



Christmas, Actually

Anna Adams , Anna J. Stewart , Melinda Curtis

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Discover the magic of Christmas Town, Maine!

The Christmas Gift by Anna Adams

Jack Banning promised to support the mother of his unborn child... But she doesn't need money, she only needs him.

The Christmas Wish by Anna J Stewart

Callie Banning's student has declared war on Christmas, so it's up to her to help the little girl—and her widowed father—believe again.

The Christmas Date by Melinda Curtis

Gina Vernay is about to meet her online mystery date...and she's in for the surprise of a lifetime!

Christmas, Actually Details

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From Reader Review Christmas, Actually for online ebook

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Three siblings live in a town in Maine named Christmas Town. The three are actively involved with the Christmas traditions of the town, but each has their reasons for not looking forward to the season.

I enjoyed reading the three stories, written by three authors, that take place at the same time. The town sounds like a wonderful place to be to celebrate Christmas. I'm glad that I got to spend time with the stories just before entering the Christmas season.

Each of the author's did a great job in telling their story. I liked the descriptions and the characters.

This book is a fun way to get into the holiday season and find a little clean Christmas romance.

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Heart Full of Christmas

Since my review was long I'm simply going to do the wrap-up here and invite you over to Heart Full of Christmas at the link above to read the entire review.

Jack, Callie, and Nick are siblings who find love this Christmas season. I enjoyed this anthology very much and would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who loves a good romance, especially around Christmas. It's also the kick-off to a long and enjoyable set of Christmas stories set in Christmas Town, Maine over the last several years. This is a great place to start on that adventure.

I own a Kindle edition of this title.

Cheryl says

I loved all three novellas in this book! This was a comfortable and satisfying read and all three novellas flowed flawlessly from one story to the next. I really didn't want this book to end.

Melanie says

I was excited to read this collection of Christmas novellas! I wasn't crazy about the first story but really enjoyed the other two. The stories are about three siblings who live in Christmas Town, Maine. Their parents are out of town for the holidays. The stories are told at the same time and we go on each of their journeys to find love.

In the first, Sophie comes to Christmas Town to find Jack, the father of her baby, to try to convince him to be

part of their unborn daughter's life. Jack has his reasons for leaving, which we find out at the end. He seems like a nice guy but is harsh towards Sophie. He also seems to want her to stay yet keeps pushing her away. I found it hard to believe that they were together for two years and she wasn't aware of how he felt about becoming a father before she got pregnant. I'm sure most people will love their story but it just didn't appeal to me.

Callie is a second-grade schoolteacher and has a little trouble maker (Eliza) in her class. She and her single father, Dean, are in town temporarily while he finishes an assignment. Callie comes to understand Eliza better by figuring out what's really bothering her. It doesn't hurt that in the meantime, she gets to know Dean better, too! The only problem: They'll be leaving soon and Callie's life is in Christmas Town. I liked how Callie and Dean's friendship flowed and they had some great moments together. Callie and Eliza also had some touching scenes. I also liked what Callie learned about trying to take her mom's place as the town holiday helper.

Nick married young and put his wife through school, but when it came time for her to return the favor, she decided she wanted a divorce instead. So now Nick is the handyman of the town and a single father. He has been wanting to date Gina, the owner of The Tea Pot. He rushes to help her whenever she calls but she seems to look past him as a love interest. He finds out she signed up for an online dating service, so he signs up for the same one. She's fallen for him as user Football20, but will he get up the nerve to confess to her who he really is? I loved Nick and, from the beginning of his story, I was cheering for him. I liked how he was helpful to others, even though his own dreams had been shattered. Gina has her own issues that she's dealing with. Their story takes place in the shortest amount of time but it is definitely sigh worthy!

I loved seeing the siblings in each other's stories and enjoyed getting to know them. These stories are quick, easy reads which are perfect to get you in the mood for Christmas. I love that they're all clean so I can recommend it to everyone! Christmas Town was a fun place to visit!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I was super excited to read this three book collection from Harlequin Heartwarming. If you follow my blog, you know I'm a fan of the Heartwarming line because they are always squeaky clean romances. I know exactly what I'm going to get.

