

## The Christmas Quilt Elm Creek Quilts Novels Simon Schuster

Donna VanLiere's Christmas books have enthralled millions of readers. Now she delivers a new inspirational novel about an unlikely friendship between two women—a friendship that will change each of their lives forever. Gretchen Daniels has recently moved into a condo with her two children to be closer to her mother, Miriam. As they build a life together in their new community, they notice a mysterious young woman, Melissa McCreary, who lives next door. She has few possessions, little personality, and keeps to herself. One day a local landlord who is looking for Melissa knocks on Gretchen's door for assistance. Melissa's mother has died and in the coming weeks the landlord needs Melissa to empty her mother's apartment. Gretchen reaches out and offers to help Melissa, but the apartment is a gut-wrenching shamble of a home. There is little worth saving except for a few photos and a note that is discovered on the crate beside the bed. It is unfinished, but in the two scribbled lines, Melissa discovers secrets about her family that she never could have imagined. Can two very different women embark on a journey that explores a long-buried need for forgiveness, hope, and redemption?

Meditating on the weddings she has attended in Elm Creek Manor throughout the years on the morning of her daughter, Caroline's, wedding day, Sarah McClure evaluates the symbolic features on a painstakingly made wedding quilt designed to display the signatures of beloved guests. Reprint. 100,000 first printing.

The first three books in Jennifer Chiaverini's beloved bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series—The Quilter's Apprentice, Round Robin, and The Cross-Country Quilters—are brought together in one beautiful boxed set perfect for holiday giving. "Classics of their kind"—The Dallas Morning News

Inspired by the author's novel "The Union Quilters," features patterns for traditional quilt blocks sewn by the women of Elm Creek Valley during the Civil War and includes quilt assembly instructions.

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini returns with *The Women's March*, an enthralling historical novel of the women's suffrage movement inspired by three courageous women who bravely risked their lives and liberty in the fight to win the vote. Twenty-five-year-old Alice Paul returns to her native New Jersey after several years on the front lines of the suffrage movement in Great Britain. Weakened from imprisonment and hunger strikes, she is nevertheless determined to invigorate the stagnant suffrage movement in her homeland. Nine states have already granted women voting rights, but only a constitutional amendment will secure the vote for all. To inspire support for the campaign, Alice organizes a magnificent procession down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the day before the inauguration of President-elect Woodrow Wilson, a firm antisuffragist. Joining the march is thirty-nine-year-old New Yorker Maud Malone, librarian and advocate for women's and workers' rights. The daughter of Irish immigrants, Maud has acquired a reputation—and a criminal record—for interrupting politicians' speeches with pointed questions they'd rather ignore. Civil rights activist and journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett resolves that women of color must also be included in the march—and the proposed amendment. Born into slavery in Mississippi, Ida worries that white suffragists may exclude Black women if it serves their own interests. On March 3, 1913, the glorious march commences, but negligent police allow vast crowds of belligerent men to block the parade route—jeering, shouting threats, assaulting the marchers—endangering not only the success of the demonstration but the women's very lives. Inspired by actual events, *The Women's March* offers a fascinating account of a crucial but little-remembered moment in American history, a turning point in the struggle for women's

rights.

A beautiful keepsake volume to accompany the beloved New York Times bestselling series Over the course of the bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series, readers have expressed a longing to visit Elm Creek Manor, meet the quilters themselves, and admire their beautiful creations. Jennifer Chiaverini's An Elm Creek Quilts Companion is the next best thing to a guided tour. Inside, readers will discover a treasure trove of delights, including the Bergstrom family tree, character biographies, quilt block illustrations, full-color photographs of quilts featured in the novels, and "Behind the Scenes at Elm Creek Quilt Camp," an exclusive short story inspired by questions from real readers. No Elm Creek Quilts fan will want to be without this indispensable guide to the cherished series.

