

the best christmas pageant ever

the best christmas pageant ever is a beloved holiday classic that captures the spirit of Christmas through humor, heart, and family dynamics. This comprehensive article explores the enduring popularity of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," its origins as a novel and stage adaptation, key themes, memorable characters, and the impact it has had on generations. We'll delve into the plot, why it resonates with audiences, and how it has become a staple for schools and communities during the festive season. Whether you're a fan of the book, the play, or searching for ideas for your own Christmas pageant, this guide offers insights, tips, and everything you need to know about this iconic holiday story.

- Origins and History of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"
- Plot Overview and Main Themes
- Unforgettable Characters in the Story
- Impact and Legacy of the Christmas Pageant
- Staging Your Own Christmas Pageant: Tips and Inspiration
- Why "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Remains a Favorite

Origins and History of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" began as a bestselling children's novel written by Barbara Robinson in 1971. The book quickly gained popularity for its honest portrayal of family, community, and the true meaning of Christmas. The story's success led to a widely performed stage adaptation, making it a staple in school and community theater productions across the United States and beyond.

The novel draws on Robinson's own experiences and observations of small-town life, blending humor and heartfelt moments with memorable lessons. The play adaptation closely follows the book, allowing audiences to experience the chaos and charm of the Herdman children as they disrupt the traditional Christmas pageant.

- Published in 1971
- Stage adaptation debuted in 1982
- Frequently performed in schools and churches

- Inspired television and radio versions

Plot Overview and Main Themes

Summary of the Story

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" centers around the Herdman siblings, notorious troublemakers in their town, who unexpectedly take over the annual church Christmas pageant. Their unconventional approach leads to chaos, hilarity, and ultimately a heartwarming message about acceptance and understanding.

Key Themes

The story explores several universal themes that contribute to its lasting appeal. These include the importance of compassion, the power of redemption, and the meaning of Christmas beyond material gifts.

- Understanding and empathy for others
- Transformation and personal growth
- Breaking stereotypes and challenging expectations
- The true spirit of giving

Unforgettable Characters in the Story

The Herdman Family

The Herdman children—Imogene, Ralph, Leroy, Claude, Ollie, and Gladys—are central to the plot. Known for their unruly behavior, the Herdmans shake up the town's traditions and force everyone to reconsider their judgments. Despite their reputation, the siblings bring a fresh perspective to the Christmas story.

Supporting Cast

Other characters include Mrs. Bradley, who is reluctantly put in charge of the pageant, and her

daughter Beth, the narrator. The church community, from the reverend to the choir, adds depth and humor to the unfolding events.

1. Imogene Herdman – plays Mary, brings raw emotion to the role
2. Gladys Herdman – portrays the Angel of the Lord, often with dramatic flair
3. Mrs. Bradley – the determined pageant director
4. Beth Bradley – the story's observant narrator
5. Church members – provide comic relief and community context

Impact and Legacy of the Christmas Pageant

Cultural Significance

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" has left a lasting mark on American holiday culture. Its relatable characters and timeless message have made it a favorite for families, educators, and directors seeking both entertainment and meaningful storytelling.

Educational Value

Many schools and churches use the play to teach lessons about empathy, inclusion, and the deeper meaning of Christmas. The story encourages children and adults alike to look beyond outward appearances and embrace the spirit of kindness.

- Promotes family involvement in holiday events
- Encourages discussions about values and traditions
- Serves as an entry point for children to explore theater

Staging Your Own Christmas Pageant: Tips and Inspiration

Preparation and Planning

Organizing a Christmas pageant inspired by "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" requires thoughtful planning. Begin by selecting a script that suits your group's needs, casting the roles, and scheduling rehearsals. Make sure to create a welcoming atmosphere for all participants, including those new to theater.

Creative Ideas for Production

Consider incorporating modern elements, creative costumes, and interactive scenes to engage your audience. Focus on the story's central themes, and encourage actors to bring their own interpretation to the characters.

- Personalize the script for your community
- Use simple, effective set designs
- Encourage improvisation and natural performances
- Highlight the story's lessons through post-show discussions

Why "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Remains a Favorite

Universal Appeal

The enduring popularity of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" stems from its relatable story and universal message. Audiences of all ages connect with the humor, warmth, and transformation depicted in the pageant's journey.

Family Tradition

For many, watching or participating in a production of the pageant has become a cherished holiday tradition. Its accessibility and meaningful content ensure it remains relevant year after year.

- Easy for all ages to understand and enjoy
- Encourages family participation and bonding
- Celebrates the true spirit of Christmas

Questions and Answers About "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

Q: What is the main message of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A: The main message is about acceptance, empathy, and the true meaning of Christmas, highlighting how kindness can transform individuals and communities.

Q: Who wrote "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A: Barbara Robinson wrote "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," first published in 1971.

Q: Why are the Herdman children important to the story?

A: The Herdman children challenge traditional norms and help the community learn valuable lessons about compassion and understanding.

Q: Is "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" suitable for all ages?

A: Yes, both the book and play are suitable for children, teens, and adults, making it a popular choice for family and school events.

Q: How can I stage my own Christmas pageant based on the story?

A: Start by selecting a script, casting roles, and organizing rehearsals. Focus on the story's themes and encourage creative input from participants.

Q: What makes "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" different from other holiday stories?

A: Its blend of humor, realism, and heartfelt lessons sets it apart, making the story both entertaining and meaningful.

Q: Are there adaptations of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" for television or radio?

A: Yes, there have been television and radio adaptations, further broadening the story's reach and

popularity.

Q: What are some challenges in performing "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A: Challenges may include casting younger actors, managing group dynamics, and effectively conveying the story's emotional depth.

Q: What are some key themes explored in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A: The story explores themes of redemption, empathy, acceptance, and the real meaning of Christmas.

Q: Why do schools and churches frequently perform this pageant?

