



**A Simple Plan**  
*By Scott Smith*

Hank Mitchell, an accountant living in a dumpy little Ohio town, is thinking about his parents' death in a car crash and remembers his wife saying it was no accident. It's New Year's Eve and Hank is waiting for his chronically unemployed and extremely obese and shy brother, Jacob, to pick him up so they can make their annual visit to the cemetery. He's not happy to see Jacob's boozy friend, Lou, in the truck and is even more irritated when Jacob's dog gets loose and tears off after a fox. Hank reluctantly joins Jacob and Lou as they trudge off across a snowy field in pursuit. The dog is forgotten when they stumble upon a small plane that has crashed in a stand of trees. Bullied into looking inside, Hank discovers a dead pilot and a bag full of money. A lot of money. Now the fun begins, and the reasons for the excitement over this fictional debut become clear: Smith's narrative skill is awesome. His even tone and suspenseful attention to physical detail and emotional nuance never waver as he traces the shifting of power among the protagonists and the pulse of greed, tug of fear, erosion of morality, and capacity for murder that is set off within each soul by the coveting of this malevolent treasure. Trust and integrity are abandoned for cunning and self-preservation, and killing suddenly seems like a reasonable act. A shattering drama of our unpredictability and inherent knack for violence.

*Available at Wayne in Large-Type Fiction*

**Name Withheld**  
*By Judith A. Jance*

Seattle Police homicide detective J.P. Beaumont is babysitting his best friend's daughters in his penthouse apartment on a sober New Year's Day when he is called to investigate a body floating in nearby Elliot Bay. The case draws Seattle's favorite detective into the cutting-edge world of biotechnology, where business as usual means personal betrayals and selling trade secrets with ruthless efficiency. The more Beau discovers about the corpse, the more he's convinced that justice has already been served. Amid an exasperating, eccentric cast of characters and battling with a partner who resents Beau's inherited wealth, the recovering alcoholic detective discovers that sometimes twelve-step programs don't have all the answers. With his personal life converging into his professional one, Beau struggles to find a killer he doesn't really want to find.

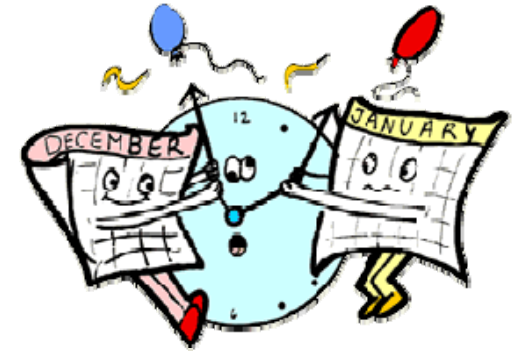
*Available at Wayne in Fiction*



**Wayne Public Library**  
461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470  
Phone: 973-694-4272  
**Preakness Branch Library**  
1006 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne, NJ 07470  
Phone: 973-694-7110

[www.waynepubliclibrary.org](http://www.waynepubliclibrary.org)

# Winter Holidays



## Kwanzaa Hanukkah New Year's

*Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.*

~Kenyan Proverb

*Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.*

~ Oprah Winfrey

## **A Kwanzaa Keepsake: celebrating the holiday with new traditions and feasts**

**By Jessica B. Harris**

Harris presents a collection of ethnic dishes for celebrating Kwanzaa. The name of this African American celebration is rooted in the Swahili word *kwanza*, which means "first." From its inception more than 30 years ago, African Americans have affirmed their ethnic dignity by participating in Kwanzaa. Harris begins by defining the heritage and importance of the celebration with focus on the *Nguzo Sabo* (seven principles): *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagula* (self-determination), *Ujima* (collective work and responsibility), *Ujamaa* (cooperative economics), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith). More than 50 recipes are included in menus that provide themes reflecting the principles of each day of the celebration; and for each day, ceremonies are discussed.

**Available at Preakness  
in Non-Fiction: 394.261 HAR**

## **Complete Kwanzaa: celebrating our cultural harvest**

**By Dorothy Winbush Riley**

Celebrated between 12/26 and 1/1, Kwanzaa is a joyous and deeply meaningful holiday that gives African Americans an opportunity to reunite with family and friends and to pay tribute to their rich cultural heritage. This is a comprehensive guide that explains the traditional ceremonies, foods, and history of this joyful and spiritual holiday. Riley offers a welcome introduction to the cultural foundations of Kwanzaa, practical tips on how to tailor celebrations to individual circumstances, and directions on how to hold a Karamu feast, as well as recipes. More than just a holiday guide, though, this is a substantive and inspirational explanation of the seven principles of Kwanzaa—beliefs that can be shared and celebrated year-round.

**Available at Wayne in  
Non-Fiction: 394.261 RIL**



## **Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy**

**By Barbara Ehrenreich**

It is a truism that everyone seeks happiness, but public manifestations of it have not always been free of recrimination. Colonial regimes have defined spectacles as an inherently "primitive" act and elders harrumph at youthful exultation. Social critic and bestselling author Ehrenreich (Nickel and Dimed) teases out the many incarnations of sanctioned public revelry, starting with the profeminist oreibasia, or Dionysian winter dance, in antiquity, and from there covering trance, ancient mystery cults and carnival, right up to the rock and roll and sports-related mass celebrations of our own day. "Why is so little left" of such rituals, she asks, bemoaning the "loss of ecstatic pleasure." Ehrenreich necessarily delineates the repressive reactions to such ecstasy by the forces of so-called "civilization," reasonably positing that rituals of joy are nearly as innate as the quest for food and shelter. Ehrenreich writes with grace and clarity in a fascinating, wide-ranging and generous account.

**Available at Wayne & Preakness  
in Non-Fiction: 394.26 EHR**



## **Scenes from a Holiday: The Eight Dates of Hanukkah; Carrie Pilby's New Year's Resolution; Emma Townsend Saves Christmas**

**By Laurie Graff**

Just in time for the holidays, Red Dress Ink offers a compilation of three holiday-themed novellas revolving around Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year's Eve. Nikki Heller, the heroine of Laurie Graff's tale, is reluctant to marry her devoted boyfriend, Mark, until a knock on the head puts her in a coma, and she finds herself dating some truly bad men and getting to the heart of her fear of committing. Caren Lissner's lovable heroine Carrie Pilby returns, ready for a new chance at love after being dumped by her actor boyfriend. She makes a resolution to find someone more like her, but the result isn't exactly what she bargained for. Melanie Murray's offering finds Emma Townsend leaving New York and her blue-blooded boyfriend to go home to Vermont for Christmas, and she is surprised when the trip reunites her with her high-school crush, reigniting old feelings. Readers will enjoy each of these delightful tales from three strong romance writers.

**Available at Wayne in Fiction  
under SCENES**

