



A Rare Gift

Jaci Burton

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With a disastrous marriage behind him, Wyatt Kent has no interest in getting involved with any woman, let alone his ex-wife's younger sister. But when Calliope Andrews hires him to build an addition onto her day care center, Wyatt can't help but notice she's a desirable woman, as warm and funny as his ex was cold and aloof.

Calliope fell hard for Wyatt the first time he walked through the door of her family's home, and can't believe her sister let him get away. He's still the star of all her fantasies, and she's determined to prove to him she's nothing like his manipulative ex. Wyatt may be all business, but Calliope sees the way he looks at her when he's supposed to be working...

It's not long before Wyatt and Calliope are keeping each other warm on cold December nights. But it's going to take a Christmas miracle for Wyatt to put his trust in love a second time.

Book 2 of the Kent Brothers Trilogy

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A Rare Gift Details

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From Reader Review A Rare Gift for online ebook

Paige says

I love the Kent brothers, they definitely deserve to have a full length story about each one and not just a shorten version.

We met Wyatt Kent through Ethan in All She Wants for Christmas. We learned he got burned in his marriage and now stays away from the female race. Well, he's finally meets the woman who's going to change that and she was once his wife's little sister.

When Wyatt arrives at Small Hands Day Care Center, ran by Calliope Andrews, his ex-wife's sister, all he wants to do is turn around and give the job to someone else at the office, but of course they were all busy. He tries to keep it all business when he takes the measurements she wants the addition to her day care to be. Yet he can't help watch as the beauty captures his attention.

As he begins the job, he does his best to ignore her, but she's not having any of that. Calliope knew he and her sister weren't meant to be and she's determined to show him she is the right one. She continues to chase after him making him talk to her, despite his short, rude, come backs at her. She's not a quitter.

To the point of stalking him, she drives by his house and he sees her, giving her no choice but to pull in. She maneuvers her way into his house and gets him to show her around. The house he built for him and Cass is a beautiful one their marriage never got to see. Surprised he went ahead and finished it, she spots all the little details Cass never would have. She absolutely loves his master bath and reacts the way he only wished Cass would have.

Slowly he begins seeing she's not her sister, but now he just has to get over his fear to let his heart lead the way. When a snow storm hits he takes her home and she insists he stays. The tension definitely grows as they fix dinner. But for once, they both sit down and have a normal conversation that only makes him sees her as more perfect. From her ambitions when she bought her house and not just renting to her love of kids that lead her to opening up her own day care.

When they both can't take it no more, he finally makes the steps to her and carries her to her room. They fit perfect and the night goes on and on.

It's in the morning when he sneaks out that he begins questioning what they did and regretting leaving without a word.

Back at work, he once again ignores her. Not going to allow that before she can confront him at the end of the day, he's there taking her in his arms and apologizing for leaving and not being very good at relationships.

It's at the office around his brothers and Tori that they notice he's different and guess who he's seeing. It hits him after seeing their reaction that the town is going to talk if they learn he's dating his ex-wife's sister. Not wanting the gossip to hurt her or her business when she call s to set up weekend plans, he blows her off.

Once again getting over this fear when he talks it out, they begin going public, meeting up with Ethan, Riley and Zoey and dinners by themselves. He already knows he loves her, but when she brings up going to her

parents' house for the holiday, where Cass will be, he's not sure he can do that for her.

Calliope knows until Wyatt and Cass sit down and talk out everything between them, she and Wyatt will never fully be together. The hurt he carries around is holding them back. Yet he continues to refuse to talk to Cass.

Getting Tori's help, its after his company's Christmas party that she leads him to where Cass is waiting. Immediately he tries to cut her down with angry words, but she just turns and leaves them alone to either work it out, or it's the end of their relationship.

Surprisingly, he and Cass are able to talk and both voices they knew they weren't right for each other, but when asked if he loves her sister, he doesn't hesitate to say yes. With her blessing, he goes to find Calliope.

Finding her, he leads them to their rented room for the night and lets her spew her reasoning behind tricking him to talk to her sister. Agreeing with her, he tells they worked everything out and now he's ready for his future with her and proposes.

