



## The Christmas Doll

*Elvira Woodruff, Troy Howl*

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## **The Christmas Doll** Elvira Woodruff , Troy Howl

In a heartwarming novel that is destined to become a Christmas classic, acclaimed author Elvira Woodruff tells the story of two orphaned sisters whose lives are forever changed by a magical doll.

Lucy and Glory are orphaned sisters with no real place to call home. Only their memories of a beautiful doll named Morning Glory brighten their bleak lives. When a deadly fever sweeps through the workhouse where the girls live, Lucy and Glory flee to the mean streets of London.

One day the girls find an old battered doll that Glory senses is their beloved Morning Glory. But Morning Glory is no ordinary doll--the girls learn that she has magical powers that will change their lives in amazing ways.. With the help of the doll, the sisters discover the true meaning of the Christmas spirit.

## **The Christmas Doll Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2002 by Scholastic Paperbacks (first published 2000)

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Author : Elvira Woodruff , Troy Howl

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## From Reader Review The Christmas Doll for online ebook

### Debra says

A touching story about a very bleak time for orphaned children in Victorian England. I have always enjoyed the books of Elivira Woodruff and I wanted a Christmas book to add to my holiday enjoyment. This started out very sadly, much in the mood of Dickens' A Christmas Carol, and only got sadder as the two little sisters escaped from the workhouse to avoid the spreading sickness that was killing off several children a day. The introduction of several kindnesses of strangers and their muck digging unearthing a porcelain headed doll turned the story. The entrance of Nick Button, an enterprising young man, who befriended them and shared his meager food and earnings, as well as his street smarts, was uplifting. The relentless hope and cheer from the little girls was wonderful. I know it is very predictable, but it is Christmas and I enjoyed the warm ending.

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### Izzy An says

I loved this heart warming story. Even though these two orphans went through difficult times, and even more difficult people, these two sisters love for each other encouraged them to push on for a better future. I loved how their hard work and courage paid off in such a cruel world. It's a Christmas story that would warm anyone's heart.

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### Alleluialu says

My daughter told me I should read this book last year when I was doing the Christmas Spirit Reading Challenge, but I never got to it. So, I decided to read it this year. It is the story of two orphan girls who escape the workhouse and live on the streets in the city. The elder, Lucy, got a job at a doll's shop when she went in to try to sell a doll she had found in the mud. She happened to be wearing her sister Glory's apron upon which she had stitched a little Morning Glory flower. The shopkeeper noticed the flower and was convinced that Lucy had talent for stitching and could be their Hearts Girl for the Christmas season. I know I have told a bit about the story, but there is so much more to tell. It's a sad, but sweet story about the sisters' love for each other and the hope that kept them alive. I know it is a children's book, but it was such a satisfying read for this Christmas season.

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### Reham La-yramo says

The first book I ever bought...I think I was in grade four...I still remember every page clearly because I read over 10 times... it's very inspiring and sad at the same time... I cried through the while book because it was just so touching.

I love how lucy describes the little things that are so important to her being and orphan and her love towards her sister is what gave them the will to survive the cold London streets.

My dad has donated away my copy of this book :( I'd pay anything to have a copy now

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**Tisha (IG: Bluestocking629) says**

While extremely predictable it was a very sweet story with an all too forgotten message: 'tis better to give than receive.

It's a pretty sad story throughout most of the book. I don't have kids so I can't say if it's too sad for certain ages but be cautious.

Enjoyable Christmas read.

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**Brittany says**

Children's book (possibly intended for ages 8-14). Won at a library giveaway as an adult so I read it! It is a beautiful, heartwarming story and I will save it for my kids to read when they were older! Definitely recommend it!

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**Manybooks says**

While many if not most of the general themes of this slight little story, of Elvira Woodruff's The Christmas Doll are indeed interesting enough, and while it does paint a generally realistic enough picture of poverty and workhouse conditions of/in late 19th century London, the story itself is just much too melodramatic and implausible for my own personal tastes. For the painful and heartbreaking reality of the two orphaned sisters' in all ways massively desperate plight is in my humble opinion rather trivialised and with that also much diluted by the fact that they very smoothly and seamlessly manage to escape from the workhouse, almost immediately find a trusty friend and then of course a sympathetic doll-making spinster to adopt them (and thus The Christmas Doll feels more like one is reading a fantasy, a fairy tale, than reality, and while I do think that author Elvira Woodruff actually seems to consider her story as a piece of reality, perhaps feel-good reality, but reality all the same, personally, I simply cannot see and feel this all that much myself). That being said, I was still considering ranking The Christmas Doll with a low three star rating until I stumbled upon the epilogue (which is not only saccharine sweet to the extreme and even more implausible than the main body of the narrative, but also reads at least to me, as something more akin and alike to a homily or church sermon). And thus, while The Christmas Doll might well be of interest and enjoyable to those who like so-called doll fiction and totally feel-good Christmas stories, for a tale that on the surface appears to strive to be realistic, to and for me, The Christmas Doll is simply much too sugar-coated, too good to be true to be more than a two star reading experience at best.

