



Winter Wonderland

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Finding Mr. Right can be a snow lot of fun.

Paul Jansen was the only one of his friends who wanted a relationship. Naturally, he's the last single man standing. No gay man within a fifty-mile radius wants more than casual sex.

No one, that is, except too-young, too-twinky Kyle Parks, who sends him suggestive texts and leaves X-rated snow sculptures on his front porch.

Kyle is tired of being the town's resident Peter Pan. He's twenty-five, not ten, and despite his effeminate appearance, he's nothing but the boss in bed. He's loved Paul since forever, and this Christmas, since they're both working on the Winter Wonderland festival, he might finally get his chance for a holiday romance.

But Paul comes with baggage. His ultra-conservative family wants him paired up with a woman, not a man with Logan's rainbow connection. When their anti-LGBT crusade spills beyond managing Paul's love life and threatens the holiday festival, Kyle and Paul must fight for *everyone's* happily ever after, including their own.

Warning: Contains erotic snow art, toppy twinks, and super-sweet holiday moments. Best savored with a mug of hot chocolate with a dash of spice.

Winter Wonderland Details

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From Reader Review Winter Wonderland for online ebook

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

Collectively, I'd say this was my favorite of the bunch by a smidge. If you want to know the truth, Arthur's nephew Thomas from book 2, is still the standout character of the series. Love that kid so hard!!

Anyhoo, Kyle just wants to be taken seriously and treated like a grown up. He's had his sights on Paul for forever, but it feels like an insurmountable feat to win his affections, let alone catch his eye. However, with the help of Arthur's well intentioned mom, he just might be able to pull it off.

Paul is completely ready to settle down and be in a committed relationship. He's been wanting this for *years*, but due to some family angst and personal hangups, he panics when he gets his heart's desire. Can Kyle help him overcome his fears? Of course he can. Kyle's warm heart and good intentions will conquer all.

There was a bit of comedy in this leading up to how Kyle pursues Paul. There's also a fair amount of angsty insecurity and doubt. What stood out for me this time around, was as much as small town life can infuriate, it can also have a lot of good parts to it too. The sense of community is strong in this as people plan for a big holiday festival. As each subsequent story is told, the town of Logan becomes more fully fleshed out as a consequence. So intermix that with good feels and a touch of dirty smex, this had an ending that hints towards more to come (as we all already know). Overall a tidy for now, ending.

Maja (The Nocturnal Library) says

Among the many authors in the M/M genre, both seasoned and new, Heidi Cullinan stands out for the sheer quality of her prose, the deep understanding of her characters and the subtle sense of humor that permeates her every page. All these defining characteristics were present in Cullinan's earliest work, but as she matures, they become more pronounced and each of her books brings forth a new surprise.

I must confess that I adored the previous two books in this series. For me, they're a sure sign that Christmas is coming in its full romantic shine. I love romance as much as the next person, but there's something so special about holiday stories, and especially those that take place around Christmas. After all, we all dream about our very own Christmas miracles and we love to witness them happening to others, fictional or otherwise.

Paul Jansen and Kyle Parks make a very odd pair, but that's usually true for Heidi's boys. We remember Paul from the previous two books and we remember that he was not our favorite. But as we learn more about him, some of his past actions become more understandable, if not entirely justified. Paul may seem like a bear on the outside, but he is a delicate, vulnerable, soft-hearted man on the inside. In fact, both of these men crush stereotypes left and right, which is precisely the sort of thing I appreciate. Being Christmas-themed, these books are a bit lighter than Heidi's usual work, but the overall tone, the characters and everything else can only be described as perfect for the holidays.

Winter Wonderland is a fairly quick read, but that only makes it all the more appealing. It's easy to reread in winter months and it basically guarantees the same level of delight each time you decide to pick it up. All three books have made it to my 'comfort reread' list where they're sure to stay for many years to come.

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

This is my favorite book of the series, and it's not just because Paul and Kyle are so damn right together.

It's because this book offers the ultimate HEA: three bears, all happy and settled; family, friendship, love, sex on the kitchen table, Christmas ... all that and penis snow sculptures too.

Snow sculptures are Kyle's thing. He makes them for his twin sister, who has Down syndrome. Kyle is 25, but everyone sees him as a child, including Paul, who's tried every man in Logan, and several surrounding counties, on for size.

