



The Christmas Scrapbook

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It's autumn in Harmony, and Pastor Sam Gardner has vowed to be ready for Christmas. Determined to redeem a dreadful history of gift giving, Sam enrolls in a scrapbooking class to make a Christmas gift his wife will never forget. However, Sam's absence from their home every Wednesday night, coupled with his fishy alibi of attending a men's group, raises her suspicions.

Meanwhile, Sam struggles in the class and must attempt to complete his project with only the help of his faithful secretary, Frank. As Christmas fast approaches and rumors of Sam's Wednesday night absences swirl along with the snow, a series of mishaps leads to a Christmas no one will soon forget.

The Christmas Scrapbook Details

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Joy Gerbode says

This was hilarious, partially because it is so exaggerated. My own interest in scrapbooking, as well as all things Christmas, made this a fun read. It's very easy, you'll get a good laugh even if you do groan at the sheer stupidity of the whole scenario. A fun read.

Marsha says

I loved this! I decided to start the Harmony series after reading it. It is a quick read and full of laugh-out-loud hometown "stuff". Very connected author. If this is the only Christmas book you read during the Holidays you'll be glad you did. I am always on the lookout for a good one. This is a gem and not sappy like so many of them. (Is that too strong of a word, "sappy"?) ENJOY!!

Laura says

I have always enjoyed reading books about Christmas and during the Christmas holidays they are out on the shelves at the library for all, I look for them during the year. Enough about me and my love of Christmas books. This is one of the cutest I have read in a while. This is a fun book and will have you laughing but the underlying story of love of one's mate will rope you in.

Deanne Patterson says

This was absolutely hilarious! This book was written by a Quaker minister. The series is about a small town pastor. This Christmas book had me absolutely laughing out loud and reading parts of it to family members. I had to share it, too funny not too. Shows what happens when assumptions are made and gossips have their way. Read it and you'll get a real chuckle out of it!

Elizabeth says

This book was hilarious! First of all, if you've ever been involved in the workings of a church, you will recognize characters in this book. If you've ever had to organize (or act in) a committee, you will know these characters. You'll swear that Philip Gulley has gone to your church, and sat in on your committees, and listened to the gossipy ladies in the back pew, and incorporated those people into his novel. And he makes it all funny. This is the town of Harmony, central to the series, and it is the setting/backdrop for this tale.

Although Sam has been married for seventeen years, he has yet to give his wife a Christmas present that she actually likes. Determined to make up for almost two decades of crummy gifts, he enrolls in a scrapbooking class that meets Wednesday nights. This year, he thinks, he finally has the perfect gift.

His wife, however, is less than thrilled with his mysterious late nights and suspicious behavior. Is he having an affair? Is he sick? Somehow, as news travels down the grapevine, suspicion leads to rumor, and rumor leads to "fact," and suddenly everybody in Harmony, behind Sam's back, of course, is admiring his courage for facing his last Christmas and still not burdening his family with the news of his imminent demise. And his number one mourner, going out of her way to make his last Christmas comfortable? His wife. Of course.

This is a story about love and marriage, about rumors and misconceptions, about church activities and secretaries ready to go on strike for better photocopiers, about tacky Christmas presents and unfortunate accidents involving scrapbook glue.

This book made me laugh out loud in the library. That's about the highest praise I can give it.

Carroll says

This is a perfect Christmas book. Phil Gulley is at his fictional best in this story of a loving gift which goes horribly wrong. In the attempt to create a Christmas surprise, Sam weaves a tangled web of deception that backfires, but turns out well in the end.

Highly recommend as a wonderful Christmas read. I gave my autographed copy to my brother-in-law for Christmas several years ago.

Cheryl Olson says

Very cute Christmas story laced with homespun charm and lots of humor! I believe that it is most enjoyable if you have read his other "Harmony novels" as you know the characters better, but I really enjoyed this and laughed out loud at the very funny misconceptions portrayed in the novel!

Elaine says

on page 25 and it's hilarious! Funny! Sam's taking a scrapbooking class to make his wife a scrapbook for Christmas. His teacher? Well, she could have been a Nazi. She shows the class by Sam's example, how NOT to make a scrapbook.

p. 37 - This is hysterical! Laughter! Funny! In scrapbooking class, Sam is alarmingly transported back to a 4th grade gluing endeavor.

A somewhat slapstick tale of scrapbooking woes and other follies.

His wife Barbara has no clue where he spends his Wednesday evenings. A mens meeting that talks about riding mowers for 2 hours!?!

Frank, Sam's secretary gets the Friendly Women is a huff.

Gotta have Sam's personality to pastor *these* people!

Is he dying of cancer, polio or some other disease? Anyone know the signs of a mouse bite?

Lorraine says

Pastor Sam Gardner, a Quaker pastor, has given his wife wimpy presents year after year. This year he decides he is going to make her a fantastic scrapbook. So he signs up for a scrapbooking class on Wednesday nights in order to learn how to do this. He can't tell his wife though, so he tells her he's going to a men's group. Between being a scrapbooking disaster and his wife thinking he's cheating on her, this novella is a rollicking romp through the Christmas season.

Definitely one to curl up with when you need a break from wrapping Christmas gifts!

Glenette says

This was a really fast read. I read it in one evening and never laughed so hard. Philip Gulley has written some of the funniest books I have ever read. Nothing but small town stuff with small town residents. I love the Harmony Series and wish there were more!!

Karen says

A short, fast Christmas read!

Mayda says

This charming Christmas story illustrates quite humorously the problems that can occur when people, possessing a little knowledge about something, use not-so-common sense to fill in the blanks. Sam, wanting to give his wife a special, one-of-a-kind Christmas gift, enrolls in a scrapbooking class, but deceives his wife and tells her he is attending a men's group. Alas, his talents as a scrapbooker are few if any, and his ability to keep his mission a secret is even worse. Soon, the townspeople are coming up with theories of their own: Sam is seeing another woman; Sam is ill from an exotic disease; Sam only has weeks to live. But Sam has no idea that these are the thoughts running through the minds of his wife and friends. It is a comedy of errors, but when Sam's wife finally discovers that his secret is not a fatal illness but rather a Christmas gift, Sam may wish he was really ill! This amusing tale is filled with all the wonderful characters you've come to love from the Home to Harmony series. It's a lesson to all that while honesty may be the best policy, a little deceitfulness is a lot funnier.

Kimberly says

I read the entire book over my lunch break. I have never read any of the others in the series. It was a cute story that reminds me of Jan Karon and her Mitford series.

A husband wants to make a memorable Christmas gift for his wife and wants it to be a surprise so he tries to be secretive about it. This gets his wife's overactive imagination thinking all sorts of things may be going on. Because it is a gossipy but well-meaning small town, it ends up being like the childhood game of "telephone" where everybody sort of adds their own spin to the info they are given and it ends up being a comical conclusion. It was a sweet, fast, feel good about the upcoming holiday type book.

Grey853 says

The only bad thing I have to say about this book was that it was too short. It was really a novella rather than a novel, but it was a delight to read. I found myself laughing out loud at the outrageous situations. I won't give away the plot, but let's just say that it's a funny moral tale about gossip and communication. I highly recommend this book if you want a good laugh.

Apparently, there's a series with these same characters. I plan to start reading that right away.

Sherry Cross says

The game of gossip

The misunderstandings of snippets of information, buoyed by town gossips spreading wild tales results in a delightful, laugh-out-loud read. The townspeople of Harmony never fail in their quest to be first to "share" information. Philip Gulley has a well developed sense of humor plus the ability to subtly convey this to his readers. Thorough enjoyment.
