



# The Christmas Cantata

*Mark Schweizer*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# The Christmas Cantata

*Mark Schweizer*

## **The Christmas Cantata** Mark Schweizer

St. Germaine, North Carolina was in a crabby mood. Yes, the whole town. If a temperament could affect an entire populace, "crabby" was what St. Germaine was. Noylene's new personal Christian astrologer, a woman named Goldi Fawn Birtwhistle, blamed it on the convergence of Pluto and the third moon of Jupiter.

Pete Moss, the owner of the Slab Café, thought that the crabbiness might have something to do with the increasing levels of positive ion bombardment from outer space. Also included in Pete's theory were sunspots, an ever-widening hole in the ozone layer, the federal deficit, CNN election coverage, armadillo migration, and the cancellation of two long-running soap operas.

Usually in St. Germaine, the three weeks before Christmas were marked by an increase in good feelings toward one's fellow man. Not this year.

St. Germaine's police chief, Hayden Konig, and all the usual suspects, return in this heartwarming Christmas tale. When a long-lost cantata is found in the basement of the courthouse, a Christmas Eve performance is the order of the day. What happens next is anyone's guess.

A St. Germaine Christmas Entertainment

The Christmas Cantata

It's not what you expect...

it's even funnier!

## **The Christmas Cantata Details**

Date : Published November 10th 2011 by SJMP books (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Mark Schweizer

Format : Kindle Edition 98 pages

Genre : Mystery, Humor, Fiction, Holiday, Christmas

 [Download The Christmas Cantata ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Christmas Cantata ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Christmas Cantata Mark Schweizer**

---

## **From Reader Review The Christmas Cantata for online ebook**

**Mary says**

**A lovely tale**

I have read this at Christmas for several years and it gets better each time I read it. A sweet story!

---

**Catherine Leggitt says**

What could be more magical than all my friends in St. Germaine from books #1-9 interacting in a special Christmas story of redemption and restoration? For this one special occasion, Mark Schweizer forgoes witty puns and his own special Raymond-Chandleresque mystery to tell a sweet tale of a newly discovered cantata written in 1942, but never performed. While the entire tone of the book is radically different from the tongue-in-cheek humor of the other books in the series, I found this difference spellbinding. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. Who was this mysterious composer? Why wasn't her incredible work performed at St. Barnabas way back when? What caused the music to be so mood-altering for everyone who heard it? Truly a wonderful mystery. I loved the masterful way Schweizer unfolded clues, dribbling out drip by drip to amp up the suspense. This may be my new favorite liturgical mystery. Makes me feel the Christmas joy and peace on earth all over. SIGH!

---

**Charlotte Coppenhaver says**

**A wonderful surprise**

Schweitzer's liturgical mysteries are always a fun read, particularly if you know the blue ridge or church music. The Christmas Cantata goes beyond the norm. A sweet, uplifting story that remains true to the central characters.

---

**Melissa J. Eddy says**

**One of the best from Schweizer**

One of Schweizer's best. Humorous as always, but also moving and musically interesting. I re-read it for the holiday season and enjoyed it on the repeat reading maybe more than the first time.

---

**Rhonda says**

Different because of all the music references.

---

## **Ruth Feathers says**

More novella than novel, but full of beauty, faith, and joy.

---

## **Samuel H. Fisher says**

### **Wonderful story**

Should be a movie. Would be perfect if script stays with story. Mr Schweizer could write the musical score. St. Germaine could be the new Bedford Falls. I believe Mr. Schweizer already has the roles cast in his mind.

---

## **S.D. says**

This St. Germaine novella features everyone's favorite mystery writer wannabee, Hayden Konig. But this time he isn't penning those literary snippets. This novella is geared for the holidays where the residents of St. Germaine, NC, are grumpy and ornery. Interspersed through the story is a back story of 1937 when a young woman meets the love of her life before he is shipped off to war. Meanwhile, a cantata is found in the basement of the courthouse. At first it appears too difficult for the choir to handle. But once the notes fall into place, a strange feeling of Holiday cheer blankets the town. All the usual characters are on hand for this "feel good" ditty which can be read any time of the year.

---

## **Liz says**

Having just finished a particularly sad and dense book, I needed something really light. Well, nothing fits that bill like one of the Liturgical Mysteries by Mark Schweizer. And it's almost Christmas, so The Christmas Cantata it is.

