



Christmas at Carrington's

Alexandra Brown

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A deliciously indulgent read and the follow up to Cupcakes at Carrington's. Set in Carrington's Department Store this is perfect for fans of Jenny Colgan.

Carrington's Department store is thrown into a spin when the staff learn that a hot new reality TV show is to be filmed in-store, featuring the formidable retail guru, Kelly Cooper. Georgie Hart, in charge of Luxury Handbags, is reluctant, but quickly realises that the show could give Carrington's a new lease of life. With Christmas around the corner, she's also hoping that the season will deliver her the perfect Christmas present, in the form of Tom, the store's dishy boss.

When the film crew arrive, things start to go wrong. One of Tom's old flames, Zara, is working on the show and then, to top things off, Tom and Zara are sent off to Paris and New York for a spot of extra filming.

When Georgie settles down in front of the box to watch the first show, worse it to come – Georgie is shown in a far from flattering light and she is horrified to learn what Tom has been up to.

Georgie fears this is turning out to be the worst Christmas ever, but Santa might have a got a little surprise in store for her stocking this year – but she'll just have to wait until Christmas to find out!

Christmas at Carrington's Details

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Author : Alexandra Brown

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From Reader Review Christmas at Carrington's for online ebook

Fabulous Book Fiend says

wow! What a sequel! In fact, i think i loved this even more than the original! I was lucky enough to get an advanced review copy of this novel and so i was able to marathon all of Alexandra Brown's writing in one go. I am so pleased I read her novels this way, but i definitely saved the best until last! This novel isn't the MOST Christmasy novel I've ever read so fans looking for tons of snow and Xmas trees, be warned there is simply a hint of Christmas in the air, this novel relies much more on the storyline of the reality TV show which is going on within Carrington's. The storyline also features a delicious amount of romantic angst between new couple Georgie and Tom which I loved but I found myself incredibly frustrated by, as if it were me involved in the angst and not them-amazing!

I really enjoyed all of the reality TV aspect of this novel. Characters Eddie and Annie really become your typical reality TV contestants and the storyline allows for much more mention of fabulous designer clobber, fabulous shoes and handbags and wrap dresses! Readers be warned, there is one storyline that runs through the novel and comes to a head about two thirds of the way through that had me in tears. I don't want to spoil it but just be warned. I could see it coming and so there was a certain amount of tension as well as tears, didn't spoilt the book in any way for me though!

Like any good sequel, its always fun to revisit old characters, its like catching up with old Friends really and it was really nice to catch up with Georgie, Sam and Tom. These characters haven't really changed at all, although i did find myself disliking Tom in some parts of this book, something which didn't happen with its predecessors... Georgie still has a tendency to put two and two together and make five hundred, but that is what's so lovable about her. She has a fabulous storyline reuniting her with her Dad, it was really nice to see the two of them building up their relationship again and i loved this part of the plot.

All in all this was a truly heartwarming sequel. I loved all the fun of the reality TV show, the plot twists and i really really liked the ending, everything turned out the way i wanted with a few surprises thrown in there too. At the end there are even some recipes from Sam which i am definitely going to have a go at making (whether they are diet friendly or not). If you are a fan of Alexandra Brown's or not, this should definitely be on your Xmas list and don't worry, this novel would work equally well as a standalone, although i do highly recommend reading them both together as I did!

La Fenice Magazine says

QUATTRO E 1/2
Recensione sul sito LA FENICE BOOK

Buon Pomeriggio miei cari! Le feste sono passate ma il clima natalizio è ancora nell'aria...Oggi vi parlo di un romanzo del quale adoro l'autrice; il suo modo di scrivere è irriverente, leggero, spontaneo e scorrevole, tutto nei suoi racconti affascina e travolge.

