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Since tragedy estranged defense attorney Jenna Macintosh from her family, she's done her best to pretend Christmas doesn't exist. Not so easy this year when she needs to work with client Lacey Gallagher, who is living on her brother Sawyer's Christmas tree farm. All those fragrant pines dripping with twinkling lights are bad enough, but when disaster strikes, Jenna is stuck alone in a wooded cabin with Sawyer, the hottest man she's ever met.

Experience has taught Sawyer Gallagher that smart city women like Jenna don't want men like him, but when Jenna falls ill, he must abandon his plan to keep his distance and soon he's trying to work out ways to make her his—and not just for Christmas.

His Christmas Gift Details

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From Reader Review His Christmas Gift for online ebook

Carla *Jen7waters* says

It's not my style to review a book I enjoyed by trashing another one I didn't, but this needs to be said so please bear with me: a few days ago I was reading a collection of holiday romance stories and my biggest complaint was the fact that the male main character was always the same type of rich manwhore jerk with issues--every single story had a slightly different version of this guy and I was so fed up. Other thing these stories had in common was how the main characters would look at each other once and immediately nothing else occupied their minds except the idea of tearing each other's clothes and do the dirty all night long. This was a holiday themed book and honestly none of these stories cheered me up or put me in a Christmas mood, because, really, jerks and sex? Is that what holiday romance has come to?

That said, **His Christmas Gift** by Sarah Mayberry totally restored my faith in the genre because oh my goodness, it made me laugh and cry and feel all the things in between and I wish it was Christmas already so I could put up my tree and daydream about nice, good-looking, plaid clad lumberjacks. *This is how you holiday romance, people!*

I absolutely loved the hero, Sawyer, a big, humble, kind-hearted and shy tree farmer who may come off as grumpy at first but who is really not, and, sweet baby Jesus, I swooned so much over this guy throughout the whole story, SO MUCH. The way he cares so much for his sister, the way he takes care of Jenna, the other main character of this story, when she's sick and has to stay at his house, the way he doesn't think he has a chance with her but still wants to impress her and runs to town to cut his hair and buy new shirts, the way he cooks for her and tries to distract her from scratching her smallpox blisters, gaaah, *he's so cute*, honestly I could keep gushing about this character until I doubled the size of this paragraph, I really could. Nothing beats a nice guy who actually treats a girl right, nothing. I'll take Sawyer over brooding millionaires any day.

What also impressed me about this story was the fact that *there is* an actual story going on, and how the whole thing is not just about the couple getting together and the sexy parts--there's this whole situation going on with Sawyer's sister, Lacey, who just got out of jail and is struggling with so much regret and guilt, there's the brother&sister relationship which needs some patching up, there's Jenna's own situation with her family and personal demons, her so natural growing friendship with Lacey, and of course the Jenna and Sawyer slow-burn--all this in this small book. It's remarkable. (Also, Sawyer with a broken leg! I shouldn't say this was adorable BUT there's something about the idea of a big, strong, extremely physical guy who is so used to do everything by himself and who suddenly can't because he needs to slow down, keep his leg up, walk with crutches and accept help from others in general--there is something awfully endearing about this situation, but I admit I'm still a terrible person for saying so.)

I really enjoyed the writing, especially the witty dialogues, Jenna and Sawyer's easy banter was deliciously addictive, I found myself smiling like an idiot most of the time. It's extraordinary how they go from barely saying hi to each other, to having long talks about silly things, about serious things, about themselves, and how it never felt forced. I'll definitely check out other books by Sarah Mayberry.

I'm participating in a holiday read-a-thon at the moment, hence this book, and when I finished it, and for the sake of meeting my goals, I started reading another one immediately, and let me tell you guys, I'm totally going through a book hangover, reading this new story with new characters, the whole time wishing I still had Sawyer and Jenna to read about.

Absolutely recommend it. Happy holidays!

(I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.)

Jacquie Biggar says

Sarah has this amazing talent of drawing readers into the hearts and emotions of her characters and before you know it, you're almost as deeply invested in the outcome of the story as they are.

I haven't read a book of hers that I haven't enjoyed and many are on my keeper shelf as re-reads-yes, she's that good. :)

A large part of this story is turned over to non-relationships. Jenna blames herself and is estranged from her father because of a horrific accident in which her sister died. Sawyer lives with the guilt of not doing more to protect his younger sister from bad mistakes that ended with her serving time in jail.

