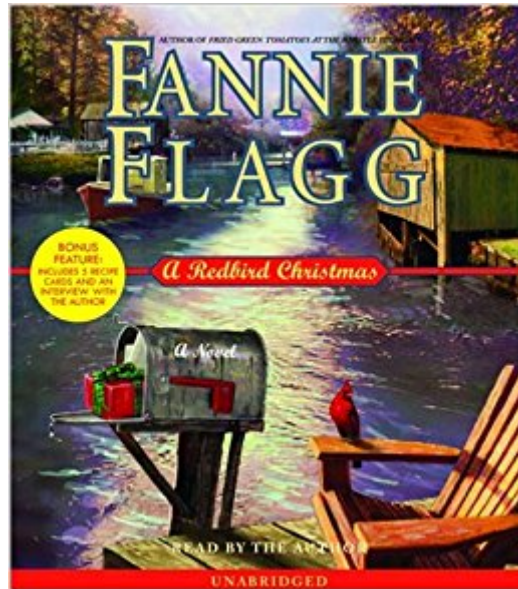




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A Redbird Christmas: A Novel



Synopsis

With the same incomparable style and warm, inviting voice that have made her beloved by millions of readers far and wide, New York Times bestselling author Fannie Flagg has written an enchanting Christmas story of faith and hope for all ages that is sure to become a classic. Deep in the southernmost part of Alabama, along the banks of a lazy winding river, lies the sleepy little community known as Lost River, a place that time itself seems to have forgotten. After a startling diagnosis from his doctor, Oswald T. Campbell leaves behind the cold and damp of the oncoming Chicago winter to spend what he believes will be his last Christmas in the warm and welcoming town of Lost River. There he meets the postman who delivers mail by boat, the store owner who nurses a broken heart, the ladies of the Mystic Order of the Royal Polka Dots Secret Society, who do clandestine good works. And he meets a little redbird named Jack, who is at the center of this tale of a magical Christmas when something so amazing happened that those who witnessed it have never forgotten it. Once you experience the wonder, you too will never forget A Redbird Christmas. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Lured by a brochure his doctor gives him after informing him that his emphysema has left him with scarcely a year to live, 52-year-old Oswald T. Campbell abandons wintry Chicago for Lost River, Ala., where he believes he'll be spending his last Christmas. Bestselling author Flagg (Fried Green Tomatoes; Standing in the Rainbow) makes this down-home story about good neighbors and the power of love sparkle with wit and humor, as she tells of Oswald's new life in a town with one

grocery store and a resident cardinal (or redbird, as the natives call it). Frances Cleverdon, one of four widows and three single women in town, hopes to fix him up with her sister, Mildred. If only Mildred wouldn't keep dying her hair outrageous colors every few days. The quirky story takes a heartwarming turn when Frances and Oswald become involved in the life of Patsy Casey, an abandoned young girl with a crippled leg. As Christmas approaches, the townspeople and neighboring communities—even the Creoles, whose long-standing feud with everybody else keeps them on the other side of the river—rally round shy, sweet Patsy. Flagg is a gifted storyteller who knows how to tug at readers' heartstrings, winding up her satisfying holiday tale with the requisite Christmas miracle. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oswald Campbell doesn't have much to live for, except to cash his paltry pension check, drop in on the occasional AA meeting, and visit the VA hospital. Dreading another winter in Chicago, he takes in stride the news that his emphysema will probably take his life before Christmas. Having no family except an ex-wife, who has since moved on, Oswald follows his doctor's advice and spends his final months in a more comfortable climate. By chance, he ends up in Lost River, Alabama, a sleepy town with so many single, older women that Frances Cleverdon, a widow, hopes that Oswald will turn out to be someone's knight in shining armor. Not quite the Romeo they had hoped for, Oswald nonetheless is taken under folks' wings. Without noticing how it happens, Oswald comes to love Lost River, visiting the town store and the feisty redbird that lives there, waiting out at the dock for the river-faring postman to bring the mail, or accepting myriad dinner invitations from the town's women. Flagg based Lost River on her own hometown, and though such places may actually exist, there nevertheless is an allegorical feel to this little tale of hope, friendship, and common decency. Intended as a Christmas story, it would be readable year-round. Mary Frances Wilkens Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Not much to say about Fannie Flagg except that she is an incredible writer. Of course everyone knows Fried Green Tomatoes, if not from the book which is glorious then from the movie but this book as well, although quite different, is magnificent. She weaves a fascinating tale all around a little wounded bird and you are involved and interested in the life of every person who in turn, is involved with this bird. The book is so filled with love and optimism and even when the characters begin sadly, so to speak, you know that the end will be happy. Her remedy for happiness of course is to

return to animals and nature. It is through this relationship, simple and moving, that one can find not only peace of mind but a "new you." I love the way she writes, the people she writes about, her love of food and the way she intertwines those recipes with her literary skills and stories. I intend to read everything she ever wrote. What a talent. If you want to have a good feeling and a love of life, read Fannie Flagg.

