

**Winter Romance**

# *Wish Book*



# Chloe Archer



Here's my one favorite winter holiday tradition: Getting all the Christmas laughs and festive feels from watching Queen Latifah slay (not sleigh) in the movie *The Last Holiday*!

## All I Want for Christmas is Tentacles

Seasons greetings and alien abductions! Can two misfits find love together? It might just take a Christmas miracle! Let's hope Santa doesn't mind that tentacles can be both naughty and nice...

Khephren

There's no way in Helgar's Nebula I'm marrying the candidate my parents have chosen for me. I don't want to be the house-husband of some stoic warrior who only cares about training all day. Boring! Thankfully, I've learned a thing or two from all those rom-com human movies I've illegally downloaded off the intergalactic web. No one will see it coming when I pull a runaway groom maneuver on them!

Once I make my escape, I can go on the solo honeymoon of my dreams—to planet Earth. It's almost that wondrous time of year when they celebrate their holiday known as "Christmas." Human Hallmark movies make it seem so magical. I want to experience it for myself! Now, I just need to find a human who can make my wish come true and help me have an authentic holly jolly time...

Sasha

Scrooge was right when he said "bah humbug" to Christmas. This time of year sucks balls, and not the fun kind. I've just lost my crappy part-time job and I'm slowly sinking under a sea of student loan debt and crushed dreams.

Just when I think my life couldn't possibly get any worse, my cat and I are abducted by an alien who wants me to help him experience a "real human Christmas" on his ship. WTF? Clearly he's chosen the worst possible candidate for the job.

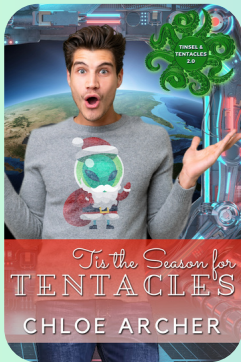
But there's something about Khephren's enthusiasm and eternal optimism that starts to melt even my grumpy, cynical heart. Heck, I even agree to be his fake fiancé to get his parents off his back! I don't know what's happening to me, but Khephren's charm is making me feel things I never have before. And those bright pink tentacles of his are strangely fascinating. I can't help but wonder what all they can do...

As we spend more time together, I start to realize I might not want to go home and that maybe, just maybe, I've found what I've always been looking for. Could Khephren feel the same? If so, it would be a Christmas miracle and I don't believe in those...right?

*All I Want for Christmas is Tentacles* is a standalone novel (74k words) in the Tinsel and Tentacles multi-author winter holiday MM tentacle romance series. It features a runaway tentacled-alien groom obsessed with Hallmark movies and Christmas, a grumpy human who's down on his luck and says "bah, humbug" to the holidays, an alien abduction, fake fiancé fun, a cat named Jonesey, a droid named Rambo, a ship called the *Sleigh Belle*, found family, sweet and cozy vibes for the season, and a guaranteed HEA!

# Chloe Archer

## Tis the Season for Tentacles



Felix

Combing the desert for aliens might sound a little out there, but I don't care. They're among us and I'm going to prove it.

Yet even I didn't expect to get sucked up by a tractor beam and whisked off to outer space!

Also, why the heck does the interior of this ship look like a Christmas store exploded inside it? And, swoon, why does the big golden alien scowling at me have so many... tentacles?

Najar

For a second time, we've been forced to bring a human aboard our ship. And once again, it's due to my crew mates' foolishness. Sigh. Christmas is in the air—Galactic gods, save me—and we're exploring planets with similarly unusual holidays. So, Felix is stuck with us for a while.

But why can't I leave the inquisitive human alone? He's too tempting for his own good.

Our time together is limited, so hoping for something serious is ridiculous... right?

Chloe-isms: an alien abduction meet cute that's wholesome and sweet rather than creepy, I swear!; tentacles all the way, cuz heck yeah!; Christmas adventures in outer space--what could possibly go wrong?; how did Lord Vardox and Captain Starblade get into this story?; cozy but horny Hallmark vibes for days; animal-loving nerds are what do it for Najar; Felix has way too many fantasies about tentacles, but it's all because of that online story...

Tis the Season for Tentacles is part of the multi-author winter holiday M/M tentacle romance collaboration, Tinsel and Tentacles 2.0. All books are standalones but may be connected to some authors' pre-existing worlds. Each book in the series brings festive fun related to a variety of winter holidays and explores the many delightful ways tentacles can be naughty and nice!

# Chloe Archer

## Jingle Bells and Tentacle Spells



Gemma

It's not every day your brother gets abducted by aliens—and decides to stay with them. When Felix told me he was in love with one of his captors-turned-boyfriend and wanted to tour the galaxy with him, I thought he'd lost it.

But I'm not about to let my only sibling and last remaining family member blast off into the cosmos without me. And, okay, maybe I have a little motivation of my own. One particular alien has been slipping into my DMs... or whatever the intergalactic equivalent is. Her name is Luna—she's saucy, snarky, and gloriously tentacled. There's definitely something sparking between us—and I'm dying to see where it leads. Preferably somewhere warm, private, and zero-gravity.

Luna

Being single on a spaceship full of lovebirds? Galactic torture. Watching everyone pair off while I drift alone in the stars? Even worse.

Then Gemma appears—bold, curvy, and absolutely irresistible. Our late-night transmissions soon turn into something deeper, and downright electric. I've never been with a human before, but she feels as right as the purr of a perfectly tuned engine beneath my hands.

And the way she talks, laughs, and looks at me? She makes me want to purr, too—and not just over engine noise.

She's joining the crew just in time for Christmas—my favorite Earth holiday. Lights, laughter, and maybe... love? If fate's on our side, this could be the start of something more amazing than a holiday Hallmark movie!

Jingle Bells and Tentacle Spells is a sapphic sci-fi holiday rom-com in the Tinsel and Tentacles 3.0 series. It is an interconnected standalone to the two previous books, All I Want for Christmas is Tentacles and Tis the Season for Tentacles.



# *Bix Barrow*



When my brother and I were very young, my mom found a recipe for these "cookies" (corn flakes and coconut covered in chocolate and formed into balls), and my dad told us kids they were called Nerd Balls, which all of us continue to call them to this day.

## What's Santa Got to Do with It



A late-awakened bi guy and his secret crush try to play Santa for some kids. But there's a hitman blocking the chimney...

Have you ever been locked out of your apartment shirtless, holding a wet rabbit and getting served with legal papers right when your super-hot neighbor walks by?