These books are about the three siblings of the Banning family. They live in Christmas Town and there is no better place for Christmas celebrations than in Christmas Town! Each story is happening simultaneously but you only see it from one person's perspective at a time.

Yeah, I really loved my time in Christmas Town with the Banning family. Each story was unique and romantic. I loved all the characters. They were real and identifiable. It is the perfect book to curl up with as the days get colder and we get closer to Christmas.

Chelle says

The Christmas Gift by Anna Adams

Sophie and Jack's story is very interesting. I know that a nurse and a surgeon is a little cliche', but in this case it definitely works! Sophie and Jack's background seems to draw them together. (I know from experience that being friends first means a whole lot!!) I was really struggling to move forward in the book some, because I was a little uneasy about how it would end. I'm SO glad that I kept reading! This glimpse into Sophie and Jack's life, makes me wish this was a full novel instead of just a novella! This was the hardest of the three stories for me to really get into and enjoy. It was a nice read, don't get me wrong, but wasn't quite as captivating to me as the other two novellas.

Christmas Town seems a little overbearing at first (in novella one), but it grows on you throughout the stories!

The Christmas Wish by Anna J. Stewart

Callie seemed to be begging for her own story in the brief glimpse we received of her in The Christmas Gift. I'm very glad her story was next! I love a good-looking Irish man! (Maybe that's just my blood - I've heard we are Irish, but have yet to confirm it for myself in my genealogical adventures!) Dean is a very unique character. I don't think I've ever actually read about a photographer/journalist moving (literally) from location to location quite like that! Teachers are faced with so much (I had a brief glimpse of high school teaching - two weeks as a long term substitute and substantial collegiate experience in college and graduate school.)! I was glad that the care and compassion shined through in this story! It takes a special person to teach this age group and a teacher as loving as Callie needed this unexpected interaction with Eliza and Dean. I must admit at first I was sure this was headed in a Dennis the Menace direction, but was happily surprised by the improving strides made in Eliza's demeanor.

The time frame in this story is unrealistic (as it typically is in novellas, but this is a wonderful story nonetheless!) I was intrigued by Nick and Adam in this story and was glad to keep reading!

The Christmas Date by Melinda Curtis

Gina the Teapot Shop Owner is hurting so much! Nick is the dependable handyman around town. They seem very much an unlikely pair and appear to have been lifelong friends. I love their interactions so much! It is very down to earth and reminds me of a couple of people in my own life. Gina starts acting odd in anticipation of her meeting with her online "boyfriend". Nick can't help but give her sound advice and a little to think about... Gina sounds absolutely adorable! (I love the idea of owning a coffee shop. I've toyed with it

for a couple of years, but don't think I quite have what it takes...) Nick is an exceptional man! I hope the idea of projects is not true and running for public office seems a bit of a stretch right now. Football20 seems....interesting to say the least! He certainly isn't the most "dependable" man for Gina. I can only imagine the "characters" in her coffee shop in Aunt Martha and Gina's mom and dad! Oh wow!

This novella ended the way I wanted - I was glad for that! The other stories kept me on my toes, this one not so much, but it was my favorite in the whole set! I liked the additional information we gathered at the end of "The Christmas Date", but would have liked to have seen this in the other stories as well somehow.

I don't think I've read anything by any of these authors before, but these novellas have me falling hard for their work! I used to receive the Harlequin Heartwarming books monthly, but I didn't have room for anymore paperback books in my house and had to give it up. I'm so glad they've continued these offerings!

*I received an e-copy from Prism Book Tours in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own. I was not required to give a positive review.

Amy Vastine says

Sweet Christmas anthology. I enjoyed all three tales. My favorite was Melinda's CHRISTMAS DATE. All three ladies were able to give us so much in a short story. I enjoyed getting to know everyone in Christmas Town, Maine!