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**Rebekah Morris says**

3.5 stars

My heart goes out to these two sisters, and though the beginning is a bit hard to read because of the harsh conditions, the middle of the book begins to warm things, and by the end a cozy feeling leaves me satisfied.

There really isn't any "magical powers" in this story. And it's not a Christian book, so the true story of Christmas is not very well presented. However there is a good message about Christmas. The two sisters, Lucy and Glory are both so sweet and kind. It is a tender story of hardship, friendship, and family.

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### **Alyssa Bloedow says**

This book is written by an author named Elvira Woodruff. She has written many books including "The Christmas Doll". This story can compare to my life because i had lost a doll from when i was about three years old. I had recently cleaned my closet and had found it. I was so happy about finding her because i got her from my uncle and she meant so much to me.

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### **Hilary says**

Read aloud to my daughter, I would perhaps rate 3 but she thought nearer 4 stars. This book had all the ingredients we love for a story, orphans, escape from cruel orphanage, dolls, christmas, happy ending etc, but it was so short, and events happened in a quick and predictable way. The escape from the orphanage was decided and then they escaped. We would have liked to have been on the edge of our seats a bit, enjoying their planning and wondering if they would make it. There are some parts where the girls act selflessly that are unrealistic and bordering on the nauseating. There were some historical inaccuracies and I was surprised that someone called someone else a tosspot, I can only assume this has a different meaning in the US !

This book felt like it was a rough draft of what could be quite a fun story, but really needed filling out with lots more detail and day to day life. We liked the idea of the doll shop though and lots of reviews are really positive about this book.

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### **Donna says**

The Christmas Doll is a story about two orphans who were being brought to a factory and were forced to work there. It's setting is in London, where the time is 150 years ago, and it was a very dark society at that time. The were sisters, and everyday the factory they had very less food to eat, and the quality of the food is very poor. Then the younger sister got sick and was being separated from her sister. And this led to the escape of the two sisters from the factory. After the escape they had to survive on their own, and really quickly, the older sister had found a job in a doll shop, where the owner is very nice to her, and she gets to sleep in the shop over night, then at night she would just invite her young sister in and in the day time her younger sister would stay on the streets.

I think this is a really touching story, where the older sister always takes care of the younger one, and never gives up on her. The story is called the christmas doll because before the two sister's parents died they used to own a doll and this doll was what kept them alive and they would want to find it again, because they lost it when being forced to work in the factory. Soon they found it in the older sister's doll shop, and that why the story is called the christmas doll.

I learned a lot from this story, where I got to know no matter how hard life is, we should never give up, and also never give up on the people around you. I think this book is really good, and I really enjoyed it, I would

highly recommend this book to the people around me.

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### **Clare says**

This tender story takes place in mid 1800's London where two orphaned sisters escape from the workhouse where they lived to try to make it on their own. London back then was not a kind place for those down on their luck, but Lucy, the older sister is determined to keep her little sister Glory safe even in the desperate situation in which they now find themselves.

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### **Cynthia Egbert says**

I love a good Christmas cry and this sweet story provided just that for me today. A perfect Christmas Eve read! It reminds me of O. Henry's Gift of the Magi with the gentle twist at the end and it is just a sweet little tale. It is melodramatic and unrealistic in some ways but it feels like a fairy tale and I loved it.

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### **Amy Best says**

My kids and I found this book engaging and sweet, with a sweet demonstration of sacrificial love at the end.

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### **Shannon says**

This was a cute story and I can tell I would have loved it when I was a child. There was a stark contrast throughout the book though. There were descriptions of what life was like for orphaned children in Victorian England, including multiple cases of death. Somehow, though, the story was almost sickeningly sweet. I'm not sure if it was the characterizations or the plotline, but it really soften the harshness of the girls' situations.

Still, I'm 29, and this book wasn't written for me. I can still read books with the perspective I had when I was younger, and as I said before, I know I would have loved this when I was in elementary school. It's a lovely story about family and staying true to your own standards of decency and kindness under terrible circumstances.

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