



The Gift

Cecelia Ahern

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Step into the magical world of Cecelia Ahern.

If you could wish for one gift this Christmas, what would it be?

Everyday Lou Suffern battled with the clock. He always had two places to be at the same time. He always had two things to do at once. When asleep he dreamed. In between dreams, he ran through the events of the day while making plans for the next. When at home with his wife and family, his mind was always someplace else.

On his way into work one early winter morning, Lou meets Gabe, a homeless man sitting outside the office building. Intrigued by him and on discovering that he could also be very useful to have around, Lou gets Gabe a job in the post room.

But soon Lou begins to regret helping Gabe. His very presence unsettles Lou and how does Gabe appear to be in two places at the same time?

As Christmas draws closer, Lou starts to understand the value of time. He sees what is truly important in life yet at the same time he learns the harshest lesson of all.

This is a story about people who not unlike parcels, hide secrets. They cover themselves in layers until the right person unwraps them and discovers what's inside. Sometimes you have to be unravelled in order to find out who you really are. For Lou Suffern, that took time.

The Gift Details

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Author : Cecelia Ahern

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From Reader Review The Gift for online ebook

Adam says

Post-listen review:

Cute baby reaching for an ornament? check

Turkey chucked at someone? check

(Those first two were impressively accomplished in the first track.)

Overworked family man who would be happy if he could only focus on said family instead of work? check.

Homeless man who is really an angel? check.

The lesson that time with loved ones is more precious than packaged goods, success, status or financial gain? check.

A miracle that makes the man realize his mistakes before it is too late? check.

Ghosts? Well not a check but the use of a clone instead to accomplish essentially the same goal as A Christmas Carol.

The imparting of life's wisdom upon the turkey chucker? check.

The sickening feeling that we have read this story and it was much better when Mr. Charles Dickens wrote it? Check and double check.

A side note to the wife in this story: If your husband has an affair with the nanny, leave him before he has time for an angel to visit him cause he really isn't a nice person.

Pre-listen guess:

I think this is going to be hard to take. I am not that big on Christmas stories but apparently this is one. It feels out of season since it is August, but hey maybe it will be something to listen to in December.

Cri (PaperbacksandPizza) says

English/Italiano

First of all, I have to say I am not a native english speaker so, please, I prefer to not be attacked, if I made any mistakes. Instead of do that, it would be nice if you corrected me, thank you :)

“Time is more precious than gold, more precious than diamonds, more precious than oil or any valuable treasures. It is time that we do not have enough of; it is time that causes the war within our hearts, and so we must spend it wisely.”

Here we go again with another Cecelia Ahern book! I realized **I’ve missed reading her books** until I read this one. I won’t *ever* stop saying **Cecelia Ahern is a brilliant author and, unfortunately, she is so much underrated**, as she *doesn’t* deserve. I picked this book up mostly because it was by Cecelia Ahern, I admit that. The thing with her books it’s that you become addicted to her writing style and always want to read *more*. ~~Basically, Cecelia Ahern’s books are my drug, guys.~~ I guess everyone has their obsessions and here’s mine.

Apart from this embarrassing confession of mine, I’d like to talk about **the plot**. This is a **Christmas set book**, that talks about Lou, a man so busy with work that he’s arrived to ignore and put aside his family, along with his marriage and his own children. One day he meets an homeless and, finds himself pitying for him, he gives this homeless a job in the same company of his. Strange things will happen from the moment on Gabe- the homeless- is hired.

LIKES:

- It’s a Cecelia Ahern’s book after all, so *of course* **I loved the writing style!** Beautiful sentences everywhere, I would have underlined all the book. Cecelia Ahern has a writing style that gets you involved *completely* in the story, in fact I imagined all the scenes in the book like there weren’t *actually* fiction, like they were happening all *around* me, I got immersed in the story.
- **Cecelia Ahern’s books are always written to teach you something**, they always contain a moral. The moral that occurs in the book is about time. About ambition and money too. The protagonist wants to be the best at his work to get more money and sure this thing does nothing bad to his family, but spending time with our beloved ones is important too. About time, she teaches us the way it should be used: *not wasting it*.
- **There is a little bit of magic that characterizes Cecelia Ahern books** and it fit perfectly well, since it’s a Christmas related story and Christmas *has always been* a magic time of the year.
- Another thing that I liked were **the characters**. Lou, Gabe, Ruth and all the family members are perfectly characterized and also pretty enjoyable to read.
- Along with the theme of time, **this book teaches how much family is important**. Family basically is the only thing we see at Christmas so it makes this book a *perfect* Christmas related read!

