



## Remembering Christmas

*Dan Walsh*

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## Remembering Christmas Dan Walsh

Rick Denton lives his life on his terms. He works hard, plays hard, and answers to no one. So when his mother calls on Thanksgiving weekend begging him to come home after his stepfather has a stroke, Rick is more than a little reluctant. He's never liked Art and resents the man's presence in his life, despite the fact that his own father abandoned the family when Rick was just twelve. When what was supposed to be just a couple days helping out at the family bookstore turns into weeks of cashing out old ladies and running off the homeless man who keep hanging about, Rick's attitude sours even more.

Still, slowly but surely, the little bookstore and its quirky patrons--as well as the lovely young woman who works at his side each day--work their magic on him, revealing to Rick the truth about his family, his own life, and the true meaning of Christmas. With skillful storytelling, Dan Walsh creates a Christmas story will have readers remembering every good and perfect gift of Christmas.

## Remembering Christmas Details

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Author : Dan Walsh

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## From Reader Review Remembering Christmas for online ebook

### **Beth says**

Remembering Christmas is written in a simplistic style, and yet for the message that it delivers, flowery language is not really needed. Rick, the main character, not only remembers a particular Christmas, but unearths repressed memories that make him realize just how much he had forgotten - about his mother, his father and especially his step-father, Art. When Rick has to go home to take care of his mother Leanne and Art's store, after Art suffers a brain aneurysm, he must confront these memories and truly remember what he owes to them.

There is also a sweet, romantic side-story that I thought was done well, especially considering the male author. I did not expect the big plot-twist at all, and though it could have come across as unrealistic or cheesy, it felt very natural in the progression of the story.

One thing I also have to touch on is the setting - who would have thought that a Florida setting of the fictitious town of Seabreeze would have been cozy, but it is! The setting really enriched the story. The Book Nook store that Rick's parents own felt so realistic to me, and I longed to visit it myself as well as the small, coastal town.

I guess some readers compare Dan Walsh to Nicholas Sparks, but personally I found the writing to be notches above Sparks. I really liked this story, and I look forward to reading more of Dan Walsh's books in the future.

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### **Faye says**

Remembering Christmas is one of those books that though, simple in it's telling, packs a powerful punch emotionally. Dan Walsh proves yet again that he is a master storyteller, with his latest release of forgiveness and family.

What I love about Mr. Walsh's books is how deep all of his characters are, and there is always more than what first meets the eye. Every character is complex and miles deep, each with their own struggle, and yet Mr. Walsh weaves all the ends in beautifully (yet not painlessly) in such a way that though you might not have seen it coming you couldn't imagine it any other way.

The story is well told, and the pages turn rapidly, though at times it's an inner battle between speeding through the book to find out what happens next, or slowing down and savoring every word.

This was a book that I thoroughly enjoyed from cover to cover, and that doesn't happen often. With Christmas fast approaching this is the perfect book to get you in the mood, or to give as a gift. You could even give it to yourself!

Overall, I would highly recommend this book to just about anyone, whether it's Christmastime or not, Remembering Christmas is a satisfying read, that will tug at your heartstrings :)

Final Rating: 5 out of 5

ISBN: 978-0-8007-1979-1

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### **Cindi says**

I almost did not read this book. I am not big on books where the first page says "Present Day" and you know it's going to be a flashback book. I don't mind the flashback-type books TOO much but I figured it would be most of the story and I wasn't sure I wanted to sit through that. I am so glad I did.

I won't go into all the details of what the book is about. You can read that in the synopsis or in other reviews. What I will say is that this was one of the most moving stories I've read in a very, very long time. While it was a Christmas story, it was mainly a book about self-discovery, faith, forgiveness, and healing. Healing, in more ways than one. With the exception of a few pages in the beginning and again at the end, the entire book was set in the 1980's. I had concerns that it would feel dated. It didn't. At all. The 80's were my own generation of self-discovery so I really had no issue with that time period. But much has changed since that era and I wondered how the story would be. It was amazing. It never seemed "off" at all. Not in any section of the book.

All characters, even the secondary ones, were written perfectly. Everyone from the main characters (Rick, Andrea, Amy, J.D., Art, and Rick's mom) to Art's doctors and the customers who flowed in and out of the Book Nook were necessary, in my opinion. My favorite Christian artist (Randy Stonehill) was even mentioned.

I can't say enough about this book. I cried several times while reading it. It takes a lot for me to get so moved by a story that I actually have tears in my eyes. Good tears.

I think I really needed this. This is my first by this author and I can guarantee it will not be my last.

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### **Paula-O says**

Dan Walsh writes "Remembering Christmas"

We probably all have special memories of this time of the year but Rick Denton lives through some really special ones and finds out some answers to questions he has had all his life.

