



Un Beso de Navidad

Christina McKnight (Translator) , Samantha S. Priego

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Lady Pippa ha sufrido la temporada más terrible en Londres. Ella escapa hacia su propiedad en Somerset, para pasar una tranquila Navidad con su familia, lejos de los ojos atentos de la sociedad. Pero antes de que sus padres puedan alcanzarla, una tormenta cae en Somerset, destruyendo cualquier esperanza de una Navidad blanca. Los caminos se han inundado y es imposible viajar, dejándola encerrada y sola. Pero un guapo, enlodado, enojado y diabólico Lord aparece en su puerta, exigiéndole refugio.

Lucas Hartfeld, el Conde de Maddox, ha sido mandado a llamar por sus padres, el Marqués y la Marquesa de Bowmont, para asistir a una fiesta navideña en medio del campo, lejos de su propiedad en Londres. Él sospecha que demandan su asistencia por razones muy diferentes a una simple fiesta en el campo. Cuando la tormenta atrapa su carruaje, se ve forzado a buscar refugio en la única casa que está cerca, una mansión local llamada Casa Helton.

Cuando Lady Pippa se muestra reacia a admitirlo, él hace lo que le enseñaron a hacer, demandar que ella le otorgue a él y a sus sirvientes un refugio hasta que la tormenta pase. Pero la hermosa mujer le llama más la atención de lo que está dispuesto a admitir. ¿Podrá Lucas encontrar una salida a este predicamento que sus padres están planeando?

Al tiempo que Lady Pippa escanea a otro arrogante y exigente Lord, ella es bombardeada con los recuerdos de las traiciones que sufrió en su pasado. ¿Podrá olvidar aquellas lecciones de vida tan difíciles para reclamar un beso de Navidad de un completo extraño?

Un Beso de Navidad Details

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From Reader Review *Un Beso de Navidad* for online ebook

Christina McKnight says

Lady Pippa and Lucas are two of my favorite characters!

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

'A Kiss at Christmastide' by Christina McKnight is the story of Lady Pippa Godfrey and Lucas Hartfeld, the Earl of Maddox.

Lady Pippa and her best friend were to make their coming out but something happened that ended up putting Lady Pippa in a slight scandal. Lady Pippa has put herself from the town's view and into one of her family's country Somerset estate. Lady Pippa has been there a while awaiting the arrival of her parents for the Christmastide. But the only thing to arrive is a bad storm and Hartfeld. Hartfeld carriage has broken a wheel and is stuck in the mud of the storm. Hartfeld is head to a Holiday party that his parents insist that he attends. Hartfeld thinks the party will have his parents wanting him to become engaged to a certain lady there. So he is in no hurry to attend and is happy enough to stay at Lady Pippa house. But these two, have been battling their words and trying to fight a growing attraction.

When I started reading this I had to know how it ended. I felt for Lady Pippa and how hard I am sure it was to try to trust and understand a close hurt that came to send her off into her own exile. Hartfeld had a few things to work out too. I loved these two together in addition to their smart banter between them.

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

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Dee Deacon Foster says

Lady Pippa Godfrey has few friends in the ton and soon has one less and she doesn't even know why.

Escaping to the country Pippa longs for nothing but a quiet family Christmas. Alas, fate has other plans. The absence of her parents, a winter storm, and an overbearing lord threaten the very peace she is looking for. As hours turn into days Pippa soon learns the true man behind the face he presents. When the weather improves will she be able to face what she perceives as a betrayal of the worst kind?

Lucas Hartfield, the Earl of Maddox, wants many things in life none of which include a trip to the country to meet the girl his parents have chosen for him. His foul mood does not improve when a winter storm erupts and forces him to find shelter and worsens when the young chit who answers the door refuses him admittance. Asserting his status he works his way in for what should be one night. As that one night turns into days Lucas finds himself drawn to the unpretentious lady, so unlike the ladies of the ton. As the weather improves and he makes to leave to disabuse his family of who is to marry things take a terrible turn. Will he be able to forward or will a misstep cost him what he holds dear

I absolutely loved this story! Christina McKnight does a fabulous job engaging all the emotions and gives her characters such depth with room to grow. Pippa's growth from a naïve young girl (and in many ways she retains that innocence) to a young lady discovering love and all the moments in between are a delight to read. Spending time with Pippa starts to change Lucas' jaded view of the ton as he learns to relax and enjoy the simple things. However, when the outside world makes its way in watching these two revert to their former selves was enough to make me want to smack them both. When Lucas learns that something Pippa loves will be threatened if he continues to do as his father wishes he finally grows a backbone and I couldn't help but cheer. This event also sheds a new light on Pippa's former friend; a light I look forward to reading about in the future.

