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Merry Christmas! : Celebrating America's Greatest Holiday

Karal Ann Marling

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It wouldn't be Christmas without the "things." How they came to mean so much, and to play such a prominent role in America's central holiday, is the tale told in this delightful and edifying book. In a style characteristically engaging and erudite, Karal Ann Marling, one of our most trenchant observers of American culture, describes the outsize spectacle that Christmas has become, showing us the provenance and significance of each of its essential parts: the decorated trees and holiday lights, the cards and gifts and wrapping papers, the toy villages and store displays and Macy's holiday parade, Bing Crosby and Santa Claus.

Viewing Christmas through the media of mass culture--engravings and lithographs, magazine fiction, pictorial ads, news photos, cards, and movies--Marling tells us how the beloved Christmas tree grew out of a much-reprinted image of Queen Victoria and her family gathered around a decorated fir; how Santa Claus lost his provincial Dutch character and turned into the jolly old soul we know; how Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* borrowed from Washington Irving's imaginings of what Christmas must have been like in Merrie Olde England; and how the holiday, balancing between the private and public realms, conferred a central and defining role on women.

A celebration of the visual culture of the season, *Merry Christmas!* offers captivating evidence that Christmas in America is primarily a secular celebration of abundance, goodwill, and familial identity, expressed in a multitude of material ways.

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Lea Wheeler:

Precisely why? Because this Merry Christmas! : Celebrating America's Greatest Holiday is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will jolt you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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