



# **Where Treetops Glisten: Three Stories of Heartwarming Courage and Christmas Romance During World War II**

*Tricia Goyer , Cara C. Putman , Sarah Sundin*

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**Where Treetops Glisten: Three Stories of Heartwarming Courage and Christmas Romance During World War II** Tricia Goyer , Cara C. Putman , Sarah Sundin  
**The crunch of newly fallen snow, the weight of wartime**

Three siblings forging new paths and finding love in three stories, filled with the wonder of Christmas

Turn back the clock to a different time, listen to Bing Crosby sing of sleigh bells in the snow, as the realities of America's involvement in the Second World War change the lives of the Turner family in Lafayette, Indiana.

In *White Christmas* by Cara Putman, Abigail Turner is holding down the Home Front as a college student and a part-time employee at a one-of-a-kind candy shop. Loss of a beau to the war has Abigail skittish about romantic entanglements—until a hard-working young man with a serious problem needs her help.

Abigail's brother Pete is a fighter pilot hero returned from the European Theatre in Sarah Sundin's *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, trying to recapture the hope and peace his time at war has eroded. But when he encounters a precocious little girl in need of Pete's friendship, can he convince her widowed mother that he's no longer the bully she once knew?

In Tricia Goyer's *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, Meredith Turner, "Merry" to those who know her best, is using her skills as a combat nurse on the frontline in the Netherlands. Halfway around the world from home, Merry never expects to face her deepest betrayal head on, but that's precisely what God has in mind to redeem her broken heart.

The Turner family believes in God's providence during such a tumultuous time. Can they absorb the miracle of Christ's birth and God's plan for a future?

## Where Treetops Glisten: Three Stories of Heartwarming Courage and Christmas Romance During World War II Details

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## **From Reader Review Where Treetops Glisten: Three Stories of Heartwarming Courage and Christmas Romance During World War II for online ebook**

**Tressa (Wishful Endings) says**

I love Christmas stories. They are full of hope, as these three historical novellas were. The stories are all set around Christmastime as the sounds, sights, and smells of Christmas are present, such as mistletoe, Christmas treats, gifts, snow, and when family come home to be together. I loved how small gifts, especially those that weren't physical gifts, played a large part of each story. I also loved these characters and how they each found and gave of themselves. It was a time of rationing, walking where you could to limit gas consumption, only being able to purchase cardboard toys because metal and wood were in high demand for the war, and using everything you had. There was such a feeling of gratefulness and humility, but also of unity in heartache for those that had been lost to the war and in supporting the soldiers and hoping for an end to the strife. All of these feelings embody so much of what Christmas is, or at least should be, and were woven through each story.

Cara Putman's *White Christmas* didn't connect with me as well as the other two stories. The pacing was fairly slow and I think maybe the resolution was almost too easy. I did love getting to know more about the Turner family. The parents and grandma were all great characters and added much to the story. I also enjoyed seeing first love through the eyes of Abigail and Jackson. It was rather humorous that Abigail had committed to one thing only to find that she had no control over what her heart decided.

Sarah Sundin's *I'll Be Home for Christmas* grabbed me from the beginning. I loved how Pete and Grace met and how cute and fun Grace's little daughter, Linnie, was. I also loved the feel of tension that turned into something much more meaningful over time. There was a heaviness to the story from the burdens these two main characters' carried, but also a playfulness and feeling of hope for what might come if they would both only learn to trust each other, and also God. I loved their interactions and the interactions between the whole Turner family with Grace and Linnie. Her precious Christmas gift was a definite highlight as was the sample spoons. I really loved this story!

Tricia Goyer's *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* started off so sad. I literally began tearing up reading about these injured men and these doctors and nurses who fought to help heal both their physical and emotional wounds. Merry was so brave to volunteer to help, even risking her life to do so. I enjoyed getting to know Merry better and also enjoyed getting to know David or "Daaf" as he's called. There were quite a bit of inspirational moments as both characters tried to figure out what to do. This was another sweet and enjoyable story. I especially enjoyed the end when the Turner family was gathering to celebrate Christmas again.