A: Its universal message, engaging plot, and accessibility make it an ideal choice for educational and community holiday events.

[The Best Christmas Pageant Ever](#)

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The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: A Hilariously Heartwarming Holiday Tradition

Forget the glitz and glamour of professional productions. The true magic of Christmas lies in the chaotic charm of a community Christmas pageant, especially when it's "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." This blog post dives deep into what makes this particular pageant so endearing, exploring its hilarious characters, heartwarming message, and enduring appeal. We'll delve into the reasons why it's a holiday favorite for families and why it continues to capture hearts year after year. Get ready for some laughs, some heartwarming moments, and a whole lot of Christmas spirit!

The Herdman Family: A Recipe for Chaos and Holiday Cheer

The heart of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" lies with the Herdman family - six children notorious for their mischievous behavior and complete lack of Christmas spirit. They're the epitome of unruly kids, stealing, lying, and generally wreaking havoc wherever they go. Their arrival at the church's annual Christmas pageant promises nothing short of utter pandemonium. This subversion of the typical "perfect" pageant children is precisely what makes the story so relatable and funny. We see ourselves in the awkwardness, the unexpected, and the beautiful messiness of it all.

Imogene Herdman: A Force of Nature

Imogene, the eldest Herdman child, is a particularly memorable character. She's the ringleader, bold, brazen, and completely unfazed by social norms. Her interpretation of the Christmas story, often hilariously inaccurate, provides some of the pageant's most unforgettable moments. Imogene's transformation throughout the story is a key element of the heartwarming narrative, showcasing the potential for even the most hardened hearts to be touched by the spirit of Christmas.

The Unexpected Transformation

The Herdmans' participation is not just disruptive; it's transformative. Their initial intention is purely selfish - to get free gifts and perhaps a hot meal. However, the process of rehearsing and performing the pageant unexpectedly touches them. The experience forces them to confront their own behavior and, eventually, allows them to experience genuine compassion and understanding. This is where the "best" aspect of the pageant truly shines. It's not about perfection; it's about the power of inclusion, forgiveness, and the unexpected beauty of human connection.

More Than Just a Hilarious Story: A Message of Hope and Inclusion

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" isn't just a comedy; it's a story about redemption and the transformative power of faith. The pageant showcases the importance of embracing everyone, regardless of their background or behavior. It reminds us that Christmas is a time for forgiveness, second chances, and celebrating the true meaning of the holiday - a message that resonates deeply with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

The Power of Community

The story also highlights the strength and resilience of the church community. Despite the initial chaos caused by the Herdmans, the adults and children in the congregation ultimately show remarkable patience and understanding. This reinforces the importance of community, compassion, and the power of embracing differences. It's a beautiful reminder that even in the midst of chaos, the spirit of Christmas can prevail.

Why "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Remains a Holiday Classic

The enduring appeal of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" lies in its relatable characters, its heartwarming message, and its ability to generate laughter and tears simultaneously. It's a story that transcends generations, appealing to both children and adults. The book has inspired numerous stage productions, film adaptations, and even musical renditions, cementing its place as a beloved holiday tradition. Its humor is timeless, its message universal, and its characters unforgettable.

Conclusion

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" is more than just a Christmas story; it's a celebration of imperfection, the beauty of unexpected moments, and the transformative power of love and understanding. It's a reminder that the most memorable Christmases often involve a healthy dose of chaos and a whole lot of heart. So this holiday season, embrace the mess, the laughter, and the unexpected joy. You might just find that your own Christmas pageant, however imperfect, is the best one ever.

FAQs

Q1: Is "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" suitable for all ages?

A1: Yes, while it contains some mischievous elements, the overall message is positive and heartwarming, making it appropriate for children and adults alike.

Q2: Where can I find "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A2: The book is widely available in bookstores, online retailers (like Amazon), and many libraries. You can also often find stage productions during the holiday season.

Q3: Are there different versions of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A3: Yes, there are several adaptations including a popular Hallmark movie, stage play versions, and even musical versions.

Q4: What makes the Herdman children so memorable?

A4: Their complete disregard for societal norms and their hilarious, yet ultimately endearing, transformation throughout the story are key elements of their memorability.

Q5: What is the central theme of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"?

A5: The central theme revolves around redemption, forgiveness, the importance of community, and the discovery of the true meaning of Christmas beyond materialistic gifts and superficial appearances.

the best christmas pageant ever: 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.

the best christmas pageant ever: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* Barbara Robinson, 1972 The six horrible Herdmans, the worst children in the history of the world, take over the annual Christmas pageant.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Best Halloween Ever Barbara Robinson, 2011-01-04 The Herdmans plus Halloween have always spelled disaster. Every year these six kids -- the worst in the history of Woodrow Wilson School, and possibly even the world -- wreak havoc on the whole town. They steal candy, spray-paint kids, and take anything that's not nailed down. Now the mayor has had it. He's decided to cancel Halloween. There won't be any Herdmans to contend with this year, but there won't be any candy, either. And what's Halloween without candy? And without trick-or-treating? The Herdmans manage to turn the worst Halloween ever into the best Halloween ever in this uproarious sequel to *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Grace of Enough Haley Stewart, 2018-09-07 Winner of a 2020 Catholic Press Association book award (first place, backlist beauty). Do you ever feel caught in an endless cycle of working harder and longer to get more while enjoying life less? The Stewart family did—and they decided to make a radical change. Popular Catholic blogger and podcaster Haley Stewart explains how a year-long internship on a sustainable farm changed her family's life for the better, allowing them to live gospel values more intentionally. When Haley Stewart married her bee-keeping sweetheart, Daniel, they dreamed of a life centered on home and family. But as the children arrived and Daniel was forced to work longer hours at a job he liked less and less, they dared to break free from the unending cycle of getting more yet feeling unfulfilled. They sold their Florida home and retreated to Texas to live on a farm with a compost toilet and 650 square feet of space for a family of five. Surprisingly, they found that they had never been happier. In *The Grace of Enough*, Stewart shares essential elements of intentional Christian living that her family discovered during that extraordinary year on the farm and that they continue to practice today. You, too, will be inspired to: live simply offer hospitality revive food culture and the family table reconnect with the land nurture community prioritize beauty develop a sense of wonder be intentional about technology seek authentic intimacy center life around home, family, and relationships Drawing from Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, Stewart identifies elements of Catholic social teaching that will enhance your life and create a ripple effect of grace to help you overcome the effects of today's "throwaway" culture and experience a deeper satisfaction and stronger faith.

