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**Local Author Will Autograph Book**

**At Barnes & Noble in Plainfield Dec. 5**

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 16 — Local author Linda Mansfield will sign copies of her book, "Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas," at the Barnes & Noble in Plainfield on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The popular bookstore is located at The Shops at Perry Crossing (formerly Metropolis Lifestyle Center), 2540 Futura Parkway, #135, Plainfield.

"Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas" offers a baker's dozen of fictional but realistic stories to provide adult readers with short breaks during the hectic holiday season. It makes an ideal gift, and Mansfield will provide complimentary gift wrapping.

The book is also available as a Nook book, a paperback and a hardcover worldwide at BarnesAndNoble.com.

"I'm very appreciative that my local Barnes & Noble is offering me this opportunity," Mansfield said. "Our Plainfield Barnes & Noble is very active in the community. We're very lucky to have such a nice, friendly bookstore on the west side."

Some of the stories in "Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas" are set in the Indianapolis area, and all of them were written here.

"I decided to write these stories last Christmas after I watched several stressed-out women in big black SUVs compete for parking spaces at a local shopping center," Mansfield said. "They were so busy and so stressed that they weren't enjoying Christmas at all, and their driving scared me to death. I thought 'They need a time out!' so I set out to provide 13 short breaks for them at subsequent Christmases. Each story is less than 2,000 words and takes about 10 to 15 minutes to read. The stories require far less of a time commitment than reading a novel, so you can read one, put the book down, and return to it later without having to remember anything.

"There's almost an even split between women main characters and men main characters, so the book should appeal to everyone," she said. "None of the stories are romances. Some of the characters live in rural areas and some live in cities; some are rich and some are struggling," she noted. "I really tried to provide something for everyone.

"Hopefully the free gift wrapping will save readers some time and aggravation too," she added. "Come with a list of names; I'll take care of it!"

Susan Schoch, a reviewer for Story Circle Book Reviews, had this to say about the book: "'Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas' is a little like grabbing a cookie or two at a time. There is a sweetness to these stories....These are not children's stories but the language is plainspoken, easy to anticipate, and that makes the book perfect for a busy schedule....Mansfield is not writing little romantic vignettes. She is imagining ordinary people whose lives are changed by choosing love....She is offering you a Christmas break, manageable moments of connection, so that you come away refreshed and ready for more. And maybe with a little sugar high to keep you going. 'Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas' is a small book of loving reminders to be better, do better, and change your life, by choosing love. It's worth noting that it could be a gift you give to others, as well as to yourself."

Due to the success of this collection, Mansfield is hard at work on three sequels centered on spring, summer and fall stories. They will feature the same characters that appear in the Christmas volume.

Mansfield is an experienced journalist, editor and public relations representative. She has worked on the copy desk of a Manhattan publishing house; written numerous articles that have appeared in mainstream and specialty publications, and edited six books by other authors. She owns a motorsports public relations firm, Restart Communications, and her work is regularly featured in "Speed Sport" magazine. "Stories for the 12 Days of Christmas" is her first work of fiction to be published in book form.

For more information, see LindaMansfieldBooks.com. You can also follow her on Facebook at "Linda Mansfield — Author" and on Twitter at "RestartLMAuthor."