



Decked with Holly

Marni Bates

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Smartly blending of-the-moment pop culture references and timeless themes, Bates follows her YA debut, "Awkward", with a hilarious, over-the-top adventure about a teen girl who becomes the fake girlfriend of a cute rock star.

Taking a Christmas cruise with her two cousins from hell isn't Holly's idea of a good time. And when seasickness forces her into an open suite, she's pepper-sprayed by a gorgeous guy called Nick. But when Holly makes her exit, she's greeted by a horde of screaming teenage fans. Because Nick happens to be Dominic Wyatt, drummer for one of the hottest bands in America. Suddenly rumours are swirling and Holly's face is plastered all over the Internet. The band can't risk a scandal destroying their family-friendly image, so Dominic convinces Holly to be his fake girlfriend - just for two weeks. How bad could it be to be "fauxmantly" involved with a cute rock star? She's about to find out...

Decked with Holly Details

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Author : Marni Bates

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From Reader Review Decked with Holly for online ebook

Holly says

A fun teen, holiday read. And honestly, how can you not like a book with a cute main character named Holly? :)

Olivia (The Candid Cover) says

Review to come!

Brigid says

Super cute. I really enjoyed this one. I'm behind deadline, but I still couldn't put it down. Made me laugh out loud several times. Definitely worth picking up a copy!

Cait • A Page with a View says

All of the girl hate, slut-shaming, and generally unpleasant cliche teen characters were straight up annoying at best.

Natalie says

What a cute, Christmassy, fake romance! I love ya fake romances anyway, but this one was especially cute as it was set at Christmas!

There was plenty of humor and I liked the alternating viewpoints. Both Holly and Dominic were fun to read about, and their meet cute was super funny (and kind of gross at the same time).

Plotwise, it's very similar to When It's Real, and I think I liked that one more, but this was still really really good!!!!

Kailia says

Originally reviewed on my blog Reading the Best of the Best.

When I first read Marni Bates other novel, Awkward, I fell in love with her characters and plot and how the book actually made me laugh. When I was given the chance to go on a blog tour for her new book, Decked

with Holly, I eagerly joined. I wasn't sure what to expect but let me tell you: I wasn't expecting to stay up late finishing this book!

For starters, I loved Holly. She was awkward and weird and loved to draw. She loved her grandfather to bits and while she had some mean family members, she always kept her head up. While Holly could have easily been a girl I didn't care for (she complains a lot), Marni Bates wrote her to be more charming and funny than I expected. Dominic aka Nick was also a guy I loved. While I wish both of the characters acted closer to their ages (18 and 21), it wasn't something that bugged me too much. Surprisingly, Nick made me laugh too and I grinned when the ending came! It was also exciting to see (well hear) from character's I loved in Awkward!

As I said about the age, I do wish the writing had been more...advanced? Having read Awkward, I was aware of the author's writing and while I had hoped her writing would change a bit, it didn't seem to happen. While it wasn't the biggest issue, it went along the lines of simply wanting more from the story. It was only 250 pages but I think had a been a little longer, more of the character personalities could have been fleshed out. But that's about all the bad things about this book!

Marni Bates scores again with another excellent book. Decked with Holly is a book that will make you laugh and sigh and even roll your eyes at times. It's a book that you just need to read because sometimes, you need a good laugh!

Dóri says

I had mixed feelings throughout. Both of the main characters annoyed me a lot at some parts, at others I kinda liked them.. Towards the end it started to get better I guess but it still had some annoying parts.

I guess YA romance is not really for me anymore, however, sometimes I need this kind of a book.. fluffy contemporary teen romance, easy-to-read... It's 1am, so no.. I can't really form sentences at this point, so this review will have to do, sorry.

Jenifer says

Super adorable bookclub selection. Light hearted, quick to read and it felt just like watching a Hallmark movie. I loved the back and forth narratives between Nick and Holly. Just wish that the ending had been a little more. It felt suddenly rushed and then bam it was over. Two more chapters would have been good.

Cecelia says

I love the holidays. The gifting, decorating, music (some of it, anyway), the baking, the parties and the sparkles – I love all of it. I read holiday-themed stories, too, both in-season and out. Some of them are good, some are terrible, and a few fall into mediocre territory. While Marni Bates' Decked with Holly had a stellar recommendation and a happily-ever-after at Christmastime, it did not deliver that other important element I look for in contemporary YA – a plausible, enjoyable story.

Heroine Holly is that non-endangered species, the YA cliché (she's *ahem* an orphan). She also has evil

stepsisters, a doting but largely absent grandfather, low self-esteem, naïveté, and she is pulled into crazy situations by her best friend Jen. Did I mention that she's poor? And her cousins call her Orphan Annie. I could go on, really. Dominic Wyatt, her supposed foil, is a rock star a la Justin Bieber or One Direction, and he just wants a break. What is absolutely amazing (read: sarcasm) is that he has no entourage and a pretty non-existent family as well, which makes convenient and possible his availability on the same cruise as poor girl Holly. Throw in some seasickness, some rabid fans and a large contingent of paparazzi (again, how?!), and you've got the makings of YA as wish fulfillment, sans charm or cohesion.

