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Our Simple Gifts

Civil War Christmas Tales

Owen Parry

A heartwarming collection of Civil War holiday stories praised as "inspiration of an enviably high order. . . . Stunningly detailed, with pages as strong as Stephen Crane or even Tolstoy's . . . tales of army life in his young manhood."—*Kirkus Reviews*

A Union officer struggles homeward through a Christmas Eve snowstorm, haunted by loss and doubtful of the future. Paroled from a brutal prison camp, a young Southern soldier yearns to find the one person he loves most in the world—and worries over the devastation rumored to have reached his family's mountain. An immigrant private plans a startling Christmas surprise for his comrades. And a newly freed slave must choose between the desire for revenge and his longing to be a better man than his master

From Northern colliery towns to ruined Old South plantations and the divided loyalties of the Appalachian Mountains, Owen Parry casts a spell with a collection of unforgettable tales celebrating the enduring spirit of Christmas. Moving from darkness toward the light, these poignant tales embody the American yuletide season. Whether whispering an old-fashioned Christmas ghost story or reminding us that not all who suffered war's losses wore uniforms, Perry reminds us of the joyous beauty—the miracle—of Christmas.

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Author Bio

Owen Parry is the author of a series of critically acclaimed, prize-winning Civil War novels, including *Faded Coat of Blue*, *Shadows of Glory*, *Call Each River Jordan*, and *Honor's Kingdom*. This book is dedicated to the memory of Parry's father, for whom Christmas was always the most important day of the year. He lives in Virginia.