



Engaging Father Christmas

Robin Jones Gunn

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Miranda Carson can't wait to return to England for Christmas and to be with her boyfriend, Ian. She has spent a lifetime yearning for a place to call home, and she's sure Carlton Heath will be it, especially when a hinted-at engagement ring slips into the conversation.

But Miranda's high hopes for a jolly Christmas with the small circle of people she has come to love are toppled when Ian's father is hospitalized and the matriarch of the Whitcombe family withholds her blessing from Miranda. Questions run rampant in Miranda's mind about whether she really belongs in this cheery corner of the world. Then, when her true identity threatens all her relationships in unanticipated ways, Miranda is certain all is lost.

And yet . . . maybe Father Christmas has special gifts in store for her after all.

Engaging Father Christmas Details

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Author : Robin Jones Gunn

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Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Christian Fiction, Romance, Fiction, Christian

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From Reader Review Engaging Father Christmas for online ebook

Kayce says

Talk about perfect timing for a book! I finished this one the day after Christmas and it was such a cute and cozy little read during the holiday. The sequel to Finding Father Christmas, Engaging Father Christmas continues with Miranda's journey as she heads back to Carlton Heath one year after her discovery of a family she never knew. Now happily involved with a special someone, Miranda feels sentimental as she travels back to the tiny town that welcomed her with open arms the first time she visited, which was the previous Christmas.

While very predictable (at a short 155 pages it doesn't take a seasoned reader to know what's coming), Gunn is still an excellent story teller. She'll keep you engaged and make you feel right at home as you get to know the characters a bit more than last time. The reader will recognize several scenarios that were in the first novel (the Tea Cosy, the Christmas play, and the Whitcombe manor) that make you wish for variety.

But this is still a cozy (guess that's the best word I keep coming up with!) little novel about the Christmas spirit, warm and friendly people, and the need all of us have for love in our lives. I recommend picking up a copy before the end of the year to appreciate the timing of the story!

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

<http://bookwormz2010.wordpress.com/20...>

Emily says

I'll kind of combine my thoughts on Finding Father Christmas and Engaging Father Christmas, since I read the, right after another as though they were one big book. There might possibly be spoilers. I'll try to keep it as spoiler free as possible though.

I genuinely enjoyed these books, however I think that is because I am a long time fan of Robin Jones Gunn. A person who isn't one of her fans or familiar with her writing, I'm not sure how they would enjoy them. I also had to keep reminding myself that these were novellas, not full novels. So therefore, there wouldn't be as much detail as there would be if they were complete novels. Thus, the three star rating.

I loved the premise of the stories. A woman named Miranda who was raised by a single mother who happened to be an actress, and years after the death of her mother she travels to Britain to find her long lost father. As a theatre person, a lover of God, romance, and Christmas, I really loved how she combined all of these.

However, beyond Miranda, and possibly one or two other characters, I didn't completely fall in love with them. The characters were likable, which was easy because they were so war, and loving. I would have been nice to have seen some of their flaws though. Which could just be personal preference. It also would have been nice to see how Miranda and Ian's relationship had grown between the two books. However, for being novellas, Gunn did a nice job.

When you read her books, you can tell Gunn Ike's happy endings. These books were no exception. While some may see it as corny or cliché, sometimes it's nice to see a story end happily. Sometimes having such an optimistic view such as Gunn's may seem naive and unrealistic, it also can be a breath of fresh air.

Mary says

Engaging *Father Christmas* is the continuation of Miranda Carson's journey to search for her father and become a beloved member of a family, which began in *Finding Father Christmas*.

At the beginning of the story we find Miranda at Paddington Station having just arrived from the United States to spend Christmas with the Whitcombe family (the family of her now deceased birth father) and the McGregor family in Carlton Heath England. While awaiting the arrival of her beloved Ian, she happens to bump into her former boyfriend, Josh. Josh is the person who encouraged Miranda to search for her birth father and pointed out the clues which originally brought her to England in *Finding Father Christmas*. She tells Josh that she did find her father and revealed his identity to him.

The story continues when Miranda and Ian arrive in Carlton Heath. Miranda is trying very hard to understand Margaret Whitcombe, the family matriarch. Miranda wants Margaret's acceptance.

The story twists and turns with some unexpected events, which cause Miranda to fear that her new found family may want to turn her out. However, as Christmas approaches, it seems that the spirit of the season may have influenced hearts and brought an acceptance and understanding to Miranda.

