



The Trouble with Christmas

Kaira Rouda

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At 35-years-old, Cole Stanton is burned out. His high-paced, uber-successful career has left him yearning to start over. He finds Indigo Island, buys a restaurant and settles into an uncomplicated life. But Christmas is a mess. He has over-committed the small restaurant's resources again, and is over his head. He finds himself longing for everything he has left behind, until a chance encounter with gorgeous Lily offers a spark of salvation to his business and, perhaps his life.

Beautiful pastry chef Lily Edmonds is thirty years old and heartbroken. It's just before Christmas and she's just been dumped by via telephone by her fiancée. Her best friend Avery Putnam invites her to Indigo Island, hoping to add joy back into Lily's life. A chance encounter with the sexy owner of a local restaurant makes Lily feel an attraction she thought she'd never feel again, and offers her a business challenge to keep her mind focused on something other than her broken heart.

Cole Stanton and Lily Edmonds are both starting over. Will the joy of the holiday season bring them together or will the troubles with Christmas push them apart?

The Trouble with Christmas Details

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From Reader Review *The Trouble with Christmas* for online ebook

Wendy's Thoughts says

4 Solid Stars * * * *

If you like a romance between people who have lived a little, been through some adversity and come out the other end as warm wonderful people, then this Christmas Love story is for you. Tule Publishing and Kaira Rouda have come up with a new winning series. They have introduced a feel of the South with families and locales we want to know more about..

A gifted copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

Soo... not sure what I just read or how to even start this review. In a sense I am a little ticked with this book.

Yup this is also my 3rd Christmas read this September. Someone seems to be in a holiday mood huh? Kind to think of it, the book before this one centered around Halloween. Humm... anyway getting off track. Hope this review doesn't sound too harsh.

Okay, I really went with an open mind when I picked *The Trouble with Christmas* as my next read. I really had been in a holiday mood, plus my netgalley account was getting kind of cluttered due to missing a bunch after having my son and let's face it this looked like a quick read. Who doesn't like quick reads? Especially if you have an infant almost constantly in your other arm, like right now... heh Typing one handed /flex

Anyway. I am stalling. Like I said, I am not sure where to begin. I really wanted to like this book, but it kind of went down hill fast for me. Long story short, or short story, shorter... Lily has just been dumped by her fiance. He apparently broke off their engagement for an "arranged" marriage and he was also marrying.. up for money. Okay, whatever. So Lily is heart broken when her best friend since childhood swoops in and takes her away on a family trip to Indigo Island.

Now I will warn you. Some things upset me as the story went on so there might be SPOILERS. If you do not want to see them, you can just stop reading now... I will just tell you ahead of time, I gave this book two stars instead of one because the romance had SOME redeeming qualities. Okay? Now, if you don't want to know why I was so upset, and don't want to read spoilers, you can stop beyond this point.

SPOILERS AHEAD

First, I felt like Lily moved on too quickly. This was sort of an insta-love book. One moment she is blowing snot bubbles over her ex of five years, the next moment she is drooling over some local of Indigo Island. The guy is hot, so.. yup that's that.

-Avery her best friend keeps hoping that Lily would become her sister in law and get together with her brother James, who apparently has a girlfriend in this book, and appears roughly a hand full of times and none of their communication had left me believing there was anything between them. What really pissed me off here? Lily says something during family dinner that apparently upsets James, which I did not feel he should have been upset about it and Avery was quick to point out that Lily has hit a nerve.. umm why? To

top it off... James, who she knew all her life and did not feel anything towards apparently out of no where, thought that the two of them can have a future together and then literally forces himself on her... sorry but...the hell?

There is a lot of The trouble with Christmas lines and all the problems with it.. I did not know that Christmas was such a troubled holiday...

At one point Lily calls Bob her soul mate, but later says she never felt anything like this with Bob or any man that she felt with Cole.... flip flopping much?

Cole calls Lily exasperating because she teases him a bunch but won't sleep with a man she just met right away – why? Not that it matters, the panties dropped not too soon after that.

Avery let's Lily borrow her lingerie... what? NO, NO, NO. I am sorry, I don't care if she is your best friend, sister, or mother.. why would ANYONE borrow someones lingerie.. ew.. no!

The book was so fast paced there was just too much going too fast, it was kind of like watching a movie on fast forward... Maybe it would have benefited in slowing down?

Anyway...

I did think there was some parts of the book that was nice. Like them helping a local diner with the Christmas meals, thought Cole's tension with the owner was odd... And some parts of the romance was sweet, but a lot of it was too fast and too odd. Unfortunately, I found too much negatives in the book to fully enjoy it. But that's just me. I know a lot will still enjoy it, and that's fine, but that was just my two cents. I am sure it is still a comfy quick Christmas read for many, but for me, too many things had put me off.