Maybe it's just me.

After Baz stops to help, I finally have a chance to show him there's more to me than the loud parties and one-night stands he's witnessed over the years. And I find out he's more than just an aloof work-from-home accountant. Who would've guessed we both love superheroes and have big hangups about Christmas?

When Baz finds a bunch of letters to Santa in the recycle bin, helping those kids' holiday wishes come true is the perfect way for us to spend time together.

But we didn't expect to get yelled at by the kids' neighbors. (Okay, maybe the binoculars were a bad idea.) And we didn't expect my estranged brothers to show up and take over Baz's apartment. (Okay, but as a side effect, he's staying at my place...)

And we never expected to interrupt a hitman in the middle of a job.

*What's Santa Got to Do with It?* is a semi-low-angst, humorous holiday romance featuring a bi-awakening, a chonky rabbit, learning work-life balance, forced proximity, avoiding THAT Christmas song, reconciling with (some) family, interfering friends, and a hitman with a heart of gold.

# *Bix Barrow*



## We Don't Need Another Santa

One retired hitman, one actor just out of rehab, and a Santa sack full of complications...

Even though I don't need to pose as a third-grade teacher anymore, I stuck around to keep Seth, one of my students, and his brother Robin from being abused by their slimy stepfather. It's their lucky Christmas Eve when I find out Robin accidentally killed the jerk while protecting Seth, because who better to help them dispose of the body than a retired hitman-slash-operative?

But Santa also delivers the boys' uncle, famous actor and tabloid headliner Lucas McCord. I'm trying to decide if I can trust him with the boys' well-being—and possibly my cold, withered heart—when an ill-timed photo has the press announcing I'm Lucas' boyfriend and the key to fixing his reputation.

The skills I honed in my former life are strangely useful navigating the perils of Hollywood, but when I come face-to-face with an enemy from my past, I'll use every weapon in my arsenal to keep Lucas and the kids safe.

We Don't Need Another Santa is a low-angst, humorous holiday romance featuring a retired hitman, an actor trying to turn his life around, two kids in need, stray dogs, an inconvenient body, barbecued brisket, and beaver onesies.

## Lee Blair



My favorite holiday tradition is watching *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* with my parents each year.

### 24 Dares of Christmas



***On the first day of Christmas, my dear aunt sent to me: twenty-four dares in a fugly advent tree...***

The only way I'm going to survive a month of holly jolly misery post-breakup is to hibernate through the Christmas season before moving away for my new job.

Two things blow my straightforward plan to smithereens: 1. My lovable aunt, who guilts me into watching her spoiled wiener dogs—who do NOT like me—while she's gone for the holiday. 2. My *scheming* aunt's surprising tenant, Warren, who I just can't seem to get out of my head.

To add insult to inconvenience, I find my aunt's filled my childhood advent calendar—the one I'd designed for dares instead of days—with sappy, festive, time-suckers. Now, stuck at her house, I'm completely baffled because I can't look away from Warren's big smile, warm eyes, and unrelenting Christmas cheer. I've never felt like this for a *man* before, but it's like my heart's a Magic 8 ball stuck on "All signs point to Yes" whenever he's around.

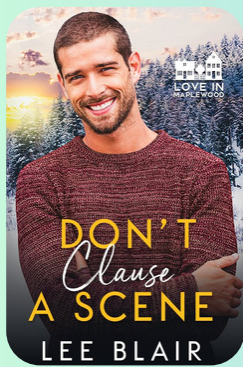
Warren's offer to guide me through the festive challenges as my personal elf raises my festive mood, among—ahem—other things. Now I'm coming to terms with not only wanting a guy to jingle my bells, but Warren's company is taking me from local Grinch to wannabe Santa in a heartbeat.

Am I actually living in a Hallmark fan's wet dream? Maybe, but Warren's making me the jolliest I've felt in years—all while slowly but steadily capturing my reluctant heart.

*24 Dares of Christmas* is a low angst, bisexual awakening MM Christmas romance set in the Dahlia Springs universe. This standalone story is stuffed fuller than a stocking with Christmas traditions, family fun, candy cane sweetness, and appearances by characters in the Tap That Brewery series.

# Lee Blair

## Don't Clause a Scene



**The world expects us to hate each other, but fate has other plans.**

As a member of a Maplewood founding family, I've always known what I'm supposed to do with my life:

1. Take over Red's, the diner that's been in my family for generations.
2. Support the community, which usually means helping out with the town's almost-monthly festivals.
3. Hate everything about, and everyone involved with, Sparky's Diner.

For the most part, it's been an easy destiny to fulfill, even if sometimes I wish for something else. Something more. Maybe that's why I take a chance on Halloween with a costumed guy who shouldn't look so good in a mullet wig.

I'm stunned when his costume comes off and I see the one man I can't have anything to do with. The man who's temporarily back in town and working at his family's diner. The man I can't get off my mind.

No worries. It'll be easy to avoid Amos—I've been doing it my entire life. Except Amos and I are voluntold to plan an event for the big Christmas festival. *Together.*

When others on the planning committee say we couldn't possibly pull it off, we decide to prove them wrong. It turns out stubbornness is just the beginning of a long list of things we have in common.

The more time we spend together, the more I realize my life is sweeter with Amos in it. I begin to wonder how deep this rivalry goes, how long Amos plans to stay in Maplewood, and what matters more: my destiny or my freedom.

*Don't Clause a Scene* is a low-angst, small-town story about an introvert and extrovert finding a groove, secrets—so many secrets—and a well-meaning town that cares maybe a *little* too much.

*With the highest percentage of LGBTQIA+ residents in Vermont, Maplewood is a town where everyone belongs. And with festivals year round, there's always something fun happening! This multi-author, low-angst queer series features ten standalone romances—each set against the backdrop of a different festival. Come for the celebrations, stay for the happily-ever-afters!*

# Lee Blair

## Here Comes Santa

### Paws



**When a sunshiny cinnamon stick with paws-itively purrfect holiday plans meets a grumpy Grinch neighbor with a smokin' hot... chimney, bells aren't the only thing jingling.**

I spend all year gearing up for the Christmas Falls festival season. Those five weeks are showtime for the animal shelter, and I've got it down to a science to help all my four-legged friends find their furever homes.

