



A Cold Creek Christmas Story

RaeAnne Thayne

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Sparkle In The Snow Leads To So Much More

Celeste Nichols has always preferred to keep to herself in her hometown of Pine Gulch, Idaho...until she becomes an instant celebrity! When one of her children's stories becomes a major success, she's suddenly the talk of the town. Celeste should be gloriously happy...but something, *someone*, special is still missing from her life. Could the return of her childhood crush be the answer?

Flynn Delaney has moved back home for his daughter's sake. Yet all the millionaire's resources can't help the little girl heal from the tragic loss of her mother. Shy librarian Celeste and her stories *do* hold some indefinable magic, though. Flynn came home looking for support—can he find that, and true love, in the one who got away?

A Cold Creek Christmas Story Details

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Author : RaeAnne Thayne

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From Reader Review *A Cold Creek Christmas Story* for online ebook

Melissa ♥ Melissa's Eclectic Bookshelf says

I'll admit I started *A Cold Creek Christmas Story* with a bit of trepidation due to it being the 14th in a series (about Cowboys??) that I had yet to start. I am so glad that I didn't let that deter me! Lately I've been on a bit of a romance kick and RaeAnne Thayne has definitely made my list of new favorite authors.

Thayne delivers in the charming tale about a father and daughter in need of some holiday healing and the amazing town and family that embrace them and make them one of theirs.

As with most small town romances...setting is almost half of the puzzle that makes up a wonderful read. From the moment I stepped between the pages and entered Cold Creek, I loved it and could so see myself living there. There is nothing like that small town feeling where everyone knows each other and genuinely cares about their neighbors. I can only wish I lived in such a location.

Celeste is a great protagonist. An awkward shy bookworm who works in a library? Yes...I could so relate to her and I absolutely loved to see how she struggled on a daily basis to work through her social issues. Not all of us can be the outgoing butterflies that the media seems to love...it was great having a very relatable character.

Flynn is just perfect. Guarded with others but obviously 100% devoted to his daughter...and a more than competent carpenter to boot. What's not to love?

And all of Celeste's family and the ranch just added to the warm cozy feel of this read. (I'm definitely going looking for Hope and Rafe's story now!!)

A Cold Creek Christmas Story is a delightful holiday read with plenty of heartwarming and swoon worthy moments.

Cathy says

2015 Reading Challenge: a book set during Christmas

3.5 stars but I'm happily rounding up because this was just really sweet and cute.

Olivia was adorable, and she happens to be the same age as my niece so I thought she was written realistically. Maybe the whole story and the writing was a little too syrupy-sweet for even my tastes (and that's saying A LOT, because I embrace cheesiness) but hey, I am willing to handwave a lot at Christmas.

Also, I felt like the ending could have been done better. (view spoiler)

Other than that, this was just what I expected and needed from a holiday story. I'm pretty excited to check out more of her books.

Terri Wino says

A, sweet Christmas story about a librarian and a father trying to help his little girl recover from a trauma. It's a bit rushed, but an enjoyable read.

Ami says

Such weakness I have with Christmas stories that involved single dads *sigh* and the latest offering from Thayne's Harlequin SSE, *A Cold Creek Christmas Story* just hit me in all the right places. This is the second story of the Nichols sisters and book #14 on Thayne's *Cold Creek Cowboy* series; although rest assured, you will be fine if you haven't read the previous 13 books.

I admit, Celeste is written as a bit stereotypical -- a meek, shy, introverted librarian. Like all librarians are introverted and worked in the library because they prefer to be with books than with people. ALTHOUGH, I can definitely see the charm, being an introvert myself, books seems to always be a better option *LOL*.

How could I not love Celeste? She was amazingly kind and lovely; she was 'magical' in her gift of storytelling. I loved the way she made connection with Flynn's daughter, Olivia. I loved her overthinking self, I loved that she never wanted to be in spotlight and she struggled with it, but most of all, I loved her gentle heart.

Flynn, on the other hand, well okay I admit that it must've been scary to find out that his ex-wife had been killed and his daughter shot, and I could understand him being protective of Olivia. But he did hurt Celeste near the end with his words, and I expected him to grovel a little bit *hmp*. At least he was really good in his hands -- no, not that way, you perv, he was a carpenter! -- and I could see him being devoted to Celeste. So I forgive you, Flynn.

All in all, another good holiday story from RaeAnne Thayne :)

Jacob Proffitt says

While part of a very long series of Christmas-themed romances, the only predecessor with any effect on the story is The Christmas Ranch. Okay, that's not entirely true. Half the novel had pop-ins from previous couples and that was more than a little annoying. Also, this story is tons better than that book, so it's sad how much setup is there that this story leans on. So I kind of hate having to encourage others to endure that one to fully appreciate this one. Maybe stop at ¾ in like I did?

