



The Probability of Mistletoe (2017 Advent Calendar Daily - Stocking Stuffers)

E.J. Russell

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*A story from the Dreamspinner Press 2017 Advent Calendar collection **Stocking Stuffers**.*

When software engineer Keith Trainor decides to start his own company, he knows exactly who he wants as his partner: Parker Mulvaney, his best friend from high school. But in the ten years since graduation, their contact has dwindled to nothing, and it's all Keith's fault. If he hadn't tried to kiss Parker under the mistletoe at the winter formal their senior year, Parker wouldn't have bolted. At their ten-year reunion, Keith intends to do everything in his geeky power to make amends.

Parker should have known that scheduling the reunion the day before Christmas Eve was a recipe for a headache of monster proportions. But when Keith sends a text that he'll be attending, the evening doesn't look so bleak. Can an unnecessary makeover, a nostalgic breakfast, an abortive shopping trip, and a whole lot of mistletoe culminate in a long-overdue first kiss?

The Probability of Mistletoe (2017 Advent Calendar Daily - Stocking Stuffers) Details

Date : Published December 1st 2017 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN :

Author : E.J. Russell

Format : Kindle Edition 49 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Contemporary, Short Stories

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From Reader Review The Probability of Mistletoe (2017 Advent Calendar Daily - Stocking Stuffers) for online ebook

Morgan Skye says

I didn't want this to end! It was sooooo cute and sweet and funny and charming and...

It has an adorable geek, a sweet extrovert, a family of nuts and tons of mistletoe!

This was a very slow burn, no heat holiday story with lots of heart. These two boys were just meant to be and Parker's grand gesture was treated really well (though I kinda wanted him to explain it more to Keith and have Keith appreciate it more...)

I wish we could have seen these guys at least through their "first time together", but... it was still wonderful!

Highly Recommended and among my favorites of the bunch!

5 of 5 stars

Don Bradshaw says

This one let me down. Neither Keith or Parker were interesting or engaging characters.

Sadonna says

One of my favorites so far in this anthology of Holiday stories. Love the geek and popular guy/friends to lovers/second chances tropes in this one. Parker is adorable - as is his whole family. Keith is so sweet - geekishly shy and unsure of himself. Parker is still kicking himself over the missed opportunity his senior year - even though it was with the best of intentions.

In a short word count, felt like we got to know these guys and understand their situation and past. Loved Parker's family too and a great shout out to girls in STEM!

Beth doesn't write enough reviews says

Sweet story of reconnecting and not missing another opportunity to be with the one you have always loved.

Donna says

3.5 STARS

This was a super cute Christmas story about reunited friends finally getting their lips together and admitting how they really feel.

Keith and Parker were best friends in high school, but their friendship became strained when Parker rejected Keith's attempt to steal a kiss at their winter formal. Keith was embarrassed and heartbroken, Parker was conflicted and confused and when Keith moved away to attend university, they allowed themselves to lose contact.

But now Keith is back in town, ready to start his own company and knowing he won't succeed without Parker as his partner. Of course, as soon as these two clap eyes on each other again, all thoughts of trying to simply be friends become rather difficult.

While this story was only short, the author's sense of humor was quite evident. The story was fun, even while Keith and Parker broke my heart a little.

I was a bit disappointed that the reunion turned out to be kind of a non-event. I do like a good high school reunion tale, and from the blurb I thought that more time was going to be spent on that night. Having said that however, I did enjoy the way the author squeezed so much into this short story without making the pace feel too rushed. The inclusion of Parker's nieces and their Christmas gifts was pretty cool and my absolute favourite scene was reading about Keith desperately trying to find somewhere to stand that wasn't beneath a bunch of mistletoe.

I'd definitely like to read more from this author.