My well-oiled machine goes off track when I discover a massive leak at the shelter. And Grandpa, my only family, is recovering from a hip replacement, and I can't stop worrying about our latest shelter dog. To put a star on the top of my anxiety tree, Roman, my Scrooge neighbor, is giving me a hard time about the festive decor on my half of our duplex. It's not my fault I've got more Christmas spirit in my pinky than he does in his entire broad-shouldered body.

But something about Roman tells me he could love Christmas and this town as much as I do if he just gave them a chance. I don't care if I've got a thousand other priorities on my list, I'm making it my holiday mission to get him to let down his guard and show me the wonderful and caring man behind the terse talk and award-winning RBF. It's like opening a present on Christmas morning and seeing exactly what you wanted from Santa.

It's all tinsel and sugar cookies until my heart decides it wants Roman under the tree. But his New Year's resolution is to leave town, and I can't let myself fall for a man who doesn't plan to stick around.

Christmas Falls is my forever home. How do I convince him it could be his?

*Christmas Falls: Season 2 revisits a small town that thrives on enough holiday charm to rival any Hallmark movie. It's a multi-author M/M romance series.*

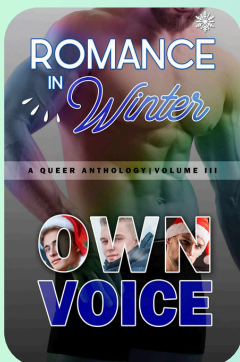


## *J. Scott Coatsworth*



My family used to always gather around Thanksgiving to make “peppernuts,” these delicious little molasses cookies that looked like dogfood but were seriously addictive.

## Romance in Winter



A queer Anthology that explores the romantic life and happy ever afters of gay men navigating the LGBT landscape. From small towns to big cities, each story shows that love is love, no matter the season.

# *Eli Easton*



I love to write in my chair near the Christmas tree with the lights twinkling and dreary weather outside--so cozy!

## Planes, Trains, and Hurricanes



Joe knows where he is going in life. But one crazy road trip might just change everything.

Joe Blankenship knows where he's going. He's on track to marry the boss's daughter and become heir apparent to a multi-million dollar medical supply business. The financial security he never had growing up is within his grasp along with a glitzy Manhattan lifestyle. All he has to do is get to New York by Christmas Eve for his engagement party.

Joe didn't count on getting grounded in Florida thanks to a hurricane. He couldn't have anticipated having to rent a broken-down car for the long drive north. And he certainly never foresaw being stuck with a passenger like Remy Guidry, a sweet-natured Cajun boy, social worker at a children's home, and free spirit. Remy is the opposite of everything Joe has worked for. But he just might teach Joe, not only the spirit of Christmas, but what's truly of value in life.

Planes, Trains, and Hurricanes is a Christmas road trip, forced proximity, opposites attract romance.

## The Best Gift



Can a handsome soldier save Cabot's Christmas Wonderland tree farm and its heartbroken owner?

Greg Cabot is the third generation to run Cabot's Christmas Wonderland and tree farm in rural Vermont. But this year will be his last. Since the death of his son, Sam, in Afghanistan, Greg no longer has the heart to run a business based on holiday cheer. When he picks up a hitchhiking soldier on a snowy night, he finds the help he needs to get his farm through the holidays—and maybe much more.

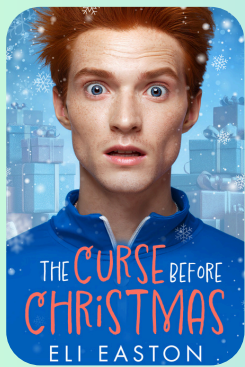
Sergeant Robbie Sparks doesn't have much to be thankful for this holiday season. Badly wounded in Afghanistan, he's spent most of the past year in recovery and was discharged after ten years of service. When fate lands him at Cabot's tree farm, he feels like he's fallen into a snow globe reality. Friendly people, gorgeous trees, lots of Christmas kitsch... and Greg Cabot.

Greg believes he's too heartbroken for romance, but those we love never truly leave us. A little nudge from heaven may help build a bridge for these two men trying to heal. If only they are willing to take that first step.

This stand-alone, long novella is a small town, Christmas cornucopia, May-December, hurt/comfort, ex-military romance stuffed full of family and holiday feels.

# *Eli Easton*

## The Curse Before Christmas



Someone wants Patrick to find love this Christmas--no matter what it takes.

When game developer Patrick Bocker receives a Krampus figurine in the office Secret Santa exchange, he doesn't think much of it. Then the accidents start happening. The absurd calamities mount, and Patrick becomes a repeat offender at the Emergency Room. By his third visit, Patrick starts to believe that maybe, just maybe, the Krampus figurine is cursed. There is, however, one silver lining – a super hot ER doctor.

Dr. Gray Reynolds is prepared to ignore his attraction to the striking young man in bay two. But by the third time Patrick shows up with new injuries, Gray starts to fear for the cute redhead's life. He's determined to drive Patrick home, make sure he's safe, and get to the bottom of this string of bad luck.

To lift the curse, Gray and Patrick have to find out which of Patrick's co-workers gifted him the Krampus and return it, all while evading livestock, a criminal Santa, and general mayhem. Oh—and fall in love. Is that too much to ask of one crazy Christmas Eve?

THE CURSE BEFORE CHRISTMAS is a wild romp set in Chicago with a hot doctor, a cute patient, a cursed figurine, game developer hijinks, trapped-together-in-a-car-in-the-snow spice, and an uber Christmasy vibe. This MM rom-com story has plenty of giggles and a touch of magic.

## A.D. Ellis



Every year, we head down to my parents' place after Christmas for gifts, good food, laughs, and special time with family.

### Once Upon a Christmas House



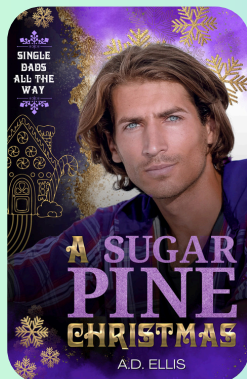
Ivyson is the quintessential Scrooge when it comes to anything having to do with the holidays. However, the chance to win a hefty chunk of money and free repairs on his old home is enough to entice the man to take part in a holiday-themed reality game.

Emory has had a crush on his older brother's best friend for years. When the chance to help Ivy possibly win a reality game comes along, Emory doesn't hesitate. After all, that's what friends are for.

The two men have known each other forever, but living together and pretending to be a couple means getting to know each other on a whole new level. Can they convince the viewing audience their fake relationship deserves to win the grand prize? Or will Ivy and Emory get swept up in the holiday magic and find themselves falling in love for real?

