

## Favorite Christmas Movies

### Transcript of Podcast Episode 353

**Julie Walker:** Hello, and welcome to the Arts of Language Podcast with Andrew Pudewa, founder of the Institute for Excellence in Writing or as many like to say, “IEW.” My name is Julie Walker, and I’m honored to serve Andrew and IEW as the chief marketing officer. Our goal is to equip teachers and teaching parents with methods and materials, which will aid them in students to become confident and competent communicators and thinkers.

So do I still get to say “Merry Christmas” to you, Andrew?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Absolutely, because Christmas begins on December the twenty-fifth; it doesn’t end on the twenty-fifth.

**Julie Walker:** And of course, here at IEW we are doing our Twelve Days of Christmas Giving, and we start on the twenty-sixth.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Right, because we don’t want to be open on the twenty-fifth. But you know, if people aren’t aware of that, it’s not too late.

**Julie Walker:** No, absolutely not.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You can join in the twelve days’ festivities and get the free gifts every day all the way to the end. So I’m sure you’ll have a big link to that one. But it is after the actual feast day of Christmas. Trivia for listeners is the *Mary* in *Merry Christmas* originally was that it was the Feast of Mary and Christ. It was the Mass of Mary and Christ.

**Julie Walker:** I see.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So that’s where we get it. Then of course, the spelling changed.

**Julie Walker:** It’s become *Merry*. Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But to truly celebrate you use twelve days, and it’s therefore not too late to talk about ...

**Julie Walker:** Christmas movies.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Christmas movies. Why have a podcast on movies?

**Julie Walker:** Well, isn’t it a form of literature?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Absolutely. In fact, some of the best movies, of course, came from and are about literature.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So I made my list. You made your list. And you've got like the "Top Ten according to Julie Walker."

**Julie Walker:** And I kind of cheated because I have a tie for #8.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, okay. Well, that's fine. I have an added one that's not on your list.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay.

**Andrew Pudewa:** This will be the Top Ten Plus.

**Julie Walker:** Right. So I thought we could just go back and forth, starting with my #10. And then when we get up to your #6 because that's what you have is your top six.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, okay.

**Julie Walker:** Does that sound good? So my #10 was, is *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Now, of course, that's been redone many times, but I just go back to the classic animated version with—I don't even know who the performer is—but he's got that incredible baritone voice and great narration, kind of with a little bit of English accent: Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* animated version.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, and anything with Dr. Seuss is a vocabulary delight for children. And you know, I haven't actually watched that for a very, very, very long time. So I don't have a memory of it. I remember there was a newer version, and I just didn't like it at all. I didn't even like the preview, so never watched it. But I'll trust you if you actually think this should be in the top ten because, of course, Dr. Seuss is timeless.

**Julie Walker:** And it's one of those that's verbatim to the book. Other than the song, of course; Dr. Seuss did not write the song, but it's a good one.

**Andrew Pudewa:** We like movies that are true to the books, mostly ... almost always.

**Julie Walker:** So my #9 is *Little Drummer Boy*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, tell me about that.

**Julie Walker:** That's a claymation-type one. Again, this is very old, but it's the story that is based on the song. You know, "The Little Drummer Boy" song.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I grew up with that song because my mother, being a voice teacher, had to have a Christmas recital. And so all the Christmas music had to be performed and sung by her piano and voice students. And so, yes, "Pa rum pum pum pum ..."

**Julie Walker:** Exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's deep in my semi-subconscious, right there along with *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, which is like a, I don't know, kind of a musical-ish thing. It was like a musical without a plot, I think.

**Julie Walker:** Okay. Is that a Christmas movie? Oh, okay. I don't know it.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Because *Amahl and the Night Visitors* ... Who are the night visitors? The kings maybe.

**Julie Walker:** Right. Yeah. And we have the kings in *The Little Drummer Boy*. And you meet the three kings, which ... The Bible doesn't actually say three kings, but three gifts.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Right. Well, and they weren't really even at the birth of Christ either. It was a couple years later. But you know ...

**Julie Walker:** We digress, right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** In the course of two thousand years, I guess a two-year difference is a pretty microscopic percentage difference. But yeah, people always like to point that out. The manger scenes are historically inaccurate.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, exactly. So my #8 ... Again, this was the one that had a tie. I love those old claymation ones. So *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* made the list, my #8, my Top Ten list. But I also love *Miracle on 34th Street*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** It's 4th, isn't it? I think it's 34th. I wrote down *Miracle on 34th*.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, you did? Okay, good. Yeah, so ...

