

It's Time for Christmas!... in Summer?

September 5th, 2023

Hello my fellow Christmas fans, after a bit of a longer than planned absence and a much needed vacation, I'm back to bring you some holiday cheer. You may commence celebrating!

Now you might be thinking: what? It's only September! Isn't it a bit early for Christmas?

Not at all!

So what's got me in the Christmas mood? The weather certainly hasn't felt Christmasy. July and August have been brutal with the heat. I live in Iowa, so we get that lovely humidity too. It's like trying to breathe through a hot, damp rag while someone is blowing a hair dryer in your face. It's days like that that make me long for the crisp cool autumn days or the frosty cold wintery storms.



It could be because I had a birthday in August, and those always seem like your own personal Christmas. This year, I turned 45 years old and I spent some time reflecting on that. As my kids are getting older, the reality is they will be starting families of their own, with their own traditions and celebrations – so the time I have with them is precious, but fleeting. It's bittersweet.

Maybe it's the stores' fault. I was feeling a bit sentimental a few weeks ago, so I went to my local Hobby Lobby to see some Christmas. And this is why I love that the retail market has Christmas stuff out in July or August – I can swoop down the Christmas aisles to get inspired, refreshed, or excited for the best season of the year! I don't usually buy anything – I just look.



It could be my bookshelves that have me dancing a Christmas jig. I do both a book podcast and a Christmas podcast, so I've been getting contacts from authors who have Christmas and holiday related stories coming out this fall and they are wanting to get reviews and interviews – and I am happy to oblige! I will not say no to a free Christmas

book! It's getting me excited about the upcoming shows I have planned.



September – and the BER months! - have finally arrived. By the end of the month I'll be mixing in Christmas music to my playlists, and suddenly it'll be early October and I'll be in the mood for some cozy Christmas films and stories. I know, some people might think it's too early, but I always say – not for me! After all, as any village collector knows, some hobbies require time to plan,

purchase, and build!

It could be all these things. But in the end, they are just things. Take them away, and Christmas will still come, and it will still be special. As the Grinch says “Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, in fact, means a little bit more.” So what really keeps me in the Christmas spirit all year round? It's the joy, goodness, and kindness that is at the heart of Christmas. Years ago when I first read A Christmas Carol, I had, like Scrooge, an epiphany – I would honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. Scrooge left behind his mean, miserly ways and embraced the joy of Christmas – a joy that can bring purpose to our daily existence.



So my goal in life is to be known as a Scrooge – but Scrooge as he is at the END of the story not the beginning. Dickens wrote of him: “And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.

May that be truly said of us, and all of us!” So, I hope YOU know how to keep Christmas well. The world will be a better place because of it!



Check back here regularly, as I am planning to bring you lots of Christmas content between now and the end of the year.

I'll see you in the next edition of Christmas Corner, so until then – let your Christmas Flag fly!

*A Merry Christmas to All and to All
a Goodnight!*