*Once Upon a Christmas House is a steamy, forced-proximity, fake relationship, M/M Christmas romance between a grumpy Scrooge and his best friend's cheery little brother.*

### A Sugar Pine Christmas



Mattie Blackwell is a different man than the one who left Sugar Pine all those years ago. He has high hopes his return will allow for a bit of wound licking, a boost to his art career, and the chance to settle down. He hasn't allowed a certain someone to be included in those plans. After all, Mattie doesn't even know if the man in question is still in town.

Sam Benton loves his unconventional life. He didn't dream of being a work-from-home single parent to his twin sister's kid for several months at a time, but the setup works just fine, thank you very much. Sure, he wonders if there's more to life than web design, a snarky teen, and the endless torture of deciding what's for dinner but, for now, there's nowhere he'd rather be than raising Toby in Sugar Pine.

When Sam and Mattie find themselves thrown back together, it's the perfect time to revisit the past. Sam feels bad about the way things played out, but both men recognize it wasn't the right time for them back then. Now though? Well, that's a whole different story.

*A Sugar Pine Christmas is a standalone novella as part of the multi-author collaboration Single Dads All the Way. Expect friends-to-lovers, second-chance M/M holiday romance with an artist who is all-in with this whole settling down thing and a single dad-slash-uncle torn between longing for something more while mourning the passing of time as his little one moves full-steam ahead toward adulthood.*

# A.D. Ellis



## A Touch of Christmas Magic

Kai has been in love with his best friend for as long as he can remember. He's well aware he can't act on those feelings, so he keeps himself relatively happy going on dates, running a successful business, and supporting the guy he's known since he was five years old.

Colby ran from Peppermint Hollow years ago. Trying to escape the demons of his childhood drove him straight into the arms of drama and chaos. The only good thing to come from the years he's been away is his daughter.

When Kai encourages Colby to come home, both men get sucker punched with feelings they've convinced themselves they can't have. With a little help from their tight circle of friends and family, heads are removed from backsides and the two men grasp onto their very own love of a lifetime.

Just when the couple is settling in to celebrate their first Christmas together with their infant daughter, the past comes knocking. Together, Kai and Colby know they can take on anything, but they aren't going to turn down a little luck and a touch of Christmas magic to get them through the storm.

***\*\*A Touch of Christmas Magic is a steamy M/M romance between two completely oblivious best friends featuring first-time parenting, a bisexual awakening, and found-family all wrapped up in a feel-good holiday love story.\*\****

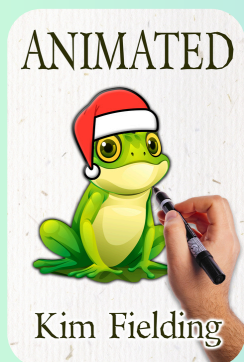


# Kim Fielding



One of my favorite holiday traditions is overeating latkes with sour cream and applesauce.

## Animated



World War II veteran Frank Porter was permanently injured during his service as a paratrooper. But that was eight years ago, and now his bum foot is only a small part of his struggle. He never found success in the field of fine art and instead works long hours as an animator in an LA film studio. Fearful about revealing his true self, even to his friends, he'll be enduring another Christmas alone—except for his two pet frogs.

When his boss orders him to spend a day observing handsome matinee idol Carver Reed—the voice behind the character that Frank is animating—Frank figures he's in for an embarrassing ordeal. The meeting, however, turns out to be something quite unexpected. Battered but not broken, can Frank find the courage to make one more jump?

## Cozy: Holiday Stories

Five stories of holiday romance:

Dear Ruth

Fire Marshal Bryce might be able to take over his late mother's advice column, but who will advise him when he finds love at Christmastime?

Saint Martin's Day

Years after a breakup, Toby travels to Croatia and discovers Saint Martin's Day—and his old love, Neno.

Alaska

Across many years and countless struggles, childhood friends Marco and Scott reconnect on Christmas.

Anyplace Else

In Hawaii for his brother's wedding, Grant learns that the solstice can bring unusual surprises.

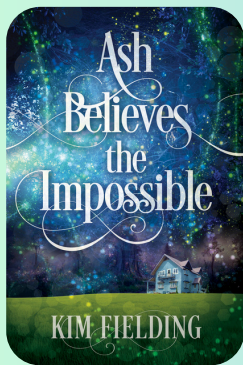
Exit through the Gift Shop

A holiday-time theme park vacation brings Alex more thrills than just the rides.



# *Kim Fielding*

## Ash Believes the Impossible



Asher Kaufman could use a miracle. But first he'll have to believe they exist.

Ash is single, strapped for cash, and burned out from his work at a nonprofit. Everyone else's holiday spirit leaves him feeling like he's in the wrong movie.

Then strange, thoughtful gifts begin appearing outside his door: a rustic basket filled with pinecones and acorns, and a beautiful handmade scarf in Hannukah colors. But the most wonderful gift of all comes when he meets Clay, his secret admirer, a beautiful young man who happens to be a fairy who lives in the wooded wonderland behind the duplex where Ash lives.

Clay brings warmth and magic into Ash's dreary life—but when the realities of the human world threaten the bridge to fairyland, it will take all Ash's faith to bring about a happy-ever-after that will work for everyone.

# Rhys Ford



Odd as it may seem, one of my favourite things about the holidays is that I get to cook a whole turkey.

## Fish Stick Fridays



Deacon Reid was born bad to the bone with no intention of changing. A lifetime of law-bending and living on the edge suits him just fine—until his baby sister dies and he finds himself raising her little girl.

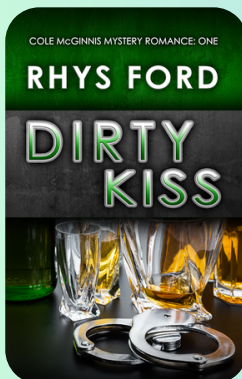
Staring down a family history of bad decisions and reaped consequences, Deacon cashes in everything he owns, purchases an auto shop in Half Moon Bay, and takes his niece, Zig, far away from the drug dens and murderous streets they grew up on. Zig deserves a better life than what he had, and Deacon is determined to give it to her.

Lang Harris is stunned when Zig, a little girl in combat boots and a purple tutu, blows into his bookstore, and then he's left speechless when her uncle, Deacon Reid, walks in hot on her heels. Lang always played it safe, but Deacon tempts him to step over the line... just a little bit.