**Andrew Pudewa:** And there's an old, old version in black and white.

**Julie Walker:** That's the one I like.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And then there's a newer version, which is actually not bad. It's, you know, for people who don't really like old black and white movies.

**Julie Walker:** But is Mrs. Walker in the new version?

**Andrew Pudewa:** I can't remember.

**Julie Walker:** Well, you know, that's one of the reasons I like it because it's Mrs. Walker. That's me.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's the one though. This is interesting because there's a ... I think it's this movie where the Santa Claus at one department store – if they don't have it, he sends them over to some other department store.

**Julie Walker:** Gimbels and Macy's. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** At first the manager is so upset. Like, you're sending our customers somewhere else, but then everybody appreciates that level of uninterested, unselfless service. So it comes out good in the end, but I think that's been a metaphor for business practice for many people.

**Julie Walker:** We sometimes do that here when people are frustrated with how long things take for shipping. You can buy most of our products on Amazon. And if you have Prime, you can get it in a couple days. So ...

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, yeah, but what if we don't have the thing they want? We tell them where to get it.

**Julie Walker:** Well, but the lovely thing about ... I'm sorry, just going to plug this. The lovely thing about when you buy things, IEW products ... You're never going to find it on sale because that way we don't have to worry about customers missing the sale. It's always the great price at what you see.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's true. But we do place the successful shopping experience of our customer very, very high.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, we do. Absolutely.

**Andrew Pudewa:** We just don't give discounts.

**Julie Walker:** We just don't discount. Right, exactly. Sometimes free shipping and, of course, Twelve Days of Christmas.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Twelve Days of Christmas, right now!

**Julie Walker:** We've got a free shipping code you can use. Exactly. Okay. I have a #6. Do you have a #6?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, what is your #6? Maybe it will overlap.

**Julie Walker:** My #6 is the *Christmas Carol* with Patrick Stewart. There's so many versions of *Christmas Carol*, but my favorite is the Patrick Stewart version.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yes, I would agree. You know, an actor like that with his incredible background and Shakespearean training ... And, you know, too many people tend to lock him into the, you know, Picard role.

**Julie Walker:** *Star Trek*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But no, that is a very good one. My favorite Scrooge, though, is actually the musical.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I don't know why; maybe that was the one we watched. The ending is a little bit on the scary side. I remember being a little kid, eight, nine, ten years old and getting ready for the scary, you know, fiery pit under the grave at the end.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, right. Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But those songs, you know, just stuck with me through my whole childhood: "Thank you very much. Thank you very much ..."

**Julie Walker:** Well, I love that *Christmas Carol*. The movie is a musical. There's a musical version of it because the Patrick Stewart one is not a musical.

**Andrew Pudewa:** No. The musical version is called *Scrooge*.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I believe. Yeah. So, but it's such a good story. You could go ahead and watch both and compare them and understand them. But I don't know. There's something about musicals that I have come to, I guess, appreciate even more in my older life than I did in my younger life. Maybe it's because I love the idea of life being a poetic experience. And there's something about when the story includes a song that you just ... You know, I think about I grew up with *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music* ...

**Julie Walker:** Oh, sure. Your mother, of course, was musical and so ... And you, of course, were a musician at a very young age. My husband didn't have that experience growing up, and so he kind of scorns musicals. So I have to convince him every year; come on, we have to watch this traditional, not a Christmas movie, but we watch it every Christmas. And that will be my #4.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So here's a slightly funny story. When I was running my little preschool in Bozeman many, many years ago, I think it was over Christmas that we watched some musicals, probably one of these, *Scrooge* or *Sound of Music* or something. And I got the idea that we should try to make our life more like a musical. Like what if there was a soundtrack?

And we didn't have ... That wasn't the days where you could walk around with earbuds and, you know, iPods. But I told my kids that one day a week we were going to have Opera Day. And if they wanted to talk to me, they had to sing whatever they wanted to say. So it was great. All these little, you know, four- or five-, six-year-olds trying to sing, "Can I go to the bathroom?" You know, and then I would sing back, you know. So *Scrooge* the musical. Okay. What else is on your list now?

**Julie Walker:** So my #5 is *Charlie Brown Christmas*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, yes. Those of us who grew up with the seasonal Snoopy movies. The Charlie Brown, *The Great Pumpkin* was one.

**Julie Walker:** Couldn't watch it on-demand. You had to wait for nine o'clock or eight o'clock Central Time on CBS or whatever channel it was on with all the commercials, but ironically all the commercials. But of course, *Charlie Brown Christmas* really cuts through the nonsense of so many of the Christmas traditions and say, this is what Christmas is really about, which is why I love that.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I'm not really a person who likes watching animated movies or shows. I sometimes do just for the grandchildren, but I manage to avoid almost all the Disney animated movies by simply just being gone when they were watching them. But there's something about the Charlie Brown that it never, never has bothered me in the same way that I am kind of allergic to cartoons.

