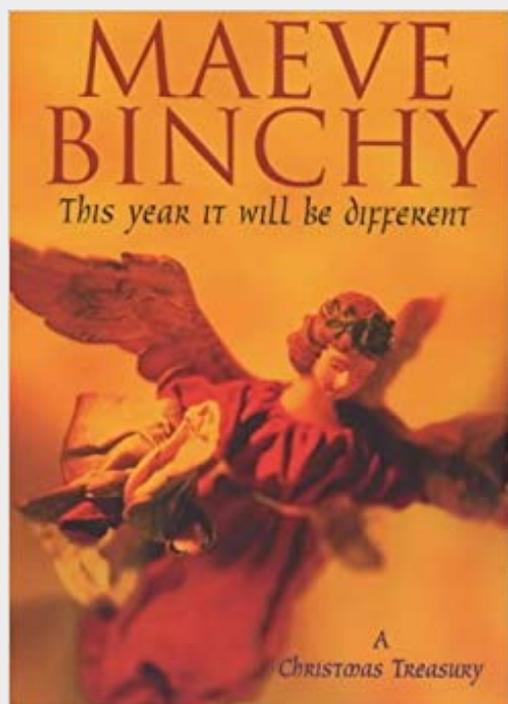


This Year it Will be Different by Maeve Binchy



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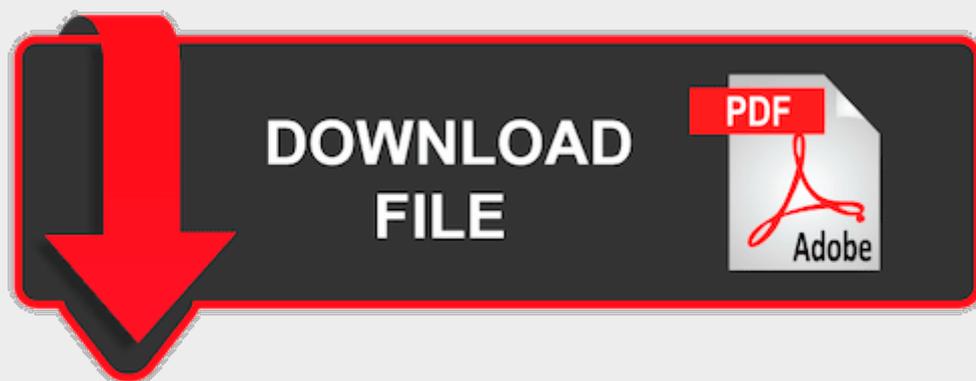
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In this Christmas treasury of fourteen special stories, Maeve Binchy weaves her story-telling magic again, earning the praise 'Maeve's a marvel' (The Age) Aboard a plane bound for Australia, in 'Travelling hopefully', two strangers find themselves sharing their fears and laughing each other into courage; for Nick and Jane in 'The Christmas barramundi', meeting at the Sydney Fish Markets was a perfect introduction...what could go wrong?; fourteen-year-old Orla decides to record Christmas Day with her new Polaroid camera in 'The ten snaps of Christmas' but no-one is prepared for what she sees; and Ethel, in the title story, is assured by her family that this year the usual massive Christmas preparations won't be left up to her, that this year it will be different. Set in Australia and around the world, these delightful stories bring us closer to the families, friends, lovers and the lonely of Binchy's imagination, drawing us into their lives with her usual wisdom and generosity. After reading This Year It Will Be Different, you'll want to visit them all over again.



Reviews of the **This Year it Will be Different** by Maeve Binchy

1. Stan

Not the sweet syrupy typical Christmas stories, or stories where everyone is perfect and has no faults, these are more realistic, the characters have issues, they are not perfect, they don't always make the right decisions, they are normal, realistic people, and that's why I enjoyed many of the stories so much. There's a saying "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" and that is what most of the stories in this collection do. From the woman who realizes her relationship with a man is not going to go anywhere, to the wife/stepmother who unintentionally makes a stepdaughter feel welcome, to the woman in the feature story who at long last does make Christmas different. Although these are not stories that come to mind for reading to get me in the Christmas spirit, I do enjoy them, they are good, well written stories and I enjoy reading them every few years. I'm very glad they are available now in e-format.

2. ACOS

If you like the simplicity and character development of Maeve Binchy's writing this audio collection of short stories with a Christmas theme is an uplifting "listen" for the holidays. Not too schmaltzy and ultimately heartwarming, this collection struck just the right tone when I wanted to listen to something Christmasy, get out of my head and away from national news, and get a taste for the simple good life in Ireland. I enjoy Maeve Binchy's work by listening more than reading - the characters come alive. This collection was the audio equivalent of warm cookies and tea on a blustery day - comforting, nurturing and pleasant.

3. Dakora

Maeve Binchy is one of my all-time favorite authors. There is nothing of

hers that I haven't liked and most of her work, I have loved. A while back, I was looking at everything she has written to see if I had missed something and came across this book. Since Christmas was coming up I bought it for my Kindle but waited until December to begin reading.

This is a collection of short stories (which I typically don't like as well as novels) but the author manages to write them so well. The characters are developed in each one and I was totally engrossed in each story quickly so I hardly noticed they weren't full-length stories. In typical Binchy style, the stories are a mixture of good and bad, personal hurt and growth. Unlike most books published geared around the holidays of fluffy stories with happy endings, there is "meat on those bones" with this collection. There are probably more heart-wrenching stories than uplifting ones, but after multiple novels of light and airy narratives, I was actually quite ready for some grittier story lines and this delivered. I think Maeve Binchy is probably one of the few authors that can get away with writing about bad stuff happening during the holidays and still have me loving it.

A wonderful collection of well-written stories. For those looking for the Normal Rockwell version of holiday stories, this definitely isn't for you. For people looking for the stories of things not always going well and families not always getting along (realistic but without being over-the-top), this might be just the ticket. I loved it and plan on re-reading it over the coming years.

4. Nettale

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5. Gaiauaco

I loved reading Maeve Binchy stories/novels except this one. Of all the short stories in this book, I can't remember one that was somewhat pleasant. She must have been going through some tough times when writings these is all I can say. I will still hold close to the many others that I have cherished.

6. Zugar

This collection of stories mostly relates to the characters' heartbreaks, in various forms of relationships (infidelity, nonsupportive spouses, unappreciative step-children or children, left at the altar...). On the one hand, it is a good holiday read, because if you are stressing over nonfat vs regular eggnog, or what stupid gift will Aunt Lil give you this year, you can't help stopping and thinking about these characters and their dismal situations. It may help to appreciate all of the good things and people in your life. On the other hand, if your taste runs to Hallmark holiday moments, you may find these depressing, with a little dark humor here and there. The stories are very short--perfect for reading when you anticipate interruptions!

7. Yayrel

Christmas can be sad, or mad, or bad. In case you were wondering. One story I liked was about two men who bond over Christmas in Ireland, in a setting that could be from *A Week in Winter*. They bond over Christmas as they recall, sadly, that they both miss their wives.

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