Vi parlai alcune settimane fa di Amiche, segreti e bollicine scritto dalla bravissima Alexandra Brown, nel suo primo romanzo della serie aveva incluso vari elementi rilevanti e aveva reso lo stesso, un romance perfetto, compatto e dolce al punto giusto. Ebbene oggi ci troviamo a parlare del secondo romanzo della Carrington's series e ancora una volta ritroviamo gli stessi protagonisti del primo.

Se nel precedente romanzo avevamo lasciato la nostra protagonista Georgie (adoro questo nome) innamorata del suo Tom (il socio di maggioranza dei Magazzini Carrington) qui le cose si capovolgeranno e sarà un'impresa ardua riuscire a trovare un punto d'incontro tra i due. Tutto appare difficile e a mettergli i bastoni fra le ruote ci saranno due "arpie" che condurranno un reality show per risollevare le sorti del grande Magazzino Carrington. Tom scomparirà e Georgie sarà sommersa da mille dubbi e domande.

Il Carrington's Café rimane sempre uno dei miei posti preferiti, con il suo stile, la sua accoglienza e l'eleganza di altri tempi, come uno dei vagoni dell'Oriente Express, lo rende unico e inimitabile. Sam la proprietaria e amica di Georgie, dopo la morte del padre si ritrova ad avere una bella notizia ma non vi svelerò quale.

Tutto appare confuso ma piano piano il groviglio e l'incredulità vengono dissipati lasciando il posto alla bellezza dei Magazzini, alla frivolezza dei personaggi, alla tradizionale storia che si dissipa e si allarga lasciando nel cuore lo spirito del Natale. Un romanzo romantico e allegro.

Naturalmente come nel precedente vengono affrontati temi forti, ecco cosa mi piace di questa autrice che tocca temi importanti, non appesantendoli, non rendendoli dolorosi e compassionevoli ma infila nelle parole tutta la forza dei protagonisti lasciando che affrontino i propri problemi a modo loro. Ogni singolo spigolo di essi viene fuori e si rivela spontaneo e necessario.

Un Romance che lascia il segno. Dopotutto chi non vorrebbe lavorare in un posto così?!

Melindam says

Update 8/12/2017

I am sticking with my 4 star (3.75 really) on this re-read. Totally predictable and rather typical chick-lit plot, but the characters are utterly likeable.

And author Alexandra Brown just really knows how to throw a proper Christmas-read-party with shopping/reality tv/gorgeous cakes & stuff. Very irresistible in a guilty-pleasure sort of way.

Yummy.

Nov/2016

On second-read I am tempted to raise my rating to 4 stars. I am enjoying it more 2nd time round, apart from the Tom-goes-incommunicado business & its explanation, which in this day and age is "totes" ridiculous & unrealistic.

Gaylen Matlock says

I didn't realize there were other books before this one, so I'm reading them out of order. This was a light, fun,

easy read and I enjoyed it enough to get the previous books and start on them.

Ana says

Also posted on This Chick Reads

Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review

I was really looking forward to reading this book for many reasons. First off, my twitter feed throughout November was full of great comments about it, secondly, the sparkly reviews from my friends/chick lit bloggers whose judgments I absolutely trust.

With Christmas being just around the corner, I thought it was the perfect time to read this Christmassy read and boy oh boy did I have high expectations.

But you know what? Not only was I not disappointed in Alexandra's writing but this book actually exceeded all my expectations. 'Christmas at Carrington's' is the sequel to 'Cupcakes at Carrington's' but it can be easily read as a stand alone too. We get together with Georgie, Sam and Eddie again and see what lies in store for them (no pun intended).

Carrington's is a family firm spanning 3 generations and a store everyone in Mullberry-On-Sea feel connected to. The customers are treated with respect and addressed by name and the staff is like one big happy family.

