



Young Library Lines

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 7

December Hours

Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday
CLOSED



CLOSED

**December 22nd
through
January 4th
for Christmas &
New Year Break**

Library Staff:

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The First Christmas Tree

According to one account, the first Christmas tree was the brain-child of a man named Winfrith (also known by the Latin name Boniface). Winfrith was an 8th-century English missionary to the heathen Saxons of Germany. When Winfrith came to Geismar in Hesse – or so the tale goes – he found there a huge and very old oak tree that was revered by the natives as sacred to the god, Thor. In the presence of a large number of hostile Saxons, Winfrith defied the power and authority of the old gods. He attacked the oak with his axe. But before he could cut it down, a mighty blast of wind came and finished the job for him. The giant tree was shattered into four great pieces.



This convinced the Germans that Winfrith’s gospel was true. As a result, they built a chapel out of the wood from the fallen oak. And Winfrith himself – or so it is said – cut a small fir sapling from the forest and placed it in the chapel as a symbol of the Christ-child’s birth and the beginning of His reign among this formerly heathen people.

This, according to a number of sources, is the origin and meaning of the Christmas tree as we know it today. Author Henry Van Dyke has written a fictionalized account of this event in his dramatic short story [“The First Christmas Tree.”](#) Some say that the great reformer Martin Luther was responsible for following up on this tradition by introducing the use of Christmas trees in the homes of the German people in the 16th century.

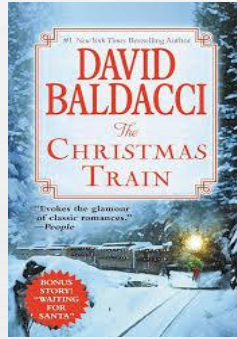
ALL ABOARD for an Inspirational Christmas Read!

First published in 1984, and written by David Baldacci (yes, the best-selling suspense-thriller novelist), *The Christmas Train* is considered by many to be a modern holiday classic. The story is filled with memorable characters who have packed their bags with as much wisdom as mischief... and shows how we *do* get second chances to fulfill our deepest hopes and dreams, especially during this season of miracles. Disillusioned journalist Tom Langdon must get from Washington D.C. to L.A. in time for Christmas. Forced to travel by train, he begins a journey of rude awakenings, thrilling adventures, and holiday magic. He has no idea that the locomotives pulling him across America will actually take him into the rugged terrain of his own heart, as he rediscovers people's essential goodness and someone very special he believed he had lost.

Located in our library in Section 800: Dewey 813.54 B19c

[Purchase the Book.](#)

[Watch the movie.](#)



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