Kyle may be effeminate, but he is toppy and likes to be in control. **And that's what Paul needs: someone to take charge and make him feel like he deserves to be loved.**

Paul's family belongs on the Motherfuckers-Like-You-Shouldn't-Have-Children shelf. They constantly put Paul down; nothing he does is good enough. And when Paul starts to avoid them, they spew their venom all over town and almost ruin a good thing.

Thank the angels that Kyle comes to the rescue!

I loved the dynamic between Paul and Kyle, the hurt/comfort and sweet smexy times.

It all tangled and snarled inside him until it became an explosion of joy, of having. Of being, of feeling.

Paul and Arthur always fought; Arthur gets off on banter and conflict. But Kyle isn't like that. He's easygoing and loves to knit for his man. Kyle is a nurturer; the way he takes care of Paul's elderly neighbor brought tears to my eyes.

Once Paul finally acknowledges that he always runs from happiness, he sees Kyle as a man ... a good man, the RIGHT man for him.

Paul runs hot and cold at the beginning, but kudos to the author for not dragging out the miscommunication. Kyle stands up for himself, and Paul actually listens!

The scenes with Arthur's meddlesome but well-meaning mom made me grin, and I absolutely loved Kyle's family: both his parents and Linda Kay. Especially Linda Kay. She added so much light and love to the

story.

This book shouldn't be read as a standalone. If you haven't read the first two books, make a day of it and read all three. Just don't forget the hot cocoa.

"I'm not dating you because you're convenient. Because I don't want to simply have sex with you or hang out with you." He stroked the line of Paul's beard. "I want to be with. You. I want to watch gooey movies with you, and laugh and play and figure out new ways to enjoy sex, but I want to help you through the rough parts of life too."

Ele says

It pains me. It pains me that I didn't just love this one. Paul has been waiting patiently for his HEA all this time and so have I. And really, up until 50% of the book I was wondering why all these mixed reviews. Then, I got it.

First of all, let me say that I absolutely LOVED parts of it.

***Kyle.** Kyle was absolutely fantastic! A breath of fresh air. Hard working, determined and bold but selfless and giving.

***The dynamics of their relationship.** It worked so well for me, that the roles were flipped. Toppy effeminate Kyle and "submissive" bear, Paul, burnt the sheets. And the kitchen table.

***Linda Kay.** How can you NOT love her? Linda Kay is a real person and her beautiful story made me all teary eyed.

***The snow penises.** And that first scene when Paul gets caught making one. So cute.

So, for all these reasons I was really enjoying the story. Until I started enjoying it less and less. Because I kept waiting **for Paul to snap out of his funk!** Although I never really understood where he was coming from, (view spoiler) I let it pass because, ok, everyone freaks out now and then and Paul is a sensitive one.

But I felt that Kyle did all the work, while Paul was ...just there. I wish he stood up to his family who were the worst kind of people, just once. I get it, his character was more like the quiet, wounded bear who would rather not confront others. And maybe that would have been ok, had there been **some kind of resolution** with said family. But there was nothing.

Also, Arthur. He pissed me off because I felt he was getting between Paul and Kyle a couple of times. He seriously needed it to tone it down!

Overall, this was a nice holiday story. I was just bummed because my expectations were too high, I guess.

Marcus & Frankie FOR EVA!

Elsbeth says

This one was just a miss for me. I really didn't see the romance as anything more than a crush or puppy love. Also the relationship felt rushed which is really weird to say because in the first book I think Frankie and Marcus had maybe three days to fuck, fight, and fall in love.

Maybe it's the age gap which isn't my thing, or how much of a door mat Paul is in this. Make that a childish door mat...his expression of displeasure in his family in the end didn't endear me to his case by any means. Though I did have to say what he did after did get me all misty eyed.

So I guess this goes under my different strokes for different folks category. If age gap angst is your thing, awesome, this might be the book for you.

I received this book from Netgalley for an honest review!

This review can also be found at mle and my book blog, a shared brain cell, here.