April says

A Kiss At Christmastide: Regency Novella by Christina McKnight is a quick but very fulfilling Holiday tale of love and a Christmas miracle.

Well written with well-developed, captivating and seductive characters. The storyline is unique, intriguing and utterly charming.

Lucas Hartfeld, the Earl of Maddox, who is betrothed to Lady Natalie, not a Lady of his choosing but his parent's, sight unseen.

Lady Pippa Godfrey, has a ruinous first season, due to her best friend, Lady Natalie's lies and innuendoes. Lady Pippa retreats to her parents country estate, to lick her wounds, from the devastated results of her friend. Enter...

Lucas, at her door, mistakingly, on a cold winter's night needing shelter from the storm raging outside. Unbeknownst to either of them, that he is betrothed to Lady Natalie's, Pippa's best friend, who live on neighboring estates.

Steady paced with many twists and turns, the magic of Christmas, healing old wounds and finding love against all odds.

Powerful, charming and an utterly fantastic Holiday read! A must read for fans of Holiday reads, Novella's, Regency Historical Romance, charming, and sweet stories. Simply an amazing Holiday read!

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR

Twinsie Talk Angie J says

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A Kiss at Christmastide by Christina McKnight

I received this book from the author for an honest review.

I say this with every Regency Historical I read, I love them and will keep shouting it off the roof tops. I don't know how people can't love them. I mean the balls, the big crazy dresses, the ton....ok yeah I can do without the ton, the crazy chaperone dramas, but the life style just seems awesome to me. Granted I wasn't wearing a corset and sweating in a heat filled ballroom without deodorant too.....ewwwww.

This is a great anxiety filled novella with new character from Christina. This is about Lady Pippa who was embroiled in scandal last season thanks to her frenemie, Lady Natalie, and our rakeshell, Lord Lucas. Pippa is sitting at home ignoring an invite from Natalie to her holiday party. She has hurt feelings over what her bestie said about her in polite company. When she is waiting for her parents to arrive home, there is a bang on the door and enter our rakeshell, Lucas. He needs to be sheltered for the night due to the late night and raging storm outside.

Our couple are thrown together for 2 short days but enough of an impression is made on the other to sway their feelings for the other. When the storm leaves and all the secrets are revealed about Lucas and Natalie, Pippa is a mess but so is Lucas.

I loved Lucas. He is such an arrogant guy but he really and truly wants to be loved and accepted. Pippa is a "bleeding heart" who was raised different than most children of the ton. She was raised with kindness and compassion. I loved her sweet and gentle nature but yet her sassy and feisty side was great to read. She was really comfortable in her own skin and helped to set Lucas at ease. Her compassion is what drew him to her even if he teases her for it.

I am super eager to read Lady Natalie's book because she is a uber C-word in my books so redemption is gonna be tricky!!! WAIT Can I say C-word in a historical? HRMMM...ok she is a major hussy then???? Lady of unsavory morals??? Lets go with that one for now...LOL

