

*A Christmas Memory* by Richard Paul Evans

If you are looking for a holiday novella that will pull on your heartstrings and wet your eyes, Richard Paul Evans books usually are a great choice. His writings often tie the holidays with family, and past memories, and this year's book includes both. In fact, the author says this book is tied to his personal story of family, grief, and hope.

Over the span of a few months in 1967 young Rick loses his older brother to death (while serving in Vietnam), his home in California, and his family, as his parents separate and his mother slides into a deep depression. Richard finds no acceptance at his new school and feels so much confusion about the way his life has changed. He spends his time outdoors exploring and finds solace in making friends with the neighbor's dog. That friendship soon evolves into meeting Mr. Foster, owner of the dog. Mr. Foster becomes Rick's lifeline. But as Christmas approaches Rick will find himself facing the reality of even more pain and sadness.

With less than 200 short pages, *A Christmas Memory* is a quick little book that will bring to mind the importance of caring for those you love during this holiday season.