



## Christmas Light

*Jolyse Barnett*

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Adirondack girl-in-transition Jade Engel comes home to recharge after ending a career she never truly wanted, but soon realizes she's in danger of also being swept off her feet by the boy-next-door, her former best friend, Ben Stephens. If only he'd stop kissing her every time she falls into his arms.

Everything local celebrity Ben Stephens ever wanted is in Starling. Then Jade comes home after an eternity away and sends his simple world into a tailspin. He's determined to pursue her—the one girl who got away. But when their friends-with-benefits arrangement blows up in their faces, will they have the courage to put their pasts to rest in order to forge a future together?

## **Christmas in New York series**

Book 1: This Christmas by Jeannie Moon  
Book 2: All I Want for Christmas by Jennifer Gracen  
Book 3: A Light in the Window by Jolyse Barnett  
Book 4: Goodness and Light by Patty Blount

## **Christmas Light Details**

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Jolyse Barnett

Format :

Genre : Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Christmas Light for online ebook

### Jaime Fiction Fangirls Book Review says

This was my first time reading this author but based on this story, it won't be the last.

This was a sweet, friends to lovers, sort of second chance romance.

The relationship between Ben and Jade burned slowly but there was definite sexual tension there that gave me something to look forward to.

This was a light-hearted, fun, closed-door romance that is just what I needed on this cold winter evening.

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### Nicola says

*A Light in the Window* is a heartwarming story of reacquainted best friends. Ben Stephens was and still is the boy next door, and when Jade Engel broke their friendship she also broke his heart. When they bump into one another their friendship begins to blossom once again. Is it a case of love thy neighbour?

***"I treated you like you were my worst enemy and you'd done nothing wrong"***

With a natural easy chemistry, both Ben and Jade were sweet together. She frustrated a little at times, but in her defence she's confused about her life in general and has an interfering mother to contend with, but Ben was a sweetheart; he knows they're perfect for one another and just needs to make her see it.

***"I miss the girl I used to know, the one who followed the beat of her own drum, without a care of what everyone else expected of her."***

Set in a beautiful small town location and filled with festive feeling *A Light in the Window* is a sweet, heartwarming journey of love. Another lovely addition to the series. 3.5 stars.

(This is the third novella in the *Christmas in New York* series - four romantic festive novellas focussing around four lifelong friends. I've read the series a little out of order - I read the last novella first, but in fairness, whilst it contained an epilogue and the first a prologue, they could be read as you wish.)

*Copy received courtesy of Tule Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### Phoebe says

Best Christmas book that I've read in a long time.

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## **K.M. Lowe says**

### **Good!**

This was the first book I have read by Jolyse, but it won't be the last. I stumbled across this book because I just love reading Christmas books. This ticks all the right boxes. It is light hearted, sweet and full of reminders of love and Christmas.

The characters are adorable. The setting is perfect. I loved this story. I just wanted it to last longer.

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## **Mandy says**

3.5 stars

I enjoyed this one. A nice Christmas story of old childhood friends rediscovering each other in a new way. :)

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## **Jamie \*Gypsy Smut-a-teer\* says**

Predictable, but pretty much how I like my Christmas stories. Lighthearted and full of Christmas bliss. I can't say I loved this one as much as I've liked the others in this series, but it was still a nice holiday read.

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## **Lyndy Ann ? says**

A Light in the Window is a lovely Christmas story the third in the Christmas in New York series, this is Jade's story.

Jade is on her way home to Starling for a month over Christmas after quitting her job. On the journey home she stops off for the night as the weather is bad, while waiting for a table she meets a stranger who turns out to be her former childhood best friend Ben until she started ignoring him in the 8th grade.

There is instant chemistry between them but Jade feels guilty for the way she treated Ben but Ben is determined to get the one girl that got away. They begin a friends with benefits relationship knowing it will only last a few weeks as Jade is leaving for California to start her new life. Will Ben be able to convince Jade to put the past behind them and take a chance on their future together?

This is 1 of 4 stories in the Christmas in New York series featuring Cassandra/Cassie, Sabrina/Bree, Jade and Elena. Below is the reading order but each book is stand alone.

This Christmas - Sabrina

All I Want For Christmas - Cassandra

A Light in the Window - Jade

Goodness and Light - Elena

**ARC kindly provided by NetGalley for an honest review.**

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### **Sherri Hayes says**

This was my first time reading Jolyse Barnett. I'd originally started reading this story before Christmas, but life got in the way and I only recently got back to reading it.

The story had a strong opening. I loved how the author introduced the couple. These two hadn't seen each other for ten years and to say Ben had grown up was an understatement. Jade didn't recognize him at first, which brought a wonderful awkwardness to their first encounter in the story.

There were moments in the book that had me melting inside as these two reconnected after all the time that had passed, but there were other times when I was rolling my eyes at their lack of communication. If they'd been strangers, then I could have understood but they were supposed to be best friends. Considering what drove a wedge between them years ago boiled down to her not sharing her struggles with him, it felt as if she hadn't grown up and was still as insecure as she was as a teenager.

Despite the communication issues, I did like this book. It was a nice holiday read full of friends, family, and community.

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I would recommend this book to anyone who's looking for a quick holiday read about best friends who realize they are made for each other.

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### **Sophia says**

I was in the mood for a cozy holiday romance and had this one ready to go on my shelves. A woman coming home for the holidays and a new start encounters a man who was once her childhood best friend. It sounded like a good reunion romance.

So, Jade encounters Ben during a holiday snow storm when they both had to take shelter for the night. She hasn't been home in many years and mostly because of the way she treated the man sharing dinner with her. She cruelly ditched her best friend to be part of the cool crowd and then moved on from them to an unfulfilled life down in Florida. Now, she's back because of family and her own need to try again back home.

