



Together for Christmas

Lisa Plumley

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In a hilarious and heartwarming novel from *USA Today* bestselling author Lisa Plumley, a down-home diner owner meets a sexy Scrooge—but will it be a match made in holiday heaven?

Casey Jackson doesn't do Christmas. Mistletoe, eggnog, pitchy carolers—it all leaves the L.A. based talent agent colder than a winter sleigh ride. Nonetheless, Casey's been called to Kismet, Michigan, to help get a pop star's holiday special back on track. But it's the diva's sister who's proving the biggest obstacle. Kristen Miller is funny, sassy—and crazy about Christmas. And suddenly, Casey has all kinds of visions dancing in his head. . .

Kristen can't believe that Casey is anti-Christmas. To her, the season is as magical as the thrill she feels whenever they touch. Because even though Kristen set out to teach the charismatic hotshot a thing or two, she's learning some lessons of her own. About letting herself stand in the spotlight for once, about holiday flings that can turn into much more—and about how all you really need for the perfect Christmas is the right person to share it with. . .

Together for Christmas Details

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From Reader Review Together for Christmas for online ebook

Jennifer Marie says

Not one of my faves. It was kind of slow and repetitive. I skimmed a lot of it towards the end.

SweetSue says

Too distracting, too much going on. I don't mind the side-stories, but there were too many of them and the most important ones didn't get resolved well. (ie, Shane telling Casey to just get over the issue that separated them. Even though I do agree that the outcome might have been exactly the same, a little more was required there.)

Casey and Kristen's relationship felt totally unreal and they both had split personalities. She's this tough businesswoman who has built a great business from nothing, but she ducks down alleys to get away from the bank representatives. He's also a success in his career - that's built on motivating people - but half the time he's inarticulate.

The Christmas thing was also so annoying. I understand why he doesn't like Christmas, but no child who has gone to public school (even as a foster child) can be as clueless about Christmas traditions as he is. And her idea of Christmas is just so schmaltzy and commercial. Even at the end everything is OK because she can drink eggnog on the beach. Ugh.

April says

Together for Christmas by Lisa Plumley is the perfect book to kick off the holiday season! Full of humor, quirky and lovable characters as well as a couple of sizzling hot scenes that will rev up more than your holiday spirit. Together for Christmas is the sinfully, indulging and impossible-to-resist whipped topping atop a big slice of pumpkin pie!

Lisa Plumley has such an amazing talent of combining humor, sweetness, fun, emotion and sexiness into impossible-to-forget stories. When I began to read Together for Christmas, I was instantly and completely hooked. I loved every single one of these characters and felt as though they were friends.

I have always been a sucker for books that include a bakery/restaurant/bookstore owner. The main character, Kristen Miller owns her own restaurant in this story and is a well-known for her indulgent pie-in-a-jar. Kristen has also had to live in the shadow of her wildly popular Pop singer sister, Heather. Kristen's restaurant is something that is her own and something that she treasures deeply. It is all that she can do to keep the financial wolves from tearing down her door.

Casey Jackson is a big Hollywood troubleshooter sent to the little town of Kismet, Michigan to deal with problems of delays on Heather's TV Holiday special. He is the modern day Scrooge when it comes to Christmas and abhors anything to do with the holly, jolly, festive time of year. When he meets Kristen, who is the shining example of Holiday Spirit itself, he can't help but feel as though he is being smacked over the

head with a giant bow-tied candy cane.

Kristen is absolutely awesome. I loved her character - from her humor and quirkiness to her strength and intelligence. She truly rocks. Casey is a smoking hot, funny, intelligent, stubborn man with personal demons, that he tries to keep hidden. What woman could possibly resist that combination?! The secondary characters of Gareth, Talia and Walden - as well as Heather - make this the perfectly rounded and addicting read for any time of year.

Not only is there a large dose of humor within *Together for Christmas*, there are also many tender and emotional moments that lend an endearing effect to the story.