More than a little bit. And Lang is willing to be tempted.

Unfortunately, Zig isn't the only bit of chaos dropped into Half Moon Bay. Violence and death strike, leaving Deacon scrambling to fight off a killer before he loses not only Zig but Lang too.

## Dirty Kiss



Cole Kenjiro McGinnis, ex-cop and PI, is trying to get over the shooting death of his lover when a supposedly routine investigation lands in his lap. Investigating the apparent suicide of a prominent Korean businessman's son proves to be anything but ordinary, especially when it introduces Cole to the dead man's handsome cousin, Kim Jae-Min.

Jae-Min's cousin had a dirty little secret, the kind that Cole has been familiar with all his life and that Jae-Min is still hiding from his family. The investigation leads Cole from tasteful mansions to seedy lover's trysts to Dirty Kiss, the place where the rich and discreet go to indulge in desires their traditional-minded families would rather know nothing about.

# Rhys Ford

## Black Dog Blues



Ever since being part of the pot in a high-stakes poker game, elfin outcast Kai Gracen figures he used up his good karma when Dempsey, a human Stalker, won the hand and took him in. Following the violent merge of Earth and Underhill, the human and elfin races are left with a messy, monster-ridden world, and Stalkers are the only cavalry willing to ride to someone's rescue when something shadowy appears.

It's a hard life but one Kai likes—filled with bounty, a few friends, and most importantly, no other elfin around to remind him of his past. And killing monsters is easy. Especially since he's one himself.

But when a sidhe lord named Ryder arrives in San Diego, Kai is conscripted to do a job for Ryder's fledgling Dawn Court. It's supposed to be a simple run up the coast during dragon-mating season to retrieve a pregnant human woman seeking sanctuary. Easy, quick, and best of all, profitable. But Kai ends up in the middle of a deadly bloodline feud he has no hope of escaping.

No one ever got rich being a Stalker. But then few of them got old, either, and it doesn't look like Kai will be the exception.

## Andy Gallo



When I was a kid, I used to make cookies with my grandparents, now I make them with my daughter.

### Home Run Holiday



For Wyatt Langston, loving Everton and secretly pining for Linus, his best friend's brother, have been constants in his life. But after four years of teaching at his hometown elementary school, watching everyone else find their happily-ever-after, Wyatt faces the heart-wrenching reality: he'll have to leave the small town he cherishes if he wants to find love—and finally get over Linus Hartley.

Baseball superstar Linus Hartley only planned to spend Christmas with his family and rehab his career-threatening injury. He never expected his brother's best friend to completely derail his carefully constructed life. The once-awkward teenager has become a confident, irresistible man who makes Linus question a lifetime of hiding his bisexuality. Coming out, however, could destroy the baseball career he spent his whole life building.

When their stolen moments together ignite into an undeniable passion, both men risk everything for a chance at love. A close call with the media threatens to expose their relationship and they're forced to confront impossible choices. Linus must decide if love is worth sacrificing his career, while Wyatt needs to find the strength to put Linus ahead of his feelings and walk away from the man he's always loved. With their hearts and futures on the line, can they find the courage to choose each other, or will fear force them apart?

Home Run Holiday is a 60K word holiday romance novel, with small town Christmas charm, big city dreams, a pesky mistletoe hat and a guaranteed happy ending.



# Elle Keaton



Lights, lights, it's all about the lights for me!

## The NorthStar

*The holiday season can't be over soon enough for John Hall.*

His ex-boyfriend emptied the bank accounts and ran off with his personal trainer months earlier leaving John unable to pay his creditors. Now he's forced to close the independent movie theater he runs, a bad end to a bad year.

Gay, single and closer to fifty than forty, John doesn't see a lot of hope in his future. In the dark of night he wonders if staying afloat is worth the effort.

Chance Allsop made a promise to his dying mother he hopes he doesn't regret. Ten months after her death he's finally in Skagit Washington, visiting the old movie theater where his parents met and fell in love decades ago.

## Over the Hill (And through the Woods)

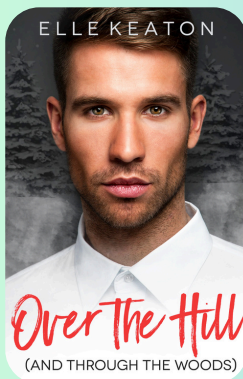
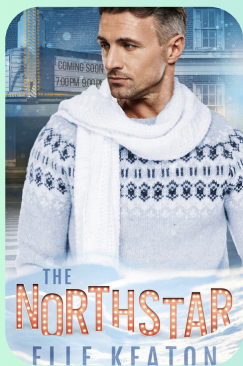
*A shy bachelor, a reformed playboy, a road trip. A snowstorm, a secluded cabin; will both men get what's on their Christmas list this year?*

Owen Addison has no trouble meeting men, but he's never fallen in love. Maybe there's something wrong with him?

*It's not that Edmund Lake hasn't wanted to lose his virginity. He has. He sooo has.*

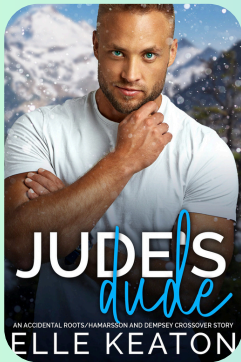
Snow closes the road in front of them, and it's too late for them to turn back. Will a few nights away from the rest of the world bring these two together; and help their Christmas wishes come true?

Age gap and Opposites attract. One Cozy cabin + One roaring fire = Christmas Fantasy.



# Elle Keaton

## Jude's Dude



*Love makes its own rules.*

When his cozy cabin rental is usurped by a modern-day Viking dude and Jude has no choice but to accept the suggestion he stay the night, they'll figure the mess out in the morning.

Cullen's not a complete jerk. He would never force the stranger back out into blizzard conditions; it's obvious the man wouldn't survive five minutes.

There must be some sort of left-over holiday magic in the air because as uptight as he is...Jude finds himself warming up to Cullen and the feeling seems mutual.

Neither plans on falling in love, but their hearts have other ideas.

