



Boughs of Evergreen: A Holiday Anthology, Volume One

J.P. Walker , Debbie McGowan , Ofelia Gränd , Jonathan Penn , L.L. Bucknor , Alexis Woods , Rick Bettencourt , Amy Spector , more... Kathleen Hayes , Larry Benjamin , Raine O'Tierney ...less

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Boughs of Evergreen is a two-volume collection of short stories celebrating the holiday season in all its diversity. Penned by authors from the UK, the USA, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, these are tales of the young and the not-so-young from many different walks of life.

Themes of family, friendship and romance take readers on a journey through some of the major holidays, both past and present, including Thanksgiving, Advent, St. Lucia Day, Hanukkah, Saturnalia, Winter Solstice, Yule, Christmas and New Year. In each we find at the very least hope, and often love, peace and happiness.

Each story is also available as a separate ebook.

Proceeds from sales of this anthology will be donated to The Trevor Project. The Trevor Project is the leading national organization [USA] providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

THE STORIES:

(combined edition includes all 22 stories)

Volume One contains:

"A Friend for Christmas" - JP Walker
"A Midnight Clear" - Debbie McGowan
"From All of Us to All of You" - Ofelia Gränd
"Homme for the Holidays" - Jonathan Penn
"Kiss Me At Kwanzaa" - LL Bucknor
"Lion's Hero" - Alexis Woods
"One Nightstand" - Rick Bettencourt
"Shiny Things" - Amy Spector
"The Bard and his Boyfriend" - Kathleen Hayes
"The Christmas Present" - Larry Benjamin
"X-Mas Cake: A Modern Fairytale" - Raine O'Tierney

Boughs of Evergreen: A Holiday Anthology, Volume One Details

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J.P. Walker , Debbie McGowan , Ofelia Gränd , Jonathan Penn , L.L. Bucknor , Alexis Woods ,
Author : Rick Bettencourt , Amy Spector , more... Kathleen Hayes , Larry Benjamin , Raine O'Tierney
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Format : Paperback 450 pages

Genre : Anthologies, Romance, M M Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Lgbt

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From Reader Review Boughs of Evergreen: A Holiday Anthology, Volume One for online ebook

Amy Spector says

I'm finally sitting down to officially read Boughs of Evergreen start to finish! Since this is such a huge anthology, I will rate overall collection here and will add a more detailed review of the stories on their individual GR listings.

The Boughs of Evergreen: A Holiday Anthology is a collection of stories written by authors around the world, for charity and a hope for a better world for the next generation. It is the brain child of Debbie McGowan who is my hero.

Volume One

A Friend for Christmas - JP Walker
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The Invasion of Tork - Al Stewart and Claire Davis
X-Mas Cake: A Modern Fairytale - Raine O'Tierney

Mark Loughe says

just the book you ought to be reading before christmas volume two nex year five stars from me

Tailtiu says

3,5* Part of the 2 book in one Boughs of Evergreen: Holiday Anthology

Ali says

This anthology was intense. The stories are not light and fluffy. They are raw and real. They are all excellent, but here are my favorites:

A Midnight Clear: A runaway girl struggling to survive on the streets with a stray cat that adopted her. The

man that sees her and offers her some cash, but then can't forget about her, and, along with his partner, searches the streets trying to find her.

From All of Us to All of You: Simon works as a store clerk, dreading going to his parents' house for Christmas Eve and having to face his alcoholic father and his withdrawn codependent mother... But for a bit of meddling by his coworker Monica, he meets her son, Hannes... and well a bit of humor and pizza, and Simon discovers there's more to the holiday than sitting on the couch with his mom watching the traditional holiday movie...

Shiny Things: Nathaniel returns home ten years after being kicked out by his father for kissing another boy. He returns to help his 19 year old brother care for his father (who now has alzheimer's) and ends up doing work for Vincent, the man who had been the boy he kissed.

The Invasion of Tork: Wow! A homeless man in his early 20s fighting mental illness, meets up with an arrogant ass at a shelter. This story begs the question, who is helping whom...

Xmas Cake: A rich man, Kyle, has regular "dates" with a baker, Riley. The dates are just a smile and a wave as Kyle waits outside a theater and Riley closes up the bakery and walks to his car, which unbeknownst to Kyle, is serving as Riley's home... that is until Riley becomes ill and Kyle rushes in to help.

All the stories are character driven. They give us glimpses of life that is not Donna Reed perfect but still embody the spirit of the holidays... whether it be Christmas or Chanukah or Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice...

Spinster says

I received Boughs of Evergreen as a Goodreads Giveaway some time ago. It was a little after the holiday season so the book being all about the end of the year holidays was just bad timing, and that's part of why it took me so long to finish.

Boughs of Evergreen is a collection of short (romance) stories, focusing on LGBT love. It's difficult to review them all as one and doing it one by one would take forever, but some of the stories were better and others a bit less so. However, the most important thing of the collection, the one thing that truly shone from every story was pure happiness, joy, positiveness and uncomplicated love. It was most definitely a feel good book, celebrating diversity and not making a big deal out of being a little different. It feels like many books about LGBT people are about LGBTness, and while I get that, it's a big deal to be different from the majority, but I liked it when in the stories of this collection people just were what they were, no fuss about what precise flavor of which label, and the focus of the story itself was somewhere else. The characters were people rather than straight people or gay people. Just people.

I might even go as far as calling the book sappy, but I don't think it's a flaw and I don't think the authors feel so either. A bit of sap is pretty much expected during the holiday season. I noticed many of the stories were about homelessness and realised it is a very traditional theme associated with Christmas and warmth and abundance of food and stuff and love and joy.

Overall Boughs of Evergreen was a very warm and fuzzy book and definitely worth of reading for those who need, want or would just like a bit of warmth and fuzz in their life.

K.C. Faelan says

Today I had time to start reading the stories from *Boughs of Evergreen: A Holiday Anthology*. I'll be making my way through both volumes in random order. I'll be posting the individual book review and rating on it's respective book page. For this review, it's only on Volume One. Volume Two will have it's own review.

Boughs of Evergreen is the brainchild of Debbie McGowan, publisher and editor at Beaten Track Publishing. The proceeds from the anthology are donated to the Trevor Project. Twenty-three authors from around the world contributed their time and talent to writing various holiday stories. I participated in this awesome endeavor, and my story appears in Volume Two, but I won't be reviewing it since I wrote it.

Volume One

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Diane says

What a Wonderful Anthology

Each author has written a tale that will warm your heart and pledge to do more, not only during the holiday season, but every day.

Each romance is sweet, even though sometimes it's hard won.
