



## Christmas in Icicle Falls

*Sheila Roberts*

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**Christmas in Icicle Falls** Sheila Roberts

**Join *USA TODAY* bestselling author Sheila Roberts this Christmas as she returns for the final installment in her treasured Icicle Falls series**

When Muriel Sterling released her new book, *A Guide to Happy Holidays*, she felt like the queen of Christmas. She's thrilled when the new tree she ordered online arrives and is eager to show it off—until she gets it out of the box and realizes it's a mangy dud. But rather than give up on the ugly tree, Muriel decides to make a project out of it. As she pretties up her tree, she realizes there's a lesson to be learned: everything and everyone has potential. Maybe even her old friend Arnie, who's loved her for years. Except, she's not the only one seeing Arnie's potential...

Meanwhile, Muriel's ugly-tree project has also inspired her friends. Sienna Moreno is trying to bring out the best in the grouchy man next door, who hates noise, hates kids and hates his new neighbors. And while Olivia Claussen would love to send her obnoxious new daughter-in-law packing, she's adjusting her attitude and trying to discover what her son sees in the girl. If these women can learn to see the beauty in the "ugly trees" in their lives, perhaps this might turn out to be the happiest holiday yet.

## Christmas in Icicle Falls Details

Date : Published November 1st 2017 by MIRA (first published October 24th 2017)

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Author : Sheila Roberts

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# **From Reader Review Christmas in Icicle Falls for online ebook**

## **JoAnne says**

Read my review on Romancing-the-Book.com by clicking on the link below:

<http://romancing-the-book.com/2018/02...>

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## **Debbie Bothwell-palmer says**

Everybody has an ugly tree!

It's great to be back in Icicle Falls for one last time! The towns beloved Muriel Sterling - Whittman has written another book to help people get through the holidays. Holidays always have people bustling around and getting ready and trying to be their best. Muriel herself tries to get herself that new tree only to find out when it arrives that it is an "ugly tree". She doesn't replace it but works to make ut a beautiful tree. Muriel finds out she needs to work on herself regarding her desr friend Arnie. She misses out on a trip with him that her good friend Dot takes instead. A bit of the green eyed monster appears. Can she reign it in and find her happiness? You have to love Muriel!

It's great to meet Sienna Moreno and her lovely challenged boy Leo. Not being lucky in love she's afraid to meet her Mr. Right. Her "ugly tree" is her neighbor. He really seems like a scrooge, but is he really? No one really knows what he has been through. She will find it difficult at first to understand him. Will he show his true side? Sienna finds a man she thinks she could fall for, but is he the right one? Can she open her heart to this man?

You can't be in Icicle Falls and not stop in at the lodge and see Olivia, James and family. There is a new family member Meadow. A new daughter in law who is a diamond in the rough. Could she be Olivia's "ugly tree"? Olivia has to learn what Meadow has been through and find a way to make her family for her son. We all know a Mom will do anything for her family

I always love my trips to Icicle Falls and Sheila Roberts hasn't disappointed me. I am sad that this is our last trip to visit everyone in this little town. They will be missed!

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by JoAnne

Book provided by Netgalley

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

I have enjoyed returning to Icicle Falls again and again but I am disappointed that this is the last book in the series. There seems to be more stories to tell and an epilogue could have tied up all the loose ends but alas it wasn't to be. I did enjoy the recipes at the back of the book and may give a couple of them a try.

It was nice to be reunited with many of the characters I've come to know but Muriel was not at her best in this story and that was disappointing. She was definitely putting a damper on the holiday season except for the ugly tree scenario she spun that seemed to help others out by putting a more positive spin on their thoughts and actions. I enjoyed that each chapter started out with a quote from her newest book, *A Guide to Happy Holidays*, and some of them really gave me pause. Sienna and her son were a nice addition to the town and I liked her and her son's interactions with Tim but also with his daughters which I didn't expect. The ex-wife left a lot to be desired though and his uncle and Sienna's neighbor definitely did a one-eighty in his outlook on life. Olivia and her family had their trial and tribulations with Meadow joining their family but I liked that Olivia really tried to get to know her and be there for her.

