

Contents

<i>Welcome</i>	7
<i>How to Use Simplify the Holidays</i>	9
<i>“10 Tips to Simplify Your Holidays”</i> by Marcia Ramsland	11

Section One: The Plan

Holiday Planning Simplified	13
The Holiday Plan at a Glance	15
What Do the Symbols Mean?	16
The 8-Week Plan	17
The 4-Week Plan	27
The 2-Week Plan	33
The 10-Day Countdown Plan	37
<i>“Relationship Tips for the Holidays”</i> by Pam Farrel	38

Section Two: Gifts

Gift Giving Simplified	39
Important Gift-Giving Strategies	42
Master Gift List	43
A Gift-Wrapping Center	45
Supplies on Hand	46
Charitable Giving	47
<i>“10 Money Saving Tips on Holiday Gifts”</i> by Ellie Kay	49

Section Three: Cards & Decorations

Christmas Cards Simplified	51
Four Christmas Card Styles	53
My Christmas Card List	55
<i>“10 Tips for Successful Christmas Card Photos”</i> by Penny Crosson	57
Holiday Decorating Simplified	59
<i>“10 Super Simple Holiday Décor Tips”</i> by Susan Wells	63
Decorating Photos	64
<i>“10 Holiday Tips for the Working Woman”</i> by Gail Hayes	67

Section Four: Events

Holiday Entertaining Simplified	69
“10 Tips for a Successful Event” by Elizabeth Laurence	72
Event-Planning Timeline	74
Sample Event-Planning Worksheet—Neighborhood Cookie Exchange	76
Sample Event-Planning Worksheet—Office Christmas Party	78
Event Photos	81
Celebrating Christmas Day	83
How Do You Spend Christmas Day	85
“Table Talk for the Holidays” by Brenda Laurence	86
Christmas Photos	89
Thanksgiving Week Activities	92
Christmas Week Activities	93

Section Five: December 1-25

December 1-25 Inspiration	95
The First Christmas	96

Section Six: Food

Food for the Holidays Simplified	123
“10 Tips to Remember Before Starting Holiday Baking” by Jane Jarrell	125
“10 Tips to Celebrate without Gaining Weight” by Danna Demetre	127
Our Favorite Christmas Cookie and Holiday Recipes	129–136
Menus for Thanksgiving Week	137
Menus for Christmas Week	139
“10 Tips to Serve Fabulous and Impress Your Guests” by Jane Jarrell	143
The SOS Pyramid	145
My Journal of Holiday Reflections	146
<i>Extra Planning Pages</i>	149–190
<i>About the Author</i>	191