



Because It's Christmas

Kathryn Shay

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Welcome to one of Kathryn Shay's high school dramas. A teacher in a public school for years, she knows kids and the men and women who teach them!

“BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS is a super modern day retelling of the classic It's a Wonderful Life.” Painted Rock Reviews

To most people in the small town of Bayview Heights, high school principal Seth Taylor is a hero. But Seth has never forgotten the mistakes he made years ago with his students. And neither has reporter Lacey Cartwright, because one involved her brother, who's now in jail. With her grandfather pressuring her to destroy Seth in the town newspaper, Seth invites Lacey to come to the school and see what the teachers really do with kids. Attraction then love flares between these two star-crossed people. If Lacey starts to show her support—and her true feelings—for Seth, she will she lose what's left of her family?

“The rich characterization and emotional intensity of BECAUSE IT'S CHRISTMAS by Kathryn Shay will make you pull out a hanky for more than one intensely moving scene.” RT Book Reviews

“You have to read this powerful, heart-wrenching story. Ms. Shay...is a truly gifted storyteller.” Old Book Barn Gazette

“Like COP OF THE YEAR, this is more than just another romance. It had me in tears. I had to keep reminding myself, this is fiction. Kathryn Shay is one heck of a writer!” An Amazon Customer

Because It's Christmas Details

Date : Published October 31st 2011 (first published December 1998)

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From Reader Review Because It's Christmas for online ebook

Dorothy Zason says

Love is a Hard

In Because It's Christmas, Kathryn Shay writes a wonderful, heart felt, tear jerker of a story. The characters come off the page with all of their joy, pain, and angst. You will smile, laugh, and cry over their situations. You will end up loving all the characters and hoping for their happily ever after. Kathryn Shah is a wonderful author if you are in the mood to curl up with a book about our every day heroes and a hot cup of cocoa.

Bette Stanek says

3.5, bumped to 4 Superhero Stars. This is cute, quick, and sometimes tough. Because It's Christmas is the second in the Bayview Heights series by Ms Shay. You don't absolutely have to read Cop of the Year first, but Because It's Christmas will be more enjoyable if you do.

Seth Taylor is the principal of Bayview Heights High School and is questioning his effectiveness there. He's in his 25th year in education and is in a funk. He's contemplating a new position that has just opened up at the state level. Lacey recently left a position at an LA paper, where she was a hotshot reporter and following her dreams, to come back to Bayview and take over the day-to-day running of the newspaper her grandfather started. He is in poor health and has been ever since Lacey's brother, Kevin, was put in prison. He also blames Seth Taylor for all of their problems. So does Lacy. At least for a while.

This is not a new storyline, but the characters make it an engaging story all the same. Because It's Christmas is set in the 90s so be prepared to go back in time. There is a reference to George Bailey and It's a Wonderful Life. It's not a retelling of that story but there are some similarities. All in all, this is a moving story about miracles at Christmastime.

Vicki says

This Christmas story captured the spirit of the season by allowing families face the harsh realities of personal choice.

Seth was an amazing principal that attempts to help children as they struggle with the difficult situations of Being a teen.

I enjoyed the concepts they came up with. It was an emotional read.

Beth says

Another great story from Kathryn Shay. This holiday themed book goes back to Bayview Heights for another story centered in the high school. Shay does a pretty good job conveying the workings of a high school and it's staff though some elements are oversimplified and unrealistic. The main characters here, Lacey and Seth, fight their attraction to each other due to an incident from the past involving Lacey's brother and Seth. That incident has Lacey's grandfather hating Seth and Lacey is stuck between the two men. Some elements of the story are well conveyed but others are glossed over a bit too easily.

I had read the first book in this series, Cop of the Year, a while ago so it was nice to revisit the characters. I'm sure I will read book 3 as well.

April Wilson says

Family obligations and guilt can wreak havoc on a relationship before it has a chance to bloom. Lacey, a newspaper editor, and Seth, a high school principal, butt heads over the high school environment. The majority of her animosity is based on what happened in the past, so Seth has his work cut out for him in convincing her that the school of today (as well as him) isn't the same as the school back then.

Rafaela says

Definite read!

Seth and Lacie have had tumultuous pasts and now everything imaginable has been thrown in their paths to move forward. Seth must overcome his feelings of guilt for a decision he made regarding a student with violent tendencies. Lacie must deal with her anger with the man she, and her grandfather, hold responsible for putting her brother in jail. The more she learns about this man the more she wonders if her views have been unjustly influenced by her grandfather

Julie Barrett says

Because It's Christmas by Kathryn Shay

Have read many of the authors books and have enjoyed them.

