



Twelve Days in December

Michele Paige Holmes

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A Christmas Novella from the bestselling Hearthfire Romance series by Michele Paige Holmes:

Five months isn't enough time to grieve the death of her husband and marry again, but when the unexpected opportunity to take her sister's place as the bride of wealthy New York businessman, William Vancer, presents itself, twenty-four year-old Charlotte Holbrook agrees. Their marriage of convenience will provide a secure future for her son, while William will be able to claim the inheritance he needs to expand his company westward.

To begin their perfect and perfectly safe arrangement, William allots the last twelve days in December to become acquainted with his new family—a task more easily accomplished than he had imagined. For in Charlotte he finds a tender heart and companion, while stepping into the role of father to her son, brings William a great measure of joy as well. Before the twelve days have passed, he finds himself wishing their marriage of convenience could be something much more.

For Charlotte, every day with William is one of overwhelming gratitude, as he anticipates and provides for her needs, as well as the fondest desires of her heart. More than material comforts, William offers friendship as well, and a loving concern that Charlotte has gone too long without. Guilt ridden, she struggles with her growing attraction and wonders how she can ever remain loyal to her first husband, while allowing herself to love William as he deserves.

Twelve Days in December Details

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Author : Michele Paige Holmes

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Genre : Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction, Novella, Clean Romance

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From Reader Review Twelve Days in December for online ebook

Corey says

Short but sweet and a squeaky clean read (no cursing or sex). I enjoyed this novella and found the characters' depth of feeling to be believable even though said feelings developed over a short period of time.

I received an advanced reader copy in exchange for an honest review. The thoughts and opinions above are my own.

Julie Carpenter says

Oh my heart. I loved this story and wished that it wasn't so short, but it was power packed with little goodies. Charolette, Marsali's sister, has stepped in and agreed to marry Mr. Vancer when it is discovered that Christopher is alive and Marsali is still a married woman. Charolette is a young widow with a young toddler to care for and she has been worried how she will manage that. Yet when Marsali's wedding day approaches and with only a few hours left until the wedding, she realizes that Mr. Vancer is a good man. She has watched how he treats her sister, even his kindness to her and her little son has proven to her that he is kind and would be a good father and husband to them.

Mr. Vancer asks if Charolette might consider marrying him and with her affirmative answer we get this sweet novella. Starting with the wedding and their sweet courtship, after their marriage of convenience of course! So sweet and the healing that they are able to help each other with was very touching. I loved all the scenes with Charolette's son. The waltz...oh my! The snowball fights...super fun! If you don't or haven't read any of the other books in this series you can read this one no worries and will love it!

Clean with a few sweet kisses.

My own personal copy.

Happy Reading!!!

