



NANCY: Our book club picked this as light reading for December, and so it is. A somewhat ridiculous story of a couple who try to avoid Christmas tradition and save money, planning a warm pleasure cruise instead. Bedlam ensues as their friends' and neighbors' expectations are thwarted, until their daughter announces her unexpected return on Christmas Eve. Then the crazy story turns into a feel-good expression of community at its best.



MOLLY: As silly as the story was in many ways, like Nancy said, it did come down to a great expression of a community pulling together for one of its own. Christmas can be a bit much, depending on how you look at it. I wouldn't mind following the Kranks on a Caribbean cruise one of these years, but I'd still give presents to friends and family.!



KATHARINE: Well, not my favorite for sure. I don't think I'll be recommending this one for college students. I thought it would make a good movie, but when I watched "Christmas with the Kranks", I was disappointed. I thought the ending was the most humorous part of the book, but they switched it all up in the movie and just made it strange.



SALLIE: This book was fun to read at this time of year. You think about all the years of going through the motions at Christmas. I think it's a good idea to break with tradition once in a while. Although it didn't turn out as planned, I agree like the others said — they all came together at the end over — the young person — of course! The community loves its children! I also loved the story of the little boy helping Mr. Krank with the tree. Sweet.



PRISCILLA: You can't skip Christmas, it just isn't right. I know the Kranks were embarrassed when they saw their minister. They appeared to be good, church-going people, so why would they even try to do this? I mean I get it trying to save money, but gift giving is a way to express love. They could've done some of the giving, and still gone on a cruise.



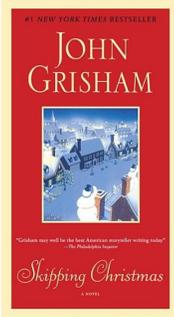
ABIGAIL: This story reminds me that Christmas is not about materialism, although that seems to be what it's all about sometimes. Mrs. Krank seemed to want to keep the relationship parts, Mr. Krank just seemed to look at the bottom line. We should be able to do Christmas without a lot of money.



JANE: Christmas stimulates the economy. What do you earn your money for if not to spend it? I think Mr. Krank got it wrong. Fine, if he wants to go on a cruise, but don't make the local businesses suffer because he wants to enjoy himself. Christmas is giving and spending and that's a good thing.



Discussion Guide



About the Book

Title: Skipping Christmas

Author: John Grisham)

Published: Anchor, 2010

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Questions for Discussion

1. What were your general impressions of this book?
2. Why do you think the author wrote a book like this?
3. What are your holiday traditions and do you ever switch them up?
4. Is it hard to change holiday traditions? Do your friends and/or family complain?
5. Have you ever gone on a trip over the holidays, instead of staying home and doing all the Christmas stuff? If so, how did that work for you?
6. If you could go on a trip instead of doing all the holiday stuff, where would you like to go and why?
7. Do you experience any pressure from your neighbors? If so, explain.
8. Have you ever experienced your neighbors and/or community coming together to help you out? Tell the story.
9. Read over the MAMs comments on this book. With whom do you agree/disagree and why?
10. Will this book change your life or perspective in any way? Explain.

Listen to John Grisham on YouTube at:

John Grisham Opens Up About The Inspiration Behind His Writing (8:41)

John Grisham Wishes He Could Skip Christmas (:20)