This story might have been designed for me. Flynn and Celeste are exactly my kind of people with the strong/capable guy and the thoughtful/kind woman who find each other and realize how much better they are together. Add Thayne's adroit handling of children for Flynn's daughter, Olivia, and you have a killer cast that's right up my alley. And let me tell you, Thayne did an incredible job with Olivia whose emotional journey from trauma to the start of healing had to have been very difficult to pull off. Some of the emotional payoff drew satisfied tears, it was so well-done.

So why only 3½ stars? Okay, I'll probably round to four, but there are some very distracting problems with the story. Most of it is the really bad case of negative motivation*. For both main characters. This was terribly confusing for Flynn because his main motivation *seems to be* taking care of Olivia and seeing to her health/healing. Which is very much a motivation to *do things* and not negative at all. Only. Every interaction he has with Celeste is completely "don't do stuff" and firmly, even pathologically, negative—despite how well she fits in with his *only stated motivation*. So the whole "can't do this thing" was unexplained and contradictory and that frustrated me mightily even above and beyond my normal issue with negative motivation.

So yeah. 3½ stars. Only I'm rounding up to four because did I mention the cathartic tears? Add the multiplier that it's the perfect time of year for a strong Christmas-themed story (and one unusually well-grounded in the message of finding happiness in serving others) and I just couldn't grinch this down to three.

A note about Chaste: There are a couple amazing kisses. And that's it. Thayne's mastery of chaste romances makes this not a surprise. But it's still gratifying to experience it so well-done.

* **Negative Motivations:** I kind of hate that the term "negative motivation" isn't widespread, yet. Since it isn't, I'm going to save off this little jag to append to my reviews that feature the term. Jennifer Crusie blogged about it a bit back and it changed how I understand story. The problem with the term is that if you've never heard it before, you'd assume it meant motivations that are harmful or immoral. Not so. What it refers to is motivations *not to do something*. The thing is that many of us are motivated to not do things for a lot of different, perfectly valid and reasonable, reasons. The problem is that *in a story* motivations to not do things are a huge drag on the plot—particularly considering the fact that most negative motivations are overcome by the character simply deciding they don't care any more (or, rather, that they *do care* and are now motivated to do the thing). So not only do you have a counter to action but you also have a situation where to overcome it, all a character has to do is change their mind. Which means eventually, the reader is rooting for the character to get over him/herself already and do the thing we want them to do. Conflict drives story. Conflict between a reader and a main character drives readers away from story.

Book Addict says

RaeAnne Thayne has done it again. *A Cold Creek Christmas Story* is a wonderful story. It will fill you with the Christmas spirit. I really enjoyed this book and catching up with the Nichols sisters. I am looking forward to more stories about this family.

Celeste has been through a lot in her life and now she is faced with making some big decisions about her books that she wrote for her nieces and nephews. Flynn has returned to his grandmother's home in Pine Gulch to close out his past and try to help his daughter recover from some terrible trauma. Celeste understands Flynn's daughter since she has had a traumatic past. She helps Flynn to understand more about what his daughter is going through. The story of their history and their reunion in Pine Gulch is filled with drama and passion. Together they all learn to overcome the tragic past and build a happy future.

I was given this book in advance for an honest review. I would highly recommend this book. It is a heartwarming story that will put you in the Christmas spirit.

Kathryn says

I enjoyed listening to this Christmas story, really sweet for this time of year. I liked the narration, saw some saying on Audible they didn't like it, but suited me fine.

Linda says

This was a really good book. I enjoyed it very much. Celeste writes a children's book and it becomes a huge hit. She lives in Pine Gulch, Idaho. Their story has many twists and turns. She falls for millionaire Flynn Delaney. He is back in Pine Gulch with his daughter that is healing after losing her mother. I loved all the characters in this book. Great Christmas read!! Read this wonderful book from RaeAnne Thayne for all the details, you won't want to miss this one!!

?Susan? says

A feel good romance that was just not for me. Not bad characters, but, I kept waiting for the end and then... there is a second book I did not go onto.

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

I was so delighted when I found this book on my kindle while searching for something good to read and equally disappointed that I have not read it yet. Reading Thayne book now feels like coming home to me. It's always filled with magic and warm fuzziness that stays with me long after I am done with the book and A Cold Creek Christmas Story was no exception.

The book follows Celeste, who lives in the comfort of Pine Gulch Idaho, with a very sad past, who writes children's books for a living. Her recent hit is about a reindeer named Sparkle that seemed to have touched both children and parents alike across the country like a sweeping storm. She had a major crush on Flynn, a boy who would come to Pine Gulch every summer to visit his grandmother. The boy has grown up and is back in town in order to clean out his grandmother's place after her passing, so he could put it up on the market. Flynn has a daughter, who doesn't speak after she watched her celebrity mother get shot by her mother's boyfriend in front of her and almost dying herself. Flynn is hoping that their stay in Pine Gulch would give his daughter a break from their fast paced life in California and away from the spotlight.