Reviewed for Love Bytes Reviews

<http://lovebytesreviews.com/2017/12/1...>

Jordan says

Ah, sweet sweet second chances. I'm such a sucker for second-chance romances, and this book definitely ticked some boxes. Parker and Keith had been friends for a long time. Or, well, they were friends in high school, but Keith scared Parker off by trying to kiss him at their senior winter formal. Parker hadn't been prepared for Keith's advances and he wasn't sure how to deal with it, so he did the only thing he knew how to do and put space between them. He won't have to face the music if he never sees Keith again, right?

But after a few years of space and time to reflect, Parker realized that he'd kinda done a shitty thing and he needed to apologize for it. When he caught word that Keith was going to be at their reunion on Christmas Eve, he went all out trying to look his best and impress Keith. As it turned out, maybe kissing his best friend

wasn't so scary after all.

I love books with characters who have history, especially when they're written by good authors, because you can feel the familiarity between them. That's why friends to lovers and second chances are some of my favorite M/M Romance tropes. I liked this book specifically because of the effortless dynamic between Keith and Parker. Despite parting on less-than-ideal terms and not seeing each other for several years, they still clicked like they'd always belonged together. Parker was a little scared that Keith wouldn't accept his apology and Keith was scared that Parker wouldn't want anything to do with him, but they both swallowed their pride and talked it out anyway. The chemistry between them was undeniable.

The mistletoe incident came full circle in the end and they found a way to work it out. *The Probability of Mistletoe* was a pretty good book. I really enjoyed reading it.

Avid Reader says

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4 stars

M/M Second Chance Romance

I was given this book for an honest review by Wicked Reads.

Parker and Keith have a history that is a decade long. Despite their distance, both have had feelings for each other since high school. When a misunderstanding, insecurities and being young get in their way, they drift apart.

Keith is ambitious but he's also shy. While he has a plan to get his best friend back in his life, he also is hoping that his plan will allow them to have a much different relationship. Parker has always been a planner and part of a group. He knows that his choices changed their relationship all those years ago and is excited to see his friend again.

The family is hilarious and so genuine in this story. I think that these two will make it on both accounts and it was fun to see them reconnect. It's a sweet second chance friendship/romance story that's just the right length.

Christy says

Sigh. High school reunions. I can't say I've been to any of mine although this year would have marked my 29th. I also can't say I've ever wanted to attend any of them. To put it bluntly, I didn't care for most of those people then, why should I make an effort now? However, in Keith and Parker's story, it's very obvious that their tenth-year reunion is going to bring them the happiness they've been missing or, at the very least, provide answers to for some questions that have been a long time coming.

I love a plot where the awkward, yet well-meaning, act of many years before is vindicated by both people and where they've ended up now. Keith and Parker were best friends from freshman year on even though they were complete opposites. And, no matter how much Parker wanted to kiss Keith that night so long ago, Parker knew that if they went from friends to boyfriends, Keith would be so focused on Parker that he would

have turned down the opportunity to go to Stanford just so he could remain in-state with Parker. Well, Parker wasn't going to have that because he knew exactly how brilliant Keith was, and he needed to accept every opportunity that came his way without worrying about a relationship. Of course, Keith views the whole situation in a totally different light, but tonight they both have the chance to set everything straight. So to speak. *grins*

Parker and Keith are absolutely, no-holds barred perfect for each other, and sinfully adorable at the same time. Once they get past the miscommunication and misrepresentation they are able to fall right back into the friendship and feelings they always had for each other. Throw in family, love, two nieces who are giant GWF's - Gaming While Female - and the same chemistry they shared all of those years ago, and it was meant to be this time under the mistletoe.

A wonderful addition to this set of stories. I am definitely going to be looking at the prospect of reading more by this author as I most certainly enjoyed the writing.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews

Ann says

Adorably gratuitous use of mistletoe in this second chance romance. Second chance PLUS the one that got away. The author did a great job of showing the backstory for the MC's so I totally believed in an HEA for them.

Full Unicornian Gangbang reviews every Sunday in celebration of DSP's annual Advent releases posted on the blog and then here.

