

Unremembered Loss

For all the news and information from the world of Rathrae, and for the story Unremembered Loss

Issue 112

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My Gift to You

Thanksgiving is over, and Christmas is well on its way. As part of my preparation for Christmas the last few years, I designed Christmas ornaments. Keeping with that tradition, I set about in mid-November to develop the 2018 collection.

In the past, I've made candle holders from recycled window blinds. The challenge of using this material is that it is only two inches wide. I had some of these blinds in the garage, so I decided to try and design an ornament around this limitation.

A two-inch round ornament is tiny. Thinking about other shapes – rectangle, oval – I remembered the long pointed ornament we used to hang on the tree. The points at both ends aren't the best for cutting, so I looked at a teardrop shape. I mocked up the shape in Illustrator and then made filled it with a Christmas tree.



I cut out a couple and liked the what they came out. Encouraged by the results, I decided to design a few more ornaments. Next came a star and a present.



While looking around the web, I saw a wooden ornament that had a church on a hill with some trees. I decided to my own version of this one. My hill it's as tall as the reference design, but I do like the way mine came out.



An idea then struck me. I should give away ornaments for the people who follow me as my Christmas give to them. I weighted ornaments and found that they weight so little that I can send four or five for one first class stamp.

I spent a while figuring out how to structure my give away. I settled on giving away to my followers, another for getting my newsletter, another for letting other people about me and a couple for doing a project with me.

Be one of the first 100 people to send your address via e-mail to doug@agoodtale.com

Following me I'll send you one

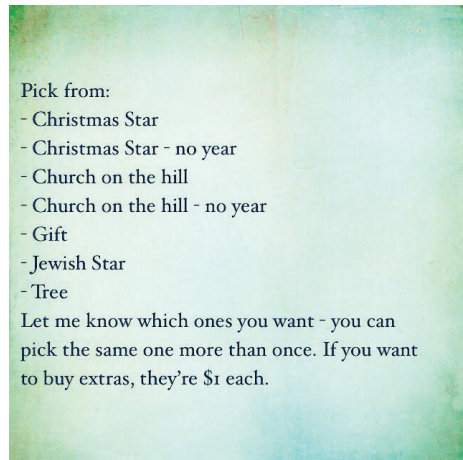
Subscribe to the Unremembered Loss newsletter and get a 2nd

Tag two friends and get a 3rd

Collaborate with me on a story and get 5

This newsletter comes out monthly. It often contains news about the two novels I'm writing, the occasional short story, discussion about writing, and very off topic things like my card game. Go to DouglasGClarke.com to see back issues. Make sure to sign-up at <http://www.douglasgclarke.com/lists/?p=subscribe> so you won't miss the next issue.

I gave people the choice of which ones they wanted and the ability to buy more.



I took some to church last weekend – we have a Christmas market where I’ve sold items in past years and donated the proceeds to the church. This year, because of working with an outside group, it was too much work for them, so I didn’t put them out; however, one person had heard about them and wanted to buy some.

I posted my giveaway on Instagram. I received fifteen likes, one comment and zero people wanting me to send them a free ornament. I also posted it on Facebook and got one like.

I have to be honest, I was a little down when no one said yes to my gift. Part of the problem might be that people would have to send me their address.



Undaunted, I took some of the ornaments with me when we went out to lunch as I gave one to the person who we bought ice cream from. They seemed very excited to get it.

I want to post again on Instagram, but I don’t want to post the same thing, so I decided to create some more designs so I can post them as “new.”



I made two more – a snowman and a snowflake. I’ve now cut out thirty or forty of all seven. I’m going to take them with me as I go shopping this week and give them to people.



It’s going to be a challenge to give them all away, but its the kind of challenge that I like taking on.

So... Now it’s your turn to help me meet my challenge. I want to send 100 gifts to people who are following me. Guess what? That’s you.

Send me your address, and I’ll send to an ornament of your choice.

- Christmas Star
- Christmas Star - no year
- Church on a hill
- Church on a hill - no year
- Gift
- Snowflake
- Snowman
- Star of David
- Tree

Start following my Instagram and get a second one. Tag two friends in a comment on my post and get a third one. And work with me on a collaborative project, and I’ll send you all seven.

Let me help decorate your tree and help me reach my goal by sending me your address today so I can send you your ornament tomorrow. Time’s running out so don’t delay.

And please forward this on to your friends so that they can get their own ornament and so I can get more followers.

Thanks for your support and I wish for you the happiest of holiday seasons.

Coming up in 2019 - I have several more stories to share with you; more news about my travel towards being published; and of course, my book in your hands. The beta reading phase is almost up, and then it goes to the editor for the final copy edit.

I can’t wait for 2019 – it’s going to be a great year.

Doug