Erika says

Sweet early American budding romance

~~~I received an ARC of Twelve Days in December from Michele Paige Holmes for an honest review!~~~

This is the first story by Ms Holmes that I've read, it is a companion novella of Marrying Christopher. You do not NEED to read Marrying Christopher, though I do believe it would have been more beneficial to HAVE read it to get more of a background on the characters.

This story is about Charlotte Holbrook and William Vancer's relationship. Charlotte is a young widower and mother to a 15 month old son. Her husband was her true love. They had not had an easy life transplanting

from England to America.

Mr Vancer is a wealthy gentleman who is in the fur trade business and has to marry by the end of the year to get his inheritance. He has not had the easiest time with finding a woman, become engaged, and get to the point of actually marrying.

These meet when he sends a carriage to pick her and her son up from the farm she works on in Virginia, to bring her to Boston from his impending marriage to her sister Marsali. But events happen to prevent the actual wedding from occurring, at least to Marsali!!

This novella touches on the 12 days, that was to be the honeymoon, of how Charlotte and William become better acquainted with each other. This was a cute novella of the hardships women in early America had to deal with to survive, and how people back in early America dealt with marriage.

It was well written and captivating, Ms Holmes wrote with good attention to detail allowing the reader to conjure up a running movie in their head. I would recommend this to anyone who lives a sweet, clean (non-MA) early American historical book, though I would recommend reading *Marrying Christopher* first (which I hadn't done). I look forward to more books by Ms Holmes. I will say that I hope Ms Holmes writes more on Charlotte and William.

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### **Shash says**

This novella is part of a series. I haven't read the other books, but had no problem enjoying this story. I definitely want to read the other books now!

William Vancer must marry to receive an inheritance that will save his business. When he loses his bride on their wedding day, he marries her sister instead. Even though Charlotte hasn't been widowed for long, she can't pass up the opportunity to marry William. He will provide the security she and her son need. William and Charlotte use the last 12 days of December to get to know each other before William must return to work. During that time, they begin to wonder if this marriage of convenience could be something more.

I absolutely loved both William and Charlotte! I'm so glad they ended up getting married. Crazy circumstances! William was such a good, kind, and caring man. He was so wonderful with Alec, Charlotte's son. He really gave everything to being a husband and father. I enjoyed watching his love for Charlotte develop as he recognized the many good qualities she had. It wasn't just about looks. It was about her as a person. Charlotte was such a tender mother. Everything she did was for Alec. It was wonderful to watch her open her heart to love again. This was such a beautiful love story! It's the first book I've read by Michele Paige Holmes. I loved her writing style! I look forward to reading the rest of her work.

I received a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

You don't have to read this in December to enjoy this sweet romance. Sometimes it's nice to read this stories after the holiday. I have really come to enjoy this regency series and follow the characters throughout. I also

like how each can really stand on its own, although with any series, it is nice to read them in order to better understand all the backstories.

Marriage of convenience stories are some of my very favorite. I thought this one was handled well. I liked that Charlotte had been married before, she loved her first husband and feels it may be too soon to fall in love again. William was not expecting to fall in love with Charlotte, but of course as the two spend time together feelings soon arise. I enjoyed their relationship and thought this was a sweet story.

#### Content

Romance: Clean

Language: None

Violence: None

Religious: None-mild

Source: Review copy

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#### **Nicole Barton Sasser says**

##### **\*\*\* Received a copy in exchange for an honest review \*\*\***

*Twelve Days in December* is the fourth contribution to the Hearthfire Romance series by Michele Paige Holmes. However, this Christmas novella is the first that I have read from both the series and the author.

The first chapter is actually the last chapter of *Marrying Christopher*, retold from Charlotte Holbrook's point of view and introduces us to the circumstances in which Charlotte takes her sister's place as the bride of wealthy New York businessman, William Vancer. The novella then follows the 12 days after they are married, the last 12 days of December 1828, and how their relationship develops.

*Twelve Days in December* is a sweet novella. If you read the book description for the pertinent background information, this can be read as a standalone. However, I do wish I had known to read *Marrying Christopher* first, as this novella contains spoilers and probably a good share of references that were not properly appreciated since I read this as a standalone novella.

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#### **Kathy says**

