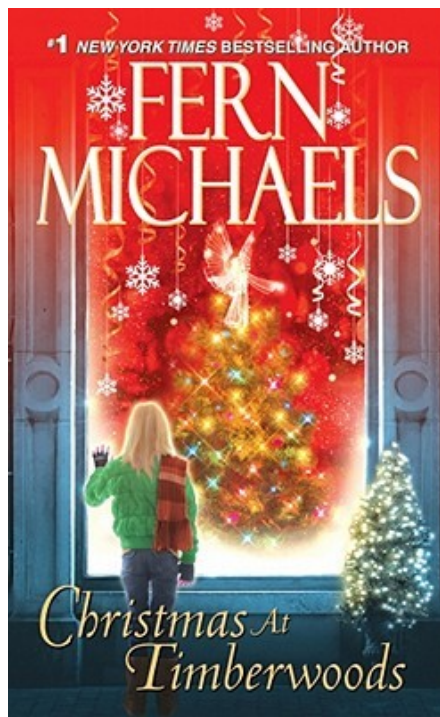




Christmas at Timberwoods

Fern Michaels

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Beloved *New York Times* bestselling author Fern Michaels crafts an unforgettable story of lives connected and friendship kindled in an action-packed and gripping novel.

It's the most wonderful time of the year. . .and for Heather Andrews, security manager at Timberwoods Mall, undoubtedly the busiest. But this Christmas, Heather has more to contend with than frazzled parents and disgruntled Santas. Angela Steinhart, a young woman who designed the mall's spectacular holiday displays, has had a premonition that tragedy will strike on Christmas Eve. And Angela's visions have a habit of coming true.

Heather would love to dismiss the warning as holiday stress. But the more she gets to know the quiet, lonely Angela, the more she trusts her. In Lex, her boss, Heather finds an ally--and the glimmer of something more profound. And as the days count down, it will take all of her wits, hope, and unflagging courage to stop someone from destroying the season in one split second. . .

Christmas at Timberwoods Details

Date : Published October 1st 2011 by Zebra (first published July 1999)

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Author : Fern Michaels

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From Reader Review Christmas at Timberwoods for online ebook

Becky says

It takes a lot to make me give a book a 1 star rating. I have tried to write, and I know how hard it is, but this author needed to try a little harder. To be fair I only managed to read the first 100 pages and then I skimmed the ending to see if there were any surprises. There weren't. There are so many things wrong with this book that I almost don't know where to begin. How about we start with the three point of view changes in one page? That's not at all confusing or unnecessary. Then there are the characters that might as well have been named Female Protagonist and Male Protagonist for all of the depth of character development put into them. The large cast of indistinguishable side characters who are defined only by their roles in the "plot" - the money-grubbing, dishonest business owner, the honest, hard-hitting cop, and the evil, anti-social villain. Speaking of the villain, the "author" very carefully points him out in the first couple of chapters just in case you don't want to wait to the end to find out who was going to try to do harm to the cardboard cutouts she substitutes for real characters.

I don't have high standards for Christmas novels. I look for heart-warming, simple stories with only a minimum of writing talent required to keep me from throwing the book away. This one failed to meet even that much. It's going into the first trash can I pass.

Tracy says

What a terrible book. When I bought it I was apparently charmed by the blurb on the back, which promised what sounded like an interesting, fun holiday read. What I got when I started reading was poorly executed prose, flat, whiny characters who speak to each other with badly written dialogue, and an overall plot that's listless and is essentially revealed (yet not at all) in the first fifty pages.

This is one of the most poorly written books I've come across, and I'm totally sickened by the fact that this author is "on the bestseller" list. Either people really like this crap, are too undereducated to notice there are many better choices (even for chick lit!), or are like me, fooled into thinking they are getting a sweet (yet not overly sappy) fun little holiday tale.

Reeda says

I Love This Book. I Love All Of Her Books. Its A wonderful book. Would Highly Recommend It.