the best christmas pageant ever: In this House of Brede Rumer Godden, 2013-02-07 By the author of *Black Narcissus* and *The River* 'Rumer Godden's novels have a timeless shimmer' GUARDIAN 'One hundred years after her birth, Rumer Godden's novels still pulse with life' MATTHEW DENNISON, TELEGRAPH 'Her craftsmanship is always sure' NEW YORK TIMES 'The motto was Pax but the word was set in a circle of thorns. Peace, but what a strange peace, made of unremitting toil and effort . . .' Bruised by tragedy, Philippa Talbot leaves behind a successful career with the civil service for a new calling: to join an enclosed order of Benedictine nuns. In this small community of fewer than one hundred women, she soon discovers all the human frailties: jealousy, love, despair. But each crisis of heart and conscience is guided by the compassion and intelligence of the Abbess and by the Sisters' shared bond of faith and ritual. Away from the world, and yet at one

with it, Philippa must learn to forgive and forget her past . . .

the best christmas pageant ever: A Guide for Using The Best Christmas Pageant Ever in the Classroom Laurie Swinwood, 1994-10 Contains resources for teaching *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson that provides lesson plans, vocabulary and comprehension activities, quizzes, and graphic organizers.

the best christmas pageant ever: Hiddensee Gregory Maguire, 2017-10-31 The author of the beloved New York Times bestseller *Wicked* returns with an inventive novel inspired by a timeless holiday legend, intertwining the story of the famous Nutcracker with the life of the mysterious toy maker named Drosselmeier who carves him. Hiddensee: An island of white sandy beaches, salt marshes, steep cliffs, and pine forests north of Berlin in the Baltic Sea, an island that is an enchanting bohemian retreat and home to a large artists' colony-- a wellspring of inspiration for the Romantic imagination . . . Having brought his legions of devoted readers to Oz in *Wicked* and to Wonderland in *After Alice*, Maguire now takes us to the realms of the Brothers Grimm and E. T. A. Hoffmann-- the enchanted Black Forest of Bavaria and the salons of Munich. Hiddensee imagines the backstory of the Nutcracker, revealing how this entrancing creature came to be carved and how he guided an ailing girl named Klara through a dreamy paradise on a Christmas Eve. At the heart of Hoffmann's mysterious tale hovers Godfather Drosselmeier-- the ominous, canny, one-eyed toy maker made immortal by Petipa and Tchaikovsky's fairy tale ballet-- who presents the once and future Nutcracker to Klara, his goddaughter. But Hiddensee is not just a retelling of a classic story. Maguire discovers in the flowering of German Romanticism ties to Hellenic mystery-cults-- a fascination with death and the afterlife-- and ponders a profound question: How can a person who is abused by life, shortchanged and challenged, nevertheless access secrets that benefit the disadvantaged and powerless? Ultimately, Hiddensee offers a message of hope. If the compromised Godfather Drosselmeier can bring an enchanted Nutcracker to a young girl in distress on a dark winter evening, perhaps everyone, however lonely or marginalized, has something precious to share.

the best christmas pageant ever: *The Best School Year Ever* Barbara Robinson, 2011-02-15 Buckle up for a wild ride involving a missing gerbil, a crazy cat, and a tattooed baby that will have readers of all ages laughing! This hilarious novel stars the Herdmans, the worst kids in the world, who made their first appearance in author Barbara Robinson's classic *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. In *The Best School Year Ever*, Imogene, Claude, Ralph, Leroy, Ollie, and Gladys Herdman haven't changed a bit. They still set things on fire and knock the other kids black and blue. One day the teachers ask all the students to think of compliments for their classmates, and Beth Bradley picks Imogene Herdman's name. At first, Beth can't think of anything good, but soon she begins to see Imogene in a new light. Maybe behind all of the outrageous pranks, there is something good about the Herdmans?

the best christmas pageant ever: *Giant Pumpkin Suite* Melanie Heuiser Hill, 2017-09-12 Who are you, if you can't be what you always expected? A moving coming-of-age tale of prodigy and community, unlikely friendship and growing things. Twelve-year-old Rose Brutigan has grown seven inches in the last eight months. She's always been different from her twin brother, Thomas, but now she towers over him in too many ways. The gap in their interests continues to widen as well. Musically talented Rose is focused on winning the upcoming Bach Cello Suites Competition, while happy-go-lucky Thomas has taken up the challenge of growing a giant pumpkin in the yard of their elderly neighbor, Mr. Pickering. But when a serious accident changes the course of the summer, Rose is forced to grow and change in ways she never could have imagined. Along the way there's tap dancing and classic musicals, mail-order worms and neighborhood-sourced compost, fresh-squeezed lemonade, the Minnesota State Fair — and an eclectic cast of local characters that readers will fall in love with.

the best christmas pageant ever: *Here Be Dragons* Susannah Lloyd, 2024-02-06 Children will love this funny, witty and hugely enjoyable book about a very silly knight who goes in search of a dragon! This book is about a knight on a mission: to find and slay a dragon. The other knights have told him that there's no such thing as dragons, but he doesn't care. For he has a map, and the map

says: HERE BE DRAGONS! He travels right to the spot marked X ... past treasure, suspicious bones, and many signs telling him to turn back. He wanders up and down a huge, spiky hill (the dragon's back) shouts into a burrow (the dragon's nose) and eventually walks into a cave (the dragon's mouth)... Will the hapless knight see the dragon before it's too late?! Young readers will love spotting the dragon in the background in this laugh-out-loud story. Beautiful and comedic illustrations with hidden clues hinting at the dragon's whereabouts accompany funny and lively text, which young readers and their parents alike will love to read aloud!