*Can a blustery blizzard, a cozy cabin, and a flickering fire create a recipe for love?*

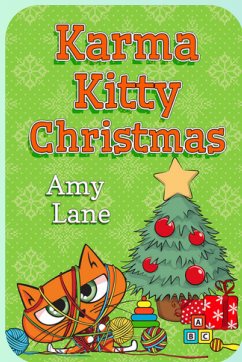
*Jude's Dude is a dual POV following two very opposite men as they accidentally fall in love. A meeting of the Shielded Hearts and Piedras Island worlds.*

# Amy Lane



As I get older, my tradition gets simpler--it's having all the grown children in the house. Especially as they get older and have families of their own, having the lot of them being raucous and loud and sarcastic and snarky while I cook fried chicken for them just makes my year perfect. I can no longer keep up with them--but I'm so happy I taught them to remember presents for each other, to appreciate each other, and to give each other snark and a hot ration of sass at the drop of a hat.

## Karma Kitty Christmas



Isaac Browning is the picture of a melancholy widower, knitting to soothe his sorrows. One day, his neighbor's handsome grandson, Luca, asks him an innocent question: Why does knitting that sweater make your face scrunch up like that?

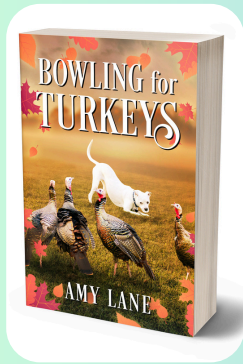
The answer pours out: Isaac is drowning in bitterness, stuck reliving the death throes of his failed marriage and the twist of fate that kept him from fixing his own life before his late husband's death spared him the trouble.

Luca has always been the king of "I got this." From getting kicked out of the house at eighteen to starting his own business or taking care of his awesome grandparents, Luca has taken what life throws at him. But Luca's suddenly single sister is going to have a baby, and Isaac and his yarny hobby are an unexpected godsend. In spite of Isaac's issues, he's really amazing company.

Together, the two men start an unlikely friendship. Luca thinks Isaac is a sweetly chaotic mess, and Isaac is utterly smitten with Luca's kindness, but they both need to straighten out their own lives before they can start something real. Except life is seldom that neat and tidy. Life is a messy yarn box of a thousand colors—bossy students, pregnant sisters, awesome friends, and the best (and worst) of family knit themselves into a tapestry that binds the two men together. Then the cosmic cat distribution system provides Isaac with a catnip-addicted orange kitty as the first step in building a life that's uniquely his own. With a little bit of growing and some help from Euclid, Luca and Isaac learn that something real is what you make of it, and with a little bit of elbow grease, the possibilities are as sturdy and as beautiful as their wildest dreams.

# Amy Lane

## Bowling for Turkeys

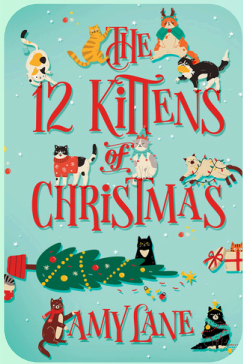


Milo Tanaka was *not* recovering from the mother of all breakups when his best friend barged into his home and gave him a dog. While Julia the dog doesn't like squirrels, cats, turkeys, other dogs, or most humans, at least she gets him out of bed.

When a tiny blond dog rockets out of nowhere to bark ferociously at Garth Potter's enormous Daniff, "the Chad," Garth is annoyed, but Chad simply woofs in Julia's face. But when Garth looks around for her irresponsible owner, he finds a fey panicky disaster desperately trying to keep his dog from getting eaten, and realizes Milo is simply new to dog ownership, not neglectful or cruel.

In fact, Milo is a *truly* decent guy, and he and his best friend have been struggling to find their footing in adulthood and relationships. As Garth befriends Milo and the irascible Julia, he finds himself entangled in Milo's broken heart and fractured life. As much as Garth wants to fix it, he knows that Milo has to fix it himself. With the holidays approaching, Milo realizes that a good relationship won't leave him isolated and afraid, but surrounded with friends, and that the key to thriving isn't just chasing the turkeys out of his life—it's letting a good man in.

# Amy Lane



## The 12 Kittens of Christmas

Killian Thornton likes his downtown life, tending bar, and enjoying time with his friends and community. He'd given up on passion long ago—he wasn't cut out for grand romance or dramatic gestures. Then one night, in a characteristic act of kindness, Killian offers his couch to help a friend's little brother find his feet in a new city, and everything Killian thought he knew about himself and his little life gets turned upside down.

Lewis Bernard, the funny, quirky guy happy to find a spot on Killian's couch, can't believe his luck. After being forced to flee his parents' house, he was afraid of what came next, but Sacramento seems to be treating him just fine. The stunningly handsome bartender who lives downstairs from his brother offers Lewis his couch and doesn't even balk when Lewis discovers two abandoned kittens in a vacant lot as they walk home.

Vet bills, cat food bills, litter boxes—none of it was on Killian's Christmas agenda, but he jumps in gamely to help because all the shelters seem to be full, and that's just the kind of guy Killian is. But kittens can multiply faster than rabbits, and Killian and Lewis accidentally rescue more and more cats.

Lewis starts to panic. He really wants to know Killian better, but with each act of kindness, Lewis falls further in love while ruining Killian's life. How can Killian find time to fall in love with Lewis and ask him to stay if they're inundated with destructive furry poop-machines who all seem to need a home before Christmas?



# Riley Long



My favorite holiday tradition is driving around the city looking at light displays on Christmas Eve.



## Coffee and Christmas Kisses

Can I get this city boy to take our relationship from decaf to full-bore espresso with whipped cream and sprinkles?

Asking the sexy stranger to be my fake boyfriend for a night is a no-brainer. He's only in town temporarily, after all. It'll be easy to convince my family we broke up as soon as he goes back to his super successful, high-powered career in the big city.

But Cole's version of being a fake boyfriend is better than any real boyfriend I've ever had. I didn't expect to fall for him, but it's too late now. And there's no way he'd be willing to stay in Silver Creek for a boring coffee shop owner.

My heart may never recover, but I can't make myself end things. I'm letting this fake relationship percolate as long as I can.

## Yuletide Wishes and Mistletoe Kisses



A winter storm heats up after a steamy kiss under the mistletoe.

People move in and out of apartments all the time. Yet when a smoldering hot lumberjack moves in next door less than a week before Christmas, I can't help but think of him as a gift just for me. He'll make a delicious distraction and rebound from my terrible ex. Mr. Next Door, the guy with a chronic case of wanderlust, seems like a perfect fit. When a blizzard kills the power to our building, we generate our own heat for Christmas Eve. When morning comes and the power returns, he leaves me behind, tangled in cold sheets instead of his warm embrace. Do I let him get away? Or take a chance that our fling could be the real thing?