Tiffeny says

This book was barely readable. I ended up skimming to get to the end, but only because I didn't have anything else to read. If I had something else, I would have just stopped. I didn't think any of the characters weren't likable among many other negative things.

? Kimberly says

I purchased Christmas at Timberwoods by Fern Michaels, as it was the December, book of the month selection for a Goodreads group. It is a romantic suspense novel, with events that take place in the days before Christmas. The central story involves a young woman who suffers from visions and her attempts to stop a horrific event from occurring. The tale unfolds as Michaels changes points of views between key characters.

Heather Andrews, security manager at Timberwoods Mall, is approached by Angela Steinhart, a young woman who has visions and some major baggage. Angela attempts to share her visions with Heather. She sees blood, red, fire, screaming children, wounded patrons, and explosions. Angela is a wreck because she knows her visions always come true. She is lonely, scared, depressed, and needs someone to listen to her. Heather unsure of what to do turns to her boss Lex. Together they take steps to determine the credibility of Angela's story. The two develop a romance, but it is secondary to the other plots. Fans looking for a detailed romance will be disappointed.

Charlie Roman, works for the mall and has recently been downgraded due to health issues. He has a crush on Heather, but is too shy to make a move. He sees her relationship with Lex as the last straw in a series of perceived slights. Michaels takes us into his fragile psyche, as she changes points of view. He is a lonely, awkward man and clearly disturbed, but you will end up feeling sorry for him. When a relationship develops between Charlie and Angela, it appears his plans to blow up the mall, killing everyone may be averted. Their relationship is strange and appears to give each the emotional connection they desire. Unfortunately, when Charlie feels Angela has abandoned him, he sets his plans into motion.

There are several mini-plots in the novel. Two in particular that I found touching were the stories of a little girl with cancer and a couple expecting their first child. Michaels, has tightly entwined all of these sub-plots into the story. While it makes the action face-paced, some readers may feel slighted by the lack of depth in them. Some characters surrounding the key players are worth mentioning, as they will evoke many different feelings from the reader. You will hate Angel's mother, want to slap her father and perhaps run over the obnoxious mall manager and shop owners.

Overall, I enjoyed Christmas at Timberwoods and would recommend it to fans of suspenseful tales with a splash of romance.

Dorothy says

This book was a "read to the end" book without stopping. It really was that interesting. I had to know the end and if the explosion was as real as this young lady imagined. Also I will read almost all Christmas titles during November and December because I love Holiday stories. Michaels is a great author who keeps you on the edge of your seat until the end.

Romancing the Book says

Review: This was a wonderful book that had a totally different premise than I expected. Instead of a lighthearted Christmas book this one had darkness, a mystery or two to be solved and a lot of angst interspersed with the holiday spirit that tried to shine through and many times did. Angela was a

misunderstood only child of parents who had no time for her especially her mother who was climbing the social ladder and didn't want Angela's visions and melancholy holding her back. Angela's visions are what connected her to the characters throughout the book who for the most part wanted to believe in her and her visions no matter how farfetched they seemed.

Angela was able to connect with Maria, the sick little girl she first saw in a vision involving a plane crash. She also connected at times with some of the management at the Timberwoods Mall. The mall played a major role in the story since much of the book's storyline took place there or were in the characters thoughts even when they weren't physically there. Eric Summers, who was a detective working at the mall on loan from the police department, had some meetings at his house to try and keep the police out of some of the findings until things could be verified. His pregnant wife, Amy, connected with Angela during one of these meetings. She was the friend that Angela never had which gave Angela a lifeline to humanity that she desperately needed.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it but not as a true Christmas story. I've always enjoyed the books by Fern Michaels that I have read.

Favorite Quote: "Don't Daddy. I understand. I really do. I don't want to talk about Mother. I'm so glad you're here. Boy, you don't know how glad." She smiled.

"You know something, Angel – I'm glad, too." Murray sounded suprised, even to himself. "Real glad," he repeated softly. "Whatever happens, you can't blame yourself. You know that, don't you?"
"I know."

Reviewed by: JoAnne

Book provided by: Publisher

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

Mary says

This is one of the Christmas fiction novels I won from a contest Christmas in July.