One cold winter in Florida Rick will come to terms with many things in his life and learn more than he bargained for when he found out that his stepfather was in hospital in critical condition and he came home to help his Mom with their business "The Book Nook".

This little christian book store was the livlihood of his Mom and her husband whom he had never let take the place of his father so many years ago when they married. Rick's life changed when his father left and he never knew why.

Our lives can change in an instant...

Rick had his life just the way he wanted it in a large city far from Florida and seldom saw his Mom or had much contact, he thought he had everything he needed till that winter when he helped in the Book Nook while his stepfather was in hospital fighting for his life.

Come read this wonderful story Dan has written about a simpler time and how we might think we know it all till life changes in an instant and we find out we didn't know as much as we thought we did...

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### **Shari Larsen says**

As the story opens, Rick Denton is looking back on the holiday season of 1980. At that time, he was successful with his career, and living his life on his own terms. When his mother calls on Thanksgiving weekend, begging him to come home after his step father suffers what at first appears to be a stoke, Rick is more than a little reluctant. He has never liked Art and always resented his presence in his life, despite the fact that Rick's father abandoned him when he was 12. He has also always blamed his mother for his father leaving, thinking it was something she did.

What was supposed to be just a couple of days helping out in the family bookstore turns into weeks of dealing with quirky customers, and running off the homeless man that seems to be always hanging around. Rick's attitude sours even more, but slowly, the little bookstore and its patrons, as well as the young woman who works there also, begin to work their magic on him, revealing to Rick the truth about his family, his own life, and the real meaning of Christmas.

I really enjoyed this story, and the reminders of what life was like back in 1980; I was a teenager back at that time. The author did a great job of blending references to the 80's into the story to give a feeling for what it was like in the age before computers and the cell phone. I also liked that the story had an interesting twist towards the end that I did not see coming.

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### **Ann says**

In Remembering Christmas, Dan Walsh has written a story that's sure to be a holiday classic. The story opens when Rick Denton, a successful (and self-centered) individual, receives a phone call from his mother asking for his help in the bookstore she and her husband own. Rick's stepfather, Art, has suffered a brain aneurysm and is hovering between life and death.

Grudgingly , Rick travels to the small town of Sea Breeze, Florida, grumbling all the while about giving up his ski vacation. He avoids the quirky customers in the store as much as possible, preferring to let the intriguing young woman assistant deal with their questions.

But there must be something in the air at the Book Nook. Rick finds himself questioning his past memories as well as his present attitudes. As the story moved from one surprise to another, I found myself stealing free moments to read when I should have been doing other things.

Although Remembering Christmas would make an ideal gift, don't wait for Christmas to read the book. This wonderful story will resonate with you no matter what the season.

My thanks to Revell for provided a copy for review.

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### **Sarah Sundin says**

In Remembering Christmas, Dan Walsh writes with humor and a fun bit of attitude - and still writes a heartwarming tale. The story delighted me, and one twist completely surprised me. Realistic and lovable characters - even shallow Rick - and the refreshing Florida beach town setting make this a memorable Christmas story. I loved Dan's previous novels, The Unfinished Gift, The Homecoming, and The Deepest Waters. Remembering Christmas is sure to please his fans and to enthrall new readers as well. I highly recommend this novel.

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### **Julie Durnell says**

It was okay for a seasonal read.

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### **Gail Welborn says**

On a scale of 1-10, Walsh's Christmas story is a 12+

Remembering Christmas, a Novel, by Dan Walsh, Revell, 2011, Hardcover, 272 Pages, ISBN-13: 978-0800719791, \$15.99

JD nervously paced, peeking around the corner to look for Art who had never been late one time this past year with his Egg McMuffin. He heard his belly rumbling, but this morning he needed "the heat from Art's coffee to take the chill out of his bones" more than the food.

He had come to count on Art's generosity over the past year after he made a deal with him to stop sleeping in

the sheltered stairwell if Art would bring him an Egg McMuffin every morning. That's when JD moved from his stairwell home into the cardboard box behind the church. He was happy. Art and the Book Nook customers were happy. Where was he?

Taylor, visible only to him, again raised his voice and said, "I think you should go inside JD....something is wrong."

"What if he comes in...finds me...no more Egg McMuffins!" Art said as he peeked around the corner again.