♦*Arianna♦* says

4 Stars!!

“*Winter Wonderland*” in the third book in Heidi Cullinan’s “*Minnesota Christmas*” series and like the previous book in the series it can be read as a standalone. That being said, I highly recommend you to read the first two since you don’t want to miss two well executed Christmas gems. This was my first Christmas novel this year and even if it is still November and Christmas is not even around the corner, I really felt the magical Christmas atmosphere reading this sweet tale.

“*Winter Wonderland*” follows the story of Paul, character we met in the other books in the series. Paul Jansen is the only one of his friends who is single. He is happy that his two best friends finally found happiness with two awesome men, but he is lonely, too lonely. He craves what the other two have – love, happiness and stability. He hooks-up occasionally with different men from other nearby small towns, but hook-ups these days are not enough for him. He wants more. He’s sure he’s the only gay man in town, until someone, an admirer leaves him, on his front porch different snow sculptures – penis sculptures. He eventually finds out the artist behind those sculptures is Kyle Parks. Paul can’t believe Paul is his secret admirer, not because he’s ugly or anything, but because Kyle is way too young for him. And let’s forget he’s too femmy, so he’s not the right man for him. Or maybe he is?!

Kyle loves his family and his job, but he hates how most of the residents in his small town think he’s still ‘the leggy little boy’. He’s 25 year old, not 10, so why people can’t seem to let go of his youth? Kyle is young, but he knows what he wants – a real, stable relationship with a man..a man like Paul..with Paul. He always had a crush on him and he would do anything to capture his attention.

Kyle has one chance to prove Paul not only that he's a full grown adult, but also that he can be the perfect man for him. While Kyle's family is accepting and supportive with everything Kyle does and also with his sexuality, Paul's family is simply awful, so everything can get complicated for these two if Kyle doesn't show Paul how good they are together and how good is to have someone in your life you can trust and love.

This was my favorite installment in the series. It was such a sweet, fun, heartwarming, emotional read. The two main characters were truly endearing and I have to say I love the dynamic between them. I absolutely adored Kyle. He was such a sweetheart; endearing from start to finish. He's only 25, but he was so mature. The fiercely way he loves his family, especially his adorable sister who has Down syndrome melted my heart. I loved their beautiful relationship and their interactions were fun and so sweet and I also enjoyed his relationship with Paul's elderly neighbor. With Paul he was amazing. He loves to care for others, but most of all, he loves to care for Paul. And the way he cared for this troubled man was simply beautiful. He was sweet, protective, loyal, kind and made me love him so more and more as the story progressed. Paul has a lot of baggage and my heart broke for him. I hated his family with all my heart. God, what a bunch as a**holes. I loved how Kyle showed him that he has the right to want to feel loved and adored because he deserves. Kyle and Paul's tender moments were so heartwarming, emotional and I loved every single one of them.

All in all, "*Winter Wonderland*" was a fantastic holiday romance, low in angst in drama, with two endearing main characters and a sweet love story that will make you swoon.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

4.5 stars

I hate when a lot of time goes by between when I read a book and when I write my review, but sometimes life gets in the way. But this book... it deserves an awesome review, because ICE PENISES! Toppy twinks! I just adored this Heidi Cullinan story. **It was everything I've come to expect from this series, which will always hold a place the squishy, mushy, kinky part of my heart.**

Kyle was so fabulous. **I love it when I get a twist in roles, and a skinny boy who can dominate a big guy... you get 'em Kyle, you nasty boy!** Kyle may look small, but he can put his money where his mouth is... *wink, wink* Kyle wasn't just a talented penis-sculptor (I will never get tired to typing that), but he was also a loving brother, devoted friend, and an all around awesome guy. He was a good balance for Paul, who was a little too wishy-washy about the relationship in the beginning for my taste. Luckily, Paul decided to get with the program, and once Kyle and Paul got together the story really took off.

I think if you are a fan of the Minnesota Christmas series, you will really like this one. This series happens to be one of my favorites of Heidi Cullinan's, and I think she ended it on an awesome note.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Ingie says

Written December 16, 2015

3.3 Stars - A truly very sweet cozy Christmas candy

Book #3 ~ I really liked #1-Let it Snow (4 stars) then two years ago. This new *Winter Wonderland*, a full length novel (200 pages) and praised by many friends, was surprisingly for "sale" a couple of weeks ago. — Thanks, to sweet Lei who told me. Of course I downloaded.

