



# A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories

*Georges Simenon , David Coward (Translation)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories

*Georges Simenon , David Coward (Translation)*

**A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories** Georges Simenon , David Coward (Translation)  
**Three seasonal stories set in Paris at Christmas, from the celebrated creator of Inspector Maigret.**

It is Christmas in Paris, but beneath the sparkling lights and glittering decorations lie sinister deeds and dark secrets...

This collection brings together three of Simenon's most enjoyable Christmas tales, newly translated, featuring Inspector Maigret and other characters from the Maigret novels. In 'A Maigret Christmas', the Inspector receives two unexpected visitors on Christmas Day, who lead him on the trail of a mysterious intruder dressed in red and white. In 'Seven Small Crosses in a Notebook', the sound of alarms over Paris send the police on a cat and mouse chase across the city. And 'The Little Restaurant in Les Ternes (A Christmas Story for Grown-Ups)' tells of a cynical woman who is moved to an unexpected act of festive charity in a nightclub - one that surprises even her...

## A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories Details

Date : Published November 2nd 2017 by Penguin Classics (first published 1951)

ISBN : 9780241282151

Author : Georges Simenon , David Coward (Translation)

Format : Hardcover 224 pages

Genre : Mystery, Crime, Fiction, Short Stories, Holiday, Christmas, Classics

 [Download A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories** Georges Simenon , David Coward (Translation)

---

## **From Reader Review A Maigret Christmas: And Other Stories for online ebook**

### **Andy Weston says**

There are two novellas and a short story in this book, just one of the novellas involves Simenon's infamous detective.

The title story is not a memorable one. Its somewhat contrived also. In an apartment opposite to where Maigret lives a young girl is visited on Christmas Eve by Father Christmas, and pretending to be asleep, she sees him. It becomes Maigret's mission to find out who the mysterious visitor was.

The star of the show here though, is the second novella, *Seven Small Crosses In a Notebook* . This is a much better example of Simenon's skills. It is completely set in the telephone exchange of the Paris police on Christmas Eve, and the protagonist is one of the guys that answers the calls. It is really cleverly done, dark, but less dark than many of his stand-alone novels. There have been eight murders in the recent days which don't seem connected, but the telephoning suspects they are. Also, his 10 year old nephew is missing.

The short story *The Little Restaurant In Les Ternes* describes a seedy area of Paris on a Christmas Eve night. With its cast of prostitutes and tired policemen it is Simenon at his darkest. It's just too short to enjoy properly, no sooner are you appreciating the atmosphere he creates then it ends.

---

### **Paromjit says**

I was really looking forward to this collection of three Christmas stories, as I have really liked the Maigret books. So I settled down for this festive read, looking forward to spending Christmas in Paris. To my horror, there was only one story, the two others are missing. I really enjoyed it albeit I would have preferred it to be longer. I think it was a shame the trio of short stories had two missing. It is difficult to write a review on this collection on the basis of one. Perhaps the publisher will correct this? Many thanks to Penguin Classics for the one story ARC.

---

### **Tony says**

A small confession to begin: I only read the first story as I ran out of Christmas. I'm saving the final two for next year.

So well written, so easy to follow and such wonderfully rounded characters. Something not so easy to accomplish in a only a few chapters.

Loved it!

---

### **Joseph says**

This volume brings together three Simenon stories with a Christmas theme, in a new translation by David Coward. The title of the collection might be slightly misleading – of the three tales, only the first features

Simenon's famous creation. On Christmas Day, Maigret is visited at his apartment by two neighbours with a mystery on their hands – a little girl claims to have seen Father Christmas in her room. Given that Santa has also deemed it fit to pull up a couple of floorboards, it seems unlikely that the night visitor is the real McCoy. Maigret solves the enigma without moving much from his home, thanks to nifty brainwork, judicious phone calls and a little help from his friends and colleagues.

The protagonist of the second story – Seven Crosses in a Notebook – is a humble policeman who has spent his career away from the limelight, manning a police station's switchboard and keeping a list of the crimes carried out in the French capital. One Christmas, he finds himself thrust into the midst of an investigation, one which concerns his closest family. A boy is chasing a murderer across the streets of Paris – or perhaps it's the other way round – and by the time the Police find them, someone might be dead. This story is actually better than the Maigret title piece – it is, in effect, a finely-crafted and well-paced mini-thriller. It also has almost Dickensian undertones as it brings us face-to-face with the "other" Christmas: that of the lonely and the downtrodden, that of the workers who need to spend Christmas night awake and away from their families, that of the poor who can barely afford to buy presents for their children.