The New York Times bestselling author of the Elm Creek Quilts series joins the Dutton list with a Civil War-era tale of love and sacrifice behind Union lines. With *The Union Quilters*, Chiaverini delivers a powerful story of a remarkable group of women coping with changing roles and the extraordinary experiences of the Civil War. In 1862 Water's Ford, Pennsylvania, abolitionism is prevalent, even passionate, so the local men rally to answer Mr. Lincoln's call to arms. Thus the women of Elm Creek Valley's quilting bee are propelled into the unknown. Constance Wright, married to Abel, a skilled sharpshooter courageous enough to have ventured south to buy his wife's freedom from a Virginia plantation, knows well her husband's certainty that all people, enslaved and free, North and South, need colored men like him to fight for a greater purpose. Sisters-in-law Dorothea Nelson and Charlotte Granger wish safe passage for their learned husbands. Schoolmaster turned farmer Thomas carries Dorothea's Dove in the Window quilt with him. Charlotte's husband, Dr. Jonathan Granger, takes more than a doctor's bag to his post at a field hospital. Alongside the devotion of his wife, pregnant with their second child, Jonathan brings the promise he made to his unrequited love, Gerda Bergstrom: "My first letter will be to you." Together with the other members of the circle, the women support one another through loneliness and fear, and devise an ingenious business plan to keep Water's Ford functioning. That plan may forever alter the patchwork of town life in ways that transcend even the ultimate sacrifices of war.

The New York Times bestselling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters* unveils the private lives of President Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, through the eyes of the First Lady's most trusted confidante and friend in this compelling historical novel. In a life that spanned nearly a century and witnessed some of the most momentous events in American history, Elizabeth Hobbs Keckley was born a slave. A gifted seamstress, she earned her freedom by the skill of her needle, and won the friendship of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln by her devotion. A sweeping historical novel, *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* illuminates the extraordinary relationship the two women shared, beginning in the hallowed halls of the White House during the trials of the Civil War and enduring almost, but not quite, to the end of Mrs. Lincoln's days. "A fascinating glimpse into the women of an influential family on the front lines of some of the most important moments of that indelible time."--Booklist The New York Times bestselling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* returns to her most famous heroine, Mary Todd Lincoln, in this compelling story of love, loss, and sisterhood rich with history and suspense. In May 1875, Elizabeth Todd Edwards reels from news that her younger sister Mary, former First Lady and widow of President Abraham Lincoln, has attempted suicide. Mary's shocking act followed legal proceedings arranged by her eldest and only surviving son that declared her legally insane. Although they have long been estranged, Elizabeth knows Mary's tenuous mental health has deteriorated through decades of trauma and loss. Yet is her suicide attempt truly the

impulse of a deranged mind, or the desperate act of a sane woman terrified to be committed to an asylum? And—if her sisters can put past grievances aside—is their love powerful enough to save her? Maternal Elizabeth, peacemaker Frances, envious Ann, and much adored Emilie had always turned to one another in times of joy and heartache, first as children, and later as young wives and mothers. But when Civil War erupted, the conflict that divided a nation shattered their family. The Todd sisters's fates were bound to their husbands' choices as some joined the Lincoln administration, others the Confederate Army. Now, though discord and tragedy have strained their bonds, Elizabeth knows they must come together as sisters to help Mary in her most desperate hour.

John Wilkes Booth's misguided quest to avenge the vanquished Confederacy led him to commit one of the most notorious acts in the annals of America. Four women were integral in his life: Mary Ann, the mother he revered above all but country; his sister and confidante, Asia; Lucy Lambert Hale, the senator's daughter who loved him; and the Confederate widow Mary Surratt, to whom he entrusted the secrets of his vengeful wrath. As their stories intertwine we witness a soul in turmoil-- and a country at the precipice of immense change.