Both knowing what they want, they get started on that future right away.

Lynsey says

Listened to on audio. Narrated by Oliver Wyman.

2 stars for the narrator. His performance was ok but I don't think this narrator should do romance. The love scenes seemed to pass me by because they were delivered in such a nondescript way. He could have been reading almost anything because there was no passion.

Fortunately I have read this before and absolutely loved it. Other people seem bothered by the hero having been married to the heroine's sister, however, this didn't bother me. They hadn't seen each other in a long time and didn't seem to be close and so I didn't really see the problem.

I love the girl-gets-her-teenage-crush trope.

Dina says

The hero was once married to the heroine's sister and the divorce was less than amiable. In-laws falling in love is too creepy for me, especially when the ex is still alive.

Note: This story is also available in Holiday Kisses: A Holiday Romance Collection anthology.

Maggie says

Loved the dynamic of these two! Very sweet story!

Lenore Kosinski says

Classic Harlequin-esque romance -- I actually enjoyed how forthright and confident Calliope was. I had her pegged in a certain character stereotype, and she surprised me at every turn. Wyatt had his good moments, though I'm not a huge fan of the taciturn and grumpy guy in general. My major issue with the book was the ending -- it felt HUGELY rushed and just read very fast for me (particularly the Cassandra/Wyatt resolution). And then it was just bam bam bam, ending. So it lost me there. Ah well.

Samantha (WLABB) says

Another short, sweet, fun, sassy, sexy Kent Brothers book. I normally hate novellas, but this series has shown, that if set up properly, I can feel like I got a whole story.

I was a little worried when I first started this book, because Wyatt's love interest was his former sister-in-law, Calliope. Burton could have just played that off as a small little problem, but instead, she embraced it, and made it an integral part of the story. By facing the issue head on, and building a case for why Calliope was the girl for Wyatt, the "ewww" factor sort of diminished for me by the end.

I did like seeing the bear tamed by this headstrong, straight forward woman. And, you know, each of these books ends in an HEA so I always over the moon.

Jamie says

A quick bubblegum read. Once in awhile it's fun to read a carefree love story. I gave this three stars bc while it was enjoyable it was very predictable. If you enjoy Hallmark movies this book is right up your alley.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

Rating: B

Overall, this was a fun little read. I had some personal issues with Wyatt just because I felt like he hung onto his bitterness over his failed marriage for entirely too long...(PS. Calliope agreed with me.) I absolutely adored Calliope's character and how ballsy she is! She is awesome!! Here is just the perfect taste of what I am talking about:

"I can't believe a big tough guy like you is afraid of a little thing like me, Wyatt." Then she stepped back, her gaze traveling halfway down and staring at the part of him she had no business staring at. When she lifted her gaze again, she grinned.

"I know you have balls in there. Why don't you try to find them? When you do, it's your turn to come ask me out."

I love her character. It takes a pretty self-confident girl to go after her sister's ex-husband and Calliope owns that she is that girl...never apologizing for it especially in light of the fact that she knows that Wyatt needs to get past her sister Cassie. This was just a really enjoyable book.

Victoria says

3.25 RATING- I've had this on my Kindle for over two years and am finally reading it!

It was a cute story that could have rated higher for me but I was never quite sold on the heroine pursuing her sister's ex-husband. I would have felt much better about it if her sister was dead :) but she wasn't. I also thought the heroine was a bit underhanded with how she dealt with a particular situation at the end. Both of these things kept me from rating this higher.

Still, it was well written and an easy book to enjoy. I have the next book in the series already and do plan on reading it.

Saritza says

This was a great stand-alone read despite it being part of a series. I received it as a free read and it was really my introduction to an author I've heard a lot of great things about but never had the opportunity to read.