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I was super excited to read this three book collection from Harlequin Heartwarming. If you follow my blog, you know I'm a fan of the Heartwarming line because they are always squeaky clean romances. I know exactly what I'm going to get.

These books are about the three siblings of the Banning family. They live in Christmas Town and there is no better place for Christmas celebrations than in Christmas town! Each story is happening simultaneously but you only see it from one person's perspective at a time.

Yeah, I really loved my time in Christmas Town with the Banning family. Each story was unique and romantic. I loved all the characters. They were real and identifiable. It is the perfect book to curl up with as the days get colder and we get closer to Christmas.

Becky says

Three siblings find love during one magical Christmas season.

The Christmas Gift: This novella provides a nice introduction to Christmas Town and its citizens. While I liked both Jack and Sophie, I did think his behavior was a bit far-fetched, even for someone suffering from PTSD. But it's a sweet novella with a happy ending, and I could easily see it as an entry in Hallmark or Lifetime's Christmas lineup. 3 stars.

The Christmas Wish: I enjoyed The Christmas Wish, a sweet story about Callie, a teacher who takes a troubled student under her wing and ends up falling for the student's single father. 3-1/2 stars.

The Christmas Date: The instant I started reading this story, I knew I was going to love it. There's just something about those You've Got Mail-esque stories that I love. Nick and Gina are both so likeable, and their chemistry lept off the page. This was easily my favorite of the three stories! 5 stars.

As a whole, I think this collection would have worked better if the novellas hadn't been connected. All three of these stories are supposed to take place during the same Christmas season in the same small town to people from the same family. Yet, as a whole, these siblings know nothing about the others' romances. (The exception is Callie's knowledge of Nick's feelings for Gina.) I think the series would have played better had the stories taken place in different years or been connected solely by Christmas Town. Still, the stories are enjoyable, and they're perfect for reading in front of a cozy fire. 3-1/2 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free for review through Prism Book Tours. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

Brittany says

Christmas, Actually was a very enjoyable, sweet collection of three connected novellas. I enjoyed all three stories, and love that they cover the romances of the three Banning siblings. The characters felt realistic and the stories did not feel rushed to me. I enjoyed all three stories and don't think I can choose a favorite!

I felt frustrated with Jack Banning in the first story, even though I grew to understand why he was behaving the way he was. Sophie had to be so strong for herself and their unborn child. Her perseverance was admirable, and I still liked Jack, even though he was being difficult.

Callie Banning was such a likeable character in the second story and I loved the way she dealt with her student who was an emotionally traumatized little girl. I loved the connection that began almost immediately between Callie and Dean, the little girl's father. But, knowing that Dean and his daughter would soon be moving on from Christmas Town added some tension to their growing attraction.

In the third story, Nick Banning pursues Gina, who feels very self-conscious about the scar that runs along the side of her face. He has been interested in her for quite awhile, but unable to make her realize that he is attracted to her as more than a friend. But, when she learns of his deception with an online dating site, the question is whether she will be able to forgive and trust him.

These stories are part of Harlequin's Heartwarming series. They are not inspirational fiction, however, they are completely clean reads. These were great stories that I really had a good time reading.

My thanks to the authors for the complimentary copy I received of this novella collection. The thoughts and opinions stated in this review are my own.

You can read this review on my blog at:
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Jasmyn says

This was a really great series about a small town named Christmas Town! The Christmas spirit is alive and kicking here, but there are a few residents that might need a little romance to keep their season jolly. The Banning family is about to find their true loves in some fairly unlikely places.

Callie's story (the second one) was my favorite of the bunch. It was full of emotion and I'm always a sucker for a cute little kid. This one was also a true Christmas miracle as the said cute little kid had given up on Christmas and family. The ending had me full of misty eyes and smiles and laughs.

