



Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics of Angels, a Manger, and the Birth of Hope (Bright Empires)

Max Lucado

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A Heartwarming Collection of Christmas Stories and Reflections from Max Lucado

These stories—like your favorite Christmas ornaments—come in all shapes and sizes. They unfold in a variety of settings, from ancient Bethlehem to rural England. From a small Texas town to the heavenly realms. Some are short. Others many chapters long. Some offer reflections. Others imagine Christmas through the eyes of a burnt-out candle maker, a lonely business man, or heavenly angels.

Yet all are vintage Lucado, and all resonate with the wonder of the season.

"In the mystery of Christmas," Max writes, "we find its majesty. The mystery of how God became flesh, why he chose to come, and how much he must love his people. Such mysteries can never be solved, just as love can never be diagrammed. Christmas is best pondered, not with logic, but imagination."

That's what each of these unique Christmas stories help us do. In the midst of the bustle and hurry that often distracts us this time of year, these stories free us to explore the ways in which Christ's coming has forever changed history—and us.

Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics of Angels, a Manger, and the Birth of Hope (Bright Empires) Details

Date : Published (first published August 30th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Max Lucado

Format : Kindle Edition 282 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Christian, Christian Fiction, Short Stories, Fiction, Christian Living



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From Reader Review Christmas Stories: Heartwarming Classics of Angels, a Manger, and the Birth of Hope (Bright Empires) for online ebook

Genna Evelyn says

I should begin by saying that I'm not a huge fan of Max Lucado. I have read some decent writing by him, but with his nonfiction stuff I just get the feeling that he's trying to sell books rather than put out new helpful fresh material for his readers.

BUT, I have always been blown away by his fiction work. His kids stories are beyond compare so I was intrigued to get a chance to review his new collection of Advent stories, especially since a friend and I are celebrating Advent together this year and it was really nice to be able to make it special by incorporating this book into what we are doing.

The first story really set the tone for me. It was a longer one, a few chapters long, but it had all the elements of a great story in it. A mystery, conflict, even a hint of romance and a fantastic climax. The stories rolled on from there. Some long, some short, but all brought out a different aspect of the true significance of the Advent/Christmas season in a way that gave me something new to meditate on with each story -- which is just what I wanted since I was looking forward to digesting this book slowly as I savour the Saviour during this Advent season. It dovetails so nicely with my Advent scripture readings and prayers.

Thanks Max, I really enjoy this one. Keep it up with the fiction.

Brian Lang says

Max Lucado's new book is filled with heartwarming tales that help you enjoy and think about the Christmas season. All of these stories are excerpts from his many works that have been compiled into one book, so if you are familiar with Lucado's writings, then you have probably read many of these stories. Still, it's nice to have all of his charming Christmas stories in one book. Mr. Lucado strives to show the reader a new way of thinking about the seemingly familiar Christmas season. Whether it be the story of the manger from an angel's point of view, to a story of redemption at Christmas time, these stories are to sure to warm your heart this Christmas season.

Lisa Bhatt says

This is truly a wonderful Christmas book to share with the family. All of the short stories illustrate the story of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in an easy to understand format for older children and entices readers to think about traditional concepts and morals in a new light. One of the short stories talks about Santa and that St. Nicholas from Myra was actually imprisoned, etc. I omit this story when reading with my kids as we love and adore the Autobiography of Santa Clause and read it every year.

John Thompson says

As always a wonderful comforting read.

Max Lucado is so easy to read but so insightful. He always writes in a down to earth way that reflects what I'm wondering about Christ. I loved the Christmas Candle story and the way he wrote about what Joseph and Mary might have been thinking.

Maggie says

This was good but it really wasn't my style. There were some interesting stories and I liked that it had a mixture of story lengths but it just wasn't as comforting or uplifting as I thought it would be. That being said I did find myself chatting with people about it!

Debra Wills says

I enjoyed this Christmas treasure of short stories with my Mom. It is a great read during the Christmas season or throughout the year.

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

CHRISTMAS STORIES

By Max Lucado

A compilation of Christmas stories by Max Lucado celebrating the joy and wonder of the season. Some titles have been previously published, but are well worth another read.

The Christmas Candle is a story of faith, forgiveness, and miracles. When an accident happens who will receive the lost candle that will make their needed miracle come true?