I got a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange of an honest review.

Jonel Boyko says

This is a sweet & enjoyable Christmas novella. Rouda easily puts you in the Christmas spirit with a light-hearted romance about loving again, being yourself, and embracing the entirety of the season. Her descriptions allow you to picture the island where the characters are spending their Christmas while the intricate storytelling will keep you captivated.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the main characters here. Actually, the whole cast for that matter. Rouda presents us with an interesting bunch of rich yet down to earth individuals that you can't help but love. I think I could tell you what the characters are wearing in every scene of this novella. This single aspect really tells you a lot about the main character. Her focus is on everything, every part of those around her. It's quite enjoyable.

As a whole, this was an enjoyable, heartfelt Christmas novella that really & truly embraces the season.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Ruby Johnson says

Lilly, a pastry chef, has just been dumped via phone by her fiance so she heads to an island off the coast of Georgia with her best friend Avery Putnam's family to celebrate the holidays. She meets Cole and they

immediately are attracted. Cole Stanton is a Wall Street Investment banker and is burned out. He feels his high-paced career decisions caused an investor to commit suicide. So he has moved to Indigo Island, bought a restaurant hoping to start over and settle into a more simple life. But Christmas is a mess because he knows nothing about being a restaurant owner and is in over his head. A chance encounter with Lily offers a way out for his business and perhaps his life.

Lily feels an attraction she thought she'd never feel again, and offers him help to keep her mind focused on something other than her broken heart.

Pros: Good descriptions of setting and food.

Cons: The romance and sexual relationship were too quick. I could not feel the sexual chemistry and there was really no conflict in the story. Just a feel good story of holiday meals, parties, and two people in a relationship.

Renaë says

I would give 3 1/2 stars.

Lily had the standard being jilted by her fiancé and him getting married on Christmas, while Cole was a little more complex. He was a Wall Street money maker, who ditched everything, even family and moved to Indigo Island to right his wrongs the only way it made sense to him, except that wasn't his expertise and he was bombing at it. Lily is whisked away to the island by her best friend Avery. Lily's chef expertise is able to save Cole bacon.

The chemistry is okay and the issues were easily resolved. My favorite quote from the book was "The trouble with Christmas wasn't because of the holiday at all. Christmas was what people made it. It was their choice to focus on the bad things that had happened to them and the people who had hurt them, or choose to focus on the magical, light-filled, sparkling season that promised hope and dreams would come true. "

Jessica Alcazar says

Another really good Christmas treat story! There's no real drama per say, we just have two people who have the means to help each other out and do. And while they're at it, they fall in love, of course :) It is Christmas after all! LOL Very sweet short love story with two great characters with a little sizzle between them. just in time to get ya in the spirit of the holidays!

ARC provided by Tule Publishing via NetGalley for an honest review!

Elle Markov says

Lily Edmonds just got dumped by her fiance right before Christmas and to make things worse on Christmas day the jerk is marrying someone else. Come in best friend Avery with a solution; Avery takes Lily to her family's home on Indigo Island to try and cheer her up.

Cole Stanton is the new guy on Indigo Island; having left behind an unfulfilling life, he is trying to make a go at it as a restaurant owner. When Cole and Lily meet is like love at first sight, Lily is of course more guarded granted that she was just recently crying her eyes out over her broken engagement.

The story is sweet, there is no drama or conflict between Cole and Lily, the story is about both of them coming together over shared interest and bonding. This is the perfect, optimistic, cheery holiday read everyone.

Rating 4 out of 5

Read@Book

Nicki says

Though it is 500 pages long, only about 230 are the actual story. The rest is another book by the author!

This is one of the many Xmas books (freebies) I had downloaded. I spent two hours literally going through and deleting the majority of my free crap this week. This one I kept. It's deleted now, though.

It's not bad so much as short and moves too quickly. Probably never should have even downloaded it as it's really not my type of thing.

Jean says

Lily is a pastry chef who was just dumped by her fiance right before Christmas, and given the shocking news that he was marrying someone else on Christmas Day. She was devastated. Luckily her friend Avery came to the rescue taking her to her family's Indigo Island home to get away and recover.

Cole was on Indigo Island to repair some bad karma from his previous career. He helped save a small restaurant on the island from bankruptcy and was trying to make things right, but knowing next to nothing about the restaurant wasn't doing so well.

Do you believe in love at first sight? Or in this case, love at first collision? When Lily heads to the local store to get cookie decorations, she literally runs right into Cole who was on his way out of the store. There is instant electricity between them. After talking for a bit she learns of his issues with the restaurant and figures throwing herself into a project would be a good distraction for her right now.

