



This Christmas

Jane Green , Jennifer Coburn , Liz Ireland

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The holidays can sometimes make or break a relationship. Now, in this trio of warm, witty, insightful stories, three very different women face questions of the heart that could change all their Christmases to come. . .

When her husband's job takes him away from home indefinitely, a restless suburban wife and mother must confront Christmas alone--and decide whether she's better off that way. . . . A newlywed is haunted by thoughts of her husband's first wife--and comes up with an unusual plan to cure herself in time for Christmas. . . . Longing to fit into her family's picture perfect holiday celebration, a young woman finally brings home the perfect boyfriend--only to find that nothing is as she expected.

*Infused with the hopes and dreams of the season, these entertaining and exquisitely written stories by **NY Times** bestselling author **Jane Green, Jennifer Coburn, and Liz Ireland** will inspire your Christmas spirit, and stay with you all year long.*

This Christmas Details

Date : Published October 1st 2009 by Zebra (first published November 1st 2005)

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Author : Jane Green , Jennifer Coburn , Liz Ireland

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From Reader Review This Christmas for online ebook

Jessorella says

I received this book as a gift last Christmas, and being that it was too late to read it by then, I thought it would be perfect to read now in the run-up to this year's seasonal festivities.

Well, meh...

This book contains three short stories, all focusing on relationships around the Christmas period. The first story is by Jane Green and it involves a married couple going through difficulties during the "holiday season", as the Americans call it. It explored an interesting theme about marriage over the years, and how a husband and wife can lose sight of who they are and were, and while the husband was quite well depicted in what was a fairly short space of time, I'm afraid I just couldn't empathise with the wife. I'm not sure what it was about her, but when I think about it, I've found the female leads in the last few of Jane Green's books quite difficult to get a handle on. I don't personally find them as likeable as the heroines from her earlier "chick lit" books and I don't know whether this is because those heroines tended to be utterly average, just like you and me, whereas most of her recent female leads are women who often lead very privileged lives. Not sure -- jury still out on that one.

The second story is by Jennifer Coburn and revolves, from what I could glean over the course of the first few pages, around a new second wife who is hysterically obsessed by her husband's first wife and decides to try and marry her off to try and halt her unexplained obsession. After the first few pages I just gave up entirely. The characters were just unbelievable and I'd imagine, if I'd ever laid eyes on one of those "Desperate Real Housewives of the OC" programmes (which I haven't), that this is what they'd be like. I have better things to be reading, so I gave up on this story.

This book was saved (ish) at the last minute by the final story, by Liz Ireland. Focusing on the "black sheep" daughter of a family and her triumph at bringing home her great new boyfriend for the holidays, it is an amusing story about a family who surprises the female lead at their total reversal of behaviour, and her discovery of the truth about who she really wants to kiss under the mistletoe. The characters in this story were much more well drawn and I was happy with the ending of the story. Thank God for this one at the end, otherwise I do feel as if the whole book would have been a disaster!

Love Fool says

From New York Times best-selling chick-lit author Green, along with Coburn and Ireland, comes this irresistible Christmas collection of three sweet, sexy holiday stories where romance is the gift that keeps on giving.

I LOVE the holidays, especially Christmas. I am not a huge fan of short stories however, I thought this was done very well. It just gives you the holiday spirit and melts your cold heart. I highly recommend this if you want a good holiday book, to get you in the mood, or to stop you from being the Grinch.

Diane says

This is actually three novellas in one, the credited author, Jane Green, having written the first story about a marriage that is falling apart mainly due to them not making the effort anymore. The classic tale of the husband that works hard and spends his night in front of the television with his beer and the young wife that keeps the home and raises the children without his involvement and she finally gets fed up, thinking their marriage has no more life in it and feeling a sense of loss as to who she is. Both of them have changed and both of them need to find themselves again and find their priorities.

The second story, written by Jennifer Coburn, is about a newlywed wife who finds herself obsessed with her husband's first wife. They have a happy marriage but her obsession could threaten that. She decides the way to make sure the ex is out of their lives (though she isn't in their life) is to find a new man for her rival. Her best friend reluctantly helps and they enlist the services of one of the ex's friends. There's more to her seemingly sudden obsession, however and she must confront her past before she can have a future with her new husband.

