



Christmas Comes to Main Street

Olivia Miles

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The mistletoe is out, and the gloves are off . . .

'Tis the worst season to be single, but Kara Hastings won't let a little Christmas funk spoil the festive season. Sure, running her own bakery is a little harder than she expected, but she can handle it. And she'll prove it to a certain infuriatingly handsome, bossy Big City guy. She may be sugar and spice, but she can kick his butt twice.

Nate Griffin is in Briar Creek only for the holidays, and he refuses to fall for the whole "small town, candy cane-scented Christmas Wonderland" thing. He's more interested in the fresh-faced cookie chef who always knows exactly how to get under his skin. So when Nate challenges Kara in the town's big holiday contest, it's not just the competition that starts to heat up. If he's not careful, Kara won't just melt his icy resolve against a small-town Christmas . . . she'll melt his heart too.

Christmas Comes to Main Street Details

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Author : Olivia Miles

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From Reader Review Christmas Comes to Main Street for online ebook

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

Much to my surprise this year, the Christmas spirit hit me very early so I have been happily inhaling all the Christmas-themed books I can fit into my schedule and I was really looking forward to this from the teasers about Kara in the previous book. The end result was mixed feelings for me and I'll tell you why.

Kara Hastings knows what it's like to be considered a flake. After a history of being unable to stick with anything, the time has come for her to show Briar Creek that she's found something that she loves. As a bold step, she quit her job and poured her inheritance from her father into her new bakery and while it's a lot of work, she loves what she is building. But this holiday season is especially tough because of the memories of her father and also the fact that she's now the only single person among her coupled-up friends.

The last place Nate Griffin expects to find himself in during the holidays is Briar Creek, but there he is, coerced into spending time with his aunt. To his surprise, there is an upside - the town baker Kara and he finds himself wanting to get to know her better. Even though their first meeting was not the best, things could surely only get better.

Kara was my favorite part of this book because she embodies everything to love about the season. She had a dream and had the courage to bring it to life. She was determined to make a success of her dream and even in the face of skepticism from her family and friends, she just kept on which was admirable. Her pride in her accomplishments shone through and her love for her father was undeniable.

Nate on the other hand was Ebenezer Scrooge come to life. He was annoying, period. He just didn't want to relax and enjoy himself. He may have had good intentions, but his delivery was bad and it doesn't really matter to me that he came around in the end. It was too little, too late. I was actually so upset about him that my original review was a full out rant and it took some time to get a better perspective to write this one.

I have enjoyed this series very much and while this wasn't the best for me, I think Kara and the town of Briar Creek made it worth reading.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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Vi~Inkvotary says

Inkvotary

So, the time for this challenge is over and I am now allowed to post my review.

This was my first book written by the author. And for sure not the last. Good, I might not be over the moon with this, but it was very entertaining and great for a cozy afternoon read.

This book was a wonderful Christmas read. But why on earth had the author to write every few pages about why Kara was still single and why Nate had a huge problem with Christmas? I don't mind getting told details from the past a figure obviously had, but that often? As if the author doesn't believe that her readers can remember.

Despite that, I really had a good time while reading Christmas coming to Main Street. The language is sensitive, sometimes very emotional and all the snow and Christmas decoration was quite nice. Well, good, I am not that much of a Christmas decorator, when it comes to my own four walls, but in this novel, it kind of fit. And with that competition coming up, the participating figures had quite something to do, to get everything ready in time.

And Olivia Miles knows how to bring the daily life of a small town a few weeks before Christmas alive. The only thing I missed was the snowflake-cookie-recipe. After reading so much about them in almost every chapter, I was expecting the recipe at the end of the book – nope, wasn't there. Sad, but reality. At least in the German edition.

Oh my gosh. Molly! What a fretful girl. She is obviously used to get everything she wants, when she wants and the way she wants. But is she asking her elder sister once if she can help her? Nope. Instead she does everything to make things worse. She can eat lots of cookies, oh yes, as if there's no tomorrow. But helping bake them or do something else for her elder sister? Not gonna happen. Grrr, not my girl, not at all.

