



# The Christmas Special

*David J. Hearne*

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## **The Christmas Special** David J. Hearne

The Christmas Special is a thought provoking political thriller revolving around a series of Christmas morning terrorist attacks. Beside the death and destruction wrought by these attacks, the selected day of execution could darken the sacred celebration of Christ's birth for years to come. The spellbinding novel weaves together current events with fiction creating a sobering reality of an event whose actual occurrence is certainly probable. David Hearne's new novel exposes a major terrorist attack scheduled for the morning of Christmas. A 16-year-old Muslim girl named Sheeva, who falls in love with a 19-year-old agnostic American boy, becomes a primary figure in the tumultuous story. Her father, Ali Hasson, is an Afghanistan doctor given political asylum in America because of the assistance he provided US forces during the onset of the war. Unknown to most, however, is the fact that Ali is a closet Islamic terrorist leader intent on orchestrating an attack on America more devastating than that of nine eleven. Their targets are 3 nuclear power plants and numerous hospitals. Another dark side of Sheeva's father is his habitual beating of his daughter because of her westernized behavior and relationship with an unbeliever. After succumbing to numerous beatings, Sheeva runs away from home, but during her escape discovers her father is the leader of a major terrorist plot scheduled to occur on Christmas morning. When she and her boyfriend Jason try to alert officials, they are met with the fact that if they admit their relationship, Jason would face being arrested for harboring Sheeva, a runaway, statutory rape, lascivious conduct with a minor and numerous other charges. Conviction of these charges, would label Jason as a registered sex offender for the rest of his life. The Romeo and Juliet couple are faced with the moral dilemma of saving thousands of lives, but having their relationship and lives destroyed by this legal quagmire; or stay quiet about her father's terrorist ambitions, allowing Sheeva and her boyfriend to stay together and avoid him facing charges about their affair which if convicted would have him vilified more by the public than terrorist, murderers or kidnappers. The reader is thrust into this unenviable dilemma this young couple face in trying to choose between helping to save thousands and going to jail or saying nothing and knowing their silence helped bring on the death of many.

## **The Christmas Special Details**

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## From Reader Review The Christmas Special for online ebook

### Anne Walters says

David Hearne has written an utterly absorbing book that will both captivate and appall you, and not just because of the breathtaking horrors that his novel portrays in the aftermath of the fictional terrorist attack on Christmas morning. Equally appalling are Hearne's depiction of the entrenched bureaucrats in Washington like the NRA and the bevy of lobbyist who promote the nuclear power industry agenda over the safety of the public.

These agencies and organization often fail to share crucial information with one another because of agency cultures that value conformity above everything else. After reading The Christmas Special, I am not sure if an attack as fantastical as Hearne depicts is not that far from being a reality that we will soon have to face. If changes aren't implemented in securing these ticking dirty bombs this tragedy can certainly become a reality. It would be another catastrophe that could have been prevented.

Reading the Christmas Special was deeply painful for me, who watched the Trade Towers collapse just a few years ago in total awe. How could this be happening to us? I can only imagine how distressing an attack even more devastating would be to those who would lose family, friends, their property and their future - if such an attack was to happen. And the thought that Christmas would become a day remembered as a day our country was crippled by a handful of terrorists is equally as terrifying. Yet Hearne has handled this difficult material in a way that makes it bearable to read, and his pacing of the story is masterful. The Christmas Special reads like a suspense novel at times and the writing is lyrical.

The book is also chock full of a doomed love affair and pertinent facts and background material that help make sense, insofar as why some group would do such a terrible thing. The motivations of the terrorists are spelled out and the logic in the tactics of al Qaeda and similar groups helps one understand the driving force behind these types of attacks. Hearne weaves into his novel the history, the pursuit of a tribal conception of "honor" and the desire to recreate the past glory that Islam once enjoyed. Hearne connects those dots to paint a very three-dimensional picture of the "terrorists."

There are also a number of oddball facts and anecdotes that enliven The Christmas Special. For example, the barely secure 4000 mile border between the US and Canada. The many Islamic terrorists that grew up in America and went off to fight against the non believer in the Middle East or Africa. Hearne relates the fact that Pakistan has nuclear power plants and nuclear bombs and it is one of the few countries that had many citizens dancing in the street after 9/11. The point was information about how to destroy and how to operate a nuclear power plant is right there in a country where a large portion of its people hate America.

