



The Greatest Gift: A Christmas Tale

By Philip Van Doren Stern

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A beautiful gift edition of the heartwarming story that became the Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*.

For almost seventy years, people the world over have fallen in love with Frank Capra's classic Christmas movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. But few of those fans know that Capra's film was based on a short story by author Philip Van Doren Stern, which came to Stern in a dream one night.

Unable at first to find a publisher for his evocative tale about a man named George Pratt who ponders suicide until he receives an opportunity to see what the world would be like without him, Stern ultimately published the story in a small pamphlet and sent it out as his 1943 Christmas card. One of those 200 cards found its way into the hands of Frank Capra, who shared it with Jimmy Stewart, and the film that resulted became the holiday tradition we cherish today.

Now fans of *It's a Wonderful Life*, or anyone who loves the spirit of Christmas, can own the story that started it all in an elegant, illustrated edition that's perfect for holiday giving. It includes an Afterword by Stern's daughter, Marguerite Stern Robinson, that tells the story of how her father's Christmas card became the movie beloved by generations of people around the world.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Philip Van Doren Stern (1900–1984) was an American author, editor, and Civil War historian whose story, “The Greatest Gift,” became the basis of the classic Christmas film, *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

Users Review

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