



## **Holiday Temptation**

*Donna Hill , Farrah Rochon , K.M. Jackson*

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*'Tis the season to satisfy your holiday desires with this festive trio of sexy stories...*

## **A GIFT OF LOVE Donna Hill**

Drama professor Traci Long spends her free time at the CoffeeMate café, pursuing her true passion—writing her own plays. Meanwhile, sexy barista Noah Jefferson is doing his best to distract her. But once they get involved, past betrayals make Traci wary. She's right that Noah is keeping something from her—but it might be something that will make this Christmas as sweet as a rave review—and steamier than her favorite chai latté...

## **HOLIDAY SPICE Farrah Rochon**

A Christmas-time tragedy took photographer Miranda Lawson's holiday spirit with it. Since then, she's traveled the world, determined to outrun her demons. This year she's off to Istanbul. But the scenery isn't the only gorgeous site she spots through her camera lens.... Kyle Daniels loves Christmas, but he's looking for escape too—and soon he and Miranda find it in each other's arms. Yet their connection doesn't end there. Maybe staying put isn't such a bad idea after all—especially when there's someone to celebrate with...

## **FROM HERE TO SERENITY K.M. Jackson**

Unstoppable real-estate developer Ross Montgomery is under orders to get some holiday R&R. A cruise to Miami on his yacht, "The Serenity," is the perfect place to start—especially when he meets his new personal chef, Essie Bradford. Between her calming presence, her amazing food, and her delectable beauty, Ross just might develop a taste for the good life. And when the two discover they have a lot in common—including an irresistible attraction—the next course may be a spicy New Year...

## **Holiday Temptation Details**

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## From Reader Review Holiday Temptation for online ebook

### Bernie says

I read this book for a book club, even though I don't care for the romance genre. The situations are usually unrealistic or too pie in the sky and the characters usually meet and have sex without really getting to know each other. This book fit the bill perfectly. This book is made up of 3 stories written by 3 POC authors. Although these stories are better than others of this type that I have read, they still are not my cup of tea.

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### Xan West says

This is a review for the first novella only. I have not read the other novellas in this collection.

A Gift of Love 2 stars

This doesn't really feel like a holiday romance, more like a romance that culminates on the holidays. The heroine is a survivor of intimate partner violence, a playwright, and a teacher. It's mostly about her arc, slowly building trust in her first real relationship after her abusive ex. The beginning felt real, built at a pace that worked for the arc, and I liked how respectful he was in the first half of the book especially. I liked her best friend, a lot. I didn't really feel much chemistry between the MCs, tho.

The last half of the romance arc really didn't work for me. It felt deeply unrealistic, and like a fantasy knight in shining armor rescue situation, which raised big red flags for me, because of the power dynamic that goes with it. As a survivor reader who worked in the intimate partner violence field for many years, I was worried for the MC because of this rescue thing, the speed at which the relationship goes, her financial dependence. Red flags abounded but were framed as romance.

Her trauma responses throughout felt realistic, and that this kind of relationship arc fit where she was at. I just have a lot of trouble believing he is actually good for her, and rooting for them as a couple, based on the last half of the story.

I may read and review the other romances in this collection later on but for now I am putting this book down.  
DNF at 34%

Trigger Warnings (view spoiler)

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### Classy says

3.5 stars. I am not a big romance fan, but there was some good stories.

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## **Leatrice says**

This wasn't my cup of tea. But a great book for those baby Zane fans.

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## **Toni says**

Three novellas about finding Love during the Christmas holiday. They were all good making me laugh and cheer the couple's on.

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## **Abra says**

I usually love Christmas stories. This collection was a little boring.

A Gift of Love by Donna Hill: probably the best. Rich, successful man falls in love with part time theater instructor and aspiring playwright. I'm not sure why he was working in the coffee shop he actually owns, but it's the setup of how the couple meet.

Holiday Spice by Farrah Rochon: Rich, successful man falls in love with a professional photographer while in Istanbul.

From Here to Serenity by K.M. Jackson: Rich, successful, uber-confident man falls in love with a freelance chef.

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## **Red says**

This was an ok read. A little bit on the "billionaire boyfriend saving the day" side but pleasant enough if a bit uneven. I liked "Holiday Spice" the most : the two lead characters were quite interesting and on more equal footing. A Gift of Love" could have been a really good story but for the ending which was a bit too over the top. As for "From Here to Serenity" it had me rolling my eyes several times at the weak plot/characterization.

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## **Jessica says**

So, I couldn't decide if I wanted to give this a 2 or 3 stars, it was really a 2.5, so because they were mostly well written and easy reads I rounded it up. Rating each story, I would have to say the second story, Holiday Spice, was my favorite, a solid 3. I like to visit new places and it read like the author had actually been to Istanbul and I really enjoyed reading it. It also didn't feel as unrealistic as the other two in my opinion. Both characters seemed to be more on the same level, meaning both doing what they love for a living. Both with their own different family issues, that sort of complimented each others so that each could benefit from the other emotionally. I liked that it wasn't like the other stories in this way.

