



Dear Santa

Nancy Naigle

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From *USA Today* bestselling author Nancy Naigle, *Dear Santa* is a heartwarming Christmas story about finding your passion for life and love.

Angela Carson wants nothing more than to be the third-generation to run her family's holiday store, Heart of Christmas, successfully. They've weathered over sixty tourist seasons, major hurricanes, and urban sprawl, in their old decommissioned lighthouse. But the national chain that set up shop in their small North Carolina town of Pleasant Sands may be more than Heart of Christmas can survive.

Encouraged by her niece to ask Santa for help, Angela gives in and lets the words fly in a way that, if Santa were real, would no doubt land her on the naughty list. What's the harm when it's just a computer-generated response?

Geoff Paisley has been at his mother's side running the mega-chain Christmas Galore for the last ten years. When his mother falls ill, Geoff promises to answer the town's Dear Santa letters in her stead. Soon he realizes the woman he's been corresponding with on Dear Santa is Angela. How could the woman that grates his every last nerve in person have intrigued him so deeply through those letters?

When Geoff reveals that he's her Dear Santa, will Angela be able to set aside their very public feud to embrace the magic of the holiday and possibly find true love?

Dear Santa Details

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From Reader Review Dear Santa for online ebook

Jaime Fiction Fangirls Book Review says

3.5 Stars

This was a festive, heartwarming story perfect for fans of Hallmark movies and wholesome, small town romances.

I enjoyed the story though, at times, it dragged a little bit for me. I love the whole “You’ve Got Mail” storyline but I tend to get frustrated that the characters can’t see the obvious signs pointing to who their secret pen-pal/online friend is. That’s more of a general irritation though and not a judgment on the authors storytelling.

Definitely pick this up if you’re looking for a light-hearted, low-angst read that will put you in the mood for the holiday season!

*I received an arc from NetGalley for voluntary review

Berit??? says

*Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year, so I am certain that I am on the nice list! All I want for Christmas is more time in every day to read all the fabulous books in the world! I also wouldn't mind a winning lottery ticket! Hope Mrs. Klos is being good to you, I will have the cookies waiting!
Thanks so much,
Berit*??*?
PS: give Rudolph a carrot from me!?*

This was a fun sweet holiday story reminiscent of the movie “You’ve Got Mail”... really the perfect book to put you in the festive mood... filled with letters to Santa, holiday cheer, hope, family, and love....

Angela loves running her family’s charming Christmas store... for three generations this lovely store has been a staple in the town with its unique location in the lighthouse... but now Angela’s livelihood has been threatened with the opening of the big box Christmas store “Christmas Galore”... determined to save her shop she has proclaimed war on all things Christmas Galore! After sending a letter to Santa with the encouragement of her niece, Angela begins a correspondence with whoever is on the other end of this app.... i’m sure you do not need to be a master detective to figure out who she is corresponding with!

This was a sweet, slow burning, enemies to lovers, Love story... Angela was such a likable character I absolutely loved her love for Christmas! It took me a while longer to warm up to Jeff the owner of Christmas Galore, but after a while he won me over.... this is just one of those fun feel good stories that puts a smile on your face and a festive feeling in your heart!

If you love a good Christmas story filled with holiday spirit this is a definite must!

*** A huge thank you to St. Martin’s Press for my copy of this book ***

Olivia Farr says

"Dear Santa" is really the Christmas version of "You've Got Mail"- they are very similar. Angela works at Heart of Christmas, a store in North Carolina that features handmade and one-of-a-kind items related to Christmas out of a former lighthouse. She inherited the store from her grandmother (she and her sister Marie came to live with her grandmother after their mother died and their father left), who had in turn inherited it. Angela loves the store- it's family and so much a part of her.

However, the giant Christmas Galore (think Christmas Tree Shops) has come to town with huge bargains. That store opening is the last push towards putting Heart of Christmas out of business. Angela is facing the reality of the future without the store in the center of her life, when she sees an attractive guy, who she soon learns is Geoff, the owner (with his mother) of Christmas Galore. Upon knowing who they are, they immediately begin verbally sparring. However, each cannot deny their attraction for each other.

