
 Constant Rose Publishing announces

Christmas Is

Mischief and Merriment in Manhattan

by Clay Rivers



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Press Release

Christmas Is

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The rollicking, one horse open sleigh ride of a novel for the holidays

New York, NY, October 2018 — Just in time for the holiday season, author Clay Rivers announces the release of *Christmas Is: Mischief and Merriment in Manhattan*. Rivers' fourth book and first fiction novel is a comedic, mad-cap love letter to New York, its inhabitants and the unique culture of holiday spirit the city possesses. The story drops the reader in the middle of the Big Apple just as the Christmas season kicks off and carries them through to Christmas Day.

Inspired by his twelve years of performing in the beloved Radio City Christmas Spectacular (six years in national touring companies and another six with the flagship company at New York's famed Radio City Music Hall), *Christmas Is* takes the reader on a rollicking, one horse open sleigh ride through familiar imagery and themes that give a nod to classic Christmas films we've come to know and love. From jocular predicaments to a romantic subplot to much needed assistance from a guardian angel, the novel heralds all the nostalgic feels of Christmases past. And in the spirit of the season, it gifts the reader modern messages of love, hope, giving, and second chances.

At first glance, when 2017's most unlikely protagonist, Ben Franklin Albright, a cash-strapped investment banker, inherits a failing talent agency and goes to great lengths to reunite two bitterly estranged actors to play Santa and Mrs. Claus in the fictional Broadway show, *Christmas Is*, laughs come fast and hard. The "vertically challenged" Franklin faces and deftly overcomes hilarious situations with inventive on-the-fly solutions. Rivers seamlessly weaves in a fresh story of hope and heart with a cast of eclectic characters as diverse and exciting as New York itself.

In his first book, *Walking Tall*, Rivers chronicled his life's journey as an African American, Christian, gay man who just happens to be a dwarf. With feet firmly planted in his own personal story, Rivers decided it was time to delve into fiction for three reasons. "First, I love everything about Christmas in New York ... the sights, the sounds, the energy. It's magical on so many levels. Second, people are dealing with heavy issues right now and really hurting. I wrote *Christmas Is* as pure entertainment, a guilty pleasure in which readers could indulge as a momentary escape from the worries of the day.

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Third, and most important to me, is that when readers reach the end of *Christmas Is* they'll better realize a truth best summarized in a line from poet and author Maya Angelou's poem *Human Family*, 'we are more alike, my friend, than we are unlike.'"

Published by Constant Rose Publishing, *Christmas Is: Mischief and Merriment in Manhattan* is for readers of all ages and was released on October 3, 2017.

Christmas Is is available in print at Amazon.com for \$12.99, and also for Kindle, Nook, iPad, and Kobo devices for \$9.99.

Contact: Mary Pietromonaco at mp@constantrose.com and 917-855-7587.

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Synopsis

Christmas Is

Mischief and Merriment in Manhattan

by Clay Rivers



Logline: *Laughs abound when a cash-strapped former investment banker inherits a failing talent agency and goes to great lengths to reunite two bitterly estranged actors to play Santa and Mrs. Claus in the beloved Broadway show, Christmas Is.*

In this light-hearted and broad comic holiday novel, Ben Franklin Albright, a cash-strapped New York investment banker, inherits and reluctantly takes the helm of his father's failing talent agency in order to keep a roof over his head. Franklin makes plans to meet Sandy, the agency's secretary and sole employee, and introduce himself to the firm's last two clients—actors who play Santa and Mrs. Claus in the beloved Broadway smash hit, *Christmas Is*.

Franklin's plans quickly unravel when he inadvertently botches his meeting with Sandy. To add to his frustration, Mrs. Claus comes out on the losing end when she tangles on stage with a large, rogue gingerbread house ... much to the delight of Maxim, a ruthless rival agent, whose vengeful plans to dismantle Franklin's agency are already underway.

Undaunted and through fast-talking and double-dealing, Franklin recruits the show's former Mrs. Claus (and aspiring Hollywood starlet), Judy, to reprise her role; despite warnings that she and Bill (the actor portraying Santa in the show) are bitterly estranged.