*Where Treetops Glisten* was filled with three lovely, sweet, and heartfelt stories. Stories that reminded me of the best feelings of Christmas, of family, friendship, learning to carry on, forgiveness, the spirit of giving, gratitude, and love. Each story touched my heart in some way. They were short and hopeful stories, and left me with a feeling of happiness.

Content: Clean

Source: I would like to thank the publisher, WaterBrook Press, and Litfuse for my complimentary copy, which did not affect my review in any way.

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## A.M. Heath says

This family was so endearing. I loved how each story connected and featured a set of siblings. *I'll Be Home For Christmas* by Sarah Sundin was one of my absolute favorite Christmas novellas!

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## Lorraine says

**SUMMARY:** The crunch of newly fallen snow, the weight of wartime

Siblings forging new paths and finding love in three stories,  
filled with the wonder of Christmas

Turn back the clock to a different time, listen to Bing Crosby sing of sleigh bells in the snow, as the realities of America's involvement in the Second World War change the lives of the Turner family in Lafayette, Indiana.

In Cara Putman's *White Christmas*, Abigail Turner is holding down the Home Front as a college student and a part-time employee at a one-of-a-kind candy shop. Loss of a beau to the war has Abigail skittish about romantic entanglements—until a hard-working young man with a serious problem needs her help.

Abigail's brother Pete is a fighter pilot hero returned from the European Theater in Sarah Sundin's *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, trying to recapture the hope and peace his time at war has eroded. But when he encounters a precocious little girl in need of Pete's friendship, can he convince her widowed mother that he's no longer the bully she once knew?

In Tricia Goyer's *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, Meredith Turner, "Merry" to those who know her best, is using her skills as a combat nurse on the frontline in the Netherlands. Halfway around the world from home, Merry never expects to face her deepest betrayal head on, but that's precisely what God has in mind to redeem her broken heart.

The Turner family believes in God's providence during such a tumultuous time. Can they absorb the miracle of Christ's birth and His plan for a future?

**REVIEW:** I really liked this collection of three connected stories. The World War II setting and the connection between the siblings in each story added to the depth and interest of the stories. The collaboration between the authors to make the connections so strong is obvious. The storyline grabs your attention through each family member and keeps your interest until the end. My particular favorite was Tricia Goyer's story of Merry. Its lesson that appearances can be deceiving was so appropriate. But each story displayed the hope of Christmas and the promise of this hope which was especially needed during the devastating times of World War II.

## FAVORITE QUOTES:

### WHITE CHRISTMAS

"But you have to choose whether to let fear and loss keep your world small or whether to let it expand to include others."

"The Psalms say He collects our tears. That's an image I have clung to a different times. No tears are wasted, unless you allow their cause to freeze you in place."

## I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

"If Pete gave in faith out of his nothingness, God would replenish."

"Maybe that was the point of giving after all. He thought he'd given to fill others. He thought giving would allow others to fill him. But he'd had it wrong. Giving laid the holes bare and revealed his insufficiency to fill or be filled. To truly give, he had to lean wholly on God. The Lord alone could use him to help others, and the Lord alone could replenish his empty stores."

## HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

"Father says that for many years he has prayed for freedom, and it came in an unexpected way. But that's how God works. He uses the weak things of the world to defeat the strong....God also brings us unexpected gifts in unexpected ways."

"God knows the answer, sweetie, and He'll help you out. But it'll take stepping out of your safety zone. It'll take risking hurt. But it's then that we discover that God is who He says He is. He didn't bring you this far to abandon you, to hurt you. You just have to trust that."

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### **Jocelyn Green says**

This book is a perfect companion for the Christmas season. Rich in historical detail, the three charming novellas are connected beautifully, with characters you can fall in love with right away, and story lines that will tug at your heart. I love reading collections like this during the busiest season of the year. It's low-commitment--meaning, if you think you'll only have time to finish one novella, you'll still get a satisfying read. But if you're like me, after reading the first one, you'll find time you didn't think you had in order to read the rest.

~Jocelyn Green, author of *Yankee in Atlanta*

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### **Sarah Vanscoyoc says**

Great Christmas collection!