Pamela says

Phippa is at the recital, ready to perform, when her best friend does the unthinkable. She infers that her friend plays so well because their music teacher stays behind ,to give her friend private lessons. Said in public, this is quite the scandal, and sets Pippa back to her home at Summerset in tears. Why would her neighbor, and dearest friend talk that way. Her first season over to soon. Phippa is cozy, in her home reading, but still disturbed. A terrible storm is raging out side, and she has been invited to Natalie's engagement ball. The night is too beastly, and so is her friend, plus her parents have yet to return, from their outing, and with each crack of thunder, and torrent of rain, she feels more concerned. A fierce knocking is finally heard, at the front doors, and Phipps is sure her parents have arrive home safe. A drenched livery stands there speaking of his stranded master, a Marquee. He barges past his servant demanding shelter till the storm breaks. Lucas had been sleeping off a night of drinking, when his carriage was engulfed in the muddy road, than part of it broke off. He was cold, and out of sorts, who did not wish to speak to a servant, in a night dress. He demanded a good, bed, and a bath, and food , to the mousy little thing, holding a book. Phippa put him in his place. She was the daughter of a duke, and he could keep riding, or sleep in the barn. They work it out, and she agrees him entrance, and all he needs, by waking the butler. Their banter back and forth has awakened something in Lucas. He is used to being waited on, petted, and loved, by all but his parents. This wonderful book is such fun, and filled with Christmas spirit. She shows Lucas, the true spirit of giving, as she prepares gifts for the

poor in the parish, as well as the children.. Decorating the house, which , he relays on servants to do , becomes a fun adventure. The mistletoe, is grand. The days pass quickly until the rain clears, and it is time for him, to rejoin his party. She finds she is sad, but with a stranger she barely knows, and he is packed, and ready. What will the outcome be ? The finding out, is the best part. I like both characters, and Natalie plays a good spoiled lady. It never quite describes why she turned on her friend though, only left for the reader to guess. I loved the ending. This one is a Christmas keeper.

Linda says

A sweet, easy-to-read Regency romance...

“Life – and love – are much like a storm. The clouds, the wind, the rain may make it impossible for you to see a clear path to your fated destination, but with time and a lot of faith, you will find the correct path once more – or a better path, one that could not be seen before the storm made it visible.”

A Kiss at Christmastide is a charming historical holiday read. The cover is gorgeous and drew me in right away. The story is well-paced with a few surprising twists. It's the first book in a three-book series of standalone - but connected – holiday novellas set in Somerset, England. The other books in the series are by Amanda Mariel and Dawn Brower.

Lucas Hartfeld, the Earl of Maddox, has been betrothed to Lady Natalie - sight unseen - by his parents from whom he is estranged. His trip to meet Lady Natalie at a holiday party and to have their betrothal announced is sidelined by a raging thunderstorm which breaks the wheel of his carriage. He unhappily seeks and takes refuge at the home of Lady Pippa Godfrey who is home alone save for her servants. Lucas does not make Pippa privy to his betrothal and she remains entirely unaware that he is betrothed for most of the story.

Pippa and Natalie were previously best friends and confidants. However, they had a falling-out when Natalie decidedly ruined Pippa's first season by perpetuating lies about Pippa. Lucas' and Pippa's chemistry grows hotter as the storm continues to keep them sequestered inside growing to where Pippa enjoys a first kiss with him fulfilling a Christmas legend: Kiss under the kissing bough and a lady is guaranteed to be wed before the following Christmastide. Will the legend hold true?

Here's a short favorite snippet from A Kiss at Christmastide:

“Lucas,” she started again. “You may release me now.”

“And if I refuse?”

“Then we shall be found in short order in a position most scandalous by my servants.”

“And we do not want that to happen?” This time, it was a question, not a statement.

Pippa wanted nothing less than to be released. “Surely, the wisest decision would be that.”

“Are you a wise woman, Pippa?” he asked, his breath fanning her face. “Because, I assure you, at this very moment, I do not feel like a wise man.”

A Kiss at Christmastide is a sweet, easy read. While it is a Regency novella, it doesn't strictly adhere to historical facts. Since I just wanted to escape into a festive romance for a short time, I ignored those aspects that I knew to be untrue and just enjoyed the tale. If you are looking for a quick, magical Christmas read with a delightful warm-fuzzies happy-ever-after at the end, you may want to check out A Kiss at Christmastide.

My full review is published at Reading Between the Wines Book Club. Please check it out there:

Debbie says

Lady Pippa is embarrassed by Lady Natalie at musical recital ending their first season. Lady Natalie alludes to the crowd that Pippa and Mr. Giles the music instructor know each other in an improper way. When Pippa asks her Mother why Natalie would do such a thing. Her Mother tells her " Friendship and jealousy often hold hands so tightly that one cannot distinguish between the pair."

