

gift of the magi

gift of the magi is one of the most beloved short stories in American literature, written by O. Henry. This classic tale explores the themes of love, sacrifice, and selflessness through the story of a young couple, Jim and Della, who each give up their most prized possession to buy a special gift for the other. Known for its unexpected twist ending and rich symbolism, "The Gift of the Magi" continues to captivate readers over a century after its publication. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the plot summary, analyze its central themes, discuss the characters, explore the historical and literary context, and examine its enduring legacy. Whether you are a student, educator, or literature enthusiast, this article provides deep insights into why "The Gift of the Magi" remains an essential part of literary discussions and holiday traditions.

- Plot Summary of "The Gift of the Magi"
- Main Themes and Symbolism
- Character Analysis
- Historical and Literary Context
- Impact and Legacy of "The Gift of the Magi"
- Popular Adaptations and References

Plot Summary of "The Gift of the Magi"

"The Gift of the Magi" tells the poignant story of Jim and Della Young, a married couple living in modest circumstances. Set during the Christmas season, the narrative opens with Della counting her savings, desperately trying to gather enough money to buy a meaningful gift for her husband. Despite her efforts, she has only managed to save \$1.87, which is not enough to purchase anything significant.

Della's most treasured possession is her long, beautiful hair, while Jim's is his heirloom pocket watch. In a moment of selfless love, Della decides to sell her hair to a local shop in exchange for twenty dollars. She uses the money to buy a platinum fob chain for Jim's watch, believing it will be the perfect Christmas present. When Jim returns home, he is shocked to see Della's short hair, but he quickly reassures her of his love. He then reveals that he has sold his watch to buy Della a set of ornate combs for her hair. In the end, both gifts are rendered useless, but their sacrifices highlight the depth of their love and devotion to each other.

The story concludes with the narrator comparing Jim and Della's selfless acts

to the gifts given by the Magi, the wise men who brought valuable presents to the infant Jesus. O. Henry suggests that the couple's love and sacrifice make them the wisest gift-givers of all.

Main Themes and Symbolism

Theme of Love and Sacrifice

The central theme in "The Gift of the Magi" is the power of love and the willingness to sacrifice for the sake of a loved one. Jim and Della's decisions to give up their most prized possessions reflect the selfless nature of true love. Their actions demonstrate that the value of a gift lies not in its material worth, but in the thought and sacrifice behind it.

Symbolism of the Gifts

The gifts exchanged between Jim and Della are loaded with symbolism. Both the watch chain and the combs represent more than physical objects; they symbolize the couple's devotion, selflessness, and ability to put each other's happiness above their own desires. Additionally, the story's title references the Magi, implying that wisdom is found in giving with love and humility.

Irony and Twist Ending

O. Henry is renowned for his use of situational irony, and "The Gift of the Magi" is a prime example. The twist ending, where both gifts become unusable, serves to emphasize the story's message about the true spirit of giving. The irony enhances the emotional impact, leaving readers with a memorable lesson about generosity and the essence of gift-giving.

Character Analysis

Della Young

Della is portrayed as a devoted and loving wife, whose primary concern is making her husband happy. Her willingness to part with her beautiful hair, her most prized asset, reveals her selflessness and capacity for deep emotional sacrifice. Della's character embodies the virtues of love, humility, and generosity that define the story.

Jim Young

Jim is equally devoted to Della. Although he is described as a quiet and serious man, his actions speak volumes about his feelings. By selling his treasured watch to buy Della a gift, Jim demonstrates the same level of sacrifice and love. Both characters serve as archetypes of selfless giving and mutual respect in relationships.

Supporting Characters

While the story primarily focuses on Jim and Della, minor characters such as Madame Sofronie, the hair dealer, play a small yet pivotal role. Madame Sofronie serves as a foil to Della, representing the impersonal nature of business in contrast to Della's emotional journey. The narrator also plays an important role by providing commentary and drawing parallels to the biblical Magi.

Historical and Literary Context

0. Henry's Writing Style

O. Henry, the pen name of William Sydney Porter, was known for his short stories that featured clever plot twists and engaging narratives. "The Gift of the Magi" was first published in 1905 and quickly became one of his most famous works. His style is marked by wit, irony, and a deep understanding of human nature, all of which are evident in this story.