Warning: After you read this, you will want to grab a pair of scissors and some paper to indulge in some snowflake crafting of your very own!!

I cannot recommend *Together for Christmas* high enough! It truly is the perfect read to set the mood for the upcoming holiday season, bring a smile to your face and warm your heart!!

Favorite lines: "It didn't matter that he seemed charming (as Heather had direly warned her). It didn't matter that everyone in town seemed to think he was some irresistible amalgamation of machismo, guy-next-door affability, hubba-hubba hunkitude, and superhero kiddie-taming mojo. Because Kristen didn't want what everyone else want. She was more original than that."

Shannon says

(Copy reviewed was a galley, generously provided by the author)

During the holidays, I don't want to read anything that isn't lighthearted and cute. There. I've said it. No thinking during the holidays. I have enough to worry about: what to give my loved ones, how to pay for what I give, which cookies to bake and treats to make, how to get everything done on time. I want my books to be purely escapist. *Together for Christmas* is just right for that.

In Kismet, Michigan, Lisa Plumley has created a charming town full of kind, fun people. I want to pack up my boyfriend, his son, and my daughter, and head right over there, particularly at Christmas. Air that smells like gingerbread! Ice-skating by candlelight! A Christmas disco! And, best of all, a sweet little café that serves pie in jars (something I'm itching to try now)! And even though I'm sitting here in Ohio in June, on a day when the temps are supposed to hit around 100 degrees, I feel just a little Christmassy. I'd love to meet these people and experience Christmas right along with them.

That said, I did find myself wishing for fewer storylines to follow. We have three couples, all beginning relationships: the main characters, Casey and Kristen; Kristen's sister, Heather, and her love interest, Alex; and two of Kristen's employees, Talia and Walden. Consequently, it became difficult to invest in the relationships fully. I also thought that the misunderstandings each couple experienced before uniting seemed a bit contrived and were based on miscommunication that, in real life, would have been easily cleared up in the moment it occurred. Focusing on just one relationship and on developing those characters fully would have tightened the story and would have eliminated the sometimes jarring transitions that happened when the story jumped from one couple to the next, and might have allowed for more exploration of their challenges and more fulfilling resolutions. Yes, they all got together at the end – of course! – but the process occasionally felt stilted and unrealistic.

Still, I liked this book. It was fun and cute and helped me forget about the hideous heat. Seriously, dudes, it's HOT. And isn't that what a book like this is supposed to do? Help the reader escape for awhile? Like I said in my intro, that's what I look for. Lisa Plumley has totally succeeded in that regard.

3.5 stars, rounded down.

Susan says

Casey is in Kismet to get Heather's TV special back on track, but the place is driving him nuts. It is over the top Christmas everywhere he looks and he isn't a Christmas guy. Heather has told him that all she needs is for him to keep her sister out of her hair. Then she tells Kristen that Casey is there to shut down the production and to try to keep him away from the set. At first meeting they really don't like each other, but are forced to spend time together. Kristen is determined to get Casey involved in some Christmas spirit. Casey would like to get closer to Kristen. I liked Kristen's Christmas spirit and the way she tries to get Casey on board. She has some real sibling rivalry issues with Heather that have contributed to her extreme Christmassyness. She still loves her sister but it is mixed up with other feelings also. I liked Casey's ability to help people find solutions to their problems. It shows a real way with understanding people and what makes them tick. I also enjoyed seeing the way that Kristen was able to get him to participate and enjoy various Christmas activities. Both of them showed some real character growth by the end of the book. Their story was overrun on many occasions by the secondary characters. Heather was creating the problems on the set because she wanted more time with the guy she had a crush on and had no problem using her show to do it. I thought she was terribly manipulative throughout most of the book, but finally exhibited some redemption at the end. There was also a romance between two of Kristen's employees that started when they were trying to protect Kristen from Heather's paparazzi. I enjoyed their story but there was so much of it that it was a distraction from Casey and Kristen.

