

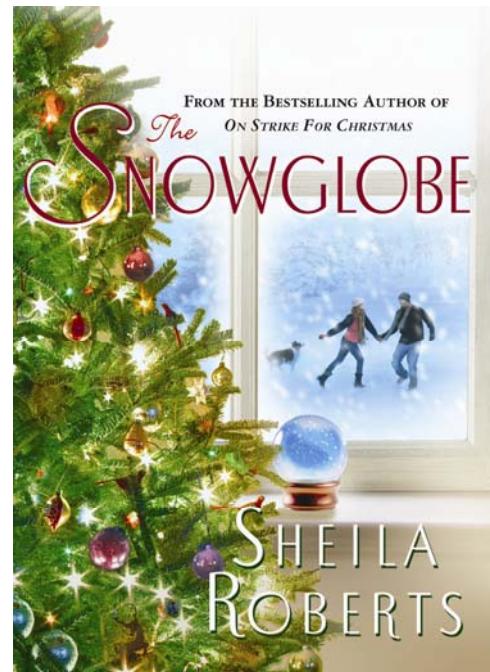


# The Snow Globe

by Sheila Roberts

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## About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *The Snow Globe* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *The Snow Globe*.

## About the Book

*Discover an unforgettable holiday treasure in Sheila Roberts' heartwarming tale of love and laughter, magic and miracles, friendship and coming home...*

On a blustery afternoon, Kylie Gray wanders into an antique shop and buys an enchanting snow globe. “There’s a story behind that snow globe,” the antique dealer tells her. The original owner, he explains, was a German toymaker who lost his wife and son right before Christmas. When the grieving widower received the handcrafted snow globe as a Christmas gift, he saw the image of a beautiful woman beneath the glass—a woman who would come into his life, mend his broken heart and bring him back to the world of the living. For years, the snow globe has passed from generation to generation, somehow always landing in the hands of a person in special need of a Christmas miracle.

Kiley could use a miracle herself. This year, all she wants for Christmas is someone to love. A hopeful shake leads her on an adventure that makes a believer out of her. When Kylie shares the story of the snow globe with her best friends—two women with problems of their own—they don’t believe it. But they’re about to discover that at Christmastime, sometimes the impossible becomes possible and miracles really do come true.

## Praise for Sheila Roberts and *The Snow Globe*

"*The Snow Globe* is an absolutely wonderful holiday treat, full of warmth and charm and second chances. It's the perfect stocking stuffer." —Kristin Hannah

"Sheila Roberts makes me laugh. I read her books and come away inspired, hopeful and happy." —Debbie Macomber

"Sheila Roberts is one of my favorite authors. Her stories celebrate every woman's hopes and dreams. Reading her books is like a delightful visit with a treasured friend." —Susan Wiggs

"This lighthearted and charming read will appeal to fans of Kristin Hannah's magical, light romances and readers who enjoyed Roberts's previous holiday offerings." —*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Just like the antique snow globe in this story, there is no better way to share the holiday spirit than to pass this book on to a girlfriend—or anyone in need of a Christmas miracle." —*Book Page*

"Roberts' charming holiday-themed contemporary story set in the Seattle area offers hope, comfort, and a second chance for those who believe, and a nudge to change the minds of those who don't." —*Booklist*

"Sheila Roberts will make you laugh and cry with her latest novel about three women facing life's trials and tribulations." —*The National Examiner*

"Roberts' witty and effervescently funny novel will warm hearts. Realistic characters populate the pages of this captivating story, which is a great escape from the hustle and bustle."

—*Romantic Times (Top Pick)*

"The funny novel is all about love ...and friendships. But, most of all, it's about learning to love yourself before you can love anyone else." —*The Columbus Dispatch*

"Roberts manages to avoid genre clichés and crafts a heartfelt novel with nuggets of life truths." —*Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin*

"Hands-down, this has to be the best Christmas book I have read. The characters are so meticulously developed, I had to double check to see if it really was a work of fiction."

—*J. Kaye's Book Blog*

## About the Author

Sheila Roberts is the author of *On Strike for Christmas* and four previous novels for St. Martin's Press. When she's not speaking to women's groups or at conferences, she can be found writing about family, friendship and other things near and dear to women's hearts. She lives in the Pacific Northwest.



## Discussion Questions

1. When the character Kiley Gray stumbles on the snow globe in an antique shop she falls in love with it. But she's unemployed and it costs more than she can afford. Still, when she hears the history of the snow globe she can't resist. If you were in Kiley's shoes would you have bought the snow globe or been practical and left it in the antique shop?
2. Suzanne is so busy working on making her house perfect she almost misses her life. Do you think we women tend to go overboard with making our homes perfect?
3. Suzanne and her mother have issues even though they love each other. What, if anything, about your mother-daughter relationship makes it challenging sometimes?
4. Suzanne's daughter Bryn wants a puppy. How old do you think a child should be before he or she gets a pet?
5. Allison's family definitely puts the fun in dysfunctional. Do you have family members who make holiday gatherings difficult?
6. Who in your family is the one who keeps everyone connected?
7. At the end of the book the women feel they need to pass on the snow globe so it can help someone else in need of a Christmas miracle. Would you have passed it on or kept it for your own family?
8. With which character in the book could you most identify?
9. If you had a magical snow globe what would you hope to see in it?