Setting and Social Context

The story is set in early 20th-century New York City, a time when economic hardship was common for many families. The modest circumstances faced by Jim and Della reflect the realities of working-class life during this period. The narrative highlights themes of poverty, resilience, and the importance of finding joy and meaning in simple acts of love.

Influence on American Literature

"The Gift of the Magi" has had a lasting impact on American literature, inspiring countless adaptations, references, and discussions about the nature of giving and self-sacrifice. O. Henry's storytelling techniques, especially his use of irony, have influenced generations of writers and remain a defining feature of the short story genre.

Impact and Legacy of "The Gift of the Magi"

Enduring Popularity

The universal themes of love, sacrifice, and the true spirit of giving have ensured the story's enduring popularity. "The Gift of the Magi" is frequently included in school curricula, holiday readings, and literary anthologies, making it a staple of both education and popular culture.

Moral Lessons and Cultural Significance

The story is often cited for its moral lessons about generosity and the importance of valuing relationships over material possessions. Its message resonates across cultures and generations, making it relevant for contemporary audiences as well. The reference to the Magi ties the narrative to broader religious and cultural traditions, especially those associated with Christmas and selfless giving.

Use in Education and Literature Studies

Educators often use "The Gift of the Magi" to teach literary devices such as irony, symbolism, and narrative structure. Its accessible language and emotional resonance make it ideal for readers of all ages. The story also serves as a springboard for discussions about ethics, values, and the complexities of human relationships.

Popular Adaptations and References

Film and Television Adaptations

"The Gift of the Magi" has been adapted into numerous films, television episodes, and stage productions. Its timeless message and emotional depth make it a popular choice for holiday specials and family programming. Adaptations often retain the core plot while updating the setting or characters for modern audiences.

Literary and Artistic References

The story has inspired references in other works of literature, music, and visual arts. Authors, poets, and artists frequently draw upon its themes of sacrifice and love to create new interpretations and homages. The phrase "Gift of the Magi" has even entered everyday language as a metaphor for selfless giving.

Influence on Holiday Traditions

Many holiday traditions and gift-giving customs draw inspiration from the story's message. The tale serves as a reminder of the importance of thoughtful, meaningful gifts that come from the heart. Its enduring relevance ensures that "The Gift of the Magi" remains associated with the spirit of Christmas and the broader idea of generosity throughout the year.

- The story emphasizes love and self-sacrifice over material possessions.
- Jim and Della's actions serve as a model of selfless giving.
- The narrative uses irony and symbolism to deliver a powerful message.
- "The Gift of the Magi" has influenced both literature and popular culture.
- Its legacy endures through adaptations, references, and holiday traditions.

Trending Questions and Answers About "Gift of the Magi"

Q: What is the main message of "The Gift of the Magi"?

A: The main message of "The Gift of the Magi" is that the true value of a gift lies in the love, thoughtfulness, and sacrifice behind it, rather than its material worth.

Q: Why are the gifts in "The Gift of the Magi" considered ironic?

A: The irony lies in the fact that both Jim and Della sold their most prized possessions to buy gifts that complement each other's lost treasures, making the gifts themselves unusable but highlighting their selfless love.

Q: Who are the main characters in "The Gift of the Magi"?

A: The main characters are Jim Young and Della Young, a young, married couple

living in modest circumstances who deeply love each other.

Q: What does the title "The Gift of the Magi" symbolize?

A: The title refers to the Magi, or wise men, from the biblical story who brought valuable gifts to the newborn Jesus, symbolizing wisdom in giving selflessly with love.

Q: When was "The Gift of the Magi" published?

A: "The Gift of the Magi" was first published in 1905 by O. Henry.

Q: How does O. Henry use irony in the story?

A: O. Henry uses situational irony, where the outcome of the gift exchange is both unexpected and poignant, underscoring the story's central themes of love and sacrifice.

Q: What is the setting of "The Gift of the Magi"?

A: The story is set in early 20th-century New York City, focusing on the modest home and circumstances of Jim and Della.

Q: What literary devices are prominent in "The Gift of the Magi"?

A: The story prominently features irony, symbolism, and foreshadowing, which contribute to its emotional impact and memorable twist ending.

