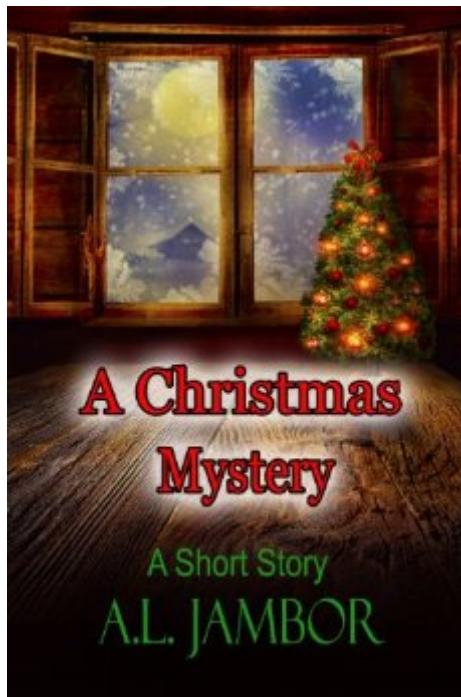


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# A Christmas Mystery (A Short Story)



## **Synopsis**

Hank and Josie own a small nursery in Mays Landing, New Jersey. They have three kids and a house with a mortgage. Josie has worked hard making and selling wreaths to make money for Christmas presents. Two days before Christmas, while she is collecting pine cones for her wreaths, she finds a woman named Helen lying in the woods behind her house. She is bruised and beaten, but won't let Josie call for help. Helen lets Josie take her inside her house where Helen meets Josie's husband, Hank, and their daughter, Mabel. Josie notices Helen's strange, old-fashioned clothes and wonders where she came from. While talking about her son, Billy, Helen suddenly disappears. Was Helen a ghost? As Josie begins to investigate, she discovers that Helen was a real person. In fact, she was Josie's great-grandmother, a woman who abandoned her young son and her husband to become a chorus girl in Atlantic City. But is the family history regarding Helen true, or a story concocted by her husband to cover her murder? When Josie receives a foreclosure notice and realizes they are about to lose their house, it's just the beginning of a bad Christmas Eve. When circumstances threaten to ruin their Christmas, Josie and Hank discover that the old abandoned house across the street may hold the key to the mystery surrounding Helen's appearance, and to finding the money they need to save their family's home. Some corrections and revisions have been made, but they do not change the story. This ebook contains an excerpt from A.L. Jambor's *My First Christmas* starring Libby the Psychic Dog.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

This book was great. It was sad and heart warming. I only wish it was longer. I could have kept on reading for a long time. Thank you for the wonderful story and I will recommend this book to others yo read. Mimiirion@yahoo.com

Interesting mystery about a ghostly relation visiting a likeable family at a time in need to solve the riddle of her disappearance. My favorite passage regarded some dialogue exchanged between father and son in reference to another calamity they experienced, "No, don't hate them. It's not gonna do you any good to hate anybody. For all we know, they're worse off than we are. Just let it go." Very good book!From this Thanksgiving to Christmastime I will only be reviewing Holiday books for your reading pleasure before drastically scaling back my reviews, so until such a time have a very, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I love a story well written and entertaining. This was both. And it was such a fun read on Christmas eve.

This is a short story which seems to be written for kids in the 7-13 year range. Sort of a combination of Halloween and Christmas, this tale involves the plight of a young family struggling to make ends meet and the helpful spirit which enables them to succeed. I'm a little torn here as this "Christmas mystery" involves not only a corrupt police chief but spousal abuse, bootlegging, and not one but two murders. Add that litany of crimes to the other situations which befall this family and you have a fairly depressing read. It's kind of a shame that the author went this route with a Christmas story, but hey, how many kids got video games and are now sitting in front of the TV or computer happily blowing apart virtual humans by the thousands? It kind of speaks to today's sick reality of who we are and what we are becoming as a society. I certainly didn't love it, nor did I hate it (although the ending left much to be desired), so I am giving it three stars.

Title: A Christmas Mystery  
Author: A.L. Jambor  
Published: A.L.J.  
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean  
Rating: 4  
Review: "A Christmas Mystery" by A.L.Jambor was a well written and intriguing holiday mystery

short story that gave the reader a heartwarming read. You will find this story full of mystery from three angles...one from Helen, how to pay the mortgage and then the body. You will have to pick up the read to see for yourself how this author does a good job bringing it all out to the reader. "A Christmas Mystery" will keep you guessing right till the twist at the end. If you are looking for a quick read for the Christmas holiday....I would recommend this one for you.

This was a very cute short that will touch your heart. Even as short as it is the author brought it off with very explicit details that made the story line sing. The emotion of the children and the grief of the parents was so real it had me in tears. The story is one that has happen many times over the years but this one being at Christmas really pulled the strings. Without telling the ending, you'll find that as surprising as it was, you will really enjoy it.

This is a nice story to read for the holidays when you have a little time and want one of those "feel good" stories. I like the way the family pulls together to have a nice Christmas even when things are not what they wish they were. While there are disappointments in the story, there is not a lot of whining like you see (especially) in children today who do not get every single thing they want. Sure, the family in this story is unhappy with the way things have happened, but they do the best they can with the situation. Perhaps this family doesn't have a lot of "things" for Christmas, but they still have each other, and they are thankful for that. In addition to this being a wonderful story about family, there is another story also interwoven into the book - the story of Helen. Three members of the family met her. She was even in their house for crying out loud! She had to be real. So how did she just disappear while they watched? Unraveling the story of Helen will not only solve a very old mystery, it will also be the solution this family needs for their current difficulties. A nice "feel good" story for the holidays. Maybe not great literature, but well worth the time it takes to read it.

I enjoyed this short story. touching and with good Morales of taking the higher road and doing the right thing when it isn't always easy

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