This is a second chance novel- my favorite :) - but it's also a story of promise and new beginnings.

Perfect for the holiday season, don't you agree? :)

I give His Christmas Gift 5 lovely kisses

First posted on <http://jacqbiggar.com>

Katie says

[You don't DO THAT. You don't interfere in someone's life like that. You haven't even known each other that long!!! It's saved from being one star because the book KNOWS it's wrong. I just didn't think there was enough relationship there to get past it. (hide spoiler)]

namericanwordcat says

Sarah Mayberry is a treasure of a writing. She writes wonderful character driven romances.

This book overlaps in time with the story of the hero's sister told in Kat Latham's wonderful Three Nights Before Christmas (Wild Montana Nights).

The hero is gruff and grumpy and a great loving hardworking man who likes and respects women and is not a man whore. Who knew? So, good.

The heroine has a bit more baggage but is super smart and kind.

They both go after what they want which is each other.

There is the fun of a Christmas Tree Farm and a cabin romance when the hero takes care of the heroine who comes down with chicken pox.

A lovely book to snuggle up too.

Maria Rose says

This is a lovely companion novella to Three Nights Before Christmas by Kat Latham. Both can be read as standalone stories, but have an interlinked plot in that the hero of this story, Sawyer, is the brother of Lacey, the heroine of Kat's story. This story is about Sawyer and Jenna, Lacey's lawyer. Sawyer's still trying to accept that his little sister ended up in jail for a crime she didn't commit but is finally coming home.

Knowing he was unable to protect her, he still feels guilty about the whole situation, even though Lacey was responsible for her own choices. But what he doesn't expect is that Lacey's lawyer will show up at their family tree farm, and even worse, that she's going to stay overnight. Because she appears, on the outside at least, to be just like his ex - a successful business woman who'd have no interest in a down to earth guy of the land like him. And the attraction he feels for her is particularly inconvenient. But when a case of the chicken pox results in Jenna being stranded with Sawyer for a week, he soon learns that what's on the outside isn't what's on the inside. But will their fast friendship that soon comes with added benefits be enough to convince Jenna to consider a more permanent relationship?

After reading Kat's story and getting a hint of what would happen with this couple, I was expecting something sweet and sexy and that's exactly what I got. Sawyer and Jenna definitely had some great chemistry, though it's a slow burn story (no surprise, since having chicken pox doesn't bode well for romance!). It gives them a chance to really know each other though, to get past the stereotypes and find out they have a lot in common underneath. They both harbour guilt and pain over incidents in their pasts, and sharing these things with each other just makes their bond that much tighter. Because it's novella length, the story takes place over a short span of time, but we get some sexy scenes, a lovely romance and a sweet epilogue. 4 stars.

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

Curly Carla Celebrity Readers says

<https://celebrityreaders.wordpress.co...>

First impression is cute, predictable, slow simmer, uhm and the L word got dropped pretty quickly after they consummated their relationship which I thought was a little weird but it was a good story. Totally in the whole Christmas spirit. There's this thing that authors do that I noticed in my reading... I don't know if I'm getting technical or if I'm dissecting the crap outta this book but... So when authors want to evoke a strong emotional reaction from a character or a reader, what they do is they put them in close quarters for extended periods of time because that forces an attachment faster. Now I've read this many times in books. Many, many, many times and I've noticed it's become a pattern. It's very predictable and while it's not a bad thing, it's not always a good thing either.

I may be way off (or a little bitchy) but to me that shows a bit of laziness in the writing. I understand why the author does it and I understand that in some instances it is necessary but it didn't have to be that way them for them to have that kind of emotional connection. They could have had the same amount of connection with being confined so closely, to me that was a negative on the book. I took away another star for predictability. Man, I'm kinda mean today huh?

Other than that it was a cute story, it had a great pace. I didn't really connect with Sawyer as much as I connected with Jenna. He seemed too gruff and not emotive enough if that makes sense. He didn't express himself well, I thought. I suspect that was the authors intention but I didn't like it.

But I tell you what: the sex scene was....Whoa! Really good, like smoking hot!

I will probably read more Christmas books by her because it comes every year. But for now I think I am gonna try some other ones.