Fun addition to the Hearthfire Romance Series. Short novella that focuses on Charlotte and Mr. Dancer. The first chapter is a scene that was part of *Marrying Christopher* but told from Charlotte's perspective. The remainder of the book is new material. It could be read as a stand alone but would be more appreciated by those who have read this series.

Content: Clean

Source: Ebook review copy

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## Alisa says

I have loved this whole *Hearthfire* Romance series by Michele Paige Holmes! This short Christmas story was a perfect addition!

Charlotte is Marsali's sister from *Marrying Christopher*, the third book in the series. The story starts with a scene that happened in *Marrying Christopher*, but it is told from Charlotte's perspective. We find out why she is willing to step in and marry wealthy businessman William Vancer even though she doesn't know him very well. Her situation is pretty desperate and he is a kind man, and he is really good to her son.

So now that they are married, there are twelve days left in December (days he was planning to take off from his business for his honeymoon with Marsali) for him to get to know his new family. You can't help but love William and Charlotte together! They are so good to each other, and good for each other. They both have insecurities that they help each other with.

My only complaint would be that it was a little short... I wish we could have followed them into January and seen things develop a little more. But if you're looking for a short, sweet Christmas story, then this is a winner!

Content: Very clean

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

Other stories in this series:

*Saving Grace*

*Loving Helen*

*Marrying Christopher*

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## Melanie says

I loved the *Hearthfire* series! William and Charlotte were two of my favorite characters so I was excited to learn there was a novella with their story! We met them in the third book, *Marrying Christopher*. *Twelve Days in December* starts with a scene from that book which is told from Charlotte's perspective. Charlotte is Marsali's sister who had been recently widowed and had a young son to raise.

I loved William Vancer and felt bad for him when things didn't work out with Marsali (I was very happy for her, though). In order to save his business, he needed to be married by a certain date and Charlotte spontaneously agreed to marry him. We learned her reasons for that and his reasons for needing to get married. They were unsure of each other at first (which was humorous at times) and it was fun to see their relationship progress!

I could have read more about them but am glad that they each got a happy ending! What I did like about the length is that it was a fast read and was perfect for this time of year. This probably could work as a standalone, but it would be much more fun to read *Marrying Christopher* first!

I received a copy of this book from eBooks for Review for an honest review. My opinion is 100% my own.

### **Olivia-Savannah Roach says**

I know, it's not anywhere near Christmas time. But it is getting closer to Valentines and this is a historical romance? So does that give me a bit of a pass?

Anyway, I wanted to read this book because it is a historical novella in a romance series that I have been following. Even though the conclusion to Marrying Christopher was closed, I never wondered what happened to Charlotte and Mr. Vancer [a.k.a William] even though they were left with only a few hours to arrange their own marriage. If you want to know how that came about, you should read the previous books! That aside, I wasn't curious until I heard what this novella was about. It seems like a grand idea, especially as all the romances in the series so far have been love matches and not hastily arranged ones.

My favourite thing about this novella was that even though it was short, it still had a story and a message and a theme to it. The theme being that Charlotte is only recently a widow, and she is still in mourning. Although arranging a marriage for herself is the best possible thing she can do for the safety of her son, it is hard to even consider loving someone else at the current moment. Which is a predicament I can imagine must be immensely hard to be put in. Even though it is only a short while with this book, Michele manages to bring across the theme incredibly well.

In this novella we also have a romance that finally includes a family, seeing as Charlotte already has a son. It's not too often that we see those kind of historical romances seeing as in those times it wasn't proper for a lady to have a child before wedding in the slightest.

The writing style in this novella was perfect as always. Expect nothing less from Michele's writing folks, because it is always spot on. I also really appreciated the characters. Although we have seen them a little in book three they really do come to life here – William especially. Charlotte even reminded me a little of Grace, but she stayed unique as her own character too.

The romance was sweet, if not a little fast. It doesn't classify as insta love in the slightest. But even if it was a little fast, this can be excused because it's only a novella.

Looking forward to book four!

This review and more can be found on Olivia's Catastrophe: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>

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### **Faith says**

\*\*\*I received a copy of this book for free from Ebooks for Review in exchange for my honest review.\*\*\*

My rating: 3.5 stars

After starting this book quite awhile ago, I didn't get her far into it before pausing for...weeks. Life got in the way and just yesterday I remembered it and continued reading...and stayed up late to finish it. xD Seeing as