Here in one value-packed volume, find stunning designs from Nickel Quilts and More Nickel Quilts by best-selling authors Pat Speth and Charlene Thode. Simplify the cutting process and showcase 5" squares--or scraps from your stash--in timeless quilts. Find instructions for each quilt in three different sizes--lap, twin, and queen--for triple the options Get directions for using 4" and 6" squares as well Achieve a scrappy look or customize quilts to your fabric collection; patterns feature batiks, reproduction fabrics, and more

Quilters understand with every stitch how God can make even scraps wonderfully new and striking with a little time, imagination, and love. In these touching books, Mary Tatem pieces together spiritual insights and stories of quilters into devotionals that feature some of the most beloved and recognizable quilt patterns in America. Readers will discover the historical background of each pattern and be enchanted by the spiritual reflections on joy, faith, creativity, gratitude, patience, hope, and more. Encouragement, inspiration, and celebration--as well as some great stories--await readers as they discover that, in God's design, even the smallest scraps or most frayed fragments can be fashioned into something new, complete, comfort-giving, and beautiful.

Sew fifteen inspired designs with strong lines and quilted curves! Laced with retro-inspired circles and bold stripes, these modern quilts leave an unforgettable impression. Piecing circles, half-circles, and quarter-circles is easier than you think, and the authors will teach you to add movement and depth two ways—through easy strip sets or stripe-printed fabric. These aren't your typical Drunkard's Path quilts, but distinctive quilts for adventurous quilters! With block-based patterns, some improvisational piecing, and designs ranging from beginner-friendly to complex, there's something for

everyone.

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini returns with a delightful Christmas-themed installment in her beloved Elm Creek Quilts series—a captivating, heartwarming tale sure to become a holiday favorite. Just weeks before Christmas, severe wintry weather damages the church hall hosting the Christmas Boutique—an annual sale of handcrafted gifts and baked goods that supports the county food pantry. Determined to save the fundraiser, Sylvia Bergstrom Compson offers to hold the event at Elm Creek Manor, her ancestral family estate and summertime home to Elm Creek Quilt Camp. In the spirit of the season, Sylvia and the Elm Creek Quilters begin setting up market booths in the ballroom and decking the halls with beautiful hand-made holiday quilts. Each of the quilters chooses a favorite quilt to display, a special creation evoking memories of holidays past and dreams of Christmases yet to come. Sarah, a first-time mother expecting twins, worries if she can handle raising two babies, especially with her husband so often away on business. Cheerful, white-haired Agnes reflects upon a beautiful appliqué quilt she made as a young bride and the mysterious, long-lost antique quilt that inspired it. Empty nesters and occasional rivals Gwen and Diane contemplate family heirlooms and unfinished projects as they look forward to having their children home again for the holidays. But while the Elm Creek Quilters work tirelessly to make sure the Christmas Boutique happens, it may take a holiday miracle or two to make it the smashing success they want it to be. Praised for her ability to craft “a wonderful holiday mix of family legacy, reconciliation and shared experiences” (Tucson Citizen), Jennifer Chiaverini once again rings in the festive season with this eagerly awaited addition in her beloved series.

The Elm Creek Quilters are home for the holidays, during which days spent hand-stitching heartfelt gifts for loved ones brings forth the true spirit of generosity and kindness, especially when Gwen gifts a quilt project to her mentor's bone-marrow donor.

Jennifer Chiaverini's bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series starts with *The Quilter's Apprentice*, a timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole, and begin the legacy of the Elm Street Quilters. When Sarah McClure and her husband, Matt, move to Waterford, Pennsylvania, she hopes to make a fresh start in the small college town. Unable to find a job both practical and fulfilling, she takes a temporary position at Elm Creek Manor helping its reclusive owner Sylvia Compson prepare her family estate for sale and after the death of her estranged sister. Sylvia is also a master quilter and, as part of Sarah's compensation, offers to share the secrets of her creative gifts with the younger woman. During their lessons, the intricate, varied threads of Sylvia's life begin to emerge. It is the story of a young wife living through the hardships and agonies of the World War II home front; of a family torn apart by jealousy and betrayal; of misunderstanding, loss, and a tragedy that can never be

undone. As the bond between them deepens, Sarah resolves to help Sylvia free herself from remembered sorrows and restore her life—and her home—to its former glory. In the process, she confronts painful truths about her own family, even as she creates new dreams for the future. Just as the darker sections of a quilt can enhance the brighter ones, the mistakes of the past can strengthen understanding and lead the way to new beginnings. A powerful debut by a gifted storyteller, *The Quilter's Apprentice* tells a timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole.