DISLIKES:

- *I know* I have previously said that the writing style is captivating, but at first, **I was a little bit bored**. *Oops*. I found it surprising too, considering *which* person wrote this book *coffs* Cecelia Ahern *coffs* (~~how many times did I typed 'Cecelia Ahern' in this review? So many, I knowww~~).

- Themes like family makes it a Christmas related read, but **I wanted to see more atmosphere**. More Christmas magic. More Christmas related activity: what people actually do at Christmas, come on, I just wanted **more Christmas vibes**.

Anyway, I *don't* understand why some people say this book disappointed them and wasn't like any other book by Cecelia Ahern (!). I continue to recommend to everyone this brilliant author because I need more people who loves her books, acknowledges her books as works of art, *as THEY DESERVE*.

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Italiano

“Il tempo ci riscalda e, quando è finito, ci lascia freddi. È più prezioso dell'oro, dei diamanti, più prezioso del petrolio o di qualsiasi tesoro. Il tempo non ci basta mai; il tempo crea dei conflitti nei nostri cuori e quindi dobbiamo usarlo saggiamente.”

Eccoci con un altro libro di Cecelia Ahern! Non ho realizzato che **mi era davvero mancato leggere i suoi libri** finché non ho letto questo qua. Non smetterò *mai* di dire che **Cecelia Ahern è una autrice geniale e che è anche, purtroppo, una autrice sottovalutata**, come *non* merita. Ho scelto di leggere questo libro maggiormente perché lo ha scritto Cecelia Ahern, lo ammetto. La cosa dei suoi libri è che diventi dipendente dal suo stile di scrittura e vuoi sempre leggere *di più*. ~~Praticamente, i libri di Cecelia Ahern sono la mia droga, ragazzi.~~ Credo che ognuno abbia le sue ossessioni ed ecco la mia.

Tralasciando questa mia confessione imbarazzante, vorrei parlare della **trama**. Questo è un libro con **ambientazione natalizia**, che parla di Lou, un uomo così occupato con il suo lavoro che è arrivato perfino a ignorare e a mettere da parte la sua famiglia, insieme al suo matrimonio e i suoi stessi figli. Un giorno incontra un senzatetto e, scopre se stesso provare pietà per lui, gli dà un lavoro nella sua stessa compagnia. Cose strane succederanno dal momento in cui Gabe- il senzatetto- è assunto.

COSE CHE MI SONO PIACIUTE:

- È un libro di Cecelia Ahern dopotutto, quindi **certo che ho amato lo stile di scrittura!** Bellissime frasi ognidove, avrei sottolineato tutto il libro. Cecelia Ahern ha uno stile di scrittura che ti sa coinvolgere

completamente nella storia, infatti ho immaginato tutte le scene del libro come se non fossero *esattamente* finzione, come se stessero succedendo tutto *intorno* a me, ero immersa nella storia.

- **I libri di Cecelia Ahern sono stati scritti per insegnarti qualcosa sempre**, contengono sempre una morale. La morale che è presente nel libro è a proposito del tempo. Anche sui soldi e sull'ambizione. Il protagonista vuole essere il migliore a lavoro per ottenere più soldi e ovviamente ciò non reca nessun danno alla famiglia, ma trascorrere del tempo con i nostri cari è anche molto importante. Sul tempo, ci insegna il modo in cui deve essere usato: *cioè non sprecandolo*.
- **C'è sempre un po' di magia che caratterizza i libri di Cecelia Ahern** e ha funzionato così bene, dato che è una storia incentrata sul Natale e il Natale è *sempre stato* un momento magico dell'anno.
- Un'altra cosa che mi è piaciuta sono **i personaggi**. Lou, Gabe, Ruth e tutti i membri della famiglia sono perfettamente caratterizzati e anche molto piacevoli da leggere.
- Insieme al tema del tempo, **questo libro ti insegna quanto sia importante la famiglia**. La famiglia è praticamente l'unica cosa che vediamo a Natale quindi ciò lo rende una *perfetta* lettura di Natale!