the best christmas pageant ever: Around the Table That Grandad Built Melanie Heuiser Hill, 2019-09-10 A beautifully illustrated celebration of bounty and gratitude, family and friendship, perfect for the holidays and every day. This is the table that Grandad built. These are the sunflowers picked by my cousins, set on the table that Grandad built. In a unique take on the cumulative classic "This Is the House That Jack Built," a family gathers with friends and neighbors to share a meal around a table that brims with associations: napkins sewn by Mom, glasses from Mom and Dad's wedding, silverware gifted to Dad by his grandma long ago. Not to mention the squash from the garden, the bread baked by Gran, and the pies made by the young narrator (with a little help). Serving up a diverse array of dishes and faces, this warm and welcoming story is poised to become a savored part of Thanksgiving traditions to come.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street Karina Yan Glaser, 2017 From New York Times best-selling author Karina Yan Glaser comes one of Times' Notable Children's Books of 2017: In this delightful and heartwarming throwback to the big-family novels of yesteryear, a large biracial family might lose their beloved brownstone home, but win it back with an all-out charm offensive. The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Explorer Katherine Rundell, 2017-08-10 Go on an adventure with Katherine Rundell ... _____ Winner of the Children's Book Prize Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2017 Winner of the London Book Fair Children's Travel Book of the Year _____ 'I loved The Explorer' - Jacqueline Wilson 'Rundell is now unarguably in the FIRST RANK' - Philip Pullman 'Read everything she writes' - Daily Mail _____ From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small. Except, it seems, someone has been there before them ...

the best christmas pageant ever: The Faithful Gardener Clarissa Pinkola Estés, 1995 Collection of stories within stories, beginning with an account of the Creation, gleaned from the author's Hispanic traditions.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Girl Who Saved Christmas Matt Haig, 2016-11-03 WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BELIEVE IN MAGIC? It is Christmas Eve and all is not well. Amelia Wishart is trapped in Mr Creeper's workhouse and Christmas is in jeopardy. Magic is fading. If Christmas is to happen, Father Christmas knows he must find her. With the help of some elves, eight reindeer, the Queen and a man called Charles Dickens, the search for Amelia - and the secret of Christmas - begins . . .

the best christmas pageant ever: A Perfect Equation Elizabeth Everett, 2022-02-15 A PopSugar and BookBub Most Anticipated Romance of 2022! How do you solve the Perfect Equation? Add one sharp-tongued mathematician to an aloof, handsome nobleman. Divide by conflicting loyalties and multiply by a daring group of women hell-bent on conducting their scientific experiments. The solution is a romance that will break every rule. Six years ago, Miss Letitia Fenley

made a mistake, and she's lived with the consequences ever since. Ready to compete for the prestigious Rosewood Prize for Mathematics, she is suddenly asked to take on another responsibility—managing Athena's Retreat, a secret haven for England's women scientists. Having spent the last six years on her own, Letty doesn't want the offers of friendship from other club members and certainly doesn't need any help from the insufferably attractive Lord Greycliff. Lord William Hughes, the Viscount Greycliff cannot afford to make any mistakes. His lifelong dream of becoming the director of a powerful clandestine agency is within his grasp. Tasked with helping Letty safeguard Athena's Retreat, Grey is positive that he can control the antics of the various scientists as well as manage the tiny mathematician—despite their historic animosity and simmering tension. As Grey and Letty are forced to work together, their mutual dislike turns to admiration and eventually to something...magnetic. When faced with the possibility that Athena's Retreat will close forever, they must make a choice. Will Grey turn down a chance to change history, or can Letty get to the root of the problem and prove that love is the ultimate answer?

the best christmas pageant ever: *The True Gift* Patricia MacLachlan, 2009-10-06 Experience the magic of authentic giving in this holiday classic from the Newbery Award-winning author of *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. All year long Lily and Liam look forward to the holidays at their grandparents' farm. It's always the perfect trip: walking to the lilac library, trimming the tree, giving gifts. But this year, thanks to a white cow alone in the meadow, things will be different. This holiday, Lily and Liam will find out the meaning of a special gift. This holiday classic from a beloved author rings in the season by celebrating the joys of family, community, and true giving.

the best christmas pageant ever: *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* [by] Barbara Robinson Garrett Christopher, 1998 The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

the best christmas pageant ever: *The Family Under the Bridge* Natalie Savage Carlson, 1989-02-15 This is the delightfully warm and enjoyable story of an old Parisian named Armand, who relished his solitary life. Children, he said, were like starlings, and one was better off without them. But the children who lived under the bridge recognized a true friend when they met one, even if the friend seemed a trifle unwilling at the start. And it did not take Armand very long to realize that he had gotten himself ready-made family; one that he loved with all his heart, and one for whom he would have to find a better home than the bridge. Armand and the children's adventures around Paris -- complete with gypsies and a Santa Claus -- make a story which children will treasure.

