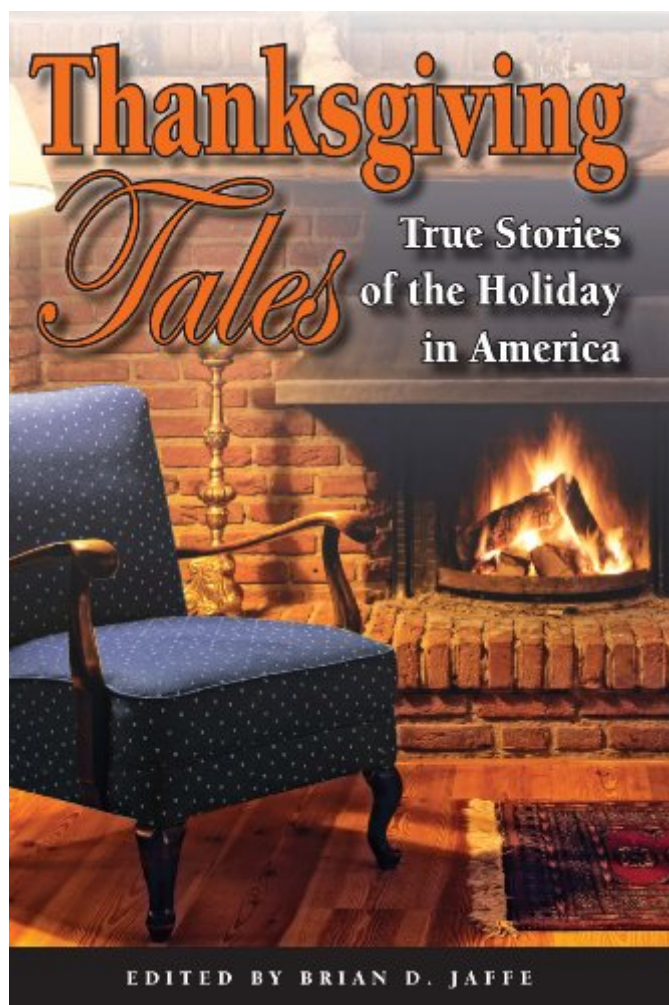


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# Thanksgiving Tales: True Stories Of The Holiday In America



## Synopsis

Imagine a Thanksgiving with so much food that nobody noticed the turkey was never served. Or, trying to host Thanksgiving in China where holiday staples like turkey and dinner rolls are almost impossible to find. Not every Thanksgiving in America is a folk-art painting. They are as varied as Americans themselves, and run the spectrum of emotion and experience - from as rural as watching Grandma slaughter the holiday bird by the barn, to the traditional with family football games in the yard, and to the modern with multicultural meals complete with eggrolls. It is a holiday for everyone - regardless of whether arrival to the United States was via the Mayflower, Ellis Island, international airport, or any other way. It is a holiday steeped in traditions (which are either faithfully followed, radically ignored, or adapted to individual circumstances), memories and images. In *Thanksgiving Tales: True Stories of the Holiday in America*, 48 writers from across the United States share their individual stories and memories of Thanksgiving and provide insight into the variety of ways the holiday is experienced, celebrated, viewed and cherished by Americans. But, whether held in a country farmhouse, amid the frantic pace of New York City, or in a restaurant, there are a number of common elements. These stories reveal how seemingly simple things- like the passing of a tradition to the next generation, sitting next to Grandpa, favorite foods and recipes, or certain sounds, sights, and smells - can have special meaning and leave warm and indelible memories. Some of the stories describe the chaos and mishaps of meal preparation, family arguments and first-time hosts - all crises then, but now looked upon with laughter. Other stories recount family traditions, meaningful moments, memorable guests and hosts, remembering those no longer with us, being alone or out-and-out hating the holiday. *Thanksgiving Tales* is a reflection of Americans, as much as it is a look at the holiday. It is a testament to the importance of the holiday that Americans will go to great lengths for Thanksgiving - spending money to travel long distances or taking days to prepare meals, sometimes only to find themselves seated next to the weird cousin or sick all night from bacteria-laden food. Yet, it's done all over again the next year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have to say it's been quite a while since I have enjoyed such a pleasure of reading something like Thanksgiving Tales. As an editor of American historical fiction I have an interest in anything that has to do with America and its story. Most of my readings in the past have been part of doing my job. It's rare when I relax with something for just pleasure, and usually it is something other than history. This book may not be fiction, but it is indeed historical in that it deals with a strictly American custom that we can truly say is ours alone, and, has its roots in a both very fascinating and volatile time in our nations history. Thanksgiving Tales (TT) is a very generous and diverse collection of personal recollections about Americas one true holiday. There really isn't a story here that is retold that a reader couldn't find something close to home in. This collection has it all, colorful, humorous, heart warming, (and breaking), affectionate, forlorn, blessed, you name it and it is here. Not all the tales come off as well as others in their touching us in some way, or being that entertaining. But that seems to me to be just a question of our particular tastes when it comes to spinning old tales of holidays and family get together's in general. Some people just never care much for them, or have a very specific idea of what an old family or holiday tale should be made up of. These contributors recollect the day and its memory in their own way. Personally I found most them very warm and entertaining, and I enjoyed this book immensely. And I can even see myself reading some of the favorites again some time in the future...

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