Light-hearted, romantic, charming, easy to read, entertaining, filthy hot, cute, snowy, homely, familiar... — Yes, uber super cosiness. — I enjoyed.

The 'Minnesota Christmas' series is by now next to a M/M romance tradition with a new Winter / Christmas book about three friends in a picturesque snowy *Minnesota* town each year. Big, bearded, cuddly men. All three in need and want for a cute nice man to love and take care of.

Grumpy "big-bear" *Marcus* found his own 'Goldilocks' in the hairdresser *Frankie* (#1).

The sharp *Gabriel* from the Library then got the rougher tougher "middle-bear" *Arthur* (#2).

It is just poor lonely "wee-bear" **Paul Jansen** (37) left who isn't lucky enough to yet have his own boyfriend to cuddle with in Christmas times. Or take to gay-couple dinners with his friends...,

Then a very naughty big snow-penis (imagine!!!) appears on Paul's front yard. The snow sculpture master is **Kyle Parks**, the local guy working at the nursery. But Kyle is a teenage-looking "boy" and way to young (he is actually 25), a bit twinkie, and for sure not the "dominant top" as Paul's inner desires prefer. ~ Or, maybe isn't everything as it seems at first. You have to look closer.

'...part of him had dangerous fantasies about how maybe Kyle was his Goldilocks after all. Not too hot, not too cold.'

Enchanting loveable characters..

Paul is just a adorable shy, very sweet-hearted man, with a bit low self esteem, but in a huge hurried need of a caring boyfriend. He immediately dug deep into my romance-heart and I just smiled ridiculously silly every time I thought of him. A truly wonderful sweet little teddy bear. So cuddly, so submissive, all of my maternal feelings hit top gear immediately. Kyle, on the other side is a much stronger man, very nurturing, caring and thoughtful, but also more energetic and driven. These two were like frozen hands in warm gloves - perfect for each other.

Adorable sweet winter smex..

Well this wasn't very believable or realistic but super über cozy. So very charmingly written and described ... once again. Books for frozen winter hearts. This story defrost the most chilly before Christmas. Do you also fancy, some naughty kink and a lot of hot tumbling under the duvets in your M/M reads will this be even more fun.

A quite heavy sugar shock (I couldn't take more than a chapter or two each day) ...and Christmas hasn't even begun. ~ Once a year with these cuddling bears is enough.

I LIKE - sugary cute ...but in moderate doses

Susan says

3.5 stars

Can be read as a stand-alone.

Paul is the only one left of the 3 friends who hasn't found Mr. Right yet. When he finds snow penises on his lawn, he doesn't know what to think of it.

It turns out to be Kyle, who is trying to get Paul's attention. Kyle is 25 and therefore a lot younger than 38 year old Paul. And because Kyle is skinny and swishy, Paul assumes they won't be a good fit. Because what Paul wants is someone to dominate him in the bedroom. But Kyle is not what he seems..

I really loved the younger, skinnier guy being the dominant top and the older bear to be the more submissive bottom.

There were some parts that dragged a bit. I hated the whole episode with Paul's family and I felt it wasn't really resolved at the end. It could have been left out completely.

Still, a very nice, and sexy holiday story.

Elsbeth says

(5th Xmas read 2015 with Paul)

I liked this one the best!! No people were more perfect for each other than Kyle and Paul.

Kyle was adorable. All his life he's been treated as a child and Paul is also afraid to get involved with a 25

year old. But Kyle is no ordinary 25 year old. His whole teenage years he'd been crushing on Paul and when Paul and Arthur *break up*, Kyle sees this as his chance to make sure Paul is his.

Kyle

He makes his intentions clear by leaving certain snow sculptures on his front porch.

Paul is a contradiction in how he looked like, a bear and what he needed from a partner. Kyle was able to give him exactly what he needed. A place to let go...

“When had he become such a mess that getting exactly what he wanted most terrified him enough he tried to send it away?”

Paul

Paul runs and Kyle follows and makes him understand. I really loved their dynamics. Paul really has this baggage. His family that keeps criticising him for being who he is has made him the man scared to trust his feelings.

Kyle's family was awesome. I loved his devotion to his twin sister Linda Kay who has Downs-syndrome. Kyle's profession being a nurse in a nursing home, his need to take care of people had me in tears a few times.