The other two stories were more of the "knight in shining armor type of fairy tale-ish" novellas. But the third one, From Here to Serenity, was a little more realistic than the first so it comes in as #2 for me. However, there were more, yeah right moments in this one than the first one. However, I did enjoy the story a bit more. On a yacht to Bermuda and Miami was fun. I just have to mention a few things. 1) I'm not a wine connoisseur, but I really don't think Pinot Noir pairs well with sea scallops with a light lemon reduction and spinach. 2)The knight in shining armor, when she was suppose to be meeting him after shopping. He shows up just in time to save her from a creepy guy following her from one of the markets. Yeah, right! This was forced, perhaps, to add some action to the story and provide the opportunity for them to go at it in the back of the limo and end up back at his private villa. LOL! 3)The ending was just too perfect, but left the unanswered question of how did she miss this letter he supposed left her. Guess I'll never know. :/

So finally, the first story, A Gift of Love, was my least favorite, but it was okay. Too unrealistic, a rich man coming in to save the day for the damsel in distress. And the ending, that gift to her was the biggest, "Yeah, right!" of the book. But he's rich and it's a novella not non-fiction, so it was a nice, well written fairy tale with an obvious twist. I did guess that he was the owner of the cafe. However, most women would love to have a protector from any ex-crazies, so I liked that he could be that for her, as long as she doesn't become too dependent on Noah.

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## **Margaret says**

### **Holiday Temptation**

Alarm each section at the book. Love the The characters in the book each one and compliment each other. Keep the good writing up

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## **Akilah says**

12/16/17 @ 28% -- Not for me. And since the first story is usually the strongest, I'm going to just do a pass on the rest.

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## **Christine Galletly says**

A Gift of Love by Donna Hill - 4 stars  
Holiday Spice by Farrah Rochon - 4 stars  
From Here to Serenity by K.M. Jackson - 4 stars

These were good fast moving stories that were well written, they had strong characters. I thought it was a great holiday read and it kept me interested and entertained until the end.

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## **Maggie Boyd says**

For me the words Holiday Temptations conjures up an image of gooey, warm treats and hot, sweet drinks.

For the ladies in this anthology, however, the temptations are of a far different, more intimate variety. It made for some fun reading and the talk of sweets, twinkling lights and decorating trees had me longing for the coming holiday. See my full review at <http://allaboutromance.com/book-revie...>

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### **Nibrock says**

Three short, fun, romances. Travel to far off places, find quick romances. Celebrate the new year with new friends.

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### **Sophia says**

I spotted the Holiday Temptation anthology of holiday stories by all new to me authors so I was eager to give it a try. Christmas holidays spent with a variety of characters, situations, and settings made this a treasure trove to delve into and enjoy. I've decided since there are only three stories that I can separate out mini-review thoughts for each.

#### **A Gift of Love by Donna Hill**

A holiday in NYC for two people burdened by their pasts. Traci is writing a play and wants above all to see her own play staged in a community theater like the old one down the street and Noah has dreams of combining food with the arts. These two lost, lonely souls find each other and have a chance at healing and love if they will courageously trust in each other.

Loved this story and the combo of passion and heartwarming with strong characters.

#### **Holiday Spice by Farrah Rochon**

A chance meeting at a spice market in Istanbul before being snowbound together in Colorado makes Kyle and Miranda believe in fate. Miranda has avoided Christmas for 15 years and now wants to start anew with the holiday. Kyle had a troublesome argument with his dad and skipped family Christmas. Now, they have this holiday together promising passion, celebration, and maybe a chance for love?

It was fun to have the holiday abroad scene and then a Rocky Mountain Christmas. A photographer and a brewer was a neat combo just as their personal troubles were just the right touch for character growth and a budding romance.

#### **From Here to Serenity by KM Jackson**

A work-obsessed company CEO gets a wake-up call when he ends up in the ER. His friend sets him up with a beautiful and honest nutritionist chef who struggles with finding the right guy. A business trip on a yacht makes a connection for both of them. Will the holidays bring the gift of change or going back to their old ways.

Enjoyed the 'at sea' setting, the delicious foodie scenes, and the build of the relationship. This pair had a great connection. I wanted to get more of their story when the end came.

Alright, these were quick reads that had good development and all touched me which is just what I want in a holiday story. Sometimes anthologies are a mixed bag, but I found all of these to be fantastic and engaging stories. I can easily recommend this to others who enjoy slightly spicy holiday Contemporary Romance.

I received this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Reading in Black & White says**

A Gift of Love by Donna Hill - 4 stars

Holiday Spice by Farrah Rochon - 4 stars

From Here to Serenity by K.M. Jackson - 3 stars

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