There was a lot of holiday spirit – both Thanksgiving and Christmas, but also sadness, hurt, frustration, anger, upset, fear, tears, happiness, laughter, family and friends, friendship, kindness and in some cases love. Chocolate and food as always played a major role as did many of the small businesses in town. The story flowed smoothly for the most part but there wasn't the usual depth to the characters. There were a few happily-ever-afters or potential ones in the offing.

I've always enjoyed reading this author's books. I look forward to reading what she pens next!

Favorite Quote: Leo was in no hurry to settle down, and Sienna understood why. They had enjoyed a Hallmark-movie kind of day, a veritable ice-cream sundae of fun, their two families blending perfectly. The cherry on top had been seeing Leo's archenemy get a dose of the humiliation he'd been doling out. Ah, yes, a very satisfying day.

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### Jane says

What a wonderful holiday story this is. Three friends ...not looking for anyone special....but ..... Muriel has had two wonderful marriages and is now best friends with Arnie. He invites her to go on a cruise but she refuses... Sienna is a single mother with a special needs son and feels she doesn't need anyone else in her life. Just her and her son. Then Tim comes along.... Olivia is very happy running her lodge with James her new husband and her son Eric and his wife Brooke. Then Brandon comes home to stay with his new wife Meadow. Olivia just cannot warm up to Meadow and she is the last person she would have picked for her son. Welcome back to Icicle Falls and read how each of these women find peace and happiness. I loved this book and was sad for it to end.

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### Jules says

*Christmas in Icicle Falls* is actually the first book I've read by Sheila Roberts. So trust me to choose the eleventh and final book in the *Life in Icicle Falls* series. However, despite arriving in Icicle Falls somewhat late, I'm pleased to say this was a fun and festive feel-good read, set in a friendly close-knit community with one grumpy neighbour.

This book has a good mix of characters. I loved how each chapter began with a snippet of Muriel's pearls of wisdom, advising on how to be happy during the holidays. A couple of them made me giggle.

I may have only spent a short time in Icicle Falls, but it seems like a wonderful place and community to be a part of.

There is also an added bonus of food recipes from this series at the end of the book, so great for any food lovers out there too.

I did buy three other books by Sheila Roberts in paperback last year. All Christmassy ones , so I'm really looking forward to reading *The Snow Globe*, *Nine Lives of Christmas* and *On Strike for Christmas* at some point.

**My review is also available on my blog here:**

<https://littlemissnosleep.wordpress.c...>

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### **Tommie says**

This was a really cute book. It wasn't the best writing but for a fun and light Christmas read, I thought it was good. I liked that the book was totally centered on a romance but instead had a few story lines between people within the community and the idea of being kind to all, even those who aren't kind to you. Definitely a feel-good holiday read.

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### **Susan says**

Christmas In Icicle Falls

Sheila Roberts

Received from Netgalley

CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS by Sheila Roberts is the eleventh book in the Life in Icicle Falls series and it also happens to be the last one. Even though I'm sad that it is ending I have loved this series and the wonderful characters in Icicle Falls. I craved chocolate the whole time I was reading this book!

CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS is a sweet read that I devoured in just two days. Sheila has a way of just pulling you into the story and getting you all involved in everyone's business. I love how romance was found along the way with their troubles but it did not overpower the story. I hope you will be like I was, cheering for these heart warming characters as you keep flipping the pages until you reach the very last one.

Sienna Moreno and her son Leo have just relocated to Icicle Falls to start over. Leo has special needs and Sienna needed to get away from her deadbeat ex-husband. CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS is filled with love and community and everyone in Icicle Falls reaches out to Sienna and Leo. Sienna loves everything about this quaint little German town, except for her next door neighbor Bob Cratchett. Mr. Cratchett is a grumpy old man who complains about everyone and everything and is always yelling at Sienna or about Leo or their dog, which they don't have.

