



MURDER FOR CHRISTMAS
By Thomas Godfrey (Editor)

This collection contains twenty-six tales of seasonal malice and Yuletide malffeasance as perpetrated by: Woody Allen, Margery Allingham, Marjorie Bowen, G.K. Chesterton, Agatha Christie, John Collier, Lillian de la Torre, Charles Dickens, Carter Dickson, Arthur Conan Doyle, Stanley Ellin, Thomas Hardy and many more..... It has been said that Christmas brings out the best in everyone, and this has been especially true of mystery writers who seem to have been inspired to their best work by the holiday season.

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TIED UP IN TINSEL
By Ngaio Marsh

A Christmas pageant turns unholy. Holed up at Hilary Bill-Tasman's manor estate for Christmas, Troy Alleyn is to paint the man's portrait and, while she's there, view the Druid Christmas pageant. Along with a pack of eccentric guests, Troy enjoys the festivities, until one of the pageant's players mysteriously disappears into the snowy night. Did the hired help—each a paroled murderer from the nearby prison—have a deadly hand in this Christmas conundrum? Inspector Roderick Alleyn arrives to join his wife in finding the lost man—and unraveling the glaring truth from the glittering tinsel.

Available at Wayne in Large Type



CHRISTMAS JOURNEY
By Anne Perry

Set in Victorian England, this novelette has all the poignancy one might expect from Anne Perry. At a dinner party Isobel Alvie makes a remark that "cruelly crumbles the thin veneer of hope" for Gwendoline Kilmuir, who later that night jumps from a bridge to her death in icy waters. All the guests are outraged and, using the threat of ostracism against Isobel, they suggest a pilgrimage of expiation. Isobel will travel 700 miles to acknowledge her part in the suicide and deliver Gwendoline's suicide note to her mother. Lady Vespasia Cumming-Gould accompanies her. With subtle tone and pacing, Terrence Hardiman infuses Isobel's careless remark with the depth of cruelty it reveals.

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CEMETERY YEW
By Cynthia Riggs

Victoria Trumbull, the astute, 92-year-old Vineyard native and deputy police officer, takes on her most bizarre case yet, in Riggs's third appealing Vineyard mystery. An empty grave, a misplaced coffin and a missing hearse driver are the harbingers of a series of grotesque murders, whose victims turn out to share an odd South American connection involving smuggling and an exotic bird. The author lends ballast to an outlandish plot by lovingly depicting ordinary island people (awkward teens, a friendly police chief, small-town officials with their rivalries and gossips) and events (notably the return of the local high school football team from the big game against Nantucket). The unfamiliar portrait of the Vineyard in winter is another plus. With patience and charm, the down-to-earth Victoria succeeds in drawing out confidences. In the end, even she is surprised.

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THE STUPIDEST ANGEL: A HEART-WARMING TALE OF CHRISTMAS HORROR
By Christopher Moore

Hilarity abounds in Moore's latest satirical gem. Sleepy Pine Cove, CA is abuzz with Christmas spirit, but Lena Marquez is fed up with her despicable ex-husband, Dale Pearson. On his way home from playing Santa Claus at the local lodge, Dale spies sneaky Lena uprooting his Monterey pines; he pulls a gun on her, she lashes out with a shovel and—oops!—kills him. Seven-year-old Josh Barker, thinking he's just seen the murder of Santa, prays for a miracle to save Christmas. This little slice of perverse Christmas cheer is enough to make even the most cynical Scrooge guffaw.

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ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT
By Mary Higgins Clark

This is Clark's second holiday tale of suspense and sentiment which opens with a young unmarried woman leaving her newborn baby on the steps of a church on Manhattan's Upper West Side. At the same time, a young man steals the church's precious chalice. Both the child and the chalice then disappear, and it's up to Alvirah, Clark's lottery winner turned sleuth, and husband Willy to solve the mystery.

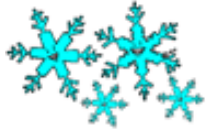
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WRECK THE HALLS
By Sarah Graves

In her hardcover debut, series sleuth Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree (Repair to Her Grave) and best friend, Ellie, try to help Faye Anne, an abused wife, after she's accused of butchering her drunkard husband. Unfortunately, their unauthorized investigating results in a stronger case against her. Nonetheless, Jake and Ellie persevere in their quest: they rev up the Eastport, ME, rumor mill and spout various crime scenarios. In spare moments, Jake weather-strips her 1823 fixer-upper. Frequent humor tempers the Down East mannerisms, plucky heroine, and more serious subject matter.

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A STILLNESS IN BETHLEHEM
By Jane Haddam

Haddam continues her popular holiday mystery series with a Yuletide entry featuring Armenian American detective Gregor Demarkian. When Gregor and his good friend Father Tibor Kasparian arrive in Bethlehem, Vermont, prepared to spend a quiet week enjoying the town's annual Nativity celebration, their vacation is abruptly interrupted by a gruesome murder spree. Though the perpetrator seems to be targeting women, the local police chief is unable to establish a motive and make a viable connection between the homicides. Demarkian, a former FBI agent, must marshal all his formidable skills and resources in order to expose a methodical maniac before another victim is claimed. A traditional offering of madness and mayhem in a snow-clad New England village.

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MURDER ON 34TH STREET
By Edward Koch & Wendy Staub

Christmas in New York. The city's legendary Ramsey's Department Store is suffering its worst season in years. General manager Barnaby Tischler knows it's because their rival, Weatherly's superstore, is scaring off the store's customers—with bomb threats! But when Ramsey's Santa-for-hire is found in a utility closet shot through the heart, Tischler's only hope lies in his old buddy, Mayor Ed Koch

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**WHEN
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NOT ALL IT'S
CRACKED UP
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*Sometimes even
the best laid
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can go awry!*