



## Jesse's Christmas

*R.J. Scott*

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*For Jesse Connor, Christmas is nothing but a series of bad memories. It takes a man imbued with the spirit of Christmas to help him realize that the Christmas spirit lies in everyone--if they only know where to look.*

For photographer Jesse Connor, Christmas lost its shine when last Christmas, Jesse's lover, the man he thought had been the one, absconded with millions of dollars from the company he traded for. The FBI landed on Jesse's doorstep on Christmas Eve, and that was the nail in the proverbial Christmas coffin.

Now, alone in the city, facing another Christmas with nothing more than apathy, he's offered a chance to see Christmas in a different light.

Can the residents of Eden Vale, and in particular a man called Gabriel, show him that he can start again and that Christmas and love can live inside everyone, despite hurtful pasts?

*rewritten, new cover art*

## Jesse's Christmas Details

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Author : R.J. Scott

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## From Reader Review Jesse's Christmas for online ebook

### Jenni Lea says

Simply adorable and just what I needed to get me out of my holiday funk.

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### Serena Yates says

This is a wonderful story which made me smile and re-appreciate the meaning of Christmas. I loved reading about Jesse, who is totally disillusioned. Christmas is ruined for him, and while it isn't clear, at first, exactly what happened, the gradual revealing of his reasons added a nice extra layer to the story. Equally, the gradual thawing of his heart as he meets and gets to know Gabriel is the perfect setup for a heart-warming story. It is an interesting variation on the Christmas grinch storyline.

Jesse has more problems than 'just' hating Christmas now (as if that wasn't enough). His muse and creative inspiration have suffered as well. Being sent to Eden Vale, the epitome of all things Christmas-y, seems like a punishment at first. But from the moment he is there he can feel the magic, even if he doesn't want to admit it at first.

Gabriel, whom we only see through Jesse's eyes, is a great guy. The total opposite of Jesse, in terms of community involvement and happiness with his life, he manages to convince Jesse that there is more to life than disappointment.

If you like warm stories, two men meeting and slowly falling in love, and if you're looking for a true Christmas romance, you may like this story.

NOTE: This book was provided by Silver Publishing for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

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### Lauraadriana says

#### 3.5 Stars

Lovely Christmas story. The setting was beautiful and the men were too.  
Sweet and easy read.

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### Tam says

This review can be found at Brief Encounters Reviews.

Jesse is a professional photographer whose life has sucked for the last year, especially since the FBI came banging on his door looking for the man he was about to ask to marry him. Seems his soon-to-be fiancée had ripped off the bank where he worked for millions of dollars, and took all of Jesse's money with him as well. His agent tells him he's got a job, no choice in the matter. He has to go to a small town in Vermont that was voted "best Christmas town" and take and post one picture per day of Christmassy wintery goodness. He'd rather gouge his eyes out with a rusty spork, but she doesn't give him any choice.

The first morning, he amazingly gets a little motivated by the pristine whiteness of new snow, and the hotel owner's hot son doesn't hurt. Before long he's rather sucked up in all of the Christmas activities despite his plans to Grinch out. Gabriel, the hot sexy son, just happens to be perfect, perhaps a little too perfect in my opinion which was a slight downfall for me. He's an elementary school teacher, he conducts the choir, he leads the candle making, he shovels his mom's driveway when it snows, I think he cooks too. Wow. Oh and did I mention he's hot? Do you see that cover? That is Gabriel.

However despite Gabriel coming on to him, and his attraction Jesse holds back. He's not sure he could do just a fling and leave back to the city, he really likes Jesse and he's started to find his Christmas spirit again. While I really liked Jesse and I didn't blame the guy one little bit for his Grinchy attitude, I also had a few niggles which I think are personal based and not a fault of the story itself. I get really annoyed with people who insist you must have Christmas spirit, like Jesse's friend/agent did. I know, Jesse used to like it and now he doesn't, but with good reason. Liking Christmas will not "cure" his broken heart and trust. But on the other hand I liked that even at the end of this story, Jesse is not certain, he's unsure the new relationship will work, and that he can get past the baggage, so I appreciated no pat happy ending wrapped up in a bow.

I also found the whole "perfect small town in a mountain" on the one hand appealing, and on the other, it made me want to run screaming to the nearest city large enough for public transportation. I also know this is a purely personal thing. and some people would kill to live in such a town, although it's not always quite as lovely as the surface. Were Gabriel and Jesse going to be accepted by a small town? Sure it's Vermont, they could get married, but as an elementary school teacher were there going to be concerns? It was never raised.

However, perhaps I'm over-thinking this. It's a romantic sweet Christmas story about a man finding the joy in Christmas and love again. The setting is idealized, the people in town are pretty close to perfect, and Jesse gets his photography and Christmas mojo back. So despite my reservations about a few things, it's well written, and a quick easy read that won't take you long, but gives you a nice little glow at the end as you finish.