**Julie Walker:** Well, and they include a lot of music in that too. Linus and Lucy, you know, Schroeder's great piano piece. And then, I love the scene where Lucy is wanting Schroeder to play "Jingle Bells," and he's doing this elaborate variation of "Jingle Bells" on the piano. And she goes, "No, 'Jingle Bells.'" And he finally plays, you know, plays it with one ... Yeah, it was pretty funny.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, I'm going to put that one on a list of ones to watch when the grandchildren are visiting. Because I haven't thought of that recently, but it definitely qualifies.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. So what's your #5?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, my #5 would probably be *It's a Wonderful Life* although it should probably be higher than that.

**Julie Walker:** That's my #2.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's your #2. Okay. Let's go with *Joyeux Noel*. This is a lesser known movie. It's in a foreign language.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And it was nominated for Academy Award, Best Foreign Language movie. But it's that story. I'm sure you've heard the story of how the soldiers in the trenches in World War I on Christmas Eve came out of the trenches, and the enemies that were basically trying to kill each other had a Christmas celebration together. And they exchanged things that they had got from families.

**Julie Walker:** Right. Wow.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Cigarettes. They played soccer in the snow. But the reason that story strikes me so powerfully is, you know, even when there's a war, and there's good guys and bad guys, and you're trying to kill each other, at the end they're all guys. They're all just people. And people have a desire to celebrate. And you know, you just think, what if the whole world could just have Christmas Eve and celebrate the fact that we're all blessed?

We're blessed to be alive; we're blessed to have each other, and that fighting each other over ideologies, fighting each other over territory, fighting each other ... whatever wars have ever been about is not who we are at our very core. So that's a ,, I'm not sure if I'm pronouncing it right. It's J-o-y-e-u-x.

**Julie Walker:** I'm writing that one down.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So I'm assuming it's *Joyeux Noel*. I don't speak French, but I remember seeing that and kind of weeping at moments. Very powerful. Very well done.

**Julie Walker:** Well, my #4 is, I've been told ... is not a Christmas movie, but this in my family ... This with my boys ... We would decorate the Christmas tree. I'd make my world famous Christmas special recipe chili. And then we would watch ... while we're decorating the tree and eating chili, we would watch the movie *The Sound of Music*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, well. I am now pretty much convinced that that is the greatest movie that has ever been made ever in the entire history of movie making. I don't know how many times I've seen it. Many, many, many dozens of times. And I just rewatched it. A few months ago I had sick grandchildren, so that's a good excuse.

**Julie Walker:** It's a long movie.

**Andrew Pudewa:** It's a long movie, but I realize not just is it well done in so many ways. It's just good to the core. It just communicates beauty and goodness and truth and humanity in such a powerful, good, hopeful way. So you know, I'd say I think we watched it at least once a year when all the kids are home and maybe more. And I know I watched it at least once a year when we had to wait for it to come on television.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But I think it should qualify as a Christmas movie.

**Julie Walker:** . Well, there's that "brown paper packages tied up with string." That's the only thing I can think of that ... "Snowflakes that fall on my nose and eyelashes." But anyway, there's not a whole lot of Christmas in there other than just our family tradition that we would watch that at Christmas time.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah. Well, I'll second your vote for #4 Christmas music. But it stays #1 best movie ever made ever by anyone, in my book.

**Julie Walker:** Okay. Wow. There you go. So what's on your list for #4?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, it's not actually the movie that I liked as much as the book. So the movie is *Christmas with the Kranks*.

**Julie Walker:** Ah, yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But the book is John Grisham's novel *Skipping Christmas*.

**Julie Walker:** I think that is just a hilarious, short novel.

**Andrew Pudewa:** It's short, and it is hilarious, and I cannot read the end of it without crying. I mean, I try to read it to someone every year or two. And I remember the first year I read it, you know, I kind of liked John Grisham back then. I really like John Grisham. He's a master storyteller. But I read it; I was in that mode where I was always looking for a book I could read to the family.

So I read it to the whole family. And by the end of it, I mean we were just profoundly touched. And I don't want to give away the story at all for any of our listeners who haven't read it, but it is well worth the read-aloud.

**Julie Walker:** So read the book.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And you know, you could watch the movie. The problem with the movie is the humor is more banal, more slapstick. Or I don't know if it gets into crude. But it's not the elevated, subtle type of humor that Grisham is capable of in that book. So, but that would be mine. What's next on your list?