Kara on the other hand is a woman who must learn some things the hard way. She can't say no, to almost nobody and that gets her into a serious time-problem. And then the fact that she obviously has absolutely no clue about account stuff or pricing. She stands every day for hours in her bakery to create all the sweet things she is selling. Can't say no to her mother but on the other hand her mother is not encouraging her with her shop or her passion for cookies.

If you are looking for an easy to read Christmas novel with wonderful created characters and a white setting then this is your book.

Sabrina says

Full disclosure, I am not a Christmas person. I hate the stupid songs that play incessantly on the radio, the decorations that 88% of the time look ridiculous, and of course I dread the family dinners. But while reading this book I was in such a Christmas mood and just had a genuinely happy time learning all about these characters. You're probably asking yourself why I even read a holiday book if I don't like the holiday's but I fell in love with this town and didn't want to miss out on Kara finding her happiness.

I loved that her character changed for the better and started to stand up to her family more than she did before. I was a little worried that she would continue letting them control her life and do whatever they

wanted her to, but that wasn't the case. It took some time but she became a pretty tough woman by the end of this book and I really enjoyed seeing her get more confidence in not only herself, but her bakery that was her biggest dream.

I adored Nate and thought he and Kara were the perfect couple. I just knew that there two different personalities was going to make for some interesting times, and I was right. He wasn't in the holiday spirit as much as Kara and the rest of the town was but he still brought a lot of cheeriness to the story that I enjoyed.

Overall, I highly recommend this book and the series. If I, a self-proclaimed Christmas hater, can get in the holiday spirit while reading this book, then it can cheer up anyone that reads it. I already can't wait to see what the author has in store for us with this town but I know it's going to be something great.

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review.

Mona says

First this is an amazing series. The 5th book in A Briar Creek Novel Series. Love in a small town.

As Kara Hastings follows her dreams on opening her bakery Sugar and Spice, and she's confident in her baking skills. But she's also new to business ownership. She wants to succeed. Plus make her dad happy and proud. It was also for him after his passing she did this.

It's just when she meets Nate Griffin he does something to her insides.

He makes her mad, and he makes her feel special.

Nate Griffin comes to Briar Creek for a visit to see his Aunt Maggie. It soon turns out to be a lot more. Old feelings are brought up by his Aunt, and a beautiful women. They're from two different worlds.

He let's one thing his aunt tells him about her keep her at an arms length. Well that's until he knows the truth. He misjudged her and feels like a fool.

It's Christmas time and so much going on in town. A contest held every year which can help two women Nate cares so deeply for.

A bittersweet book. Love, loss, dreams and goals. What matters most?

Money as they say can't buy love.

Highly recommend:/ Also the first four. Puts you in a Christmas mood every time.

TBR Released 9/27/16

Monique says

Review written: September 21, 2016

Star Rating: ★★☆☆

Heat Rating: ?????

An Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) of this book was received free via Netgalley for an honest review.

I've been meaning to give Olivia Miles' Briar Creek series a try for ages now so when I saw this on Netgalley I jumped at the chance to give it a whirl. And I am so glad I did!

Christmas Comes to Main Street is book 5 in the series so there is obviously a lot I have missed and sometimes I wondered how Kara came across in the other books. I felt she was very sympathetic in her own book, but there were hints that she might have played fast and loose with friends in previous books, especially since she is supposedly the flibbertigibbet who can't settle down and stick with anything.

If she was in those books, then she redeemed herself beautifully here. If she wasn't and she just felt like the screw up, then she grew out of that and proved something to herself. Either way, Kara was a fun and sweet character who was determined to succeed at her dream. I liked her sass but also her fear, her struggles to deal with her Mom and her disappointment with love.

Nate had the more powerful character arc, I think, but it was a bit cliched. He had to learn to ease up, take time to smell the roses, and figure out it was not all about the money. In fairness, I totally got why he was all about the money - a lack of a sense of security because of his childhood. I think his views of his parents needed to be re-adjusted into adult thinking but I totally got the little boy in him resenting it all. And I loved how his aunt manipulated him into coming to Briar Creek.