"With its diverse selection of fabrics and designs, *A Quilting Life* is a fine pick for any quilter looking to produce family-oriented keepsake results." —The Needlecraft Shelf Bring the handmade tradition home with these charming quilts and home accessories. Inspired by a grandmother who loved to sew for her family, quilter and blogger Sherri McConnell gives traditional patterns like hexagons, stars, snowballs, and Dresden Plates a new look featuring fabrics by some of today's most popular designers. Nineteen cozy projects include pillows, tote bags, table runners, and larger quilts—quick and easy designs that make great gifts. "Sherri's book is a treasure! It's full of fun and straightforward patterns for quilts, table toppers, pillows, bags and more—all the goodies to make a cozy home." —Thimbleanna "Would you like the opportunity to make tomorrow's heirlooms in today's vast selection of prints? . . . If so, this could be the reference book that will get you started. There are 19 projects, mainly focusing on handmade household items but including some larger quilts too." —Fabrications Quilting for You "Beautiful inspiration if you are a seasoned quilter, but also a great resource with clear and in some cases, simple patterns for newbies as well." —Diary of a Quilter "Color photos of finished needlework projects accompany step-by-step diagrams and assembly patterns, while at-a-glance sidebars covering materials and cutting allow needleworkers to gauge the complexity of each project." —The Needlecraft Shelf Presents the first three novels in the series about master quilter Sylvia Compson's friendship with her young assistant, Sarah, their restoration of Sylvia's home, and their creation of a quilting circle that becomes a source of strength to women young and old.

Fans of Jennifer Chiaverini's *Elm Creek Quilts* series can now stitch up the quilts inspired by her last six novels. The best-selling author shares her inspiration for each of the quilts featured in *The Winding Ways Quilt*, *The Quilter's Kitchen*, *The Lost Quilter*, *A Quilter's Holiday*, *The Aloha Quilt*, *The Union Quilters*, and *The Wedding Quilt*. Create a bit of Elm Creek for your home!

Master quilter Sylvia Bergstrom Compson helps her friend Sarah McClure uncover the story of an unfinished Christmas quilt and works on a new quilt for her reluctant daughter-in-law that depicts holiday memories of Elm Creek Manor.

Pledging her loyalty to the North at the risk of her life when her native Virginia secedes, Quaker-educated aristocrat Elizabeth Van Lew uses her innate skills for gathering military intelligence to help construct the Richmond underground and orchestrate escapes from the infamous Confederate Libby Prison. By the best-selling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*.

When Christmas Eve comes to Elm Creek Manor, the tenor of the holiday is far from certain. Sylvia Bergstrom Compson, the Master Quilter, has her own reasons for preferring a quiet, even subdued, Christmas. Her young friend Sarah McClure, however, takes the opposite view and decides to deck the halls brightly. As she explores the trunks packed with Bergstrom family decorations that haven't been touched in more than fifty years, Sarah discovers a curious Christmas quilt. Begun in seasonal fabrics and patterns, the quilt remains unfinished. Sylvia reveals that the handiwork spans several generations and a quartet of Bergstrom quilters -- her great aunt, her mother, her sister, and herself. As she examines the array of quilt blocks each family member contributed but never completed, memories of Christmases past emerge. At

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Elm Creek Manor, Christmas began as a celebration of simple virtues -- joy and hope buoyed by the spirit of giving. As each successive generation of Bergstroms lived through its unique trials -- the antebellum era, the Great Depression, World War II -- tradition offered sustenance even during the most difficult times. For Sylvia, who is coping with the modern problem of family dispersed, estranged, or even forgotten, reconciliation with her personal history may prove as elusive as piecing the Christmas Quilt. Elm Creek Manor is full of secrets, from a Christmas tree with unusual properties to the sublime Bergstrom strudel recipe. Sylvia's tales at first seem to inform her family legacy but ultimately illuminate far more, from the importance of women's art to its place in commemorating our shared experience, at Christmastime and in every season.