Where Treetops Glisten is a novella collection set around Christmases during WWII. I'm not typically a big fan of novellas, simply because they always feel too short to me, but I really enjoyed these. They are closely linked, as the main characters in each are siblings. There are 3 in this collection, which allowed the authors to make them a little longer than the typical novella, without having a huge book as the result.

White Christmas by Cara Putman

I really enjoyed this novella! Abigail Turner is the middle child of the family now, though not by choice. She lost 2 siblings when she was a child and after losing her boyfriend to the war, is very skittish of new relationships. I found Abigail to be a realistic character and enjoyed getting to know her. I could easily relate to what she was going through and quickly fell in love with her character. Her fear of losing someone else is pretty much the crux of the story. Her desire to get to know Jackson Lucas and perhaps have a relationship with him hangs on whether or not she can let go of the past and allow herself to love again.

I enjoyed Jackson's character as well. He is strong, kind, and very patient with Abigail. At the beginning of the story he has his own issues to deal with, including a bit of a mystery, so that kept everything moving forward, as he and Abigail got to know each other.

My only complaint is that I felt the ending was a little rushed and a bit unrealistic.

I'll be Home for Christmas by Sarah Sundin

In this novella, we get to follow Pete Turner's love story. I try really hard not to play favorites, but I think this one was mine. Pete comes home from war struggling to escape the horrors he witnessed and the weight of losing friends. I appreciated the realism in that, though it was glossed over a bit. He feels empty and the pastor tells him to give, which makes no sense at all to Pete. But he learns the truth in the pastor's words when he comes across Linnie, an adorable little girl who is out wandering. Now we get to why this story was my favorite . . . I adored Linnie! She was so cute and sweet! I loved her relationship with Pete and how she often taught him something, instead of the other way around.

Grace Kessler is the heroine and Linnie's mother. She and Pete have a history and she doesn't regard him fondly at their first reunion. She remembers him as the bully from her childhood years and isn't all that excited when he offers to watch Linnie for her. I can't pinpoint one thing in particular that I liked about Grace, I just really enjoyed her character. Maybe it was the banter between them, or her willingness to forgive past hurts, or how she cared for Linnie, whatever it was, Ms. Sundin did a great job!

The romance didn't feel rushed, which surprised me. I think it may have been because Grace and Pete had known each other before and started from there. They also spent a lot of time talking and getting to know one another better, rather than just jumping into being in love. Also, Linnie was often the focus, which kept it off their relationship a bit.

I also especially appreciated the spiritual aspect of this novella. It is a bit more prevalent here and focuses on allowing God to fill the empty spaces in your heart, rather than trying to use people to make you whole.

Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas by Tricia Goyer

In this story, we get to know Meredith (Merry) Turner, the last Turned sibling still single. I must confess I didn't like this one as well as the others. Merry had her heart broken at the beginning of the war and is still struggling to move past the sense of betrayal and abandonment she feels as a result. I found it rather difficult to relate to Merry and didn't connect with her at all. I really wanted to like her, but she seemed a little childish, focusing on something that happened 3 years ago and constantly contemplating the fact she couldn't be home for Christmas. Also, a couple of her reactions didn't make any sense to me and made me want to shake her.

There was actually very little dialogue between the protagonists, which was kind of annoying. I wanted them to talk, spend time together, something. But Merry spent most of her time with Nancy, one of her fellow nurses. Also, we rarely see anything from the hero's point of view, which I suppose makes sense on some level, but I would have liked to know what he was thinking a little more often.

Overall, the novellas were all good in their own right. I really enjoyed the epilogue, which pulled everything together and allowed us one last glimpse into the Turner family. The thing that most impressed me about this book how well each of the stories flows with the others. It being written by three different authors, I had anticipated some discord between the novellas, but each character's personality and the important aspects of who they are stayed the same throughout the book.

I liked the premise of the series and if I would have liked a few things to be different, then that's just my personal preference.

I received a complementary copy of this book from the publisher, through The Christian Manifesto for my honest review, which I have given. I was not required to write a positive review and have not been compensated for it in any way. All opinions expressed are my own.