This "social" subtext is also an important element in 'The Little Restaurant in Les Ternes (A Christmas Story for Grown-Ups)'. On Christmas night, two women witness a suicide in a little bar. One is Long Tall Jeanne, a prostitute and cynical woman of the world. The other is Martine, a young girl who happens to come from a town close to Jeanne's birthplace and who is alone in Paris for reasons we do not learn. The women, shaken by the evening's events, go out into the night. Jeanne, almost on an impulse, follows Martine, determined to save her from the clutches of dubious men who might take advantage of her. Nothing much happens in this story, but it's an interesting psychological study. We are never sure what fuels Jeanne's actions – is it a sense of sisterly affection, is it nostalgia for an innocence which she has lost, or a sense of jealousy towards a girl who is younger, fresher, more attractive?

I greatly enjoyed this anthology even though I read it two months after Christmas. Part of the pleasure is derived from the atmosphere of a retro Paris, where people still write letters, and even telephones are a luxury. A word of warning though – some of the attitudes portrayed are out of date as well. For instance, in the age of #MeToo, the image of Maigret lounging about in a dressing gown whilst his wife frets about serving him Christmas breakfast in bed, might raise a few eyebrows. But this is part of the package – a package which is, on the whole, *très jolie*

---

## **Nigel says**

I was a fan of Simenon's work so many years ago it almost (!) embarrasses me to admit it. Maigret was certainly one of the early crime fiction characters that really worked for me. There is a relaxed ease in his handling of his cases that I still find endearing. This one is no exception.

It's Christmas Day and Madame Maigret is out shopping for croissants for breakfast. Two people from a neighbouring building cross the road wanting to talk to their legendary detective neighbour. The niece of one of the woman says she saw Santa during the night taking up a floorboard and he left her a gift. Is this really a case of Monsieur Maigret?

Of course it is. It has all the usual characters in including Lucas and Torrence. It has an interesting tale and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Sadly my review copy only contained the one story so I'll not give a rating for the book. However I'd be surprised if fans would not want to read this.

---

## **Lou says**

My review is based upon the one story I received - A Maigret Christmas - there was no sign of the other two stories mentioned in the description.

In 'A Maigret Christmas', the Inspector receives two unexpected visitors on Christmas Day, who lead him on the trail of a mysterious intruder dressed in red and white.

This is a short story/novella that I enjoyed but wished was longer than it actually was. I love Maigret on TV and the book had that same traditional and authentic feeling about it akin to the TV show. George Simenon is a classic author and it was relatively easy to get into the story.

I was drawn to the beautiful cover art which is perfect for the festive season, clever repackaging! I feel it is Maigret's character and determination that make the series different to other similar crime titles. I hope to read the rest of the novels Simenon has written in the near future.

I would like to thank George Simenon/Penguin (UK) and NetGalley for providing me with an ARC of this title in exchange for my honest, unbiased opinion.

---

## **Keith Currie says**

This is a short novella by an author whose mainstream novels tend to be short by modern standards. No worse for that, Simenon does not waste the reader's time by unnecessary padding; the point with Maigret is that all the background information, his wife, his apartment, his job, his colleagues, his modus operandi, are picked up by constant reading of his various cases.

A young child wakes in the middle of the night on Christmas Eve to find Santa Claus in her bedroom, on the floor lifting floorboards, apparently to make his way into the apartment below. He leaves her a large soft toy and departs with a finger raised to his lips. What is going on? Has a crime been committed? Why is the child's step-mother hesitant about telling the police?

For Maigret, already bored on Christmas morning, the puzzle comes as a godsend. What Christmas present could be better for him than to solve this conundrum. Which is what he proceeds to do - thank goodness - because the tale brings as much pleasure to the reader, as its solution brings to Maigret.

---

## **Richard says**

“It's the most wonderful time of the year”

Back in 1951 Georges Simenon released his last Maigret short story which is the longest and closest to the length of his novels. Many current TV shows have Christmas specials and Agatha Christie wrote about Hercule Poirot at Christmastime in 1938.

