmas story! Loved the different characters and their unique personality. Put your focus back on the true meaning of Christmas.

Pamela says

The Christmas Bus: A charming story reminding us all to be generous in heart, and refrain from critical judgment; for by giving a kind word or a helping hand to a stranger, or a warm meal or a place to stay, we may be entertaining angels unaware.

THREE *** Charmingly Good Christmas Parable *** STARS

Malia Saldaña says

I love this book! It's one of my favorite Christmas books. I love how sweet the characters are.♥?

Julie Graves says

Christmas Valley capitalizes on it's name all year long. Every store and restaurant is Christmas themed. This year the local pastor and his wife who also run the Bed and Breakfast will sadly be alone. Their children are unable to come home for Christmas.

Inspired by one of her husbands sermons, Edith Ryan decides to open the Bed and Breakfast up to 5 people or families in need of a place to spend Christmas. Charles had preached about being hospitable because they never know when they may be entertaining angels unaware.

Pretty soon all 5 rooms in the Bed and Breakfast are filled up. One of the guests is cantankerous Myrtle. Myrtle seems to be ancient. She is "dropped off" in Christmas Valley and intends to spend 2 weeks at the Bed and Breakfast. Myrtle doesn't seem to know boundaries. She totally ignores the sign above Edith's kitchen that states "no guests beyond this point". She makes herself right at home. Myrtle has a tendency to make people angry also. Her and one of the church members butt heads instantaneously when Myrtle offers to "help" with the traditional Christmas pageant.

A young couple arrives in Christmas Valley. They are driving a broken down, very colorful bus. They are told to get it off the street. They try to get a room at the Bed and Breakfast but there are no more rooms left. Charles and Edith allow them to park their bus in front of the B&B for the night, little knowing that it will be for more than one night since the bus just broke down. Amy and Collin are so young and seem to be in desperate need of help. Not only has their bus broken down, but Amy is very pregnant.

Between Myrtle's shenanigans and worry over Amy and Collin, Edith and Charles have their hands full. Will they be able to make this Christmas special for their guests along with "entertaining an angel unaware"?

I thought this was a sweet Christmas read. It was entertaining as well as thought-provoking. I love the message of being hospitable to all because we may not know when we are entertaining angels unaware. Edith and Charles were perfect examples of two people caring for others no matter their circumstances. I may have to put this on my annual Christmas "read" list.

Karis says

Opening up *The Christmas Bus* by Melody Carlson, I expected a quick, fluffy holiday read—instead, I found myself face to face with a book that challenged my very heart and way of celebrating Christmas with questions such as the following—Am I really listening and ready to follow God's promptings? In what ways am I timid about my faith and worry about offending others when I should be shouting, sharing my faith from the proverbial megaphone and rooftops? And in what ways do I only help others when it's convenient for me?

In a small town church where everyone seems fixed in their ways, what could happen when one faithful person opens her heart to listen to God and apply the truth she's heard?

When Edith follows her prompting from God and opens up her inn on discount through the holidays—she's at first dismayed by who comes, her Christmas guests—a "cantankerous old woman," a fighting couple, a moody old man, and others. Her response to being overwhelmed is beyond humbling for me to see. *"She sat down at her little desk, bowed her head and prayed. She asked God to help her and Charles to help each one of the guests, specifically laying their problems out in the same way that she might arrange bath linens, and finally she imagined herself putting this all into God's capable hands as she said 'amen.'"*

It's through one of her guests, Myrtle, the cantankerous old woman, that I was both challenged and convicted again. Despite all her quirkiness and meddling, I loved her character for her boldness to share the truth, proclaiming the real message of Christmas. Showing up out of the blue, she shocks the Christmas Valley

congregation with her assessment of their town. *"What bothers me is that you people are going to forget what Christmas is really about. It's not about 'Jingle Bells' and candy canes and Santa head toilet-seat covers. It's not about making a few extra bucks or impressing your friends with the way your places is all lit up. And if this is all that Christmas Valley has to offer, I'd just as soon spend my Christmas someplace else!"*

What is Christmas without Christ she asks in essence? She's not afraid to risk offending anyone if doing so means having a soul go another day without hearing the truth.

Things get more exciting when an old hippie van breaks down in front of the inn with a young couple, Colin and Amy who are expecting their first child and are on their way to California, job hunting. The eyesore is a cause of division in the town, which so prides itself for its holiday decorations and cheer, but maybe its arrival is the reminder the town needs about the true spirit of Christmas and hospitality.

Since when does our helping others revolve so much around what's convenient for us? Where is our sense of putting others first? This novel reminded me of the self-centered mindset it's so easy to slip into even as a Christian, and bolstered me with a new joy and appreciation for God's gift of, yes, Christ but also countless other ways He moves and works in our lives.

I'm so glad to have found this new-to-me author to keep my eyes out for. I 100% recommend this book if you're looking for a book to challenge you personally in the way you approach your faith and celebrate the Christmas season.

Mary says

Sounds a little familiar, doesn't it? This is a sweet, modern retelling of the Christmas Story. Melody Carlson wrote a quiet yet sometimes humorous novella filled with quirky characters. It's an enjoyable book that will warm your heart and remind you of "the reason for the season".

3.5 stars

Read, Run, Ramble says

Melody Carlson has a knack for writing fun, lovable characters and she's done just that in *The Christmas Bus*.

This tale is a Christian, traditional Christmas story with clear parallels to the birth of Jesus. The story is somewhat predictable, but is mixed with just enough surprise that readers won't be bored.

Charles is the pastor of the local church in Christmas Valley, an endearing town readers will want to visit. Edith is his wife and they are a faithful, loving couple who love their church and their little town. Met with unexpected changes to their normal Christmas plans, Edith and Charles embark on one of their most interesting holidays to date. Along the way readers will meet a varied and eccentric cast of characters - parishioners, townspeople, visitors, etc who will make you smile.

The Christmas Bus is a sweet, endearing, warm tale that will provide a few funky twists on a traditional Christmas theme!

Sally906 says

I am starting to get into the swing of my annual orgy of Christmas themed reading. *THE CHRISTMAS BUS* is sweet, sappy and totally fluffy read which grabbed me from the first page and kept me engrossed until the 'Happily ever after' at the end. I knew how the story was going to go – a few days before Christmas, no room at the Inn and a young couple with a baby due any tick of the clock – but you know what? It didn't matter – it was still a lovely read with enough conflict to be resolved to keep the story from sinking into a pink fur lined hole. The book is Christian fiction so there is a biblical message as well – but Christmas wouldn't be Christmas if Christ wasn't there. A quick Christmas read, it was fun and inspiring.

Alice Lippart says

A sweet book, somewhat predictable but had some very loveable characters.

Jerry says

This year's Halloween is over and done with, so, it's time for Christmas stories...such as this one!

While a bit predictable, it was still rather cute and fun. It was sort of like *Touched by an Angel* meets Hallmark Channel telefilm.

Kim Griffin says

This was a heartwarming and cute little Christmas story. It was short, less than 200 pages long, so much of it was kind of simple and the characters were pretty one-dimensional, but it got me into the Christmas spirit and gave me a warm feeling inside. Since that was just what I was looking for, I really enjoyed it. I'm getting ready to start another Christmas story by Carlson. Hopefully it will be just as sweet a story as this one was!
