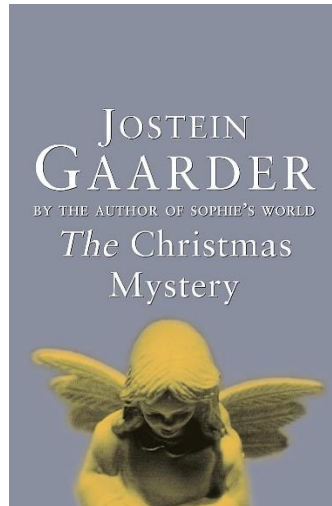


## Miss Underdown's Book Review

### The Christmas Mystery by Jostein Gaarder



Forty years ago, a girl called Elizabet disappeared from her home in Norway. She ran after a lamb and found herself travelling right across Europe to meet the Holy Family in Bethlehem just as Jesus is being born. This means she travelled back in time through 2000 years and she heard and witnessed many of the things that happened in the world in these last 2000 years. She met angels, shepherds, wise men and other biblical characters who join her on her pilgrimage.

Entwined in this story, in present-day Norway, a young boy called Joachim acquires a strange old Advent calendar. Each day, as he opens the advent calendar, he doesn't find any chocolate, but a picture and hidden in each of the windows is a tiny piece of paper. There 24 chapters in this book, each one representing one day of the advent calendar leading up to Christmas and the pieces of paper which Joachim finds tells Elizabeth's story as she travels back in time to Bethlehem. As Joachim reads on, he finds out what happened to her, but also another story is revealed - that of the strange old man who made the calendar in the first place.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book which is a great thing to do one chapter at a time through the Advent time from 1<sup>st</sup> December through to Christmas Eve, but it can be enjoyed at any time at any speed.

I recommend this book to anyone in KS2. Adults will enjoy this too.