This short story is just five chapters long and begins on Christmas morning at their home in the Boulevard Richard-Lenoir. Being a day off for the Inspector his wife wants him to have a lie in, but he hears every

creak of the bed as she tries to get up without disturbing him. He then hears Madame Maigret pottering around, preparing coffee and nipping out of the apartment to get fresh croissants from a local shop. She is disappointed to find him up with no desire to have breakfast in bed, but he does take his time over his coffee and filling his pipe. Maigret's nod to the season is he remains still in his dressing gown, content to watch his wife and contemplate his neighbourhood from their window.

This scene of domestic bliss threatens to be cut short when he sees two women who live on the other side of street looking up at him as though hurrying to his door. Making for the door. His wife is not averse to this interruption as no arguments are raised and she opens the door for them to enter their home.

This story is undoubtedly one of the most sentimental and enlightening of these Maigret stories for a number of reasons:

It opens a vista onto the private life of their marriage, an intimacy that is clear but also strained due to the couple's home being childless, not because they have left home but since they have no immediate family other than Mrs Maigret's sister.

It takes place at Christmas a special time for children to receive presents and for playing with their new toys out and about the neighbourhood.

It is a case that Maigret doesn't know even if it can be classified as an investigation but involves a small child who has lost her Mum, killed in a car accident and Dad unable to face up to life as he was driving at the time. The child has been placed with her Aunt who appears to love money and the idea of wealth more than a nurturing love for her Niece and her current parental responsibilities. But because it is literally so close to home, mirroring his own way of life can not immediately find the distance to observe clearly and see. In his breakthrough it is perhaps the promptings of his wife and their immediate concern for the child.

The story is about this young girl Colette whose sleep on Christmas Eve was disturbed by a visit from Father Christmas. A nosy neighbour appears the driving force while the Aunt seems to play events down and appears embarrassed for disturbing the great detective at Christmas. When she later slips out to shop for items already in her cupboards Maigret sees she knows more than she is willing to disclose. Yet Madame Maigret and he are growingly more concerned over the safety of Colette and this becomes his motivation to solve this case.

Beautifully written, evoking the magic of Christmas but showing that hearts set on crime have little time for sentiment. The gift of luck seems to be bestowed on Maigret and his team who eventually gather at his home. Marvellous insights into their family life, the yearning for children and the need to Mother. A simple relationship but undoubtedly strong and the stable home with the constant that is his wife is clearly the main reason Maigret can be so devoted and driven

A lovely story devoid of glitter and show but capturing a real sense of time and place and short enough to read every year at Christmas as meaningful as a glass of sherry, sloe gin in Maigret's chosen Tipple and a mince pie.

Enjoy and have a great Christmas!

---

## **SueLucie says**

With thanks to Penguin Classics for the opportunity to dip into Georges Simenon's Maigret series - my first foray and unlikely to be my last. I can well see why Penguin is republishing them, along with new

translations and gorgeous cover artwork.

Since this is a short story, the plot is insubstantial. That didn't matter to me, though, as I was overwhelmingly struck with the depiction of Maigret's domestic life, his daily rituals and his interaction with his wife. I hope to find much more of this when I lay my hands on some of the other books in the series. I liked the dialogue very much, too, great deadpan humour there.

---

### **Paula Bardell-Hedley says**

My 84-year-old mother is a great crime fiction buff. When she saw I was reading *A Maigret Christmas* by Georges Simenon, she commented that it was a great pity "Mr Bean" had been given the part of the French detective in ITV's recent adaptation, because "although he [Rowan Atkinson] is a very good actor, one keeps on expecting him to remove his trousers or do something equally silly in the middle of an important case."

Mr Bean aside, the TV drama has merely brought renewed interest in Simenon's shrewd, trilby-hat wearing, pipe-smoking commissioner of the Paris 'Brigade Criminelle'. In 2013, Penguin Books started releasing new translations of his seventy-six Maigret novels, originally published between 1931 and 1972, and this collection of seasonal stories is the latest in their Classics' series.

Simenon (1903-1989) was a prolific author, his novels, novellas and autobiographical works numbering almost five hundred. He was Belgian born, the son of an accountant, starting out as a cub reporter for the *Gazette de Liège*, before moving to Paris in 1922 following the death of his father. However, it was during his time as a young journalist that he came to know the seedier side of his city – his familiarity with local prostitutes, criminals and notorious drinking dens prepared him well for his profession as a writer of detective fiction.