Offers a guided tour to Elm Creek Manor, which features prominently in the best-selling book series, including detailed look at the Bergstrom family tree, biographies of each character, illustrations of charming quilt blocks and an exclusive short story. Original. 75,000 first printing. The sister quilters behind Yellow Creek Designs put a fresh twist on American tradition with 13 Civil War-inspired quilts, table runners, and more. Quilt designers Jill Shaulis and Vicki Olsen have always been drawn to the warm colors of antique quilts and the connection they feel to yesterday's quilters. But while they draw inspiration from tradition, they can't resist putting their own twist on it. In *Simple Blessings in Patchwork*, they combine traditional sampler quilt blocks with delightful wool appliqué, hand-worked hexagons, foundation piecing, and more. With their step-by-step instructions, you can explore a variety of techniques as you sew bed quilts, samplers, wallhangings, and table toppers and runners, all with a warm, traditional style.

When the creative residents of Elm Creek gather the week after Thanksgiving to work on quilts for Project Linus, they respond to Sylvia's provocative questions to alleviate respective personal challenges and learn helpful lessons about the strength of human connections. From New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini, a powerful and dramatic Prohibition-era story that follows the fortunes of Rosa Diaz Barclay, a woman who plunges into the unknown for the safety of her children and the love of a good but flawed man. As the nation grapples with the strictures of Prohibition, Rosa Barclay lives on a Southern California rye farm with her volatile husband, John, who has lately found another source of income far outside the federal purview. Mother to eight children, Rosa mourns the loss of four who succumbed to the mysterious wasting disease that is now afflicting young Ana and Miguel. Two daughters born of another father are in perfect health. When an act of violence shatters Rosa's resolve to maintain her increasingly dangerous existence, she flees with the children and her precious heirloom quilts to the mesa where she last saw her beloved mother alive. As a flash flood traps them in a treacherous canyon, only one man is brave-or foolhardy-enough to come to their rescue: Lars Jorgenson, Rosa's first love and the father of her healthy daughters. Together they escape to Berkeley, where a leading specialist offers their only hope of saving Ana and Miguel. Here in northern California, they create new identities to protect themselves from Rosa's vengeful husband, the police who seek her for questioning, and the gangsters Lars reported to Prohibition agents-officers representing a department often as corrupt as the Mob itself. Ever mindful that his youthful alcoholism provoked Rosa to spurn him, Lars nevertheless supports Rosa's daring plan to stake their futures on a struggling Sonoma Valley vineyard-despite the recent hardships of local winemakers whose honest labors at viticulture have, through no fault of their own, become illegal.

A collection of 20 patchwork block designs. Step-by-step instructions are provided for these and a selection of additional project ideas for making a range of items including a cushion, a cot quilt and a quillow. |With encouragement and sound advice on a variety of hand and machine methods, design tips and practical guidance from internationally renowned expert Lynne Edwards, anyone can work through the

chapters of this inspirational guide at their own pace, creating 20 beautiful patchwork blocks with which to make their own unique sampler. A selection of projects ideas with step-by-step instructions on making up items such as a cushion, a cot quilt or even a quillow (an ingenious combination of a quilt and pillow) offers alternatives to making of a full sized quilt. From first steps in design to making up a glorious sampler quilt, Lynne Edward's book offers guidance every step of the way.

The New York Times–bestselling author of the Elm Creek Quilts Novels shares 140 block patterns so you can make your own version of this heirloom quilt! Celebrate the enduring bonds of friendship and create your own authentic version of the “secret” bridal sampler from the beloved novel *The Master Quilter*. Get together with other quilters to mix, match, and share 140 traditional blocks. Enjoy the gallery of sampler quilts made by other Elm Creek readers. This book includes complete instructions and links to full-sized patterns for every block from the sampler.