the best christmas pageant ever: *Smooth as Silk* Alicia Hunter Pace, 2022-02-22 "A decadent read packed with lovable characters, witty dialogue and a sigh-worthy happily-ever-after that leaves me craving more." —New York Times bestselling author Rhonda Russell on *Sweet as Pie* Hyacinth Dawson's life runs like clockwork—and she likes it that way. Spreadsheets, lists and plans have never failed her, and now they're going to help her get her bridal shop on the popular reality TV show *All Dressed in White*. But it won't happen unless she can land a celebrity client...maybe one of those new NHL players in town. Enter Robbie McTavish, a fly-by-the-seat-of-his-pants Scottish defenseman who can't help but meddle when he spies a bride in Hyacinth's shop wearing a completely wrong dress for her figure. Robbie's family just happens to own the Scottish Highlands' premier wedding venue, and he knows his way around bustled trains and buttercream frosting—even if his help seems to be less than welcome. When a video of his infuriating interference goes viral, the TV producers decide to film at Hyacinth's shop—as long as her "associate" Robbie is part of the package. Opposites might attract, but as far as Hyacinth's concerned, no amount of chemistry is worth the way this particular plus-one threatens to blow up her carefully laid plans... Good Southern Women Book 1: *Sweet as Pie* Book 2: *Smooth as Silk*

the best christmas pageant ever: *Tessa and Weston: The Best Christmas Ever* Abbie Emmons, 2021-11 It's Tessa and Weston's first Christmas together, and Tessa is determined to make it the best holiday ever. But when her estranged mother shows up with a suitcase and plans to stay for two weeks, Tessa's hopes are shattered. Bitter from the past and still holding a grudge, Tessa is in no mood to give her mother a second chance. The holiday season may be a time of reconciliation with

family, but Tessa believes her mother will never change. Why get close when she's just going to leave again? Tessa realizes there is only one way to save this Christmas: avoid her mother as much as possible. With the best intentions in mind, Tessa chooses to not tell her mother about Weston's disability. But when they meet face-to-face, Tessa is mortified and ashamed by her mother's insensitive remarks. Weston begins to think he is the real cause of Tessa's shame. His old demons resurrect to haunt him with doubts: What if, one day, Tessa stops loving him because of his disability? Determined to prove his love for her, Weston makes it his mission to be the best boyfriend ever and works to reunite Tessa with her mother. Meanwhile, Tessa plots elaborate ways to avoid mother-daughter time at all costs. One scheme leads to another, until Tessa finds herself tangled in a web of deceit - and, worst of all, lying to Weston. When the secrets between them force Tessa and Weston to face their greatest fears, they must confront the inescapable question: Is true love worth the risk of heartbreak? Is it ever too late to forgive and start over? *The Best Christmas Ever* is a heartwarming holiday follow-up to *100 Days of Sunlight* by Abbie Emmons. You'll love this touching story of forgiveness, family, and first love.

the best christmas pageant ever: Joey Pigza Loses Control Jack Gantos, 2011-07-05 The sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*, a National Book Award Finalist. When Joey Pigza meets his dad for the first time in years, he meets a grown-up version of his old out-of-control self. Carter Pigza is as wired as Joey used to be -- before his stint in special ed, and before he got his new meds. Joey's mom reluctantly agrees that he can stay with his dad for a summer visit, which sends Joey racing with sky-high hopes that he and Carter can finally get to know each other. But as the weeks whirl by, Carter has bigger plans in mind. He decides that just as he has pulled himself up by his own bootstraps, Joey can do the same and become as normal as any kid, without the help of a doctor's prescription. Carter believes Joey can do it and Joey wants to believe him more than anything in the world. Here is the continuation of the acclaimed Joey Pigza story, affirming not only that Joey Pigza is a true original but that it runs in the family. This title has Common Core connections. *Joey Pigza Loses Control* is a 2000 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year and a 2001 Newbery Honor Book.

the best christmas pageant ever: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Dr. Seuss, 2017-12-01 The timeless classic from the iconic Dr. Seuss - now available in ebook, with hilarious read-along narration performed by outstanding comic talent, Rik Mayall. Enjoy this classic Christmas favourite anytime, anywhere!

the best christmas pageant ever: *Flunking Sainthood* Jana Riess, 2011-11-01 This wry memoir tackles twelve different spiritual practices in a quest to become more saintly, including fasting, fixed-hour prayer, the Jesus Prayer, gratitude, Sabbath-keeping, and generosity. Although Riess begins with great plans for success ("Really, how hard could that be?" she asks blithely at the start of her saint-making year), she finds to her growing humiliation that she is failing—not just at some of the practices, but at every single one. What emerges is a funny yet vulnerable story of the quest for spiritual perfection and the reality of spiritual failure, which turns out to be a valuable practice in and of itself. Praise for *Flunking Sainthood*: *Flunking Sainthood* is surprising and freeing; it is fun and funny; and it is full of wisdom. It is, in fact, the best book on the practices of the spiritual life that I have read in a long, long time. - Lauren Winner, author of *Girl Meets God* and *Mudhouse Sabbath* Jana Riess reminds us that saints are different from most of us: They are special, we are barely normal. They get it right, we rarely get it. They see God, we strain to see much of anything. And, Jana is no saint. Rather than climbing to the pinnacle and sitting on a pedestal to tell us how it could be, Jana slides right next to us and reminds us that sainthood is overrated. With humor and insight she whispers to us that our lives matter just as they are. She prods us to never let our failures hold us back. She calls us to something greater than spiritual success - ordinary faithfulness. *Flunking Sainthood* is the book I'm giving to my friends who are seeking to make sense of their emerging faith. - Doug Pagitt, author of *A Christianity Worth Believing* "Jana Riess may have flunked at sainthood, but she's written a wonderful book. It's both reverent and irreverent, and it will make you want to become a better Christian -- or Jew, or Muslim, or Zoroastrian, or Jedi, or whatever you

