



Christmas On Nutcracker Court

Judy Duarte

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This Christmas, come home to Fairbrook, the setting for Judy Duarte's uplifting, heartwarming novels, where friendship, faith--and some extra-special providence--will make it a holiday to remember... Fairbrook is a town tailor-made for Christmas, with beautiful old houses dotting quaintly named streets like Sugar Plum Lane and Nutcracker Court. But not everyone is eager for the holidays to arrive. Cash-strapped single mom Carly Westbrook worries about providing a merry Christmas for her boys. It doesn't help that they've been having run-ins with neighbor Max Tolliver, an aspiring novelist stricken with writer's block. Then there's Grant Barrows, a formerly wealthy businessman whose heart seems to have shrunk along with his bank balance. Some folks are still determined to make the season sparkle. Like The Diamond Lils, a ladies group who meet weekly to play poker and socialize. This year, they're looking to do some good deeds--and wealthy widow Lynette thinks that a little matchmaking between Grant and Carly would be a perfect place to start. Yet Christmas is a season for surprises. And sometimes, the gifts we never expected turn out to be the most precious of all...Praise for Mulberry Park "Tender and touching...this novel will stay with you long after you have read the last page."--Dorothy Garlock "An uplifting story about one little girl's unflinching faith and how she extends an open and loving hand to the broken people around her, bringing them close to each other."--Cathy Lamb, author of Henry's Sisters

Christmas On Nutcracker Court Details

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From Reader Review Christmas On Nutcracker Court for online ebook

Debbie says

The residents of Fairmont are getting ready for Christmas and some have more holiday spirit than the rest and some have much more to be thankful for than the rest – take single mom and hairstylist Carly Westbrook who is more worried about keeping she and her two sons fed and under roof than Christmas buying. And now she has to worry about eccentric neighbor Max Tolliver who's dog keeps showing up to get her boys in trouble.

The Diamond Lils are a group of poker playing girlfriends who are also about to find out what the real meaning of Christmas is all about and the real value of prayer too.

But there's also Christmas magic in the air in this town and it seems that answering prayers and keeping the faith is something that these folks are going to see first hand.

Judy Duarte gives us a touch of magic with this delightful holiday story based on faith and prayer and the power of both. Her plot is a simple one of everyday life, of hardships and plenty that is an easy read. She doesn't just give us larger than life characters but real everyday folks down on their luck and real life worries that most of us go through at one time or another. But what the real magic is, is how she tells her story, the smiles it will bring and sometimes the tears, and at the end how your heart will be lighter for reading it. She also gives us more than just a holiday tale but a life enriching journey that will take us into the depths of despair that doesn't dim faith but embraces it. It's also a love story, a family drama, and a contemporary work that will fill you with hope and light no matter what time of the year you read it. And most important it's timeless and ageless and can be enjoyed by every member of the family, young and old, male and female.

Thank you Ms. Duarte for an enjoyable trip to your fascinating fictional town and Merry Christmas to you too.

Michelle says

A fun read for Christmas with a good message.

Susan Marshall says

Great Christmas read

Lisa says

This was an ok read, but could have been so much better if there was more of the characters emotions relayed in the story. It seems like the author just couldn't get that point across to the readers. The story line over all was great, it was just the way it was presented that lacked in this book

Elise Stone says

What else would I be reading this week but a heartwarming Christmas story? I won this book from the author by commenting on a blog post and couldn't wait to start it. I've previously read "Mulberry Park" the first novel set in the fictional town of Fairbrook, and loved it.

Judy Duarte writes wonderful Christian romances. Or maybe they're women's fiction with strong romantic elements. Regardless of what genre you classify them in, they're stories of families and love and faith. They're books that, like "It's a Wonderful Life", are filled with hokey good things. And, just like I watch "It's a Wonderful Life" at least once every Christmas, I love reading stories by Judy Duarte.