MBR says

I stumbled across this little number of Sarah Mayberry's on Amazon. His Christmas Gift is a book loosely tied to the title Three Nights before Christmas by Kat Latham. Any romance written by Sarah Mayberry is a must-read for an avid fan like myself and thus His Christmas Gift landed in my ever growing pile of e-books. One of the best things about Sarah Mayberry writing novellas is the fact that her novellas end up the length of a Harlequin romance or such, the fact that she puts in as many words to give readers a wholesome experience is one of the reasons I love her and her books.

Jenna Macintosh is Sawyer Gallagher's sister's lawyer, the lawyer who gets his sister out of prison. Sawyer is a man who doesn't have time for the pretty niceties of life. Determined to keep their family business going, Sawyer hasn't been inclined to or has had the time to date since his last girlfriend had left him in the lurch. When Sawyer meets Jenna, his less than favorable reaction towards her leaves Jenna thinking that for some reason Sawyer finds her distasteful. But nothing could be further from the truth as both Jenna and Sawyer keeps thinking about the other until fate throws them together.

Though I wouldn't say that this is my favorite Mayberry book thus far, it had its enjoyable elements to it. Like Sawyer when once he decided to rejoin civilization and shave off that beard of his reveals a man as sexy as they come, a man that makes Jenna want him all for herself. Sawyer can be termed as a gentle and tender hero, a hero that made me sigh and want in all the ways that matter. Jenna fights her own demons, in the form of a past she has never been able to reconcile with and move on from, which serves as the point of contention when it comes to her and Sawyer.

The glimpse of their lives after the story ended was just lovely and left me with a smile on my face.

Rating = 3.5/5

For more quotes and reviews, please visit, www.maldivianbookreviewer.com

Char (1RadReader59) says

Lacey Gallagher was sent to prison for three years for transporting illegal drugs she had no clue were on her train. You see she was a rare bird she was a conductor. Not knowing that the guy she had an on again off again relationship with was part of a gang. He had been stowing the drugs on her train making her a mule. Jenna Macintosh is a lawyer in a firm that chose to take on her case pro bono. One of her clients told her about Lacey. On the day she was to be released her brother Sawyer couldn't make it due to it being so close to Christmas and their rush season for their Christmas tree farm. So, Jenna picked her up which was a six hour turn around for her. Jenna and Sawyer had only met via email.

When Lacey got home Sawyer was swamped with customers but also he was standoffish. She was so nervous she didn't fully notice. So, she called over her lawyer to introduce them to one another. When she came over and she was the young beautiful city girl, like the one that left him behind saying he wasn't enough, it wasn't computing. He thought she was an older lady by the way she talked in her letters so he didn't know how to act. He told Lacey to get herself acclimated so Lacey offers to get Jenna a cup of coffee. When Sawyer panics for the house is a mess so he runs ahead of them like his ass was on fire.

There is almost a full pot of coffee but he didn't want her to have it for he said it was too old. He started a fresh pot. Started loading the dishwasher too. Lacey would ask questions and he would give one or two word answers. When Lacey finds the cookies from her granny's recipe that he baked her. Lacey became so animated and wanted to go share with the customers. You wouldn't guess she was 31 years old. Leaving Sawyer and Jenna all alone. Jenna hated it. She was left with her "Lumber Sexual" brother and his hostile personality. She even wondered how bad she would get burnt if she drank the coffee he gave her all in one swallow. But she didn't.

The next time she comes out is to work out some great news for a court date to get her case overturned. Lacey hadn't told Sawyer so when he hears Jenna mention it he blows. He goes to do grunt work doesn't pay attention and gets hit by a customer backing out of a parking space. Breaking his leg pretty badly.

From this point on the feel of the story changes there are so many funny moments because Sawyer is so pigheaded. There are so many heartbreaking moments because Sawyer is thoughtful and pigheaded at the same time causing grief for himself and others. As for Jenna, you find the pain that mars her life and keeps her from love and true friendships. Lacey finds her north again and sets her course to finding her new happy. I give this 5 stars. Provided by netgalley.com.

Follow us at: www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Claire Robinson says

3 - "That's a real gift you've got there..." Stars.

The second book in the *Montana Born Christmas* duology didn't quite live up to the high standards of its predecessor. To say the story-line between Sawyer and Jenna was a slow burner would be a bit of an understatement.

I think the main issue that I had with the book is although it can completely be read as a standalone, a large portion of this book sort of rehashes a lot of what happened in Kat Latham's offering *Three Nights before Christmas* but is told from a different couple perspective.

