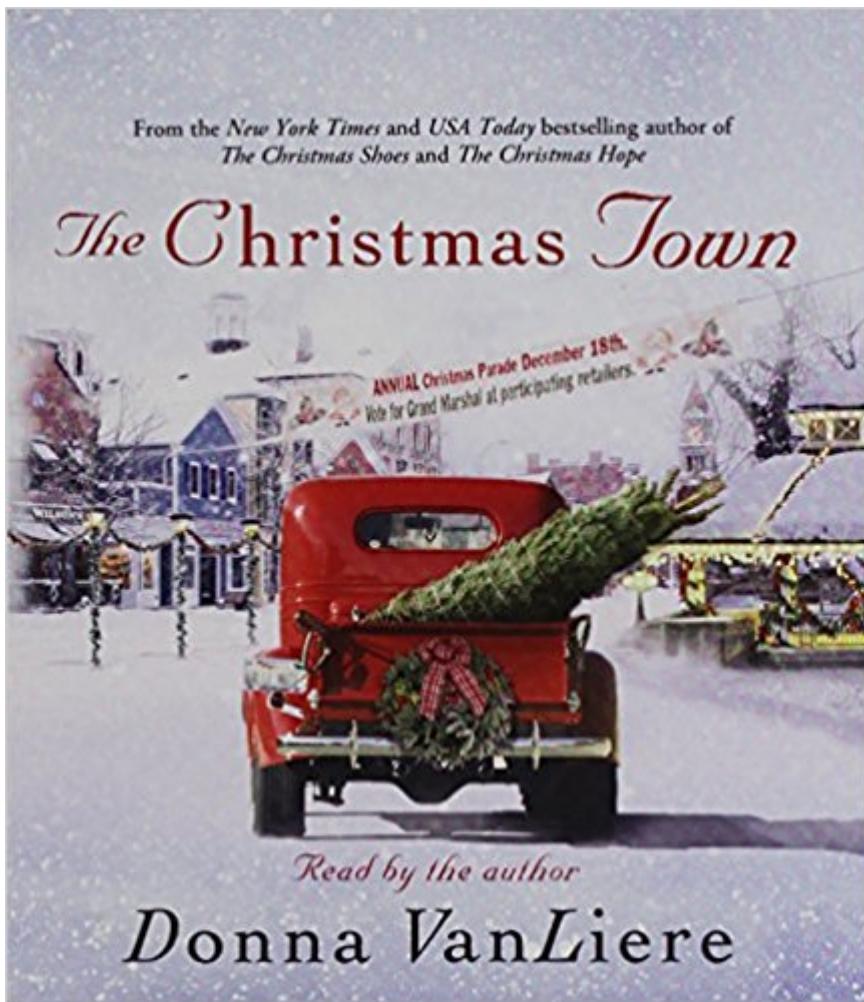


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# The Christmas Town: A Novel



## **Synopsis**

Lauren Gabriel spent many years of her childhood in foster homes, wishing her mother would come back for her and be the family she needs. Now twenty-years-old, she still longs for a place that she can truly call home. Her work as a cashier is unfulfilling, and at Christmas it's unbearable with the songs and carols and chatter of Christmas that she hears throughout the day. When Lauren ends her shift one night, she finds herself driving aimlessly in order to avoid returning to her lonely apartment. And when she witnesses a car accident she is suddenly pulled into the small town of Grandon, first as a witness but then as a volunteer for the annual fundraiser for Glory's Place, a center for single mothers and families who need assistance. Could this town and its people be the home she has always longed for? The New York Times bestselling author of the timeless *The Christmas Shoes* and *The Christmas Hope* is back with this moving and uplifting story about finding love, hope, and family in unexpected places.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD

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## **Customer Reviews**

Praise for the Novels of Donna VanLiere "The Christmas Shoes" "A heartwarming story." "Publishers Weekly" "Has precious gifts for all of us." "The" "Washington Times" "The Christmas Blessing" "Sweet and emotional...A perfect holiday gift." "BookReporter.com" "A story of tragedy and, of course, ultimate triumph." "New York Daily News" "The Christmas Secret" "a sweet story that celebrates love and generosity of spirit. "The Boston Globe" Tired of sugar plums and impossibly perfect families? Consider this tale with its appealing heroine who struggles against losing faith in herself and in God. "USA Today" "The Christmas Hope" "A magical story of second chances that will

stay with readers long after the ornaments have been put away."--"Bookpage ""The Christmas Light" Full of heartache and promise...VanLiere touchingly induces Christmas spirit and tears that will satisfy her many readers. "Library Journal ""Praise for the Novels of Donna VanLiere The Christmas Shoes "A heartwarming story." Publishers Weekly "Has precious gifts for all of us." The Washington Times The Christmas Blessing "Sweet and emotional...A perfect holiday gift." BookReporter.com "A story of tragedy and, of course, ultimate triumph." New York Daily News The Christmas Secret" a sweet story that celebrates love and generosity of spirit. The Boston Globe Tired of sugar plums and impossibly perfect families? Consider this tale with its appealing heroine who struggles against losing faith in herself and in God. USA Today The Christmas Hope" A magical story of second chances that will stay with readers long after the ornaments have been put away."--Bookpage The Christmas Light Full of heartache and promise...VanLiere touchingly induces Christmas spirit and tears that will satisfy her many readers. Library Journal " --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Donna VanLiere is The New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of The Good Dream, Finding Grace, The Angels of Morgan Hill and several Christmas books, including the perennial favorites The Christmas Shoes and The Christmas Hope. She travels as a speaker and lives in Franklin, Tennessee, with her husband and three children.

Donna VanLiere always tells the BEST stories! The Christmas Town is another heart-touching account showing the true meaning of Christmas and how it's found in the hearts of the people in small town Grandon. The town is the epitome of friendliness, full of loving and caring people. The kind of town anyone would be happy to live in. Young Lauren Gabriel has aged out of the foster care system without ever finding a forever family to call her own. Through unlikely turn of events, Lauren finds herself in Grandon, first as a witness to an accident and then to volunteer at Glory's Place, a center for families in need. The characters of Gloria and Miriam and their hilarious banter and antics brought levity and lightness to a serious subject, the plight of just barely grown foster kids and how they find their place in the world. A place Lauren begins to discover as she becomes involved in the lives of the people of The Christmas Town. Ben, the grocery bagger, is such a delightful member of the town of Grandon, he deserves his own story. I was totally charmed by the way he wanted to make each customer feel special and provided each one with a note of encouragement in their grocery bag as they left the store. So very touching! VanLiere is a master of weaving seemingly unrelated events and people together until they blend beautifully into the warm heart-stirring

connections found in The Christmas Town. The story was so full of the miracles that happen at Christmas, by the time I finished it, I was sitting back with a sigh of happiness, savoring it with a smile on my face. My favorite lines say it all, "Miracles occur in the most unlikely places and in the most unusual ways. Sometimes, we just need to get out of the way and let them."4.5 stars

This book was beyond amazing! The characters are so loveable and the plot so warm and inviting. I actually cried during many of the parts. I am a constant reader, reading at least 2-3 hours every night and I had such a hard time putting this book down in order to go to bed. This is one of the best Christmas books I have ever read. I can tell you that this is perfect for any time of year. Please read it, you will really think about life and the beauty of so many good people that are out there ready to make an impact on your life.

I didn't enjoy The Christmas Town as much as I thought I would. Personally, I found the main character unlikable, and the plot rather boring. The author had an opportunity to develop the character's growth as an individual far more than she did. Further, I disliked the manner in which two of the characters (older so-called friends) consistently insulted each other. There is a difference between insulting one's friends versus teasing them. I found it hard to believe that they considered themselves friends. Simply stated, this book was just not appealing.

Donna VanLiere has again written a beautiful, thoughtful, engaging book about people you really care about. You know these people! They are real, interesting, and complex. This is a wonderful book for Christmas or for any time of the year. Donna VanLiere has written another engrossing and emotionally rewarding book. Thanks for giving us this terrific gift for Christmas, Donna. I LOVE it!!!!

I bought it as a gift for my Mom. I got bored and read it. Not a sappy romance novel, just a fast reading Christmas type story.

This Christmas story is so cute, humorous and heartwarming. Donna writes great novels and I love her characters.

You will Never be Disappointed in the writings of " Donna Van Liere!"Highly recommend all her Books/Audiobooks CDGreat Gift Giving

I want to live in Christmas Town. I enjoyed the characters and the sweet story. One of the best books I've read in a while.

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