Angela's niece Chrissy has a new app that she loves- Dear Santa, where you send an email to Santa- and he replies! Chrissy convinces Angela that she should write to the app, and with the urging/pushing of her sister Marie, Angela goes for it. To her surprise, the response is personal- not the automated replies Chrissy was getting. What she doesn't realize is that the app is owned by Christmas Galore and Geoff's mother has a filter to allow some submissions to come in and be responded to personally- and Geoff is humoring her by responding to some. As they get to know each other on email and separately in real life, things begin to change.

The vast majority of the book is in real life, and the emails between them are very limited, maybe a handful. I was expecting more emails between them with real life being secondary. This is definitely not the case. I didn't really feel the connection through the emails that they both seemed to feel- their real life relationship was definitely taking the helm. Aside from that, the links between the movie and this book are vast (even the sick scene!). As a fan of the movie, I enjoyed reading the book, and it was entertaining enough that I didn't mind feeling like I had read it before. If you don't like the movie, don't read this book- but if you loved the movie and love Christmas reads, then you MUST pick this one up!

At the beginning of each chapter, we got to read a letter to Santa from a child to the app or a factoid about the town that Angela writes on the board outside the shop each day. I loved this part of the book- particularly the letters to Santa. In terms of the characters, Geoff had to grow on me- I didn't like him at first, but I loved Angela from the get-go. Geoff's mother was also great and I would have loved more from her (except, I still don't understand why she never told him about his father- it just didn't make sense to me). Marie, Angela's sister, was really terrible- highly judgmental and overpowering- I would have preferred to see Angela having a little support from family (what support is given felt a bit begrudging)- I like to see strong sister relationships! However, the main characters were great, and Geoff/Angela really sold me on the romance by the end of the book (it's a slow build).

Overall, this is a fun Christmas twist on "You've Got Mail," and it really got me in a Christmas mood! As a final note, it's a really clean book with a very slow build relationship, so it's great for all audiences. This would be perfect for a Hallmark movie!

Please note that I received an ARC from the publisher through netgalley. All opinions are my own.

Judy says

This the first book I have read by Nancy Naigle. I am so happy to find a new author! I read the summary of the story and after reading that it was similar to the movie “You’ve Got Mail” I thought I would really enjoy this book. My feelings were so true. The basic storyline is very similar, in that the couple meeting in person do not get along, but as hidden identities in emails, they connect well.

Angela owns and operates Heart of Christmas, an upscale Christmas store that has been in her family for generations. The store has been struggling to stay afloat. She is trying to come to terms with closing the store, which she has worked in since a young child and finding a new direction for the rest of her life.

Christmas Galore is a new superstore that opened in town and it sells all things cheaply made – especially made in China; beach towels to artificial Christmas trees. Geoff and his mom own this superstore and several others.

Angela and Geoff first eye each other and are attracted. Then comes the conflict of their businesses, that mean so much to them. The story unfolds and is fun to experience.

The book is very easy to read and it flows in a good pace. The characters are very well developed and I feel like I know and care about them. The location is described in such detail that I wish I could visit Pleasant Sands, North Carolina.

Each section begins with a letter to Santa, which I thought was a heart-melting touch. Some were funny and some a bit sad. Even though I read this book in August, it makes me feel like Christmas is around the corner.

Many types of relationships were explored in the book: sisters, husband/wife, long-time friends, mother/son, mother/daughter. All of the relationships were realistic and written exceptionally well. The core story was a romance but there were many plots revolving throughout, which made the book a page-turner.

This book would make a fantastic Hallmark Holiday movie!

I want to thank St Martin’s Press for giving me the ARC of this book and introducing me to this author, Nancy Naigle. I am so happy to find her books and wanted to write a review in hopes others will discover her also.

The Lit Bitch says

It’s November first and I am in full holiday mode. I’m on of those obnoxious people that starts decorating and shopping for Christmas immediately following Halloween.

I started my holiday reading a little early this year (normally I wait until after Halloween) since there were a lot of holiday books coming out. This is one that I had my eye on, mostly because it sounded like it was going to be an epistolary novel.