Well, at least it was before Kelly Cooper and her cameras enter the picture. The idea of setting a reality show in a department store is really brilliant, I personally find it very unique. It does give the story a whole new dimension. Literally over night, Georgie who's running the Women's Accessories section in Carrington's becomes a celebrity and a national TV star. Of course, at first she doesn't enjoy being so exposed and loudly objects the idea of turning a well respected and traditional store into a TV circus, but soon she's starts to get into this whole glamorous life. She even gets to write a fashion column, something she always wanted to do. But fame has a price, right? Georgie is really a wonderful character, and despite being thrown in many awkward situations, she is pretty down-to-earth and positive person. Everyone would love to have her as a BFF, she's nice, kind, caring and full of understanding. I cheered for her, I laughed with her, I sympathized with her, she's definitely a memorable character everyone would love.

I loved the romance elements which fitted the story perfectly. Tom Carrington is gorgeous, smart, sexy..simply breath taking. BUT what I enjoyed the most was the friendship between Georgie and Sam. I could feel they deeply care for each other and support each other no matter what. This is not a sad book, it's actually very fun and uplifting, but there's few scenes in the book where I literally cried like a baby, I was that emotionally invested. I totally DIDN'T expect to cry, but it was stronger than me really. These scenes are pretty powerful and well written (and address a more serious topic), and give the book a deeper dimension. I'm sure many women out there will understand what I say, once they read this book.

Overall, this is definitely a great and enjoyable book. It will get you in a festive mood super speedy, make you laugh and deeply care about these fantastic characters, and flip through pages to see what will happen to Georgie and if she's gonna get her HEA. I thoroughly enjoyed it and am certainly looking forward to part 3, which I heard will be released in June 2014. Full of sparkle and heart, this is a must read for all chick lit and romance fans.

Spanxmcb (Yovanka) says

So, I started this as a Christmas read on December 25th 2013. I got annoyed at about the 15% point so I put it aside (then I got a horrendous New Year's flu) and didn't pick it up again until the 2014 holiday season, completing it just now.

This series lost momentum for me with this book, and although entertaining, it was a disappointment that I felt didn't meet its potential. The disappointing factor is a result of a lot of 'telling' and not a lot of 'showing' as well as falling into the lack-of-communication plot device trap that drives me nuts!

Our dear heroine, Georgie Hart, the somewhat-more-grounded-Bridget-Jones-type who works as the Women's Accessories floor supervisor at Carrington's Department Store in Mulberry-at-Sea and has a fledgling relationship with the dashing Tom Carrington is thrust into the world of reality television in this holiday turn in the Carrington's series.

Carrington's is participating in a reality series with presenter and producer Kelly Cooper, whose daughter Zara tags along, and is quickly pegged as the evil villain in this tale. Eddie practically becomes a caricature of himself (or just a caricature of a queen) and barely gets past the 2-dimensional stage. Sam has a really sweet heartfelt storyline and you see the depth of her relationship with Georgie, but there's some heavy stuff that goes down with Georgie and her father and it seems, in an effort to keep things 'light', those issues get glossed over to facilitate an amenable resolution to all conflicts.

In Cupcakes at Carrington's, when we first meet Georgie, she is lonely, looking for love and trying to get her life on track and in Me and Mr Carrington we get a delightful novella that gives us a glimpse at Georgie's relationship with new found love Tom.

The problem with "Christmas at Carrington's" is that everything stalls. We see Tom in the beginning of the book, and then at the end of the book. The reality series provides a platform for the humourous situations that Georgie, her colleagues and the other supporting characters find themselves in, but essentially instead of there being any relationship progression between Tom and Georgie, Georgie spends the bulk of the book fretting and analyzing the nature of her relationship with Tom, making assumptions about things and never actually talking to him. This becomes a bit of a rehash of "Cupcakes" in that regard, with everything being resolved once the big 'misunderstanding' is sorted out and Georgie saving the day/store and finding love as an end result.

We don't even get to read about Georgie's Christmas as the story concludes on Christmas Eve, with a brief reference to Christmas Day and the general events that followed afterwards and the epilogue jumps 9-months and is about Eddie!! So I felt the reader was a bit short changed with this book.