happen to be.” - AJ Jacobs, author of *The Year of Living Biblically* Warm, light-hearted, and laugh-out-loud funny, Jana Riess may indeed have flunked sainthood, but this memoir assures us that she is utterly and deeply human, and that is something even more wonderful. Honest and sincere, she will endear you from page one. -- Donna Freitas, author of *The Possibilities of Sainthood* “With a helpfully hilarious account of her own grappling with godliness, Jana Riess proves to be a standup historian well-practiced in the art of oddly revivifying self-deprecation. She loves her guides, historical and contemporary, even as she finds them alternately impractical, harsh, or infuriatingly jolly. The book is freaking wonderful—a candid and committed tale of prayers that resists supersizing and spirituality that has no home save the glory and the muck of the everyday.” --David Dark, author of *The Sacredness of Questioning Everything* “Jana Riess's new book is a delight—fun, funny, engaging and a powerful reminder that the greatest work in our lives is not what we'll do for God but what God is doing in us.” --Margaret Feinberg, www.margaretfeinberg.com, author of *Scouting the Divine* and *Hungry for God* “Flunking Sainthood allows those of us who have attempted new spiritual practices-- and failed-- to breathe a great sigh of relief and to laugh out loud. Jana Riess's exposé of her year-long and less-than-successful attempts at eleven classic spiritual practices entertains and educates us with its honesty and down-to-earthiness. In spite of Jana's paltry attempts at piety and her botched prayer makeovers, God showed up in the surprising, sneaky ways that only God does. Jana is the kind of girlfriend I like to have--hilarious, smart, stubborn, irreverent, and totally gaga over God. She writes in the unfiltered, uncensored way I'd write if I had the skill and the guts (Oh sorry, Mom, I meant gumption, not guts.)” --Sybil MacBeth, author of *Praying in Color*

the best christmas pageant ever: The Man Who Tasted Words Guy Leschziner, 2022-02-03
 ‘From the opening paragraph, I was spellbound, entranced. Through real stories about what happens when our fragile perception of the world around us and within us is severed, Guy Leschziner connects us back to our senses.’ Professor Alice Roberts Where are you now? Look around you; what can you see? Close your eyes and think of a loved one – do you see their face? Stretch out a hand; what can you feel with your fingertips, your palm, the soft underside of your wrist? What can you hear – nearby and far away? The information you receive from your senses makes up your world. But that world does not exist. What we perceive to be the absolute truth of the world around us is a complex reconstruction, a virtual reality created by the complex machinations of our minds in tandem with the wiring of our nervous systems. But what happens if that wiring goes awry? What happens if connections falter, or new and unexpected connections are made? Tiny shifts in the microbiology of our nervous systems can cause the world around us to shift and mutate, to become alien and unfamiliar. In *The Man Who Tasted Words*, consultant neurologist Guy Leschziner takes us on a journey through the senses, exploring how each one shapes our experience of the world. And investigating what happens when they deviate from the norm. Along the way we meet a number of extraordinary individuals and step through the looking glass and into their worlds. Worlds where hot and cold are reversed, where a person with no sight sees fantastical visions, or where words have a taste and sounds create sensations. But while fascinating, their experiences are more than simply curiosities. They teach us about our own perception of the world, forcing us to question the idea of ‘normal’ senses, and whether such a thing even exists. Does blue look the same to you and me? Does grass smell the same? Or sugar taste as sweet? Do we even have the same understanding of what ‘sweet’ is? *The Man Who Tasted Words* unpacks the science behind your senses and challenges you to try and see the world through another’s eyes – and ears, and nose and mouth. It will illuminate, it will surprise, and it will leave your world just a little bit changed. ? ‘A truly astonishing book – from the story of the man who tasted words to that of Paul who could pull out his own teeth and break his legs yet feel no pain. These are beautifully and engagingly written stories of how our senses tell us about the reality of the world – or, sometimes, don’t.’ Gavin Esler, author of *How Britain Ends* ‘Stories of people who experience the world differently show us what it means to be human. This is a deeply moving and powerful book, full of provocative ideas about human perception and the way we construct reality.’ Daniel M. Davis, author of *The Secret Body* and

The Beautiful Cure 'This is a book vibrant with personality and full of wonder. Professor Leschziner takes us through an exploration of our senses, making us question the nature of our reality and how we interpret the world around us. It is a profound, entertaining and quite exceptional book.' Dr Alastair Santhouse, Psychiatrist and Author of Head First 'In vivid stories of patient maladies that affect our very human sensations of sight, sound, smell, touch and pain, Leschziner has deeply explored the sensory experiences that bombard every moment of our lives but of which we are barely aware. What a terrific melding of brain science with thoughtful ideas on our window to the outside world.' Allan Ropper, author of Reaching Down the Rabbit Hole and How the Brain Lost its Mind. 'A fascinating, important and disturbing book. Words will never taste the same again!' John Humphrys

the best christmas pageant ever: Sydney and Taylor and the Great Friend Expedition

Jacqueline Davies, 2022-03-08 In this laugh-out-loud early chapter book with charming full-color illustrations, best-selling author Jacqueline Davies follows hedgehog Taylor and skunk Sydney as they set out on an adventure to make new friends, even through doubt and obstacles. Perfect for fans of the Mercy Watson and Owl Diaries series. Sydney and Taylor have been best friends since before they can remember. But how does one make new friends? Taylor wants to try, so Sydney does what any best friend would do: accompany him on his biggest adventure yet! When sincere compliments and gifts of friendship don't lead anywhere, Sydney and Taylor may need to look where they least expect . . . This hilarious chapter-book buddy story, illustrated with expressive full-color art, highlights the importance of friendships old and new.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Christmas Princess Mariah Carey, Michaela Angela

Davis, 2022-11-01 The Christmas Princess is an unforgettable holiday classic tale, told by Mariah Carey herself alongside Michaela Angela Davis and featuring beautiful illustrations by Fuji Takashi. The Queen of Christmas introduces . . . Little Mariah! There was one time unlike any other, when everyone pitched in and helped one another . . . CHRISTMAS TIME! Mariah Carey, adored by fans around the world, has brought forth a unique, heartwarming, and modern fairy tale with The Christmas Princess, starring Little Mariah! Like her record-breaking, globally adored song "All I Want for Christmas Is You," this story is an instant and inclusive family holiday classic. While firmly placed in the tradition of Christmas storytelling, The Christmas Princess is infused with her one-of-a-kind festive Mariah magic and musicality. Little Mariah doesn't have much and doesn't want a lot, but there is just one thing she longs for: a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Feeling outcast and alone, Little Mariah sets off on a wintry, wondrous journey, ultimately discovering the healing power of her voice to spread the spirit of Christmas at home and all around the world.