how historical romance isn't My thing, I have mixed feelings for this novella.

William's reasons for needing to marry before the end of the year confused me at first, but I soon sorted it all out. His and Charlotte's marriage of convenience was sweet, but rather rushed I felt. I mean, she hadn't even been a widow for six months yet!! But I understand that she needed the security of knowing she and her son, Alec, would be well taken care of. William was really sweet and it was obvious that his love and care for both Charlotte and Alec was genuine. I loved the part with them making snow angels in the park. <3

The writing of this book really was beautiful and I LOVED the time period/setting. :)

As far as the content of this book goes? It was perfectly clean, in my opinion. There were a few mentions of things, but in a right (that's the best word I can think of...) way. (I mean, they ARE married, people.) All in all, I did enjoy this book. I'm super curious to know what happened/happens with Marsali and Christopher, too. :)

I'll probably never read it again, but this was what I needed when I needed it. This was a good read and I enjoyed it.

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### **Sam B says**

I received this ebook through ebooksforreview in exchange for an honest review.

This novella is part of the Hearthfire Romance series. Twelve Days in December tells Charlotte and William's story after the event of Marrying Christopher.

Although it was a short novella, I really appreciated reading about Charlotte and William's romance. The story was well developed and I believe it concludes well the Thatcher's romances as I understand the following books will introduce new characters.

I always love Michelle Paige Holmes sweet romances and how she develops her characters. Once again she was able to bring the readers back in time to get a glimpse of her character's lives and emotions.

I'm looking forward to the next book in the series!

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### **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

This is a very sweet romantic Christmas novella.

Charlotte is a widow and has come for the marriage of her sister to William. A change of circumstance puts Charlotte in a position to marry William instead. This provides security for herself and toddler son. She is willing to help others, giving up some of her own hopes.

This book takes place for twelve days after their wedding. It is a confusing time for both of them and they take their relationship slowly to come to know each other.

I loved how sweetly William and Charlotte try to put each others feelings before their own. William is willing and able to step up as a husband and a father. He immediately takes to Charlotte's son and gives him love and attention.

The process to love isn't always easy but it is wonderful when it happens. I loved that Charlotte was a widow and that her heart wasn't closed up because of the death of her husband. This is a book about second chances and living life after heartbreak.

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### **Book Chick (Tori) says**

3.5 stars

This novella is part of The Hearthfire Romance series. If you've read Marrying Christopher then you know the love story of Marsali and Christopher. This novella is about Marsali's sister, Charlotte, and her marriage of convenience to William- who Marsali was supposed to wed, but circumstances changed. This novella follows the 12 days after they are married. Charlotte struggles with her feelings for William because she feels guilty when she thinks of her late husband. William, because he's had such bad luck in love, is all but expecting Charlotte to leave at any given moment.

I enjoyed the story, but felt like the last 4 "days" were rushed. I know that can happen with novellas. I just wish there had been a little more included in those days. Overall it was a sweet, quick Christmas read.

\*I was given a free copy in exchange for an honest review

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### **Kathy Jo says**

Charlotte has lost her husband and finds herself in a horrible situation trying to provide for herself and her 15 month old son, Alec. When she unexpectedly becomes the bride to the wealthy William Vancer, her life will be changed forever. While she is grateful for everything he has done for her and her son, she struggles with her feelings for him. Is it possible to love again after such a short period of time?

William is in need of a wife in order to receive his large inheritance. He thought this marriage of convenience would be the best thing for all involved. What he wasn't expecting was to fall in love with Charlotte and her son. How can he help her to see that loving him in return doesn't mean that she is betraying her first husband and that she has enough love for the both of them?

I loved seeing Charlotte and William's relationship grow from friendship into love. William was so patient with Charlotte and seemed to understand just what she needed. Their relationship was so sweet and I found myself letting out little dreamy sighs on several occasions.

I would say the only thing I didn't like about Twelve Days in December was it just ended! I wanted just a little bit more! An epilogue would have been amazing! Even if it was just a few months down the road. I guess what they say is true... when a book is good, you always find it too short! ;)

This was my very first book by Michele Paige Holmes and I can tell you that it definitely will not be my last! I love finding new authors to read! It really makes me happy! :)

And yes... even though this was a novella, I still did a casting.. ;) Hehe.

