



Holly Pointe & Mistletoe : A heartwarming holiday romance

Cindy Kirk

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All journalist Stella Carpenter wants for Christmas is her life back.

After losing her family, her boyfriend, and her job, Stella is on the verge of being ho-ho-homeless. Out of desperation, she accepts an assignment to write a story on Holly Pointe, Vermont, the tiny town recently crowned the 'Capital of Christmas Kindness'. If she can prove the town's holiday spirit is a sham, her Editor promises Stella will start the New Year with a new career.

Rancher Sam Johnson is Holly Pointe's resident Grinch--at least in the eyes of the tinsel-loving townspeople. It's not that he doesn't like the lights and the carols. It's that they remind him of the brother he lost. Christmas is a time for family, and if Sam can't have that, then he prefers to spend the holiday alone. But when Stella blows into town on a wild winter wind, the frosty walls around Sam's heart thaw.

Charmed by Holly Pointe, Stella is torn. She doesn't want to betray the friends she's made, but she's scared to give up the life she knows. And then there's Sam. She never expected to fall in love with someone so different from her, yet that's exactly what has happened. While Stella searches for a solution, the real reason for her arrival in Holly Pointe is discovered. Now, it'll take a true Christmas miracle for Sam and Stella to make this holiday a happy one.

Holly Pointe & Mistletoe : A heartwarming holiday romance Details

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From Reader Review Holly Pointe & Mistletoe : A heartwarming holiday romance for online ebook

Beth says

Forever in Good Hope, from the The Good Hope Series (on Kindle Unlimited) (fall/autumn book) If you know Beth 1st love is a mystery, 2nd laughter and humor ... somewhere mixed in there is anything to do with fall/autumn (my favorite season, I got married in Nov. I love fall, I love anything to do with the fall) then jump there Christmas ... gosh at sometimes Christmas jumps all over fall and crushes it ... i just love Christmas time that much ...love all the scents, foods, being with family and friends ... I just love it. and I can read Christmas reads any old time ...they just make me that happy. Cindy has become one of those "go 2 authors" for me ...her style is just so warming. Makes my heart and eyes happy ...she does a sweet romantic style of love stories ...you'll fall in love with her characters, her storylines ...she is just so loveable, likeable. So how to rate this bad boy?? Gosh that is hard??! If you are looking for that perfect holiday read u will find a great story here. loved it. Holly Point, Cindy has a way to creating these towns that u just wanna go 2 and maybe "people watch" a while and just take it all in. She creates these worlds, now not saying that these characters don't have rough lives, or backbones ...oh no they all have their "skeletons in their closets" like we all do. Some more than others, but that is just a wording of it all .. u know??! & there always has 2 to be some quirky characters (it is a Christmas story after all "The Grinch" is in there too, well Cindy's version of the Grinch.) but does it go over that fall read??! i am weighing that out in my heart and mind now?! Honest review here, thankful for an early copy 2 read, I just love Cindy's style and if you are looking for an author that will warm your heart and hands (always wonder how to say that since u r either reading a kindle copy or a hand held real book??!) this holiday season, please do check this beauty out. look at that cover... so festive. SOLD! be sure to grab your warm beverage of choice and get into that big comfortable bed, or chair or whichever, wherever and get to reading already. enjoy! (; split decision - loved this book, Forever in Good Hope will remain my top pick from Cindy. thx.

Annette says

Stella has had a series of losses. Her boyfriend, her job and her apartment. When she is offered a chance to regain a job as a reporter, she jumps at the chance.

The assignment is nothing like what she truly wants to write, but it is a job and she needs a job. So, in order to get her foot in the door, she will go to Holly Pointe, Vermont and find all the dirt she can find.

Although the small town is supposed to be the Capital of Christmas Kindness. Stella feels certain that she will be able to find the town's secrets and write a tell all article.

The problem is, when she arrives in Holly Pointe, she finds that the people are truly kind. Not only that, the first person she meets, Sam, who is a very attractive man who is kind enough to prevent her from falling on a slick sidewalk.

As Stella meets the people who populate this small town, she finds one friendly face after another. She finds an apartment above a popular coffee shop, she finds a job that is the perfect way to meet everyone and go to every event. She will photograph the Christmas events and post things on social media. A perfect fit for her personally that will allow her to find out about everyone in town.