The extraordinary 'Harriet's Journey' 100-block sampler quilt from Jennifer Chiaverini Author and quilt designer Jennifer Chiaverini is back with a beautiful new sampler based on her ninth Elm Creek Quilts novel. In *Circle of Quilters*, one woman's discovery of an exquisite sampler quilt utterly changed her fate; immerse yourself in the story and create the same 100-block sampler of this best-selling novel! Follow the step-by-step instructions to cut and piece blocks, or simply use the included foundation piecing patterns—the choice is yours. Mingling vintage favorites with never-before-seen designs, the blocks will intrigue quilters of all skill levels. An inspirational gallery shows off the 6” finished squares in a variety of settings. Best-selling novelist and quilter returns with another Elm Creek Quilts masterpiece *Recreate 100 blocks*—a mix of new and classic designs—for adventurous beginners and experienced quilters Traditionally piece blocks or use foundation patterns “A delightful little volume . . . will inspire you to create colorful 3” blocks for use in greeting cards, name tags, tote bags, and small wallhangings.” —*American Quilter* Create perfectly-pieced miniature quilt blocks in a variety of themes—from hearts and flowers to airplanes and birthday cakes. Secure them inside your Carol Doak’s *Keepsake Frame Cards* for gift-giving and artistic display. These blocks are also perfect to mix and match for making table linens, wall quilts, and other small projects. Patterns include: Airplane \* Apple \* Basket (2) \* Birdhouse \* Birthday Cake \* Bluebird \* Candle \* Crayons \* Cross \* Dreidel \* Duck \* Egg \* Fan \* Flowers (7) \* Gift \* Girl \* Hearts/Love (5) \* Hot Air Balloon \* House \* Mailbox \* Maple Leaf \* Ornament \* Pinwheel \* Sailboat \* Shamrock \* Square \* Stars (8) \* Sunrise \* Trees (3) \* Umbrella

*Timeless Quilts Inspired by the New York Times Best-Selling Novels*. 11 traditional quilts for all skill levels, featuring more than 30 traditional blocks. Read about your favorite Elm Creek novels: *The Sugar Camp Quilt*, *The Christmas Quilt*, *Circle of Quilters*, *The Quilter's Homecoming*, and *The New Year's Quilt*. Complete instructions and full-sized patterns for each quilt, plus a chapter on quilting basics.

Jennifer Chiaverini is back with another collection of beautiful quilts from Elm Creek Quilts. The projects include Jennifer's original designs, plus a sampler quilt made from the top 10 blocks in the Elm Creek Quilts design contest, and a quilt created from *Chimneys* and *Cornerstones* blocks contributed by Elm Creek readers. Every chapter includes excerpts and favorite character sketches from the Elm Creek Quilts novels. You loved the stories—now make more of the quilts they inspired!

Jennifer Chiaverini’s bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series began with *The Quilter’s Apprentice* and continues with *Round Robin*—the name for a quilt stitched by many hands in turn—a poignant story of friendship and loyalty. The Elm Creek Quilters have begun a *Round Robin* quilt, created by sewing concentric patchwork borders to a central block, as a gift for their beloved fellow quilter Sylvia Compson. But even as the quilt is passed from friend to friend, its eloquent beauty increasing with every stitch, the threads of their happiness begin to unravel. As each

woman confronts a personal crisis, a painful truth, or a life-changing choice, the quilt serves as a symbol of the complex and enduring bonds between mothers and daughters, sisters and friends.

A heartwarming rendition of how Christmas traditions at Elm Creek Manor were created—and embellished—over generations. When Christmas Eve comes to Elm Creek Manor, the tenor of the holiday is far from certain. Sylvia Bergstrom Compson, the Master Quilter, has her own reasons for preferring a quiet, even subdued, Christmas. Her young friend Sarah McClure, however, takes the opposite view and decides to deck the halls brightly. As she explores the trunks packed with Bergstrom family decorations that haven't been touched in more than fifty years, Sarah discovers a curious Christmas quilt. Begun in seasonal fabrics and patterns, the quilt remains unfinished. Sylvia reveals that the handiwork spans several generations and a quartet of Bergstrom quilters—her great aunt, her mother, her sister, and herself. As she examines the array of quilt blocks each family member contributed but never completed, memories of Christmases past emerge. At Elm Creek Manor, Christmas began as a celebration of simple virtues—joy and hope buoyed by the spirit of giving. As each successive generation of Bergstroms lived through its unique trials—the antebellum era, the Great Depression, World War II—tradition offered sustenance even during the most difficult times. For Sylvia, who is coping with the modern problem of family dispersed, estranged, or even forgotten, reconciliation with her personal history may prove as elusive as piecing the Christmas Quilt. Elm Creek Manor is full of secrets, from a Christmas tree with unusual properties to the sublime Bergstrom strudel recipe. Sylvia's tales at first seem to inform her family legacy but ultimately illuminate far more, from the importance of women's art to its place in commemorating our shared experience, at Christmastime and in every season.