the best christmas pageant ever: A Cottage Full of Secrets Jane Lovering, 2022-02-15

'Beautifully written and both heartbreaking and heartwarming' Jessica Redland WINNER OF THE RNA CONTEMPORARY ROMANTIC NOVEL AWARD 2023 Cottage Two, Bracken Ridge Farm sits at the end of a pitted track, with the glorious Yorkshire moors stretching behind it. Just a simple two up, two down, the cottage holds the promise of a new start for two very different women, but it is also full of secrets. Fifty years ago, newly-wed Stella is relishing making the little cottage a happy home. But for all the lovingly handmade curtains, and the hot dinners ready on the table for her husband, Stella's dreams of married life jar painfully with the truth. Fifty years later, the cottage is a new beginning for Tamzin. Determined to get away from her previous life, she makes the move to the wild and vast Yorkshire countryside. When Tamzin finds a sepia photo of a woman, Stella, standing in the cottage's garden, there's a sadness in her eyes that Tamzin recognises. As the cottage reveals more of its secrets, Tamzin is desperate to find out whether Stella got her happy ending. And as she gradually makes new friends, and starts to win over her mysterious neighbour Euan, Tamzin dares to dream about her own happy ending too... Escape the rat race with this heart-warming, page-turning new novel from Jane Lovering. Perfect for fans of Julie Houston, Beth O'Leary and Kate Forster Praise for Jane Lovering: 'I adored the dual timeline aspect of this gorgeous story and discovering the secrets from the past. Beautifully written and both heartbreaking and heartwarming' Jessica Redland 'A funny, warm-hearted read, filled with characters you'll love.'

Matt Dunn on A Country Escape What readers are saying about Jane Lovering: 'Jane Lovering has that ability to choose exactly the right words and images to make you laugh, with a wonderful touch of the ridiculous, then moving seamlessly to a scene of such poignancy that it catches your breath.' 'It is very difficult to explain just how wonderful this book is. The power of her words and her descriptive prowess to put it bluntly is amazing... the emotional impact it has had on me will be long lasting.' 'Fall in love with reading all over again with this cracking tale from Jane Lovering. An excellent reminder, if one is needed, of the absolute pleasure of losing yourself in a good book.'

the best christmas pageant ever: Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree Robert Barry, 2012-11-28 Give the gift of holiday spirit with this classic picture book that celebrates how one Christmas tree brings joy to a whole forest of critters! Christmas is here and Mr. Willowby's tree has arrived. There's just one big problem: The tree is too tall for his parlor! He cuts off the top so it will fit, and soon the top of that tree is passed along again and again to bring holiday cheer to all the animals in the forest. Kids will love watching the tree move from home to home, and families will appreciate the subtle message of conservation and recycling, as the tree top spreads joy to all. This heartwarming story is the perfect way to start the yuletide season, and a warm addition to any family's festive holiday traditions.

the best christmas pageant ever: Growing Up in Fairfield, California Tony Wade, 2021 Life in Fairfield in the decades after World War II was an unparalleled experience. From cruising down Texas Street on weekends to catching a carnival in the Wonder World parking lot, fond memories of long-lost times haven't been forgotten. People flocked to vintage eateries like Joe's Buffet and Smorga Bob's and played on the rocket ship slide at Allan Witt Park. Roller rinks like the M&M Skateway hosted not only skaters but also dances featuring Fats Domino and Roy Orbison. Commuters hopped aboard the FART bus to save on gas, and frequenting Dave's Giant Hamburgers was a rite of passage. Longtime Daily Republic columnist and accidental historian Tony Wade takes a deep dive into the Fairfield of yesteryear.

the best christmas pageant ever: Intersectional Theology Grace Ji-Sun Kim, Susan M. Shaw, 2018-11-01 Intersectional Theology: An Introductory Guide offers a pathway for reflective Christians, pastors, and theologians to apply the concepts and questions of intersectionality to theology. Intersectionality is a tool for analysis, developed primarily by black feminists, to examine the causes and consequences of converging social identities (gender, race, class, sexual identity, age, ability, nation, religion) within interlocking systems of power and privilege (sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism, nativism) and to foster engaged, activist work toward social justice. Applied to theology, intersectionality demands attention to the Christian thinker's own identities and location within systems of power and the value of deep consideration of complementary, competing, and even conflicting points of view that arise from the experiences and understandings of diverse people. This book provides an overview of theories of intersectionality and suggests questions of intersectionality for theology, challenging readers to imagine an intersectional church, a practice of welcome and inclusion rooted in an ecclesiology that embraces difference and centers social justice. Rather than providing a developed systematic theology, Intersectional Theology encourages readers to apply its method in their own theologizing to expand their own thinking and add their experiences to a larger theology that moves us all toward the kin-dom of God.

the best christmas pageant ever: Little Red Sleigh Erin Guendelsberger, 2020-10-06 A New York Times and USA Today bestseller! Believe in the magic of Christmas with this heartwarming Christmas picture book about the little red sleigh that could, perfect for fans of The Polar Express! The Little Red Sleigh has one big dream—to one day become Santa's big red sleigh! But all her life, she's been told she's too small, she's too young, she can't fly, and she certainly can't meet Santa. Well, this Christmas, with the help of some friends, she's determined to do the impossible. Little Red Sleigh is a heartwarming children's Christmas book you'll want to read again and again. Full of winter joy and holiday magic, this charming Christmas story will remind readers of all ages that no dream is out of reach if you believe. Why readers love Little Red Sleigh: Parents, grandparents, and teachers will have fun reading this inspirational, growth-mindset book to kids Screen-free fun for

children during the winter season Ideal Christmas gift and holiday stocking stuffer for kids ages 4-8
Also in the Little Heroes, Big Hearts series: Little Blue Bunny Little Yellow Bus

the best christmas pageant ever: The Best (worst) Christmas Pageant Ever [sound Recording]
Barbara Robinson, 2006 When the horrible Herdmans take over the church Christmas pageant the town braces for the worst.