Everyone in town is friendly, but that does not mean that there are not problems. Stella is growing more and more in love with the town and everyone she has met there.

This is a sweet story. It is filled with Christmas events which bring people together to do good things for one another.

It also has Stella falling in love with the town as well as falling in love with Sam.

I received this story from the author. I am voluntarily writing this review and all opinions are completely my own.

Maria Carina says

Actions speak louder than words, written or otherwise.

Adrift and alone, Stella grabs the opportunity to visit the town of Christmas kindness in Holly Pointe, Vermont. With the promise of a permanent job IF she dishes out the dirt on the town and its citizens, Stella never expected to find home. And love.

This book is an amazing story to read during the holidays, or even when one is feeling down and wants to restore her faith in humanity. More than falling in love with the hero and heroine in the story, I fell in love with the goodness, kindness and love that emanated from each person in Holly Pointe. Sure, they had problems and misunderstandings; after all, what person doesn't have those? But these good people met each day, each problem and each issue with joy and love in their hearts. To me, that is the truest, most beautiful embodiment of the spirit of the holidays.

This is a series begging to be written - I cannot wait to find out more about what makes each of these men and women tick; I want to know more about the people in their lives and to be quite honest, I want to take a trip to Holly Pointe.

This book is a feel good read, and I think, in this day and age we live in, we all need books like this in our lives.

**I received an ARC of this book, but this review is posted willingly and all opinions expressed herein are my own.

Mandy says

This was the perfect way to start the holiday season. Cindy Kirk shines when bringing to the page a picture of small towns and the best part of the small town life. Stella Carpenter, a native to Miami, has been laid off from her job at the local paper, her parents died in a tragic car accident several years ago and she recently broke up with a boyfriend who it turns out was married. She wants to take back control of her life instead of living on a friend's couch. When her former editor calls her back to the office with the offer of a month long

assignment in Holly Pointe in order to dig up dirt on the so-called friendliest town, Stella has reservations, but takes the job none the less. What follows is worthy of a live action Hallmark movie and I enjoyed it quite a bit.

Overall, I enjoyed the book and truly did care about the characters. I felt that the plot was fairly predictable in regard to Stella's gathering information on and speculation about different residents within the town of Holly Pointe. As she continues to gather information for her article, she also makes friends, meets a hunky guy who is the town manager. As she continually takes part in the month long festivities as the town's acting social media person, she begins to realize that salacious gossip journalism just isn't who she is, and would disappoint her deceased parents. As she tries to get herself out of writing the article and also tell Sam, her new love interest, the truth about why she was in Holly Pointe in the first place, things come falling down. I wish that we had gotten a bit more in terms of some of the other character's backstories, although knowing Ms. Kirk and penchant for great small town book series, I am hoping we get another Holly Pointe book in the future. I received an advanced copy of this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Anita says

Stella Carpenter, a journalist living in Miami, is at a crossroads in her life. She has lost her parents in a car accident, and now, she's lost her job. Her old boss has given her an assignment that may get her job back. She has to go to Holly Pointe, noted for being the friendliest town, and do an expose on its citizens. But, when she arrives, she sees that everyone she meets is friendly, and giving. Plus, she meets Sam Johnson, who has been scarred by death, and needs Stella to help heal the hole in his heart. Will they fall in love with each other and Holly Pointe?

Ms. Kirk is one of the best romance authors out there, in my opinion. And, I would live in any of her creative worlds. She weaves towns and communities that are as big as the characters. The characters, sometimes flawed, have a unique, and honest perspective on life. There is an uplifting and positive quality to her work. This story was about forgiveness, healing and the opening of one's heart. It would make an excellent holiday read for romance lovers. Merry Christmas!

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am voluntarily reviewing it.

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Romance Is Ageless

Sometimes I'll pick up a story by a new to me author with some expectations based on the cover blurb and/or the cover. And that was the case with Holly Pointe & Mistletoe – I expected a fun, lighthearted Christmas Romance. That's exactly what I got... but there is so much more to this story that I didn't expect and that is what has me so grateful to have come across this title, and to have found a new author whose 'voice' I truly enjoy.