I think this sums up the problems with Pippa and Natalie, although it doesn't explain why Natalie would wish to hurt her friend so deeply.

Lady Pippa has returned home for the Christmas season only to have an awful storm brewing outside making her parents late returning home. She really doesn't mind as it gives her time to read and think. She has been invited to Lady Natalie's three day party and isn't sure she will attend. As it is a party to announce Natalie's betrothal to the son of a Marques. Not ever having been kissed and having her reputation besmirched by Natalie she isn't sure she wants anything to do with the house party. Besides the weather wouldn't permit it anyway. She knows that legend says that if you are kissed under the Kissing bough then you will be wed by the next year. So that is her hope. That somehow she at least would have that.

Late one night there is an awful pounding on the front door and since she has let all the servants go to bed she answers, thinking it might be her parents returned. Only to find one of the handsomest men she has ever seen covered in mud and dripping wet. Demanding a room for the night. She isn't particularly impressed when he tells her who he is as he is very loud and demanding. Lord Lucas isn't impressed with her either at first. Other then of course as another conquest he might make.

They are forced to spend a couple days together and begin to care for one another or so Pippa thinks. Until Christmas day comes along and her parents are able to return home with Lady Natalie and her parents in tow and Pippa finds out that Lord Lucas is Natalie's betrothed. He never said he was to be married. Braking her heart once again. Has Natalie won again? Will the Kiss under the kissing bough be enough for Pippa to find love before next year?

This is a good clean read and offers a range of emotions for Lady Pippa. I loved the interaction between her and Lord Lucas. Pippa is so sweet and innocent and Lucas is such a rake with a troubled past. I was glad to see them work out their differences and watching Lucas grow as a character made the story that much better. I received an ARC from the author for an honest review.

Anna says

I found this to be such a sweet and unpredictable Christmas story. It starts off with the first season recital of two best friends. Both daughters of dukes, Lady Natalie introduces her best friend Lady Pippa to a waiting audience - all members of the ton, no less. While Pippa waits in the wings, her stomach churning with anxiety over having to perform in front of such an audience, her trusted and devoted friend suddenly turns on her out of the blue. Natalie introduces Pippa to the audience with a horrible lie, scandalously tying her trusting friend Pippa to their devoted and witty music instructor. This vicious attack abruptly ends a lifelong friendship, and comes with no warning at all. Pippa, hurt and not understanding what made her best friend do such a thing is devastated. She cuts her season short. She and her family leave London and head to their country estate. Pippa turns to her books as a means to work through the pain.

While waiting for her parents' return from a trip, Pippa quietly reads Christmas stories and fables in her father's study. The storm interrupts her reading when it forces a visitor to her doorstep in the late evening, seeking shelter. This same storm delays her parents' return home. While they are stormbound together in her home for several days, Lady Pippa gets to know her guest, the handsome and rakish Earl of Maddox. Time and circumstances, however, give them an opportunity to know one another. Both find that there is more to the other than their original opinion on that stormy introduction led them to believe. Lady Pippa proceeds with the decorating her home and getting the gifts ready that she and her mother usually give to the children and the households of the villagers. She wants all to be in place for her parents' homecoming. It is Christmastide and time miracles happen during the season.

Christina McKnight has given us another wonderful Regency story. Her Christmas novella is well written; the characters are complex and fun. As I closed the last page, I found myself longing for more of their story. However, I won't spoil the story for you. I found it to be original in its conflicts, and the storyline somewhat unpredictable. It is imaginative and wonderfully engaging! I cannot wait for Natalie's story!

Kelly The Sassy Book Lover says

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review.

This is a very sweet and romantic book! It has the classic love story feel and very well written. I loved it! For a novella, it had a steady pace and I was able to get to know the characters pretty well. I love the Christmas storm and the story of the mistletoe kiss. From the start, I couldn't believe her friend said what she did at the party and didn't like her, but as the story went on I felt bad for her. The whole story has that Christmas magic.

I liked Pippa from the start because she wasn't the typical girl. Being the daughter of a duke you would expect her to be a bit stuck up, but her parents are nothing like that and have raised her to be kind to everyone. She knits gifts for the people in the village and doesn't hold a grudge.

