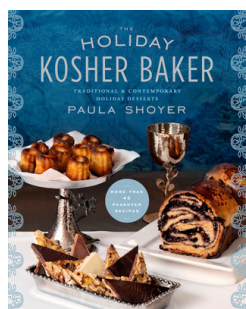


## HOLIDAY COOKING INSPIRATION



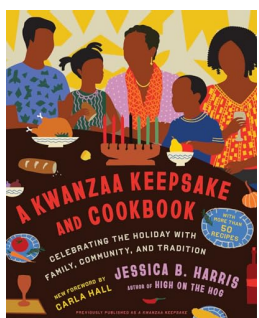
**Baking for the Holidays: 50+ Treats for a Festive Season**

**By Sarah Kieffer**



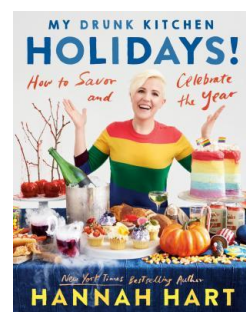
**The Holiday Kosher Baker: Traditional & Contemporary Holiday Desserts**

**By Paula Shoyer**



**A Kwanzaa Keepsake and Cookbook: Celebrating the Holiday with Family, Community, and Tradition**

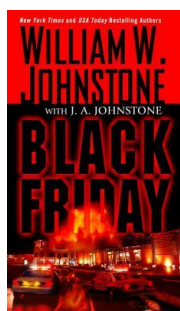
**By Jessica B. Harris**



**My Drunk Kitchen Holidays!: How to Savor and Celebrate the Year: A Cookbook**

**By Hannah Hart**

## BOOKS TO DVD



**Black Friday**

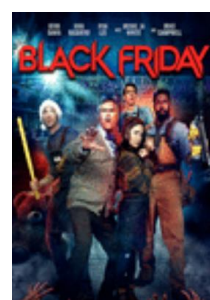
**By William W. Johnstone, J.A. Johnstone**

Black Friday. The American Way Mall is packed with holiday shoppers and bargain seekers. Machine-gun fire rings out, and within minutes hundreds are dead and dying. Others are taken hostage by an army of fanatical Middle Eastern terrorists ready to blast the American Way Mall into a pile of rubble. But one man—Iraq War vet Tobey Lanning—refuses to go down without a fight. Separated from his soon-to-be fiancée, Lanning finds himself on the frontlines of a new war against terror.

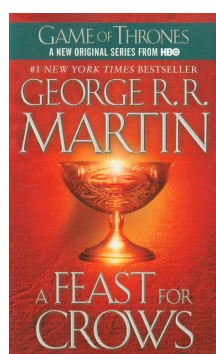
**Black Friday**

**2021 • Horror/Comedy • 1h 24m**

On Thanksgiving night, disgruntled toy store employees, led by manager Jonathan and employee Ken, prepare to open for Black Friday. However, they must fight off hordes of holiday shoppers transformed into monstrous creatures after an alien parasite crashes to Earth.



## BOOK QUOTE OF THE MONTH

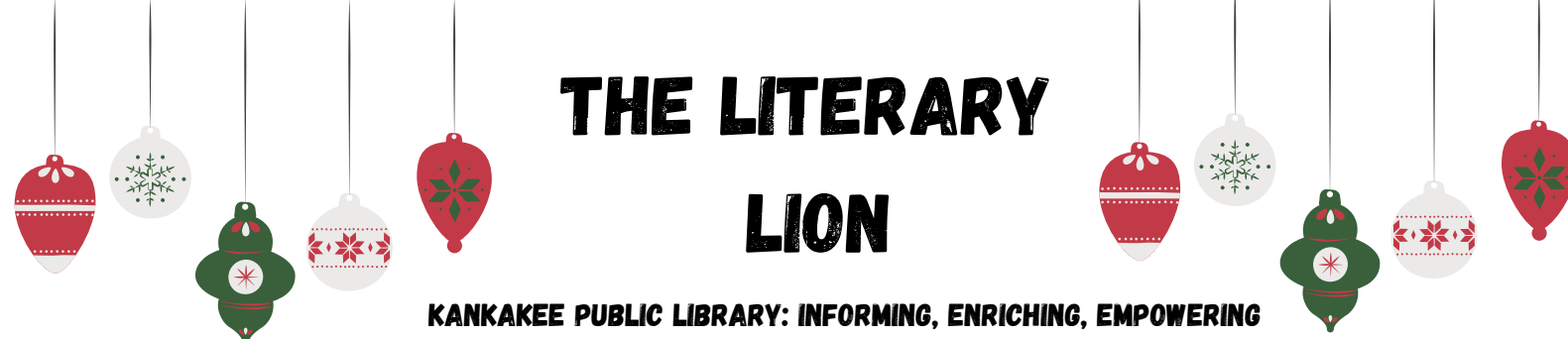


**George R. R. Martin - A Feast For Crows**

"My old grandmother always used to say, Summer Friends will melt away like summer snows, but winter friends are friends forever."