I don't know if I can adequately describe the feelings that I experienced while enjoying Holly Pointe & Mistletoe. It's not a spoiler to say that going in Stella knows what she's about to do in this small Vermont town, she's uncomfortable in so many ways about it but times are really rough right now and a paycheck is

desperately needed. Yet she won't compromise on some important parts of this assignment... and this is where the reader begins to get that watching the movie where the heroine goes to the top of the cellar steps and the audience is yelling "Don't Do It" feeling.... yeah. That tension was always right behind my shoulder as I'm watching Stella fall in love with a town, its people and one special man.

I liked everything about this story – the knowing something that the townsfolk didn't, the waiting for everything to fall apart around Stella, the people of Holly Pointe themselves, the romance that is a slow burning between Sam and Stella... Just Everything about it. I was glad to discover that this is the first story in a series – less than halfway through Holly Pointe & Mistletoe I'm thinking that I need to know more, I hope so and so get their own story, that kind of reaction so I am going to keep an eye out for more in this series. I don't want to say much more about the plot and the unfolding of the story because you should experience that firsthand. I will say that I completely enjoyed myself in this world and would highly recommend this story for any reader who enjoys Christmas Romances, no matter their favorite genre. I had a blast, and I hope you'll discover this gem for yourself.

I read this title through my Kindle Unlimited subscription.

Susan says

Holly Pointe

Holly Pointe is one of the quaint towns Cindy Kirk writes about I'd love to live.

Stella had lost her family, her job, and her boyfriend. When her boss reached out with the opportunity for an all expenses paid trip to Holly Pointe to write a tell all article about a town called the "Capital of Christmas Kindness" because nowhere is perfect. Stella accepts it, with the promise of a new career in the new year, and agrees to write the article, but only on the facts she can verify.

She rolls into town and meets the town administrator, Sam, who is the town Grinch due to the loss of his brother years before. Through some events she takes on an assignment as the towns social media photographer. Sam told her that she should experience life from another perspective than from behind the lens of a camera.

She saw some things about some of the town's residents that appear to be one thing and she begins to believe that maybe Holly Pointe isn't as perfect of a town as it's painted to be.

We meet so many secondary characters and, although their stories aren't in the forefront, they are likable and relatable. As we move through, Stella does start to believe that there is more than meets the eye. I do hope we get to see more of them at some point.

The book is likable and is predictable, but it's such a charming book, it didn't make me want to put it down. That fact is what made it 4 stars instead of 5 for me.

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am voluntarily reviewing it.

Anitajt says

A friendly town can't be that perfect can it.

That's what journalist, Stella is sent to find out at Christmas time. She has lost her family, boyfriend and her job and is practically homeless so she accepts an assignment to prove no town can be that kind!

She doesn't bargain on the actual townsfolk being so friendly or her feelings for a certain rancher. So, does she set about destroying the town or her new friends for the sake of a job? She finally makes up her mind about what to do but, then it doesn't go to plan. A story full of Christmas cheer, friendships, and romance.

"I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am voluntarily reviewing it."

Marcia Kerker says

Holly Pointe & Mistletoe was a delightful Christmas Story. Cindy Kirk does not disappoint the reader and continues to achieve the mystery, romance, and suspense all in one in her books. Stella Carpenter is a reporter without a job, money or a place to live. Given the opportunity to write a story for their former newspaper Stella jumps at the chance to get her life back on track as well as keeping busy at this time of year. Realizing her editor wants a story with dirt on Holly Pointe Vermont as it is known as the Capital of Christmas Kindness Stella sets out to find her story in the town only to realize the town and its people are truly just that, kind, considerate and everyone is truly family in the community and love the Christmas Spirit. Stella finds herself falling in love with not only the people of Holly Pointe but the Town Administrator. When she refused to send her editor the story to discredit the town and its people she has come to love, she risks everything in the process. Stella has been double crossed by her editor and loses the trust and love of the town or has she??

Cindy Kirk keeps the suspense going on this story until the end. It is truly a book you want to read and not put down. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and look forward to a sequel.

I received an advance copy of this book.

Barbara A Ross says

I have received an Advanced Readers Copy of this book and am voluntarily reviewing it.