Week 3 posts December 17th and I'd recommend reading every one of them! Nothing says Merry Jizzmas like DSP's Advent stories and reading them with your besties makes them even sweeter.

copies of the DSP Advent Calendar were provided in exchange for honest reviews

Alisa says

This was my first time reading this author & it did not go well for me. A full bah humbug review to follow

Erica Chilson says

I received a copy of this title to read and review for Wicked Reads

4 Stars

Parker is a joiner and a planner. Keith is an introvert. They balanced each other out perfectly, from freshman year on, as best friends with secret romantic feelings. An almost-kiss underneath the mistletoe removed the possibility of an 'us' for the teenagers.

Using the 10-year class reunion as an excuse to reconnect, with a business proposition in hand, Keith is going to get his best friend back, and he's hoping to become Parker's partner, in more ways than one.

The Probability of Mistletoe was surprisingly in-depth for so few pages. It was the perfect escape during a stress-reducing bubble bath. This is a second-chance, friends-to-lovers storyline, featuring all the anticipation as both characters fear, worry, and wonder if the other is feeling the same as they do in return.

The small cast of side characters- Parker's family -were delightful in the holiday setting, giving off the warmth, amusement, and embarrassment most feel during family gatherings.

Lelyana's Reviews says

Well, I have no idea what's on Peter and Keith's head ten years ago when they were obviously attracted to each other, and Peter just bolted and ignored Keith just like that. No explanation after that, no apologies? And Keith just assumed?

Ten year's later, they has the same path and still, Keith's assuming?

It's actually the sweet Christmas story, but not enough chemistry between Peter and Keith to make me believe that they will have a HEA.

Sorry.

Cathy Brockman says

This is another short, sweet story of the one that got away. A misunderstanding at their high school winter formal made things awkward between Keith and Parker. Now 10 years later Keith is back in town with a proposition.

Parker is hoping for another chance to make things right with Keith after pushing him away so many years ago.

If you like second chances and sweet holiday romance you should like this.

Serena Yates says

High school reunions are very binary: either you love them or you the them. Much depends on how you got on with the people you attended high school with and whether you want to see them again, but I think your attitude also depends on your maturity. If you've grown out of "needing their approval" you are far more likely to not want to attend. And this is one of the reasons why I found Keith and Parker's story so interesting. Both of them have grown since graduation, have their own lives, and certainly don't need anyone

from high school for approval or anything else. And yet – both are drawn to the event like flies to honey.

Keith was the class geek, and is now a talented software engineer on the verge of starting his company. But he knows that he “doesn’t do people” well, and he needs his former best friend, Parker, to help him with that side of the venture. Since they are estranged due to an aborted kiss at graduation, Keith needs an excuse to come to see Parker and present his proposal. What better opportunity/excuse than their ten-year high school reunion?

Parker is a people person through and through, to the point that he is getting used by his boss at the PR agency and his clients alike. He has always regretted running from “the kiss”, has been in love with Keith for a long time, and is hoping for a “rematch”. Things take an unexpected turn or two once they reconnect, but Parker is prepared to go to practically any length to get what he wants – Keith!

If you like your Christmas stories with lots and lots of mistletoe, if you think that a science geek and an outgoing PR guy might just make the perfect couple, and if you’re looking for a sweet, entertaining read that is full of Christmas cheer, then you will probably like this short story as much as I do.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review.

Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says

3.75 Stars

After a failed attempt at a kiss under the Mistletoe, Keith left to attend college in California and has made a life for himself in Silicon Valley. It’s been 10 years and now he’s back for his high school reunion, and just maybe he’ll have another chance with Parker.

Keith and Parker were both sweet and likable and this was lovely second chances romance. I found the story to be somewhat rushed and I was left wanting more character development, but still an enjoyable and recommendable holiday story.

copy provided by author/publisher in exchange for an honest review