Mindy Tysinger says

Yeah, I know. Rushing the season a bit. Admittedly, I was using this book to fit into a challenge and I'm not a huge fan of the straight romance books but this was a good read. I liked the story and the characters were kind of quirky. No more Christmas books for a while.

CoffeeTimeRomance and More says

Casey Jackson is the guy everyone calls when they need something put back on track. His reputation for bringing in production projects on time and under budget is known throughout the industry. Now his stellar record has brought him to Kismet, Michigan, to fix the production woes of a holiday special gone sour. Too bad Casey hates Christmas.

Kristen Miller is sick and tired of her famous sister trouncing on her family's holiday plans and traditions. Kristen is too busy running her diner to care about Hollywood nonsense. She is more than ready for Heather's holiday special to wrap up. When her sister calls and asks Kristen to babysit a man dubbed "The Terminator" before he can shut down her television show, Kristen knows it is just more of Heather's trademark drama.

Kristen is nothing Casey expects. She oozes holiday cheer and down-home goodness. As he navigates the murky waters of Heather Miller's drama plagued television set, his first thought is that Kristen may offer him some much-needed insight. A few gingerbread and paper snowflakes later, Casey realizes that there is more missing in his life than he ever imagines.

Together for Christmas is filled with quirky holiday traditions and Christmas cheer. It also possesses a lively secondary cast that eclipses Casey and Kristen's romance completely. The two main characters seem to vacillate so wildly between like and dislike that it is difficult to unravel the motivations behind their actions. This one is for readers searching strictly for a holiday romance full of fun and campy humor.

Kaitlin
Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

Alexandra says

Casey Jackson hates Christmas. Unfortunately his job as a trouble shooter sends him to kismet aka Christmas Central. Heather Miller is a typical diva. Expecting everything to revolve around her. And having no qualms about asking her younger sister to do her bidding. Kristen Miller feels like she lives in the shadow of her famous sister. Even her parents seem to give Heather more time than Kristen. So when Heather blows into town to tape her Heather Millers Christmas Special. Even going so far as to give Kismet a holiday makeover. Fake snow because it looks better on camera and anamorphic reindeers. Basically disrupting Christmas. Heather has been causing set backs on her tv show. All so she can spend time with Alex, a carpenter on her tv show. Who she has a massive crush. Casey aka the terminator has been sent to solve the problems. Heather can't have that so she tells her sister that he has come to shut down her production. And that she needs her sister to keep him busy and away from her. She tells Casey that her biggest problem is her little sister derailing the production and can he keep her busy. Casey arrives at the galaxy diner, expecting to find a teenager. Except he finds a grown woman running the successful 50's diner. This story is about a Christmas loving Kristen and Casey a Scrooge. It's an enjoyable read with 3 romances going on.

Heather Grace says

Didn't love it.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

2.5 Stars

Casey Jackson has left the warm climate of L.A. and his traditional anti-Christmas trip to somewhere tropical to come to Kismet a town that oozes Christmas and good cheer, but being a top troubleshooter he has to make sure that famous star and diva Heather Miller gets her Christmas special out on time and on budget. There is just one problem, her younger sister Kristen the delectable owner of a local diner and lover of all things

Christmas!

One word can describe this book; sweet. Normally I don't mind sweet, but this book has practically put me in a sugar coma it was far too much for me, call me Scrooge but all the love and good cheer has made me want to destroy gingerbread houses, burn all paper snowflakes and bite the heads of gingerbread men (okay I might have done that one already)!

However, despite it's cloying sweetness this book was written well and had some really funny moments and banter between all the characters as well as not just one romance, but three! But, maybe because there were three different romances happening, I never really felt convinced by the main one between Kristen and Casey, they fell in love really quickly without seeming to know each other very well at all.

This book just wasn't for me, it was aiming for Christmas charm and goodwill but instead left feeling like I do on Christmas day after I have had the one bowl of trifle too many!

Sharon Chance says

Christmas and romance go together like jingle and bells, and this is absolutely the case in Lisa Plumley's charming and fun-filled holiday offering, "Together For Christmas."