## A Conversation with Sheila Roberts

### **Q: How did you come up with the idea for this book?**

A: It just came to me. Christmas is my favorite holiday, and I love writing Christmas stories. I wanted to write a story that would be both entertaining and inspirational and I got to thinking, it sure would be fun to tell a tale about a snow globe. Once you have that “sure would be fun to” premise, it’s a matter of playing what if. I originally wanted to write something a little more serious, a little darker. Who knows? Maybe someday I will.

### **Q: Do you see yourself writing a sequel? You did leave the door open.**

A: I guess I did, but not intentionally. Still, you never know. I just might. Or a prequel. I would love to tell how the snow globe helped the various generations of the Ackerman family.

### **Q: Do you collect snow globes?**

A: I’ve certainly had my share over the years. I still have a couple left, and one of them has an angel in it just like in the book. They’re sitting on my buffet right now.

### **Q: What are you hoping readers will take away after finishing the book? Does it have an underlying message?**

A: I hope they’ll come away with a smile. As for the underlying message, I suspect everyone will take away something different. But I hope most everyone will come away with new hope and a determination to be open to life’s possibilities. Sometimes, when we’re going through difficult circumstances, we feel like someone just stamped THE END on our life. But often the end of something turns out to be the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. Good can grow out of bad.

### **Q: If you could put yourself in a magical snow globe what would you be doing?**

A: I’d probably be living the life I’m living right now (only maybe ten years younger and twenty pounds lighter.) I’m happy with the life I’ve got. I have a wonderful family and great friends to have fun with and a sweet, supportive husband. And I get to do what I love for a living. I’d say that’s about as close to perfect as a life can get!

### **Q: You’ve written several books. What’s your favorite?**

A: That’s rather like asking a mother to name her favorite child. I love all of my novels for different reasons. I’m especially proud of SMALL CHANGE, which was about three friends getting their financial acts together. It had a great love story in it and some helpful financial tips thrown in to boot. I called it self-help fiction. But I was also really happy with LOVE IN BLOOM because of its positive message. Still, if I had to pick a favorite, I think the winner would be THE SNOW GLOBE. Like I said, I love Christmas.

# Essay

## CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

Christmas is my favorite holiday, and I love a good Christmas story. Don't you? Every year I return to my favorite tales like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* to get in the holiday mood. Not only do I love that story (I just downloaded it onto my iPad!) I also love the movie versions. I think we must have all of them. And it doesn't feel like the season has started until I've watched at least one. Then, of course, since the TV is already on, I must take time to check in with George and Mary Bailey. I've been watching *It's a Wonderful Life* every year since I was a kid. I love that movie and its message. Sadly, my family has had about all they can take of the Baileys and now I'm on my own. What is their problem, anyway? You can't wear out a good story. At least that's what I think. Obviously, my family doesn't agree.

Since I so love this holiday and I love a good story, I naturally drift to Christmas when thinking about story ideas. For a long time I've wanted to write a classic Christmas tale. I'm hoping I've come close with *The Snow Globe* and that people are going to enjoy the story as much as I enjoyed writing it. Of course, we see snow globes all over the place all year long but I associate them with Christmas and the ones I love the most are the ones with lovely angels in them or peaceful winter scenes.

So it seemed like a good idea to think up a story about a special snow globe that would come into people's lives just when they're in need of a Christmas miracle. Originally my story was going to be a little darker and a lot more serious. I wanted to write a big ten-Kleenex tale, a grim weeper that would leave readers in awe. I keep trying to tell people I do have a serious side. I do. Seriously. But I also have a protruding funny bone that, like my ever-increasing posterior, is hard to hide. So I tucked away my big ten-Kleenex tale for another time and instead wrote about three girlfriends, all facing different holiday challenges – elusive true love, over-scheduling, family who put the fun in dysfunctional – who come upon the snow globe just in time to see in it exactly what they need to make their lives better. The book deals with real feelings and real needs but it does so with a slightly lighter touch. And maybe that's not such a bad thing.

When you give a snow globe a shake, the snow settles and you're left with a lovely scene and a smile. I hope readers will be left with a smile when they finish reading my book, too.

To have **Sheila Roberts** visit your reading group or call-in for discussion visit:  
<http://www.sheilasplace.com/contact.html>.



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