



Ordinary Snowflakes

Jennifer Rodewald

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A single mom, a snowy Christmas, and a Secret Santa gift. Perhaps her romance days aren't over after all.

Someone has noticed me. A secret admirer? A man with a good heart, who sees how much I actually need help, even though I never admit it? Maybe this is the beginning of a beautiful story—a romance full of hope and second chances and love.

Maybe...

A secret Santa gift left on Kale Brennan's front porch opens up a fresh view of her ordinary life, and perhaps of God. Maybe she does matter. Maybe God sees her—as does a new-to-town music teacher who has her seven-year-old daughter gushing and her own knees buckling with his killer smile. But as Kale embraces new possibilities, a staple in her life—a man who is kind and steady, not to mention necessary for her injured daughter's recovery—also snatches her attention in an unexpected way. Will the one pursuing her with his secret gift and kind gestures be the one her heart longs for in the end?

Other books in the Rock Creek Romance Collection:

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Ordinary Snowflakes Details

Date : Published November 7th 2016 by Rooted Publishing

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Author : Jennifer Rodewald

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

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From Reader Review Ordinary Snowflakes for online ebook

Sydney says

Jennifer Rodewald has written an adorably charming story that readers will enjoy from page one. This heart-warming novella is an absolute delight that readers will not want to miss. Rodewald brings to life her characters and their easily relatable emotions dealing with the struggles of life, overcoming those struggles, the importance of family, and of course falling in love. Filled with the Christmas holiday spirit, this story is a must read for this time of year! I would recommend this sweet and delightful story to readers that enjoy contemporary romance holiday novellas.

Series: Rock Creek Christmas

Genre: contemporary, romance, holiday, novella

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Content Rating: PG

Book Rating: 5 stars

An e-review copy of this novel was provided by the author via SLB Tours. A review was not required and all views and opinions expressed are my own.

Meghan Gorecki says

This story touched my heart more than I had prepared for. Many holiday novellas are filled with delightful, good, uber-sweet fluff. It's why we love the genre, right? It's why we love Hallmark movies. But it is rare to come across one with such heart and smack-you-in-the-face-with-God's-truth such as Ms. Rodewald's.

Written in such a way that keeps us close to the heart of Kale--but also getting to see not one but two men pursue her in beautiful ways--Ordinary Snowflakes was a breath of fresh, winter air. I laughed, I cried--it moved me from beginning to end. Even though I am not a mother yet, a lot of what Kale went through and her thought processes hit very close to home for me, and it was so beautiful to see her fierce love for her absolutely adorable daughter. There needs to be more stories like these. That tackle hard topics and themes, but tempered with comedy, anecdotes, sweet romance--in this one it took on two distinctly different forms and I was quite torn about which guy to root for.

There are no ordinary snowflakes, just like there are no two holiday novellas alike--but this one sparkles so very brightly and will leave you thinking, praying, and warmed through with the truest love of a God who makes no mistake. And always, always provides--sometimes in the most unexpected way.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

It never fails. I pick up a Jennifer Rodewald book and settle in for what I know will be an amazing read and I'm not even past the first page before I have a smile on my face. I'm just simply delighted by her way with words. I spend my reading experience flailing over the beautiful prose and chuckling over the wry humor.

(It's also a guarantee that I will be doing some degree of crying before I'm finished with a Jennifer Rodewald book. This could range from a sweet glimmer of tears to full-on ugly cry sobs that I'm muffling in my pillow to avoid waking my husband who is asleep in bed next to me. More on that later.)

In *Ordinary Snowflakes*, we are introduced to a bevy of truly delightful characters. Kale (the protagonist) has such a relatable personality that comes through clearly in her first person narrative. Her wry and sincere perspective made me grin nearly all the way through the novel, but it also made me reflect on my own heart and feelings of self-worth. And Sydney – Kale's adorable, spunky daughter who has weathered more adversity than any child should face and still has a joyful heart. And let's not forget the two men in Kale's life – one who makes her knees wobble and one who holds her up.

But the best part of *Ordinary Snowflakes* is not the fantastic writing or the great characters or even the delicious romance. (Although – while I'm on that subject for a moment – the romance? Totally made me forget to breathe and MADE ME CRY. In a good way. So incredibly sweet but not in a sappy way.) The best part of *Ordinary Snowflakes* is the theme that echoes the meaning of Christmas – that God dwells in the ordinary, with the ordinary, and He more often than not lavishes His extraordinary love on us in everyday ways.

Bottom Line: *Ordinary Snowflakes* is a must-read for anyone who feels less than enough. For the mom who worries she's failing her kids. For the single lady who doesn't think any man would find her worth loving. For the woman who wonders if even God sees her. This may be a quick read, but it will linger with you long after you've devoured every last word. And the next time a snowfall graces your world, maybe you'll look at it – and yourself – a little differently.