I loved how Kara, Nate's aunt, and one heck of a contest reawakened the magic and wonder of the season for Nate. I thought Kara's entry into the competition was the coolest thing and so in keeping the the sense of holiday in the book.

Overall, this is a frothy and sweet holiday confection (yes, complete with peppermint, Nate) and very enjoyable.

This review is ©September 2016 by Monique N. and has been posted to Netgalley.

Heather C says

This is my first Olivia Miles book and I have to say that it was quite the surprise. This is a small town Christmas romance book that is full of all of the craziness that a small town offers.

I like how hard working Kara is and although I could see her struggling with how much work it is and being a one woman show, I could see the determination and will to continue to improve her dream. Not only does she run a store front bakery alone, she seems to be the sole baker that supplies the town with everything.

Nate comes into Kara's life at one of the worst times. She's tired and she's on a deadline and he messes that up. From that point on, the two of them are constantly running into each other. Sometimes by chance. Sometimes by coincidence. Most of the time by small town meddling women.

While Nate's Aunt wants nothing more than for him to move to Briar Creek, Nate has other plans. He has given himself a set amount of time to visit with his family and then he's back to the big city life that he believes he was born for. The only way to be successful. What he didn't expect was for Kara to make him rethink his decisions.

I certainly enjoyed the building relationship between Nate and Kara, what I enjoyed the most was the the

craziness of the small town when it comes to just about everything. Especially the holiday competition that seems to spiral everyone out of control.

Overall, I enjoyed this book. It was quick, sweet and funny.

Review will be posted as a collective review with 4 other books via Forever Romance

Copy kindly provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Danielle says

Christmas Comes to Main Street is the final book in the Briar Creek series by Olivia Miles which really bums me out a little. From the very beginning I fell in love with this series, it's made me laugh and bring me to tears but each story is one I will cherish and re-read over and over again. Miles not only developed amazing characters but a town that stood out and had me wanting to move to Briar Creek.

Nate is in Briar Creek to spend time with his Aunt but as soon as the holidays are over he is heading back home. After running into Kara, literally, and crushes her cookies that she was delivering to his aunts Inn he knows he wants to get know her. The more time these two spend together the more the sparks start to fly and Nate realizes all he's ever wanted he finds not only in Kara but in Briar Creek.

From the very beginning I loved Kara and how she was trying to find what she really wanted and enjoyed. In the previous books we see her struggling with quitting and wanting to start her own place and am glad she ended up doing that and her family supported her. She is determined to make this bakery work and the determination she brings gave her spunk. Nate started off a little on the Grinch side but the more time he spent with Kara the more warming up he did not only with her and the town but with Christmas. I loved how he wanted to help Kara and gave her suggestions to help her business come along but sometimes the way he said things had me shaking my head and saying start over buddy you are down fast, but he meant well.

I thought this story was sweet and while there are love scenes I liked that they were the fade to black scenes, it helped me see the romance for what it was and without all the details. From the moment they met I could feel the chemistry and attraction but as the story progressed I could also see their love starting to build.

I am sad this was that last book in a wonderful series, but this was the perfect ending to the Briar Creek series. I am excited to see what Ms. Miles will come up with for her next series and with her writing I have become a huge fan! If you're looking for a cute and sweet Christmas read you won't want to miss Christmas Comes to Main Street!

Babs says

"Weihnachten in Briar Creek" ist der letzte Band einer wundervollen Reihe, die im kleinen Örtchen Briar Creek spielt. Ich war auf diesen Roman schon sehr gespannt, da ich die vorherigen Bücher der Reihe sehr mochte. Und auch bei diesem wurde ich nicht wirklich enttäuscht.

Olivia Miles entführt einen als Leser erneut in einer Welt, in der Gemeinschaftsgefühl und Freundschaft ganz oben angesiedelt ist und vermischt diese "Traumwelt" mit traumhaft weihnachtlichem Flair.