*A Maigret Christmas* is the title story from this newly translated book of short fiction, in which the burly detective receives an unexpected visit from two ladies on Christmas morning. Maigret and his stoical wife, Louise (referred to throughout as *Madame Maigret*) are a childless couple in their fifties, trying to be festive, though actually feeling rather melancholy in their silent apartment. He is thus quietly relieved when his services are required by his neighbours following the appearance of a sinister intruder in their home. An intriguing case ensues.

The gruff but kindly Maigret was apparently based on Simenon's good friend, Chief Inspector Marcel Guillaume, a man said to be the greatest French detective of his day. Whether "Mr Bean" was quite what he had in mind for his serial protagonist, we shall never know, but his most famous fictional character would appear to be more popular than ever.

**Many thanks to Penguin Books (UK) for supplying the ARC of a single story from this collection.**

---

### **Brenda says**

Inspector Maigret woke to the sounds of his wife leaving their bed, trying not to wake him. She would pop out for croissants for his breakfast as was the norm. It was Christmas morning and although she had told him to sleep in, he didn't feel the need.

The unexpected arrival of two women from nearby apartments set the scene for a different and rather busy Christmas day for Inspector Maigret. The mysterious visitor one of the women had received in the middle of the night, in the small child, Colette's room, and dressed as Santa was a mystery which made Inspector Maigret uneasy – he knew there was something more to the story than there seemed. Would he locate the mysterious Santa? Or was it a storm in a teacup?

*A Maigret Christmas* by Georges Simenon is a fast paced, entertaining novella which I raced through and thoroughly enjoyed. I was expecting three short stories – as the blurb says – but there was only the one, which I was disappointed about. I haven't read this author before and will look into more of his work. Highly recommended.

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for my digital copy to read and review.

---

## **Girl with her Head in a Book says**

For my full review: <https://girlwithherheadinabook.co.uk/...>

Peculiar one here - I received a Netgalley proof of this and was saving it for Christmas. It promised three festive tales featuring famous literary detective Maigret. However, when I opened it, there was but one, the title tale. Without having access to the full material, it is difficult to provide an entire review. This was a shame because the bit that I was given was highly enjoyable.

The premise is that Inspector Maigret is trying to enjoy Christmas with his good lady wife but finds it difficult to enter into the spirit of the occasion. The apartment is quiet, Madame Maigret is distracted, something is missing. Then two visitors arrive, neighbours from across the street and they have a mystery that needs to be solved. Little girl Colette has been visited by a man dressed as Father Christmas and he has given her a doll. Who is this man? How did he get in? And why did he pick up the floorboards in the child's bedroom?

There are many classic elements of Christmas stories at work in this story. The trope of the Christmas visitor was even made use of in this year's Paddington Bear focussed Marks and Spencer's advert. The concept of the lost child finding a home is also well-trodden territory for Christmas specials. Still, the mystery is well-woven among these ideas and the story was a compelling one, neither over-doing the festive backdrop nor appearing to crow-bar anything in.

This was my first encounter with Inspector Maigret although further research has indicated him to have quite the following and I understand Rowan Atkinson has been playing him in a recent Christmas special. I will be seeking out further installments from the library if possible but it is difficult to give much information for a review based on what Penguin sent over on this occasion.

---

## **Trish says**

A good collection of two Christmas-themed novellas rounded off by a short story.



In the first, Maigret tries to figure out who broke into a little girl's bedroom dressed as Santa Claus, and started pulling up the floorboards. A nice little festive tale which Maigret largely solves from his front room.

In the second, a policeman's nephew tries to catch a murderer. Like the previous story, the whole tale takes place in the police control room, as people report in what they've found. Maigret puts in an appearance to hear the police uncle's theory (he's never named, but the inspector is smoking a pipe).

The third and final one is a little story about how good intentions can strike even the hardest person at Christmas.

A decent, quick read for people who like a bit of mystery at Christmas.

---

### **Kathy says**

Not at all interesting collection of shorts. Can't recommend. Too disgusted to even recap the stories.

---

### **Thebooktrail says**

Visit Paris with Maigret

I've read these stories in French but now they're in a lovely little collection which is perfect for Christmas and any time you want to be transported to Paris really.

Maigret is an iconic French character and it's a treat to have him in bite size here so to speak. The three stories are nicely chosen and very smoothly translated whilst encompassing all the French flourishes Maigret is so well known for. I found the stories so different yet they complemented each other well. No spoilers here but a good collection and there might only be three but three is the magic Maigret number in this case.

Maigret and Paris At Christmas. What's not to like?

---