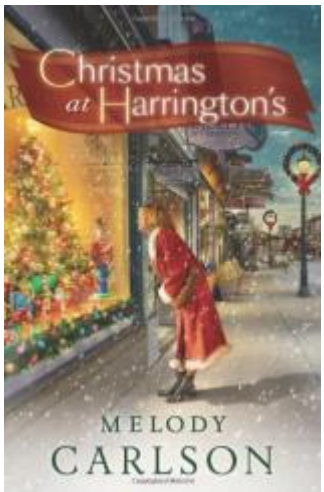
Christmas at Harrington's

by Melody Carlson



About the Book

Christmas is approaching, and Lena Markham finds herself penniless, friendless, and nearly hopeless. She is trying to restart her life, but job opportunities are practically nonexistent. When a secondhand red coat unexpectedly lands her a job as Mrs. Santa at a department store, Lena finally thinks her luck is changing. But can she keep her past a secret?

Reading CHRISTMAS AT HARRINGTON'S, a story full of redemption and true holiday spirit, will be your newest Christmas tradition.

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Discussion Guide

1. Describe your first impression of Lena Markham. Was it positive or negative? Why do you feel you should trust or distrust first impressions?

2. Were you surprised to discover Lena has just been released from prison? How would you react if you suddenly found yourself seated next to an ex-con?

3. Lena feels understandably blue in regard to the upcoming holidays. Have you ever felt similar to that as Christmastime approached? Why or why not?

4. What one word do you think best describes Moira Phillips? Have you ever known anyone like Moira? How did that person treat you?

5. Were you surprised at what little resources Lena has available to her when she leaves the penitentiary? Did you know that sometimes women are released from prison with nothing besides the clothes on their backs? Discuss what options you think should be available to women like Lena, and why.

6. Due to Lena's lack of funds, she is forced to stay in a boardinghouse with strangers. Have you ever experienced group living like that? Describe how it felt or how you imagine it would feel.

7. Sally and Jemima are friends in need, yet Jemima plays a major role in making Lena feel human again. Why do you think that is?

8. As Lena's new boss, Camilla Harrington comes across as a chilly, no-nonsense businesswoman and overprotective mother. We later learn she has reasons for this, but what is your initial reaction to her character? Have you ever worked for someone like her? If so, describe what it was like.

9. Describe why you think Cassidy has such an impact on Lena. How did you feel when you discovered how sick Cassidy is?

10. When you began reading Lena's story, did you ever guess she would discover romance in New Haven? What do you think attracted someone like Sam Phillips to someone like Lena?

11. Lena is a woman in dire need when she arrives in New Haven. Yet it seems there are angels in disguise all along the way. Describe a time when you've played an angel in disguise or when you were blessed by one.

12. Christmastime can bring out the best as well as the worst in people. What is one thing you'd like to do differently this Christmas season?

Author Bio

Melody Carlson is the award-winning author of over 200 books with sales of more than five million. She is the author of several Christmas books from Revell, including the bestselling THE CHRISTMAS BUS, THE CHRISTMAS DOG, and CHRISTMAS AT HARRINGTON'S, which is being considered for a TV movie. She is also the author of many teen books, including JUST ANOTHER GIRL, ANYTHING BUT NORMAL, DOUBLE TAKE, the *Life at Kingston High* series, and the *Diary of a Teenage Girl* series. She is the winner of a *Romantic Times* Career Achievement Award in the inspirational market for her many books, including the *Diary of a Teenage Girl* series and FINDING ALICE. Melody and her husband live in Oregon.

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