Olivia Claussen owns a bed and breakfast in Icicle Falls. She finally has all of her family back under her roof. Her son Brandon has returned home with his new bride Meadow. Meadow is a bit rough around the edges with her attitude and language, and Olivia is having a hard time getting past the tattoos and piercings and warming up to her. Once Olivia learns why Meadow is the way she is, she tries to embrace her and make her feel welcome. CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS had me reaching for the tissues over and over again.

CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS is filled to the brim with family, new beginnings, love, and hope. It is a wonderful Christmas story. There are a lot of wishes and prayers fulfilled this Christmas season at CHRISTMAS IN ICICLE FALLS. This is such a charming place any time of the year, but especially at Christmas. Sheila Roberts brings this picturesque Bavarian town to life with her description of the countryside as well as the quaint shops in town. Her characters are genuine, sincere and original, if not a little eccentric. There are several subplots woven throughout the storyline that lend depth to the novel. You'll fall in love with both the town and the characters. Put this one on your reading list for good Christmas-themed novels this year. Sit back with some hot chocolate brimming with whipped cream and another wonderful story from Sheila Roberts! This tale should become a delightful Christmas movie very soon!

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### **Angela Holland says**

I am sad that this is the last book in this series and I will no longer be able to visit Icicle Falls. Once again the author takes us to the magical town of Icicle Falls to catch up with our friends we have all come to love. This time we get to follow along with Muriel as she struggles with jealousy. Since she is the one who has written the self help books that all the ladies enjoy reading it was hard to imagine her struggling with this issue but at the same time to see that not all are perfect. I liked the idea behind the ugly tree as we all have an ugly tree in our lives and should figure out a way to make it beautiful. Then we go to me Sienna and her little boy. What a nice woman who just deserves to be happy. It was fun watching her become a part of the town and the way she handled Mr. Cratchett and how he changed because of it. We also watched as Olivia tried to welcome a new daughter in law that she was not too happy about. I like Olivia and would have felt the same as she did about her daughter in law. What a character she was but in the end I really liked her and felt bad for her. I have loved this author's writing style as her books just flow and the story jumps off the pages. It is a can't put down book for me. This has been one of my favorite series and a go to author for me, luckily she will be giving us a new series next year. I am looking forward to seeing what she has in store for us readers.

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### **Michele says**

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars

See the full review at [HarlequinJunkie.com](http://HarlequinJunkie.com)

Lighthearted humor and swiftly changing emotions shook things up in Sheila Roberts' Christmas in Icicle Falls, where no one in town was immune to the unexpected—or to the ever abundant holiday cheer.

I must admit that reading this year's Christmas book by Sheila Roberts is bittersweet. It was an absolutely

lovely story as always, however, it's the final book in the Life in Icicle Falls series. \*sniffle\* But she sent us fans off in the best way possible with a few loose ends getting wrapped up nicely and of course giving us that wonderful sense of community and family I've come to expect. This particular story showed us the different types of families that exists in Icicle Falls, with people making the most of what they had in their lives during the holidays and sharing that love with those around them. [Read More](#)

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### **N.N. Light says**

Such a delightful Christmas story! I loved the idea of the ugly Christmas tree in each character's lives and how they strive to see the good in him/her. Sweet story anyone would love to read!

My Rating: 5 stars

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### **Sheila says**

Christmas in Icicle Falls is the first Sheila Roberts book I've read. It's the last in the Icicle Falls series, which is just one of many series penned by the author, so I'm not sure how I've missed reading her novels so far. But it's a very enjoyable standalone book, so a good introduction to the author's characters, style and stories. Plus it's a Christmas story, perfect for the season. It involves an ugly artificial tree, made beautiful with wise decoration. And it involves very real, messed-up human lives, made equally beautiful.

Single mom Sienna Moreno just wants a safe environment for her developmentally challenged son. Local author Muriel Sterling wants lots of people to find Christmas joy in her book. Friend Arthur wants Muriel to go on vacation with him. And the grouchy old man just wants... to be a grouch perhaps.