COSE CHE NON MI SONO PIACIUTE:

- So che ho precedentemente detto che lo stile di scrittura è affascinante, ma all'inizio, **ero un po' annoiata**. Ops. L'ho trovato sorprendente anche io, considerando *quale* persona ha scritto questo libro *coffs* Cecelia Ahern *coffs* (~~quante volte ho digitato 'Cecelia Ahern' in questa recensione? Troppe, lo so~~).
- Temi come la famiglia lo rendono una lettura relativa al Natale, ma **volevo vedere più atmosfera**. Più magia del Natale. Più attività relative al Natale: cosa fanno le persone a Natale, dai, volevo soltanto **più Christmas vibes**.

Comunque, io *non* capisco perché alcune persone dicono che questo libro li abbia delusi e che non era come gli altri libri di Cecelia Ahern (!). Continuo a consigliare questa geniale autrice perché ho bisogno di più persone che amino i suoi libri, che li riconoscano come capolavori, *come MERITANO*.

Isaura Pereira says

Decidi começar o mês de leituras natalícias por este livro. Um livro um pouco mais espiritual do que estou habituada. Mas esta é a altura do ano em que gosto de ler este tipo de livros.

Confesso que o início foi um pouco confuso. Senti-me um pouco perdida e não estava a "entrar" na história e não sentia qualquer ligação com as personagens. Só mais para o final (e este é um livro relativamente pequeno) é que sento uma súbita ligação com esta história.

Um livro com elementos espirituais que nos faz questionar a nosso papel na vida e o que realmente queremos. Um livro com uma mensagem bonita adequada para esta altura do ano. Mas se tivesse lido este livro noutra altura o resultado não teria sido o mesmo.

Jenny says

On the back of this book it says "An instant holiday classic" so you think you'll be in for a nice and cozy type of read. Heck no! I mean I would say 95% of the book is great but as soon as you realize how it's going to end you're like "WTF?" I stayed up late finishing it b/c I kept thinking there is no way it's going to end like I think it is but it did. Yes, the overall message is great but the outcome of this particular story is not something you want on your mind as you're trying to fall asleep. I was hoping I didn't dream about it and luckily I didn't. I normally love Cecelia Ahern's books but her newer books just aren't as good as her first couple. I hope she isn't losing her "magic".

Anna says

I found that book today on a bookshelf and it reminded me of some great time I had during reading it...

Lou is the main character, who is an arrogant and busy 24/7 man. He is not happy with his life, he always wants more, he tries to do more, but actually he forgets what he already has.... especially his family: his wife Ruth and their two young children. Especially his one year old son is crying when he approaches, not recognizing any familiarity with his father.

Life goes on, until one day, before Christmas, he meets Gabe, a homeless man - the good ghost from the tale - that changes his cosmos completely....

A heartbroken page-turner that reminds us that people in our life need to come first - BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST we need to be patient and careful whatever we do!

Jennifer says

Cecelia Ahern's *The Gift* is a lovely addition to holiday fiction. It leaves readers with a beautiful message about how precious and impactful the gift of time is. Not just time on this earth, but the time you purposefully set aside for those who give your life quality and purpose. Nurture those relationships before you lose them. *The Gift* is worth the read. Check it out!

My favorite quote:

"Time is more precious than gold, more precious than diamonds, more precious than oil or any valuable treasures. It is time that we do not have enough of; it is time that causes the war within our hearts, and so we must spend it wisely."

Nicka (Read by Nicka) says

"Time is more precious than gold, more precious than diamonds, more precious than oil or any valuable treasures. It is time that we do not have enough of; it is time that causes the war within our hearts, and so we must spend it wisely."

Time cannot be packaged and ribboned and left under trees for Christmas morning.

Time can't be given. But it can be shared."

Yet again another beautifully crafted novel by my favorite author Cecelia Ahern!

The Gift follows the story or should I say stories of a very "busy" man named Lou Suffern, Gabe, Raphie & The Turkey Boy in the most unexpected time of the year. I love how the story intertwines with another story in this book, it's like a story within a story. The way the author wrote this novel just blew me away, I mean the whole plot of the story is not new to me I read a couple of books that has the same thing going on but the way she wrote this made a very huge difference from the other stories that I have read. The author didn't have to try hard to make her novel realistic because it just is. There were times that I thought some events in this book was very unrealistic but she handled it very well, you would understand why she did that. The plot twist made me cry and realize a lot of things. I didn't expect that to happen, it is indeed one heck of a roller coaster ride of feels!