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## **Kate (The Shelf Life) says**

I've really been enjoying WW2 era books this year. There is so much history there that can be used as a background and the authors who I have had the privilege to read, have used these settings to their advantage. I have to say that Tricia Goyer, Cara Putman, and Sarah Sundin combined their creativity and these

backgrounds well and made a wonderful novella collection.

I have to be honest and say that novellas can be hit and miss for me. My main pet peeve can be when there is no connecting factor to the stories. I didn't have to worry about this here. These three short stories were all connected through the family of the characters. With that connection it allowed who they were to be flushed out a little more than in other types of collections and you weren't left wondering, "What now?".

I'm going to do my best to not spoil any of these stories, so I will probably keep this a wee bit short.

All three of these stories take place in the days leading up to Christmas. Much loss has been suffered and there is a lot to overcome with these characters. Each face these tragedies in their own way and they each have decisions to make. We are first introduced to everyone as a whole a year before these stories unfold and really bring out the characters. It is through this introduction, we get a glimpse of them all and the raw grief they each have to battle through. And with that jumping point, as we dive into each of their stories, we find out what barriers they have put up and what barriers they need to tear down for their faith to be restored.

I will say, my favorite character through this collection was Grandma Louise Turner, the matriarch of the family. She was the backbone to the family always wanting to help and be there for her family. And her faith was a wonderful thing to read about, especially in such a hard time.

This was a wonderful collection. If you love WW2 era stories, you will really like these. And if you love seasonal stories, it is a great Christmas collection!

Thank you to Litfuse and Waterbrook, I received a copy of this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

This review was originally posted @ <http://wordsfromabookaholic.blogspot....>

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## **Hannah says**

4.5 stars

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## **Sarah says**

The first two stories were great the third and final story was a bit flat. One of the best Christmas story collections I have read.

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## **Deanne Patterson says**

I have been enjoying reading WWII books recently and this one definitely did not disappoint !

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## **Amber Schamel says**

This is a lovely Christmas book with three heartwarming stories by three great WWII authors. One I will be reading again.

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## **Sarah says**

A great trio of stories that seamlessly flowed from one to the next. The authors did a great job of keeping all the facts straight as they each wrote about one of the siblings. Heartwarming stories with good lessons/thoughts woven in. Been wanting to get to this one for a couple Christmas' now, so glad I finally did.

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## **Haley S says**

Yeah, I know exactly what you are thinking. I just read a Christmas based book in the middle of May. I am crazy and I know it. But, yeah, I just got into a Sarah Sundin kick and decided to read this! It is actually quite good! And, I am going to write a review, BUT I will not post it until the Christmas holidays this year. Yeah, I am being kind of mean, but it isn't even close to Christmas yet. But, I will say that I really enjoyed this book!!

Since my siblings and I just put up our Christmas tree and decorations, I decided to do a Christmas book review!

Before I go any further into my review, I have to confess something. I read this book in the middle of the summer. Yeah, I am kind of weird like that, reading Christmas novels in the middle of summer. So, there you have it, I have confessed. And, I also love watching Hallmark's "Countdown to Christmas" movies in the summer.

The reason I waited to post my review is so everyone wouldn't be thinking, "Is she crazy? Posting a Christmas book review in summer?"

I really liked this book! It is nice when three or four novellas are put into one book. Novellas are really fun to read because they are short. They don't take a lot of time—just ten to twenty chapters.

I am trying to decide which novella I liked the best out of the three. Each one was good so it is hard to decide. But, after a few moments of thinking, I have determined on my favorite. I'll Be Home for Christmas is the one I enjoyed most. I do have to admit that I do like Sarah Sundin as an author in general. But, I read with an open mind! Each book was very good. I am not saying the other books were not good. They all were! I just thought that if I was reading a book with three novellas in it, I should say my favorite.

The cover was good too! It was creative. 4 stars to you as well!

So I would like to give this book a rating of 4 stars!

Title: Where Treetops Glisten

Authors: Sarah Sundin, Tricia Goyer, and Cara Putman

Authors' Website: <http://www.sarahsundin.com/>, <http://www.triciagoyer.com/>, and <http://www.caraputman.com/>

This review is written in my own opinions and words.