I've already purchased Ice Creams at Carrington's, but will wait until the warm weather to start reading it. I hope it meets its potential and we actually get to see Tom and Georgie's HEA.

Nina says

Khas chicklit banget :) lucu juga baca kisah Georgie yg masuk yutub, dapat barang gratisan dan tentunya romens super kentelnya dan lumayan banyak air mata.

Muriomu says

Recensione completa su **Café Littéraire**

I grandi magazzini Carrington sono un pezzo di storia del piccolo paesino di Mulberry-On-Sea. E per Georgie Hart non sono solo il posto in cui lavora come commessa nel reparto accessori donna, ma anche uno dei luoghi legato alla sua infanzia e al ricordo di sua madre e il posto in cui ha finalmente trovato l'amore! Non uno qualunque, ma quello che lei pensa possa essere la sua vera anima gemella, nonché proprietario dei grandi magazzini!

Tutto sembra andare per il verso giusto e, neanche a farlo apposta, si sta avvicinando il Natale, il periodo dell'anno che Georgie preferisce, quello in cui il mondo sembra riscoprire la magia e si tinge di mille lucine colorate. Il momento dell'anno in cui Carrington mostra il suo lato più magico.

La vita però di rado segue la strada più prevedibile e questa volta, c'è da dirlo, ha preso proprio una svolta inaspettata.

I grandi magazzini Carrington diventano, a sorpresa di tutti, l'ambientazione per un nuovo reality televisivo. I riflettori si accendono e tutto viene distorto dalle loro luci false e illusorie.

Realtà e finzione si mischiano creando non pochi malintesi.

Lustri e lustrini non tardano ad ammaliare tutti, Georgie compresa che, inizialmente scettica, non tarda a farsi trascinare nel mondo dello showbiz.

Ogni moneta però ha due facce e i problemi non tardano ad arrivare, e presto Georgie si troverà pronta a dover ridecidere l'animato e il sogno ormai sbiadito di trascorrere il primo Natale assieme all'uomo dei suoi sogni.

Sogni... esatto. Perché la protagonista di queste pagine sembra non avere in testa altro che le sue fantasticherie.

Si è prefigurata il suo Natale perfetto, con il suo uomo perfetto e, anche se i fatti continuano a dimostrarle che quello non è affatto un uomo da sognare, che non è assolutamente un uomo da desiderare, lei non vuole altro perché così ha deciso, quindi così deve andare. Punto e basta.

Il reality, come un'impetuosa lente d'ingrandimento, non fa altro che mettere in evidenza la superficialità dei protagonisti. Georgie, Eddie, Tom, sono tutti burattini nelle mani di un burattinaio esperto che si diverte a manipolare le loro vite.

Ed è proprio questo aspetto che non sono riuscita a mandare giù di questa lettura.

La pochezza dei personaggi è fastidiosa e opprimente, basti pensare a Georgie che rappresenta l'emblema della ragazza semplice e insicura che sbava dietro al belloccio di turno.

Lo svolgimento della trama è scontato e banale. Le incomprensioni che si accavallano pagina dopo pagina tra i due "innamorati" sono talmente sciocche da risultare decisamente irritanti, e le giustificazioni che ne vengono date nelle ultime pagine sono poco credibili e noiose.

Il lieto fine a tutti i costi non fa che confermare la banalità di queste trecentoventi pagine.

Uniche note positive di questo libro sono l'ambientazione originale in cui si svolge - i grandi magazzini appunto - e l'atmosfera natalizia fatta di profumi e dolciumi a cui è impossibile resistere.

Ma, purtroppo, una bella cornice non basta a fare di un brutto schizzo un bel quadro.

Love Fool says

A deliciously indulgent read and the follow up to Cupcakes at Carrington's. Set in Carrington's Department Store this is perfect for fans of Jenny Colgan.