Truly another charming tale by Robin Jones Gunn. I hope the author continues this Christmas series with another sweet tale about where life takes Miranda and her family.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Miranda Carson can't wait to return to England for Christmas and to be with her boyfriend, Ian. She has spent a lifetime yearning for a place to call home, and she's sure Carlton Heath will be it, especially when a hinted-at engagement ring slips into the conversation.

But Miranda's high hopes for a jolly Christmas with the small circle of people she has come to love are toppled when Ian's father is hospitalized and the matriarch of the Whitcombe family withholds her blessing from Miranda. Questions run rampant in Miranda's mind about whether she really belongs in this cheery corner of the world. Then, when her true identity threatens all her relationships in unanticipated ways, Miranda is certain all is lost.

And yet . . . maybe Father Christmas has special gifts in store for her after all.”

Series: Book #2 in the “*Father Christmas*” series. (Review of Book #1 [Here!](#))

Spiritual Content- Jeremiah 29:11 at the beginning; Set during Christmas; Prayers, blessings over food &

"Truth has a way of rising to the surface. Sometimes you must wait for truth to float to the top. Other times you must go to it, take it by the hand, and pull it up with all your might."

The author was stating this in the context of family and hiding parentage. But the quote rings true in so many instances. Sometimes it's more than difficult to speak the truth... One must overtly wrangle it into the open. It takes courage and faith.

Although short, this novella is enough to warm your heart and remind you of the importance of love.

Jess says

Meh. Light fluff. I've not read Jones since I was a teen -- Christy Miller anyone?

Ruth says

I love to make Christmas cookies. I pull out Mom's recipies and some I've grown to love over the years. They are sweet, yummy, and who cares if they aren't nutritious? I just read two books by Robin Jones Gunn that remind me of Christmas cookies. Finding Father Christmas and Engaging Father Christmas are both about Miranda Carlson, the daughter of an actress who is a single mother. The clues her mother left her led her to England one Christmas on a search for her father. I won't tell whether she finds her dad, but she does find her Father and his Son--but the book isn't preachy and really isn't about her conversion--which is really more of a gentle unveiling than a knock off a horse. The books are what you'd expect Christmas books to be--heartwarming and sweet--kind of like Christmas cookies.

Jody says

Some spoilers ahead. I enjoyed this book, but the storyline didn't take the turns I thought it would. The dustjacket states "the matriarch of the Whitcombe family refuses to bless Miranda and Ian's relationship." It also says "family secrets threaten all her relationships in unanticipated ways," and "she finds the promise of so much more in the arms of a certain Father Christmas." First off, the matriarch didn't even have anything to say about their relationship, and the only "family secret" is the one we already knew about Miranda being Sir James Whitcombe's daughter. There is a random appearance by former boyfriend, Josh, which led me to think (based on the dustjacket) she and Ian would break up because of the matriarch's disapproval, and she would land back in Josh's arms. No such drama. Also, BEFORE Ian has even asked Miranda to marry him, when they are visiting Ian's father in the hospital, Miranda holds Andrew's hand and says, "It's Miranda's, Dad. We're all here for you." OK, a bit presumptuous to call a man Dad when your boyfriend hasn't even asked you to marry him yet. OK, so all the complaints aside, I enjoyed the book, but I think I would have enjoyed it more if the dustjacket hadn't led me to believe I was going to read a totally different story.

Natalie says

I liked it more than the first one - it was more Christmassy and I loved when Ian dressed up as Santa for the

kids in the hospital. I also loved that Miranda's niece and nephew gave up some of their gifts to Ian to give to the kids. That was so sweet.

Laura says

Title: ENGAGING FATHER CHRISTMAS

Author: Robin Jones Gunn

Publisher: Faith Words

2008

ISBN: 978-0-446-17946-1

Genre: Inspirational/Christmas/contemporary

Miranda Carson has just returned to England to spend Christmas with her Scottish boyfriend, Ian, and his family, who manages a tea shop in a small town in the English country-side. But Ian is running late meeting Miranda at the airport, and the first person Miranda sees is her former boyfriend, Josh. After a few minutes spent catching up, Josh goes his way, and Ian arrives, whisking Miranda off to...the hospital, where his dad had just been admitted with a heart attack.

While visiting with Ian's mother in the tea shop, Miranda's deceased father's wife shows up, and Miranda spends a few minutes talking with her, hoping that the family matriarch will make her welcome. But Margaret is as cold and stand-offish as ever, making Miranda wonder if she will ever truly be welcomed as her father's daughter, a member of the family. Still, her brother Edward does extend some effort, and Miranda loves Edward's two children, Julia and Mark.