Starts out with Lacey and she's there to visit with her brother in prison as she tries to rehab him before he gets out.

He was the one who helped their grandfather when he had the heart attack...

Seth Taylor is the one who put him in prison. She's a writer for the paper and Seth is the school principal.

Story also follows Seth and how he wants to run the school. Lacey has her own ideas and has voiced them in the paper.

Story also follows Kevin and his stay in prison and what he goes through...

Lots of action and drama and sensual scenes. Secrets that come to light....controversy and compromises and negotiations.

Other works by the author are highlighted at the end and an excerpt from the next in the series.

Free copy via Kindle.

Pamela Devereux says

Heart wrenching

Lacey Cartwright is carrying on her grandfather's vendetta against Seth Taylor. Seth Taylor is the principal of Bayview Heights high school. She continues to write editorials disparaging him and the work he does. Until he challenges her to join committees to get an idea. In the process they fall in love. But grandpa is not done. There will be no happy ever if he has any say. Christmas is a time for miracles and this is no different. You will love the ending.

Maria Thomas says

I'm conflicted on this book. The story itself was good but not at all what I expected. The description said it was a retelling of *It's a Wonderful Life* but excepting the one night tribute/celebration for Seth I didn't see that at all. Also, the title made it sound far more Christmasy than the actual story was. I think only the last two chapters had anything at all to do with Christmas.

The book was high on angst and trauma so don't expect a light hearted read.

The most disappointing thing to me and the reason for the lower rating is that the book contained sex. I don't care to read that. I skimmed and skipped through those scenes so I can't say exactly how graphic but the part I read was getting pretty graphic in my opinion.

Also contained language including deity.

Beth says

This Christmas romance was actually first published in 1998, so some of the dialog and actions seem anachronistic today. While I did get caught up in the story and found myself pulling for the characters, I was fairly annoyed and disappointed in several elements. Perhaps some of these items are due to the book having been written 20 years ago. Minor spoilers: I found it very difficult to believe that Lacey ever blamed Seth for her brother's mistakes. I was gratified when she finally admitted the truth, but could not stomach that she continued to favor her grandfather's viewpoint to the point where she should not be with Seth. It did not seem realistic to me. I also was disappointed in the choices of Seth and Lacey to be intimate with no expectation of a future together. And I don't think even 20 years ago that someone could be approved as a foster parent without having prepared their home for the child and having it be inspected, along with interviews and background checks on the prospective foster parent. I like the details to make sense in the books that I read, so these things were big detractors.

Cindy Cooke says

Good storyline...not a sweet read, though

When the local newspaper owner falls into ill health, his talented granddaughter moves back home to take over. He expects that she will also continue his barrage against the local high school's principal, whom he considers to be the source of his grandson's downfall. She tries to believe the worst, but is overwhelmed with the principal's character and his unfailing belief in the goodness of the kids in his school. Of course she falls for him, and though her grandfather forces her to choose between them, love shines through in the end. I would have given this book five stars based on the quality of the story, but the sex scenes, while not outrageous or raunchy, really did nothing to add to it, and were not necessary.

Lillie says

I thought Lacey and her grandfather were unreasonable in their beliefs and actions towards Seth, blaming them for Lacey's brother being in prison without accepting any responsibility for themselves. I also didn't think a high school principal and a newspaper editor careful of their reputations in a small town would so immediately jump into bed, especially without any expectation of a future for them as a couple--and I didn't appreciate the sex and language. Otherwise I enjoyed the story enough to finish it.

Bev Walkling says

A quick easy read that seemed familiar. I might have read this one years ago.

Barbara "Cookie" Serfaty Williams says

Because It's Christmas (Bayview Heights Book 2)

Their live story of Lace and Seth. Lace's brother is sent to prison after a fight in the high school and her grandfather blame Seth for it. How Philip, the grandfather, and Lace own a newspaper and are jawing it to dog Seth. Seth want Lace to work with the school to get better story but love grow. Story to slow and characters had no I've.

Dan says

To be honest, I was looking for a feel good read when I picked up Because It's Christmas. What I got was a much more! The idea that reporter like Lacey could fall for the one man in her life she hated just didn't seem possible. Principle Seth Taylor is the man responsible for the misery in her family. Kathryn Shay has been writing stories about educators in such a light that a person can almost understand how much it takes to be a teacher or counselor. There's a love story that you can not deny!