Finally at Taylor's encouragement, JD agreed to check the bookstore door. He slipped around the corner...Full Review: <http://tinyurl.com/746yzhj>

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### **Michelle says**

This story was one that I found truly heartwarming. I bought it because I'd read other books by the same author and enjoyed them a lot. Normally stories that have a Christmas theme seem a bit sappy to me, but I decided to try it anyway. I thought it was cool that the story was set in 1980 since that was during my childhood. So many of the events mentioned in the novel I actually remembered. I loved how the author showed several perspectives, and how the hero's heart softened over time because of people that knew his family. His initial resentment toward the step-father and the eventual transformation of his feelings as a result of hearing so much about the real man and his relationship with his mother melted my heart in a good way. His attitude and lifestyle was literally changed by his surroundings. I also appreciated his perspective on the heroine. The only thing lacking in this love story was a good kiss, however, the love between his mom and step-father made up for that. It was tender and emotionally moving. I enjoyed getting to know these characters.

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### **Giovanni Gelati says**

I have been reading a lot of death and mayhem lately so I was lucky enough to dig this out of the reading pile and get to it. Just the cure for a respite from cars blowing up, end of the world scenarios and terrorists, unless of course you count nice old ladies coming into bookstores terrorists; they come in all shapes and sizes you know.

Dan Walsh delivers a very twist on a classic theme and does it with a very nice deft touch and plenty of panache. These are not words I usually get to use in my reviews; this though fits like a glove. I love the publisher, Revell, and have a major soft spot for them and enjoy everything I have read that they have put out. This is an excellent read to sandwich into any reading week; the novel is a nice size and will fit in any purse, back pack, lunch pail, or cargo pocket to take anywhere. Props to everyone from the author on up and down, grab this, put it in someone's stocking for the holidays, but do yourself a favor and read it first; don't pass it up.

Here is a little something on the novel:

"Rick Denton lives his life on his terms. He works hard, plays hard, and answers to no one. So when his mother calls on Thanksgiving weekend begging him to come home after his stepfather has a stroke, Rick is more than a little reluctant. He's never liked Art and resents the man's presence in his life, despite the fact that his own father abandoned the family when Rick was just twelve. When what was supposed to be just a

couple days helping out at the family bookstore turns into weeks of cashing out old ladies and running off the homeless man who keep hanging about, Rick's attitude sours even more.

Still, slowly but surely, the little bookstore and its quirky patrons--as well as the lovely young woman who works at his side each day--work their magic on him, revealing to Rick the truth about his family, his own life, and the true meaning of Christmas. With skillful storytelling, Dan Walsh creates a Christmas story will have readers remembering every good and perfect gift of Christmas."

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### **Kelly says**

A sweet little Christmas read and a lesson in a child's perceptions not always being correct.

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### **Carolyn says**

The beginning of this book was interesting. It is a story of a professional who left small town Florida after finishing college and made a new life for himself on his own terms. His stepdad becomes very ill and his mother asks him to return home to help run the Christian bookstore, so he reluctantly gives up his ski vacation to help his mother out.

I was liking it until about 1/2 way through, and then it got religious. When the stepdad had dangerously low blood pressure and a Bishop put his hands on him and it miraculously came up, I was done reading!

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### **Anna says**

Rick Denton is a successful CPA, striving to climb the corporate ladder. His father left when he was a boy, and over the years Rick has created an image of his father and what their happy reunion would be. He rejected his stepfather, Art, and distanced himself from his mother, Leanne, and has little contact with them. When his mother calls to ask for Rick's help running their little bookstore after his stepfather suffers from an aneurysm he reluctantly returns to his hometown. When he encounters a homeless man, whom Art had been helping, hanging around the bookstore, he runs him off. Rick has also distanced himself from God and is uncomfortable with the Christian customers, who love Art and Leanne. He does however find himself attracted to the young mother, Andrea, who works part time at the store. As Rick confronts his past and the hurts caused by his own actions, God enlightens and opens his heart to what is truly important, faith and family.

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### **Melanie says**

Rick Denton, career minded, business oriented, climbing the ladder to success is thankful to have left his childhood home in Florida years ago. Rick's father left the family when Rick was very young, and Rick blames his mother for the loss. He hates it even more when his mother remarries his stepdad Art who tries to father Rick, when Rick still longs for his own father. Wanting no relationship with Art, Rick barely keeps in touch with his mother and stepfather.

Rick's Mother out of the blue calls Rick in panic mode, Art is hospitalized with a possible stroke, later learned to be an aneurism and she begs Rick to come and care for their christian bookstore during the busy holiday season when half of their income is earned. Thinking it will only be for a couple days Rick agrees to drive down and attempt to help in the tiny little bookstore in the basement of a church.

What was supposed to only take days, lasted into weeks and Rick begins to relax a bit and reflect on his past, and what he believes he remembers.

Sometimes past memories aren't remembered as they truly happened, and I love how Dan Walsh uses Rick to reflect on past hurts and feelings and brings him full circle in his self examination. Throw in a love interest in the least suspecting person, forgiveness on the deepest levels, and twists and turns to keep the reader moving forward. A fantastic story for all times of the year, but relevant for Christmas as well!

Thanks to Revell for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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