# *Riley Long*

## His for the Holidays



Adam's had a crush on Mason since he was a teen. When Mason and Adam get snowed in at Adam's family cabin, sparks fly. Will Mason still look at Adam as his best friend's little brother, or will he finally see Adam as more than a friend?

# Meghan Maslow

MEGHAN MASLOW



WHERE MISFITS FIND THEIR FIT

My family tradition is to always bake my Great-Grandma Burger's Chopped Apple Cake—it's not the holidays without that cake!

## Cthulhu for Christmas



Six accidental tentacles, five naked neighbors, four evil mages, three ugly sweaters, two dead bodies, and one crush on my straight best friend . . .

Some things are simple fact: Santa Claus isn't real and magic doesn't exist. As a former foster kid turned cop, I know this for a fact. My life is anything but magical and Santa sure as hell never visited me as a kid.

Another fact in my life: I've been in love with Grey Criswel, my gorgeous—and straight—best friend, since we met. Unfortunately, he's not going to make my secret Christmas wish come true this year—or ever.

But before I know it, fact and fantasy are starting to get all mixed up. I thought I knew Old Bay Isle and its residents like the back of my hand. Now I'm dealing with a bunch of naked carolers refusing to put on their damn clothes and mysterious happenings at the lighthouse. Oh, and murder. Because what says happy holidays like a corpse at a Christmas tree farm?

Worse yet, I'm suddenly afflicted with an aquatic ailment of sorts. Namely—tentacles. Six of them to be exact. Attached. To. My. Back. They even have their own opinions. And they all agree they want Grey. Could he maybe want them—and me—back? Things are so topsy-turvy I'm starting to believe the impossible just might be possible because it turns out magic is real after all . . .

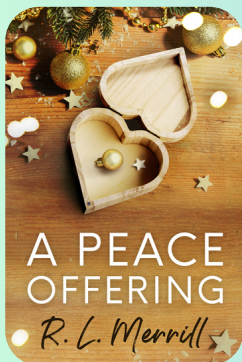
Cthulhu for Christmas features Zen King—a cop with a tentacular dilemma, a best friend with a closet full (heh) of secrets, a sharp-tongued former foster mom, a beaver for a roommate, found family, and a guaranteed happily-ever-after.

## *R.L. Merrill*



I love adopting a family to buy gifts for.

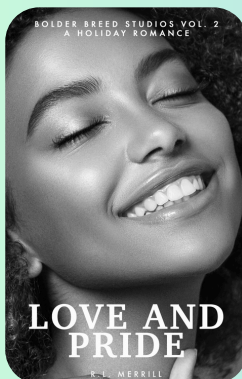
### A Peace Offering



Dover Billings has sold his handcrafted wares at the Dickens Fair in San Francisco for over twenty years. He's not as outgoing as the other artisans at this yearly Victorian celebration and prefers to observe the festivities from the shadows. That is until a new corset maker moves into the booth next door and unsettles his carefully constructed life. Landry Malcolm is handsome, well dressed, and the life of the party... one Dover wants no part of. Too bad he's attracted to his confident younger rival.

Landry desperately wishes to get through to the beautiful artist next door, but every move he makes seems to be the wrong one, until a drunken kiss breaks through Dover's serious demeanor. Miscommunications plague any attempts to find common ground, though, leaving Landry wondering what—if anything—he can do to make things right. Will a custom-made peace offering open the door to friendship, cooperation... and maybe more?

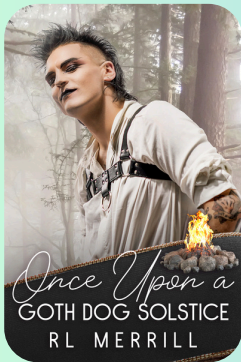
### Love and Pride



Popstar Unice Love is thrilled to be recording a high-profile holiday tune for charity, and super-producer Lydia Pride knows she can do something special with Love's exceptional vocal instrument. Sparks fly between the spirited ingenue and the seasoned musician, but Unice will need to get past the obstacles that have held her back and learn to speak up for what she wants, and Lydia will have to let her in if they're going to make beautiful music together.

# *R.L. Merrill*

## Once Upon a Goth Dog Solstice



Settling in the Bay Area after his stint in the Air Force, Doug Cross's new titles include business owner and member of a goth-punk band. And, apparently, professional do-gooder. When his housemate needs funds for her dog rescue, he willingly whips up goth-inspired dogwear to sell at a local craft fair. He gets a rather cool reception after offering a helping hand to their booth neighbor, however...which is a shame, because the bearded artist is the first man to turn Doug's head in a while.

Marine vet and single foster dad Luther Sorenson is struggling to keep his family afloat—and himself on his feet, literally. He's selling his paintings at the fair when his body betrays him, and he's forced to ask for help from the goth guy next door. Doug made a humiliating experience seem easy and innocuous, and despite their differing opinions on the military...Luther can't stop thinking about the charming man. His killer makeup skills and the way he rocks a kilt aren't helping.

The men embark on a tentative relationship, but as the seasons change, so do their circumstances. Navigating a new relationship is hard enough. Add in an adorable foster daughter, a new job, a business emergency, and a grumpy dog...and the two vets/artists will have to get creative if they want to carve out time for love.

*Once Upon A Goth Dog Solstice* is a part of the multi-author series *Once Upon a Holiday Story*. Each book can be read as a standalone and in any order. What links these books together is The Hook's Book Nook Traveling Library, a library on wheels owned by two old ladies in love.



# TA Moore



I love in equal measure unpacking the family Christmas ornaments that I have inherited from my grandparents to decorate my own tree, including a Santa that has been chewed by all our dogs and me as a baby, and the annual exposure of some terrible family secret over a glass of gin by an elder auntie!

## Company Ink

Don't get him wrong, Davy hadn't been thrilled to end up face-down in a shallow grave...but he'd not been surprised either. With the life he'd lived, and the work he did, it had always been a possibility. So he'd not been bothering to hold his breath—metaphorically speaking, being dead—for a chance to get his own back on his killer.

On the other hand, death was kind of boring...even for a mercenary who wore the stigmata of his sins as occasionally too-independent tentacles. So when someone opened a door to the living world for him he wasn't going to say no. He figured he could knock out the revenge in a couple of hours and then spend the rest of his time on this side of the Veil getting take-out, getting laid, and getting into fights. ... the order didn't matter.