My heart hurt for Lucas when he told the story about his family and you could tell it affected him a lot. I don't think he hid his engagement but actually didn't think about it at all because of his family and his past. He comes as cold at first, but quickly warms up.

I wanted more about Pippa's parents because they sound wonderful. The ending was great and I was shocked by Lucas's parents in the end.

Roses R Blue says

Pippa Godfrey is nervously waiting to perform at a musical event hosted by her best friend's family. As her lifelong friend, Natalie, introduces her, Pippa is shocked to hear Natalie include a sly and suggestive innuendo, hinting at impropriety with their mutual teacher. Though the ambiguous statement was false, Pippa's family whisks her off to the country, hoping to avoid a scandal. As the Christmas holiday approaches, Pippa ponders her ruined first season, and wonders why her best friend turned on her. One day, while her parents are away, bad weather forces a stranded stranger to her door, seeking shelter. Since her parents aren't there, Pippa tries to send him away, but the forceful Earl of Maddox barrels in, demanding

sanctuary.

Initially, Pippa and the earl, Lucas Hatfield, are only mildly antagonistic toward each other, but soon Pippa's genuine caring nature and kindness come to the forefront. She realizes how uncharitable she was to a stranger in need, and he realizes that he actually bullied his way into her home. Lucas has lived a life full of rakish behavior and pleasure, but no real love from his family. There's a very tragic incident that happened when he was a young boy, which totally alienated him from his parents. As soon as they could, they shipped him off to school, and had little to do with him over the years. Now they summoned him to a holiday houseparty, with the intent of announcing his betrothal to none other than Natalie, Pippa's estranged best friend. Lucas has no expectations of any type of love or happiness in marriage, so he's willing to accept their choice for him. That is, until he gets to know Pippa, and begins to see how things might really be with someone he cares for. They share a stolen Christmas kiss, and then Pippa's parents, along with their neighbors, Natalie and her parents, show up, and realize they have been sharing the house unchaperoned.

A KISS AT CHRISTMASTIDE is a sweet (and non explicit) story with a heroine who is almost too good to be true. She has a very generous nature, and though badly betrayed by her best friend, she doesn't have thoughts of hate or revenge, she's just confused and wants reconciliation. Lucas is definitely a tortured hero, and his parents are truly awful. I enjoyed their quick romance, and how they felt so right for each other. Their happy ever after was hard won and satisfying. There were some loose ends left, which I felt would have increased my enjoyment of this story - first, Lucas and his family and their strained, dysfunctional relationship, and, second, the mystery of Natalie's behavior. It does appear that there will be an upcoming novella devoted to Natalie's story, and I look forward to seeing if Christina McKnight can change my opinion of this shady lady.

3.5 Stars As reviewed at Roses Are Blue: <http://wp.me/p3QRh4-qI>

LadyTechie says

A Kiss at Christmastide was a sweet novella. I received a free copy in exchange for review and had the pleasure of reading it while traveling across seas. It provided a wonderful reading experience during long hours of traveling. Lady Pippa has been betrayed by her best friend and embarrassed in front of all of her peers where she is accused of having an inappropriate relationship with her music tutor. Her parents understand her pain and do not force her to attend her neighbor's, and previous best friend's engagement party. A terrible storm has come in just before Christmas and Lady Pippa's parents may not make it home by Christmastide, however, Lucas Hatfield's mount has just been delayed by the storm on the road in front of Lady Pippa's property and he has invited himself to stay until he can carry on to the engagement party where he is to be announced as the fiancée of Lady Pippa's former friend. Lady Pippa and the Earl of Maddox have been thrown into close quarters and have grown closer. Circumstances show that Lady Pippa is being set up for another heartbreak, not only by her previous best friend and neighbor, but also by Lucas. This story turned out as the reader would hope. I only had one issue. It was never explained by Lady Pippa's best friend betrayed her. I would have loved to know what caused the extreme change in her behavior. Otherwise, this was a great character-driven story.