**Julie Walker:** So I have one of those classic musicals. And I didn't even really ask my husband about our list. I just picked mine. And this is *White Christmas* with Danny Kaye and Bing Crosby.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, wow, yeah. I haven't seen that for many years. Maybe I should put that on the list for kids. Bing Crosby – I don't think I appreciated him much as a 10-, 12-, 14-year-old. But now I've seen a few of his movies, and I realize what an incredibly talented, talented actor and singer. And I guess you could throw in dancer.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, of course. And you know, speaking of dancers, I completely skipped my #7.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, why'd you do that?

**Julie Walker:** I was so excited to talk about *Christmas Carol*.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, okay, so what's #7?

**Julie Walker:** *Holiday Inn*. Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire.



**Andrew Pudewa:** Never seen it.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, add that to your list of things to watch this Christmas season. So another classic musical: *Holiday Inn*. Yes. And there's some incredible dancing in that.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Is there any connection with the hotel chain?

**Julie Walker:** I don't think so. No, I think it only predates though. They're going, oh, maybe *Holiday Inn* took their name from this movie.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's very possible.

**Julie Walker:** But they go to an inn on a holiday, and they dance and sing. There you go. *Holiday Inn*. All right, so that's #7 and my #3.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, okay. So now I think we are in agreement about one and two. Because the first one I wrote down, of course, is *It's a Wonderful Life*.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. That's my #2.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I think this is an extremely good movie to watch regularly, you know, every year because it does something that I don't think any other movie does as well as that, which is, it juxtaposes this kind of hopelessness that we can feel when everything's going against us. And we don't see that our efforts have made any difference in the world. And we just want to give up. And you know, whether we get to the edge of a bridge and jump off or not ... that feeling of hopelessness.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. The movie is so easy to quote too. So many quotable lines on there.

**Andrew Pudewa:** No doubt. And then the other thing that I think is so important to contemplate is the consequences of actions that we don't necessarily foresee or anticipate or imagine. And when he sees, you know, the world as it will be without him, you know, it's so transformative. And I think it's just one of those ... It's better than therapy because it creates an introspection. And you know, I often think about what if I hadn't done this? What if I had done that instead of what I did do? What if I hadn't moved to Oklahoma? You know, how would the world be different? How many lives would be changed? There are people who exist today because I have moved to Oklahoma.

**Julie Walker:** That's right. Several of your grandchildren.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I do think that a lot of people might argue that should be #1. It was the first one I wrote down.

**Julie Walker:** Ah, well, and there might be a debate about colorized version versus a black and white version. I don't think the color ...

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, Jimmy Stewart is the only ... That's the only one.

**Julie Walker:** Well, no. Right. But they color ...

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, they colorized it.

**Julie Walker:** And I don't think it changed it significantly. I don't think you need to watch it colorized, but I don't think it's like a crime to watch it colorized. You had Donna Reed and Jimmy Stewart.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Did you know Jimmy Stewart was a general in the US Army?

**Julie Walker:** Really?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yes. Lieutenant or brigadier? I can't remember. But he was like this high ranking military officer in the reserves. You know, and after the war in the reserves, and then he went on to make some of the greatest movies ever.

**Julie Walker:** Yes. Love Jimmy Stewart.

**Andrew Pudewa:** What a man, and he's one of those actors. After you watch the movie, you just love him.

**Julie Walker:** So true. It's so true.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You just love him because he connects with you in so many ways. Other Jimmy Stewart movies: *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.

**Julie Walker:** That's a good one.

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's a really good one.

**Julie Walker:** I think of the Alfred Hitchcock movies that he's done. I think he's done a couple of them. *Rear Window*, I think.

**Andrew Pudewa:** My wife is pretty much allergic to anything bordering on what could possibly be weird or, you know, Hitchcockish. Anyway, all right, so people are really wanting to know.

**Julie Walker:** Yes. Well, it's actually your pick, but I would agree with you on that.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Okay. *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

**Julie Walker:** There we go.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah. It's a new movie.

**Julie Walker:** Yes. The only new one on our list really.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah. When I first saw the title, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*, I thought, “Well, that is an obnoxious name for anything.” Like, didn’t Jesus invent Christmas? Didn’t God create Christmas?

**Julie Walker:** Yes, exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But the movie has the same title of the book, which came before, but they’re entirely different.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay. So you’ve read the book?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yes, I saw the movie. I was so enamored with the movie that I got the book. And then I realized that it was totally different. So in the movie it’s Charles Dickens. And he’s kind of overextended financially. He’s got relationship challenges, particularly with his father. He’s got a lot of kids. He’s super famous, but he needs money. And he comes up with this idea of writing a book about Christmas. And the publishers are thinking nobody’s going to buy a book about Christmas. Nobody cares about Christmas.