Jack's story had some interesting twists and turns to it. There was a history to Jack that was very unexpected and heart wrenching. I'm so glad that no one gave up on him and he was dragged (practically kicking and screaming) to where he needed to be to move and put his past to rest.

Gina's story was just a lot of fun. She was my favorite character overall, and had an amazing personality - and some serious insecurities to go along with it. When all was said and done, the entire family had a beautiful surprise and quite the merry Christmas.

Nova says

Welcome to the magic of Christmas Town, Maine!

The Christmas Gift by Anna Adams

Sophie wants Jack to be there for their unborn child. He has promised monetary support, but she really just needs him. Can he move past the hurts to realize that he is what Sophie and their child need?

The Christmas Wish by Anna J Stewart

Callie has a young student who has given up on Christmas. Callie has to show the little girl that it is ok to believe in Christmas wishes again. Can she also get Dean to believe, too?

The Christmas Date by Melinda Curtis

Gina is about to meet her mystery man she has been chatting with online for awhile. Little does she know who she is truly meeting. Can Nick show her that a promise for a future is truly meant to be?

3 great Christmas stories to enjoy; all wrapped up in one great Harlequin book!

Katie W says

What a fun story! The reader is taken on a journey through Christmas Town, Maine and we get to see snippets of what makes this town special through the eyes of three different characters.

In **The Christmas Gift**, Dr. Jack Banning is struggling with some issues, but being a very good Dr and surgeon isn't among them. When he found out he was going to be a father, he ran and wants nothing to do

with his unborn baby. Jack is such a strong character and it's hard to imagine him not taking a challenge head on, but, as we find out, he has his reasons. I love Sophie, the mother-to-be. Her patience is amazing, as is her genuine care for those around her. I would have liked to see Jack ease into his feelings, instead of being so hot and cold.

The Christmas Wish is about Jack's sister, Callie, a school teacher. She has a troubled student who is up to mischief at every turn, since this young girl hates Christmas and anything associated with it. Eliza doesn't know how to express herself and Callie is determined to understand why. Meeting with Eliza's father, Dean, proves to be a battle, since there's an attraction. Callie is very creative in her dealings with Eliza and such a sweet woman. Dean does the best he can as a father and is willing to make changes to make things even better. I loved the way the story came together.

Nick Banning is the resident handyman and the brother of Jack and Callie in The Christmas Date. He's working hard to help Gina, a shop owner, make repairs to her store, as well as to her self esteem. Gina has met a man online and just can't quite let her heart follow Nick without giving Football20 a chance. Gina had some pretty big insecurities to deal with. I could understand why she felt that way, yet I wanted her to let it go. I enjoyed watching her blossom. Nick is a man who can do everything, yet he's very humble. I love the way he would build up those around him.

These were fun, clean holiday stories. I only wish the main characters from the other books would have shown up more in other stories.

Content: no language; no violence; clean kissing. Clean!

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Cathie says

I've finally read the beginning!!

These stories that started the Christmas Town Maine yearly stories are the best of them all, but I'm glad I read them now! If you haven't read them yet, look up one of the authors of this book and you'll find...and love them all!!

Wall-to-wall books - wendy says

Three stories intertwined by the characters. All three were nice, fun, romantic Christmas reads.

The Christmas Gift - Anna Adams - 4 Stars

I really liked this one. It had a lot of emotion and some twists. I loved the characters, the character development was very good. I liked the way Sophie never gave up! She had spunk.

The Christmas Wish - Anna J Stewart - 3 Stars

I liked the idea of this story. What I didn't care for was that Santa was almost God like. Ask Santa and he will answer, almost like praying it seemed to me. I am sure the author didn't mean it that way but that's the feeling I got from it. But besides that it was a sweet story.

The Christmas Date - Melinda Curtis - 4 Stars

Liked this one a lot. Very good original storyline. It was sweet and very touching. I loved the male character, he was kind but strong. And again - I liked that he never gave up on Gina.

I won this book from "Free Book Friday" - Thanks!
