



Christmas at Waratah Bay

Marion Lennox

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An alternate cover edition can be found here.

Sarah's committed to her stellar modelling career in New York, but there's an obligation she needs to fulfil. Harold was a Grandpa to her when she needed him most. Now all Harold wants is one last Christmas in his beloved Waratah Bay Homestead. Sarah's not that so hot on baking and Christmas seems a bit... challenging... but she's prepared to fly half way round the world to give it a try.

The only problem is, Harold no longer owns Waratah Bay Homestead. Farming tycoon Max Ramsey owns it now and he doesn't like company, he doesn't like Christmas and most of all, he doesn't like Sarah.

When the two clash, enough sparks ensue to light a Christmas tree. How many enemies does it take to cook one Christmas turkey?

Christmas at Waratah Bay Details

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Author : Marion Lennox

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From Reader Review Christmas at Waratah Bay for online ebook

Mojca says

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Max Ramsey has been taking care of his neighbor Harold, the last couple of months, since the old man is dying. Now he's put him in the hospital, but one of Harold's money-grabbing, ungrateful step-daughters is back and wants to supposedly give the old man one unforgettable Christmas...Not if Max can help it.

He can't really, since the woman is Harold's legal family and she's slowly getting under Max's skin as well.

But Sarah Carlton isn't one of Harold's step-daughters. She's not even his family no matter how much she might wish otherwise. But Harold *is* the closest she's come to having a grandfather, and she's finally earned enough money to come for a visit, which turns out to be their last...And she's determined to give Harold—and Max—a wonderful family Christmas.

This story started off strong. Yes, there was the trope of the misunderstanding, no one bothers to correct, but it worked, and it served as "incentive" for the reader to get to know the main protagonists as they go to know one another.

The plot tugged at an occasional heartstring, the characters were rather well-developed and likeable, the romance came through as quite plausible, despite the speed at which it happened...The problem was the second half of the story which dragged on for a bit too long both in pace and the not-corrected misunderstanding.

It could've been a couple of pages shorter.

Amanda says

3.5 stars

Just like in Christmas with the Laird, the I love you's came way too quickly here but surprisingly I ended up enjoying this one quite a bit. Between the dogs, food, Sarah's contagious enthusiasm and Max's adorable grumpy act, Christmas at Waratah Bay won be over within a few short chapters.

Marion Lennox's writing was full of heart and I loved her story of two opposites finding common ground and romance set against coastal Australia. I do wish there had been an epilogue so that the ending would've been more satisfying but I can't complain. OH, and I have to mention the swimming lesson scene because it was *magical* and the main reason behind the final rating.

Kelly_Instalove says

Review coming soon....

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup. (posting to blog 12/5/18)

Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2JIXI9U>

Christmas Down Under was cute and filled with heart and Christmas spirit. Sarah has come to Australia with one goal...give her friend Harold one last Christmas before he passes. But to make that happen she's going to have to win over the growly farmer who lives next door.

I loved how Sarah threw herself into making Christmas for everyone. She doesn't get rattled. She's sweet and earnest. And Max. He tries so hard to not care and to keep himself at a distance from others but the man has a heart of gold. It was heartwarming watching them create Christmas for their friend and find some personal healing along the way as the chaos of the season hit.

I did have a lot of issues with the editing. Whew. It was BAD! Forgetting how to spell characters names, sentences repeating, words out of order or misspelled. It was atrocious.

Overall, though, it was a nice Christmas romance and very sweet.

Brenda says

This was a very sweet and emotional story.

Loved Sarah and Max -- they made an awesome pair. Sarah was so full of life and although Max came across as cynical and a Scrooge when it came to Christmas, he was actually a large-hearted and a very caring man. His past experiences with his mother --who dumped the responsibility of the thirteen step-siblings she happily produced, on to him-- made him cling to peace and solitude. Moreover, he mistook Sarah to be one Harold's greedy stepdaughters and Sarah chose not to correct him fearing he wouldn't let her take Harold home and give him the perfect last Christmas before he left the world. Since Max also loved the old man as much, he opened his home for him, And, not only him, but for Sarah and his heavily pregnant step-sister, Katie, and her big family. He also fell in with Sarah's enthusiasm for Christmas which brought on many tender scenes between them. Then there was the turkey dunking scene which was really funny. At least Harold got his perfect Christmas with the two people he loved the most and hoped would be together forever--Sarah and Max. The close

Loved all the characters in the book. I only wished the book was a bit longer and the 'I love you' didn't have to be rushed. This is why I hesitate to read a novella. But, I'm glad I read this for the book made me laugh as well as moved me to tears. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Nicola says

I'll put it right out there, I adored *Christmas at Waratah Bay*. Packed with emotion, this festive novella made me laugh, cry and everything in between.

Max and Sarah were wonderful characters and with a Scrooge feeling to their story it was a heartwarming and heart wrenching read. Max is a Scrooge of the heart, he keeps his feelings locked away and Christmas is just another day in his year, but when Sarah arrives to spend a last Christmas with her 'Grandpa' Harold, her sweet nature and sheer determination stirs something deep within him and he finds himself offering to host the festivities at his ranch.