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# THE LITERARY LION

KANKAKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY: INFORMING, ENRICHING, EMPOWERING

**DECEMBER 2024**

## BOOK OF THE MONTH



**The Knife Before Christmas**  
**By Kate Carlisle**

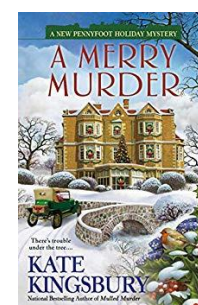
In Lighthouse Cove, Shannon Hammer is busy renovating a hotel owned by the holiday-loving Garrison family, known for their extravagant Christmas celebrations. This year, Shannon's team is building a Victorian-style carnival midway. While the town enjoys the festive spirit, the Garrison children resent the spending impacting their inheritance. Tensions rise when a family associate is found dead, prompting Shannon and Mac to uncover the culprit before Christmas is ruined for the community.

## READ ALIKES



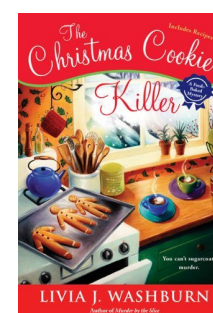
**The Mistletoe Mystery: A Maid Novella**  
**By Nita Prose**

Molly Gray loves the holidays, especially the cherished traditions her gran created. This year, her boyfriend Juan Manuel aims to make it her best Christmas yet. However, a Secret Santa gift exchange at the Regency Grand Hotel leads Molly to question trust and dive into a personal mystery. As she navigates her feelings, she wonders if she's misjudged someone again. "The Mistletoe Mystery" is a heartwarming tale about the true spirit of the season, highlighting that love is the greatest mystery of all.



**A Merry Murder**  
**By Kale Kingsbury**

During an Edwardian Christmas, the Pennyfoot Hotel is beautifully decorated, but disaster strikes when a guest is found dead in the laundry room. Owner Cecily Sinclair Baxter is in high spirits until her chief housemaid discovers the body, leading Cecily to investigate despite facing resistance from multiple suspects. With Christmas approaching, she must solve the mystery to ensure the holiday remains festive rather than fatal.

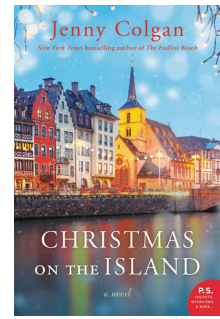


**The Christmas Cookie Killer**  
**By Livia J. Washburn**

In Weatherford, Texas, retired teacher Phyllis Newsom eagerly anticipates the competitive Christmas bake-off amid a challenging year. Confident in her snowflake-shaped lime sugar cookies, she faces off against friends and neighbors. However, after a cookie exchange, she discovers her neighbor Mrs. Simmons strangled with her own bathrobe belt, prompting Phyllis to investigate the murder while navigating a list of potential suspects.

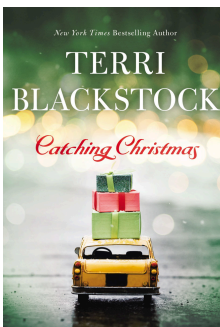


## GENRE SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTMAS FICTION



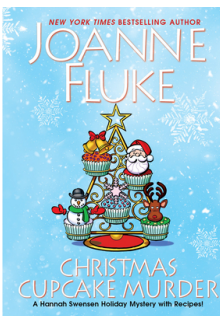
### Christmas on the Island By Jenny Colgan

Christmas on the remote Scottish island of Mure is bleak yet beautiful, filled with cozy gatherings around whisky barrel wood fires. Flora faces the dilemma of revealing her unexpected pregnancy to her ex-boss, Joel. Meanwhile, Saif, a doctor and Syrian refugee, seeks to celebrate his first Western Christmas with his sons while missing his wife. Join the warm community of Mure for a memorable Christmas experience.



### Catching Christmas By Terri Blackstock

First-year law associate Sydney Batson faces the pressure of updating her resume if she loses her court case. When her grandmother, Miss Callie, falls ill, cab driver Finn Parrish reluctantly agrees to transport her due to her resemblance to his own mother. Finn, a former gourmet chef struggling to pay rent, finds himself on wild errands led by Callie, who wants to find a Christmas date for Sydney. As Finn meets Sydney, he questions Callie's intentions and becomes unexpectedly involved in fulfilling her holiday wish.



