



## Christmas Cake

*Lynne Hinton*

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## **Christmas Cake** Lynne Hinton

“The perfect recipe for friendship, *Christmas Cake* is a delightful read for the holidays. This is a book to be shared, a story to be treasured.”

—Joan Medlicott, author of *The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love*

In a long-awaited sequel to her beloved national bestseller *Friendship Cake*, author Lynne Hinton returns to the town of Hope Springs with *Christmas Cake*, a heartwarming story that celebrates the close and lifelong bonds among women. Set in a small fictional Southern community as unforgettable as Jan Karon’s Mitford, *Christmas Cake* movingly addresses issues of life and death, faith and love—and good cooking!

## **Christmas Cake Details**

Date : Published November 3rd 2009 by William Morrow Paperbacks (first published November 1st 2009)

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Author : Lynne Hinton

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## **From Reader Review Christmas Cake for online ebook**

### **Alice says**

in dealing with Beatrice's depression:

pg 96 expressions of faith --cookbook and your contests ... a means to remind us to getup and do something, to see and act beyond ourselves and our own troubles. They bring us together and they are vehicles of grace. There is always more to them than what appears on the outside. It's like some offering you make, and whenever you make an offering with a heart of love, it is always a gift that God can use to do what needs to be done.

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### **Chris says**

Meh... I absolutely love a book that comes with recipes, however, this book was not my cup of tea

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### **Lupe says**

A cute and fun book about the power of friendship. And the meaning of cake.

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### **Gina Shupp says**

I enjoyed reading Christmas Cake . I thought it was good and was sensitive . It spoke of how true friends are there for each other and willing to help them no matter what

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### **Kimberley says**

Not as interesting as I'd hoped. Was okay. Read it in one sitting, with several cups of tea. As revolves around church ladies, it's fairly "proper" and would be acceptable for someone who's a bit prim. Most of the cake recipes made me squick - lots of Cool Whip and candied fruit, cream cheese and the like. I think there might be ONE recipe I'd try - an Oatmeal Cake.

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### **Dawn says**

It has been ten years since I read the third book in the Hope Spring series. This is the fourth book from the

series. Even though it has been so long between books, I remember well the quirky and endearing characters from the first three books. The story is heartwarming and sad. As in the first book, "Friendship Cake", the church women are putting together a cookbook. At the start of each chapter is one of the recipes submitted for the cookbook. This time all the recipes are for cakes. Some of the recipes sound fantastic and many seem to include coconut (Yummy!). Even though the first book of the series was by far my favorite, all of the books have been enjoyable and it was great to reconnect again with the women of Hope Springs, North Carolina. I'm looking forward to reading the final book in the series, "Wedding Cake", next.

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### **Bev Werntz says**

#### **Delightful**

A perfect book about faith and friendship between old friends. Although this is the last in the series you could read it without reading the other books. The characters are delightful with all their imperfections. It is a cozy read and I really enjoyed it.

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### **Melissa says**

While the writing was not fabulous and felt rushed to me at times, I liked this heartwarming tale of five friends who met through a church cookbook committee. I have not read the original book, The Friendship Cake, or the other two in the series, but I will be doing so just to find out how these women got started on their loyal, tight-knit friendships.

Set in a small town in North Carolina, this novel takes the women on an emotional journey when one of the group has a reoccurrence of her cancer that ends up being in a terminal location where treatments are most often unsuccessful. The women struggle with their grief and how to let go, while also helping Margaret to find her own personal peace with her past.

I laughed at the things these old women said about and to each other. I got teary at the moments that mattered. I read the recipes and wanted to try a few of the cakes out for myself. But most of all, this book was a lovely reminder to find great friends and hold them fast for as long as you can because having friends who will do anything for you (and you for them) is priceless.

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### **Amy says**

Joyous. Tragic. Peaceful. I laughed and I cried again. Can't wait to read Wedding Cake!

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### **Sonia Schoenfield says**

I've never read any other books in this series; I picked it up because it was a Christmas book. Because of that, I was unfamiliar with the characters and couldn't really warm up to them in just this one book. The story line was good enough and there was some humor, but I wish the faith aspect had had more depth. I'm looking

forward to trying some of the recipes, but I probably won't read another Hope Springs book.

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### **Cathy says**

I started to lose interest in the series, but needed to read this one to have closure of the group's most important shared experience. It did have some funny excursions.

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### **Kathy (Bermudaonion) says**

Margaret, Jessie, Beatrice and Louise have been great friends forever. As members of the Women's Guild of Hope Springs (North Carolina) Community Church, their current project is a Christmas Cake Cookbook and recipe contest. Beatrice has promised a big prize, but so far, hasn't been able to deliver.

When Margaret discovers that her cancer has come back, her friends rally around her and vow to help her realize her final dream. They're joined by their good friend and former pastor Charlotte, who has moved away. The quest to fulfill Margaret's dream turns out to be an adventure for all of them that is sure to be a cherished memory in the future. It all serves as a gentle reminder to the women of what they value in life.

Christmas Cake by Lynne Hinton is a sweet story of friendship, love and community. I enjoyed my visit with the ladies of Hope Springs because their friendship is so real. They love each other and aggravate each other all at the same time, but when the chips are down, they're there for each other. I found myself smiling at parts of the story and sobbing at others. Be prepared with tissues when you read this book!

Lynne Hinton is the pastor of a church in New Mexico. She has written several books about the ladies from Hope Springs, but this is the first one I've read. I had no problems catching up with and enjoying their friendship. Since Christmas Cake is about a cake cookbook and recipe contest, Lynne features a cake recipe at the beginning of each chapter and some of them sound really yummy.

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### **Beverly Pearce says**

At Christmas time I like to read Christmas themed books, just couple. I figure that they can be uplifting and peaceful. Most are. Christmas Cake is a bitter sweet book about friendships and death. I didn't expect the death part. But it is well written and at times funny. So I will recommend it. But maybe leave it as a last resort if you want to read funny and peaceful.

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### **Donna says**

A touching book about friendship.

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### **Cheryl says**

For some reason lately I've been reading several books that deal with female friendships and death. Death again features largely in this one, and for some reason as light as this book is, the writing about dealing with the death of a beloved friend seemed much more realistic, then the other books. It is a lightweight fun read, but with a serious undercurrent. As I read this book, I thought it felt like a cozy mystery, but without a murder. As I looked at the books this author has written, not surprisingly she does have a cozy series.

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