This book did have a lot of letter components and it reminded me of “You’ve Got Mail”. I have seen a number of other reviewers also draw the same comparison. It was almost impossible for me to not draw a similar conclusion as it is a lot like the film, but it has it’s own uniqueness which I think readers will still enjoy. It is a sweet, quintessential holiday romance. There is a lovable main character, with a romance that turns enemies into lovers throughout the course of the holiday season.

For a Christmas romance, I was impressed by the character development. Sometimes with holiday reads it’s so much more about the holiday feel and less about the characters themselves. But with this book, I found that the author took time building their back stories and lives and I found that I just loved Angela, and Geoff was a great romantic interest for her.

I loved the enemies to lovers trope in this book. This is a favorite trope of mine so perhaps that’s why I was partial to this romance. The story itself matched with the romance trope worked brought the magic of the holiday season together. This was a charming novel full of romance and Christmas cheer. I was relieved that it wasn’t overly sappy, but just the right amount of magic that makes the Hallmark Movies such a Christmas time staple.....it’s a balanced novel with strong characters and I enjoyed reading this one and getting into the holiday spirit!

Lastly, this cover is perfection. I loved the letters in red and green so much. The garland around the cover is a nice touch as well. If you love holiday covers then this is the cover you have been waiting for.....it looks just like a Hallmark card!

See my review here

Liina says

Angela owns and runs a holiday store called Heart of Christmas, it's been in their family for generations and she wants to continue with that, but unfortunately the store is doing very well and she might have to close it. There's also a new store in town called Christmas Galore, where things are sold cheaper and it attracts more people in. The new store is owned by Geoff and his mom. Geoff's mom answers to Santa letters via e-mail, but when she falls ill, Geoff answers them himself. Angela's niece convinced her to use the app and she writes to Santa as well. At first they don't know who the other is, but when it comes out, will they have a chance for love?

It was a sweet holiday novel, I adored those Santa letters at the beginning of the chapters. It was a well written story with great characters and I'd recommend it for people who like holiday contemporary romances.

Heidi says

Three stars: A holiday book that borrows too heavily from You’ve Got Mail.

Angela Carson is doing everything she can to save her Christmas store. Christmas Galore is a small, upscale boutique that has been in her family for three generations. The little store resides in an old lighthouse, and it is packed full of unique Christmas goods. Disaster strikes when Christmas Galore moves into the small coastal town with all of its cheap merchandise and big sales. Angela is sick at the thought of losing her

business. At Thanksgiving, Angela's young niece implores her to write an online letter to Santa. Angela agrees and fires off an email, not realizing that she might get an actual reply. Meanwhile, Geoff Paisley is new in town. He is the co owner of the mega chain store. When his mother falls ill, Geoff finds himself tasked with writing the Dear Santa emails, not suspecting that he will end up writing to the one woman who can't stand him. Will a holiday miracle occur?

What I Liked:

*Dear Santa started out cute and fun, and I enjoyed the holiday vibe. I am a huge fan of You've Got Mail, and this one borrows heavily from the classic tale. If you want a Christmas story that is reminiscent of the classic movie, give this one a try.

*I loved Angela's Christmas Store. The Heart of Christmas oozes charm and cozy with it's lighthouse setting to it's collectible, one of a kind decorations. I especially loved the history and the familial connection to the store. I so wanted the little store to succeed.

*I adored the small coastal setting. Pleasant Sands, North Carolina is a little town situated on the beach. This is a town where the people look out for one another and they have each other's backs when times are tough.

*I liked that this book was about change. I enjoyed watching Angela evolve and grow as she came to terms with her situation. Instead of wallowing in self pity, she puts on her big girl panties and finds her way. I was proud of her.

*The book ends with a nice happily ever after Epilogue. I was pleased with the way things settled out and happy for Angela.

And The Not So Much:

*I adore You've Got Mail, but I found this one borrowed too heavily from the movie. There were some lines that were practically lifted from the original, such as the whole scene about daisies. Seriously, it is okay to retell a tale but be a little more ingenious instead of borrowing heavily.

*Geoff was a character who I never connected with. He never felt genuine, and I didn't think he was likable. Most of the time, I felt like he was a phony. I did not buy him as a love interest, he ruined the read for me.

