



Chickadees at Christmas: a loving family, a lovely story – and a book for all ages!

It's been a very difficult time for young Billy and his Mom, Marion. He's 15 years old – and the very worst thing imaginable has happened: his Dad has passed away. His mother is still grieving silently and quietly, but she has found new love with her new husband, Levi Smyth, the warm-hearted country veterinarian.

The new family of three is actually an extended family now that Ellie, their gregarious border collie, has just given birth to a wonderful litter of six beautiful pups. It is now December and, for this country family, it is just a short stretch before the wonderful, loving season of Christmas. How will it all play out?

Well, for one thing, Billy is hard at work creating his Christmas presents – a birdfeeder for Stepdad Levi and a Christmas manger for his Mom. He's having a wonderful time making his presents by hand at the home of his Nana Vera and Grandpa Earl. And while he's there, perhaps thinking at times about the loving Dad who has passed away, he gets to sample his Nana's cooking and her baking – Vera's peanut butter cookies are absolutely, totally the greatest! Maybe this Christmas will bring some joy into Billy's life! Maybe this Christmas will be the magic time that helps him to heal.

This is the narrative core of *Chickadees at Christmas*, the latest rural-setting novel from Ontario author Carolyn j Morris. For Morris, a teacher by profession, *Chickadees at Christmas* is her fourth novel. Her first release, *Mourning Dove*, was published and released in 2011; her second, *Barn Swallows*, was published in late 2012; and her third, *Pine Warbler*, was released in late summer 2013.

Author Morris absolutely knows her territory. She grew up on the family farm – the youngest of five children – in old Nottawasaga Township in south-central Ontario. She has been a teacher for 30 years and is renowned locally for her story-telling and the passion and flair that she brings to her frequent speaking engagements. And because she is so real, her books ring of absolute authenticity.

In *Chickadees at Christmas*, young Billy could be any fun-loving boy that you might know. Stepdad Levi and Mom Marion are country folk through-and-through – and Nana Vera and Grandpa Earl are the kind of down-home, salt-of-the-earth folk that they just don't make anymore!

Young adults will love *Chickadees at Christmas* because they will immediately recognize that the storyline rings so true. Older adults will love *Chickadees at Christmas* for that same reason – and also because the novel is infused with genuine love, genuine caring and genuine story-telling.

Chickadees at Christmas is, in short, a book for all ages. Carolyn j Morris knows not only country life, country people, and country values, but she also knows how to tell a story. And *Chickadees at Christmas* is truly a wonderful story!


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by Carolyn J. Morris
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