### Christmas Cupcake Murder By Joanne Fluke

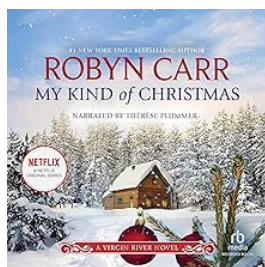
A Festive & Delicious Christmas Cozy Mystery features cookie and dessert recipes from Hannah Swensen's bakery, The Cookie Jar. As December transforms Lake Eden into a holiday wonderland, Hannah juggles baking holiday cupcakes and solving a murder mystery. With family and friends facing their own dramas, the festive mood is interrupted by a John Doe found near death, who has no memory except for his skill in restoring antique furniture. With limited time and clues, Hannah must solve this deadly mystery while managing her holiday preparations.



### Christmas at Little Beach Street Bakery By Jenny Colgan

In the Cornish village of Mount Polbearne, it's Christmas time, and Polly Waterford cherishes running her Little Beach Street Bakery. As she prepares festive treats, she hopes for a perfect holiday with her boyfriend, Huckle. However, complications arise when her best friend Kerensa reveals a secret that threatens their relationship, and a figure from Polly's past returns, adding to the turmoil. Despite her love for baking, Polly fears it may not be enough to restore harmony for a merry Christmas.

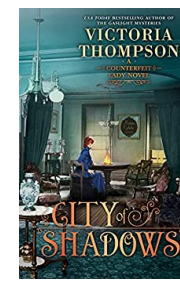
## AUDIOBOOK SPOTLIGHT



### My Kind of Christmas By Robyn Carr

Patrick Riordan, a gentle navy pilot, faces a new adrenaline rush this Christmas when he becomes interested in Angie LeCroix, Jack Sheridan's attractive niece. Angie visits Virgin River for relaxation but finds herself under her uncle's watchful eye. Despite their initial desire for solitude, Patrick and Angie discover they want to be alone together. However, their families have other plans for them during the holiday season.

## NEW BOOKS THIS MONTH



### North Is the Night By Emily Rath

In a Finnish folklore-inspired fantasy duology, two bold young women, Siiri and Aina, confront dangers from both mortals and gods. As summer fades, threats arise from land-hungry Swedes, a zealous priest, and mysterious disappearances. When a death goddess drags Aina to Tuonela, the underworld, Siiri embarks on a perilous quest to find a legendary shaman to save her. In Tuonela, Aina faces the cruel Witch Queen and discovers the king of the underworld's plans for her. To return home, Aina must make a significant bargain while Siiri devises a daring rescue. This sweeping fantasy adventure highlights the power of hope and love against death.

- Stuart Woods' Golden Hour** By Brett Battles,/ Stuart Woods
- Bellevue** By Robin Cook
- Tom Clancy Defense Protocol** By Brian Andrews/Jeffrey Wilson
- Where the Creek Bends** By Linda Lael Miller
- Locked in** By Jussi Adler-Olsen/ Caroline Waight
- What the Wife Knew** By Darby Kane
- Lawbreaker** By Diana Palmer
- Perfect Storm** By Paige Shelton
- Against the Grain** By Peter Lovesey
- Under Loch and Key** By Lana Ferguson
- Echo** By Tracy Clark
- Nobody's Hero** By M. W. Craven
- The Last One** By Rachel Howzell Hall
- This Time Baby** By Roy Glenn
- Chosen by a Jamaican Bad Boy** By Racquel Williams
- Training the Heart** By Paisley Hope
- The Seaside Homecoming** By Julie Klassen
- The House at Baker Street** By Michelle Birkby
- Silence Is Golden** By Katt



## KANKAKEE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOKCLUBS

### Tuesday Morning Book Club - Tue, December 10th, 10:00am A Christmas Memory by Truman Capote

The Tuesday Morning Book Discussion meets to discuss a variety of books throughout the year on the second Tuesday of each month. Join us in our 3rd Floor Meeting Room while we talk literature over coffee and tea. This is a free program. Bring your friends and come ready to chat about this month's book!

### Soul Collections - Thurs, December 19th, 5:30pm A Different Kind of Christmas by Alex Haley

Soul Collections book club meets to discuss both fiction and non-fiction books written by African American authors. Join us in our 3rd Floor Meeting Room while we enjoy snacks and great conversation about this month's book. This is a free program and open to all!