*There is this secondary plot regarding Geoff's mother. This story line was prominent early on and that it was abandoned. I needed more of the mother angle. What was the deal with her and her friend Virgil? What was going on with her health? It bothered me that this part of the story was dropped.

*The emails were cheesy and unrealistic. I thought the email exchange was ridiculous, and it is obvious right away whom they were writing to even though they didn't clue in.

*I wanted something different for Christmas Galore. I was hoping the town would pitch in and come together.

Dear Santa was a book I wanted to love, but unfortunately I felt like it borrowed too heavily from You've Got Mail. The love interest was a big fizzle, and I was disappointed that certain aspects of the story were completely abandoned. This did have some holiday cheer and it was a pleasant story, but I wanted better.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own, and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

Carrie says

Dear Santa by Nancy Naigle is a contemporary romance that is of course set at Christmas time. Told by

alternating the point of view between the characters this one reminds me a bit of You've Got Mail the holiday version.

Angela Carson inherited her shop, Heart of Christmas, from her grandmother and doesn't want to admit that after being in the family for generations she is struggling. When a new big box store moves into the small town, Christmas Galore, it may just be the last nail in the coffin for Heart of Christmas. To satisfy her young niece Angela writes a letter to Santa asking his opinion on what to do to try to save the store.

Geoff Paisley runs Christmas Galore along with his elderly mother who is having problems with her heart. While his mother is in the hospital she asks Geoff to take over answering the Dear Santa letters that has been her project for years. Geoff doesn't understand why his mother is so adamant to giving personal replies but when he comes across Angela's plea he finds himself drawn to her despite knowing she blames his store for the troubles with her business.

Dear Santa was a cute holiday romance with plenty of festive content to set the mood of the story. The main couple obviously clash in person but share a spark when they don't know who they are writing. Both Angela and Geoff were very likable apart from one another obviously sharing their love for their shops and their families so it was just a matter of time to bring them together. Definitely think those looking for a sweet holiday read will enjoy this one.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

Bette Hansen says

Fantastic! A Hallmark holiday movie in a book. Angela Carson has been working hard to keep her family's Christmas shop up and running but when a big box Christmas store opens in town it's the final blow and she's afraid the end is near. To add insult to injury Geoff Paisley is the most arrogant, infuriating and, darn it, attractive man she's ever met. He's also the head of the big box monster. Now not only does she have to come to terms with the fact that she'll need to close her beloved store but she has to see Geoff all over town.

Don't miss this wonderfully written, sweet holiday read. I highly recommend it.

Madison Warner Fairbanks says

Dear Santa by Nancy Naigle

Anita and Geoff are business rivals. They are also immensely attracted to each other. You feel their connection throughout the story and hope it works out. You've Got Mail holiday romance in a beach town deep with history. Charming and delightful.

The Santa letters as chapter headers were adorable. Sometimes funny, some sad. I often thought about what my reply would be. The Pleasant Sands history chapter headers were well thought out and made the town real.

A wonderful holiday romance.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley. I also purchased a copy to share.

Julie says

Guest review for Harlequin Junkie. <https://www.harlequinjunkie.com>

Amy says

I know I'm not the only one who loves the slightly cheesy movies the Hallmark Channel plays in the run up to Christmas, right?! There's something so sweet and innocent about them, yes they're predictable but there is comfort in predictability and they provide such a great escape from real life. If you're a fan of those kind of movies then you have got to read this book, I just know it'll show up on that channel eventually and it's perfect for fans of holiday romances.

The first thing I heard about this one was that it was a holiday retelling of the movie You've Got Mail and all I could think was yeessssss! It definitely draws on inspiration from the movie but is it's own unique version and was adorable in it's own way. Angela and Geoff have the whole enemies to romance thing going on and their bickering was honestly probably one of my favorite aspects of this. Another thing I enjoyed was that each chapter began with either a Dear Santa letter or a fact about the town of Pleasant Sands and in an era where most chapters are just numbered I found this to be a sweet touch.

Recommended as an ideal holiday read and one that will sweep you away for a few hours, it's uncomplicated and cute but the characters still show depth. It was my first book by Naigle but won't be my last, and I just checked and two of her other books are already Hallmark movies so I'm off to set my DVR haha!

