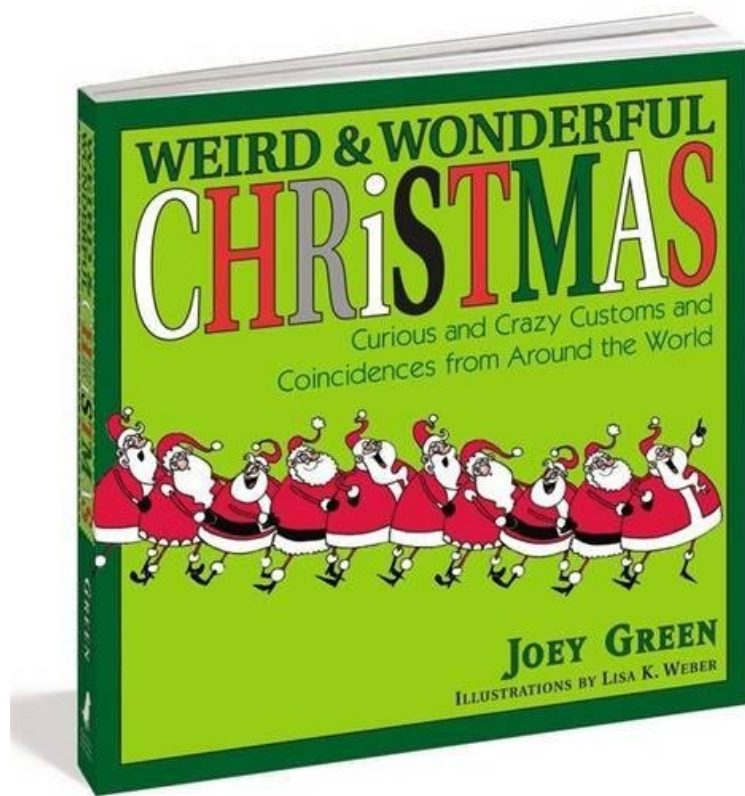


(Ebook pdf) *Weird and Wonderful Christmas: Curious and Crazy Customs and Coincidences From Around the World*

## **Weird and Wonderful Christmas: Curious and Crazy Customs and Coincidences From Around the World**

*Joey Green*

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**Joey Green : Weird and Wonderful Christmas: Curious and Crazy Customs and Coincidences From Around the World** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Weird and Wonderful Christmas: Curious and Crazy Customs and Coincidences From Around the World*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book - Great gift By Barbara Green I own this book and wanted to share my love for it with others, so I gave it to eight people as Christmas gifts. Everyone thanked me for this outstanding book and said that he/she enjoyed reading it and also include it as part of their Christmas display so that others can read it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Steven Who doesn't love learning interesting trivia? 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. AN ENTERTAINING AND ENLIGHTENING COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND OBSERVATIONS By Steven H Propp Joey Green is a former contributing editor to National Lampoon, and has also written books such as *You Know You've Reached Middle Age If . . .*, *How They Met: Famous Lovers, Partners, Competitors, and Other Legendary Duos*, etc. This book is subtitled, "A Collection of Curious and Crazy Customs and Coincidences Concerning Christmas," but the title may give a misleading impression of the contents; although it has a lot of "curious" and a few "crazy" bits of information, it's not

very often "weird" in the sense of "bizarre"---in fact, it has a lot of very interesting and factual information, along with some humorous opinions. For example, "If the wise men were so wise, why didn't they realize that their failure to return to Herod might provoke the vicious ruler to order the deaths of innocent children and endanger the baby Jesus, forcing his family to flee to Egypt? Were the wise men really wise, or were they bumbling fools?" (Pg. 17) He notes, "In A.D. 567, the Council of Tours proclaimed that the twelve days of Christmas span from Christmas Day on December 25 to Epiphany on January 6. The Catholic and Protestant Churches celebrate Epiphany as the day the Wise Men visited the baby Jesus with their gifts. In Eastern Churches, Epiphany celebrates the baptism of Jesus... The Council of Tours may have established the Twelve Days of Christmas as a political compromise to embrace the Eastern Orthodox and the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which both celebrate the birth of Jesus on January 6." (Pg. 24) He states, "Donner and Blitzen, two of the reindeer named in the popular Christmas song 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,' were originally named Dunder and Blixem in the anonymous poem ['Twas the Night Before Christmas']... In 1844, the poem's real author... changed his original ... to 'Donder and Blitzen.'" (Pg. 48) He wryly asks about Santa, "The unkempt, long-haired, unshaven Bohemian, dressed in red (to display his communist ideology, perhaps?) enslaves helpless elves in his isolated sweatshop and relegates his wife to the role of a second-class citizen, refusing to allow her even the dignity of a first name. He goes on an annual rampage, breaking into and entering private homes by way of the chimney, stealing cookies, apples, and milk, and then leaving behind toys in a feeble attempt to redistribute wealth..." (Pg. 60) He records that the 1965 premier of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" was nearly scrapped: "[CBS] objected to the shoddy animation, the slow pace, the religious content... the incongruous choice of a jazz score, the lack of a laugh track, and the use of genuine children as the voiceover talent. [Producer Lee] Mendelson and [cartoonist Charles] Schulz agreed that the animation was second-rate... The production was so rushed that Mendelson wrote the lyrics to the song 'Christmas Time is Here' on an envelope in roughly fifteen minutes." (Pg. 143) This is an entertaining, and frequently enlightening book, that will be of considerable interest to lovers of the holiday.

Holiday trivia from best-selling author of the arcane, Joey Green, who has been called a connoisseur of unconventionality. Priced and sized to fit perfectly in a stocking. The perfect gift for the Christmas-obsessed Christmas compiles the mishaps, the mayhem, the hideous sweaters and inedible fruitcakes, the momentous births and untimely deaths, and the crimes and catastrophes that have taken place on Christmas. Where else would you learn that Werner Erhard send out 62,824 personal greeting cards? Or that 5,000 people dressed as Santa Claus descended on the town of Porto, Portugal to break a world record? Chapters detail all things weird, from traditions to trees, festivities to tidings. The quirky design is illustrated by the Tim Burton-esqe artwork of Lisa K. Weber. In Christmas, Joey Green has unearthed stockings-full of juicy holiday curiosities for an offbeat look at a heartfelt tradition and a one-size-fits-all Christmas present no one will ever return!

"The new book is Joey Green's delightful *Weird Wonderful Christmas*, which details odd customs and craziness that surrounds everyone's favorite holiday. One of the more fun chapters is trivia regarding *It's a Wonderful Life*. For example, Bert and Ernie from *Sesame Street* were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver. Who knew? Joey did! Here's another one: Although nominated for five Academy Awards, the film was a box-office flop." -Reader's Digest "Joey Green's compulsively readable new paperback, *Weird Wonderful Christmas*, is stuffed with odd bits of information about the holiday." -Houston Chronicle "Nutty as a fruitcake are some of the entries in this illustrated compendium of facts, lists, and anecdotes celebrating the offbeat side of Christmas, with tales of nontraditional traditions, Santas, trees, and festivities. There are Christmas crimes and catastrophes, the worst Christmas movies, and how to say 'Merry Christmas' in several languages, from Afghan to Zulu." -Associated Press About the Author Joey Green is the author of more than 50 books, including *Last-Minute Survival Secrets*, *Cleaning Magic*, *You Know You've Reached Middle Age If...* and *The Mad Scientist Handbook*. A native of Miami, Florida, he is a former contributing editor to *National Lampoon* and a former advertising copywriter at J. Walter Thompson. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife and two daughters.