The Christmas Child is a story of family and forgiveness. When an accident takes a life and changes two others will a family torn apart ever come together?

The Answer is Yes is a story of love, rebellion, and forgiveness. It is an allegory of our Heavenly Father's love of us and the forgiveness He offers to us His rebellious children.

The North Pole or the Manger? Ponders the man behind the myth of Santa Clause and the God who became Man. Comparing Jesus with Santa we see where we should seek eternal gifts.

Gabriel's Question ponders the mode of Jesus' coming. A peasant girl? A stable? For the Son of God?

The Night in the Stable dwells on Joseph and his feelings on the night of Jesus' birth.

No Room in the Inn

Jacob's Gift is a giving up of one's dreams by giving what you have to one who is without, a story of sacrifice.

An Angel's Story is story about the conflict to stop Jesus' coming birth. Lucifer is shown as a conniver who will stop at nothing to thwart God's plan for redemption, including a battle in Heaven and on Earth for the soul of humanity.

Tiny Mouth, Tiny Feet is Mary's prayer for her newborn son who will soon be her Savior and King.

Includes an excerpt of GOD CAME NEAR

Mainon says

Is it February already?

I downloaded this to read over the holidays, but I had so many other books I was desperate to read that this one got left out in the cold. Yeah, that was a bad pun. [Insert another bad pun about there being "no room in the inn" for this book here.]

Puns aside, this is a collection of Christmas stories by Max Lucado. Lucado's books are overtly religious, and he goes heavy on the sentimentality, but if that's your kind of book, there's no one better. In other words, if you're looking for the kind of stories that Nicholas Sparks writes, except with religious holiday themes, this is definitely the book for you.

The first story, "The Christmas Candle," is by far the longest story in the book (it accounted for about 40% of the Kindle version). In a cozy, old-fashioned town (some chapters take place in 1664, some in 1864), this story follows the arc of a family of candlemakers. Every 25 years, an angel appears and blesses one of the Christmas candles, and the prayer said over that candle is heeded. Which makes God seem a bit like a genie, but still, it's a charming little story. There's a thought-provoking exchange between one of the townspeople and the new minister who's skeptical about the Christmas candle: "What are you afraid of, Reverend? Afraid the prayers won't be answered or afraid they will?... Do you fear that God will dash the faith of the people, my son? Or do you fear that he will stretch yours?"

Personally, I still don't think God deals in magic candles every few decades, but I also had to admit to myself that when I say, "God doesn't behave like that," I'm subjecting Him to my own standards of how I think He should behave -- and who am I to do that?

The rest of the stories are a little uneven. They're mostly modern-day, and some veer awfully close to being downright maudlin. Women in Max Lucado's world seem to die awfully frequently, whether in car accidents or childbirth, and they almost always seem to leave a young child behind. But, despite the tortured plot

devices, there's always a simple and heartwarming message at the core of each story, and the collection as a whole will probably give you the warm fuzzies even while you roll your eyes.

After all, if there's any time of year when gooey and sweet is appropriate (even cherished)... surely that time is Christmastime. Read this in front of a crackling fireplace while the lights on the Christmas tree twinkle softly in the corner, and all will seem right with the world.

And if it's February and your Christmas lights are still up... hey, that's perfectly okay, too.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the BookSneeze book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

Belindachaplin says

It was especially meaningful to me to read Max Lucado's collection of Christmas stories in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It is a great gift idea, especially for fans of his work.

Thinking about things from different angels - "out of the box" - as I talk with my language students when we do lateral thinking, Max's stories show completely different sides to the Christmas story: like looking at the story from Angels' perspective to a story of the Inn Keeper's little son Jacob.

Made up of two parts "Christ is celebrated" and "Christ is born" the individual stories are intermingled with short snippets or bible verses, and the whole book just reminded me of why we celebrate Christmas: Christ the Saviour is BORN.

As it is a collection of stories from amongst his other works, I had read some of them before, but reading them again in this context made them more special. But be aware that these aren't new stories.

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Kathleen (Kat) Smith says

OK most of you already know what a huge fan I am of Max Lucado's books and have already established quite the library containing his novels, but recently I had the opportunity to review Christmas Stories from Max Lucado as well compliments of Thomas Nelson Publishers and Net Galley for my honest review. Once again, Max takes the reader by the hand and leads them into another time and place with his magical ability to weave a great story. Only in this book, you get a collection of short stories geared to make you truly appreciate the real meaning behind Christmas and that is the birth of Christ.