I made it into the second chapter and had to stop. Jade's past actions could be chalked up to a teenager making mistakes, but then as a woman in her mid-twenties, she unleashes more meanness. She is incredibly rude to the waitress because she's uncomfortable with the hots she feels for the former geek turned hottie. She feels guilty about the past while making excuses for her past- even blaming Ben because he should have realized he was a drag on her coolness and not forced her to cruelly squash him in public like that. This is all while Ben is thinking such kind things and wants a second chance with the one who got away. Yeah, she's still that mean girl and I am done. It's only chapter two and her transformation to nice girl is probably going to happen, but nope... moving on.

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Autry's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

Jade's life is a little hectic at the moment, in between jobs, coming home, re-connecting with old friends. Little did she know that coming home and visiting old friends would not bring her the peace she was seeking, it would only add to it.

Ben is completely different than the last time Jade saw him, so different she hardly recognizes him. A chance meeting allows them some time to reconnect and take a trip down memory lane. Against her better judgment Jade agrees to share a ride with Ben and it leaves her wanting more.

The moment Jade eyes the seductive stranger in line, her interest is peaked, although striking up a conversation wasn't what she had planned. When Ben notices who is standing next to him, he jumps at the chance to converse, only to be shocked when she doesn't remember him. A few minutes later the dots connect and conversation is flowing. Once Jade and Ben have returned home the temptation to see each other is becoming too much to handle. Sneaking glances at each other is all they can do until Jade's mother changes her opinion of Ben. Jade has been trying to find her inner strength so she can reach out and take control of her life, standing up to her mother is only part of the plan. Volunteering is helping her find some peace and make some new friends, helping decorate for the holidays also gets Jade some time with Ben. Throwing a holiday party was not what Ben had planned but when his mother begged and pleaded Ben opened his doors. Welcoming his secret girlfriends mother into his home was his chance to show her, he's not the person she thinks he is. He is a businessman, who is doing well for himself, he is taking a risk with her son that no one else is willing to do, and he's been in love with her daughter for years.

Gathering courage to face many of life's challenges and pressing on with her goals, Jade is ready to take risks. How big of a risk would it be to fall in love with Ben? To find another way to make things work? Will her mom ever come around?

A Light in the Window is a fantastic holiday read, it encompasses the holiday spirit and romance flawlessly. I read this novel in about 4 hours because I was wrapped up in Ben and Jade and their story, wondering if they would ever be able to work it out. And curious as to how her mother would be involved with it. A Light in the Window, is a great read for someone looking for a quick, steamy romance around the holidays.

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## **Sally906 says**

Nothing beats a good Christmas romance - and this one had a very satisfactory HEA!

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## **Mojca says**

\*\*\*copy provided by publisher through NetGalley\*\*\*

Jade Engel is back in her hometown, just for a month, and hooks up with her childhood friend whose pre-teen heart she'd so callously broken twenty years ago...But soon the friends-with-benefits agreement starts

chafing.

Is a bitchy heroine a new norm in the contemporary romance category? Because you can be strong and independent without being bitchy. The problem was, Jade wasn't strong or independent, since everybody treated her like a doormat and she let them. She even ruined her friendship with Ben back in school because she was worried about what others thought.

So, since she was obviously unable to make decisions, let everybody dictate her life (she was thirty and still obeyed her mother!), and almost ruined her and Ben's love lives the second time around, no wonder she was bitchy.

Poor Ben for having to put up with her...And doing all the work in the end.

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### **Maria Rose says**

This sweet romance is the story of Jade and Ben, childhood friends who broke apart when peer pressure overwhelmed Jade and made her cut her one true friend out of her life. Years later they meet again, back in the same small town. With memories of their friendship, and Christmas spirit in the air, can they forge a new relationship?

I thought this was a very touching story. I liked the small town atmosphere and the characters in the story quite a lot. Ben is a handsome, rugged and friendly man. He's forgiven Jade for what happened to their childhood friendship and is willing to start over. I liked that Jade was willing to admit to her mistakes and apologize to Ben over what had happened. She is a quiet and somewhat timid individual at first, but gains a backbone over the course of the story and realizes that what she wants is a relationship with someone who will meet her halfway - someone like Ben. There was a good amount of sexual tension between the couple that added a bit of heat to the tale. Overall it was a quick and entertaining read. 4 stars.

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

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### **Kristen Clifford says**

#### **Cute Christmas story**

I wish this book was a little longer! It was a cute Christmas love story and I very much enjoyed it!

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### **Claire Robinson says**

2.5 - **"One day you'll want to follow your own path instead of the one set before you by others."** Stars.

I really enjoyed the first book in the *Christmas in New York* series of novellas, unfortunately novellas two and now three haven't quite hit the mark, for me.

**"It's all downhill from here."**

I think what tarnished the tinsel for me in relation to *A Light in the Window* is the fact that Jade is the one who does wrong towards Ben (repeatedly). Initially during their school days, when she decides it's easier to bully the school geek, than to remain best friends with him, this then follows on when she returns home (15 years later) for the holidays, in the fact that she insists on a '*friends with bennies*' relationship, due to only being in town for a month, he is the one that then gets grief from her mother and her friends for upsetting her, when she ups and leaves...

### **"I miss the girl I used to know."**

Add to the fact Jade's mother has some really weird ideas about who should be blamed for her youngest son's addiction problems, and the seasonal spirit deflated a little for me when reading this one.

There were some incredibly sweet and heart warming moments in this novella, so don't be completely dissuaded from reading it. I have an issue with bullying (in any shape or form) and some of the situations in the story just nudged that particular sore spot for me.

The final book in the series is next up on my Kindle, and I really hope that *Goodness and Light* finishes this series off as well as *This Christmas* started it.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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