

the gift of the magi

the gift of the magi is a timeless short story that has captivated readers for generations with its powerful message about love, sacrifice, and generosity. Written by O. Henry, this classic tale explores the true meaning of giving, making it a perennial favorite during the holiday season and beyond. In this comprehensive article, we delve into the origins of the story, examine its central themes, analyze its characters, and discuss its enduring impact on literature and culture. Readers will also discover the symbolism behind the title, learn about the story's various adaptations, and understand why "the gift of the magi" remains relevant today. Whether you are a student, literature enthusiast, or someone looking to deepen your appreciation for this literary masterpiece, this article provides in-depth insights and valuable information about "the gift of the magi."

- Origins and Background of "The Gift of the Magi"
- Plot Summary and Key Events
- Major Themes Explored in the Story
- Character Analysis
- Symbolism and Literary Devices
- Adaptations and Cultural Impact
- The Lasting Relevance of the Story
- Frequently Asked Questions about "The Gift of the Magi"

Origins and Background of "The Gift of the Magi"

"The Gift of the Magi" was first published in 1905 by O. Henry, the pen name of American author William Sydney Porter. The story appeared in the New York Sunday World and later became part of the collection "The Four Million." O. Henry was known for his wit, wordplay, and twist endings, and "the gift of the magi" is a prime example of his storytelling style. Set in early 20th-century America, the narrative reflects the economic hardships many faced during that era. The story's universal themes and relatable characters have contributed to its place as a staple in American literature curricula and holiday reading lists. The title references the Biblical Magi, or Wise Men, who brought gifts to the infant Jesus, symbolizing the spirit of selfless giving.

Plot Summary and Key Events

"The Gift of the Magi" centers on a young married couple, Jim and Della Dillingham, living in modest circumstances. As Christmas approaches, both wish to buy a special gift for the other, but finances are meager. Della sells her long, beautiful hair to a wig maker to purchase a platinum fob chain for Jim's prized pocket watch. Unbeknownst to her, Jim sells his watch to buy ornate combs for Della's hair. On Christmas Eve, they exchange gifts, only to discover the irony of their sacrifices—each has sold their most treasured possession to buy a gift for the other's. The story concludes with a reflection on the true meaning of giving.

Main Events in the Story

- Della counts her savings and realizes she cannot afford a gift for Jim.
- She decides to sell her hair and purchases a watch chain.
- Jim comes home, shocked by Della's changed appearance.
- They exchange gifts and discover the poignant irony of their sacrifices.
- The narrator draws a parallel between their selfless acts and the gifts of the Magi.

Major Themes Explored in the Story

One of the central themes in "the gift of the magi" is selfless love. Both Jim and Della are willing to part with their most valued possessions to bring happiness to each other. The story also explores the idea of true wealth, suggesting that material possessions are less important than love and sacrifice. Another significant theme is irony, as the couple's well-intentioned actions lead to an unexpected outcome. The narrative examines the nature of giving, highlighting that the greatest gifts are those given from the heart without expectation of reward.

Key Themes at a Glance

- Selfless love and sacrifice
- The value of generosity over material wealth
- Irony and unexpected outcomes
- The true spirit of Christmas and gift-giving

Character Analysis

The characters in "the gift of the magi" are crafted with depth and realism, making their struggles and emotions relatable to readers. Della is portrayed as loving, resourceful, and determined. Her willingness to sacrifice her cherished hair demonstrates deep affection and devotion. Jim, characterized as hard-working and thoughtful, mirrors Della's selflessness. Despite their poverty, both characters display immense generosity and a profound understanding of each other's needs. The supporting characters, such as Madame Sofronie, the hair dealer, serve to advance the plot and highlight the main couple's sacrifices.

Della Dillingham

Della is the emotional center of the story. Her actions are motivated by genuine love and a desire to bring joy to Jim. Her internal struggle with parting from her hair reflects the difficulty of true sacrifice.

Jim Dillingham

Jim is equally selfless, selling his treasured watch to buy Della a meaningful gift. His reaction upon realizing Della's sacrifice is one of understanding and compassion, further emphasizing the strength of their relationship.