The New York Times bestselling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker* and *Mrs. Lincoln's Rival* imagines the inner life of Julia Grant, beloved as a Civil War general's wife and the First Lady, yet who grappled with a profound and complex relationship with the slave who was her namesake—until she forged a proud identity of her own. In 1844, Missouri belle Julia Dent met dazzling horseman Lieutenant Ulysses S Grant. Four years passed before their parents permitted them to wed, and the groom's abolitionist family refused to attend the ceremony. Since childhood, Julia owned as a slave another Julia, known as Jule. Jule guarded her mistress's closely held twin secrets: She had perilously poor vision but was gifted with prophetic sight. So it was that Jule became Julia's eyes to the world. And what a world it was, marked by gathering clouds of war. The Grants vowed never to be separated, but as Ulysses rose through the ranks—becoming general in chief of the Union Army—so did the stakes of their pact. During the war, Julia would travel, often in the company of Jule and the four Grant children, facing unreliable transportation and certain danger to be at her husband's side. Yet Julia and Jule saw two different wars. While Julia spoke out for women—Union and Confederate—she continued to hold Jule as a slave behind Union lines. Upon the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation, Jule claimed her freedom and rose to prominence as a businesswoman in her own right, taking the honorary title Madame. The two women's paths continued to cross throughout the Grants' White House years in Washington, DC, and later in New York City, the site of Grant's Tomb. *Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule* is the first novel to chronicle this singular relationship, bound by sight and

shadow.

12 quilt projects based on the bestselling Elm Creek Quilts novels.

Three novels cover the lives of quilters from the American Civil War to the present day.

New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Chiaverini celebrates Christmas, past and present, with a wondrous novel inspired by the classic poem "Christmas Bells," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. I heard the bells on Christmas Day / Their old familiar carols play / And wild and sweet / The words repeat / Of peace on earth, good-will to men! In 1860, the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow family celebrated Christmas at Craigie House, their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The publication of Longfellow's classic Revolutionary War poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," was less than a month hence, and the country's grave political unrest weighed heavily on his mind. Yet with his beloved wife, Fanny, and their five adored children at his side, the delights of the season prevailed. In present-day Boston, a dedicated teacher in the Watertown public school system is stunned by somber holiday tidings. Sophia's music program has been sacrificed to budget cuts, and she worries not only about her impending unemployment but also about the consequences to her underprivileged students. At the church where she volunteers as music director, Sophia tries to forget her cares as she leads the children's choir in rehearsal for a Christmas Eve concert. Inspired to honor a local artist, Sophia has chosen a carol set to a poem by Longfellow, moved by the glorious words he penned one Christmas Day long ago, even as he suffered great loss. Christmas Bells chronicles the events of 1863, when the peace and contentment of Longfellow's family circle was suddenly, tragically broken, cutting even deeper than the privations of wartime. Through the pain of profound loss and hardship, Longfellow's patriotism never failed, nor did the power of his language. "Christmas Bells," the poem he wrote that holiday, lives on, spoken as verse and sung as a hymn. Jennifer Chiaverini's resonant and heartfelt novel for the season reminds us why we must continue to hear glad tidings, even as we are tested by strife. Reading Christmas Bells evokes the resplendent joy of a chorus of voices raised in reverent song.

Get reacquainted with your favorite characters from the Elm Creek Quilts series while browsing through a dozen brand-new quilts designed by best-selling author Jennifer Chiaverini.

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