Christmas is nothing. And what I didn’t really realize was at that time in Victorian England, there were decades where Christmas was frowned upon by the Anglican Church to be celebrated because it was kind of mushed together with the pagan traditions, winter solstice, and some of Druidian stuff, and that.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So Christmas was really not celebrated. But then with Queen Victoria marrying Albert and the German tradition of Christmas, it started to come into English society, but it still wasn’t a big deal. And so Dickens wanted to write this book about Christmas. And everyone thought, horrible idea. Nobody’s going to buy it.

They wouldn’t even fund it; they wouldn’t give him an advance. And so he decided that he would somehow fund this himself. And so the movie is a little bit about the book in terms of how did he work through that and get the book into completed version and the risk he took. I mean, he basically risked everything to self-publish five thousand copies of this book. And it sold out in, I don’t remember – days, short period of time.

**Julie Walker:** Well, and of course his story made our list of the top ten books. And one of the actors in there also made our list in a different role: Christopher Plummer.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, Christopher Plummer.

**Julie Walker:** You forgot that he was in there. Oh, my gosh.

**Andrew Pudewa:** He did Scrooge. Oh, man.

**Julie Walker:** So well.

**Andrew Pudewa:** What an incredible job. Now, the fantastical side of the movie, which is really delightful, is him kind of on the personal side, wrestling with the story.

**Julie Walker:** Arguing with Scrooge.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Arguing with the characters, right, and the characters would appear. You know, they would come to life in his imagination, and then they would actually be in the scenes with him. And so that was interesting – how he was arguing with the character. And the other thing that I loved was how different experiences he had were portrayed in the movie and then they came into the story he wrote. And it kind of aligns with that idea that, you know, every idea has to come from somewhere. You can't really just produce something from nothing.

**Julie Walker:** You can't get something out of a brain that isn't in there to begin with.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And so there are all these little scenes that you see it, and you know the story. And you know, oh, that's going to be in the book when he writes it. And then one of the funniest parts is at the very end, he reconciles with his father. And his father's going back, and he bumps into this young person, and "What's your name?" And I think he says, "Well, Nicholas Nickleby." Anyway, so it's like he even got names for his characters perhaps. It's all speculation.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, of course.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But I think for people who have appreciated the story of *Christmas Carol*, this movie will just amplify that deep-level appreciation for Dickens and his imagination and the struggles that he had. The book is really much more of a history/biography. It doesn't include any of this, him arguing with Scrooge about, you know, can you really become a good person or not.

But I learned so much about, again, how Christmas was not considered worth much interest or effort at that time and a whole lot about Dickens's life. I don't remember a lot because it's several years ago since I listened to the book by that title. But I recommend it very, very highly.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. Well, I know our list of top ten. Or I don't know what number we actually wound up with—more than ten—because you had some on your list that were not on mine. And vice versa.

**Andrew Pudewa:** It was the top ten plus bonuses.

**Julie Walker:** Plus bonuses. There you go. I know that those ... This list is unique. I know that I've seen lots of lists out there that include movies that I wouldn't recommend necessarily because they're not necessarily in the spirit of Christmas, or they're just kind of a little bit crude. But certainly these family-friendly, literature enriching, but also entertaining. A little bit of amusement going on there.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, and you know, I think it's very, very valuable for children to have a chance to watch old movies. They learn to appreciate old movies. I remember talking to one kid,

and he said, “I hate black and white.” Well, okay, that’s just not because there’s something intrinsically uninteresting. It’s just you’re not used to that.

**Julie Walker:** And that kid ... You can watch *It’s a Wonderful Life*, the colorized version. And they won’t even know it was done in black and white originally.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Although my grandson said to me, I don’t know, six, eight months ago ... He goes, “Black and white movies are better.”

**Julie Walker:** There you go.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, that was fun. So enjoy the last ... Well, still we have the bulk of it ahead of us.

**Julie Walker:** Another eight days to go. Eight.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Eight more days of Christmas joy.

**Julie Walker:** All right. Thank you, Andrew.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Thank you, Julie.

**Julie Walker:** Thanks so much for joining us. If you enjoyed this episode and want to hear more, please subscribe to our podcast in iTunes, Google podcasts, Stitcher, or Spotify. Or just visit us each week at [IEW.com/podcast](http://IEW.com/podcast). Here you can also find show notes and relevant links from today’s broadcast. One last thing: would you mind going to iTunes to rate and review our podcast? This really helps other smart, caring listeners like you find us. Thanks so much.