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.)

See my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Susan Snodgrass says

The first book I read of Jennifer Rodewald's was just incredibly outstanding. So I bought her others. I haven't had a chance to read them all yet, but I know they will be worth the read. This little novella, when I saw it was coming, I knew that I would read it. And enjoy it. It was just absolutely perfect. Totally delightful and well, just perfect.

As usual, she has created characters that seemingly sit in your living room while you're reading about them. I especially loved the 7 year old girl character, Sydney. What a kid! The entire novella was wonderful throughout. Didn't even seem like a novella, but a full book.

And the spiritual message: just what I needed to hear. God is amazing. In everything, in every situation, always working to bring the good out for His children. I loved every minute of this.

*I was given a preview copy of this book.

Rachel says

What a wonderful novella! I loved this story about a hardworking single mom who gets her chance at a forever love. I admired her determination to do the best she could for her daughter and felt her pain and uncertainty about whether she was doing a good enough job. The author does a really good job, within the space of this short story, of bringing you into the lives of Kale, Sydney, and Joe. As Kale struggles with her feelings as a new guy in town is introduced, you will read with bated breath to see if she follows through on those feelings or if she realizes that her best friend Joe means more to her than she ever knew. A wonderful swoon worthy Christmas novella! :)

Thanks to Singing Librarian Books Tours for a complimentary copy of this book. I was not paid or required to write a positive review and all opinions stated are my own!

Julia says

Ordinary Snowflakes by Jennifer Rodewald is a delightful Christian festive romance. Set in snow in the weeks leading up to Christmas, it is a wonderful feel-good read that will take up residence in your heart. There are many themes in Ordinary Snowflakes and all of them revolve around God. God is present every day, everywhere, in all of our lives. "If we can't see Him in those small everyday things, we won't be able to understand that He's right beside us in the moments that cave in our lives." Too often we cannot see Him, feel abandoned, invisible or even worse "I really felt that God hated me." God is always there for us. We need to seek Him, focus on Him and trust Him with our lives.

The theme of trust extends from God to others to ourselves. Too often past events can eat away at trust. We find we have built up trust issues that need breaking down.

Trust is linked to fear. The novel shows that we need to face our fears, hand them over to God and then 'do it afraid.' Stepping out into our fears and trusting God will increase our faith. Faith is the opposite of fear.

The novel has the theme of guilt. Jennifer Rodewald explores the guilt that Mums feel as we raise our children. Guilt is a ploy of the enemy who whispers we are no good, doing it wrong, a failure. We need to drown out the voice of the enemy by focusing on the voice of God. "Stop listening to the voices that pound you with defeat."

The main character Kale fears that being ordinary means that God does not notice her. "Too ordinary to be special." God sees each and every one of us. We are all unique and He loves us all uniquely. The motif of snowflakes is used for us in the novel. Each snowflake appears the same, together they blend in but each snowflake is uniquely made. No two are ever the same.

The novel shows the importance of church for maintaining our walk with God. Church builds us up to face the world outside. Meeting with other believers strengthens our walk and helps in our relationship with God. Ordinary Snowflakes focuses in on one Mum's relationship with God and with those around her. Kale was a very likable main character. Her hopes, dreams, fears and daily life were easy to empathise with. I felt I had become intimately acquainted with her well before the end of the book.

Ordinary Snowflakes is a perfectly wonderful read. It will warm your heart. Ordinary Snowflakes is not just for Christmas. There are lessons for the reader to learn and apply all year round.

A delightful read.

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

Jane says

4.75 stars - mild pg13

Loved it. But. Let's get my first, and pretty much only, gripe out of the way. I know I'm a provincial, unenlightened, non-hipster kind of old geezer. But seriously?!? The heroine's name kept taking me out of the story and came close to ruining some nice romantic scenes. If you're an author and you're going to use an uber-trendy name for your main character, *please* give us old farts a pronunciation guide or an explanation/origin for the name. In this book, our heroine's name is Kale. Yes. Like the leafy green vegetable available at every hip, organic store in the nation. I like kale (I liked it before it became a fad). My daddy is Southern and I grew up on a farm, therefore, I like all my greens -- usually cooked in fatback and served with black-eyed peas and cornbread. It's a little hard to read a book when the main character's name is the same as what's on your dinner plate! Seriously. What's her middle name? Okra? Maybe her parents named her brother "Collard", because "Colin" was just too normal. Maybe she'll name her next child "Lima Bean" or "Cauli Flower". Could you imagine if someone's last name was "Green" and the parents named all their kids stuff like "Kale", "Mustard", "Collard" -- a whole family of Greens -- that would be hysterical (and cruel). And, yes. I googled the name. Technically "Kale" could be a shortened version of an old Gaelic name (usually given to males). But why not just mention somewhere in the story that she was named after her Irish Great Great Grandfather named Kalen or Kayle? And please tell us, if it's pronounced differently than the leafy green version!

