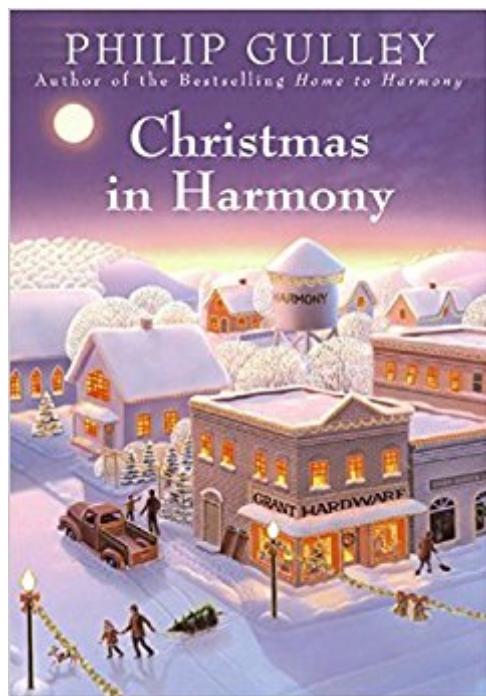


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# Christmas In Harmony (A Harmony Novel)



## Synopsis

Philip Gulley takes us to Harmony, Indiana, at Christmastime as inspiration strikes the inimitable Dale Hinshaw. Always looking for a way to increase the church's profit margins, Hinshaw brainstorms a progressive nativity scene that will involve the whole town, complete with a map like those for the Hollywood stars. Neither Pastor Sam Gardner nor the other members of the Harmony Friends meeting express any enthusiasm for this idea, but Dale is unstoppable. Meanwhile, Pastor Sam has his own concerns: he's having his annual argument with his wife, and he's worried that the four-slotted toaster he bought for her may be too lavish a gift. Amidst the bustle of the season, the citizens of Harmony experience the simple joys and sometime loneliness that often go unseen. Sam comes to the realization that Dale, in his own misguided way, is only trying to draw meaning from the eternal story of Christmas. "In this unsettled world, it is good to have this steadiness -- the Christmas Eve service, the peal of the bell. . . . There is a holiness to memory, a sense of God's presence in these mangers of the mind. Which might explain why it is that the occasions that change the least are often the very occasions that change us the most."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gulley's beloved Harmony series takes a festive turn with this delightful novella, featuring Quaker minister Sam Gardner and the intimate circle of eccentrics who comprise his congregation. The infuriating church elder Dale Hinshaw is up to his usual schemes, this time planning an all-out

"progressive nativity scene" on Christmas Eve that will convert the heathen while turning a tidy profit for the church. Gulley's trademark humor is much in evidence, as when he muses on the irony that Dale wants to raise a "Quaker militia" to forfend any terrorist activity on Christmas Eve, or describes how the church's Christmas card list gets longer every year because even one-time visitors who drop a small check in the collection plate gain "a place in our directory in perpetuity." More extraordinary than the jesting, however, is Gulley's theological sensitivity and often profound reflections on parenting, traditions and the Christian story. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Quaker author Gulley returns to the quaint town of Harmony, IN (Home to Harmony; Just Shy of Harmony), and the eccentric members of Pastor Sam Gardner's Quaker church. Sam reflects on the true meaning of Christmas as church elder Dale Hinshaw embarks on yet another of his hare-brained fund-raising schemes, a progressive Nativity scene involving the whole town. Fans who love these quirky characters and Sam's wry take on the nature of Christianity and the meaning of life will rejoice at spending the holidays with them. An essential purchase for libraries owning Gulley's previous Harmony books. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I lost count as to how many of this book I have purchased over the years to give as gifts to people who I know will enjoy a fast book of Christian humor. And it's a Christmas book too, but can be read and enjoyed in any month. A real Indiana Quaker minister writes the story of a fictional Quaker minister in a fictional Hoosier small town and the antics of the congregation. The Harmony series is worth a read, and then a second read. This is the first of two Christmas novellas that were published in relationship with the series. Both are great. I call this one a Christmas classic. A church member gets the idea of turning the church live nativity scene into a traveling view-able scene, on the same plan as a progressive dinner. One portion per site. The concept is crazy, and the writing is superb. Even after reading it over again, several years, it continues to make me laugh out loud. Highly recommended. And it's not going to hurt any Christian feelings. You'll probably see some of your own church members characteristics appearing in the Harmony Friends church. I did. I make reading this story as much a part of every Christmas as I do re-watching a DVD version of Dickens' Christmas Carol.

This is the third book by Philip Bullet that I have read and he never ceases to make me laugh uncontrollably. His characters bring back memories of similar people we grew up with in my small

town. It is uplifting to be able to laugh and forget about the problems of the world we are now experiencing.

All of his books evoke a life so different than the big city I've almost always lived in. Though his congregation isn't one that meets in full silence and unprogramed as is what most people think of when they think of Quaker, the Quaker spirit is mostly found in the way his flock relates to each other. His homy insights into the way people work and how the heart works is a joy I find in each of his books. I'll add that his nonfiction books are wonderful as well. They are full of the kind of joy and hope you would expect from someone who writes such lovely fiction.

A sweet Christmas story.

A delightful read once. Enjoyed it.

My husband would (still does) reads this out loud to us every Christmas. As our children have left home they have shared copies with co-workers and friends and want to continue the tradition. The characters are lovable. Buy several copies so that you can share the holiday spirit with those around you!

Great writing. Story concerning the people of a church in Harmony and choices they had to make concerning celebrating Christmas. Have truly enjoyed each of Phillip Gulley's books about Harmony. Great short stories.

Reading Christmas in Harmony feels like going home to Grandma's. All your crazy family you love and love to hate are there. At 84 pages this is easy to finish in one sitting. When Pastor Sam reads the Christmas story to Frank you will be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

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