This book just made me realize a lot of things, it has shown me the true value of time, family and all the things that surrounds you. We have to give importance to those that is a part of our lives, we shouldn't take them for granted. You have to give yourself to someone in order for you to know who you really are, as a gift perhaps. Sometimes you have to unravel things to get to the core.

I really really really enjoyed this book! It was definitely perfect for the holiday season, you can feel the Christmas vibe in this book! I hope you can give this book a try!

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO ALL OF YOU TO READ AT LEAST ONE OF CECELIA AHERN'S

Labijose says

Cuento de navidad, con su mensaje moral, muy al estilo de la autora, lo cual salva al relato de ser descartado por completo.

Nos encontramos con Lou Suffern, una especie de Don Draper (Mad Men en TV), que vive por y para el trabajo, dejando sus obligaciones familiares de lado, hasta que un día encuentra a un vagabundo por la calle, y tras una breve charla decide ofrecerle un puesto de trabajo en su empresa.

Lo que sigue es más o menos como os podéis imaginar. Gabe, el vagabundo, le hará comprender lo equivocado de sus prioridades, y cómo debe valorar el tiempo en detrimento de la codicia, para disfrutar de la vida y hacer felices a aquellos que le quieren.

Se deja leer, porque la autora sabe aderezar la novela con sus elementos habituales. Poco más se puede decir a su favor.

Iris Blobel says

A must read for Cecelia Ahern Fans!

I loved the book because after I had read the previous few books, I fell in love with Cecelia's stories yet again.

It's a common story: a busy husband and father, with a big career, wants everything, yet bigger and better, and not getting his priorities right. His family and health are suffering. Lou at some stage lost the ability to live until he meets Gabriel, or Gabe, a man living on the streets. After this his life changes forever....

Cecilia Ahern always adds some magic into her books. I wasn't able to put "The Gift" down. The story could be compared to a modern fairytale, and I believe almost everyone would be able to identify themselves with Lou, the main character. Even though the story seems very far fetched, it is something we have come to like about Cecelia's books. The story will make you reflect on your life - Lou's life could be my life or your life. It reminds all of us that we have to re-focus on the important things in life again, like family, and not let it slip away - we only have one and should do the most with it!

The book is written in a style you've come to expect from Cecelia: easy, with parts that make you laugh, cry but also makes you think. I really liked it and can't wait to start her latest book "The book of tomorrow".

Liberty K says

This book guys, THIS BOOK hit me right in the feels! It deserves one thousand stars not only five!

This book was everything I wanted and I didn't even know. It was the perfect holiday Christmassy read but at the same time not cheesy with the happily ever after effect but very helpful to understand that time with the loved ones is the only gift anyone ever have in life!

Colleen Scidmore says

Actual rating 3.50-3.75 stars

This book was so much better than I had anticipated. I have read one other book by Cecelia Ahern just a couple of months ago and I was pretty disappointed. So when starting this book I was expecting the same kind of outcome. But I was pleasantly surprised.

This book was pretty well written.

I loved the beginning how it starts off on one story that I thought the book was about but ends up being taking you down a whole different route.

I really hated Lou in the beginning I thought he was a selfish self-centered jerk but mid story I actually came to like him a bit and at the end of the book was absolutely balling behind his story line.

The Gift really makes you take a look at your priorities and think about what's really important. Making something of yourself at the cost of everyone around you or trying to be there and cherish the people you love.

Miss Ahern wrote about today's everyday person living in a modern world where careers are so very important and spun it into a magical story that I had no idea that it was headed in the direction it did.

I'm so glad I gave this author another try. I am definitely looking forward to more of her books.

Fatema Meamari says

Cecelia Ahern is a very clever, creative writer. I really admire her work. It's pretty awesome. When you look at her covers, you don't expect much (At least that's how it was with me). You expect just another romantic comedy with all the gooey, cheesy, lovey-dovey romantic parts. Trust me, that is FAR from the case.

