

A Christmas Harmony  
Nicole Wilbur

### Genre Positioning Statement

*A Christmas Harmony* is a mini-plot, realistic, long-form, classic, worldview education story. There seems to be a subgenre of worldview education that could be called 'Christmas worldview education.' This story follows the conventions of those Christmas classics where holiday rituals (decorating the tree, carolling etc.) serve as the setting, contribute to the conflict, and amplify the emotion for the reader. Like *It's a Wonderful Life* (*The Greatest Gift* by Philip Van Doren Stern), this story tracks one family and one man in that family's life, leading up to a crucial decisive moment. I watched *It's a Wonderful Life* for the first time in 2018 and was inspired by the overwhelming catharsis moment at the end. I aim to provide a similar joyful catharsis for readers at the end of this book, making its global genre worldview education.

*Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini is my favourite Christmas book: a story set at present day interweaved with the story of Henry Longfellow, who wrote the poem *Christmas Bells*. The present-day story is told through eight point of view characters in mini-plot style, whose lives are all connected. Not only is the style lyrical, but despite the real trials the characters undergo, there is a deep sense of hope. Like *Christmas Bells*, I chose to tell a Christmas story of finding meaning utilizing mini-plot and a community of interconnected characters. I also aimed for a similar lyrical, classic style.

*Love Actually* is another Christmas mini-plot with nine different plot threads of various genres. Like *Love Actually*, each mini story in my novella could stand on its own, though its meaning is amplified in the context of the global story. Each story also has a slightly different genre, following the style of *Love Actually* and *Christmas Bells*:

Laura: Marriage love story, with an internal genre of worldview revelation.

Rob: Marriage love story, with an internal genre of worldview disillusionment

Katie: Pure worldview disillusionment

Bradley: Buddy love story with worldview education

Skye: Love-courtship with worldview maturation

Diana: Love-courtship, with worldview education

Noah: Pure worldview education

Rather than set each mini-story at one Christmas (as in *Christmas Bells* and *Love Actually*), in my novella the stories are set chronologically through time over 30 years, making it long-form.