Symbolism and Literary Devices

O. Henry employs various literary devices in "the gift of the magi" to enhance the story's emotional impact and meaning. The most prominent symbol is the Magi themselves, representing wisdom and the act of giving selfless gifts. The watch and combs symbolize love and personal sacrifice, while the couple's actions serve as metaphors for the spirit of Christmas. The story is renowned for its use of situational irony, as the gifts exchanged become useless due to the sacrifices made. This twist ending is a hallmark of O. Henry's style and serves to reinforce the message that the true value of a gift lies in the thought and love behind it.

Notable Literary Devices Used

- Situational irony: The outcome is the opposite of what the characters intend.
- Allusion: Reference to the Magi from the Nativity story.

- Metaphor: The gifts symbolize love and selflessness.
- Symbolism: Hair and watch as representations of personal sacrifice.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

"The Gift of the Magi" has inspired numerous adaptations across different media, including film, television, theater, and music. Its themes resonate universally, making it a popular subject for holiday specials and educational curricula. The story's message about the importance of giving from the heart has influenced countless works of fiction and is frequently referenced in discussions about generosity and holiday traditions. Its simplicity and emotional depth have ensured its status as a literary classic, with references appearing in popular culture, advertisements, and even holiday greeting cards.

Popular Adaptations

- Stage plays and musicals based on the story
- Animated and live-action television specials
- Short films and feature-length adaptations
- References in music and popular literature

The Lasting Relevance of the Story

Despite being written over a century ago, "the gift of the magi" continues to resonate with modern audiences. Its exploration of selfless love and the true nature of giving transcends cultural and temporal boundaries. The story is often taught in schools to illustrate literary concepts such as irony, symbolism, and character development. During the holiday season, its message about generosity and sacrifice serves as a poignant reminder of the values that underpin meaningful relationships. The enduring popularity of "the gift of the magi" is a testament to its universal appeal and the timelessness of its themes.

Frequently Asked Questions about "The Gift of the Magi"

Q: What is the main message of "the gift of the magi"?

A: The main message is that the greatest gifts come from love and self-sacrifice, emphasizing that true wealth lies in generosity and thoughtfulness rather than material possessions.

Q: Who are the main characters in "the gift of the magi"?

A: The primary characters are Jim and Della Dillingham, a young married couple who each sacrifice their most prized possessions to buy a gift for the other.

Q: What literary devices does O. Henry use in "the gift of the magi"?

A: O. Henry uses situational irony, symbolism, metaphor, and allusion, particularly referencing the Biblical Magi and employing a twist ending to highlight the story's themes.

Q: Why is the story called "the gift of the magi"?

A: The title refers to the Biblical Magi, or Wise Men, who brought valuable gifts to Jesus. The story draws a parallel between their wisdom and the selfless acts of Jim and Della.

Q: How does "the gift of the magi" reflect the spirit of Christmas?

A: The story embodies the spirit of Christmas by showcasing selfless giving, love, and the importance of heartfelt gestures over material wealth.

Q: What are the symbolic meanings of the watch and the hair in the story?

A: Jim's watch and Della's hair symbolize their most treasured possessions and the depth of their love, as each is willing to give up what they value most for the other.

Q: How has "the gift of the magi" influenced popular culture?

A: The story has inspired numerous adaptations in film, television, theater, and literature, and its themes are often referenced in holiday traditions and discussions about the true meaning of giving.

Q: What lesson does "the gift of the magi" teach readers?

A: The story teaches that the value of a gift lies in the love and sacrifice behind it, rather than its monetary worth.

Q: When was "the gift of the magi" first published?

A: "The Gift of the Magi" was first published in 1905 in the New York Sunday World and later included in O. Henry's collection "The Four Million."

Q: Why is situational irony important in "the gift of the magi"?

A: Situational irony is central to the story, as it creates the poignant twist where both characters' sacrifices render their gifts unusable, highlighting the depth of their love and the true meaning of generosity.

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The Gift of the Magi: Unpacking O. Henry's Timeless Tale of Sacrifice and Love

Are you ready to delve into a classic story that continues to resonate with readers over a century later? This blog post explores O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi," examining its enduring power, exploring its themes, and uncovering the literary techniques that make it a masterpiece of short-story writing. We'll dissect the narrative, analyze the characters, and ultimately ponder the true meaning of the "gift" itself. Get ready to rediscover this beloved tale and appreciate its enduring relevance in the modern world.