Carrington's Department store is thrown into a spin when the staff learn that a hot new reality TV show is to be filmed in-store, featuring the formidable retail guru, Kelly Cooper. Georgie Hart, in charge of Luxury Handbags, is reluctant, but quickly realizes that the show could give Carrington's a new lease of life. With Christmas around the corner, she's also hoping that the season will deliver her the perfect Christmas present, in the form of Tom, the store's dishy boss.

I didn't read book one but now I want to! This reminded me of a Sophie Kinsella book and I loved the reality show and the bitchy Zara. It was original and fun. It didn't put me in the Christmas spirit but that's okay!

Leggere Romanticamente says

Recensione sul blog ---> <http://www.leggereromanticamente.com/...>

Molly says

Didn't enjoy the plot or the way the romance was handled, it just frustrated me!

2/5 Christmassness I guess. Bleh.

Linda says

warm and fuzzy :D

Il confine dei libri says

il confine dei libri

Salve a tutte ragazze, visto che siamo in prossimità delle feste, oggi ho pensato di parlarvi di un romanzo arrivato nelle nostre librerie il 17 Novembre scorso, ambientato proprio durante il magico periodo del Natale. Si tratta di "Natale da Carrington" di Alexandra Brown, edito da Harlequin Mondadori. Vi dico subito che la mia scelta è caduta su questo romanzo perché, da brava shoppinista quale sono, è ambientato in uno dei miei posti preferiti: il grande magazzino! Cosa c'è di meglio di quell'aria natalizia che aleggia nei negozi, pieni di luci, sorrisi, musica, gente che corre alla ricerca del regalo perfetto e, magari, la neve fuori che cade leggiadra, tingendo tutto di bianco? E la storia della nostra protagonista, Georgie Hart, parte proprio da qui... Georgie ama il Natale, ma il Natale da Carrington ha per lei qualcosa di davvero speciale. Da piccola, infatti, era solita passare queste giornate nei magazzini Carrington in compagnia della madre, passeggiare nelle loro

luccicanti corsie, provare abiti, accessori, fare acquisti o semplicemente stare insieme alla madre. Sono questi ricordi felici che la spingono, sin dall'adolescenza, ad iniziare a lavorare nel negozio. Ora, giovane donna ventisettenne, gestisce il reparto accessori donna del grande magazzino, è fidanzata con l'affascinante Tom (nonché grande capo!), ed è circondata da amici che le vogliono bene. Insomma, vi starete chiedendo, cosa può chiedere di più dalla vita? (No, non è l'amaro Lucano...) Bè, magari partecipare ad un reality televisivo! Superato lo shock della prima puntata, durante la quale di Georgie si conoscerà solo il lato B (insomma, non tutte le donne amano metterlo in mostra!), in men che non si dica si lascia travolgere dalle novità che tutto ciò comporta: trucco e parrucco nuovi di zecca, vestiti super firmati e all'ultima moda, incontri con le star del momento e, ahimè, l'entrata in scena della sua acerrima nemica Zara, figlia della conduttrice dello show, che si è messa in testa di conquistare il fedelissimo (?) Tom. Insomma, tra clienti da soddisfare, problemi vecchi e nuovi da risolvere, dolci in cui annegare il dispiacere e una presentatrice che ricorda tanto il Gordon Ramsay dei centri commerciali, Georgie avrà molto su cui lavorare per scoprire ciò che il Natale ha in serbo per lei... È una lettura che non mi ha conquistato subito a dire la verità, ma andando avanti il racconto inizia a prendere quel ritmo che ti coinvolge, che ti diverte, e a volte ti fa arrabbiare perché a tanto sentir nominare cupcake, torte e tortine ti viene una voglia pazzesca di mangiarli, peccato che attorno a te non ci sia nulla che assomigli a ciò! Non è "il libro" di Natale, ma è quello ideale per chi vuol passare qualche ora in compagnia di un libro e un buon thé, immersa nell'atmosfera natalizia di uno scintillante centro commerciale, in mezzo a pacchetti e lustrini e personaggi divertenti! Alla prossima e buon Natale a tutte! Alessandra

Simona says

Yay, we are back in Mulberry-on-Sea with Georgie J at Carringtons!!!