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### **Amber Stokes says**

*Where Treetops Glisten* is a really sweet and well-integrated collection of stories about one family's experiences throughout WWII. The way the collection is structured is really clever, and the novellas definitely put me in the Christmas spirit. Now that November is here, I'm feeling ready for some more Christmas music, movies, and books!

The collection begins on a gentle note. *White Christmas* is more of a quiet story about coming together to solve a mystery and find hope during the holidays. The romance didn't completely sweep me off my feet, but I appreciated the tenderness of it, and I especially enjoyed the details about Abigail's workplace (Glatz Candies) and the fact that Jackson works at a puzzle factory. How fun is that?

The second story, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, was my favorite of the three. I love Sarah Sundin's writing - the way she so poignantly depicts themes and sketches details about the era and the characters' personalities. She even does a magnificent job of portraying the secondary characters! But the romance between Pete and Grace especially shines with sweet moments and second chances. Not to mention Pete's interactions with Linnie (Grace's daughter). Cuteness all around! And the message of the story really resonates, especially in a season where we tend to lean on others the most.

As for *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*, I liked the change of pace. The hints of suspense kept the story moving along, despite a good dose of introspection. It's a story about making a difference and having the courage to do what's right...even when that means accepting something good you'd never thought you'd be able to have.

All in all, the war-time setting of these novellas really brings out the hope of Christmas. The family connections are wonderful, and even though the stories don't bring a lot of unexpected plot twists or engaging action, they're still sweet and enjoyable reads for the holidays. And the additions of the prologue and epilogue tie the collection together in a satisfying way.

\*With thanks to the publisher for providing me with a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion, to be shared during the Litfuse Publicity blog tour.\*

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### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

Heidi Reads...

This collection of stories was a pleasure to read and will make a great Christmas gift! Each story is very different yet connected by familial ties and common themes of service and giving. The first by Cara Putman was the sweetest with Abigail overcoming her fears and reaching out to someone with burdens greater than her own. The second by Sarah Sundin was the most dynamic since the relationship between Pete and Grace is turbulent and undergoing a change from resentment to love. The last story by Tricia Goyer brought the atmosphere of service on the front lines and the compassion that Merry has for the soldiers she nurses. Although they are not full-length novels, the stories don't feel rushed, but fully formed and well-resolved at the endings.

(Thank you to WaterBrook Press and LitFuse Publicity for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

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## **Ann says**

In *Where Treetops Glisten*, the authors have written three Christmas novellas featuring one family, the Turners. In addition to the continuing family connection, the stories are further intertwined by their setting—Lafayette, Indiana—and the time period—World War II. Cara Putman, Sarah Sundin, and Tricia Goyer are each known for their skill in writing stories set during World War II, and nowhere do these skills shine brighter than in these novellas.

I loved the fact that the stories followed one family through the war, so when I finished reading the first novella I could pick up the continuing thread in the second and the third. In *Winter Wonderland*, Cara Putman tells the story of Abigail Turner, whose beau was killed at Pearl Harbor. Abigail has vowed never to allow herself to suffer loss again. However, a hard-working young man who is struggling to support his widowed mother tempts her to soften her stance.

*I'll be Home for Christmas*, Sarah Sundin's delightful novella, features Abigail's brother Pete Turner, Grace Kessler, an over-burdened young mother, and Grace's handful of a daughter, Linnie. This story is a delight on many levels. Pete and Grace each have issues to overcome, while Linnie persists in running away with the story.

Tricia Goyer takes readers near enemy lines in *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. Merry Turner is a nurse serving in the Netherlands, close to the German border. Merry became a nurse in order to serve her country. She hopes by her service and the distance from home that she can heal her broken and betrayed heart. Sometimes gritty, but always gripping, *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* brought me to tears a time or two.

This is the most enjoyable Christmas collection I've ever read, and I recommend *Where Treetops Glisten* highly. This book would make a wonderful gift for the readers on your list, but be sure to buy a copy for yourself. You won't be sorry.

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