The Story's Core: A Sacrifice of Love

"The Gift of the Magi" unfolds around Della and Jim Dillingham Young, a young, impoverished couple deeply in love. Set on Christmas Eve, the story highlights their desperate desire to give each other meaningful gifts despite their limited financial resources. Della, heartbroken by her lack of funds, sells her prized possession—her beautiful long hair—to buy Jim a platinum fob chain for his cherished watch. Meanwhile, Jim, facing the same financial constraints, sells his watch to purchase Della a set of combs for her hair. The irony of their selfless actions, and the resulting bittersweet climax, is what makes this tale so unforgettable.

Della and Jim: Characters Driven by Love and Sacrifice

The characters are not simply archetypes; they are meticulously crafted individuals whose actions reveal the depth of their love. Della's impulsiveness and Jim's quiet stoicism beautifully contrast, yet complement each other. Their love isn't expressed through lavish displays of wealth, but through the ultimate sacrifice – giving up something deeply precious for the sake of their beloved. Their poverty isn't just a backdrop; it's a crucial element that amplifies the poignancy of their gifts. They are realistic characters, flawed but deeply human, making their actions all the more resonant.

Della's Desperation and Resourcefulness

Della's frantic search for a perfect gift reveals her resourcefulness and her unwavering love for Jim. She doesn't hesitate to sacrifice her most prized possession, something that represents her beauty and femininity, demonstrating the immense depth of her affection. Her emotional journey, from anxious anticipation to overwhelming disappointment and then quiet acceptance, is expertly portrayed by O. Henry.

Jim's Silent Strength and Unwavering Devotion

Jim, in contrast, displays a more quiet and understated love. His reaction to Della's shorn hair reveals his deep understanding and unwavering devotion. His own sacrifice mirrors hers, highlighting the symmetry of their love and the parallel nature of their actions. He doesn't express his emotions outwardly, but his actions speak volumes about the depth of his feelings.

The Power of Irony and Foreshadowing

O. Henry masterfully employs irony and foreshadowing to enhance the narrative's emotional impact. The irony lies in the fact that both Della and Jim sacrifice the very things their gifts were intended to complement. The foreshadowing, though subtle, hints at the potential disappointment before the climax, building suspense and emotional tension for the reader. This skillful use of literary techniques is a hallmark of O. Henry's writing style.

The True Gift: Love's Unwavering Power

Ultimately, "The Gift of the Magi" isn't about material possessions; it's about the immeasurable value of love and sacrifice. The gifts themselves become almost secondary to the profound gesture of selflessness behind them. The story's enduring appeal lies in its ability to touch upon universal themes of love, sacrifice, and the true meaning of giving. It reminds us that the most valuable gifts are often those that come from the heart, not the wallet.

Beyond the Surface: Exploring Deeper Themes

The story also subtly touches on themes of poverty and societal pressures. Della and Jim's struggle to make ends meet speaks to the hardships faced by many during that era, and even today. The story's enduring relevance lies in its ability to transcend its historical context and resonate with readers facing similar financial constraints. It serves as a reminder that love can flourish even in the face of adversity.

Conclusion: A Timeless Masterpiece

"The Gift of the Magi" remains a powerful and poignant tale, capturing the essence of selfless love and sacrifice. O. Henry's masterful storytelling, combined with its enduring themes, secures its place as a literary classic. The story continues to inspire and move readers across generations, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas and the power of love's unwavering gift.

Frequently Asked Questions (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 that the most valuable gifts are those given from the heart, regardless of material worth.
2. What is ironic about the gifts in "The Gift of the Magi"? The irony lies in the fact that both Della and Jim sell the very things their gifts are meant to complement; Della sells her hair to buy Jim a chain for his watch, which he sells to buy her combs for her hair.
3. What is the significance of the title "The Gift of the Magi"? The title refers to the Biblical Magi, who offered precious gifts to the baby Jesus. It suggests that Della and Jim, in their own way, are also offering precious gifts—their selfless acts of love—mirroring the Magi's gesture.