I absolutely loved this book! Love redbirds and loved the themes. Adored the little town on two sides of water. I know of a place like that and always felt like it was going down the river in a boat while riding through it in a car. The place has a road on one side and a canal or river on the other. Loved the characters. Heart-touching, heart-warming, the best Christmas novel I've read this year! The characters are lovable, funny and eccentric. An ongoing feud with two different groups of people who live on opposite sides of the river is part of the tale. A man who lives in Chicago comes to Lost River for a few months because of lung issues. He expects to die soon and prepares to do so, but life isn't through with him yet and neither is God. Love Patsy and Frances, even Mildred and Julian. A host of great characters. Great description. You could visualize and smell the place. Loved all the birds, especially Jack. Cried. Loved the ending. A five-star read all the way! A little crippled redbird changes so many lives and even gets people back together again. BJ Robinson, Author of When the Snow Came and other books

This is a book that I treat myself with every Christmas. It is as comforting as a cup of hot cocoa on a blustery day. Well developed characters engage the reader early on and propel them speedily to the conclusion of the book. As always Fannie Flagg demonstrates her ability to make the reader laugh and cry at the same time. This is a book I willingly re-read and give copies to friends.

Filled with the wonderful characters we expect to meet in a story by Fanny Flagg, A Redbird Christmas brings a warm smile to the reader's face and the quiet joy of time well spent in a small town. As we do in all Ms Flagg books, we know these people. We have met them in our own childhoods. We have chuckled at their foibles and liked them for their best intentions. Oswald, Patsy, Roy, "Stick", Mildred and the rest of the population of Lost River, Alabama join Idgie, Aunt Elner and all Ms. Flagg's inspired characters in our hearts chamber of favorite "Friends".

Life hasn't been very kind to Oswald T. Campbell. Abandoned at birth and raised in an orphanage, his childhood was a struggle. As an adult he didn't do himself

any favors by smoking like a fiend and drinking to excess. Now in his fifties he finds himself alone, living in a boarding house and just barely scraping by on a small disability income. His doctor strongly advises Oswald to leave Chicago in the bitter winter weather. Even with a change in climate, Oswald's health is so precarious that there's little hope he'll see another Christmas. Still, he might as well be comfortable in his final days, so he sets out for the tiny town of Lost River, Alabama. Nothing in his previous life has quite prepared Oswald for the cast of characters he meets in Lost River. The community embraces their newest member, and before he even realizes what's happening, Oswald T. Campbell's life takes a turn just not the one he'd been expecting! This was a warm and touching story that spans the year from one Christmas to the next. While not strictly speaking a Holiday story, it does indeed embody the spirit of the season. If anyone is better at characterization than Fannie Flagg, I can't think of who it could be. Her characters, with their quirks and eccentricities simply come to life on the page. I come to care about them, empathize with them and enjoy every moment I spend in their company. The town of Lost River has a "Brigadoonish" quality that I found charming and the storyline, while simple, kept me engaged and anxious to find out what happens next. A well-written and enjoyable read for any time of the year, but really a lovely way to kick-off the holiday season. No strong language (that I recall) and no sexual content.

It was a sweet and heartwarming story that I recommend to teenagers and adults. I don't remember a lot of the book but I do remember it being very touching. The way the main character deals with his upcoming death makes for an interesting story. Whether it is better to know or not know when your death is near is a question that has to be answered by each individual and how they cope with it, is their decision.

Oh my goodness!! Did I ever LOVE this book!! This book is one of those feel good books that just make you happy. The story was one that anyone could relate to. I loved the side stories and the characters are just amazing! I found myself transported into a small Alabama town wanting to know all I could about these people. I found myself hungering to see how the characters lives change with time, and I was not disappointed. I could not put this book down.

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