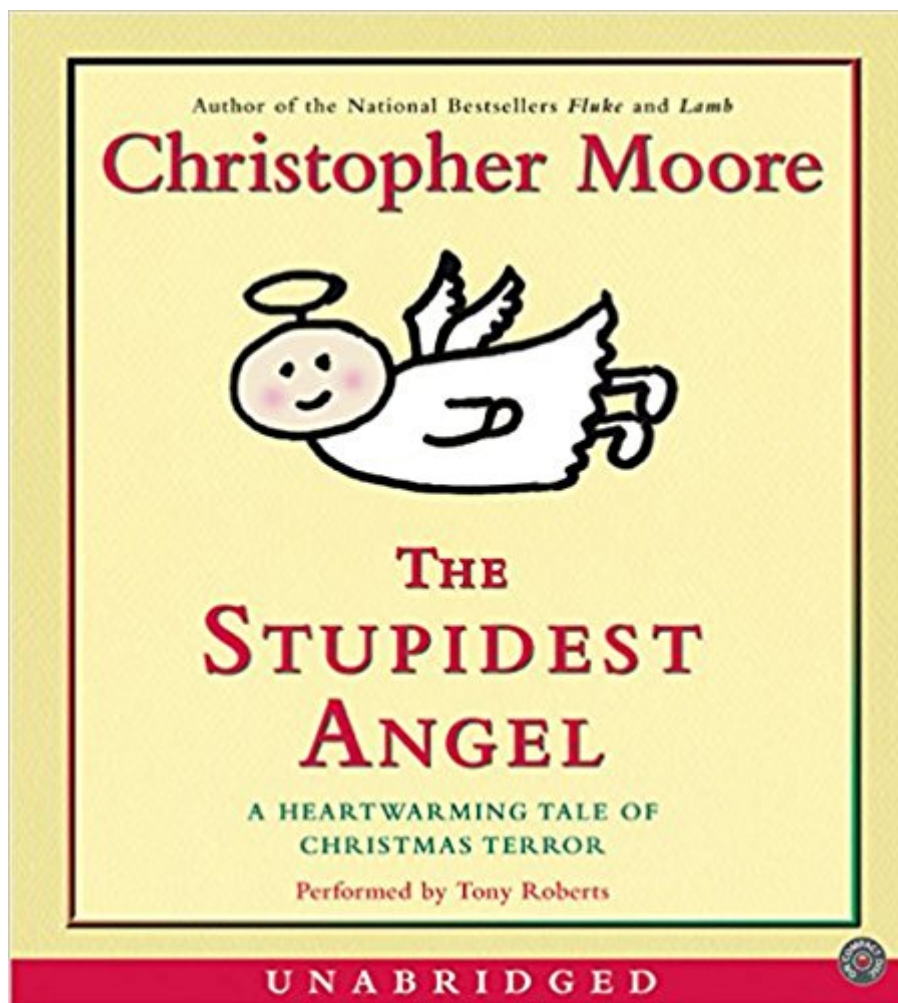


The book was found

Stupidest Angel Unabridged CD, The



Synopsis

Twas the night (okay, more like the week) before Christmas, and all through Pine Cove, California, people are busy buying, wrapping, packing, and generally getting into the holiday spirit. But not everybody is feeling the joy. Little Joshua Barker is in desperate need of a holiday miracle. No, he's not on his deathbed. But Josh is sure that he saw Santa take a shovel to the head, and now the seven-year-old has only one prayer: Please, Santa, come back from the dead. But hold on! There's an angel waiting in the wings. (Wings, get it?) It's none other than the Archangel Raziel come to Earth seeking a small child with a wish that needs granting. Unfortunately, our angel's not sporting the brightest halo in the bunch, and before you can say "Kris Kringle" he's botched his sacred mission and sent the residents of Pine Cove headlong into Christmas chaos, culminating in the most hilarious and horrifying holiday party the town has ever seen. Only Christopher Moore, the man who brought you the outrageous lost gospel *Lamb* and the hysterical fish tale *Fluke*, could have devised a new holiday classic that tugs at the heartstrings and serves up a healthy slice of fruitcake to boot.

Performed by Tony Roberts

Book Information

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

This audiobook starts off innocently enoughâwith a few minutes of bright, punchy Christmas musicâbut as we meet each resident of Pine Cove, Calif., the story bends, becoming as twisted as an image in a funhouse mirror. Lena Marquez is the sanest of the bunch, even if she does have a habit of wreaking violence on her ex-husband, known here as the "Evil Developer." Then there's Lena's best friend Molly, a former B-movie actress who hears voices, occasionally believes herself

to be "The Warrior Babe of the Outland" and is married to the town constable, Theo, a former pot addict who's slipping off the wagon. To top that off, there's Tucker, a lonely pilot who has a Micronesian fruit bat for a pet, and a rather witless archangel named Raziel who comes to Earth to grant one boy's Christmas wish. It is that wish which turns this Christmas comedy into a holiday horror story. Roberts narrates the whole affair with skill, using his warm, hearty voice to great effect. His is the kind of voice that one would expect to hear in the audio version of *A Christmas Carol* or a children's storybook, which makes him the perfect reader for this book since it is, in part, a parody of the Christmas classics—albeit a gruesomely entertaining one. Whether crooning a few bars of the blues, personifying the dead or delivering one of the story's uplifting messages ("Life is messy. People generally suck"), Roberts's velvet voice rings with mirth, accentuating the humor and absurdity of each moment. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Readers of *The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove* (1999), the cast of which returns in this yarn, will confirm that, if any town could put the eerie back in Merry Christmas (whaddaya mean it's never been there--aintcha read Dickens?), it would be Moore's cut-rate California coastal paradise, Pine Cove. It all begins a few chapters in, when Dale Pearson accosts his ex, Lena Marquez, while she is stealing Christmas trees and ends up with a shovel-blade in the neck. Seven-year-old Josh Barker glimpses Dale's demise and, since Dale has on his Caribou Lodge Santa suit, assumes the jolly old elf's been offed; his Christmas wish becomes to have Santa back. Unfortunately, dim-bulb angel Raziel has drawn angelic Christmas duty, which is to grant one child's Christmas wish, and eventually (nothing is ever in a hurry in Moore's lurching, Margaritaville version of the world, though it reads fast) Dale/Santa is resurrected, along with quite a contingent from the same graveyard, just in time for the Christmas party in the nearby chapel. Delirious! Ray Olson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