But, as Miranda searches for love and acceptance, a family to belong to, she finds some more in the arms of Father Christmas.

In this long awaited sequel to Finding Father Christmas we see Miranda returning to England. I enjoyed the way this novella played out, revisiting the charming people and country I encountered in the first book and getting to know the characters in a slightly deeper level. Miranda has changed a lot in the two books, becoming more open to love, and not as skittish. I enjoyed seeing her transformation.

Don't miss this charming Christmas novella, and even though I read the book in July, that doesn't mean you have to! Christmas will be coming very soon, and this will be a book to look for when they start stocking Christmas novellas in November. If you pick up Finding Father Christmas and ENGAGING FATHER CHRISTMAS the dual will make a charming gift for someone, especially if you include a pack of their favorite English tea.

\$13.99, hardcover. 159 pages.

Julia says

Engaging Father Christmas by Robin Jones Gunn is a delightful contemporary festive read. It is the sequel to Finding Father Christmas but can be read as a stand-alone.

The novel is set one year after the first one and continues many of the themes. Once again there is the theme of belonging. A year earlier Miranda was searching to belong. Now she consolidates her position with both her earthly friends and her heavenly Father. She was "pursued by God,,, changed... [and] belongs to God." There are parallels between earthly fathers and our heavenly Father. Edward is a powerful man yet his door is always open to his children and he bends an ear to listen to them. Likewise God, the creator of the universe loves each one of us and bends His ear to hear us.

Coming home is another theme. It can be in the literal sense or figuratively. Miranda's home growing up was a series of hotel rooms. She longs for both a bricks and mortar home and a home in someone's heart.

Once again questions of roots is raised. Children must never be made to feel guilty for where they come from. They cannot be held responsible for their parents indiscretions.

God is our generous Father. His gifts to us are given in abundance. God's extravagant gifts and grace are contagious. If you know God, you want to emulate Him and be generous. This is seen in the novel as children Julia and Mark open their hearts to others around them. Having both a child-like heart and faith is a beautiful thing.

Engaging Father Christmas was a fabulous read. The story wrapped itself around my heart, producing a warm, fuzzy feeling. I am really enjoying this series and eager to start book three Kissing Father Christmas. Give yourself a festive treat and immerse yourself in this fabulous series today.

You can buy the first two books separately or buy them in the two for one edition.

I received this book for free. A favourable review was not required and all views expressed are my own.

Melissa says

I really liked the connection between Ian and Miranda may not have her blood family to support her, but she is beginning to see that she has plenty of family that cares for her. On this trip back to Carlton Heath a member of her chosen family is in the hospital and they all need to be there for support. As you read about Katherine being worried about Miranda after her long trip you can tell that she worries about all the people she loves so much. Even through the stress of the illness Ian and Miranda never have a falling out. Miranda has a few unexpected run ins with someone from her past and all she can do is pray it won't ruin her still weak connections to certain people who live in Carlton Heath. I found myself loving the characters of this story and found them easy to understand. I couldn't wait to see what happened with Ian and Miranda! This was a great Christmas romance that I loved for too many reasons to count... especially since it was a clean romance not all sex and whatnot. It was just mostly sweet and refreshing.

Donna Kale says

Really good!

Jeff says

An enchanting sequel to "Finding Father Christmas" that's filled with old-fashioned Christmas warmth, enchanting settings, and spiritual revelations throughout Miranda's return to Carlton Heath, England, where

she first came in search of her father a year ago. Despite the bumps in the road along the way; not to mention some compromising headlines that could jeopardize all that Miranda has worked toward her entire life; true engagement in love and family prevail, and at long last, Miranda is finally home.

While I loved this book and its prequel, "Finding Father Christmas," Hallmark produced the film version of the sequel as well and with a few changes to warm up the frosty personas in the book, they created Christmas magic.

At the risk of sounding like a commercial, if you haven't read the books or seen the movies, make sure you do this holiday season. You'll love them all!

Donna says

This novel is the sequel to Finding Father Christmas.

Miranda Carson cannot wait to return to England to spend the Christmas season with her boyfriend and family. She is still trying to make amends with the family that she has found to be the family of her father, Sir James Whitcombe. She so wants them to accept her into the family, especially Margaret, Sir James' widow.

Surprises await Miranda and so does disappointments. Miranda is certain all is lost when the family secret is made public and threatens her relationships and thinks she has lost all.

A certain "Father Christmas" shows her how much she is loved and there are so many special gifts in store for her.

Another book I couldn't put down until the end.