Schweizer might not be everyone's cup of tea. Hayden Konig, the main character, is not only the police chief of little St. Germaine, but also the choir director at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. As an Episcopalian myself, who sings in the choir, I get the musical references and the sly church humor. I still count the first book in this series, *The Alto Wore Tweed*, as one of the funniest books I've ever read. This book doesn't rise anywhere close to that level but that's a high bar to reach.

This book doesn't have the typical mystery. Here, the mystery is the origins of a newly found Christmas Cantata that was just found and is to be performed at the church's Xmas Eve service.

But you don't have to be an Episcopalian to enjoy the feel good Christmas joy. You'll chuckle, you'll smile and you may even shed a few tears.

---

## **Terry Southard says**

I received this as a Christmas gift and what a lovely little bonbon of Christmas sweetness it was. Both funny and touching. And the inside workings of the church made me laugh - because it's so \*real\*. Redemption rules in St. Germaine when the newly found Cantata is performed.

---

## **M.J. Perry says**

I received this book as a Christmas present because anyone who know me knows I'm a big Mark Schweizer laugh. There are few writers than can have me laughing hysterically while riding on a bus, but Schweizer is one of them.

This however, was not the typical Mark Schweizer book. There was no murder, and no potboiler being written by Hayden. There was a lovely story, with some gentle humour thrown in. As well, there is not as much necessity to know about liturgy and church polity in this book than in his usual fare. I can recommend the book, simply because it's another story about Hayden, but I think it belongs more with those who are on the sentimental side.

---

## **Elsi says**

As the title reveals, it's Christmas time in St. Germaine, North Carolina, and Hayden Konig, police chief and organist/choir master, is putting on a cantata for the Christmas Eve service. Found in the archives of the city hall, from the pen of an unknown composer and long forgotten, this cantata had been debuted on Christmas Eve of 1942. Konig figures that's a good reason to give it a re-run this year. But even more interesting: who was the composer?

I simply adore the *Liturgical Mysteries*. In most of them, I laugh myself silly over the antics of the characters. This particular volume wasn't as humorous and the mystery wasn't the typical one that starts with a dead body. Instead, it was a more gentle episode, quite appropriate for the winter holiday—full of good cheer.

---

## **Sara says**

I discovered Mark Schweizer and his series of The Liturgical Mysteries just over 2 years ago. Last December I read the tenth installment, The Christmas Cantata, for the first time, and just completed the book for the second time this December. The Christmas Cantata is a must-read Christmas classic that I will read each year.

Though the rest of The Liturgical Mysteries series is thoroughly enjoyable and very well written (and I highly recommend them), Cantata is just a cut above the others.

It is not necessary to read the entire series to understand this particular volume of the story. Yes, it helps of course if one had, but that is because several years and a breadth of characters have culminated into this story. The author successfully gives just enough background without overrunning the narrative with backstory. For those reading this installment first, I believe it will easily turn you onto the rest of the series.

The other books in the series focus on Hayden Konig's dream of being a writer in the vein of Raymond Chandler, thus we read Hayden's writings as they are integrated into the storyline. This is a signature of the author, a notable voice in comedic writing. Cantata, however, takes a break and departs from this by paralleling a story of mystery that began 60-70 years earlier that is then woven into the present day plotline. (Though the witty writing of Hayden's everyday life is as great as ever.)

A specific point I appreciate is that this particular book has a bit more universal appeal. Due to the book being only 95 pages, the focus is more directly on the plot itself. In Mark's other books, there is a delicious wandering of the intricacies of the Episcopal Church and the characters that dwell in St. Germaine. I spent approximately 25 years in the Episcopal Church and having been a musician (and a church choir member), there are subjects that Mark draws into the stories that I can identify with because of this background. Cantata does not spend as much time on these subjects, and my appreciation in this is that I may introduce this specific book to more people than I feel I could if it were another book in the series.

This novella can easily be read in the midst of the holiday rush, as it flows quickly, and most people could read it within a couple of hours. The story invites you into the cozy mountain town of St. Germaine, makes you laugh, and will pull at your heartstrings. The Christmas Cantata truly is a beautiful piece. Slow down and savor this story this Christmas season.

---

### **Karen says**

4.5 stars really. I think this is my favorite in the series so far. There isn't a murder, but a mystery that needs to be solved. Wonderful.

---

### **Jocelyn says**

Too much Mitford and not enough St. Germaine. Still, I was entertained. And the part about how a choir can move and be moved by a piece of beautiful music -- I resonated with that. (No pun intended.)

---