On a side note, I mentioned Gabriel looks like the cover, and Jesse is a photographer. There is a scene that pretty much describes the cover. I quite enjoyed that little connection even though I know all of the Christmas covers are the same.

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## **Mandy\*reads obsessively\* says**

3.5-4\*

Jesse is a professional photographer whose boyfriend left him last Christmas taking all his savings with him. His job takes him to a very small town, where he meets Gabriel. I liked the low development and getting to know Jesse.

I didn't get as much about Gabriel, except he's really good looking and seems to be close to perfect. As slow as the build up was, the ending felt a bit rushed, I really wished it had been a bit longer.

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## Don Bradshaw says

This was a sweet, sappy Christmas love story. Jesse had become a bitter and jaded man when his partner left him on Christmas Eve a year ago. A photographer by trade, Jesse has to fulfill a contract for a series of pictures starting from December first and continuing through Christmas. I enjoyed the whole village feel of Eden Vale. Diana, Gabriel and Jesse were all well drawn characters that felt very real to me. The ending was HEA in true RJ Scott style. I recommend this short story for anyone looking for a feel good read.

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## Nerea says

Awww Nice Christmas reading!!  
3.75\*

Jesse hates Xmas since he had the worst experience 2 years ago.  
But this year he is forced to travel to one of the most Christmassy towns to work on a Christmas theme photo series. His nightmare.

BUT then he meets Gabriel and with him and his photo work start to feel again the Christmas spirit ♥

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## MsMiz (Tina) says

The perfect Christmas story. I could have read about Jesse and Gabriel forever.

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## Bev says

*Jesse Connor gets home to find his apartment ransacked and his boyfriend Jonah missing. Little does Jesse know that Jonah has literally 'robbed' the bank he worked for, and his 'illegal trading' has brought the bank down, leaving thousands of customers bankrupt including Jesse himself. The first Jesse knows about it is when the FBI come knocking on his door.*

*Since then, his work as a successful photographer has diminished to the point where he has to accept a Christmas contract in Eden Vale, Vermont, winner of the Best Christmas Small Town 2009. Although he argues with his best friend and agent Emma, cos he knows that a few years ago he would have thought this sort of work beneath him, realistically his current bank balance doesn't allow him to have that sort of luxury nowadays.*

*So, it's with a heavy heart and absolutely no enthusiasm whatsoever that he travels to Eden Vale, to be immersed in their vision of what Christmas is. Does this change his life?? You betcha. 4 stars from me*

*and enjoy!!*

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### **Denise H. says**

**\*\*\*\* When Jessie's life and expectations are shattered, he's unable to connect with the world. Jessie Connor, famous artist/photographer was expertly deceived by his almost fiance. The horrible man is now in prison, but Jessie is still shocked and betrayed, because he was blinded by love. Now, trying to move forward, reluctantly, he goes on location to a snowy, Christmas loving town to photograph a news spread. Here in Eden Vale he finds a gorgeous dark haired guy, with model looks, Gabriel, a genuinely terrific man, local teacher and Christmas nut.**

**The photos he's taking are wonderful, and the feelings he's having are all new. He's never had this kind of deep passion before. Gabriel is sexy, sizzling, but takes it slow. They get time to hang out, get to see each other in their element, and the inner thoughts and opinions are drawing them closer. This is heartwarming, sexy, Christmassy, and bundles us in hope. ENJOY !**

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### **Ann says**

This is exactly how Christmas stories should be. The author paced everything perfectly for a shorter story with just enough history from Jesse to justify his feelings without taking the story backwards. That made it that much more hopeful for seeing Jesse and Gabriel together.

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### **Lori says**

Review at BMBR soon.

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### **Jewel says**

3.5 Stars

Perfectly sweet. I would have liked more steam, though.

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## **Nic says**

A perfect little holiday story. I want to spend Christmas in Eden Vale!

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## **Ron-michael says**

This totally has Hallmark Christmas Movie written all over it. (If they'd ever get around to doing some gay ones). We open on Jesse, a successful photographer, prepping a perfect Christmas proposal to his boyfriend of 3 years, only to come home to a trashed apartment, police and feds, and a missing boyfriend who swindled millions. Now two years later, Jesse has been commissioned by Eden Vale, VT to take photos for their holiday website. Having lost everything, including his Christmas spirit, in the last two years, he reluctantly heads to the idyllic small town for a month of pictures. Once there, he meets Gabriel, the son of the B&B owner where he's staying, and a local elementary school teacher. Can Gabriel help Jesse get his Christmas spirit back? Stay tuned after these commercial messages...

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