Her books are wonderful. They deal with serious issues and serious problems. Real-life, every day shit. She also throws in a little bit of magic and intrigue. Her books have this creepy, eerie effect that I love. And most importantly they are not stupidly and hopelessly romantic in any way. *Insert cheers and applause here*

About this novel. The ending was very sad. It's a moralistic kind of novel, and I liked that about it. I especially loved the final paragraph. It was very.. Shaking. I didn't really hate Lou, like I thought I would when I heard about the book and all. I actually pitied him. He lost track of his life and was living for nothing.. He didn't experience true joy or happiness and lived for his work. He hurt himself and the people around him on a daily basis. It was really unfortunate. But, he got a second chance. He got "the gift of time". He got a chance to make things right before he was gone for good. And I think everyone would want that. But, unfortunately we can't really have that most of the time. And the point of this book, I think, is to rattle us and make us aware of that. That time is slipping away, and that we won't get a second chance to make it right, we won't get extra time.. We need to make things right.. now. We need to be happy and live for a reason and not just watch our lives waste away. No matter how young or old.

I don't have much to say except that Cecelia is a very clever writer. And she writes meaningful things, not stupid, sappy, pointless, romantic crap.

Mochizuki says

After reading Cecelia Ahern's novels 'Book of Tomorrow' and 'P.S I Love You', I was looking forward to reading another. Her books are so easy to read and leave you feeling really uplifted and The Gift definitely does that.

I was a little dubious about reading a Christmas novel in July but towards the end I really got into the festive spirit! An utterly fantastic book that gives out a fabulous message about the gift of time which really made me think as I turned each page. The descriptive writing about the festive season made me feel like it was Christmas and I have to admit, I felt a little sad to peel back my curtain and see the sunshine outside!

I am very busy during the day but once I started reading I couldn't put it down. I was putting off chores to read 'just one more chapter' ! It keeps you engrossed from the onset, just wanting to know what was going to happen next. It may be a bit far-fetched but when you have finished the book you do really see things in life a bit differently because we are all guilty of 'being too busy' ! I highly recommend this book !

Sara says

This book is for you if:

you are in the mood for a good old Christmas-ly cry

you feel introspective and open to reflect on the sense of life

you want to reconnect with family values

you want something that will remind you what are the important things in life

This book is NOT for you if:

you need something easy-breezy with no drama

you DO NOT want to cry

you're looking for more of a happily ever after novel

you are looking for a girl-meets-boy novel

I enjoyed this book, it reduced me into tears, I was on a plane and had to contain myself not to sob loudly in front of everybody.

Ahern initial description of the quiet street on Christmas morning was sublime.

Overall, a sad book with plenty of moral... but one of the good ones

Nicolette says

THE GIFT

By Cecelia Ahern

(HarperCollins)

THIS book caught my eye with its silver wrapping-paper effect hardcover of shiny snowflakes and bright red ribbon tied in a bow to look like the perfect gift.

This touching novel focuses on a man who comes to realise that some parts of his life can only bring him to ruin.

Businessman Lou Suffern always has to be in two places at the same time. He catches the beginning of one meeting or function so that he can be there at the end of another.

His womanising and drinking ways mean Lou spends even less time with his wife and two small children.

One cold winter morning he stops outside his office building to give his coffee to a beggar, Gabe. Later he offers Gabe a job in the company's post room.

Gabe keeps challenging Lou to spend more time with his family, and eventually gives him some tablets that split Lou in two for a day so he can be in two places at the same time.

The moral of the book is that time is a gift. We do not have enough of it so we must spend our time wisely, share it with family and friends.

If *The Gift* was set at any other time of the year it may have been seen as a bit corny or far-fetched, but it is fiction and since it takes place around Christ-mas it truly is a magical read.

Cecelia Ahern is the author of *PS I Love You*, which became an international bestseller and was turned into a film starring Hilary Swank. Her other novels include *Where Rainbows End*, *If You Could See Me Now*, *A Place Called Here* and *Thanks for the Memories*. — Nicolette Scrooby

(Published in the Daily Dispatch on January 17, 2009)

Julie says

I wanted something easy to read on public transport and this certainly ticked that box. I finished it before even adding it to my 'currently reading' on this site!

The protagonist is fallible, something I always think makes a book interesting, and all the characters are somewhat believable, but it was very hard to find anything warm or likeable in them. The people and the settings made me feel uncomfortable somehow. Perhaps they was supposed to.