Summary: *With a disastrous marriage behind him, Wyatt Kent has no interest in getting involved with any woman, let alone his ex-wife's younger sister. But when Calliope Andrews hires him to build an addition onto her day care center, Wyatt can't help but notice she's a desirable woman, as warm and funny as his ex was cold and aloof.*

Calliope fell hard for Wyatt the first time he walked through the door of her family's home, and can't believe her sister let him get away. He's still the star of all her fantasies, and she's determined to prove to him she's nothing like his manipulative ex. Wyatt may be all business, but Calliope sees the way he looks at her when he's supposed to be working...

It's not long before Wyatt and Calliope are keeping each other warm on cold December nights. But it's going to take a Christmas miracle for Wyatt to put his trust in love a second time.

What I liked about this book: This was a sweet love story with strong erotic elements that really propelled the story while keeping you completely engaged in the characters' lives.

I read this book while in the car on my way to visit family for the holidays and was able to finish it in the 2-hour drive without feeling like I'd missed anything by the brevity of the work. Jaci Burton develops her characters so well in this book that I didn't even realize it was the second in a series (something I don't normally do) until I went to rate it here on Goodreads. It really does stand alone and while the cover is holiday-themed, it's not really a holiday book. It's really a love story that takes place in a wintry wonderland. Love that the heroine was strong without being bitchy and the hero was surly without being an asshole.

Will be picking up more of Jaci Burton's works for sure!

Jae says

I had a bit of an issue with the settings. The hero was once married to the heroine's sister and the divorce was a bitter one. And now the heroine expected him to get over it and make peace with his ex-wife so that they can all live happily ever after.

Too much for me to stomach in. In-laws are always a no no.

Thenia says

Unrequited love that is finally returned.

Calliope has had a crush on Wyatt ever since her sister brought him home to meet their parents, but he has always been off limits. Now the two are long divorced and Calliope is determined to help Wyatt get over his bitterness over their difficult divorce.

There are obstacles and taboo of a relationship between them, but her persistence and the love they come to feel for one another help overcome them and bright their long awaited happily ever after.

Next comes Brody's story in The Best Thing.

Previous book review:

♦ *All She Wants for Christmas (Kent Brothers, #1)*

Mollie *scoutrmom* says

Freebie time!

This was a pleasant story about a man meeting his ex-wife's younger sister for the first time since she grew up. The eight-year age difference did not seem to matter. I found it hard to believe that they had not gotten to know each other much when they were in-laws, but the author skims over that with no reference as to why.

These characters in this 88-page novella (presently a freebie at the publisher's website) have a business relationship that grows with their attraction into a hot hot hot affair. The sex scenes are excellent without too much graphic description.

He has to let go of the bitterness from his divorce so he can progress to the future. She has to move from a teenage crush through attraction to real depth of feeling.

Enjoyable. A novella from Holiday Kisses: A Holiday Romance Collection.

Kristen says

3 1/2 to 4 stars

I really enjoyed this Christmas novella. The heroine was simply fantastic and though the hero came across more like a cantankerous old fart than a torture hero, I did warm up to him by the end. This was an angsty but good read.

Note: This book is part of the Christmas anthology *Holiday Kisses: A Holiday Romance Collection*

LaFleurBleue says

This one did not work as well as the previous, as the format seemed a constraint to the story and the ending felt awfully rushed. First thing first, I'm not a huge fan of stories when someone ends up with his former spouse's sibling, sister of the divorced wife in this case.

I did not like not really knowing what had been so awful in the divorce that 3 years later Wyatt still could not date, was obnoxiously grumpy every day all day long. I was expecting a big announcement on this topic but it never came and I just was left thinking he had behaved like a self-centered ass for too long to be someone really great.

The heroine was a perfect hallmark poster with not one flaw, except maybe she found her butt too big. No kidding! And obviously she was not the absolute breathtaking beauty her sister was.

One scene when Wyatt and his ex-wife Cassandra put all on the table and supposedly manage to get closure and move to something else felt totally contrived. My eyes were rolling from the beginning to the end, thinking all the previous hatred and hurt just magically disappeared and both magically understood each other. I hate that when I'm left expecting something big, like a tornado for instance and this thing end up being barely the puff of breath of an asthmatic looking for his/her inhaler.