Take one Scrooge, add one ultra Christmas lover and shake - the results are either a mess or the beginning of a great relationship - and thankfully, in the case of Casey and Kristen, it's a great, if not a little shaky, beginning of what promises to be a great love. But they have to overcome obstacles such as her pop-star sister, his troubleshooting job, her financial woes, and his sad past. But a little gingerbread, a little eggnog, and a whole lot of fun and affection proves that love can conquer all.

I have enjoyed Lisa Plumley's writing over the years, but this is the first of her Kismet, Michigan holiday books that I've read, and I enjoyed it thoroughly! It was fun, light, and fast - perfect for this time of year!

I highly recommend it for anyone who loves contemporary romance and great holiday-themed stories!

Judy says

Together for Christmas - Christmas Magic

The setting for this delightful read takes place in Kismet, Michigan.

Casey Jackson has been hired to keep pop sensation Heather Miller's sister away from the set of the T.V. Christmas special that Heather is working on. He isn't exactly thrilled about doing this assignment. Casey isn't into Christmas and he is happy to keep it that way.

Much to Casey's surprise, the sister, Kristen Miller owns her own business, called Galaxy Diner. To be truthful he was a little confused to what exactly he was supposed to be doing. Kristen didn't seem the least bit interested in Heather's T.V. special.

To keep an eye on Kristen he rented a booth in the diner so he could watch her comings and goings.

Kristen on the other hand received a phone call from her sister Heather warning her that Casey was coming to town to try and stop Heather's T.V. special. Of course Kristen wasn't about to let that happen. She would protect her sister with her life. Since Casey rented a booth in her diner she could now watch his comings and goings.

As the story progresses and other characters are added to this book, we see that all everyone hopes for is to be wanted, valued, and loved. We see insecurities that are portrayed in nearly every character. As Christmas approaches nothing is going as planned and it looks like everything is coming unglued.

This is the first book that I have read by Lisa Plumley so I can't compare it with another book she has written. She does have a way to make her characters come alive. Also, she does throw in some sensitive issues and a little humor.

I would like to thank Kensington Publishers for sending me this book to read and review. The opinions expressed are mine alone.

Georgiann Hennelly says

Copy reviewed was generously provided by the author. I love books that are lighthearted and fun. Together for Christmas is a perfect book to just escape into. In Kismet Michigan Lisa Plumley has created a charming town full of fun loving people all filled with the Christmas spirit. Air that smells like Gingerbread! A Christmas disco, ice - skating by candlelight! And best of all a sweet little cafe that serves pie in jars. Now that is something I have to try. And even though I'm sitting in Illinois in the middle of a hot summer, I'm feeling just a little bit Christmasy. I'd love to live in a town like that and experience a picture post card Christmas right along with them. We have three couples, all beginning new relationships: The main characters are Casey and Kristen, Kristen's sister Heather, and her love interest Alex; and two of Kristen's employees, Talia and Walden. There were some misunderstandings amongst the couples but in the end they were resolved. I won't go into too much detail. It was a fun cute read and took my mind off the temperature outside. This book is a Hot read I highly recommend if you love a good love story that lets you escape into another place. Isn't that what a really good hot love story is supposed to do, let you escape into another place and time picture yourself as the heroine. I look forward to more books by Lisa Plumley.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Kitty's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

2.5 Stars

When I read the blurb about this book, I thought that this may be a fun, quick book with a little Holiday Spirit thrown in. Unfortunately, it was way over the top Christmas and I really had to concentrate on the storyline and not all the descriptions of Christmas.

The story itself could have been really interesting. Casey Jackson is actually a “troubleshooter” that is hired by agencies to step in when things aren’t looking good. He has a way to get people to work together, become friends and get the project moving. Kristen Miller owns the Galaxy Diner in Kismet, MI and loves Christmas. It’s her most favorite time of the year. She loves all the tinsel, Christmas songs, snow, gingerbread, candy canes, lights, etc. etc. etc., that go along with this wonderful time of the year. So, how is she supposed to enjoy Christmas when her sister Heather keeps ruining her plans with her parents and now has her distracting Scrooge?

