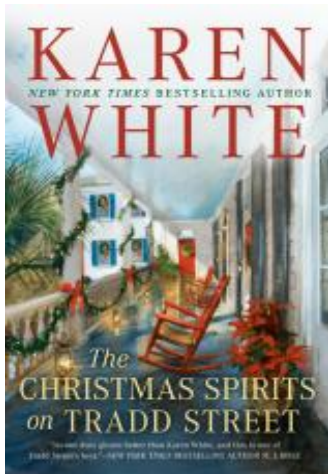


The Christmas Spirits on Tradd Street

by Karen White



About the Book

The Christmas spirit is overtaking Tradd Street with a vengeance in this festive fifth novel in the *New York Times* bestselling series by Karen White.

Melanie Trenholm should be anticipating Christmas with nothing but joy --- after all, it's only the second Christmas she and her husband, Jack, will celebrate with their twin toddlers. But the ongoing excavation of the centuries-old cistern in the garden of her historic Tradd Street home has been a huge millstone, both financially and aesthetically. Local students are thrilled by the possibility of unearthing more Colonial-era artifacts at the cistern, but Melanie is concerned by the ghosts connected to it that have suddenly invaded her life and her house --- and at least one of them is definitely not filled with holiday cheer.

And these relics aren't the only precious artifacts for which people are searching. A past adversary is convinced there is a long-lost Revolutionary War treasure buried somewhere on the property Melanie inherited --- untold riches rumored to have been brought over from France by the Marquis de Lafayette himself and intended to help the Colonial war effort. It's a treasure literally fit for a king, and there have been whispers throughout history that many have already killed --- and died --- for it. And now someone will stop at nothing to possess it --- even if it means destroying everything Melanie and Jack hold dear.

Discussion Guide

1. We have seen Melanie grow up in so many ways throughout the series and in this book. Why do you think she allows her insecurity to get the best of her and her relationship with Jack?

2. Family can be wonderful but can also be tricky to deal with. In the case of Marc and Anthony, how do you think two brothers who were raised in the same home can grow up to be such different people?
3. Speaking of family, how would you describe the dynamic between Rebecca and Melanie? What caused their relationship to dissolve, and what causes it to grow closer again? Is blood truly thicker than water?
4. Jack loves Melanie for who she is and accepts her faults. Why do you think Jack couldn't tell Melanie the truth about what happened to him, his editor and his book? Do you think he was bound by the sense that he needed to support his family or to show the same level of independence that Melanie exhibits?
5. Melanie has the ability to see and interact with ghosts. Would you want that ability, and would you do what Melanie does to help enable the ghosts to rest in peace? Or would you ignore your ability?
6. Marriage plays a prominent role in the book, and we see many different aspects of it --- the good and the rough parts. Did you like seeing both Melanie and Jack's tender moments and their moments of frustration? Could you relate to the ups and downs?
7. Why do you think Melanie feels she has to be the one to solve everyone's problems? Why is she unable to allow herself to accept help from others, including from her parents and Jack?
8. In the next (and final) book in the series, where do you expect to find the characters --- especially Melanie and Jack?

Author Bio

Karen White is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 34 books, including the *Tradd Street* series, *THE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON*, *DREAMS OF FALLING*, *THE NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT*, *FLIGHT PATTERNS*, *THE SOUND OF GLASS* and *THE TIME BETWEEN*. She is the co-author of *THE LOST SUMMERS OF NEWPORT*, *ALL THE WAYS WE SAID GOODBYE*, *THE GLASS OCEAN* and *THE FORGOTTEN ROOM* with *New York Times* bestselling authors Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. She grew up in London but now lives with her husband near Atlanta, Georgia.

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