Unfortunately, it turned out to be a bit more complicated than that. If Davy didn't know better, he'd have thought this whole set-up was the universe trying to get him to learn something.

All Hill had learned was that death wasn't what he'd expected. When he had opened the door to the afterlife he'd been prepared for winding sheets and bones, maybe a few chains. Not for the vengeful ghost to be a hot, dead man who'd mug him for his skin and bones. The tentacles had been a surprise too.

But then necromancy didn't come with an instruction booklet, or a restart button.

The deal had been struck, and the two of them would just have to make it work.

## Ghostwriter of Christmas Past



Ever since ghostwriter Jason Burke ended up in loco parentis for his orphaned niece, Mallory, he's been trying. He goes to parent/teacher events, and he makes packed lunches, so he definitely didn't *mean* to forget about Christmas. He just hasn't celebrated it since he left home under a cloud years ago.

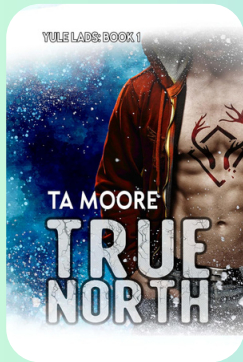
Put on the spot, Jason makes the snap decision to take Mallory to see where he and her father spent their Christmases as kids. The last thing he expects is to run into Tommy, his ex—ex-best friend, ex-boyfriend—who is still living in town... and working as a sheriff's deputy.

It's hard to avoid someone in a small town—and maybe Jason doesn't want to. He got Mallory a Christmas, and maybe now it's time to get himself a Christmas boyfriend.

But first, he owes Tommy some explanations.

# TA Moore

## True North



Despite what his co-workers say Belling, Montana paramedic Dylan Hollie does not hate Christmas.

It's just that as an ex-foster kid he learned early on that Christmas just didn't have much relevance to his life. He's seen no evidence since then that he's wrong.

That said, if Santa ever delivered a six-foot plus wall of hot muscle under his tree he'd be willing to reconsider. He's even sourced an available one locally in the taciturn Somerset North and his impossibly blue eyes.

So really, at this point the ball is in Santa's court.

There's just one problem. Well, just one to start with anyhow. The battered, dying man someone dumped from a height onto Dylan's car outside the Just-as-High, Somerset's bar. He gave Dylan an old, well-worn watch and begged him to keep it safe.

Now Christmas is relevant to Dylan's life in the worst way. The Winter Court has loosed their Wolves on the world and Dylan is on the run with Somerset North. A man who seems to know a lot more about what is going on than a Montana bar owner with exceptional shoulders should.

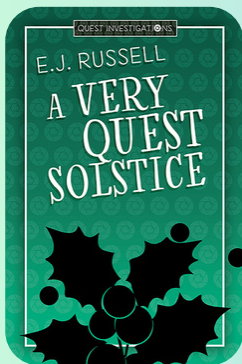
It turns out that Santa is missing, presumed dead. And the key to the hotly disputed succession crisis is a foster kid who never celebrated the season.

# *E.J. Russell*



On Thanksgiving or Christmas, our family picks one of the latest movie releases and goes to the first matinee of the day, something my Curmudgeonly Husband and I started back in 1984 on our first solo holiday season together (that movie was *Star Trek IV*, in case you were wondering...).

## A Very Quest Solstice



It's our first holiday together, and I'm determined to make it special for Lachlan. Only problem? I know zip about how selkies celebrate, so I don't even know which winter holiday to pick.

With Lachlan out on a fishing charter, I try to tease some suggestions from my friends, but they're surprisingly unhelpful. And when we get a tip about a Disappeared sighting, my opportunity for more research evaporates.

I guess I'll just have to improvise. Again.

Dammit.

The story is only available for purchase (ebook and audio, narrated by Greg Boudreaux) on E.J.'s website shop at the link above. However, the ebook version is also available for free to E.J.'s newsletter subscribers at <https://ejr.pub/news-from-ej>.

## An Everyday Hero



What's the land speed of the average scorpion?

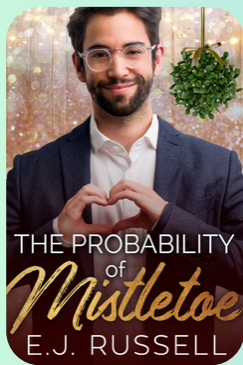
When Adam Tyler's sister announced she was pregnant, Adam decided to move from Portland, Oregon, to Phoenix, Arizona, to fully embrace the uncle experience. However, he didn't count on the move being delayed until three days before Christmas—and three days before his sister's due date. And he definitely didn't count on finding a scorpion in his bedroom. Cue the panicked calls to exterminators.

Garrett Strong doesn't consider himself at all remarkable—his ex certainly didn't think so—and Garrett's pest-control business is circling the drain. Although Adam is his first new client in months, that isn't the only reason Garrett goes above and beyond for him. He feels a real connection to the younger man and intends to do everything in his power to make sure Adam feels safe and welcome in Phoenix—venomous intruders notwithstanding.

*An Everyday Hero* is a short and sweet opposites-attract, age-gap rom-com featuring a fish-out-of-water geek (who still manages to get a bit soggy), a stand-up blue-collar guy (who can't see his own worth), unexpected additions to the holiday festivities (some less welcome than others), and more than one serious discussion about the true meaning of the word hero.

*E.J. Russell*

## The Probability of Mistletoe



When software engineer Keith Trainor decides to start his own company, he knows exactly who he wants as his partner: Parker Mulvaney, his best friend from high school. But in the ten years since graduation, their contact has dwindled to nothing, and it's all Keith's fault. If he hadn't tried to kiss Parker under the mistletoe at the winter formal their senior year, Parker wouldn't have bolted. At their ten-year reunion, Keith intends to do everything in his geeky power to make amends.

Parker should have known that scheduling the reunion the day before Christmas Eve was a recipe for a headache of monster proportions. But when Keith sends a text that he'll be attending, the evening doesn't look so bleak. Can an unnecessary makeover, a nostalgic breakfast, an abortive shopping trip, and dance invitations with only a 50 percent success rate culminate in a long-overdue first kiss?

The Probability of Mistletoe is a short and sweet opposites-attract, friends-to-lovers, second-chance rom-com featuring an awkward geek on a mission, a determined extrovert with a plan, interfering female relatives of various sizes, and a statistically improbable amount of mistletoe.



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