

This tender story will pull at your heartstrings from the very first page to its last. Once again, Roemer weaves the timeless truths of God's provision and faithfulness into the lives of her characters. Despite the hardships they face, Daniel and Maggie discover the glorious joy that comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5). I rejoiced with them and so will you.

— SAVANNA KAISER, GENESIS AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR AND REVIEWER

"A Lasting Legacy" is a skillfully written, well-researched historical with a tender, yet raw faith thread that leaves you heart-warmed and satisfied. Poignant historical romance at its finest.

— CARA GRANDLE, AUTHOR OF *THE ROCK AND
THE RIBBON*

Any Cynthia Roemer story guarantees readers an authentic and inspiring journey into the historic times and settings being explored. Her newest title, "A Lasting Legacy" in the *Chiseled on the Heart* Novella Collection, fulfills our expectations perfectly. Daniel's devastating loss in battle connects him to a blessed legacy. When he and Maggie are snowed in and helpless on Christmas Eve, God gives them the tremendous gift of becoming a living nativity. Read, enjoy, and prepare to have your heart warmed.

— DELORES TOPLIFF, AUTHOR OF *WILDERNESS
WIFE*

I'm a huge fan of Kelly Goshorn's books, and *The Christmas Carving* has become another favorite! This delightful novella is a poignant reminder of the enduring power of faith, the healing potential of love, and the transformative magic of Christmas. I highly recommend it!

— MISTY M. BELLER, *USA TODAY* BESTSELLING
AUTHOR OF THE BROTHERS OF SAPPHIRE
RANCH SERIES

Goshorn weaves a deeply beautiful story of love, community, and reconciliation set within the folds of Christmas hope. Readers will ache for the characters, sigh in contentment at its conclusion, and leave pondering how they might grow into Christmas. This is a Christmas story to be read over and over again and should not be missed.

— CRYSTAL CAUDILL, AUTHOR
OF *COUNTERFEIT FAITH*

“The Christmas Carving” is the perfect historical holiday read, with relatable characters, misunderstandings and themes of forgiveness, and all the feels. Enjoy with a mug of hot chocolate as you cheer Maddy and Wyatt on to reclaiming faith, hope, and finding love at Christmas.

— CAROLYN MILLER, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE REGENCY BRIDES AND ORIGINAL SIX
ROMANCE SERIES.

Sublime. A journey of hope deep into the hearts of two people caught up in the wrong circumstances and God's marvelous path to redemption. Triumphant.

— KATHLEEN L. MAHER, AWARD-WINNING
AUTHOR OF THE SONS OF THE SHENANDOAH
SERIES

Three years ago, he broke her heart, but this Christmas she has returned to help him find peace. “The Christmas Carving” is a heartwarming, hopeful walk through the aftermath of the Civil War while a lone woman tries to reignite the spirit of forgiveness and unity in a broken community, and broken lives. Rich with heart, symbols, and the spirit of Christmas, Kelly Goshorn has woven a story that stirs the soul.

— ANGELA K COUCH, AUTHOR OF *A ROSE FOR
THE RESISTANCE* AND *WHERE WILD ROSES
BLOOM*

Candace West weaves a tale of loss, forgiveness, and sacrificial love—I devoured Nathaniel and Delia's story! “Healing Within the Pieces” has left an indelible mark on my heart and will stay with me for years to come.

— TARA JOHNSON, AUTHOR OF *ENGRAVED ON
THE HEART, WHERE DANDELIONS BLOOM,
AND ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT*

As Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the unmerited grace God extended us when He sent His only Son into our world. This book begins with characters who are confronted with unexpected kindness. As the story continues, they help each other accept the fact that God's love is offered freely, even when it is not deserved. Beautifully written, this story will stay with you into the new year.

— JENNY CARLISLE, AUTHOR OF *HOPE TAKES THE REINS* AND *FAITH MOVES MOUNTAINS*

This story of two orphaned children, who have to relocate to Connecticut amidst the beginnings of the American Revolutionary War, puts a personal face on the hardships our early settlers experienced. Cooper's fine research and storytelling ability bring the Revolutionary War to life. Her plot, filled with excitement and danger, loyalty and love, allows the reader to experience American's birthing as seen through the eyes of young Elias

— CAROL STRATTON, AUTHOR OF *THE LITTLEST BELL RINGER*; MEMBER OF ADVANCED WRITERS AND SPEAKERS; MEMBER OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN SPEAKERS

Elaine Cooper's novella, "The Gift of a Lamb," is a must-read for those who want to escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and take stock of the things that are truly important. I instantly fell in love with Elias and Charlotte. Their journey to their new home in the midst of their grief and America's fight for independence helped me remember the high price paid for my freedom. And the love they shared with the people they met along the way, inspired me to hold those I love a little closer and treasure God's blessings even more.

— ANNETTE MARIE GRIFFIN, AWARD-
WINNING AUTHOR AND SPEAKER

Chiseled ON THE Heart



Elaine Marie Cooper
Kelly Goshorn
Cynthia Roemer
Candace West



Scrivenings
PRESS

Quench your thirst for story.
www.ScriveningsPress.com

Copyright © 2023 Elaine Marie Cooper, Kelly Goshorn (represented by Books & Such Literary Management, www.booksandsuch.com), Cynthia Roemer, and Candace West

Published by Scrivenings Press LLC
15 Lucky Lane
Morrilton, Arkansas 72110
<https://ScriveningsPress.com>

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, photocopy and recording— without the prior written permission of the publisher. The only exception is brief quotation in printed reviews.