It was a story of perseverance, coping with loss, moving on and finding love in the most unexpected places. I absolutely loved Celeste and how passionate she was about her books and the character she created, so passionate that she had a hard time allowing Sparkle to go big with a movie. I loved Flynn's sweet daughter and the bond she had formed with Celeste over Sparkle that not only got her to open up, but find a way to deal with her mother's death and return the magic of Christmas back into her life. Despite me having a few issues with Flynn, I knew it stemmed from the fact that he was just trying to do his best as a father and was only trying to protect his daughter from the world his wife and parents had been sucked into.

Everything about this book besides my annoyance with Flynn at times, was just plain wonderful. The

writing, the slow burn romance Thayne is so good at, the characters, the setting - all warm and sweet. I loved it, was unable to put down the book and devoured it over the holidays. It was just a perfect read for me and I am looking forward to more of her wonderful writing.

If you are a fan of slow burn romance that focuses on the development of attachment between the characters and the community, I think you should give this one a try. Thayne always is known for mostly clean romances, but it's so worth it. This review was originally posted on Night Owl Book Cafe

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

I was expecting a romance but this story is more about a woman who had a terrifying experience as a child helping a child recovering from the experience of being critically hurt and seeing her mom killed. The story between the child (Olivia) and Celeste (small town librarian/children's book author) is sweet and well written. The romance between the child's father (Flynn) and Celeste is almost absent from the book. There was a kiss, an apology, an angry comment, an apology and poof a happy ending. It just didn't feel like the relationship developed. I haven't read some of the prior books and was a little underwhelmed by the supporting cast. I think their development was dependent on reading the prior books and for someone who hasn't it becomes just a bunch of character names.

The writing by RaeAnne Thayne is well done, the plot interesting, but the romance between Flynn and Celeste was so nonexistent that the happy ending didn't feel real. I felt like the story was cut short and went too quick to a sappy epilogue.

Marie Campbell says

RaeAnne Thayne warms our hearts again with another beloved Christmas tale in A Cold Creek Christmas Story. You will fall in love with Flynn Delaney and his adorable daughter, Olivia.

Flynn has returned to Pine Gulch, Idaho to settle his grandmother's estate to, hopefully, heal his young daughter's heart after a terrible tragedy. Pine Gulch and beloved librarian, Celeste Nicholas offer hope and healing to two wonderful people who need love and comfort.

Celeste is a sweet women who has all but given up on finding her prince charming and, finally, finds him in her long lost teenage crush. You will be charmed and moved by both Flynn's and Celeste's stories and long to visit Pine Gulch.

RaeAnne Thayne's Christmas novels always make my year and renew my love and faith in the season. She is a master at creating complex, emotional characters that you long to know and wonderful towns you want to visit. I cannot recommend Thayne's novels enough and I know you will enjoy A Cold Creek Christmas Story as much as I did!

Danielle says

This was a short quick emotional read.

Celeste is a small town librarian and when she was younger she went through being held captive in Columbia. She writes children's books and is content with her life until her childhood crush Flynn shows up.

Flynn brings his daughter Olivia back home to help her heal from a terrible tragedy. Her mothers boyfriend shot her mother and her and then killed himself. Olivia survived but mentally and physically she still has work to do.

I liked how this story was emotional and all these characters had to heal in some way so they could move on together. It was a bumpy road. Flynn just wants to head back to there home in LA when he is done cleaning out the house but I love how he realized that while his daughter is there she is healing in her own way.

The characters and the storyline were well written. I liked how they weren't rushed into falling in love or in bed with one another. The ending was perfect and I'm so glad it had an epilogue that took place 18 months later.

I can't wait to read more by this author!

Lori R says

I love this series and RaeAnne Thayne did not disappoint me with her latest book. Celeste Nichols is a librarian who is also a children's author. Her latest book, Sparkle and the Magic Snowball is going to be made into a movie. This money will help her sisters to save the family's Christmas Ranch and the Star N Ranch.

Flynn Delaney has returned to sell his grandmother's house. He has also brought his daughter, Olivia. Olivia is recovering from having witnessed her mom's boyfriend shooting her mom and himself.

Celeste and the real reindeer, Sparkle are able to help Olivia recover, especially since Celeste and her family had been kidnapped when she was a little girl. Sparks will fly between Celeste and Flynn. Celeste has had a crush on him ever since he fixed her bike and bandaged her knee a long time ago when she rode her bike into his grandmother's mailbox. You will really enjoy this book and the Cold Creek series!

Gail says

This is such a well written and emotional story. It will make you feel like you are right there in Cold Creek with them getting ready for the Christmas season. The characters will just draw you in. The story will make you laugh and cry. It will show you what is important for the Christmas season. I loved every minute of it and hated to see it end. As a bonus you also get to read A Cold Creek Christmas another amazing and wonderful Christmas story. It will help put you in the mood for the Christmas season.