Heather is a Diva. Casey is hired to go to Kismet, MI and help move along the production of Heather Miller’s Christmas Show. Heather tells Casey that her biggest problem is her sister Kristen constantly derailing the production. Then, Heather turns around and tells her sister that “The Terminator” is coming to shut her production down and she needs her to run interference. Heather is doing all this just so she can get more time with Alex, a carpenter on her TV Show. Oh, and to make Kristen and Casey fall in love.

Now, there are other characters in the book as well. There is Talia and Walden, the waitress and pastry chef at the Galaxy Diner. They are running around Kismet impersonating Heather in an attempt to throw the paparazzi off of Kristen and falling in love with each other. There is Gareth and Avery, employees at the diner. Then there is Shane Maresca, another troubleshooter that showed up in Kismet. Shane has a tie to Casey’s past but Casey won’t elaborate as to what it is other than they were in a foster home together. And, there is no way to forget the “Pie-In-A-Jar” that everyone thinks will be Kristen’s claim to fame. With all of this, somehow, Ms. Plumley tries to tie them all together.

Unfortunately, the lines get really blurred throughout the book and they all become secondary stories instead of supporting story-lines. And, I think that may have been the problem that I had with the book.....there were a lot of side stories that kept throwing me off and had me wondering why they were even being discussed. The other problem that I had with “Together for Christmas” was the repetitiveness of Christmas descriptions, of how Casey kissed, of how Kristen kissed. Yes, there was a lot of kissing going on and on and on. And, to my dismay, there was more of a description of what Kristen’s bed looked like (yes, there were Christmas lights on the ceiling and headboard) than the act itself.

So, as I previously said, the idea was wonderful. It would have been great to watch the love bloom between Kristen – the quirky, Christmas loving girl, and Casey – the ultimate Scrooge and just watching Kristen conform Casey. Throw in the sibling rivalry between Kristen and Heather, and you would have had a little spice. Shane Maresca and Casey’s past could have tied it all together. I just didn’t feel that all the other outside stories needed to be in the book. Kristen, Casey, Heather and Shane would have been all that was needed to make this “Sugar and Spice and everything nice”.

Again, this is only my opinion. You just may enjoy a book that has several story-lines. Ms. Plumley did attempt, and sometimes succeeded, at making this a funny book. Unfortunately, I was distracted by other things going on to truly enjoy that aspect of it and, at times, I was thoroughly confused and distracted by the dialogue and all the ways there is to describe Christmas.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Julie Barrett says

Together for Christmas by Lisa Plumley

Casey Jackson is not taking his normal annual holiday vacation to Mexico or an exotic island. This year his mission is to keep Heather's sister, Kristin occupied so she does not complicate the recordings of Heather's show during the Christmas season.

Kristin runs the local diner, Galaxy Diner and serves pie in a jar that nobody can turn down. Loved hearing about the gingerbread house construction competition between the two of them.

There are people who are stalking Kristin, she wants a bank loan and she's behind in the payments.

She just wants her sister to act like a family once her filming is done but she knows she will just hop on her plane and leave. Maybe with another snow blizzard she will be forced to stay.

Lots of Christmas activities: caroling, decorating and all the food being prepared.

Others have contacted the tableau's and told them Heather is pregnant so she and her co-star Alex run with the idea as there really is a medical issue so they can hide out together from the publicity.

They work together to try to figure out who is sabotaging the show from being made.

As the festivities continue he is also getting an education on what Christmas means to her, besides the gingerbread houses and mistletoe, he learns how to make snowflakes out of paper.

Hot sexy romance adds spice to the next level in this book.

She learns the truth after he's left and she is enjoying all the holiday activities with her family. It's too late for them to get together now...

Bonus chapter of her other book is included and there is a note from the author about her other Christmas inspired books...