Q: Why is "The Gift of the Magi" still relevant today?

A: Its universal themes of love, selflessness, and the true spirit of giving continue to resonate with readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Q: How has "The Gift of the Magi" influenced holiday traditions?

A: The story has inspired gift-giving customs that emphasize heartfelt, thoughtful presents and has become a popular tale during the Christmas season.

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The Gift of the Magi: A Timeless Tale of Sacrifice and Love

Are you captivated by stories of selfless love and surprising twists? Then prepare to delve into O. Henry's classic short story, "The Gift of the Magi." This post will explore the enduring appeal of this heartwarming yet heartbreaking tale, examining its themes, characters, and lasting impact on literature and popular culture. We'll unpack the symbolism, analyze the narrative structure, and ultimately consider what makes "The Gift of the Magi" a story that continues to resonate with readers over a century later.

Understanding the Narrative: A Sacrifice of Love

"The Gift of the Magi" tells the story of Della and Jim Dillingham Young, a young, impoverished couple deeply in love. Christmas Eve looms, and they both desperately want to buy each other a meaningful gift, despite their meager finances. This seemingly simple premise sets the stage for a narrative of profound sacrifice and unexpected irony. O. Henry masterfully builds suspense as we witness Della's agonizing struggle to find the perfect gift for Jim.

Della's Dilemma: Selling Her Hair

Della's prized possession is her long, beautiful hair. This detail is crucial; her hair isn't just aesthetically pleasing, it's a symbol of her femininity and self-esteem. Her decision to sell her hair to buy Jim a platinum fob chain for his cherished watch is the story's central act of sacrifice. This highlights the immense depth of her love and her willingness to give up something precious for the sake of her husband. The act is both heartbreaking and incredibly touching, instantly drawing the reader into the emotional core of the narrative.

Jim's Surprise: A Set of Combs

Meanwhile, Jim, unaware of Della's sacrifice, faces his own predicament. He works tirelessly to provide for Della, and his unwavering love is palpable. He sells his most valued possession – his prized watch – to purchase a set of beautiful combs for Della's hair. This parallel sacrifice mirrors Della's, intensifying the poignant irony of their situation. The juxtaposition of their gifts and their actions reveals the profound depth of their love and the true meaning of giving.

The Irony and Symbolism: A Deeper Look

The story's power lies in its masterful use of situational irony. Both Della and Jim make enormous sacrifices to purchase gifts that are rendered useless by the other's actions. This irony isn't simply a plot device; it underscores the profound truth that the greatest gifts often come not from material value, but from the love and sacrifice behind them.

Symbolism of Hair and Watch: Representing Identity and Value

Della's hair and Jim's watch are potent symbols. Her hair represents her beauty, her identity, and her sense of self-worth. Jim's watch is a symbol of his hard work, his responsibility, and his commitment to providing for his wife. By sacrificing these prized possessions, they sacrifice parts of themselves, demonstrating the immeasurable value they place on their love for each other.

The Magi: A Connection to Ancient Wisdom

The title, "The Gift of the Magi," itself contains a powerful layer of symbolism. The Magi, or wise men, brought precious gifts to the infant Jesus. The story subtly suggests that Della and Jim, in their own humble way, emulate the Magi's selfless generosity, giving the most precious gifts they possess – even though those gifts, ironically, become unusable. This elevates the narrative beyond a simple tale of love and loss, connecting it to a profound spiritual theme of selfless giving.

The Enduring Legacy of "The Gift of the Magi"

"The Gift of the Magi" transcends its simple plot. It's a timeless story that continues to resonate with readers because it speaks to the universal human experience of love, sacrifice, and the true meaning of giving. The story's enduring popularity speaks to its ability to capture the essence of human relationships and the depth of human emotion. It remains a staple in literature anthologies and has been adapted for film and theater numerous times, demonstrating its consistent appeal across generations. Its simple yet profoundly moving narrative continues to inspire and captivate audiences worldwide.

Conclusion

O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" is more than just a heartwarming Christmas story; it's a poignant exploration of love, sacrifice, and the true meaning of giving. The ironic twist, the powerful symbolism, and the relatable characters create a lasting impact on the reader, reminding us that the most precious gifts are often those given selflessly, regardless of material value.