I suppose it's easy to be cynical about the character of Gabe in his mysterious guardian angel role, and I understand the whole point of this story is to emulate a type of Scrooge story in the city; a man who goes through an experience that forces him to see the world differently and prompts him to want to turn over a new-leaf. You have to introduce an element of magic and suspend disbelief to achieve that, that's fine. It's even set at Christmas time! It only narrowly avoids the cheesiness of a Hollywood Christmas movie by its ending, but by that point, I actually wanted to see the new leaf pan out and the characters to live happily ever after.

I felt Gabe was under developed and could have thrown in a couple of jokes just to make him more likable.

The concept that the whole story is being narrated between some barely connected characters based in a police station was distracting and did not work, to my mind.

This book left a bad taste in my mouth mostly because of the tone of the author. She patronisingly lectures about the lessons we ought to have learned on this insightful journey she has been so good to lead us through

(!). I don't believe the message that time is precious and you should appreciate your loved ones was something most people needed to be told by an over privileged chick lit author.

I've neither read or watched PS. I Love You so I have no prior expectations except that I assumed since it had been so phenomenally successful, the writing of the author must be good. Unfortunately I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I would, but perhaps if I'm basing my judgement on my perception of the success of another book, I ought to have read that one instead.

Marina says

Boooring.

Λ?να Θωμ?ρη says

Τα βιβλ?α της Ahern ε?ναι ελπιδοφ?ρα βιβλ?α. Ε?ναι βιβλ?α που μ?σα τους κρ?βουν μαθ?ματα ζω?ς και αλ?θειες πασπαλισμ?νες με δ?σεις φαντασ?ας και μαγε?ας. Ε?ναι βιβλ?α που ?λλοτε ε?ναι χαρο?μενα, ?λλοτε νοσταλγικ?, ?λλοτε θλιμμ?να. Αυτ? το βιβλ?ο ε?ναι ?λα αυτ? που αν?φερα πιο π?νω.

Η Ahern σε αυτ? το βιβλ?ο μας γνωρ?ζει τον Λου. ?ναν ?ντρα που δουλε?ει 30 ?ρες το 24ωρο, που θ?λει να π?ει ?σο πιο μπροστ? γ?νεται. Που ?χει χ?σει λ?γο-πολ? την μπ?λα. Ξεν?χτια, συσκ?ψεις, ραντεβο? (τ?σο επαγγελματικ? ?σο και προσωπικ?), γρ?γορα αυτοκ?νητα, ονειρεμ?νο σπ?τι, μια γυνά?κα, 2 παιδι? και μια οικογ?νεια οι οπο?οι, βλ?πουμε, ?τι ε?ναι στην τελευτα?α θ?ση στην ζω? του.

Αλαζ?νας, εγωκεντρικ?ς, επ?μονος, εγωιστ?ς και γενικ? ?νθρωπος που δεν εκτιμ?ει ο?τε σ?βεται τ?ποτα και καν?ναν π?ρα απ? την δουλει? του.

Διαβ?ζοντας αυτ? τον απα?σιο χαρακτ?ρα απ?ρησα το ?τι ε?χε και οικογ?νεια. Πως ?να τ?τοιο ?τομο κατ?φερε και ερωτε?τηκε, παντρε?τηκε και ?κανε δ?ο παιδι?. Η κατ?σταση στο σπ?τι του ε?ναι τ?σο τεταμ?νη που ο?τε ο 1μιση χρον?ν γιος του δεν φα?νεται να τον αναγνωρ?ζει.

Μ?χρι που ?να πρω? γνωρ?ζει τον Γκ?ιμπ.... και σαν απ? θα?μα η ζω? του αρχ?ζει και πα?ρνει διαφορετικ? ρ?τα.

Οι τελευτα?ες σελ?δες διαβ?στηκαν αν?μεσα με αναφίλητ? και χαρτομ?ντηλα... και ?σως μια σπιθαμ?ς συμπ?θειας για τον Λου.

Adela Cacovean says

Am cump?rat aceast? carte în momentul în care a ap?rut în libr?rii, îns? din diverse motive, m-am apucat tot de altele ?i am reu?it s? o citesc în vacan?a intersemestrial?. Din motive de timp, sau mai exact lipsa lui, scriu doar acum despre ea.