4. What literary devices does O. Henry use in "The Gift of the Magi"? O. Henry masterfully utilizes irony, foreshadowing, and symbolism to enhance the emotional impact of the story and create a sense of suspense and poignancy.

5. How does "The Gift of the Magi" resonate with modern readers? The story's themes of love, sacrifice, and the struggle against financial hardship are timeless and continue to resonate with readers facing similar challenges today, reminding us of the enduring power of human connection.

the 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.

the gift of the magi: *The Gift of the Magi* O. Henry, 2006-01-01 A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents.

the 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.

the 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.

the 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.

the 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.

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title work about the Christmas sacrifices of a young married couple.

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the 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!

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 1994-09-01 The classic story of giving is beautifully retold in a simplified text which retains the charm and style of O. Henry's original work. Richly detailed illustrations by award-winning Carol Heyer makes The Gift of the Magi a book worthy of becoming a family heirloom. Full color.

the 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.

the 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. Fouryearold 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.

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the gift of the magi: The gift of the magi O. Henry, Michael Neugebauer, 1982-11 A husband and wife sacrifice treasured possessions in order to buy each other Christmas presents.

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the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O Henry, 2018-05-04 The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry. The Gift of the Magi is a short story, written by O. Henry (a pen name for William Sydney Porter), about 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.

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories , 2011

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, Michael Dooling, 2013-03-01 In the beloved title story of this handsome collection, a man and woman each long to bring home just the right gift for the other. But with so little money, how can there be hope? The poignant twists and heartwarming conclusion of this perfect plum of a story help explain the lasting appeal of this most American of authors. Writing under the famous pseudonym O. Henry, William Sydney Porter breathed life into characters, creating moments that touch readers with their sensitivity and humanity. He portrayed lovelorn cowboys and headstrong urbanites with the same authentic touch, using sympathy, irony, and the wit for which he is justly famous.

the gift of the magi: Why Choose the Liberal Arts? Mark William Roche, 2010-08-20 In a

world where the value of a liberal arts education is no longer taken for granted, Mark William Roche lucidly and passionately argues for its essential importance. Drawing on more than thirty years of experience in higher education as a student, faculty member, and administrator, Roche deftly connects the broad theoretical perspective of educators to the practical needs and questions of students and their parents. Roche develops three overlapping arguments for a strong liberal arts education: first, the intrinsic value of learning for its own sake, including exploration of the profound questions that give meaning to life; second, the cultivation of intellectual virtues necessary for success beyond the academy; and third, the formative influence of the liberal arts on character and on the development of a sense of higher purpose and vocation. Together with his exploration of these three values—intrinsic, practical, and idealistic—Roche reflects on ways to integrate them, interweaving empirical data with personal experience. *Why Choose the Liberal Arts?* is an accessible and thought-provoking work of interest to students, parents, and administrators.

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the 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.

the 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.

the gift of the magi: *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* Susan Wojciechowski, 2015-09-08 “The tale is unfolded with such mastery, humor, and emotional force that we are entirely within its power.” —The New York Times Book Review Features an audio read-along performed by James Earl Jones! Jonathan Toomey is the best woodcarver in the valley, but he is always alone and never smiles. No one knows about the mementos of his lost wife and child that he keeps in an unopened drawer. But one early winter's day, a widow and her young son approach him with a gentle request that leads to a joyful miracle. The moving, lyrical tale, gloriously illustrated by P.J. Lynch, has been widely hailed as a true Christmas classic.

the 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.

the 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.

the gift of the magi: An Enchanted Season Erin McCarthy, Nalini Singh, Jean Johnson, 2007 Four popular romance novelists celebrate the beauty and magic of the holiday season with a quartet of original paranormal romance tales by Maggie Shayne, Erin McCarthy, Nalini Singh, and Jean Johnson. Original.

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the 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.