FAQs

1. What is the main theme of "The Gift of the Magi"? The main theme is the selfless love and sacrifice between Della and Jim, highlighting the idea that the most valuable gifts are those given from the heart, not the wallet.
2. What is the significance of the title "The Gift of the Magi"? The title connects the couple's actions to the biblical Magi, who offered precious gifts to the baby Jesus. It suggests that Della and Jim, in their own way, offer the most precious gifts they possess – their love and selflessness.
3. What is the irony in the story? The irony lies in the fact that both Della and Jim sell their most prized possessions to buy each other gifts that become useless due to their actions. This highlights the paradoxical nature of their loving sacrifice.
4. What is the symbolism of Della's hair? Della's hair symbolizes her beauty, femininity, and self-worth. Selling it represents the ultimate sacrifice she makes for her husband.
5. Why is "The Gift of the Magi" still popular today? The story's enduring appeal stems from its timeless exploration of universal themes – love, sacrifice, and the true meaning of giving – themes that resonate with readers across generations and cultures.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2021-12-22 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2013-01-28 The Gift of the Magi is a short story, about a young married couple and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been a popular one for adaptation, especially for presentation during the Christmas season.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi / Дары волхвов О. Генри, 2024-03-14 О. Генри (Уильям Сидни Портер) – американский писатель начала двадцатого века. Славу ему принесли рассказы, неизменной деталью которых был элемент неожиданности: невообразимый сюжетный поворот, невероятная развязка, сказочное стечение обстоятельств. О. Генри находил свои истории на улицах и в барах, в разговорах с рабочими, бродягами, клерками – он с готовностью слушал каждого, кто встречался на пути. Рассказы О. Генри полюбились читателям не только заключенной в них магией, но и вниманием автора к самым маленьким людям, а также теплом и сочувствием, с которыми он о них писал. В сборник вошли двенадцать самых известных рассказов О. Генри: «Дары волхвов», «На чердаке», «Мамона и Амур», «Зеленая дверь», «Двадцать лет спустя», «Коварство Харгрэвса», «Сыщики», «Воспоминания желтого пса», «Совесть в искусстве», «Последний лист», «Когда любишь...» и «Дебют Мэгги». Рассказы публикуются на английском языке без сокращений и адаптации.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi and Other Short Stories O. Henry, 1992-02-05 Presents sixteen short fiction stories by nineteenth-century American author O. Henry, including the title work about the Christmas sacrifices of a young married couple.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 1963 Sixteen captivating stories by one of America's most popular storytellers. Included are such classics as The Gift of the Magi, The Last

Leaf and The Ransom of Red Chief. Publisher's Note.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories O. Henry, Gary Gianni, 1990 A husband and wife sell their most prized possessions in order to purchase the perfect gift for each other, in the first of six classic short stories.

gift of the magi: The Gifts of the Magi Carolyn Vaughn, Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, N.Y.), 1998 A wonderful Christmastime keepsake that explores the first Christmas gifts. This book tells the story of the Magi & their journey & explains the symbolism & the significance of their gifts.

gift of the magi: *The Gift of the Magi Illustrated* O Henry, 2020-10-25 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time. The plot and its twist ending are well-known, and the ending is generally considered an example of comic irony. It was allegedly written at Pete's Tavern on Irving Place in New York City. The story was initially published in The New York Sunday World under the title Gifts of the Magi on December 10, 1905. It was first published in book form in the O. Henry Anthology The Four Million in April 1906.

gift of the magi: *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies* Laura Numeroff, 2022-10-18 Mouse celebrates the holidays in this picture book in the beloved #1 New York Times bestselling If You Give... series! If you take a mouse to the movies, he'll ask you for some popcorn. If you give him the popcorn, he'll want to string it all together. Then he'll want to hang it on a Christmas tree. The famous little mouse from If You Give a Mouse a Cookie that has delighted millions of readers is back in an irresistible tale full of holiday antics. Collect all the books in this giggle-inspiring classic series!

