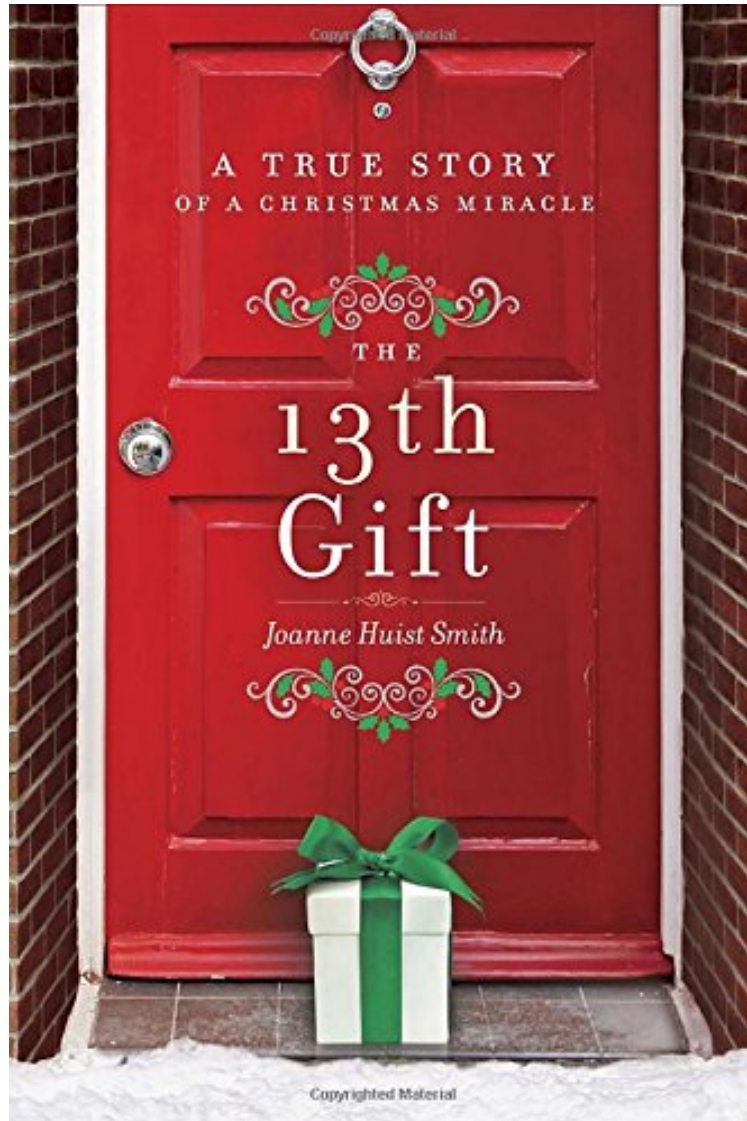


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The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle

Joanne Huist Smith

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#13114 in Books Joanne Huist Smith 2014-10-28 2014-10-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.55 x .80 x 5.76l, 1.25 #File Name: 0553418556224 pages The 13th Gift A True Story of a Christmas Miracle | File size: 33.Mb

Joanne Huist Smith : The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 13th Gift: A True Story of a Christmas Miracle:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sweet Familiar Story By Janet Sanders Jones My family was the recipient of the 12 Days of Christmas in 1982 in Henderson, Nevada. The young women at church helped our family by surprising each day with a simple gift that thrilled our four little children. We were living through a situation that