Dear Santa in three words: Whimsical, Cheery and Bright.

Patrice says

This is the second one of Nancy Naigle's books that I have read. So far, I just love her stories. This is well written and the flow/pace is "spot-on". It left me with that "good feeling" when I finished. There are often have common social issues addressed in her stories, along with some romance thrown in. I feel that they center around family and then touch on current issues in today's society.

Our story begins on Thanksgiving day and we learn that Angela is about to lose her family business in a small South Carolina coastal beach town. She is heartbroken over it. We take the journey with her as she goes through the five/seven stages of grieving. Her sister, brother-in-law, and niece are all there for her in differing degrees (obviously). Knowing that the family store is on it's "last legs" and then having a Christmas superstore come into town is "the straw that breaks the camels back". Angela sees them as the enemy and takes her hurt and anger out on the manager; when she meets him accidentally.

I did receive an uncorrected galley of this book through Net Galley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Mackey says

We all have written that proverbial "Dear Santa" letter at least sometime in our lives. It's a letter where children pour out their hearts to Santa and ask, okay beg, for all of their wishes to come true on Christmas morning. In **Dear Santa**, a very adult Angela, through the encouragement of her adorable niece, writes such a letter using an online app. It is Angela's last hope for her failing business.

Angela's only goal in life was to successfully run her family's business, a Christmas store set in an old lighthouse that had been in her family for three generations. She was raised by the side of her grandmother, Grace, who had carried on the business started by her mother, Mackey. Yep, that's right, Mackey. (I have to tell you that I never have read a book that included a female Mackey who has the same spelling as mine, so already you know that I am hooked on this story, right?) However, Angela's rather old fashioned values of not connecting to social media, rarely used advertising and her staunch ideas about selling high end merchandise rather than affordable kitsch, have led to the downfall of her business. The final nail in the store's coffin comes when a chain store marketing cheap goods, a lot of flair and advertising and hoopla, move in across the street from her. In her angst, Angela agrees to write to "Santa" for help. Little does she realize that the "Santa" on the other side of the app is the owner of the new mega-store. The result is classic romance: enemies by day, confidants by night via the "Dear Santa" app.

Dear Santa is a classic holiday romance with the couple hating each other and then, through a series of holiday "miracles" realizing how much they love each other. In this case, the story line reminded me a bit of the sweet movie, "You've Got Mail," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. I loved that movie and I absolutely adored this book! The writing is very well done, never too over-the-top and the characters are beautifully developed. Because I own a small business in a small town and see how my fellow townspeople struggle to walk the fine line between quality, quantity, nostalgia and the ever changing way that we do business in the 21st century, this book - Angela specifically - truly resonated with me. I could feel her heartbreak as well as her hope. Admittedly, I didn't care for Angela's sister or even Geoff, the mega store owner, at least until about mid-way of the book, but again, that was part of the story and the strong emotions that I felt were the result of very good writing on Naigle's part.

You already know that I love holiday tales and, if you're like me and holiday reading is your thing, then I am sure you will love **Dear Santa** as much as I did.

You can find the book today at your local retailers, Amazon and, hopefully, your local library! Enjoy!

Dianne says

My Rating: 3 Stars

Remember the magic of writing to Santa, secure in the knowledge that he could grant every wish you had? **DEAR SANTA** by Nancy Naigle is the story of the magic of Christmas, Santa and discovering that as one door closes, another one opens.

A small town, a landmark Christmas store in trouble and a new chain store coming to town to further cement its demise are the backdrop for two competitors to meet, bristle at and find unexpected romance and a chance for a new beginning.

I was disappointed after reading the blurb and it's comparison to a much loved movie. (By the way, I hate comparisons, let something stand on its own, already!) This tale was more about one woman's bitterness and one man's cold, financial calculations than the spirit of Christmas and the real magic of the season. My favorite character ended up being the young niece whose firm belief in Santa was simply magical in itself!

The dialogue was heavy, cumbersome and repetitive to me so I didn't get that special zing of Holiday Romance beauty that I look forward to all year long!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from St. Martin's Press!

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