the best christmas pageant ever: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Movie Tie-In Edition
Barbara Robinson, 2024-10 America's favorite Christmas book by Barbara Robinson is now a major motion picture! This special movie tie-in edition of the beloved middle grade holiday story will feature cover art from the movie and is the perfect holiday gift. Lionsgate is releasing a live action movie version of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever on November 8, 2024, directed by Dallas Jenkins of The Chosen and featuring actors Judy Greer, Lauren Graham, Elizabeth Tabish, and Pete Holmes, coming to a theater near you! The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, and swear. So no one is prepared when this outlaw family invades church one Sunday and decides to take over the annual Christmas pageant. None of the Herdmans has ever heard the Christmas story before. Their interpretation of the tale--the Wise Men are a bunch of dirty spies--has a lot of people up in arms. And their wild antics cause havoc throughout the play's production. But the actual pageant is full of surprises for everyone, starting with the Herdmans themselves, as they ultimately lead the town in finding the true meaning of Christmas. They will make this year's pageant the most unusual anyone has seen and, just possibly, the best one ever. Barbara Robinson's popular and bestselling tale of the rowdy Herdmans has been beloved and celebrated since the book's original release in 1972. Read the book again before you see the movie!

the best christmas pageant ever: West End Earl Bethany Bennett, 2021-06-29 From the series guaranteed to win the hearts of Regency fans" comes a story of secret identities, unlikely love, and forbidden romances that will warm even the coldest of hearts (Publishers Weekly). While most young ladies attend balls and hunt for husbands, Ophelia Hardwick has spent the last ten years in disguise. As the land steward for the Earl of Carlyle, she's found safety from the uncle determined to kill her and freedoms a lady could only dream of. Ophelia's situation would be perfect—if only she wasn't hopelessly attracted to her employer. Calvin, Earl of Carlyle, is determined to see his sister married this season. And he'll do it with the help of his trusted right-hand man. But when he finds out Ophelia's secret, and that her life is in danger, his priorities change. Their attraction is passionate, all-consuming, and if they aren't careful, it could turn downright deadly—for both of them.

the best christmas pageant ever: Audience-ology Kevin Goetz, 2022-11 Looks at the often secretive process of audience testing Hollywood movies and how it can help shape movies, with first-hand accounts from directors such as Ron Howard, Cameron Crowe, Drew Barrymore and Ed Zwick.

the best christmas pageant ever: Cold Midnight in Vieux Quebec by Eric Wilson : Novel Study Ron Leduc, Barbara Robinson, Teacher TimeSavers (Firm), Eric Wilson, 2003

the best christmas pageant ever: The Christmas TV Companion Joanna Wilson, 2009-11-01 The Christmas TV Companion is a funny, engaging look beyond the same Christmas television specials that air every year to the cult rarities, over-the-top made-for-TV holiday specials, and bizarre, spacey shows that truly expand the notion of Christmas spirit. Loaded with pop culture references, this book is sure to please pop aficionados and TV junkies of all stripes. Its remarkable breadth of content covers the far-out gems of yesterday, as well as the irreverent and cutting edge Christmas material of today, from Arthur C. Clarke to South Park, and from Ed Sullivan to Squidbillies. This guide also contains practical examples for enhancing your own Christmas TV viewing.

the best christmas pageant ever: Tis the Season TV Joanna Wilson, 2010-11-01 Includes summaries of thousands of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and New Year's themed episodes of TV series, TV specials and made-for-TV movies. Information generally includes year of copyright, director, executive producer, and/or producer credit (if applicable), program summary or synopsis,

and special guests.

the best christmas pageant ever: Trump J. F. Garrard, 2017-12 Warning! This book is full of alternative facts! Donald Trump: 45th President of the United States, businessman and television personality, iconoclast and polarizer. This anthology is a time capsule which captures the hopes and fears, thoughts and ideas of writers from all over the world who were asked to share a story in which Trump is the muse. He does not have to be the main character, however, the story must show the type of world which might result from his policies. The many worlds created includes: * an app which requires self-sacrifice to prove that one is a true American; * a wizard who can make dreams come true in exchange for good PR; * a smart politician who created the wall to stop the zombies; * Secret Service agents making difficult choices to save America; * medieval kings demanding loyalty from both men and nature; . . .along with people trapped in apocalyptic worlds containing vampires, a never ending trivia game show, clones, aliens and more! Prepare to laugh, cry and become angry enough to fire the people around you (or maybe not)! The fantastic writers selected for this book includes: Shaun Avery (UK), Emad El-Din Aysha (Egypt), Marleen S. Barr (USA), Ross Baxter (UK), Jared Bennett (USA), Gustavo Bondoni (Argentina), Timothy Carter (Canada), Eli Cranor (USA), Maggie DeMay (USA), Livia Finucci (UK), Bryan Grafton (USA), G. Gray (UK), Jacob Guyon (USA), Mathias Jansson (Sweden), Koom Kankesan (Canada), Joanna Koch (USA), Matthew Kresal (USA), Art Lasky (USA), Michael Manzer (USA), Chris McGrane (Australia), Melissa R. Mendelson (USA), Will Morton (USA), Ira Nayman (Canada), E. Reyes (USA), Aaron C. Smith (USA), Brian J. Smith (USA), Priya Sridhar (USA), Ramona Thompson (USA), DJ Tyrer (UK), Wondra Vanian (USA/UK), Paul Williams (Australia) and Emenual Wolff (USA).

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