In short this book is about family. Especially choosing a new family we are not born into. It's about hope and love.

“When you're done being by yourself, you come find me, okay? You come be with me. I'll be your family. For as long as you'll have me.”

.Lili. says

[I get that Paul realized that he didn't deserve t

Vivian says

Dreams do come true.

Even if you think it will never happen, even if you've given up all hope, even if you don't think you deserve it.

It can still happen.

Let's play in the snow.

Paul, diehard romantic, waiting for his Prince Charming. Oddly enough, he's got one hitting him up on Grindr. But, can you really trust a handle? All of his friends in Logan managed to pair bond and Paul is both happy and sad. If only...

When a rash of unexpected gifts/pranks, really could be either has got him riled up and he catches the culprit red-handed--it's little Kyle Parks, really? Well, maybe not so little with all that he's been up to, but still.

Kyle, sweet and dependable, hiding behind a facade of affectation. Naturally a nurturer and preternaturally young looking he's been fighting a losing battle for anyone in Logan to see him as an adult. A grown man, including Paul Hansen.

What follows is the dance back and forth as preconceptions are realigned, desires acknowledged, and dragons slain. There's a refreshing flip in relationship expectations for Kyle and Paul, and the heart and want is quite palpable. Throw in sweet little D/s kisses and they melt together.

Overall, a romantic holiday love story.

Favorite quote:

It was, despite his efforts to skirt this revelation, an unveiling of his heart.

~A copy was provided by Netgalley and a review submitted~

ETA: While characters from other books in the series make appearances, background of those stories is not necessary for this one. It can be read as a standalone.

Jilrene ♥ says

ETA: link to my review Gay.Guy.Reading and Friends

I'm writing a review for Gay.Guy.Reading and Friends. I'll add a link when it's available.

5 erotic snow sculptures

I received a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****3.75 Stars*****

Oh Paul! He was such a romantic at heart! He wanted it all...the Christmas fairytale and the happily ever after. And thankfully, Santa sent him a bossy, toppy twink to make all his Christmas wishes come true.

Kyle may be younger than Paul, but he knows what he wants and he isn't afraid to go after it. But poor Paul, he's afraid to even hope that Kyle may be everything he's looking for. At first he rejects Kyle, coming up with all kinds of reasons why they shouldn't be together...but really, he's terrified of ruining something that may be all kinds of wonderful.

And Kyle....oh, Kyle. He was such a sweet, caring guy. A nurse at the senior care center who just wants to take care of everyone's grandmas and grandpas, a brother who loves his spunky twin sister with Down syndrome and a lover who wants to take care of Paul. With his young twink exterior and his sweet interior, the whole town put Kyle in a box and was prepared to keep him there.

But don't think for a minute that he lives his life in that box. Kyle may be all of those things, but he's so much more. And one of those things is a bossy, sexy top. He'll be the first to tell you not to judge anyone by their appearance.

"Tell me what you want?" Kyle kissed Paul's cheek, his chin, the side of his mouth, as his hand idly stroked Paul's length. "Do you want me to suck you? Fuck you? Do you want to suck me? Do you want to fuck me?"

"I - I thought..."

"You thought I was so toppy I couldn't bottom? Honey, I can drive from anywhere."

Everyone you've come to love over the course of this series shows up in this book...Marcus and Frankie (who are building a life in their new home), Gabriel and Arthur (who are settling into their life together and remodeling the cabin), Corinna (our town meddler, who naturally helps Kyle snag Paul's heart) and we get new secondary characters....

Kyle's family. A pillar of love and support and everything that family should be.

And Paul's family....a group of vile people who are a waste of space on this planet.

Overall this was a great conclusion to the series (I know there's one more book after this, but I've chosen not to read it) and I'm so happy that the three bears of Logan have found their men....and their happily ever afters.

Marte - Thunderella says

***** 3 boring stars *****

I'm sad. I so wanted to love this book. I've been waiting for Paul to get his HEA with a great boyfriend, which he got, don't get me wrong, but it was all just... boring.

And it upsets me, because I wanted it to be so much better. I liked it, though, hence 3 stars. It *was* sweet seeing Kyle and Paul finding each other and I'm very happy for them, but there was no fire, no passion, no funny situations, no nothing. Just... boring. *sniffles*