Stella Carpenter is an unemployed journalist who has been given an opportunity to go to Holly Pointe, Vermont to debunk their title of Christmas Capital of the USA and their people rated the kindest. Her editor, Jane Myers, wants a sensationalized story that shows that the title isn't correct.

The first person Stella meets in Holly Pointe is Sam Johnson. He catches her before she falls on an icy sidewalk. Sam is the City Administrator of Holly Pointe. He is a very serious and private person. Both Sam and Stella have suffered loss in their lives. Sam lost his brother and Stella had lost both parents in a car accident. Both guard their hearts.

Stella falls into a job photographing events during the holiday season in Holly Pointe. She also writes blogs and posts items to social media. The more time Stella spends in Holly Pointe the more she falls in love with the town and its people. The town is indeed the kindest and Stella cannot bear to betray these people who

have become her friends.

The more time Stella spends with Sam, the more she considers making Holly Pointe her home. She has to be honest with Sam about what originally brought her to Holly Pointe. Before she can finally tell him, her editor prints an article and puts Stella's name on it. It betrays all her friends. Is there any way to come back from this?

This is the beginning of what I hope becomes a new series from Cindy Kirk! I really want to visit Holly Pointe again and hope that others in this wonderful town can find love as well.

This was a fun read and a great start to the holiday season. Hope you enjoy this as much as I did!

Lisa Phillips says

Stella is having a rough spot in life. No job, no home of her own, no family and not prospects. Right before the holidays her previous job approaches her about a job in a town called Holly Pointe. Holly Pointe has the reputation for being a town with a lot of Christmas spirit and super friendly. Her assignment is to find flaws and cracks in this sweet town. Her first day she is caught as she stumbles by a handsome Sam. Wondering around she goes to the local diner, where she overhears them say they need someone to photograph and load pictures on the local website. She is able to find a couple of things she could see as scandal worthy. Santa drinking on the job, Celebrity couple with marriage issue, and Sam's previous celebrity girlfriend. The longer she stays more she falls for the people and town. Her boss is trying to force her hand and she is finding it hard to hurt the people in Holly Pointe. Having lost her parents 2 years ago she has felt alone until meeting Sam and her new friends. She decides in the end to put Holly Pointe and Sam before her career. This book is a sweet feel good Christmas story. It shows how people can pull together in good and hard times. The people in this town have Christmas spirit even in the hard times and friends are family. I was given this book as an advance from the publisher and I am voluntary reviewing. Thanks Cindy for another great book.

Suzanne says

I got so worried towards the end of this book that I had to set aside everything else and just read until I was finished. I guess that shows how engaged I was :)

This was a great holiday read. I would love to live somewhere like Holly Pointe, and Cindy Kirk captured such an air of acceptance and friendship and, of course, Christmas. I hope that we see more stories set in this town.

I was actually quite bothered by Stella's assignment to write an expose on the town. Although it bothered her too, which helped. The romance between Stella and Sam was good, and I liked some of the things Sam said, like about experiencing things yourself and not through the lens of a camera. But the real draw to me was some of the side characters, like Kenny and his wife of almost 50 years, and Katie with her unique shop, etc.

I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a Christmas time romance, especially if you enjoy small-town stories.

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Susan Roncevich says

Holly Pointe and Mistletoe is a beautiful and heartwarming story. I enjoyed reading this book by Cindy Kirk.

Stella Carpenter lost her job with the Miami Sun Times. Finding herself jobless and homeless, she jumped at the opportunity to do a piece on the town of Holly Pointe in Vermont. The town was known as the “Christmas Capital of the USA” and had been rated as the kindest city in the country. The Managing Editor, Jane Myers, believed there had to be drama somewhere and that Stella’s job was to find it and write a piece about what she discovered.

Stella finds very special and caring people in this small town. She quickly makes friends as they make her feel welcome soon after her arrival. She meets Sam Johnson and a friendship and romance develops between them in the short time she is assigned to Holly Pointe, Vermont.

It would be great to be a part of a town like this. A place filled with people who display the spirit of giving. They are not perfect but they care and they take the time to listen. Most importantly, they forgive.