As I alluded to above, what bothered me most about the story was its deadly combo of cliché and implausibility. I can appreciate a light, cute story with famous characters (see: Epic Fail, Jenna & Jonah's Fauxmance). However, when the plot has gaping holes, the characters seem to be made of cardboard, and there are no real surprises or obstacles to overcome or character development to be had, it's time to reevaluate.

What did I like, then? Well, I like Christmas. I've never considered going on a 'real' vacation over a holiday (except for that one time when I was in Spain for a semester... does that count?), but the setting of Christmas on a cruise ship was interesting. I also thought that the characters had decent chemistry, even if their dialogue and interactions wouldn't win any awards. And that is pretty much it.

Recommended for: those with an incurable desire for fluffy Christmas romances, and fans of Rachel Hawthorne's *Snowed In* or *Love on the Lifts*.

Laurence R. says

3.5/5

This kept me up much later than I should've, but it was pretty awesome.

It's such an amazing book to read around Christmas (or anytime, when you're like me). It takes place on a cruise during winter break and it has a very charming rock star, which makes it the perfect cutesy novel.

I liked the plot of this story, even though it's not exactly an original one. It shows a realistic side of celebrity and I thought seeing Holly pushed into this was really interesting. Her ability to act whenever she had to made me laugh and surprised me a lot, because she's surprisingly good. The rumors created by her relationship with Nick were as impossible as the ones I read sometimes, so it was nice to have an insight on the celebrity life for once.

The thing I disliked about this book was probably Holly's character, because she was just horrible sometimes. As someone who's very nice and sweet, I do like to read about sassy characters who say everything they want, but when characters just say mean things for fun, it's just something I can't understand or appreciate. Nick was all but nice to her sometimes, but she would get all her claws out and act as though he had just told her that he wanted her dead. Obviously, she becomes nicer as the story goes, but at first, I couldn't stand it. She crossed the line between sassy and bitchy, at least in my opinion.

In the end, this was a pleasant book, although not one of my favourites.

Becca Winter says

I would have liked a more substantial ending, maybe an epilogue or an interview or something, but a sweet story nevertheless. Holly reminded me of myself in many ways (slight tummy roll, Jewish nose) so it was really nice to read a book where someone like her, like me, finds someone who likes them for who they are inside and out since I'm extremely self conscious about both physical characteristics I share with Holly.

Melissa Griffith says

The female narrator was quite... Chipmunk. But, ridiculously cute, and perfect for the holiday season. ?

Marina Adair says

Perfect stocking stuffer!

Seriously, you should buy this book! It is fresh and funny and had me laughing nonstop.

I devoured it in one sitting. It is a great spin-off of Bates' first book AWKWARD, following Dominic Wyatt, the drummer for the band ReadySet, although she takes a nice departure and gives us both the hero and heroine's POV, which makes for some great dramatic irony. Holly is funny and sarcastic and doesn't take any of Nick's rock-star BS.

It brilliant begins with Holly decking Santa and ends with the perfect HEA, with plenty of zany and funny moments filling up the middle, especially the bathroom scene. Another great novel from Bates!

Amy (Turn the Page) says

Was hoping for a cute romance to make me smile.

Unfortunately the guy was too boring and the girl far too annoying.

Juhina says

3.5/5 stars

Decked with Holly is another cute read from Marni Bates. In this novel, we've got Holly Dayton, a 17 year old orphan who lives with her grandfather. For Christmas, her grandfather decides to take her as well as his other daughter's family on an 8 day cruise to Mexico. Her aunt, along with her two daughters, are typical bullies masked in designer clothes, calorie counting, and makeup. In other words, the cruise is an 8 day

vacation in hell. To Holly's delight, and Dominic's misfortune, they get photographed together while she was leaving his room after getting using his bathroom to rid herself of her seasickness.

This is when the story really moves. Dominic is a member of the band ReadySet. If you've read Awkward by Marni Bates then you'll remember him from there. The tabloids accuse him of hitting this mystery woman (Holly), and in order to kill the rumors he strikes a deal with her to be his fake-girlfriend. From here on out, we all know the direction the novel will take, even the misunderstandings that occur on whether the behavior of the other person is for the cameras or there is some hint of real feelings behind it. Since this novel is told from both Holly and Dominic's POVs you get to see how each one of them really feels and you just want to smack them and tell them to just get on with it and get together already. While the back and forth banter between Dominic and Holly was very cute and resulted in a ton of funny situations, I just hoped we spent more time with them really talking or just any awkward situations to occur because staying in the same suite as your fake-boyfriend or fake-girlfriend HAS to cause some red-face inducing situations right? I also really wanted to know how Dominic did with his new venture of lyric writing. He's also known as the Drummer of ReadySet but he took this vacation to write and relax. I've read the beginning of one of his lyrics and it sounded fun! I hoped that Bates gave us a bit more on what happened with the song he composed and how it was received by his bandmates and management.

The ending of Decked With Holly is predictable, but that's something to expect from a contemporary romance genre. While throughout reading the novel I found myself skipping a few descriptive paragraphs here and there and wanting to read more dialogue between the characters, I really did enjoy it. Decked With Holly, in my opinion, wasn't as enjoyable as Awkward, however it was an overall great novel that I am sure fans of Marni Bates and cute contemporary novels in general wouldn't want to miss out on!