brought joy and grief simultaneously so their thoughtful acts brought a sweet light to our home. Their final gift was a baby blanket with quilt squares that illustrated each gift they had brought us. To honor them, we carried on the tradition and did the 12 Days on other friends and neighbors for years. My children have carried on the tradition on their own. If you are lacking the Christmas spirit, serve someone else in some way. Do the 12 Days, and you will have so much love brought into your life! This book tells a great story, heartbreaking yet healing. Thank you for sharing.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Gifted Read By jettan If you're looking for a gift that will touch your heart and that of the reader, Joanne Huist Smith's *The 13th Gift* is the one to select. Devastated by the unexpected death of their husband and father, Jo and her three children are struggling to make sense of their lives and deal with the upcoming Christmas holiday. Suddenly, gifts begin to appear at their door. The givers are mysterious and elusive. The simple presents, left anonymously, weave a healing spell on the family. The identity of the gift givers will remain a mystery until Smith finally writes the story of this difficult time and searches for their 'true friends.' This account of one family's emotional journey toward healing is honest, heart wrenching and uplifting. The book is titled *The 13th Gift*, but each person who reads it and passes it on adds to the gift-giving. Who knows what the final number will be? In the end, this is the amazing gift the givers and author Smith present to all of us.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. DELIGHTFUL QUICK CHRISTMAS READ OVERALL By floyd long I found this book to be a delightful Christmas read. I try to read a Christmas book around the holidays each year, as I find it helps to put me in the Christmas Spirit. This book did just that and had a very good message about hope, caring, family and a way to help others work through the grievance process. Too many times people fail to find a new way or better way to work through a loss, this is a thinking outside the box idea. I gave the book 4 stars because while it was an easy read, I felt the author could have developed some of the characters a little bit better, I would have organized a chapter just on her Husband Rick and put it earlier in the book, or a section on her family as a whole. But the book does show good Christmas spirit, love and a story that is tied together well in the end. The book had some humorist parts as well but I feel the author could have made them a little funnier by using some creativeness. I think a little further research on the gift giving group and sub-culture would have been nice as well, especially in the end of the book. So while not a perfect read it was a fun book for the holidays to read and I would recommend it again to friends especially around the holidays next year.

For readers of Richard Paul Evans and Greg Kincaid comes *The 13th Gift*, a heartwarming Christmas story about how a random act of kindness transformed one of the bleakest moments in a family's history into a time of strength and love. After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Huist Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children--especially with the holiday season approaching. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." As the Smiths came together to solve the mystery of who the gifts were from, they began to thaw out from their grief and come together again as a family. This true story about the power of random acts of kindness will warm the heart, a beautiful reminder of the miracles of Christmas and the gift of family during the holiday season.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Woman's Day Book Club Pick
"The book's simple prose and profound message will fill even the Grinch-iest hearts with Christmas spirit while affirming the age-old adage, it really is the thought that counts." --USA Today
"A funny, knockout-moving new memoir...Read it, share it, pay it forward." --The Good Life
"[A] touching true story." --Women's Day
"A feel-good story guaranteed to move you." --Good Housekeeping
"Inspiring readers throughout the country and around the world this holiday season." --The Dayton Daily News
THE 13TH GIFT is the kind of Christmas book whose message is much bigger than the holiday. This memoir is written from the heart and for the heart. --Jason Wright, New York Times bestselling author of *Christmas Jars*
I loved *The 13th Gift* a truly heartfelt and intelligent book. Joanne Smith deftly reconciles the difficult terrain that ranges between the Christmas we all want and the tragedies of life that sooner or later beset us all. Highly recommend it to all, but particularly to those that are dealing with recent losses and don't know how or if they will ever find their way back. Greg Kincaid, author of the bestselling *Christmas with Tucker* and *A Christmas Home*
"The beautiful story told in *The 13th Gift* reinforces how the most precious gifts at Christmas are when people give unconditional love and support and it proves how compassion and a kind heart can change lives. Acts of kindness can create a legacy that lives on from generation to generation." --Laura Schroff, New York Times bestselling author, *An Invisible Thread*
If there ever was a roller-coasterish page-turner of a Christmas book, this would be it. As a veteran devourer of Christmas stories short and long, fictional and true, I mistakenly assumed I'd encountered every conceivable plot variant in the genre. Turns out I was dead-wrong. Joanne Hurst Smith's wondrous story hit me from so many directions, playing on the strings of so many emotions, that it left me limp at the end. Quite simply, it is a masterpiece. --Joe L. Wheeler, Ph.D., author of the bestselling *Christmas in My Heart* series
"The 13th Gift has a touch of magic in it. It's a lovely story that proves we can recover from any loss, strengthened by the blessings of others. It's a classic for the Christmas season--and all seasons." --Glenn Plaskin, author of *Katie Up And Down The Hall: The True Story Of How One Dog Turned Five Neighbors Into A Family*
For readers of Richard Paul Evans and Greg

Kincaid comes The 13th Gift, a heartwarming Christmas memoir about how a random act of kindness transformed one of the bleakest moments in a family's history into a time of strength and love." --Book Reporter.com
About the Author
Joanne Huist Smith is a native of Dayton, OH. She earned a bachelor's degree in English at Wright State University and worked as a reporter for the Dayton Daily News. She is the mother of three and grandmother of two.