Im Mittelpunkt des Geschehens stehen in diesem Band vor allem Kara Hastings, die in Briar Creek soeben eine Cookie-Bäckerei eröffnet hat und die sich dagegen erwehren muss, dass jeder denkt, dass sie diese Geschäftsidee schnell wieder aufgeben wird, und Nate Griffin, der in Briar Creek zu Besuch bei seiner Tante ist und ebenfalls mit Vorurteilen zu kämpfen hat.

Insbesondere Kara ist überaus engagiert, zugleich hat sie aber stellenweise auch sehr wenig Selbstwertgefühl. Sie macht ihr Verhalten oftmals davon abhängig, was die anderen über sie sagen (könnten). Nach und nach gewinnt sie jedoch mit Hilfe ihres persönlichen Umfelds, und vor allem dank Nates Hilfe, an mehr Selbstvertrauen.

Als Kara und Nate das erste Mal aufeinander treffen, ist es nicht sofort Liebe auf den ersten Blick bei Kara, auch wenn von Beginn an die Funken sprühen. Zu arrogant und selbstgefällig kommt Nate anfangs daher, so dass es einem auch als Leser zunächst ein wenig schwer fällt mit ihm Mitgefühl zu haben, als Kara ihn von sich weist. Im Laufe des Romans erfährt man jedoch, warum Nate der ist, der er ist, so dass sein anfängliches Verhalten einen Sinn ergibt. Briar Creek bewirkt außerdem auf den überzeugten Großstädter einen Wandel des Wesens, so dass zwischen Kara und Nate irgendwann eine tolle Harmonie entsteht, auch wenn die zunächst nur von Dauer erscheint.

Dieser Roman schafft es neben einer tollen Liebesgeschichte, den perfekten Geist von Weihnachten einzufangen. Mal abgesehen, von der winterlichen Kulisse, in die die Handlung eingebunden ist, treten durch Reaktionen und Verhaltensweisen, der wahre Sinn von Weihnachten, die Nächstenliebe zutage. Ich für meinen Teil habe mir beim Lesen gewünscht real vor Ort zu sein. Ich konnte den Keks- und Kakaoduft förmlich riechen und habe mich beim Lesen ein weiteres Mal in den kleinen Ort mit seinen Bewohnern verliebt.

Allerdings muss ich auch leichte Kritik äußern, da ich das Ende ein wenig abhakt und übereilt fand. Klar, wusste ich, dass mich ein Happy End erwartet. Jedoch tritt dies für jede Figur ein. Plötzlich ist alles eitel Sonnenschein und selbst Figuren, die zunächst mit sich und ihren Entscheidungen hadern (Molly, Karas Schwester) sind sich plötzlich über ihr Leben in Klaren?! Das wirkte dann selbst auf mich ein wenig unglaublich.

Des Weiteren spielen in diesem Roman zu viele Figuren eine kleiner oder größere Rolle. Auch wenn mir die Paare der vorherigen Bände durchaus geläufig waren, fand ich es gleichzeitig ein wenig verwirrend, dass diese im Roman oftmals zur gleichen Zeit zusammenkommen, so dass ich dann doch irgendwann ein wenig den Überblick verloren habe. Für jemanden, der die vorherigen Bände nicht kennt, wirkt dies vermutlich sogar eher störend. Hier würde eine kurze Erläuterung dazu beitragen, wer mit wem in Verbindung steht. Zwar wird dies stellenweise mal kurz erwähnt, aber nicht näher darauf eingegangen, so dass Nates Satz relativ am Ende "Sind eigentlich alle Leute dieser Stadt irgendwie mit einander verwandt?" ein Sinnbild für diese Verwirrung. Hier hat er mir aus der Seele gesprochen.

Mal abgesehen vom etwas zu schnellen Ende ist dies jedoch ein traumhafter Weihnachtsroman, der einem die Vorfreude auf Weihnachten nur noch größer werden lässt. Der Ort und seiner Bewohner ziehen einem in seinen Bann. Was will man mehr? Daher lautet mein Urteil:

Unbedingte Leseempfehlung!

