



Christmas Stories (from All the Year Around and Household Words)

Charles Dickens , Margaret Lane (Introduction)

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Does **NOT** include A Christmas Carol

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Christmas Stories (from All the Year Around and Household Words) Details

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From Reader Review Christmas Stories (from All the Year Around and Household Words) for online ebook

GoldGato says

These are NOT the *Christmas Books* of Ebenezer Scrooge and other volumes which put the winter holiday on the map. These are the annual holiday-themed stories Dickens published in his *Household Words* journal. These stories made Mr. Dickens the prophet of home life. He brought imagination into the winter homes and told his readers that comfort, a cozy fire under the hearth, spiced wine, and a good story made home-staying worthwhile.

...there are strings in the human heart which must never be sounded by another, and drinks that I make myself are those strings in mine.

In this collection of his Christmas tales, Dickens combined goodwill with tales of shipwrecks and orphans and traditions. There aren't any ghosts of Christmas past nor the haunted recollections of doomed men. Instead, the reader gets a poverty-stricken man relating his "*castle in the air*" or a narrator describing the various country inns of Yorkshire, "*haunted by the ghost of a tremendous pie*".

The stories I liked best were the maritime tales of *The Wreck Of The Golden Mary* and *The Perils Of Certain English Prisoners*. Reading of adventures on the high seas when the weather outside your own home is cold is always worthwhile.

...a right little island, a tight little island, a bright little island, a show-fight little island...

Not every story whammed me and I probably do love his actual books of Christmas season more (mostly because of the haunted tales), but these were a worthwhile read. Family, friends, rituals.

Book Season = Winter (a glass of Smoking Bishop)

Lubinka Dimitrova says

Sadly, this book left me utterly unimpressed. The writing was beautiful as one might expect from an author like that, but the stories themselves were rather dull, as far as stories go. The narrator did a great job, but it was not enough for me to actually care for any of the characters.

Simone says

RTC

Jason Furman says

After *The Christmas Carol* Dickens wrote four more Christmas novellas, generally of declining although still high quality. Then he shifted to annual Christmas editions of his journals, first *Household Words* and then *All the Year Round*. These issues would generally have a framing story by Dickens, several stories that fit the frame by the co-authors he selected with one or two by Dickens himself, and then a concluding story by Dickens. For example, in *Somebody's Luggage* the framing story is about luggage that has been left in the room of an inn for years and the individual stories were all found in the luggage.

Hesperus Classics has republished all of these original volumes so you can read them in their entirety and put the Dickens contributions in the context he created. It is an interesting way to experience them, although I only read two or three of the volumes from beginning to end, will look forward to reading more of them. But even if you just read Dickens' stories, it is helpful to have the full volume to get a better context.

All of that said, the large majority of the stories are not particularly spectacular. And it is not like reading *Sketches by Boz*, which is a little uneven but has a lot of great moments and is like a foreshadowing of what is to come. Instead, these were written at the same time as Dickens' greatest novels and generally appear to be a little rushed. There's a reason people don't generally buy Dickens short stories collections.

But there is a lot of humor and warmth, drama and melodrama, and interest, in a number of these stories. Often the frame itself is more interesting and characters more compelling than the stories themselves. So worth dipping into, at least once you've read everything else.

Margaret says

Three stars solely for "A Christmas Carol"; the rest are forgettable or cheesy or both.

Carol Fenlon says

Dickens as a master storyteller here. I bought this on an antiques stall, and dipped in over Christmas for some Victorian nostalgia. I wasn't disappointed but what really struck me was how Dickens could make a story out of anything and many of these stories contain stories within stories without ever getting boring. Dickens just never fails to grab your attention, and even though written so long ago in the style of the time, it's still fresh. There are hundreds of stories in this volume which also includes a selection of tales from Italy and they have all been collected from Dickens magazine contributions over many years, so I didn't read them all, but limited myself to the Christmas period, so that I can read some more next year.

I doubt if this book is available now but if you should spot it somewhere, and you like an old fashioned Christmas, I'd recommend it.

Sarah says

In light of Goodreads' new censorship policy, I am no longer posting reviews on this site. Please read it [here](#).

k.filizfidano?lu says

You can feel his words in your mind without doubt.

Paula says

Las tres primeras historias me gustaron mucho, pero las dos ultimas se pasaban de espesas. Especialmente la última, en la que se nota que el maestro Dickens cobraba por palabra...

“Canción de Navidad”

“Las campanadas”

“El grillo del hogar”

“La batalla de la vida”

“El hechizado”

Kim says

Listening to these Dickens stories was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. And you can never go wrong with David Timson as narrator. Very enjoyable!

Brent says

My mind is too easily distracted for audiobooks. I can usually get through an Edgar Rice Burroughs or a book aimed at younger readers, but Dickens, no. That being said I did still enjoy the stories in here especially The Chimes and The Cricket On The Hearth, but an eventual reading of the actual books will be necessary.

María says

Realmente lo puntuaría con 3'5 y es que hay historias que me han gustado mucho (Canción de Navidad, El grillo del hogar) y otras no tanto (Las campanadas). Pero es una buena oportunidad para acercarse a la obra de Dickens y leerlo en Navidad ha sido una delicia.

Elvira says

4'5 en realidad.

Dejo aquí la reseña completa que he hecho en mi blog.

<http://littleblackspaceofbooks.blogspot.com>...

Linda says

I love reading about Scrooge every year, it reminds me that Christmas comes from the heart. "Mankind is our business" and I want to keep Christmas all year through. The other stories are good too, but "The Christmas Carol" is my favorite!

Chad says

There is certainly a reason why these "other" Dickens Christmas stories are largely forgotten.