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi (Diversion Classics) O. Henry, 2015-11-24 Featuring an appendix of discussion questions, the Diversion Classics edition is ideal for use in book groups and classrooms. One of O. Henry's most-loved short stories, THE GIFT OF THE MAGI is perfect for the holiday season. In this heartwarming tale, a young couple of limited means contemplates buying Christmas gifts for each other, with unexpected results.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi Joel Priddy, O. Henry, 2010-09-21 Gift of the Magi by O. Henry, originally published in 1906, has become one of the best known and most beloved of Christmas tales. An exuberant couple urged on by their love, make great sacrifices in order to purchase the perfect Christmas gift for the other. The husband sells his gold watch in order to buy expensive combs for his wife's luxurious locks. While the wife sells her hair to the wigmaker in order to buy a chain suitable for her husband's handsome timepiece. When all is revealed on Christmas Eve, the sweet irony of their dual generosity leaves them, whether they know it or not, as the wisest of gift givers: But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. O all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi. The artist Joel Priddy employs the same twists of reciprocity in his own work and is well suited to adapting and updating this classic for a modern audience.

gift of the magi: Good and Perfect Gifts Barry Moser, 1997 Based on the classic story in which a husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents.

gift of the magi: Federico and Magi's Gift Beatriz Vidal, 2014-07-30 IT'S THE EVE of the Epiphany, or the Feast of the Three Kings, and that means the Three Wise Men, or Magi, will ride through the night sky to deliver gifts to children. Four-year-old Federico has misbehaved, and now he is afraid the Magi won't leave him any presents. As his brother and sister prepare hay and water for the Magi's camels, Federico stays by himself: Will he get the caballito, or toy horse, he is hoping for? Will the Magi really come? This gorgeously illustrated storybook by Beatriz Vidal glows with warmth and holiday cheer, and readers everywhere will surely find themselves scanning the night skies for the Magi.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi , 2016

gift of the magi: *The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories* O. Henry, Nancy Taylor, 2008 Reading level: 1 [green].

gift of the magi: God Gave Us Family Lisa Tawn Bergren, 2017-10-17 Little Pup's wolf family is on their way to a special reunion—with lots of cousins, games, roasting marshmallows, and fun! As the young wolf thinks about different kinds of families, it's the perfect opportunity for Mama and Papa to teach their inquisitive child about the families that God brings together. Some families are big and others are small, some are led by grandparents or just one parent, and some families include adopted little ones—yet each family is truly special. Even the members of Little Pup's pack make up an important role in his family, although they sometimes pester him. Papa gently reminds his son... "We need to love the family God gave us." A heartwarming and colorful addition to the best-selling God Gave Us series, this tale will delight young hearts and help them understand how families of all types reflect God's unconditional love.

gift of the magi: Forward Me Back to You Mitali Perkins, 2019-04-02 The award-winning author of *You Bring the Distant Near* explores identity, homecoming, and the legacy of assault in this personal and ambitious new novel. Katina King is the reigning teen jujitsu champion of Northern California, but she's having trouble fighting off the secrets in her past. Robin Thornton was adopted from an orphanage in India and is reluctant to take on his future. If he can't find his roots, how can he possibly plan ahead? Robin and Kat meet in the most unlikely of places—a summer service trip to Kolkata to work with survivors of human trafficking. As bonds build between the travelmates, Robin and Kat discover that justice and healing are tangled, like the pain of their pasts and the hope for their futures. You can't rewind life; sometimes you just have to push play. In turns heart wrenching, beautiful, and buoyant, Mitali Perkins's *Forward Me Back to You* focuses its lens on the ripple effects of violence—across borders and generations—and how small acts of heroism can break the cycle. This title has Common Core connections.

gift of the magi: *Disney's Mickey & Minnie's Gift of the Magi* Bruce Talkington, 2001 Micky and Minnie act out the classic Christmas story of unselfish giving.

gift of the magi: The Necklace and Other Short Stories Maupassant Guy de, 2016-02-10 Opulence is sometimes deceiving—"She removed the wraps from her shoulders before the glass, for a final view of herself in her glory. Suddenly she uttered a cry. Her necklace was not around..." - Guy de Maupassant, *The Necklace* Madame Mathilde Loisel is displeased: she cannot go to a fancy party because she doesn't have anything to wear. Her husband tries to help her and gives her money to buy a new dress. She insists she also needs jewels so she borrows a diamond necklace from her friend, Madame Jeanne Forestier. After the party, Mathilde realizes that she lost the stunning necklace. ,This book has been professionally formatted for e-readers and contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it.

