



How Lovely Are Thy Branches

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It's five days till Christmas, and the day before the Winter Solstice. The biggest pre-Christmas blizzard seen for decades is heading straight for the New York metropolitan area. But in one small corner of the Town of Hempstead, everyone's attention is on other business. That's because there's a party tonight at Juan and Marina Rodriguez's house... and the guest of honor is a being from four hundred lightyears away who looks a whole lot like a Christmas tree.

As so often happens, the motive force behind the festivities is the redoubtable Carmela Rodriguez, intent on fulfilling her longtime intention to fulfill one of the great wishes of the wizard known as Filif — specifically, to finally get him into a full set of Christmas decorations. The two-day party that ensues (with an epic sleepover in the middle) brings together a cast of old and new friends to eat, drink, exchange presents, and see a few things the likes of which this world has never seen before...

This 35,000 word novelette is a canonical work in the Young Wizards universe and takes place between the events of *A Wizard of Mars* and the forthcoming *Games Wizards Play*.

How Lovely Are Thy Branches Details

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Author : Diane Duane

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From Reader Review How Lovely Are Thy Branches for online ebook

SR says

Indeed, lovely. God I love these books.

Colleen says

It's a great mark of success, I think, for an author to write about a party in great detail while making you wish you were there enjoying the fun too. Duane definitely does that in this cute tale, although some people's cameos at the party felt shortened and the reader wishes they could have been longer. The conflict is even more contrived than in *Not On My Patch* but that's fine!

Beth says

New Young Wizards. Filif learns about Christmas. Warning: there are a couple of canon atypical swear words (they make sense, but they threw me for a loop). We also learn a lot about Filif's people, and a lovely cameo makes it nicely not an overwhelming story for those of us who don't celebrate Christmas. Also, a lovely tide me over until *Games Wizards Play* is finally out!

Wetdryvac Wetdryvac says

My favorite in the whole series to date, so a favorite among favorites, I suppose. Sometimes I just need a whole lot of joy in life, and this provides that nigh perfectly.

Jon says

Straight-up fanservice, particularly for Filif fans who have been *waiting for this the whole time*. Terrible place to enter the YW universe, great fun if you're already in it. One jarring dig at Virgin Galactic *really should have been edited out*, given the release date.

Sarah (CoolCurryBooks) says

In *How Lovely Are Thy Branches*, Carmela holds a Christmas party and invites all our favorite wizards. Carmela's reason for the party is to finally get Filif dressed up as a Christmas tree, which he was interested in back in *Wizard's Holiday*. This was a really sweet story and basically pure fluff. Character interactions

were at the forefront.

Lindsay (Santafefan) says

Delicious story, especially at Christmas. I may never look at a Christmas tree in the same way again!

Meghan says

A cute YW Christmas novella. Recommend for fans of the series, NOT a great intro to the fabulous DD & her series, since it's a complex universe & (most importantly) because it contains spoilers for some of the books. So start with All You Want to be a Wizard ;-) Read this ONLY after reading AWoM!

It dragged just a little. Since it seems to be basically self-published I think lack of serious editing is the reason. For fans, this isn't a big deal. In fact, DD seems to have had so much fun with this it's contagious. Lots of fun cameos she would never squeeze into a regular novel, and some fun trivia and info about characters make this a very worth while read for fans :-)

Rita C says

I am loving these Young Wizards novellas way more than the full length novels. So much time spent just enjoying the characters without any deep crisis to deal with. And this one centers around Filif. Sweet!

Katie says

This really, really made me actually wish it was winter and that I was young enough to have a winter break from school...and all the nerdy references were great!

Audrey says

Great Young Wizards novella to tide us all over until Games Wizards Play is released in 2016. An enjoyable story, it was nice to see all of the characters totally "at play" and relaxing completely for once, since we typically see them in the series as hard at work.

Teresa Carrigan says

Wonderful novella. I stayed up a bit late to finish it the same day I started. Laughed out loud several times. No need to have read the books in the Young Wizards series if you have a decent background in science fiction. Flif is a sapient alien tree type being, and human friends invite him to a Christmas party, so they can

decorate him. Hilarious.

Morgan Dhu says

A delightful and wildly funny Christmas-themed novella set in Duane's Young Wizards universe. The young wizards we've come to know and love are having a Christmas party at the Rodriguez home, and friends from across the galaxy are invited. The special aspect of this party lies in the decoration of the tree - a role played by Filif, the young Demisiv wizard who closely resembles the traditional Christmas evergreen, and who has been dreaming of being gloriously decorated ever since he heard of the human tradition. While the story is mostly the wizards having fun with their friends, there are a few serious notes concerning the healing of grief, the wrongness of bullying and the dynamics of being an individual and being a part of a close-knit community. A treat for Young Wizards fans.

Joanne says

Oh my goodness, it's been so freaking long since there was new Young Wizards stuff to peruse and this novella was sweet and thoughtful and so much fun.
