

Christmas Shorts is a collection of short stories set during the holiday season and beyond. Each story has its own set of troubles and heartache that try to steal their holiday spirit but sometimes a miracle shows up to rekindle the joy.

Christmas Shorts

By Sylvia Mintz

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Christmas Shorts

4 holiday stories for those
who still believe in Christmas miracles

Sylvia Mintz

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As her eyes closed for what she believed would be the last time, she saw Lizzy and Leah staring at her and then darkness.

Flashes of bright lights. Loud sounds of metal-on-metal grinding, causing vibrations that made Shasta grunt in pain.

Brown curls close to her face. Lizzy. She smiled at Shasta. “Thanks for the cookies. We have to go now.” She bent down and kissed Shasta on the cheek and climbed over the seat. She reached down for Leah’s hand and began to gently pull her over. Leah gave Shasta a smile and a wave before she disappeared into the back seat with her sister.

Bright lights. Too bright. Shasta blinked until her focus returned. Russell and her mother were standing at her bedside. She was in the hospital, and she was safe. Russell was holding her hand. He smiled down at her, worry and relief etched in his expression. “Hello there. You going to stay with us this time?”

Tears rolled down her mother’s face as she let out a sigh. “Oh, thank God. Thank You.”

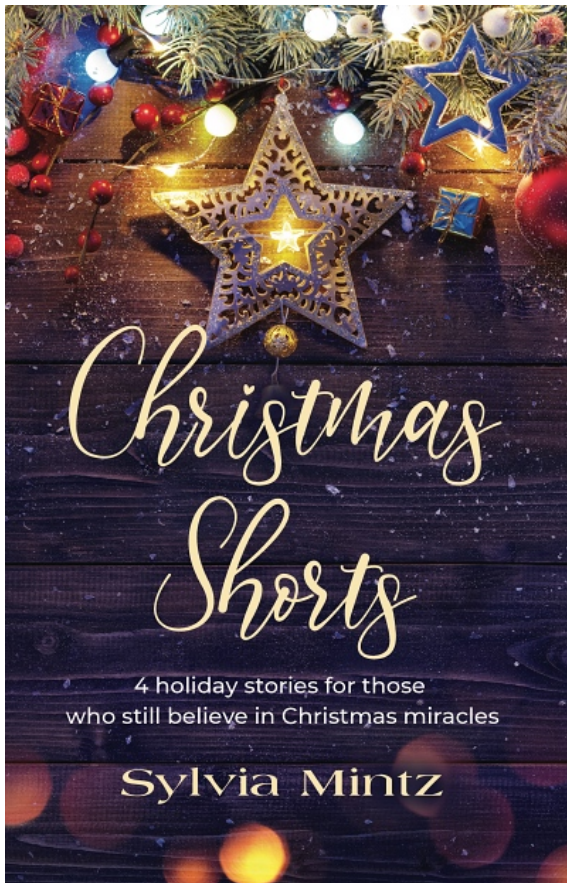
A week passed, and the doctor sent Shasta home to recover. She had suffered a slight concussion in the accident, but

miraculously had no broken bones. She had a total of thirty stitches in various locations on her body, and all her muscles still ached. Her bruises gradually took on every color in the rainbow.

She was healing physically, but mentally, she was a hot mess. When she'd come to in the hospital, she'd asked the staff about the two little girls in the car with her. At her insistence, the emergency team that had rescued her came to see her twice while she was in the hospital. They told her the same thing each time: there was no one else in the car with her. There couldn't have been. The car was crushed, and even if they had survived, there was no way they could've crawled out of the vehicle.

To appease her, Russell had called the sheriff's department and checked to make sure there were no missing girls in the area. A couple of off-duty officers had even offered to look in the surrounding woods and downstream. Nothing.

But Shasta couldn't let it go. She hadn't imagined those two precious girls. They were real. She had described the incident in the parking lot when she'd seen them even before the accident. Couldn't they check the security footage from that day? Russell suggested that maybe seeing those girls had made her dream them up after the blow to the head.



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