When I looked at the cover and even read the description of the book I thought I was going to be reading a light hearted Christmas novel. I was wrong. It's about a young emotionally unstable woman who has visions and this Christmas Angela Steinhart has a premonition that the shopping mall where some of her artwork is displayed will be bombed on a busy shopping day Christmas Eve. She reports this to security at the mall, police and her parents. I feel sorry for Angela because she is a very lonely person with no friends but rich parents that don't pay attention to her. Her mother's character is someone I would never want to meet . All she thinks of is putting Angela in a mental institution and what will other people think. Her father is ok just busy with his job, flying to other countries. The security manager Heather does believe Angela.

Heather tells her boss Lex and together they determine the credibility of the story. The two develop a romance but it is a very minor portion of the story. That's it for romance in this book if that's what fans are looking for in this novel.

Angela does meet a friend at the mall Charlie Roman. He works at the mall in maintenance. During the Christmas season he helps Santa with the children. He is a very lonely man who has been bullied almost all his life. Angela steps into his life as a friend and his idea of blowing up the mall seems to dissipate.

If this was a story that if it would have taken place any other time than Christmas I believe I would have enjoyed the book more. Never judge a book by it's cover.

Susie says

I am listening to this on CD. Not sure I will finish it. It is pretty transparent.....and annoying. Okay, I finished it but only because it was an audio book and there really wasn't anything better on the radio. No more Agatha Christie and no more Fern Michaels.

Megs ♥ says

At first this book really had potential to be great. I started this thinking it was a fluff romantic Christmas book, and quickly realized it was not at all.

Timberwoods Mall is being threatened. A note was sent saying that the mall would be blown up by a psycho. At the same time Angela, a girl who has visions , is also trying to warn everyone that she can see this happening. The beginning of the book goes by quickly and I like the fast pace.

After a short while, though, things get awfully confusing....One page changes the character point of view three times, and it just throws you off. Not to mention you keep switching mini-stories so quickly it's hard to keep up or care what happens. Some people mentioned should have just been left out altogether.

The ending was so rushed compared to the suspense the author tried to build, but I didn't mind. At page 150 or so I was already skimming anyway.

If you are looking for a decent holiday book I would say skip this one!

Jeanne says

Nothing spectacular here . . . and, of course, there are dogs!! 5 out of 10 for me.

Melanie Adkins says

Heather is facing the busiest time of the year for a mall, Christmas. Being the security manager, Heather handles all kinds of issues for the mall. She's seen just about everything and is prepared to face it once again until a young woman shows up unannounced at her office. Angela, the young woman, is frantic and telling Heather about a situation that will occur at the mall. Heather's unsure at first whether to believe her or not. Angela came across as sincere, but there was something about her. Heather decides to keep the information to herself until Angela shows up again. Now she has no choice but to share the information with her bosses and others at the mall. The story that follows will keep you entertained and on the edge of your seat. Trying

to deal with normal Christmas time issues and this added problem plays on everyone's nerves. It brings some together and tears others apart.

I loved this book because you can almost visualize the whole thing at your local mall. You can see in your mind's eye the situations described and the people involved. It's very real life in that way. The characters are well defined and mostly likable people. You'll be rooting for some and booing for others. Fern Michaels hits another one out of the ball park with this book. It will make you look at families, Christmas and your local mall in a whole new way. I felt sad for some of the characters but as this story is so real to life, I understand why these characters were necessary. The only problem I saw was that Angela seems bipolar or manic on top of her other talents. I thought it was unnecessary to portray her in this light. It made it more difficult to accept anything she said as the truth. I think it could have been handled in a different way and still maintained the spirit of the book.

Joy Gerbode says

Although a little more intense than I prefer my mysteries, this one is very good, very well written. It takes place in a mall at Christmas time ... what a delightful, and hectic, and potentially tragic setting. I like that the perpetrator is somewhat obvious, yet the author keeps us guessing throughout the book regarding who or what is behind the crime. Each little side story is well developed without taking away from the main story. All together, a delightful Christmas read, but perhaps not for those with anxiety issues.