Paperback ISBN 978-1-64917-330-0

eBook ISBN 978-1-64917-331-7

Editors: Regina Rudd Merrick and Susan Page Davis

Cover design by Linda Fulkerson - www.bookmarketinggraphics.com

This is a work of fiction. Unless otherwise indicated, all names, characters, businesses, events, and incidents are either the product of the author's imagination or used in a fictitious manner. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

All scriptures are taken from the KING JAMES VERSION (KJV): KING JAMES VERSION, public domain.

THE
Gift
OF A
Lamb



Elaine Marie Cooper

This story is dedicated to my husband Steve.

One



28 June 1776, Taylorstown, Virginia

Elias Hawkins kicked hard at the rock on the ground, sending it through the air and several rods toward the large horse barn. The distance was his best yet. Papa would be ...

Tears filled the ten-year-old's eyes at the thought. Papa and Mama were no longer there to share such triumphs.

It still did not seem real. One day, Papa seemed as well as ever. The next day, fever overtook him, and then the dreaded smallpox. Elias's beautiful mother insisted on nursing her husband back to health. But she fell victim to the dreaded plague.

Elias wasn't supposed to stand outside her sickroom door, but he longed to see his mother. When he stared at her face with the disfiguring pustules, he nearly vomited. His Aunt Margaret placed her hands on his shoulders and forced him down the hallway toward his room. "Stay there until you can follow orders," she said with a stern voice.

He threw himself on his bed that day and never wanted to get out from under the covers. It was only his fourteen-year-old

sister Charlotte who managed to persuade him to get dressed and walk arm-in-arm with her as the siblings strode behind their parents' caskets. They were transported on a wagon to their place of burial. He barely remembered the event, just a lot of tears and whisperings of "poor children."

By that time, Elias's tears had mostly dried, but they were replaced by moments of intense rage. Why did God not save his parents? He knew that Jesus had healed many when He walked on the earth. Couldn't He have reached down from heaven and healed his mama and papa? Did God not love them? Did God love him?

These questions went unanswered, and he dared not ask his Aunt Margaret. She seemed to be angry all the time anyway. *Is that how God is?*

Elias sighed and ambled back to the house, hands in his pockets. Charlotte came out the front door of their Virginia home. He could tell she'd been crying. "What's wrong, Char?"

She crossed her arms tightly across her chest and, with lips trembling, said the words that would change their lives forever. "Mama and Papa arranged for us to go live with our aunt and uncle in Connecticut. Wherever that is."

Frozen in his tracks, Elias tried to speak, but the words caught in his throat. Charlotte grabbed him in her arms and wept uncontrollably. Despite her sobs, he heard Uncle Silas yelling inside. "I told you to wait until we'd had a chance to speak to them together. And in a week or two, not so soon after the burial!"

Looking up at the open front door, Elias noticed Solomon, the black servant, staring at him and Charlotte. Were those tears he wiped away? Solomon seemed as wise to Elias as the king in the Bible with the same name. The servant spoke few words to the children, but the things he did say seemed to carry much truth. Elias often pondered his words as he lay in bed at night. He would miss Solomon almost as much as he would miss Uncle Silas.

Aunt Margaret's voice was as harsh as her manner. "Well, if you and I were not good enough to raise them, they might as well leave for Connecticut."

There was a pause, and Elias imagined Uncle Silas staring at his wife the way he often did. "Have you no sympathy for these children, Margaret?" Elias heard a door inside slam.

Charlotte looked down at Elias and wiped her tears on her apron. "I can see why Mama and Papa decided we should not stay with them."

"But we have to leave Virginia. And all our friends. Besides, I love Uncle Silas."

"I know. I do as well. He is so much like Papa." Charlotte turned and slowly walked toward the front steps. She entered the doorway, and Elias heard her speaking quietly to Uncle Silas. Then, silence.

At least it will be Uncle Silas who brings us to Connecticut. I could not bear the thought of a long journey with Aunt Margaret.



AT DINNER THAT EVENING, the atmosphere chilled each word spoken between their aunt and uncle.

"I suppose you heard of the events on Sullivan's Island?" Aunt Margaret's mouth drew taut as she sipped her coffee.

Anger glared from Uncle Silas's eyes. "Perhaps it would be best to speak of happier things here at table."

"Where is Sullivan's Island?" Elias stabbed his fork into the sweet potatoes.

"'Tis far away, in South Carolina." Uncle Silas looked with tender eyes at Elias and smiled. "No need to worry about such things that need not trouble us."

"So, 'tis not near Connecticut?" Charlotte lifted her fear-filled eyes toward their uncle.

"Nay, child, we shall be safe on our journey." Uncle Silas grinned.

Aunt Margaret stood up and announced she'd be retiring early. No one said anything as she left the room.

There was a moment of silence. "Try not to judge Aunt Margaret too harshly. She has had many a heartache in her life." Uncle Silas rose and thanked Solomon for pulling out his chair.

Their papa's brother kissed them each on the cheek then retired upstairs.

Elias looked at Charlotte. "I don't care about Aunt Margaret's heartaches. She could still be nicer."

Solomon did not speak but gently placed comforting hands on their shoulders.

"Thank you, Solomon. I shall miss you greatly." Charlotte's lips trembled, and she hurried upstairs.

Elias looked at their friend and hugged him briefly before running up the steps.