As the story continues, backstories add just enough depth to each character, creating believable quirks and compelling explanations, decorating human imperfection with touches of delight, and leading to happy conclusions. Simple acts of kindness add up. Simple misunderstandings retreat. And messed-up relationships give way to trust. It's a sweet novel, with just enough tart for laughter, heartache and hope. It stands alone easily if, like me, you've not read the rest of the series, and it ends with sweet recipes too.

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book and voluntarily chose to review it.

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### **Janga says**

4.5 Stars

Christmas is the perfect time to visit Icicle Falls, and Roberts makes sure to give her readers the traditional sights, sounds, and smells of the holiday as well as visits with many of the Bavarian town's favorite citizens. This book has the charm and the humor that have characterized the series throughout its five-year run. The "ugly tree" moral is not subtle, but it is credibly applied to the lives of these characters. And readers may find themselves asking if seasonal goodwill applied to their own "ugly trees" might produce changes as welcome as those that occur in Icicle Falls. The recipes at the end might add some extra cheer too. I'm

considering the eggnog muffins myself.

Life in Icicle Falls debuted in September 2012 with *Better Than Chocolate*. Readers who have followed the series will certainly want to include *Christmas in Icicle Falls* in their 2017 Christmas reading. Readers who love a good Christmas story with a full cast of characters and a message with the merriment can appreciate this story even if they are unfamiliar with the series. Some may find the moral a trifle heavy-handed, but I found the reminder to try a little kindness appropriate for our times as well as the holiday season.

See full review at The Romance Dish:

<http://www.theromancedish.com/2017/11...>

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## **April says**

What a wonderful story! I turned the final page with a huge smile, though feeling bittersweet because this is the last book of this series. I will truly miss the characters and visiting them again and again as their lives grow and change.

One of the themes of this story is that with enough love, patience and care, even the grumpiest of people (or ugliest of trees) can be beautiful. Find out a person's story before judging. You may just be surprised...and humbled.

Once again, the recipes included sound amazing and my mouth watered as I read, lol. *Christmas in Icicle Falls* was a story that truly filled my heart as I read. I love this author's style of writing and her enormous talent for weaving a story that could be about your own friends or acquaintances. Thus is a definite must read!!!!

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## **Gail Hollingsworth says**

I've taken many trips to the fantasy town of Icicle Falls over the past several years and this last trip was not a disappointment in the least! As sad as I am to see it end this was a great conclusion. I met new friends and visited old friends while on this last visit.

Muriel Sterling is a long time resident and celebrity in that she has written and had several books published. Her newest, *A Guide to Happy Holidays*, is her best work yet. She's on top of the world until she opens her newly delivered fake Christmas tree. It's a pitiful sight and terribly distressing to Muriel. She is having guests in a few days and her Ugly Tree will be the talk of the town, after all she takes great pride in her holiday decorating skills.

Sienna Moreno and her young son are new residents in Icicle Falls. She wanted a fresh start in a new location and she does have a cousin living here. Her fly in the ointment is her crotchety next door neighbor.

Olivia Claussen is also an old time friend with a new daughter-in-law. Why did her son ever marry this uncouth, obnoxious woman? She wonders how in the world she will ever make it through the Christmas season.

Seems like several residents need an attitude adjustment and the "Ugly Tree Project" sounds like just the ticket to do that.

I'm never disappointed in anything I read by Sheila Roberts. She takes me to a happy place full of fun, laughter and some very good life lessons when I'm holding one of her books in my hand.

This book will get you in the spirit of the season and take you on a final trip to Icicle Falls.



I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author/publisher and was not required to write a review positive or otherwise.

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### **Gail says**

A delightful and heartwarming Christmas story that will make you laugh and cry. I just love the residents of Icicle Falls. They draw me into the story like I am right there with them. Muriel Sterling's UGLY TREE spikes everyone's interest. I guess everyone has an UGLY TREE in their lives. An enjoyable and fun read that I hated to see end. Read the story to find out about the UGLY TREE.  
A MUST READ for the Christmas season!

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