Now that my little rant is over, let me say that **this is possibly the best story I've read this Christmas season.** I LOVE the author's style. Quirky. Fun. Funny. Honest. Heartbreakingly authentic. Sassy. Unique, fresh descriptions. Christ-centered.

I loved Kale and her sometimes hilarious, sometimes heart-wrenching, thoughts. She's doing the best she can, but feels such guilt that she's just not doing good enough. Loved her spunky little daughter. Loved both possible Heroes (no, it was not a *weird* triangle); and especially loved the final perfect Hero for Kale. Loved how the author showed that God meets us in our everyday, ordinary, messed-up lives and pours out His unmerited favor on us and surrounds us with His incredible love!

Okay. If you feel like reading some quotes, see below. If not, just go buy this novella!! It's worth it.

"...the pink-parka-with-pigtails rushing down the steps." (Kale's daughter is just adorable!)

"Can I pray, Mom-ster?" (Told you she was adorables!)

"God, I would think, is it possible to find favor in a good man's eyes when I'm a total mess? The tears would begin to trickle somewhere in that silent prayer..."

"So, go with me to awkward for a moment, 'kay?"

"I could imagine being brought before God in heaven someday. He'd look at me, one eyebrow cocked, and say, 'Well, Kale, you made it. Just barely--and only thanks to my Son. But let me show you all the ways you could have done better.' He'd flick open a scroll, and it would continue unrolling, exposing an endless list of failures as it flipped down the long aisle and out the door."

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

This is a wonderful Christmas novella. I loved the characters. Kale is a single mother to an adorable little girl who was in a serious accident as a toddler. Her daughter's positive outlook on life and bubbly personality was a moving part of the story. It is a reminder about being resilient during adversity.

As a single mother, she is devoted and protective of her daughter. This gets in the way of finding love and romance. She is not good at seeing the opportunities in front of her. (Her daughter is more perceptive.) It takes a new man in town for her to open her eyes to the possibilities in her life.

This is a clean and fun romance. The book has Christian themes and is perfect for the holiday season. I think it took me about an hour to read it. Perfect for when you have a short period of time to read a great story.

Beth Erin says

Full review on Faithfully Bookish <http://www.faithfullybookish.com/revi...>

Kale Brennan is a hard-working (often worn out) single mom. She's stuck in a rut of guilt and shame. Kale's feelings of ordinary and not good enough are familiar to many of us, not just mommies. Her whole world revolves around providing for and caring for her precious daughter.

Ordinary Snowflakes is a delightful story that challenges readers to look at their everyday with a new perspective. I highly recommend this sweet novella and eagerly anticipate reading more Jennifer Rodewald titles.

I requested the opportunity to read and review this title through Singing Librarian Books Tours. The opinions expressed are my own.

Rebecca says

"There is no such thing as an ordinary snowflake."

Kale Brennan is not a huge fan of winter, so when she awakens to a shoveled driveway and a mysterious package on the doorstep, her single mom instincts tells her to proceed with caution. Struggling to care for her handicapped daughter, she fights the incessant voices of guilt, loneliness and despair, convincing herself that Sydney's slow progress is somehow her fault. Suddenly and very unexpectedly caught between the attention of two very different men, Kale's perspective begins to shift; shoving the "what-ifs" and the "should haves" aside long enough to wonder if expecting God to do the extraordinary has caused her to miss his quiet whispers of ordinary grace.

This beautiful story not only captures the miracle of the manger, but exemplifies the magnificence of

Heather Snyder says

Jennifer Rodewald's book *Ordinary Snowflakes* is the perfect wintery read for this time of year. It is light and funny, and contains a marvelous lesson and reminder to all of us—God does see us, and He hears us when we call. Even when we think He is a million miles away. One of my favorite quotes from the book is, "Our God is inexplicably enamored with us, even in our very ordinary lives." This philosophy is something that Kale Brennan will eventually come to understand on a deeper level. She has seen grace displayed in the life of her daughter, and soon she will believe it can apply to her own life as well.

Kale is a woman, who like many, juggles various jobs and duties each and every day. As she strives to take proper care of her daughter, Sydney, she also works hard at the local coffee shop, which is where she continuously worries about her daughter's health. Perhaps her mind could rest a bit if Sydney's physical therapist did not come in every single day to order his usual hot cup of cocoa. Even though he tries to put her mind at ease when it comes to Sydney, Kale cannot help but blame herself. She has so much doubt about her capabilities as a mother, and she wishes she could be more and do more for her family.