In this book, we follow the stories of a number of characters. There's Carly, a single mom with two boys and serious financial trouble. Josh is troubled by the problems of growing up and having to take care of his younger brother, Mikey. He'd rather hang out with his friends. There's Lynette, who tries to play matchmaker for Carly, but finds herself attracted to the very man she's picked out for Carly. Grant isn't particularly interested in a relationship, but agrees to the date with Carly. Susan is just looking for any man so she won't be alone. She has her eye on Grant as well, but Max, the other bachelor in the neighborhood, would also work for her. Max, whose wife left him, has taken a year's leave of absence from his job as a probation officer to write a novel. He writes nights and sleeps days and is seen as a bit odd since when he does come out of his house during the day, it's usually in his bathrobe. And there's Maggie, the cousin who has shown up to watch Helen's house while she's away on a cruise, and touches the lives of all of the characters by her gentle suggestions.

We follow these people through their ups and downs and learn to care about them as they care about and for one another. It's a story of Christmas wishes and the power of prayer. And the perfect read for the week before Christmas.

Alex says

First things first, that cover is absolutely gorgeous. I just had to say it.

I really liked this book a lot, even without realizing it was the fourth in a series. (It doesn't seem like I missed anything, though, since all the books follow different people.) The characters were great, the setting was beautiful, and the Christmas spirit was leaping off the pages.

However, this ended quite abruptly without wrapping up several storylines. At first I figured I would just read book five and it would be fine, but it appears that this is indeed the last book of the series. So, I'm definitely annoyed that we have no clue what happens to the rest of the ladies in the poker group. Still, this was a sweet enough book that I almost don't care.

Jessica says

Much too religious and super unrealistic.

Nancy Narma says

“The Season of Miracles”

Welcome to Fairbrook and especially Nutcracker Court where almost all halls are decked out and almost everyone is jolly. You'll meet Carly Westbrook; divorced, hard-working Mother of two sons; Josh and Mikey, and is a hairstylist as well. She continually worries about making ends meet with her growing family and its mountain of bills. It seems like Carly just starts to see the light at the end of a very dark tunnel when an emergency of some shape or description sets her back on her heels once again. The “Diamond Lils”; a various-aged poker-playing group, are a merry mix of personalities. Lovely, Blonde Lynette, who is a well-off widow, wonders if she will ever be able to trust again like she did with her beloved Peter. Slightly dyslexic Susan, also a widow, prays for a relationship and a child and feels they are going unanswered—and she can hear her biological clock ticking loudly. Rosa, who along with Husband, Carlos, are older than the rest and volunteer throughout their community and their church, but never quite take the time to “smell the roses” themselves. Last, but not least, there is Helen; who leaves Nutcracker Court and the Diamond Lils for awhile to enjoy a long-awaited cruise. Helen has left the care of her house in her Cousin “Maggie’s” hands—or has she?? Maggie has a way of understanding people’s problems and feelings and dispensing advice. When the Diamond Lils disclose that they have saved up a tidy sum to go on a luxurious trip to a big poker tournament in Laughlin, Maggie has other ideas. You'll also be introduced to the two handsome bachelors of Nutcracker Court—Max; who, is still stinging from his divorce, and has taken a leave of absence from his job with the county HR Dept. to follow his dream of writing his first novel while caring for the “always on the run” shaggy scamp of a dog; Hemingway. Across the street lives sandy-haired, self-employed, beach boy Grant; who is as mysterious to women as he is good looking. Through all of the trials and tribulations within everyday life plus the holidays fast approaching, one item is a constant in each life—FAITH! If this book doesn't get you in the spirit for those special days ahead, I'll be surprised! Watch out for “kickers”!! Thank-you Ms. Duarte--I'll be waiting for your next adventure in Fairbrook. Nancy Narma

Pam says

Heart-warming Christmas story.

Romancing the Book says

Review by Molly: I'm all about Christmas, so getting the chance to read this novel was a treat for me. It really got me in the festive mood that's for sure! With a name like Christmas on Nutcracker Court, who WOULDN'T be ready for Christmas to come?

This is my first Judy Duarte novel but it won't be my last! This story is filled with lots of wonderful characters and a fantastic plot line. Carly's character is one I could truly identify with. Being a single mom of two boys myself, I know what it's like to struggle. I could picture myself through the story AS Carly. Poor Max. He's a crotchety old man and definitely the Scrooge of the story! Of course there are other great characters to become friends with but my heart really went out to these two characters.

