



Christopher and Jaime

Jennifer Peel

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Jaime Seger has two goals in life: marry her best friend, the man that owns her heart and soul, and buy her very own grand piano. But Christopher McKay, who has no idea Jaime's been in love with him since she was eleven years old, never gets the memo and marries someone else.

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When Christopher's wife dies, Jamie finds herself helping him raise his young daughter. A year later, she is on the other end of a very unlikely proposal, promising everything she thought she ever wanted.

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But will Christopher help Jamie finally realize both of her dreams, or will she only be left with broken promises?

Christopher and Jaime Details

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From Reader Review Christopher and Jaime for online ebook

Kathy Jo says

January 2018:

As part of my 2018 Reading Challenge, it's time to reread this series! I still love it! <3

May 2017:

I've said it before and I'll say it again... Jennifer Peel may get me to love novellas after all! I enjoyed this again the second time around and can't wait to reread the rest of the series! The feels are real my friends! <3

September 2016:

4.5 Stars

Jaime and Chris met for the first time in the 6th grade. Even though they were complete opposites, they instantly became the best of friends. Throughout the years Jaime fell in love with Chris and dreamed of a happily ever after with him.

However, life doesn't always work out the way we want it to. Chris ends up marrying someone else, they have an adorable little girl named Allie and then, in an instant, Chris becomes a widower. He is desperate and reaches out to Jaime for help.

Being the best friend that she is, Jaime drops everything and is by his side in a heartbeat. Maybe now Chris will finally open his eyes and see what has been right in front of him all along. But Jaime ultimately realizes that she will never get her happily ever after with Chris and makes the hardest decision of her life. She's moving and taking a job 4 hours away.

Chris is in shock. He can't believe that Jaime is leaving him and Allie. He needs her and is desperate to keep her. But there is only way he can make this happen. He proposes marriage and makes promises he doesn't know if he can keep. Jaime says yes and can't wait to spend her life with her best friend, her soul mate, her other half.

But again, life doesn't always work out the way we want it to. Fast forward 2 years and Jaime is filing for divorce. She can't keep living the way she has been. She deserves better, Allie deserves better. But how can she move forward without Chris? He has been a part of her life for so long and moving on without him feels extremely wrong. What happened to her best friend? Their life wasn't supposed to be filled with broken promises. It was supposed to be filled with love, laughter and happily ever after!

But when tragedy strikes again it will have everyone rethinking their life's choices and they will have to decide, once and for all, which path to choose. Will they choose the path that will lead them to where they were meant to be all along? Or will pianos and broken promises keep them apart forever?

I really enjoyed Pianos and Promises! It's a great start to a new, fun series! But I have to say Jennifer has completely spoiled me! I found myself wanting just a little bit more! I know that this is a novella and that we will see more of Chris and Jaime in Beck's book but I want more right now dang it! Lol. All in all it's a

perfect afternoon read. If you are a Jennifer Peel fan then you will definitely enjoy this one!

And of course my review just wouldn't be complete without my casting. What do you think?!

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

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

3.5 stars for this contemporary romance novella. I liked the unusual premise, and Jennifer Peel's romances are cathartic.

Jaime has loved Christopher since she met him in grade school. They're best friends, but despite one night of kisses in high school, they never were in a relationship. Chris married a high profile corporate attorney, Bianca, who died a few years later, leaving Chris with a 2 year old daughter. Chris convinces Jaime to be Allie's nanny, but after a year of this, and still with an unrequited love for Chris, Jaime's ready to move on with her life, and takes a job in another state. Chris realizes he's going to lose Jaime, and begs her to marry him. Despite her doubts, she agrees. He promises it'll work out.

It doesn't. We jump to two years later, when Jaime's filed for divorce. Chris has been a workaholic, and has broken some promises to Jaime about what they'd be doing with their lives. She doesn't think he really loves her, and now she's done. But when Chris is hit by a car and ends up in the hospital, it's a chance to reevaluate ... for both of them.