One of my favorites is called The Christmas Candle and it takes up almost half the book. It begins in the 1500's when a candle maker's family receives an unexpected visit from an angel on Christmas Eve. Touching only a single candle, the one that receives that candle, prays and then lights it will receive a Christmas miracle.

Now in the mid-1800's the story picks up once more with the same family of candle makers who have been maintaining this tradition in the town of Gladstone, England. Every twenty five years, an angel visits the candle maker on Christmas Eve and once again touches only one candle. That family that receives it receives a Christmas Miracle and so the legend has grown over the years with each family hoping that the candle maker will give that candle to them. Only this year, things are about to get a whole lot more complicated and a new pastor is about to come to the church. Will the miracles continue or has it been merely a legend after all?

This is just one of the heart-warming stories you will find along with some tidbits of wonderful Christmas quotes and scriptures from the Bible. If you're looking for the perfect way to celebrate the Christmas season or provide a wonderful gift to that hard to shop for person, this is the ideal way to share a little love that will linger long past the Christmas season. A must read and rates a 5 out of 5 stars!

Charli says

Christmas is always a magical time of year whether we are Christians or not. Just about everyone seems to love a good Christmas carol or a heartwarming Christmas story, whether that story involves our Lord and Savior or not.

Max Lucado, a prolific and highly insightful Christian author, brings together a treasure trove of Christmas tales to both delight and inspire in Christmas Stories. Most, if not all, of these stories were previously published in other works of Max's, but the collection of these stories here is absolutely brilliant.

Whether you are looking for a heartwarming tale of miracles or are looking for an insight into what it must have been like for the Angel Gabriel to deliver the news to Mary that she would bear Jesus Christ, you can find it here in this book.

This book is as well written and put together as all of Max's works are and it was a pleasure to read - such a pleasure in fact that once I started, it only took me two days of off-and-on reading to complete it!

This is a definite must-have book for the holidays!

Theresa says

Truly a book full of heartwarming stories presented in a style that only Max Lucado can do. These stories will touch your soul and bring tears to your eyes as you snuggle up to get lost in faraway places in both past and present.

Of all the stories, my favorite has to be "The Answer is Yes". It's a story about a man and his daughter and how love will always be able to forgive - no matter how big the mistake. Make sure to have tissues on hand, as this one made me cry.

I also enjoyed how Max brought to life Joseph and his role in the life of Jesus. Joseph is not discussed much in the Bible, but this truly made me step back and consider how it must have been for Joseph and how it

affected his life.

One other great piece worth mentioning is a short article on Santa Claus. This look at the man/saint is a fantastic piece that needs to be read by all!

Although all the stories and outtakes are good, the above three are my favorites. This book is certainly a must to everyone's library - and not just for Christmas!

Victoria says

Many very short stories are in this book. However, I was unaware when I bought it that it included a longer story called The Christmas Candle, in which I had already read a few years ago. Therefore, I was a bit bummed out, since that was released on its own earlier on, that I felt it was a bit ridiculous to include it in this. I thought they were going to be stories I hadn't read before. The second story was one I was familiar with, as I saw the film for it, but this was a good story. The others were very quick and not as good as I had hoped. This book was a disappointment for me. I am sorry to say so!

Brittany says

This is a heartwarming collection of short Christmas stories that reflect the true meaning of Christmas. This book features beautiful stories of love, peace, hope, miracles, angels, mercy, and of course Jesus Christ. Stories such as "The Candle" in which an angels visit and the prayers of the townspeople brings about some Christmas miracles.

This was a really beautiful Christmas book. Lucado writes in a simple heart-felt style that makes his stories so endearing. It took me a little while to warm up to this book, probably since I didn't even start on it until after Christmas, but once I got into it it was so good! I particularly enjoyed the stories "The Christmas Candle" and "Jacob's Gift". I was also pleased to see "The Christmas Child" in this collection; I really enjoyed the movie that was made from that story.

I definitely recommend this book to anyone. It is a cozy, feel-good read that would make a perfect Christmas gift; either for yourself or someone you love.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

Jacquie says

Inspiring and beautiful Christmas stories.