Of the four in the *Christmas Around the World* series, I must confess that this was the one that touched me the greatest, and whilst I would've liked a little epilogue to see how Max and Sarah had got on, it doesn't detract from the fact that Marion Lennox has brought us a wonderful festive romantic read.

4.5 stars

Whilst this book is part of the *Christmas Around the World* series, it is completely standalone and the series can be read in any order.

Book 1 - Christmas at Waratah Bay - Marion Lennox

Book 2 - A Yorkshire Christmas - Kate Hewitt

Book 3 - Christmas with the Laird - Scarlet Wilson

Book 4 - Christmas in Venice - Joanne Walsh

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews.

Copy received courtesy of Tule Publishing via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Taylor says

Enjoyable quick read

A touch of mystery with a sweet love story - the perfect mix. Thoroughly enjoyed the characters. Bonus: a quick read!

Jo Hurst says

This was really good. Whilst a little predictable (but let's face it, who wants a surprise twist in a Christmas

love story?) it was well written, with a well thought out plot and the right amount of Christmas sentimentality. It wasn't too silly and made me smile on a number of occasions. A lovely Christmas Eve read.

Claire Robinson says

4 - Could one Christmas change everything? Stars!

You can pretty much guarantee that at about this time every year, you will start to see books with a Christmas feel start popping up on my Goodreads reading list. It is a big thing for me each year, as I just love settling down with a heartwarming story that helps ease me into the Season, with a little love and a whole lot of Christmas Magic.

One magic kiss.

Christmas in Waratah Bay, is my first seasonal read for 2014, and it was without doubt the absolute perfect way to kick off this years Christmas reading. I laughed, cried and had all sorts of 'feels' while reading this book. Max is your typical Scrooge for the modern day except instead of being tight with his money, he is tight with his feelings, it was great too see him opening his heart and his home to Sarah, Harold and his family for the Christmas holiday.

Families... who'd have anything to do with them.

I loved that as the story progressed you learned more of his past as well as Sarah's, and why initial expectations and assumptions you have of someone are not always what they may seem to be.

"For now, let's just live it. let's just do Christmas like it ought to be, and not think past it."

This novella ticks all the boxes that I have when it comes to my Christmas reading requirements, on to the next novella in the series!

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Kristen says

There was some mild language in it but when it got about halfway they are kissing on the floor in the bathroom (waiting for a frozen turkey to defrost) and they get to heavy kissing and he is thinking about taking her into his bedroom if there wasn't so many guests in the house...didn't feel like continuing, it wasn't amazing up to that point...not to mention it needs some major editing.

Jonel Boyko says

Beauty permeates the pages of this novel. Lennox's descriptions present this world in a vivid manner while her emotional and heartfelt story keep readers captivated. This was a fantastic story that not only held my interest, but my emotions as well. I thoroughly enjoyed this excellent trip across the world for Christmas.

The clash of worlds combined with the assumptions and misconceptions between the two main characters is both comical and heart wrenching. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them. Both of the main characters had a strength to them that was fascinating. At the same time they were such different individuals that you couldn't help but understand the predicament that they found themselves in. Finding themselves surrounded by this intriguing supporting cast was just the icing on the cake.

This is a fantastic, quick, easy novella that really brings out the spirit of Christmas. Lennox's unique tale will keep you captivated throughout.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Lyndy Ann ? says

Sarah flies from New York to Australia to spend one last Christmas with Harold who she thinks of as Grandpa she is taking him from the hospital home to his Waratch Bay homestead. Sarah and Harold have been writing and phoning each other weekly for many years and as far as Sarah is concerned Harold is her only family.

Max is the owner of Waratch Bay as Harold sold him the house and most of the land years ago as Harold needed the money to support his money grabbing ex wife and three step daughters who he has not seen or heard from in years. Max is a scrooge but not with his money with his heart he loves Waratch Bay and the isolation the only company he likes is his animals and Harold.

When Max goes to visit Harold in the hospital and see's Sarah who he has mistaken for one of Harold's step daughter he is so angry and when he hears Sarah wants to take him home for Christmas he does not hide his dislike for Sarah and Sarah does not correct him.

Can Sarah and Max survive a few days together and can they make this the best Christmas for Harold expect a few surprises, laughs and a few tears along the way, really enjoyed this story but I would of loved an epilogue.

ARC kindly received by NetGalley for an honest review.

Jeanne Johnston says

This was actually a sweet little story.

Debbie Duncalf says

This is the first of a series of standalone stories with the common theme of Christmas.

This one is about Sarah, Max and Harold, they spend Christmas together and as it unfolds they all encounter some astonishing happenings.

Well written and bought tears to my eyes at times.

Sharon says

This is a love story and although not my favorite genre, I did like the characters and their back stories contributed a lot to the book. In addition to the growing love between the two lead characters, there is also the love they both have for Harold, an old man in his last days, and their shared desire to make his last Christmas on earth the very best.