DAISY DISNEY says

I read this book pretty fast. It was a fast and pleasant read. I did think it was going to be more "Christmasy" but overall I did like the story. Although there wasn't a lot of action, the characters did bring out emotions in me. I for one disliked Sylvia, Angela's mother. She came across as a ignorant self centered woman. Angela's father needed to grow some balls he was a wimp! I surprisingly did feel sorry for Charlie I found him to be a lonely man who wanted to be loved. There was a touchy moment for me in the book when Maria was spoken to by the ice skating woman. It touched my heart that a simple act from a human being could brighten her day. My heart really went out to that little girl.

This is the first Fern Michaels book I have read. Overall I liked it. I give this 3 stars... I only wish there would have been more action. Maybe I am just used to my Patricia Cornwell type of books hahaha.

Shirlene says

Heather Andrews was the head security manager of Timberwoods Mall. Angela Steinhart, designer of the mall's Christmas displays, stopped by to talk to her. Angela had been having visions for years and this time she had seen the destruction of the mall by an explosion. Angela felt she could trust Heather to do what she could to try and stop her vision from becoming a reality.

Heather went to see Felex Lassiter in public relations about Angela's dream. Together they went to see Heather's boss. Lex was attracted to Heather and took advantage of the situation to ask her out on a date to which Heather accepted. Lex was determined to keep Heather close and they soon became intimate with each other.

Angela's mother, Sylvia refused to listen or accept what Angela said she saw. She had been sending Angela to numerous psychiatrists since she was young. Sylvia refused to accept the reality of Angela's visions and she also didn't want to be bothered by them. She found psychiatrists who thought that something was wrong with Angela just like she did. Sylvia was considering having Angela committed with this latest episode. They fought and Sylvia left house. Angela stopped up all the upstairs sinks and toilets and let the water run. She ruined the carpets and flooring in the house. Sylvia was gone and came home to the mess. She then called Angela's father in London and demanded that he come home and deal with Angela himself this time. Charlie Roman worked at the mall and helped corral the kids for Santa. He resented the job and his treatment by others when he was working on the building of the mall. He liked Heather but didn't have the nerve to ask her out and he got upset when he saw her with Lex. He was determined to get revenge at others in general by placing explosives around the mall and especially in a pipe that he had gotten stuck in from gaining too much weight while he was working as an electrician for the mall. He had been teased and was still angry. He and Angela bumped into each other just outside the mall as he was coming to work. Angela felt somehow drawn to him. She had returned to the mall after arguing with her mother and asked him to meet her for coffee during his break. They didn't stay together long because neither of them knew what to say. Heather and Lex went to see Harold Baumgarten, chief of security to tell him about Angela's vision. Eric Summers was a policeman on loan for the holidays and was assisting Harold. He and the owner of the mall, Dolph Richards, had a running feud going. Dolph was known for sleeping around and he was too greedy to accept the visions as real and close the mall for the shoppers and tenants safety. Summers first thought regarding the visions was that Angela was somehow involved in setting off a bomb. With Dolph's objections, Summers contacted the police and asked for more men and help with the bomb threats that had been sent to the police department. Now they seemed to have a suspect, Angela.

Charlie continued to work and noticed the extra security. He wasn't worried because he knew that nothing would be found. He went home and was surprised when Angela came to see him. She asked if she could stay with him for awhile. She didn't tell him that she and her mother had fought and couldn't go home because of the damage she had caused there. Charlie liked having Angela around and felt like he might be falling for her. He liked having someone to come home to. Angela liked cleaning his house and cooking for him. They picked out a Christmas tree and decorated it together. Charlie felt like maybe he could put aside his revenge for awhile. He wasn't so angry with Angela around.

