

September 12th, 2022 Welcome to the Christmas Corner!

It's only early September, but I'm already dreaming of a white Christmas. But that's not unusual for someone like me, who dreams of Christmas all year round!

Welcome to the Christmas Corner - and like Ebenezer Scrooge says, I honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year! I am very grateful that Bill - the creator of this wonderful website and community - invited me to bring you all some Christmas joy throughout the year. My plan is to have a couple of blog posts a month or so, and that might increase when the "true" Christmas season rolls around. In these posts I'll be talking about all things Christmas, all year round! So hop on board this polar express, crank up your Christmas music - and let's go! There are only 104 days until Christmas after all!

But first of all, the biggest question you might have is - WHO ARE YOU? Well, thank you for asking! My name is Art and as you might have guessed, I'm a fan of Christmas. I also am a podcaster, and I host the Cozy Christmas Podcast. That's how I met Bill a few years ago. I had him come on as a guest to talk about his website and Christmas village collecting. I've had him on several times since and hope to have him on again sometime this Fall or December.



Other things to know about me: I'm a voracious reader, which comes in handy since I'm married to a librarian. I have three teens, 4 fish, two parakeets, and a partridge in a pear tree. I love coffee, and my favorite Christmas drink is Eggnog - more about that in an upcoming post, I'm sure!

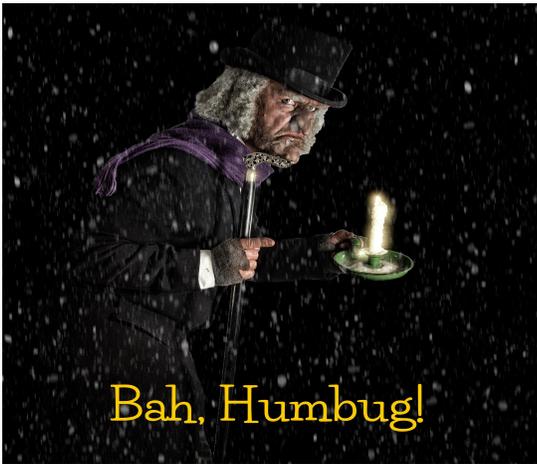
As a way to get to know me better, here are some FAQ - Christmas edition!

What is your favorite Christmas carol or song?

Right now I am enjoying In the Bleak Midwinter - but I love most Christmas music. My favorite type is a quiet jazzy piano style. Check out Doug Hammer's "Noel" - that's probably my all-time favorite Christmas album. It's so good and has one of the most beautiful arrangements of the Polar Express song "When Christmas Comes to Town". I melt into a puddle of Christmas goodness whenever I hear it!

What is your favorite Christmas movie?

Probably The Santa Clause or Elf - and any number of the Christmas Carol adaptations. My favorite one is the Alastair Sims version, I have a lot of nostalgia for that one. I can remember watching it when I was a kid, sitting between my dad and grandpa as they watched it. Whenever I see it, it fills me with nostalgia for those days long gone. It's one of my favorite Christmas memories!



What is your favorite Christmas story?

This one is pretty basic - I love A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. There's really no competition with it! It's my favorite warm and cozy read. It's a book that never fails to make me laugh, I always tear up at the sad parts, and I still get a shiver of fear down my spine as Dickens' beautiful prose transports me to the cold, foggy London night, when Scrooge hears chains dragging up the stairs...

What are your favorite Christmas traditions?

I love it when the decorations first go up - yeah, sometimes it can be stressful, but when it's done, the house has been transformed into a beautiful Christmas wonderland! We typically wait until the day after Thanksgiving, but we aren't opposed to putting it up just a little bit earlier especially if Thanksgiving is later in the month.

I love finding time to take my family around town or nearby neighborhoods to look at Christmas lights. We've had some milder winters in the past few years, so we've even been able to walk around rather than drive. My daughter and I like to sit on the porch swing under a pile of blankets and enjoy the Christmas lights and sing carols to each other. There's a farm about an hour from us that goes all out for Christmas and puts on one of the most amazing light displays in his fields that you'll ever see. It's worth the drive to see it!

On Christmas Eve, after our kids are in bed, my wife and I have fondue - We use oil and cook little pieces of chicken, steak, and sometimes shrimp. We put on our favorite Christmas music and cozy Christmas PJs and just enjoy a time of relaxing and slowing down. It's become one of my favorite traditions that started with her parents. They were poor newlyweds and couldn't afford much for their first Christmas, so they started having fondue as a Christmas Eve tradition. It's a tradition that has continued on to me and my wife, and we hope to pass it down

to our kids as well. But we do have to be in bed before midnight, because Santa's coming! I'm usually the last one to go to bed on Christmas Eve. I usually take a minute to walk outside just to feel the excitement and anticipation of the coming day! I often get a picture of myself pretending to be asleep under the Christmas tree, as if I were waiting for Santa and fell asleep! (My wife jokes that at Christmas time, she actually has FOUR kids instead of three...)

Sharing these memories with you has made me excited for Christmas! I hope you are too! I'd love to know how you would answer these questions. Let me know! You can email me at cozychristmaspodcast@gmail.com and check out the podcast at www.cozychristmaspodcast.com!

Until next time, Merry Christmas my friends!