This book is hands down one of my very favorites by Christopher Moore, which is saying something for sure as I am a big fan and have read all of his work! I wasn't crazy about *Practical Demonkeeping*, I liked *The Lust Lizard of Melancholy Cove*, but *The Stupidest Angel* is by FAR the best of the Pine Cove trilogy. The best part? A bunch of zany characters popping in from other Christopher Moore books (inc. the rest of the Pine Cove series, *Lamb*, and the *Island of the Sequined Love Nun*) - this is definitely a book for fans to read again and again. Can't wait for the next book to come out!

I adore all of Christopher Moore's books. "Festive doom like a cold sore under the mistletoe." My god, I can't even begin to describe how wonderful his descriptions are! The first time I read this book, I was reading during a solitary dinner one evening. At one point I laughed so hard I snorted spaghetti noodles out my nose! It was so funny I didn't even mind. At first, I used to just recommend *The Stupidest Angel* to people. After a while, I just started giving it away for Christmas. The teenage son of a friend isn't much of a reader, but when I told him that this book had both angels and zombies, he gave it a try. His father called me excited when his son shared the story with him. The boy even read a passage to him. I think that Mr Moore's books should be taught in high school as a viable method of encouraging reading in young people. READ THIS BOOK! Share it. Laugh. Merry Christmas!

This is my favorite Christmas-related humor book. Sure, they may not be a big category: but this novel wins hands-down. The plot weaves together storylines of the colorful characters who inhabit a small California town, Pine Grove, eventually bringing the individual plotlines together to converge in a dramatic Christmas Day event. The characters are all interesting and well-developed, the storyline is imaginative and hilarious, and the prose is peppered with comical asides and unique observations that make it a delight to read. Moore's command of language is excellent, whether he is using his sarcastic dry-witted narrator's turn of phrase or delving into the believably innocent (yet somehow also insightful) thoughts of a child. Or a fruit-bat. (But no... I don't want to give anything away.) The humor is a little irreverent. After all, it IS about a stupid angel. And zombies. (Again, I don't want to give anything away...) But if that doesn't bother you, do yourself a favor: read this book.

This is not my normal type of reading material but every once in awhile it's refreshing to read something completely off the wall bonkers and this book certainly fills the bill. It was good for some chuckles and a couple of outright belly laughs. The premise is that a really out of touch angel shows up to make a Christmas miracle and in general screws everything up big time. I had previously encountered this author's *"Sacre Bleu"* on an audio book. It was equally outrageous and to me even more entertaining. This is the type of book/author a reader will either love or feel it is a complete waste of time. I fall in the former category but I would opt for a time lapse between books.

I really enjoyed Mr Moore's *"Lamb"* and his research really showed through in that story. I have since read a few other novels he has written which center around the fictional town of Pine Cove.

While much of the humor found in his other stories is here, it tends to fall a bit flat. I suspect much of that is due to the way he handles his town constable who is portrayed as a pot addict stumbling through life. Moore has an inaccurate idea of how pot is grown and used which, if only mentioned once or twice would have been excusable. For me, it broke my ability of suspended belief needed to enjoy fiction and caused me to focus on other quirks in the novel that I would have normally glossed over. Moore is a fun read but this book pushed a bit over the edge too often and took me out of the story.

In the first few chapters, his comic style I found to be extremely Blunt. And I was beginning to turn off to his quick pace with sort sentences to deliver the punch line. I set the book down for a few days. Then my mind went back to what I had read, and I came to the conclusion his writing style is very similar to my sense of humor. Then I got out of my own way and dove in for a really enjoyable reading experience. The characters were not deep in description but the human quirks and failures gave the reader all they needed to follow the story. The quick pace of his comedic style reminded me of Douglas Adams, but the sentences structure different in his own way. I think keeping the Divine out of the world of man a good idea at this point. I am sure I will enjoy reading more of his style of literature.

I loved "Lamb". I laughed so hard reading it in bed that I woke my wife up multiple times each night that I was reading it. Moore is a brilliant comic writer with a real flair for kooky characters. The basic plot premise of this one is pretty clever and intriguing; it lends itself to lots of very funny scenes. In the second half of the book, Moore switches to a zombie theme that he plays over the top for effect. While there is some funny stuff in that set of scenes, I found it too ghoulish and blood-thirsty for my taste. I nearly set the book aside any number of times but I struggled through it in hopes it wouldn't go on as long as it did. So if you either like zombie stuff or at least don't have as queasy a constitution as I apparently have (who knew?), you'll probably love this book. I enjoyed it for the most part but I'm going to be a bit trepidatious about any future Moore work before I engage it.

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