Even though Joe's first responsibility is to take care of Sydney, he cannot help but think about her mother. Is she taking care of herself? He wonders what he can do to make the load lighter for her. He sees the weight of Sydney's troubles on her shoulders, and he wants her to let go and let God take care of her. But Kale will not relent. How can he make her see the truth?

Despite everyday struggles, Kale must learn how to be the perfect mother and daughter. However, there are so many moments where she forgets she is the daughter of the King, and He is there to help her when she calls. No matter what she may be facing, He will face it with her. Will she ever understand how special she is to her Creator?

I love that this book touches on so many applicable topics for the reader to mediate on, because these very issues are prevalent in so many people's lives. We all have struggles, but it is how we deal with them that counts. Thankfully, we have a God we can run to in times of peril. When Kale thinks her world is shattering, she begins to learn some very important lessons. Of course, with anything, time is key. And with each step, Kale soon discovers what she was looking for all along.

This novella is a wonderful read for anyone wanting to see a journey of love, forgiveness, and second chances. Be sure to make a cup of hot cocoa to go along with this book too—you will not be disappointed! Family, faith, and love are the key ingredients to this text, and you do not want to miss a moment of Kale and Sydney's wonderful story. Happy reading and Happy Christmas!

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to Singing Librarian Books for my copy.

Toni Shiloh says

Such a good Christmas story and one that can be read anytime of the year.

Fiction Aficionado says

Firstly, can I just say TOTAL COVER LOVE <3 <3 <3

Okay, next I'm going to have to pick myself up from the warm gooey puddle I've melted into on the floor. This book is perfection in a novella, and I can guarantee you'll want to read the end more than once – if not the entire book!

Kale Brennan is an ordinary mum – an ordinary *single* mum – trying to do the best by her seven-year-old daughter, Sydney, who is still undergoing physical therapy after having her legs crushed as a two-year-old. She would love it if God would send her a good man to walk by her side, but sometimes it feels as though God's forgotten about her. When she finds a gift on her front porch from a secret Santa, accompanied by the message '*I see you*', she wonders whether maybe her wish is finally going to be granted. But the longer she waits to open it, the less sure she is about whom she is hoping it is from.

This novel is a little lighter in mood than Rodewald's full length novels, but it is still written with her customary warmth and that same beauty of expression that curls around your heart and makes you feel everything the character is feeling. And I loved that I could even feel the subtle tension in a certain other character (who will remain nameless so as not to spoil anything) even though the whole story is told from Kale's point of view. And in case you're wondering, I loved both male characters, but Kale definitely ended up with the right guy ;-)

As well as a heart-melting romance, this novel was a lovely reminder that sometimes we forget to look for God in the ordinary things. It was also a reminder that sometimes the things we're torturing ourselves over – and every mother, single or not, has experienced the guilt of feeling like they're not doing everything they should be doing – are not God's priorities. God focuses on the heart. "*I'd been seeking badges of honor when I should have been prioritizing touches of grace. Mind blowing to me, and even more so was the fact that as I let that realization sink in, I suddenly felt free.*"

You could not possibly ask for more in a Christmas novella.

Kelly says

4.5

I did not expect this novella to pack such a big punch! I found myself sobbing by the end. The message is clear. We are loved, we matter, and we are not ordinary!

Kale had a daughter that had an unfortunate accident that would carry many surgeries, pain and physical therapy for some time. Sydney's father (Sydney is the daughter) left Kale and his daughter to deal with this themselves. Kale has locked her heart and focused on Sydney and working to pay for the bills. Kale loves her daughter. She feels guilt that she isn't the perfect mom.

It's winter and it snows a lot there. One morning Kale opens the door to find her driveway shoveled and a small gift at the door. Kale hasn't a clue who would do this. Who would notice her? She doesn't feel worthy to find out who would do this for her. She feels ordinary. She also doesn't want to open the gift. She is afraid. So she doesn't open it until near the end.

Sydney's Physical Therapist is Joe. He has been there to help Sydney and Kale through it all. He also is Kale's dad's physical therapist.

At Sydney's school is a traveling music teacher. He notices Kale and takes her out. Kale's knees go weak around him. But the more they are together, the more her mind goes to Joe. Then the ever present Joe seems to be missing more. Sydney and Kale notice it. Their lives aren't as bright without Joe around. But Kale still feels guilty at every turn and she is struggling internally to know what to do. She turns to prayer.

I love this book. I love the Christian themes. I love the messages. I love the characters. I love the symbolism. I didn't love going through so much tissue!

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

Loved it! My favorite kind of romance- where the reader can tell which man is desperately but secretly in love with the heroine but she is a little oblivious, even though her feelings are developing for him too. Sigh!