I couldn't wait to read this story, I loved Cupcakes at Carrington's and also Alexandra Brown's short story after that.

Georgie Hart is a wonderful character full of energy, sweetness and much more. She works at Carrington's on the Women's Accessories Department. She loves her job and it's always a pleasure to read about her workplace. Georgie is dating gorgeous and sexy Tom Carrington, the boss. The two of them are really sweet and adorable together. I think they have a great connection and their scenes were full of great moments and sweetness.

Well, everything changes when a film crew arrives and wants to feature Carrington's and especially Georgie and Eddie. It seems that they show Georgie in a rather bad light. Tom knew all about that shoe and didn't tell her, lots of misunderstandings and fast decisions lead to an end of their relationship. And a supposedly old flame of Tom is all involved in the show. Tom has to travel around for the show and there is no time to talk. I felt really bad for Georgie, because she was really trying and just wanted him back. I was glad that she had her best friends Sam and Eddie there with her. The best friends a girl could wish for. We also learn more about their stories, which was great. Sam goes through a tough time as well and Georgie never left her side – an admirable friendship.

Lots of drama and misunderstandings seem to make everything worse in Georgie's life. Did Tom really send this message?! And the show changed her life as well. This book is not only full of great written drama, but also full of humour and refreshing moments. I couldn't put this book down!!!! I just wanted Tom and Georgie to talk about it all and hopefully find back together.

It's the perfect Christmas book as well, very festive and sweet, including family, friends and love.

I loved the last scene and especially where it was set and then also the epilogue. Alexandra Brown is a brilliant writer, with a great and fresh voice!!!

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I LOVE Alexandra Brown's books – and if you haven't already then please check out the rest of the Carrington's books too – Cupcakes At Carrington's, and Me and Mr Carrington!

Christmas is fast approaching and in the Carrington's Department Store Georgie is very excited about the upcoming festivities. Georgie is such a lover of handbags and enjoys helping her customers find the perfect special gift. And to make this Christmas more special, she has the handsome Mr Carrington himself to spend it with. But Georgie's in for a shock, she learns that Carrington's is to feature in a reality TV show and get a fresh lease of life from retail guru Kelly Cooper. As the first episode airs, Georgie isn't shown in a flattering way, and things are even more worse when Kelly's daughter Zara tries to get her claws into Tom. How will Carrington's fare in the show? And will Georgie get the Christmas she's been dreaming of?

I LOVED Christmas At Carrington's so much! I wanted to scoop it up into a big hug, it is that delightful and enjoyable!

The characters are all back for the festive season, the lovable Georgie is spectacular in this! From the opening page it felt as though I was back with a best friend, and I found myself rooting for Georgie all the way throughout. I laughed with her, I cringed with her, I even shed a tear with her too! Eddie is a firm favourite among many and he is back with a bang too...I loved his scenes and his witty lines had me CRYING with laughter. I particularly enjoyed that Georgie's friend Sam had more of a front role in this book, I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her more, as well as salivating over the gorgeous cakes she makes! And of course there is the gorgeous Mr Tom Carrington himself!

I loved the idea of the show – what a brilliant dimension to add to the story! It was fun, quirky and I liked that I didn't know what way the story would go next!

On another note, I liked that Alexandra took on more serious topics in this book as well, and it was so very well written and she deserves a medal for writing those scenes with such care and feeling. I don't want to spoil anything but it made me emotional, I could really feel the characters feelings personally and it had me weeping a little too.

Christmas At Carrington's is the PERFECT book to buy this winter! It is full of romance, friendship, family, a bit of drama and some Christmas cheer – not to mention those beautiful handbags! So buy this STUNNING novel and enjoy!
