



Bundle of Joy

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Originally published in 1999 as *Daddy Claus*

A beloved tale from bestselling author Robin Lee Hatcher

Alicia Harris says she's happily married and expecting a baby—but only the last part is true. She can't bear to disappoint her grandfather by telling him she's two months away from single motherhood. Then Grandpa Roger drops in unexpectedly to spend the holidays with Alicia and her husband, and Alicia needs to find a fill-in—fast. Childhood friend Joe Palmero fits the bill, and is willing to play along. Still, the longer they spend playing their parts, the closer Alicia and Joe come to discovering what love, faith and marriage truly mean.

Bundle of Joy Details

Date : Published December 1st 2016 by Harlequin Special Releases (first published October 1st 1999)

ISBN :

Author : Robin Lee Hatcher

Format : Kindle Edition 230 pages

Genre : Romance, Christian Fiction, Holiday, Christmas, Category Romance, Love Inspired, Christian, Christian Romance

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From Reader Review Bundle of Joy for online ebook

Melody Cox says

This was probably closer to a 3.5 Star Rating

Alicia Harris is a beautiful, smart thirty-one-year-old business owner. She also has a big problem. She deeply loves her grandfather and he's the only family she has left. He recently had a very serious heart attack and was not expected to live. Now he has called and told her he's coming for a visit. This causes her to panic because she's pregnant...and divorced...and he's a minister. Alicia found her new husband cheating on her three weeks after her wedding and they quickly divorced. Wow! He has signed away his legal rights to the child.

She has reconnected with an old childhood friend on LinkedIn. They were neighbors until his family up and moved to California. Now they chat online frequently. He has decided to move back to Idaho where he grew up and practice law in one of the local firms.

The problem is: Alicia has let her grandfather believe she is happily married. She hasn't told him of the divorce and pregnancy because it could affect his health and he worries about her a lot. She doesn't want to cause him another heart attack because that would surely do him in.

Joe Palermo is one gorgeous attorney. He was married for a very brief period, six months, and his wife left him. He is totally soured on relationships, marriage and children. He never wants to get that involved with a woman again. He has been chatting with his old neighbor from Idaho and it has been fun catching up with her.

The Proposition: Alicia has asked Joe to be her stand-in husband for the five to six weeks her grandfather will be visiting. He immediately says no but decides later to go ahead and help her with her plan. His first and main thought was about God and if he would be displeased if he became a part of a lie even though it was being done it to protect her grandfather's health and life.

A couple of weeks down the road and Alicia is falling in love with him but he has already told her more than once that he wanted NO wife/marriage and NO children. There were misunderstandings along the way because he wouldn't be honest with her about the feelings he was developing and purposely pushed her away countless times. His signals were so mixed that she would be certain he loved her on Monday but Tuesday he'd have nothing to do with her. This went back and forth throughout most of the book. I really felt sad for Olivia because by him pushing her away and keeping his feelings under wraps he was hurting her terribly. She was dealing with a lot before he came along and with the added heartache she felt because of him it's no wonder she went into labor early. He caused her to feel unwanted, unlovable for any man, and undesirable. Now, that's not so bad if he actually felt nothing but that wasn't the case. She was a month from delivering her first child and felt so utterly alone in the world. One day he wanted her. The next day he didn't and so on. It gave me whiplash.

It still was a pretty fair read. I also liked the Christian elements in the story.

Terri says

this is excellent book and enjoyed it. I got chuckles over it .. Recommend for Christian readers..

R says

VERY cute. yet VERY predictable. course that is expected considering Steeple Hill book. basic Christmas Fluff.

Kara says

Very sweet book. Not a very kind thing to do(lie to you family) but still very sweet

Pat Oringer says

Wonderful, keeper of a romance book that's textured, palpable and unpretentious. Would-be lovers Alicia and Joe felt like close friends that you love to root for. She's always liked him, he never noticed her until now and a baby on the way for her by a man who never deserved her cause a tangled web that can only be unraveled by love. This one stays in my collection!

Lynda says

I loved the cat attacks on Joe, they had me laughing. The tender moments between Alicia and Joe as they fell in love had me turning pages quickly. I liked the unusual events in the last few chapters.

Angela says

Cute, predictable story. Easy to read in an afternoon.

Linda says

2.5 stars

Judy says

good book

Paula Legate says

This was a sweet second chance romance.

Alicia Harris, and Joe were childhood friends. They reconnected through an internet site. As they were talking she told him she had a big problem. Her grandfather was coming for a Thanksgiving visit. She didn't want her grandfather to know she was about to be an unwed mother. Joe agreed to pretend to be her husband. Her grandfather was a smart old man, and they couldn't get much past him. He also knew the two were falling for one another, so in small ways he played match maker. The end of the story was really sweet.

Nancy says

A very entertaining story. Had fun reading this one.

Rachel says

I absolutely loved this book from the beginning to the end! Very quick read.

Kate says

This was a sweet holiday romance. I liked that since it was by a well-known (at least to me!) Christian author, I knew I wouldn't have to worry about if it was clean or not.

I think my favourite character was Grandpa Roger. He seemed so wise and kind, but also knew when he needed to apologise for past mistakes.

I liked Alicia and Joe, too, but got frustrated with them being dishonest, and then not seeing what was in front of their own eyes. I suppose that held up a mirror to me in some ways. Perhaps not of my current life, but I definitely know there were plenty of times in the past when I was looking 'beyond the mark' and missing what was truly important.

All in all, a nice story about learning what love and marriage really are.

Susan says

I thought this book was so fun and easy. I need a break for all the murder mystery that I read. Good light

easy read.

Kathryn says

this was a quick easy read! It was fast to get into the book too. Alicia finds herself divorced and pregnant after three weeks of marriage and now she has to find a make believe husband and fast to prevent her grandfather from having another heart attack that the shock of being a single parent would cause her retired pastor grandfather. Joe palermo, used to live across the street from Alicia when she was 10 and he was sixteen. Joe's younger sister was Alicia's friend and Alicia had a crush on him back then. They reconnect on an online service and as Joe wants to relocate back to Boise from California he agrees...all be it reluctantly with the charaide of marriage, but little did any of them know that love would abound.