I loved Lily and Cole and how they worked so well together to save the restaurant. Avery's family was wonderful as well. They are so loving and caring and they genuinely want Lily to be happy. Lily and Cole really brought out the best in each other and made a wonderful team.

Isha Coleman says

I loved this story. Cole and Lily learned that when you least expect-- good things can happen. This story really grabbed my attention and touched my heart. Finished in one day. Can't wait to read the rest of this series. Enjoyable read that will leave you smiling.

Janine says

A sweet Christmas story

A quiet Christmas with her best friend and family at their plantation home is just what Lily Edmonds needs after being dumped by her fiance of five years.

Cole Stanton needed a change from his fast paced life in Boston. Indigo Island seems like the perfect place to start over. He has bought a restaurant and wants to make a success of it. He had no idea how hard it is running a restaurant.

Lily and Cole quickly become friends after bumping into each other at the store and she decides to help him with his Christmas menu. Will the spirit of the holiday season bring them together or will the troubles with Christmas push them apart?

Books and Spoons says

Review originally posted on booksandspoons.weebly.com/book-blog

When it's a Christmas story, with a heroine who is a pastry chef, and food is a major point in the story -- it is pretty much an instant winner with me.

And *The Trouble with Christmas* didn't disappoint. It is a heartwarming tale with many positive life messages, closeness and love of a family, as well as adorable romance.

The Putnam family, the closeness, the care and acceptance of Lily, and each other, as well as the community, is enough in itself to put you into Christmas spirits.

How the whole island pulls together, to 'save the Christmas' of a restaurant is inspiring.

For Cole and Lily to realize and accept the love and joy within each other, in such a stressful time in their lives is breathtaking. And all the life lessons Lily learns in the process is uplifting.

Just a cheerful story to get you into the joyful Christmas spirits ~ four spoons!

I received a copy of the book from the publisher via NetGalley for honest and fair review

Veronica of V's Reads says

Everyone would be a couple, except for her. That was the trouble with Christmas. There were

just too many expectations and not enough sprinkles of magic when someone needed them.

Yep. Lily's alone again. Her dad abandoned her mother when Lily was a teen. Her mom is/was an alcoholic and out of the picture. And now Bob has cut their engagement, announcing his impending marriage to a known socialite. Christmas pretty much sucks. Which is why Lily allowed Avery, her BFF, to helicopter her off to Avery's parents' estate on Indigo Island.

While there, Lily meets Cole, and his altruism is such a shock to her system. Bob was a narcissist, and Lily--a hardworking pastry chef--never measured up to his, or his family's, expectations. Being the center of Cole's attraction is pretty heady for Lily.

Cole's got 99 problems, but a girl ain't one. He's haunted by his free-wheeling days as an investment broker. Cavalier portfolios left a number of his clients financially and psychologically ruined, and the emotional fall out caused him to change paths quickly. Now, all he wants to do is fix the business of Marshside Mama's, a local eatery, but his high fallutin' ideas have pushed the restaurant even closer to the brink.

Meeting Chef Lily is a Christmas miracle, if Cole allows himself to believe such exist. The attraction is magnetic, but their cooperation is kismet. Lily applauds Cole's initiative, but recognizes his skills set isn't in the kitchen. She works with Sally Ann, the restaurant's owner and and cook, to create a Christmas menu that brings to locals in in droves. And the way Lily and Cole fit together? Delicious.

This is a fun Christmas novella with good pacing. I was a bit alarmed by how fast the attraction built--from a spark to a blaze--but there are moments where Lily pulls back on the reins and finds that she too can have some power in a relationship. Avery's family is indeed too good to be true, but I love me some socially-conscious billionaires. I was really happy to see Lily figure out the trouble with Christmas, after all...

The trouble with Christmas wasn't because of the holiday at all. Christmas was what people made it. It was their choice to focus on the bad things that had happened to them and the people who had hurt them, or choose to focus on the magical, light-filled, sparkling season that promised hope and dreams would come true.

Christine says

A trip back to Indigo Island, during Christmas time, what more could Lily ask for? I loved this book, it had the Island, it had likable characters, Christmas, a pastry chef and a restaurant in need. Lily has to get away from the bad breakup and her best friend Avery insists that she go to Indigo Island with her family. Once there the island starts to work its magic on Lily until she stumbles into Cole and sparks begin to fly! I look forward to the next island adventure.

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Jean says

No

I thought that the story was progressing real quick. At 39% the story ended. The rest of this book is other quick reads. I will not be reading this again. If I had known that this was several “bonus” books I would not have gotten it even free.