gift of the magi: The Rebel Spurs Andre Norton, 2011-12-01 This sequel to *Ride Proud, Rebel!*, Norton's popular novel of the Civil War, begins in the aftermath of the conflict, when the surviving soldiers struggle to make sense of their lives and start anew. One rebel, Drew Rennie, makes his way to Arizona in search of his long-lost father and quickly finds himself embroiled in the drama, turmoil and romance of the Wild West.

gift of the magi: THE GIFT OF THE MAGI NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2024-05-03 THE GIFT OF THE MAGI MCQ (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS) SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AIMING TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS, CLASS TESTS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS, AND SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS. WITH ITS EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MCQS, THIS BOOK EMPOWERS YOU TO ASSESS YOUR GRASP OF THE SUBJECT MATTER AND YOUR PROFICIENCY LEVEL. BY ENGAGING WITH THESE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS, YOU CAN IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT, IDENTIFY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT, AND LAY A SOLID FOUNDATION. DIVE INTO THE GIFT OF THE MAGI MCQ TO EXPAND YOUR THE GIFT OF THE MAGI KNOWLEDGE AND EXCEL IN QUIZ COMPETITIONS, ACADEMIC STUDIES, OR PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVORS. THE ANSWERS

TO THE QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED AT THE END OF EACH PAGE, MAKING IT EASY FOR PARTICIPANTS TO VERIFY THEIR ANSWERS AND PREPARE EFFECTIVELY.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry O. Henry, 2023 This resource provides a written copy of the short story as well as a glossary to use for the study of O. Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi'. The highlighted sections can be selected for quick access to the relevant recital video.

gift of the magi: The Story of Christmas , 2008 Advent calendar with 24 books to be used as tree ornaments depicting the events in the Christmas story, set into a board cover with brief text on the flaps and back cover. Each book ornament has a gold cord to hang it on a Christmas tree.

gift of the magi: The Man in the High Castle Philip K. Dick, 2011 Slavery is back. America, 1962. Having lost a war, America finds itself under Nazi Germany and Japan occupation. A few Jews still live under assumed names. The 'I Ching' is prevalent in San Francisco. Science fiction meets serious ideas in this take on a possible alternate history.

gift of the magi: Mickey and Minnie's Gift of the Magi , 2020

gift of the magi: Shatter Me (Shatter Me) Tahereh Mafi, 2018-03-06 Stranger Things meets Shadow and Bone in this first instalment of an epic and romantic YA fantasy series - perfect for fans of Leigh Bardugo, Sarah J. Maas and Victoria Aveyard. Now a TikTok phenomenon.

gift of the magi: The Master and Margarita Mikhail Bulgakov, 2016-03-18 Satan comes to Soviet Moscow in this critically acclaimed translation of one of the most important and best-loved modern classics in world literature. The Master and Margarita has been captivating readers around the world ever since its first publication in 1967. Written during Stalin's time in power but suppressed in the Soviet Union for decades, Bulgakov's masterpiece is an ironic parable on power and its corruption, on good and evil, and on human frailty and the strength of love. In The Master and Margarita, the Devil himself pays a visit to Soviet Moscow. Accompanied by a retinue that includes the fast-talking, vodka-drinking, giant tomcat Behemoth, he sets about creating a whirlwind of chaos that soon involves the beautiful Margarita and her beloved, a distraught writer known only as the Master, and even Jesus Christ and Pontius Pilate. The Master and Margarita combines fable, fantasy, political satire, and slapstick comedy to create a wildly entertaining and unforgettable tale that is commonly considered the greatest novel to come out of the Soviet Union. It appears in this edition in a translation by Mirra Ginsburg that was judged "brilliant" by Publishers Weekly. Praise for The Master and Margarita "A wild surrealistic romp. . . . Brilliantly flamboyant and outrageous." —Joyce Carol Oates, The Detroit News "Fine, funny, imaginative. . . . The Master and Margarita stands squarely in the great Gogol-esque tradition of satiric narrative." —Saul Maloff, Newsweek "A rich, funny, moving and bitter novel. . . . Vast and boisterous entertainment." —The New York Times "The book is by turns hilarious, mysterious, contemplative and poignant. . . . A great work." —Chicago Tribune "Funny, devilish, brilliant satire. . . . It's literature of the highest order and . . . it will deliver a full measure of enjoyment and enlightenment." —Publishers Weekly

