This brief, eloquently presented book offers a simple and inviting strategy for handling the most complicated holiday of our times--Christmas. Reacting to the commercialization and overspending that has come to define it, author Bill McKibben (The End of Nature) argues in favor of only spending a hundred dollars at Christmas. Rather than grousing about the deterioration of Christmas, McKibben matter-of-factly explains that there was a time that giving extravagant presents may have been a satisfying and meaningful ritual. The Christmas we now celebrate grew up at a time when Americans were mostly poor ... mostly working with their hands and backs, he writes. If we now feel burdened and unsatisfied by the piles of gifts and over-consuming, it is not because Christmas has changed all that much, he adds, Its because we have. What we need and long for now are the gifts of time, meaningful family connections, periods of silence, a relationship with the divine, McKibben writes. How to give and receive the Christmas gifts that matters? Make homemade presents (he even offers a chapters worth of great ideas). Give children coupons for zoo visits or an evening devoted to playing board games. Its likely that McKibben, a former staff writer for The New Yorker, could launch a national movement with this inviting and sensible concept. But no matter how many dollars you spend, factor the cost of this book into your Christmas budget! --Gail Hudson

My Personal Review:
Hundred Dollar Holiday is a very good answer to folks who dread spending tons of money on Christmas gifts that often become dusty clutter in the recipient's house, or receive these gifts themselves. If you feel like this, you may not know exactly why you become a grinch at Christmas, but Bill McKibben elucidates it pretty well. He describes the history of Christmas and how it evolved to what it is now, and takes several approaches (practical, religious, environmental, economical) to describe what's wrong
now and what could be changed to enjoy Christmas again. And he does it not aggressively or accusatory, but unassumingly and conversationally. If you find that your new (INSERT TECHNOLOGICAL ENTERTAINMENT DEVICE HERE) doesn't really add real happiness to your life, you may want to read this. The hard part is getting your traditional family to read it.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:

Hundred Dollar Holiday: The Case For A More Joyful Christmas by Bill McKibben - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!