The last story, written by Liz Ireland, is about a woman who is single and finds her family's high standards make her feel like she's always looking for approval. Everyone else in her family seems to have a perfect life, her brother with his picture perfect family and her sister with her medical career and non stop sequence of serial "fiancées". Christmas at her family home is like a perfect Christmas card. She starts dating a man who also seems to be perfect and brings him home for the holidays only to find her own family in utter disarray and true love might have been right under her nose all along.

I didn't like the first story all that much. It was a bit too clichéd, which is saying something since most of these types of stories are romantic and predictable with happy endings. The second story was better with a nice emotional undertone pulling her back to her past and the third one was probably my favourite. It was also a standard issue plot but I liked the characters and the way it was written. I think I would read more by Ms. Ireland or at least investigate her books. Good Christmas reads and perfect for this time of year.

Stephanie (Stepping out of the Page) says

I had only read one book written by Jane Green prior to this one, but it didn't stop me being very excited to pick this one up! I really enjoyed Green's fun and relaxed style of writing in *Jemima J*, and was even more impressed with her latest release, *The Holiday*. I was also impressed with the other two short stories, *The Second Wife of Reilly* by Jennifer Coburn and *Mistletoe and Holly* by Liz Ireland.

I am not usually completely taken by short stories, I prefer the depth of a longer novel, but I am happy to say that I enjoyed this book a lot. Admittedly, I enjoyed *Holiday* and *Mistletoe and Holly* substantially more than *The Second Wife of Reilly*, but it was always a pleasure to pick up this book for some light festive reading. This is a very unchallenging book and with its very tame content, suitable for both young adults and adults alike.

In *Holiday*, our main characters are Sarah and Eddie, a couple who used to be blissfully in love, but unfortunately are struggling - both seem to have stopped caring for themselves as much as they used to, and Sarah feels as though she's become a one-parent family. When Eddie is offered a job away from home, the couple decide on a temporary break so that they can assess both their relationship and themselves. I liked the

authenticity of this story - it seemed the most realistic of the three and had a good amount of substance. The relationship was really well explored and I also loved the extra element that the children added to the book. This was a really warming, festive start to the book and I couldn't wait to see what the next story brought!

The Second Wife of Reilly was the second short story in the book. In this story, we are introduced to Sarah, wife to Reilly, a nice, trustworthy man - the only problem is that she's worried that Prudence, his ex-wife might try to get back with him. Sarah, along with a friend, decides to try and find a partner for Prudence by pretending to be her on the internet. To be honest, the story was very farfetched and utterly unrealistic, yet it still managed to be readable - I found whole thing silly, yet humorous. This isn't a story that you'll enjoy if you're seriously analysing or criticising it, but as an unchallenging work of fiction, it's decent.

The final story in the book was Mistletoe and Holly. Holly and her childhood friend, Isaac, are heading home for Christmas with one difference this year - Holly is taking her new boyfriend, Jason, to meet her family. Unfortunately, Jason doesn't turn out to be as perfect as he first seems. This story is very predictable, but it is also very, very sweet which definitely outweighs the predictability! Though this story was a little more uneven, or not as solid, as Holiday, I did find this the most enjoyable story of the three. It was probably the most 'Christmassy' feeling of the three too, which meant it was a lovely ending to the book.

I would recommend this book to those who like festive reads and to anyone who likes chick-lit. It's not a perfectly written book, but it is perfectly enjoyable! I would certainly like to read more books by Jane Green in the future and I'm also interested in checking out more of Liz Ireland's work after this book.

Justine says

I received this as a somewhat unexpected gift for Christmas. I may read the occasional Historical, but the wide field of Contemporary Romance is new to me. These were published in 2005, so they're not even that contemporary anymore, but that's nitpicking. And there's no need to nitpick, they're bad enough in the broad picture. Three novellas, all by different authors, of whom one is probably more famous than the two others, I wouldn't know. They all share a lose Christmas theme and not much else.