With the aid of old friends and new, against obstacles over-the-top and heart-rending, Franklin ensures that New York's jolliest extravaganza opens, and he learns the true meaning of Christmas.

Christmas Is is a madcap, one horse open sleigh ride through familiar images of New York during the holidays that gives a nod to moments from beloved Christmas tales, and spins a new take on how the holiday season can show us the best path to take us from where we are to where we truly want to be.

Contact: Mary Pietromonaco at mp@constantrose.com and/or 917-855-7587.

Author's Bio

Christmas Is Mischief and Merriment in Manhattan

by Clay Rivers



For over two decades, Clay Rivers has communicated stories as a writer, artist, and actor. His varied professional experience gives him a well-rounded base from which to draw. Clay is keenly aware that in order for a message to resonate with its intended audience it must first connect with both the head and heart. And the most lasting connections always begin with a compelling story.

Clay has penned three nonfiction books: *Walking Tall: A Memoir About the Upside of Small and Other Stuff*, *The Raindancer: Finding Joy in the Storm*, and *3 Things I Know: Facing and Embracing Life's Challenges*. Each takes a different look—first, second, and third person points of view—at how to effectively mine the best from life's most trying circumstances with a positive attitude while holding one's head high.

Clay's nonfiction essays focus on race relations in America, self-acceptance, and loving one another. His writings have appeared in *The Mighty*, the popular Medium.com publications *The Mission* and *Crossing Genres*, and most notably in *The New York Times*. His essays, which have amassed a passionate and devoted following, disarm without force, inform without condescension, and whisper a joyful call that inspires readers to become better versions of themselves.

As a former art director for Walt Disney World Resort Design and The Disney University, The Disney Stores, Disney imagineering, and Disney Consumer Products. Clay's aesthetic is rooted in the classics with a touch of whimsy that sidesteps trite and trendy, and zeroes in on relevance.

Clay has appeared in countless Walt Disney World productions, numerous television and film appearances, and the beloved Radio City Christmas Spectacular. True to form, his offerings have been consistent and authentic interpretations of his directors' visions.

His latest novel *Christmas Is* is available in print at Amazon for \$12.99, and also for Kindle, Nook, iPad, and Kobo for \$9.99. Clay lives in Orlando with his family, and is always up for a Manhattan on the rocks.

Contact: Mary Pietromonaco at mp@constantrose.com and 917-855-7587.

Books

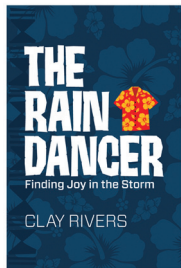
Also by Clay Rivers

Available at Amazon

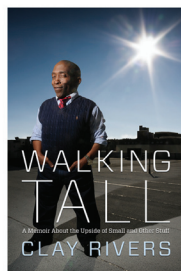
and for Kindle, Nook, and iPad



As a forty-eight-inch tall, black man, Clay Rivers knows a thing or two about challenges. *3 Things I Know: Facing and Embracing Life's Challenges* deftly guides the reader through Rivers' unique life experiences, with which readers will readily identify. Clay's simple message of trust, authenticity, and perspective is delivered in a refreshing conversational style that rings with insight, charm, and personality.



The Raindancer: Finding Joy in the Storm tells of one family man's experience in using unwavering faith, a positive attitude, and an indomitable sense of humor in the face of cancer and how he changed the lives of everyone with whom he came in contact. His story will present the world in a whole new light and give you the courage to dance in the midst of life's storms.



In a world that associates stature, physical perfection, and race with a person's value, *Walking Tall: A Memoir About the Upside of Small and Other Stuff* recounts the journey to self-acceptance of an African American, gay, Christian man who also just happens to be four-feet tall. For anyone who has ever felt the slightest bit uncomfortable in their own skin, Rivers' memoir is a must-read.

His latest novel *Christmas Is* is available in print at Amazon for \$12.99, and also for Kindle, Nook, iPad, and Kobo devices for \$9.99.

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