În ziua de Cr?ciun, sergentul Raphael O'Reilly ?i Jessica Rabbit sunt de serviciu. La sec?ie este adus un

adolescent, care aruncase un curcan înghețat prin fereastra tatălui său, aproape răcind-o pe sora lui vitregă, pe motiv că tatăl său anulase cina cu el și mama sa pentru a sta cu noua lui familie. Raphael crede că tânărului rebel i-ar trebui o lecție, așa că hotărăște să-i povestească o întâmplare din care el a învățat multe. Lou Suffern este un om de afaceri mereu ocupat. Pentru el, cel mai important este să fie promovată la serviciu, ignorându-și astfel soția și copiii. Niciodată nu este atent la ce se întâmplă în jurul lui, fiind preocupat numai de afacerile sale. Însă într-o dimineață îi oferă o cafea unui om al străzii, pe nume Gabe. Mai târziu în aceea zi, reușește să îi facă acestuia rost de un loc de muncă, în același loc unde era angajat și el. Gabe pare să reușească să fie în două locuri în același timp și se implică în viața personală a lui Lou. În apropierea Crăciunului, Gabe îi oferă un cadou minunat lui Lou, un cadou cu adevărat magic. Lou va învăța cât de prețios este timpul și va încerca să recâștige dragostea și încrederea familiei.

Ceea ce mi-a plăcut la această carte, aparent cu happy-ending, a fost sfârșitul total neașteptat, întorsătura de situație din ultimele câteva zeci de pagini, care au făcut din Cadoul o adevărată lecție de viață.

Ashton Gibbs ♥ BB&B says

The Gift – Cecelia Ahern

Admittedly, I, like so many others before me, seem to associate Cecelia Ahern with lovely, girly books, especially with the gorgeous covers her books always have. This is far from the case. Her books are incredibly touching, the writing is clever and this book in particular is a fabulous example of how her books can be **moralistic with a magical touch**.

The Gift centres on the story of Lou Suffern, as told through the eyes of someone else. Lou is your stereotypical over-working business man; he constantly needs to be in two places at once, strives to always be bigger and better, and relieves himself with his womanising ways. As a result, his family take a backseat and suffer, all the while standing by him waiting for things to change. And things may just change once Lou meets Gabe, the mysterious homeless man who sits outside his office building...

“One thing of great importance can affect a small number of people. Equally so, a thing of little importance can affect a multitude. Either way, a happening big or small can affect an entire string of people.”

Ahern is a wonderfully gifted writer with a writing style that is easy and enjoyable to follow through her magical tales. I found myself **submerged in her story telling** straight from the opening chapter. During the beginning of the book, she describes the warmth and calmness of Christmas with beautiful imagery, and manages to get you to feel that warmth inside as you read along. Although this book is set at Christmas time, it's not exactly Christmas themed, though that didn't stop me feeling the Christmas spirit as I read the first three paragraphs.

The interesting thing about this book is that the protagonist is not necessarily likeable and can be difficult to

empathize with, yet we, as a reader, find ourselves willing him to succeed in improving himself. Personally, I continued to dislike Lou throughout the full book, and yet I found myself completely invested in him, and found I was rooting for him for his family's sake rather than his.

“A lesson finds the common denominator and links us all together, like a chain. At the end of that chain dangles a clock, and on the face of the clock registers the passing of time. **We see it and we hear it, the hushed tick-tock, but often we don't feel it.** Each second makes its mark on every single person's life comes and then goes, quietly disappearing without fanfare, evaporating into air like steam from a piping hot Christmas pudding. Enough time leaves us warm; when our time is gone, it leaves us cold.”

This is a magical tale, a wonderful Christmas read, and although far-fetched, it definitely gets the intended message across - *there is nothing more valuable than time*. Time can't be borrowed and returned, you can't buy it back. Once your time is spent, there's no grabbing it back, and for that reason, we need to value it more than anything. The issues addressed in the book are real life issues, and all of the characters were so realistic and believable. It was enough to bring a tear to my eye in closing chapter. I'm just a big softie!

So if you're looking for a touching Christmas read when the time comes along this year, I highly recommend this book, and if you've already read it, I'd love to know what you thought of the ending? :)

“Time can't be given. But it can be shared.”