I can kind of understand that there isn't going to be a huge amount of sexy times between a couple who are dealing with a broken leg and Chicken Pox between them, but the chemistry from being holed up and quarantined together should have been intense and constant, and I didn't get a lot of connection from this couple for a good 75% of the book.

An easy enough book to read, I just expected a little more from this couple in the attraction stakes, there is a huge amount of internal monologue, but very little action.

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

Elaine says

A superb spicy mix, containing miscarriage of chickenpox, a lumberjack, lawyer, policeman, two accidents, misunderstandings, wrongs righted, Christmas and so much more!

Jenna Macintosh is a lawyer and the pro bono case she's working on at the moment concerns Lacey Gallagher who is due to be released from prison when the story starts. Jenna is going to take Lacey back to Marietta where she lives with her handsome brother, Sawyer. Unfortunately snowy weather is forecast and snow and Christmas are things Jenna tries to avoid after tragic events estranged her from her family. The Gallaghers own and run a Christmas tree farm and when Jenna meets Sawyer for the first time he's belligerent, unwelcoming and somewhat rude because Jenna just isn't how he'd thought a lawyer would be! However an accident gives him good reasons to reevaluate his opinion of her and when she develops chickenpox and is too ill to drive home he volunteers to look after her

Jenna feels guilty over the death of her beloved young sister in a car crash where she was the driver. Sawyer feels guilty for not protecting Lacey from the bad influence of her ex-boyfriend and everything that ended up with her serving time in jail. These and other characters are portrayed brilliantly, you feel their sadness, regret and turmoil. It is a total emotional roller coaster with lots of twists, turns and changes in height and direction. They all mean well but mistakes are made and you just hope things will work out well in the end. It is another great Marietta romance written by a talented author who is a skilled wordsmith. It is a delectable novel that I have no hesitation in highly recommending to anyone looking for a very moving festive romance to read.

Thanks to the author, publisher and NetGalley, too, for letting me read an ARC of this book in exchange for this, an honest review.

For more of my reviews, please visit <https://splashesintobooks.wordpress.com>

Gaufre says

DNF 44%

I usually like Mayberry because her characters are good people. It is the case here too. The problem is that

there is no conflict. Nothing to make me want to see how the story evolves.

Janeiowa says

Ms Mayberry is a gifted writer, and I've enjoyed the several books of hers I've read. She is quickly becoming one of the automatic reads. Her characters are real and believable, and her plots are nicely developed.

Irene says

3 stars

His Christmas Gift was a sweet feel good afternoon read.
The storyline was enjoyable and the characters were both likable and relatable.

His Christmas Gift is a lovely holiday read.

Thank you Tule Publishing via NetGalley for the advance copy.

Lenore Kosinski says

A perfect start to my holiday reading season, this book had everything I love about a good Christmas read -- adorable characters (A MUST), that little bit of Christmas magic, and a sweet romance. And in this case, a little bit of steam to go with my romance. :)

The characters on their own were both adorable, but it was their interactions with each other where they really shined. Even seeing them both get all flustered and excited about seeing one another was just...squeeze your heart goodness, you know? Seriously, Jenna was a sweetheart who had a good dose of sass in her. And Sawyer was EVERYTHING. Shy, bashful, super dry witted, stubborn, and obviously sexy. But it was the shy and sweet parts that got me. Every time he turned red in the face I swooned. And their playful moments together? I just wanted to eat them up.... Whether it was playing Scrabble, or making that first move, they were just so adorable together.

And it was all wrapped up with a heartwarming little bit of Christmas family goodness (mostly between Jenna and her Dad) that had me tearing up while reading out in public. Don't mind me, sappy reader alert...

Nicola says

Although *His Christmas Gift* was an enjoyable enough festive read, I have to be honest and say it didn't particularly grab me.

I think part of the problem was the fact that it runs alongside Kat Latham's *Three Nights Before Christmas* and opens with a mirrored conversation of her book. Don't get me wrong, Sawyer and Jenna were good together but they were very slow off the mark and I felt that their story wasn't detached enough from his sister, Lacey's; her serving 3 years in prison is bound to have affected him yet it was just too focussed around her and not enough was given to the couple in question.

Whilst it was an easy read, it's one of those that I've read and will have forgotten about in a couple of weeks; it wasn't bad, it just didn't quite hit the spot for me.

Copy received courtesy of Tule Publishing via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.