gift of the magi: The House in the Cerulean Sea TJ Klune, 2020-03-17 A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER! A 2021 Alex Award winner! The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner! An Indie Next Pick! One of Publishers Weekly's Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2020 One of Book Riot's "20 Must-Read Feel-Good Fantasies" Lambda Literary Award-winning author TJ Klune's bestselling, breakout contemporary fantasy that's 1984 meets The Umbrella Academy with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. (Gail Carriger) Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. The House in the Cerulean Sea is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. 1984 meets The Umbrella Academy with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. —Gail Carriger, New York Times bestselling author of Soulless At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi (Annotated) O Henry, 2019-11-21 Differentiated book-It has a historical context with research of the timeThe story concerns a poor young couple who struggles to provide a magical Christmas experience for one another despite their poverty. James Jim Dillingham Young and his wife, Della, live in a small flat. Each has one high-quality possession to their names: James has a beautiful gold watch which belonged to both his father and grandfather, and Della has long, beautiful hair. On Christmas Eve, Della only has \$1.87, so she decides to cut off her hair and sell it for \$20. She finds a platinum fob chain for Jim which costs her \$21. Excited at finding the perfect present, she rushes home to prepare dinner. Her excitement turns into dismay, however, when she sees herself in the mirror. As she hears Jim's footsteps come up the stairs, she prays he will still find her attractive.The Gift of the Magi is the most popular work by O. Henry. A prototypical short story with a famous ironic twist ending, it is frequently taught in schools. Its theme of selfless love and the Christmas setting have also made it a holiday favorite, and the story has been adapted to other media many times. The Gift of the Magi is also widely referenced and parodied in popular culture.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi (Illustrated) O. Henry, 2022-04-27 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. The main idea of The Gift of the Magi is that the value of a gift is in the giver, rather than the gift itself. Jim and Della, out of their love for each other, purchased a gift that required them to sacrifice something that was precious to them.

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi, and Five Other Stories O. Henry, 1978

gift of the magi: 3 In 1 Joanne Marxhausen, 2004-07-01 Now reissued in hardback, this classic uses an apple to effectively explain the Holy Trinity to young children. Children learn that God is three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--but is one God. Features refreshed artwork.

gift of the magi: Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 1991 Adapted from the O. Henry Story.

gift of the magi: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson, 1983 The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

gift of the magi: O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi Peter Ekstrom, O. Henry, 1984 The Gift of the Magi is a short story, about a young married couple and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been a popular one for adaptation, especially for presentation during the Christmas season.

gift of the magi: A Christmas Carol and the Gift of the Magi Charles Dickens, O. Henry, 2018-10 A Christmas Carol tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly miser who is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. The Gift of the Magi is a short story, written by O. Henry, about a young husband and wife buying secret Christmas presents for each other.

gift of the magi: A study guide for O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-09-15 A study guide for O. Henry's The Gift of the Magi, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Short Stories for Students series. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Short Stories for Students for all of your research needs.

gift of the magi: THE GIFT OF THE MAGI AUTHOR: O. HENRY, 2023-06-03 the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling — something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by

Jim...FROM THE BOOK

gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi (adapted) (Great Stories: Intermediate) Dorothy Zemach, This is O. Henry's classic American short story about a young husband and wife who are very much in love, but who have no money. Christmas is coming, and each wants to buy a special gift. And so each comes up with a secret plan... what could possibly go wrong? This adaptation is suitable for readers at the high intermediate level (CEFR B2), and includes discussion questions and a vocabulary section. In addition, the original, unchanged story is included at the back of the book for those learners who want an extra challenge.

gift of the magi: The Gift of The Magi and Other Stories O. Henry, 2008-02-27 O. Henry's stories are very famous. He writes about New York, Texas, Oklahoma ... Money and love are often problems. But how is a story going to finish? You never know. Readers always remember his stories.

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