



## Who Packed the Turkey – Sample Chapter

### Chapter 1 – Will it Fit?

Anna pushed the Christmas tree cutter into the dough Mum had rolled out. “I can’t wait until my friends come over to decorate these cookies. This is going to be the best Christmas ever.”

Mum smiled at Anna and deftly moved the cut shapes onto a tray and into the oven. She sprinkled more flour on the bench while Anna chose a star-shaped cutter, then looked at the kitchen clock and frowned. “What’s taking Joe so long? He should have come inside by now.” They’d heard his truck coming up the driveway ten minutes ago.

Anna looked out the window then back at her mother’s anxious face. “I wonder what he’s doing out there?”

Mum rubbed her floury hands across her forehead. “I hope he’s alright.”

**Who Packed the Turkey is written by Caroline Bindon - © Caroline Bindon 2025**

**Counting Down to Christmas is an annual Kererū Publishing Resource.**

**Find out more [www.kererupublishing.com](http://www.kererupublishing.com)**

Anna made a kissing noise. “Oh Mum, Joe always rushes home to see you after work. He’ll be fine. Can’t you be away from each other for a few minutes more?”

“Don’t be silly, Anna.” She gently touched her round belly with one hand and rubbed her back with the other. “I might need to sit down soon. All this standing is giving me backache.”

Mum was trying to change the subject. Anna giggled, finding it fun to tease.

“What on earth is that noise?” said Mum, as a series of thumps and bumps came from the front porch. “Can you go and see what’s happening?”

Anna went down the long narrow hallway towards the front door. When she saw the Christmas tree filling the doorframe, she burst into laughter. Joe’s work boots were visible beneath it, as if the tree was waiting to be invited inside.

“Merry Christmas!” came Joe’s muffled shout from within the branches, and Anna laughed even more. “Help me, Anna.”

Mum emerged from the kitchen. She put her hands on her hips and glared at the enormous tree, as Anna helped Joe guide it into the house. Bushy branches sprung through the door as they pushed and pulled together.

Mum protested loudly. “Joe, it’s too big! It won’t fit in here.”

Joe’s face popped out from behind the tree. He grinned as he struggled to stop it from falling over. “We’ll find a way.”

“Why did you choose such a big tree?” Her tone was annoyed, and Anna’s high spirits faded. Usually, she and Mum went to cut their Christmas tree together. Joe didn’t know about their special tradition. But then, when she turned back towards Joe she couldn’t hold in her laughter as she watched him wrestling with the tree.

“I think the tree chose me, not the other way around,” said Joe, looking pleased with himself. “It was on the construction site where I’m working – it had to be chopped down today, so the site manager asked if anyone wanted to take it home. A few of us were keen, but ...” He paused, looking embarrassed.

“Why were you the one who got to keep it?” Mum snapped.

Anna looked at Mum in surprise. Mum was never annoyed with Joe. Something else must be bothering her.

“Ahhh ... well, everyone thought it should go to someone with a family.” Joe hid his face behind the tree, avoiding Mum’s eyes. His face was pink, whether from embarrassment or the effort of holding up the tree, Anna couldn’t tell. He caught Anna’s eye and shrugged. “They gave it to me, seeing as, you know ... I’m new to this family gig.”

Mum sighed and wiped her eyes, spreading more flour over her face. She probably wouldn't want Joe to know his words had made her teary, but Joe didn't seem to have noticed Mum's reaction.

"Well, we'd better find a spot where it will fit," Mum grumbled.

Anna smiled. Mum wasn't as grumpy as she sounded.



# **Introducing...**

## **Counting Down to Christmas 2025**

**What happens when your Christmas plans are completely turned upside down? This Advent, join Anna on a Christmas adventure like no other in our brand new, all-ages story, 'Who Packed the Turkey?'**

Each day of Advent, as you open a new door in our Counting Down to Christmas daily emails, we'll release a new chapter of Anna's journey.

On this journey, we discover what it means to experience God-With-Us, through a retelling of the Nativity Story. Anna's own story has many quirky, fun, and poignant coincidences with the story of the first Christmas.

A special focus for 2025 is our interactive community. In the story, Anna is guided by the 'Three Wise Movers.'

In our community, you'll be guided by our own three real-life 'wise movers'—wonderful, strong women who will take turns curating a daily comments section.

This creates a real-time online book club where you can choose to participate in the conversation, read the comments, or simply enjoy the story each day.

The story has been written by Caroline Bindon for Kererū Publishing.

Caroline is a published author of several children's books. Subscribers may be more familiar with her writing of creative Christian resources, through a variety of organisations, churches and Kererū Publishing.

Next Christmas, this story will be published in book format (print and digital).

Be part of the adventure ahead of the official publication date!



**Subscription packages available  
for individuals or groups**

**Find out more and subscribe  
on the Counting Down to Christmas website**



**[www.countingdowntochristmas.co.nz](http://www.countingdowntochristmas.co.nz)**