Angela decided to take a trip to the mall and one of the security guards chased her and arrested her. She was afraid that her mother had sent cops after her. She was surprised to find out that she was wanted just to talk to the head of security. The cop took her to Summers house where he was having dinner with his pregnant wife. She was upset when she saw Angela because she had run through mud trying to get away and was very dirty. His wife fed Angela and let her take a bath before she was questioned. She tried to call Charlie but he didn't answer the phone. She stayed after she was questioned by being hypnotized and tried to call Charlie again. Still no answer.

The mall was being checked thoroughly for bombs. A couple of the cops spotted tanks on the roof but it was cold and they left them there. They were small and they didn't think of them as being an explosive. Charlie was really upset when he got home and Angela wasn't there. He felt like he had been left again and all his anger returned. He headed back to the mall to check his explosives. He dressed as Santa and went onto the roof. He was once again immersed in the details of the detonation of the explosives he set. He didn't answer the phone because it thought it was work calling to ask him to help clear snow.

Angela had told the security group of the mall about another vision she had about a plane crash. They did some checking and found out that the vision had indeed come to pass. There was a plane crash and a little girl was left without a donor she needed because of the crash. The group believed in Angela's vision even more now.

A little girl in the hospital tried to tell her mother that she had seen Santa on the roof of the mall but her mother didn't believe her. She wasn't looking where her daughter was when Charlie was spotted while on the roof dressed as Santa. She did see Charlie dressed as Santa a few days later.

The mall security group tried talking to the Mall store owners to see if they would agree to closing the mall but they didn't. They didn't want to lose the money they would make on the last few days before Christmas. Charlie home up sick the last shopping day before Christmas. The mall had a big sale going on and a

Christmas parade inside the mall. Eric Summers was at the mall and so were Heather and Lex. They all felt like something was about to happen. Angela and her father arrived and felt the same way. Angela found out that Mrs. Summers was in the mall and went to find her to see if they could convince her to go home. They ran into Charlie and Angela realized that Charlie was the one who was going to set off the bomb. She and her father followed him through the mall to see if they could find out what he was up to. Angela's father, Murray, gave Angela a knife and she slashed one of the tires in a parade float to stop the parade. Angela saw the little girl in her vision. Maria had leukemia and had come to the mall to see Santa before her bone marrow transplant. She was weak and hoping to live through the holidays. Heather and Lex were watching on camera and saw Angela slash the parade float tire. They were surprised and left their office to find and arrest her.

Angela realized that Charlie was beyond reach. He was so angry and out of his mind. He saw Angela and grabbed her. He headed with her to the roof. He was almost stopped by Murray but he choked Murray and left him passed out by the door to the room. Angela still had her knife and planned to use it if she got a chance. She had a vision of hand over hand and didn't know what it meant. Charlie told her that he had made a bomb and took her to see it. She pulled out a cell phone and told her that he had set her number in it and then through it off the roof. He had another phone that he intended to use as a detonator for the bomb. He intended to for someone to find the other phone which would let them know they had a connection and blame her for helping set off the bomb. Angela grabbed him by the hand and knocked the phone onto the ground. She then went to her knees and told him she was praying. He looked down and asked her what she was doing. Eric had arrived and surprised him by saying he should join her in prayer and knocked him out. Angela had kicked the phone into the snow. Charlie wasn't all the way knocked out and reached to try and get the phone when Eric hit him again.

Eric called the bomb squad in and a tied up Charlie. Angela and her father were taken to the hospital and she was told that Maria was there too. Angela was told about Maria being put in isolation before her transplant surgery and Angela went to see her through the window. Angela had told Maria when she was in the mall that she had designed the angel display there. Angela had a vision of Maria older and playing. Angela felt much better knowing that Maria would survive the surgery and do well.

Lex took Heather on a walk through the mall after Christmas and had prepared a display in one of the jewelry stores to have an engagement ring on display. He asked Heather to marry him and asked if a years engagement would work for her. She agreed.

Murray took Angela on a trip to London. Angela would live there with him and divorce Sylvia. He'd had enough of her dismissing Angela and trying to get her admitted to a psychiatric hospital. They were over. Angela was getting a fresh start with her father.

Eric and his wife had a healthy baby girl.