So many characters that draw you in and some are very relatable. Norma and Kenny who own the coffee shop in Holly Pointe and are Stella’s landlords are an example of an older couple still very much in love. They have lived a life of happy moments and some hard times. During this story, they are facing the fact that Norma has cancer and the treatment of that cancer. I have a loved one that is facing the same cancer and I know how the support and love of family and friends help in the recovery process. To see the people in this city helping and caring for each other when adversity hits warmed my heart.

You will enjoy this story as you step into Holly Pointe and experience Christmas with them. There are tense moments but it ends happily and I look forward to hearing more stories about the special people in this likable town.

I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher and am happy to voluntarily review it.

Susan Gorman says

I enjoyed reading Cindy Kirk’s Holly Pointe and Mistletoe. The premise of the story intrigued me. A journalist was sent to Holly Pointe, Vermont during the holidays to write an expose not a flattering piece, on the town. A negative article at Christmas? Despite my initial concerns, the novel’s small town setting and fabulous characters drew me into this holiday read.

Stella Carpenter is running out of options; she’s been unemployed for three months, she has nowhere to live and her boyfriend dumped her. Stella receives an all-expenses paid assignment from her former editor. Her editor doesn’t want a fluff piece-she wants Stella to write an expose about the town that’s been named the Christmas Capital of the United States. Stella grabs the assignment and hopes that it will lead to a full time job.

It took me awhile to warm up to Stella. She skates around the truth, cozies up to the town leaders and secures a job as a social media photographer on her first day in town. I adore Cindy Kirk's small town slice of life stories and the characters who add color and depth to the story. Through her friendships with Faith, Melinda and Sam, Stella understands that kindness, friendship and trust are part of the fabric of this small town. I loved the scene which takes place at Faith's gift shop; Stella is asked if being a reporter is much as who she is as much as what she does? This talk about integrity shakes Stella to the core.

With its message of forgiveness and kindness, Holly Pointe and Mistletoe is a fabulous holiday read. The characters are not perfect; instead they are relatable. Their stories are filled with love, compassion and hope. Reading this novel emphasizes the small town values of honesty, community and faith—each character exemplifies these values when they interact with Stella. Her personal and professional decisions drive the story towards its satisfying conclusion.

Grab a cup of tea and your favorite blanket or corgi—and settle in for a fabulous afternoon read. This book is a holiday treasure.

Lisa says

Stella is a journalist for the Miami Sun Times. When the newspaper had to make cutbacks, Stella lost her job. Since then, Stella lost her apartment and broke up with her boyfriend. When Stella is unable to find a job, money got very tight and she moved in with her friend; however, months later, with no job prospects in sight, her friend is now suggesting that she needs to leave. Stella's world is seriously crashing around her. She lost her parents after Thanksgiving, her boyfriend and her broke up, she's jobless and looking at being homeless.

Then, her old boss, Jane Myers, contacts her to offer her an assignment. Stella's parents had taught her to do real journalism instead of sensationalizing and gossip. Unfortunately, Jane wants Stella to go to Holly Pointe and write a sensationalized piece about Holly Pointe not really being the Capital of Christmas Kindness. Stella accepts the assignment but says she will only report what she can verify.

When Stella arrives in Holly Pointe and steps out of the car, she slips on the icy sidewalk; however, Sam Johnson, Holly Pointe's city administrator, catches her before she crashes to the sidewalk. Same, much like Stella, has lost so much. His brother passed away a few years ago.

Stella rents an apartment above the local coffee shop, giving her the perfect place to get to know Holly Pointe's citizens. While Stella is enjoying a coffee at the coffee shop, she lands her another job as the town's social media manager/photographer. This allows her access to all the Christmas activities and its citizens.

As she begins investigating for the Miami Sun Times and working as the town's social media manager, she sees the town's Santa Claus drinking at a formal party and a children's party. She takes notes on her computer and begins investigating this, along with several other people, including the town's celebrity married couple who appear to not be as in love as they seem in photographs.

****Spoiler Alert****

As Stella gathers more information, she begins to develop real, meaningful friendships with the townspeople. In addition to this, she begins dreaming of Sam as more than just a friend and city administrator. When Jane gets into Stella's files and finds all of the juicy photos and notes, she decides to take matters into her own hands. Will Stella's friends forgive her? Will Stella's and Sam's relationship become more than just friends?

I received an advanced reader's copy from the author in exchange for my honest review.