Note: 2

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

This is a new one for me, I haven't read Olivia Miles before and with this being book 5 of the Briar Creek series I thought I would get lost in the characters and the setting but nope it can be read as a standalone. The main focus was on the two main characters and what was happening with them with a few side notes from another character which is setting up for her own book. This was an absolutely adorable book. I love books like this because it plays out in my head like a Hallmark Christmas movie. You have the typical grinch type character Nate and a Christmas angel Kara, opposites attract I love it.

Kara is doing something she has dreamed of doing, she has set up a cookie bakery in town and is now trying to prove to the whole town, especially her own mother, that she is not a fickle and that she will stick with it. Her biggest fear is failing, not only because will she lose something near and dear to her but it will prove the town right. In Kara desire to prove herself she has over working herself for the Christmas holiday, between the everyday workings she has special order gingerbread houses, cookies order for her mother's ballet recital, and a massive order of cookies for the food drive for the needy families in the area.

Nate is only visiting Briar Creek because he felt guilty for sending his parents on a cruise when they had originally to visit his aunt. His Aunt Maggie runs the inn and is getting on in the years Nate agreed to visit and help out around the inn. Coming from a poor background he worked hard to make a lot of money, he's also very good at what he does. Christmas was never a good memory for him and he grew up resentful because it was never a special time for him with his family. But the little town of Briar Creek and a certain cookie maker has him rethinking everything about his life.

Overall, this is probably one of my top favorite Christmas novels for the year. It made me cry and fill my heart with joy. It's a great story for getting in the Christmas spirit and for a lovely romance.

Kittyzer says

Ganz nett, aber auch sehr klischeehaft.

Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says

I love Christmas romances and this one by Olivia Miles was a delight to read! I zipped through it in no time at all and when I was done I had a smile on my face. I just love a good happy ending!

Kara Hastings finally owns her own little bakery. While it is a lot of work she really enjoys the work. Nate Griffin is only in town for the Christmas season to visit his Aunt Maggie who owns the local inn. While he is interested in Kara he makes a lot of assumptions about her and tries to keep her at arms length since he will be going back to the big city soon enough...

Christmas Comes to Main Street is the fifth book in the Briar Creek series. I enjoy the small town romances and I wish that there was going to be a next installment of this lovely series but there isn't.

Arlena says

Title: Christmas Comes to Main Street

Author: Olivia Miles

Publisher: Mass Market Paperback

Series: Briar Creek 5

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: Five

Review:

"Christmas Comes to Main Street" by Olivia Miles

My Thoughts....

What a beautiful Christmas story that features Kara Hastings and Nate Griffin. Well it seems like Kara is the last sister that is not engaged since now her sister Molly has come home saying she is getting married to Todd. What was up with that since it seems that a year ago they had broken up. Oh well! Now we have Nate who has come to Briar Creek to be with his aunt during this Christmas holiday but he wasn't too happy being there. Now, why was that? After Kara and Nate meet due to bumping into each other will they be able to form a friendship that could possibly lead to a HEA? This was a very good story of how each one of these two people will have something that they need to 'prove,' This story was so edifying as we see how hard Kara worked in her bakery when all she wanted was to prove to not only to herself but to others that she could stick with 'running her own bakery.' Nate had such a horrible childhood being bullied and with all that had happened in his family's hardship he simply did not want any form of life where he would be poor, so he only had one goal in mind and that was always found working so that he would never have to suffer like his parents had done while raising him. Even with all of that Nate had not really celebrated Christmas holidays like forever. So, when he arrives and his aunt is so excited wanting to win this contest that will involve his help and since it's only him there since he had sent his parents on a cruise...Nate was left with no choice but to help her out with this contest because she wanted to win. But then the tables will turn because after talking to Kara he even gets her involved in this Christmas contest. Now, how will that involve him? To find out you will just have to pick up the good series to see for yourself how well this author will bring it all out to the readers. The characters will involve quite a few family members[many from past series] that will make this read so well developed, portrayed and believable giving the reader quite an interesting Christmas read where one may even like to visit this place called Briar Creek. This novel is the fifth in this series and I am not sure if this is the last but this one was truly one amazing sweet heart-warming romantic reads.