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

the gift of the magi: The Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas Laura Murray, 2015-10-13 The holidays are for giving thanks and nothing can stop this Gingerbread Man from delivering his to his favorite member of the community! Everyone in class is busy practicing songs and making goodies for their trip to town to thank community helpers, and the Gingerbread Man has made a card for someone extra sweet. But before he can deliver his gift, whipping wind and swirling snow come to town, too. Slushy sidewalks are no place for a cookie, but this Gingerbread Man won't let a little bad weather stop him! "I'll search on my own, as fast as I can! I'll dash through this snow. I'm the Gingerbread Man!" With all the flavors of the season and generous dashes of kindness and gratitude, the Gingerbread Man's newest adventure makes for a perfect read-aloud throughout the holidays. Look for all of this hilarious Gingerbread Man's adventures: *The Gingerbread Man Loose at School*, *The Gingerbread Man Loose on the Fire Truck*, *The Gingerbread Man Loose at Christmas*, *The Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo*, and *The Gingerbread Man and the Leprechaun Loose at School*!

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

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2012 The Gift of the Magi is a treasured short story written by O. Henry. A young and very much in love couple can barely afford their one-room apartment, let alone the extra expense of getting Christmas presents for one another. But each is determined to show their love for the other in this traditional time of giving; each sells a thing they hold most dear in order to afford a present, with poignant and touching results that capture their love for one another.

the 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.

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

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, William Sydney Porter, 2017-01-17 The Gift of the Magi And Other Short Stories O. Henry a.k.a William Sydney Porter The Gift of the Magi

is a short story, written by O. Henry (a pen name for William Sydney Porter), 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 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. Mr. James Dillingham Young (Jim) and his wife, Della, are a couple living in a modest apartment. They have only two possessions between them in which they take pride: Della's beautiful long, flowing hair, almost touching to her knees, and Jim's shiny gold watch, which had belonged to his father and grandfather. On Christmas Eve, with only \$1.87 in hand, and desperate to find a gift for Jim, Della sells her hair for \$20 to a nearby hairdresser named Madame Sofronie, and eventually finds a platinum pocket watch fob chain for Jim's watch for \$21. Satisfied with the perfect gift for Jim, Della runs home and begins to prepare pork chops for dinner.

the 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 Gogolesque 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*

the gift of the magi: *Christmas - The Rest of the Story* Renner, 2022-10-18 There's More to This Story Than You've Been Told Is there more about the story of Christmas you wish you understood or that you have specific questions about? In this storybook of biblical truth and history, Rick Renner takes you on the magical journey of Christ's coming to earth as a baby -- and the purpose of His coming -- in a way you've probably never heard it before. Featuring full-color, original illustrations by artist Lev Kaplan of Stuttgart, Germany, *Christmas -- the Rest of the Story* tells the spellbinding story of God's plan to redeem mankind -- from the angel's pronouncement to the virgin Mary, and her espousal and marriage to Joseph all the way to the angels' glorious heralding of the Savior's birth and His young, ordinary life marked by God Almighty's extraordinary plan. Some of the topics covered include: Why God chose Mary. Why angels viewed God in the flesh with such wonderment. Who were the shepherds keeping watch and the Magi? What was the value of the Magi's famous gifts? A baby-dedication ceremony of all ceremonies! Why King Herod was so troubled by this historical birth? The humility of the Creator's death. How to prepare for Jesus' next coming. This book is sure to be a favorite family book in your home, perhaps for generations to come! Jesus' birth, life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection is truly the greatest story on earth -- but it has never been more uniquely told than in these pages written by Rick Renner.

the gift of the magi: Shatter Me Tahereh Mafi, 2011-11-15 The gripping first installment in New York Times bestselling author Tahereh Mafi's Shatter Me series. One touch is all it takes. One touch, and Juliette Ferrars can leave a fully grown man gasping for air. One touch, and she can kill. No one knows why Juliette has such incredible power. It feels like a curse, a burden that one person alone could never bear. But The Reestablishment sees it as a gift, sees her as an opportunity. An opportunity for a deadly weapon. Juliette has never fought for herself before. But when she's reunited with the one person who ever cared about her, she finds a strength she never knew she had. And don't miss Defy Me, the shocking fifth book in the Shatter Me series!

the 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.

the gift of the magi: The Gift of the Magi (Annotated) O Henry, 2017-12-23 This is an annotated version of the book1. contains an updated biography of the author at the end of the book for a better understanding of the text.2. This book has been checked and corrected for spelling errorsOne dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating. While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad. In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name Mr. James Dillingham Young. The Dillingham had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, though, they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called Jim and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good. Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by 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. There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art. Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length. Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

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