Kristyn - Reading to Unwind says

This book follows Lady Pippa who was ruined in London society after her friend made comments about something happening with a man who was not her husband. Lady Pippa went back to the country where she is more comfortable to ride out the destruction. During a storm when her parents are out of town Lucas Hartfeld the Earl of Maddox breaks down in his carriage and seeks refuge with Lady Pippa.

Lady Pippa is a very formal girl who happened to be friends with a wicked girl. Lady Pippa has a large heart that easily peaks through her personality. I loved that she was concerned about getting gifts out to the townspeople and anyone less fortunate than her during the storm as well as making sure the house was perfect for her parent's arrival.

Lucas comes in with some interesting intentions, but soon after he finds himself trapped his mind begins changing. I loved getting a look at Lucas's life as well as his past. He lost a brother a long time ago and it has affected his family and himself deeply. I loved how he could openly talk about it. I enjoyed that we got to get his POV and what he was willing to risk for love.

The author does a great job creating the personalities of both Lucas and Lady Pippa. They both have very well-developed backstories that we get to look at. They also have their own issues that they are fighting against while trying to figure out the future.

The romance between Lady Pippa and Lucas is cute. The book is short, but we get a quick from unsure to love. The two characters couldn't be any more different, but they find something in each other that they can't live without.

I love the ending of this book there are so many ups and downs and a great love story, but the ending is cute. I love the change of heart that the characters experience and without giving too much away it comes to a great peak.

I guess my one complaint was that I felt there was unfinished business in the end for Lady Pippa. I would have loved a little glimpse into what happens to her friend. The author does a great job leaving it open for a sequel.

I highly recommend the audio for this book. The narrators were perfect for this book. They both captured the spirit of the two main characters and it made it very easy to listen to.

I received a copy of this audiobook from Barclay publicity to provide an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of this book.

Luli says

2.5 stars.

Ha estado un poco floja. Entiendo que es una novela y que no hay para mucho, pero me ha parecido que había demasiado drama, demasiados pensamientos internos y demasiado azúcar al final.

Los personajes han sido estereotipos sin mucho fondo y el rigor histórico...ha dejado mucho que desear.

En fin, puede servir como entretenimiento para estas navidades, pero no esperes mucho más.

ARC provided by La Loma Elite Publishing via Netgalley.

2.5 stars.

It has felt a bit flat. I understand it is a novella and there is not too much room for characters or story development, but I found there was too much drama, too many inner thoughts and too much sugar at the end.

The characters are stereotypes without much background and the historical accuracy ... it has left much to be desired.

All in all, it can serve as entertainment for Christmas, but do not expect much more.

Book Gannet says

This is a sweet, if unremarkable, Christmas novella with a nice historical feel that doesn't really bother much with accuracy. Pippa has had a terrible first Season in London, because her best-friend is awful and essentially ruined her on her first night in town with a nasty remark – the reason for which we never discover, though I suspect it has something to do with that music master who was in attendance at the ton party, which seemed pretty unlikely.

Almost as unlikely as a young, unmarried woman staying at home completely on her own without even a maid or chaperone to watch over her while her parents are away. Add in the wandering scoundrel who happily stays all alone with her in the house (aside from a few very lax servants) and it's no wonder her reputation is ruined! Not that either of them seem to think about any of that, because they're too busy lost in their own thoughts about each other and their separate issues with life, love and family.

There's an awful lot of lone brooding in this book. They don't spend a vast amount of time together, for all that it's a novella and takes place over a few short days. When they are together, it's all quite sweet. Pippa is a nice character, if a little too accepting of Natalie's nasty behaviour, while Lucas certainly grows through his short time with her.

If I wanted to be super picky I could question why two dukedoms are situated so very close together, with only a seven minute ride between their houses (really?) and the fact that they seem to share a village (unlikely). I might also mention the fact that the spelling of Bowmont made me wince every time I read it, wonder just how long it was since Lucas spent time with his parents (two years, eight, since he left home at seven?) and the Americanisms that slipped into the book every so often. I also really hope this book was given another copy edit after this ARC was released, else it really, really needs another.

On the whole, though, this is okay. If you like a Regency feel and want to pair that with Christmas, then give this a go. If you're more for accuracy and details, then it might not be quite what you're looking for. Regardless, it all makes for a sweet and easy read.

(I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