Thank you to NOR for giving me this read for my honest opinion.

Dianne says

Let a Holiday Romance melt your heart as an elderly, yet sneaky aunt, a big city man who Bah Humbugs the

Season with his past memories and a small-town wild child turned business owner discover there is more to the Season than one can see, unless they are looking with their heart. Olivia Miles brings Christmas to life, complete with all of the pressures humanity puts on the season with a heartwarming tale of, yep, you guessed it, L-O-V-E. **CHRISTMAS COMES TO MAINSTREET** is a delightful read, light, fluffy and sweet, like the cookies Kara Hastings bakes in her new little bakery!

Kara is working hard to make her business flourish, including doing her own deliveries. Nate has come to town to celebrate Christmas with his aunt, the owner of the local inn. To say he isn't thrilled with the prospect of missing out on the hustle and bustle of the Big City would be an understatement, so when he literally bumps into Kara and destroys a box of her special cookies, let's say they didn't get off to a great start. Is it possible that the magic of the season has a sense of humor and is about to create its own special recipe for love? Can two people from diverse backgrounds stop assuming the worst about each other long enough to really see the person under the winter coat?

Past memories can weigh heavily on one's heart, but the past is gone and here are two people who need to learn to look to the future with open minds and hearts. Olivia Miles has taken a slice of reality and sprinkled in her own special ingredients of attraction, competitiveness and a group of people who mean well, but seem to be missing out on the true meaning of the season. She topped all of this with two people in need of real love and joy and has come up with a cozy read that will make you smile, sigh and yes, that IS peppermint in the air!

I received this copy from Forever/Grand Central in exchange for my honest review.

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For Reviews & More: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2cXJwIP>

A small town baker with a love for Christmas and a big city visitor who looks down on all things festive. Ah yes. That's quite the duo. Christmas Comes to Main Street was a Christmasy good time and utterly delicious!

Alright so the quick of it is that Nate is in town to spend Christmas with his elderly aunt then heading back to his real life that is blessedly Christmas free. But then he runs--quite literally-- into Kara. And crushes her cookies. Cookies that she was delivering to his aunt's inn. Yeah. He got in a little trouble for that. But it has him hooked on the Christmas loving Kara and somehow challenging her to a Christmas competition. So

much for trying to ignore the holiday!

First off, I absolutely loved Kara. She was a heroine I just connected with from the very start. She's recently opened her own bakery and ever since she's been trying to prove to everyone--including herself--that she can stick to something and make this bakery work. Even if the Christmas rush is about to do her in. I loved her determination, her creativity, her kind heart and that she gave everything she had to everything she did, and seeing all of the delicious things she baked up. She was just lovely and sweet and I kept finding myself wanting to defend her against everyone.

And then there was Nate. Lord love him but he was quite the prick early on and rather judgy. And rocking a serious chip on his shoulder. He had a hard childhood and even though he's wildly successful these days he just can't seem to let go of the past. Or stop from giving his opinions. He was totally one of those people who tries to be helpful and give suggestions but it comes off as being a douche? Yeah. lol I really wasn't sure I'd be able to get on board with him but eventually he won me over.

It was fun seeing them together. A competition kicking off to win the town's decoration contest. Her dragging him into the spirit of the holiday and rubbing off on him. Things are very PG for most of the book with just a kiss or two then a fades to black scene.

All in all, I loved spending the holidays in Briar Creek. Miles has a wonderful talent of melding incredible personal journeys with sweet romance. It's impossible not to fall in love with Briar Creek and all of the people who call it home.

Amy says

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars

Christmas Comes to Main Street was such a sweet and enjoyable read. I fell for the characters instantly and devoured their story in just a few short hours.

Christmas Comes to Main Street is a light, sweet romance. It has very little drama and is just one of those books that can't help but make you feel good and put a smile on your face. And I enjoyed every second of it.

I was provided an ARC copy of this book via the publisher and NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review