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### Tiff Smith says

The Christmas Special is a book that I really enjoy reading. It is very engaging and an exciting read. I love the story line and It is filled with action and mystery that made me read on. The various characters like Sheeva or ALi Hasson are obviously well researched and have depth.

The attention to details is unsurpassed and very well done. I felt like I was right there in the middle of everything. Overall, it is a wonderful story and one of those books that stay in your mind long after reading it. I am impressed by this author and I definitely want to see his next book soon.

I highly recommend this book to everyone. It is one of the best book to read especially it is near to Christmas season now.

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### **Thomas Amo says**

The Christmas Special is unlike any book I've ever read before. It's an epic story filled with heart-pounding details that would make any Tom Clancy novel jealous on every level. The cover is deceiving, but that is not what drew me to the book it was of course the story. However when I saw the cover is deceptive, it is reflective of the events that come from within the story.

I purposely refrain from giving you a retrospective of the plot as this book is too good to have any of them spoiled in advance. I'd like to focus on the brilliant style in which David Hearne writes. Quite often I had to remind myself this book is a fictional story, because it's written in such a style you can't help but feel everything before is factual.

I personally experienced many emotions while reading this book, because as an American, I can at the heart identify with the events that transpire. I give this book 5 stars because, I felt the author never held back and allowed the story to be told in the cold-blooded fashion for which I believe it was meant to be. I hope this book remains fiction and never becomes a reality, for what lies inside these pages, are too terrifying to contemplate.

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### **Haven Gordon says**

I won this book in a giveaway by Goodreads. I'm a sucker for anything Christmas themed. I loved this book!

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### **J Jackson says**

The Christmas Special may be the most riveting, informative, and "heart-stopping account" yet of what could happen from the next big terrorist attack on America. The focus on individuals gives the book its emotional punch, but it is also a narrative bold in conception and historical sweep. The book, written as a series of interviews with the fictional characters of the novel is riveting and shocking in its predictions of what is happening today in our world of religious wars. The novel lays out the complex motives, ideals, and power plays that lead up to these attacks on Christmas morning that paralyze America far more than the 9/11 attacks did. The attack on the nuclear power plants creates thousands of miles of exclusion zones unusable for unknown years and financial destitution to millions of citizens. The story is terribly chilling in its portrayal of what could happen if terrorists did in fact attack nuclear power plants in America. The book is full of nefarious details about the poor security of these plants and the large number of homegrown terrorist that live in America.

The Christmas Special is nothing less than "indispensable" reading.

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### **Kim says**

A very long book but good read. I received this as a free giveaway through Goodreads First Reads.

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## **David Duncan says**

The book *The Christmas Special* by David J. Hearne is the sixty-sixth book that I have received and read from Goodreads. It is a book revolving around a series of Christmas morning terrorist attacks. It is a major terrorist attack scheduled for the morning of Christmas. The story is about a sixteen year old Muslim girl named Sheeva, who has fallen in love with a young man that is nineteen years old, his name is Jason. He is American born and is not a Muslim. This creates all kinds of problems. Sheeva's brother Abdul Hassan, does not like Jason because he is not a Muslim, and has vowed to kill his sister and Jason because Sheeva has disgraced her family for being with Jason.

Sheeva's father Dr. Ali Hassan, a renowned surgeon, is the leader of the major terrorist plot scheduled to take place Christmas morning.

Sheeva runs away from her family and meets up with Jason in Texas and they decide to live together. This is when Sheeva and Jason find a letter written in Arabic and over the next few weeks Jason figures out that the letter tells of the plot to blow up three Nuclear Plants, bombing hospitals on Christmas morning. Jason and Sheeva try to alert the police, they are met with the fact if they admit their relationship, Jason could face being arrested for living with Sheeva, crossing state lines, statutory rape and numerous other charges. Jason and Sheeva have to decide what they are going to do. Jason going to jail or saving thousands of lives. You will have to read the story and find out the ending. This is a great book for all adults to read.

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