Novella number one was a forgettable little number about a married couple that had fallen out of love and found love again after a separation and an overhaul of their respective selves. I learned that a make-over in a book reads quite unsatisfying. Give me an 80s montage in a movie any day. Two stars.

Novella number two made me angry. The story was a convoluted mess about the titular second wife of Reilly finding new love for his first wife, who had once upon a time found love in shape of our heroine for her husband when she wanted to marry another man from whom she's now separated. Yeah... The characters were grating, the humour painful, and well, there wasn't really a story at all. No stars, so there.

Novella number three was bliss in comparison, though not much to write home about separately either. Late twenties heroine finds that Love Has Been There All Along and has a weird family. Marian Keyes the writer is not, but at least this story was entertaining and didn't make me want to climb into the book and set things on fire. Three stars.

Samantha says

Three very predictable, yet cute, short stories.

Ankita Singh says

Though all three of the stories were pretty good, my favorite was the third one, Mistletoe And Holly. <3

Individual ratings would go something like this:

The Holiday: 3 Stars.

The Second Wife Of Reilly: 2 Stars.

Mistletoe And Holly: 4.5 Stars.

Katie B says

In the past I've had a mixed track record with these type of short story/novella collections featuring multiple authors. I usually think of these as cheap money grabs by the publisher as the stories are rarely the authors' best writings. While I thought 2 of the three stories in this one were okay, they weren't exactly memorable and so my 3 star rating for this book might be a tad generous.

Jane Green was the reason I decided to purchase this at a local used book store for a buck and to be quite honest I'm glad I didn't pay more than that. Her story in the collection featured a married couple that are having relationship problems. Actually all 3 of the stories are focused on romantic relationships. Liz Ireland's story was the only one that revolved around Christmas whereas with the other two the holiday didn't feature heavily into the plot. I was quite irritated when reading Jennifer Coburn's story as I found the main character to be annoying and the plot to be ridiculous.

I honestly don't recommend checking this one out unless you are a superfan of one or more of the authors. There's really nothing here that's going to knock your socks off.

Lindsay Steel says

I enjoyed both Jane Green and Liz Ireland's story, but I wasn't too keen on the one by Jennifer Coburn. I wouldn't recommend reading this if you are looking for a happy Christmas read as all three stories were quite depressing, even though they did end happily.

Sarah Curnow says

Enjoyed the first and the third story but could not get into the second at all.

Caroline says

Better read in December not as I did in the summer

Leah says

[

1. Unhappy married couple separates for a while. Wife gets a fun job and a makeover, husband starts working out and spending solo time with kids. They come together on Chr

Cindy says

3 contemporary Christmas stories. None of which have ANY sex.

Jane Green - 4 stars. WOW! This starts out as a sad story. Married couple who used to be madly in love, now... not so much. He gets transfered to Chicago & she thinks it's a sign to separate. As they spend time apart, they both begin to take stock of their relationship. Can it be saved? You've got to read the story (but would I give it 4 stars if they can't?).

Jennifer Coburn - a reluctant 3 stars. I really didn't want to like this one. A whole novel was apparently written about Reilly & his effed up 1st wife. She's a dingbat who cheats on him at her high school reunion, then wants to divorce him. Her antics are recalled throughout this story & BOY am I glad I never read THAT one!! Reilly is now married to Sarah & she's feeling insecure about the 1st wife trying to get Reilly back (he'd have to be a brain dead IDIOT!), so she's trying to get #1 married off again. It's kind of a goofy story, but some of it actually works for me. It's not a story I re-read every year. Probably because Reilly is in very little of it.

Liz Ireland - 3 stars. A great holiday story about a girl coming home for the holidays with a stud boyfriend. Her best friend (also a boy) comes along for the ride. He's obviously her match made in heaven (to everyone but them). She comes home to a family in shambles. Kind of fun in a train wreck kind of way.

Merry Christmas!

Rio (Lynne) says

[After separating, overnight they fix themselves up, lose weight and automatically fall back

Leah Wood says

Didn't really like it - book didn't have much substance and was very short.
