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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

THINGS TO DO:

- Decorate the tree
- Hang Christmas Lights
- Decide on a menu (or what you're bringing)
- Wrap all the presents (or give money)
- Snuggle up with a good book
- Adopt a family
- Hide the elf
- Send out cards, newsletters or emails
- Finish your shopping
- Mail your packages
- Find your ugly sweater
- Bake Cookies
- Call an old friend
- Invite someone to dinner (someone who is alone this year or a member of our armed services)

Quick & Easy Holiday Ideas



And if you're a trivia fan, here are a few tidbits for you:

Traditional stocking stuffers for "good" children included bags of chocolate coins, a candy cane, nuts, oranges, toys and games. If you were bad, you got a lump of coal.

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is still a popular Christmas song written in 1963 by Edward Pola and George Wyle. Pop singer Andy Williams recorded and released it that year for his first Christmas album, The Andy Williams Christmas Album.

In the United States, over 2 billion Christmas cards are sent each year!

How many ornaments does it take to decorate a 6 1/2' tree? 70-105 pieces. For a 7 1/2' tree? 105-140, and for 9-10 feet? 175-210

How many cookies does Santa eat every Christmas? Try 3 million. No wonder he's on the heavy side.

Legend has it that the candy cane came to be around 1679 in Cologne, Germany. The choirmaster handed out sticks to his young singers to keep them quiet during the ceremony. He bent them to represent shepherds' crooks.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," was written as an editorial by Francis Church in response to a letter eight-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon wrote to the New York newspaper, The Sun, in 1897.

Which company was the first to use Santa in its advertising? Coco cola.

Books make a great gift!

Order all three books through Amazon or your local bookstore.



And to quote Erma Bombeck, "It'll be a good Christmas. We'll eat too much. Make a mess in the living room. Throw the warranties into the fire by mistake. Drive the dog crazy taping bows to his tail. Return cookies to the plate with a bite out of them. Listen to Christmas music."

Here's wishing all of you a wonderful holiday, however you celebrate it...

Chrysteen

P.S. If you know someone who loves to read, please forward this!



A Review of The Starlet in Cabin Number 7

Richly-drawn story of the secrets harbored in rustic California cabins.

"Braun concludes her Guest Book trilogy (after *The Girls in Cabin Number Three*) with a picturesque look at Lake Arrowhead, California, as a woman makes some unusual discoveries about the cabins she owns. In 1980, Annie Parker purchases cabins in the California mountains as a fresh start following her divorce from David. While there, Annie meets Noah and eventually moves in with him.

Though Annie's older sister Loni died recently, Annie feels somewhat guilty that she isn't particularly sad about the loss, blaming her lack of emotion on their broken relationship. But Annie is pleasantly surprised when her childhood friend Sarah Jones comes for a visit and ends up staying on, becoming romantically involved with Noah's friend Josh.

Annie discovers the fascinating history behind the cabins, a key component of the series, when Hudson Fisher and his wife Constance visit Annie's recently acquired flooring store, and Hudson reveals that his mother, Celeste Williams, a now-deceased movie star, once stayed in the nearby cabins. Braun alternates between these characters' richly drawn perspectives, revealing, in fast-paced and surprising passages, how Annie reinvented herself following her divorce and how Sarah survived a traumatic childhood amid her mother's episodic religious fervor and volatile relationship with Sarah's alcoholic father.

Braun also journeys back in time to Depression-era Chicago, which Celeste leaves to go to Los Angeles, later meeting and marrying Joseph Keller, a film producer with whom she has Hudson, and later divorces when he is arrested as an alleged pro-Nazi sympathizer. The glamour of Celeste's life as a popular Hollywood actress is imbued with realism through Braun's inclusion of real-life actors and directors, including the famed Cecil B. DeMille. As the 1920s and 1980s collide, Noah makes a startling discovery while remodeling one of the cabins, leading Annie eager to learn more—and readers turning the pages.

Great for fans of Elizabeth Bromek's *House on the Harbor*, Kimberly Thomas's *The Willberry Inn*."

If you haven't done so already, order book three today.

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