The plot is, as I said fantastic. The true meaning of Christmas lies nestled deep in the heart of the story. Each page turn brings you closer to the ending of the story and to the magic of Christmas.

If you are looking for a good book to curl up with next to that roaring warm fire, why not grab a copy of this new novel by an obviously talented author. I am going to go back and check out more of her work and add them to my growing wish list. Definitely a keeper and one that I recommend highly!

Susan says

Good book. I liked the main characters of Carly and Max. Carly is a single mom who is doing her best to provide for her two sons, but she just can't seem to catch a break. When she has another confrontation with Max over her boys and his dog she's not sure what to do. I love the way that she stands up to Max when she thinks her boys are in danger. I also like the way that she's able to make amends when she needs to. Max has taken a leave of absence from his job in order to work on his book. It isn't going very well right now and he hasn't been able to figure out why. I like the way that he works out a trade with Carly where she helps him by reading the book, and he helps her with her sons. This gives them a chance to get to know each other and see where their friendship might go. Both of them also are struggling to find their Christmas spirit. There is also a pretty good cast of secondary characters, all of whom are having their own holiday challenges. Carlos and Rosa are over committed on the volunteering front, not taking the time to enjoy the season. Susan is a widow who would like to marry again, but doesn't seem to have the social skills to make the best of herself. Lynette grew up poor and with low self esteem, but married well. Now she's a widow too, but still thinks poorly of herself and worries about material things. They are joined by Maggie, a woman who is house-sitting for a friend. Maggie sees the best in people and is able to make people see what the holiday season should be about.

Marianne Stehr says

As a thriller/suspense reader, this is a little out of my genre, however I have read one of Judy Duarte's books before and they are uplifting, spiritual and truly a luxury to read. Something can be learned from her books, the true love of one another, the power of faith and prayer and kindness, which in this day and age is much forgotten. Characters rich with flaws, faith and kindness learn about themselves and each other, the characters are well developed, work together well and develop complex relationships throughout the book. This is a very fast read, that is truly worth reading. I loved it!!!

Chloe says

I was really pleasantly surprised by this book! It's about Carly and her sons. She is a single mom and is barely getting by. Her boys come across a dog and eventually their owner, Max Tolliver. He is a writer who works nights and sleeps days and is kind of a loner. However, throughout the story he befriends Carly and her boys.

There's also the Diamond Lills- a group of women who get together to play poker every week. They befriend Carly and try to set her up with Grant, a neighbor to one of the members- Helen. Helen is out of town and her "cousin" Maggie is housesitting for her. However, Maggie is somewhat strange and seems to be able to know things that there is no way she could know. She also can talk to animals.

In the end, Carly and Max end up together but it is a VERY slow progressing romance- very realistic. Lynette and Grant are together and Susan is okay with it. All ends happy and well when Max saves Christmas for Carly and her boys.

My complaints-- the Diamond Lills voices were much older than Carly's so I thought they were late middle aged people, but then I guess they're all about Carly's age? I also don't think the author did the best with Maggie. She was mysterious and not actually Helen's cousin-- but who was she? She was supposed to be some sort of angel I believe, but I just thought the ending in regards to her character fell flat.

Overall, I think I will reread this book at some point. I definitely enjoyed the first read!

Linda says

I've got to make a list of all the publishers that specialize in Christian literature so I don't pick up something with a commercial sounding title and find out that it's faith based. Again, that's a great genre for those who enjoy it but usually, as in this case it's way too heavy handed for me.

Several of the heroines in this one also seem a little too dense and out of touch with the real world. That doesn't speak well for them even before they get the light or in this case Light turned on for them.

Very simply written so it was a quick read and it's a very pretty cover.

Alisha Kennedy says

A festive Christmas story that shows no matter how hard things are and you feel as no one is hearing your prayers , a little faith and love go along way. It reminds us that Christmas is about forgiveness and giving and helping others, especially those in need.