I liked the idea of a following a marriage of convenience after the fact, and where the road gets very rough. It's a little bit sappy and predictable, but the romance feels are there. If you like the idea of men realizing they're going to lose what's important and have to scramble to try to keep the woman they love, then this and Peel's The Girl in Seat 24B are a good way to go.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

First off, this didn't feel like a novella! The story arc is so complete that it really felt like a full-length book. I love stories of best friends falling in love, but this had a twist- it was in first person perspective from Jaime's point of view, so we don't really know how Christopher is truly feeling, especially since he's not the best at communication. Jaime's flashbacks to their early relationship provides the reader with answers to why she is in love with someone who seems so flawed. The years and his first marriage have changed Christopher and his values and goals no longer align with Jaime's. With their marriage falling apart due to broken promises and hurt feelings, Jaime is faced with an opportunity to gain insight into Christopher's thoughts. I appreciated that we could finally see what was behind his seemingly selfish actions. I understood why Jaime felt so mistrustful of him, but it was gratifying when he recognized how to show her what his true priorities were. Lots of emotion and angst with just the right amount of romance and chemistry. Loved it!

(Thank you to the author for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

Christopher and Jaime have been BFFs for a long time, they're extremely close and when his wife passes away Jaime steps-up and becomes the nanny for his adorable little girl. The only problem is, Jaime has been in love with Christopher since they were kids and Christopher is completely clueless. When Jaime finally decides she needs to get her own life, Christopher panics and asks her to marry him. She agrees and then we jump ahead about two years later.

I've decided that the whole friends-first storyline is just not for me, combine that with a lot of flashbacks and I just had a hard time connecting to this one. I really wanted Jaime to get away and start over. And maybe, after a lot of groveling and wooing Christopher could win her back. I felt like a majority of the book was either Jaime reminiscing about their past or her learning about Christopher through his journal. It felt like a lot of pining on Jaime's side and Christopher was out of it for the majority of the book.

Overall, it was an interesting story and kept me interested.

Content

Romance: Clean, mild innuendo

Language: None

Violence: None

Series: Piano & Promises, Book One

Similar Reads: Family by Design

Cara says

Super easy read, which was just what I needed to jumpstart my reading after a brief hiatus. Pure pleasure...sigh. Chris had his issues - that is part of what created conflict in the story - but when he was good to Jaime? Oh, he was sooooooo good. Lots of mooshy - just my speed. ?♥??♥?

Just as a side note, in my opinion this is a totally clean read. But the characters are married, and so there are references to marital intimacies. So just keep that in mind if you don't care for that kind of thing.

Katie W says

Jennifer Peel writes the most heart wrenching, hopeful, sweet, frustrating, romantic, and satisfying stories ever! Each book is so full of emotion and each story just gets better and better. This novella is packed full of everything a lover of women's fiction could ever want and it's just so good.

Has anyone had a crush on their best friend? Christopher and Jaime seem so different, yet their friendship has withstood the test of time and after years and years, the chance to be together presents itself in a slightly unconventional way. How can Jaime pass up her dream of being with her one true love?

The thought that kept running through my head while reading this story was, "Choose your love; love your

choice." That right there, my friends, is definitely easier said than done, especially if both parties involved aren't completely convinced. I also kept singing Sara Bareilles's song, "I Choose You" in my mind--it's like the theme song to this book.

I honestly can't believe the range of emotions I felt while reading this. It's raw, slightly edgy, and real. And I loved every minute of it. I'm excited to read the rest of this series.

Content: this isn't squeaky clean, but it is technically clean for an adult reader (kissing, talk of marital relations--no details given, some innuendo); mild language.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

TJ says

This is a lovely story of best friends who marry and of the fight to keep their love and friendship through the ups and downs of life. It explores the consequences of not communicating, the heartbreak of neglecting a relationship and the ultimate road to find the strength to change and forgive. There were times I felt Christopher's character needed a deeper understanding and explanation of the hurt he caused, especially concerning the sale of the piano...I actually cried through that one! Overall, this is one of those wonderful stories where one closes the last page, not only satisfied, but touched and uplifted.

Mara says

Christopher and Jaime have been friends for forever. Jaime's always been in love with Christopher but he married someone else. When his wife dies Jaime becomes his little girl's nanny, and when Christopher proposes she accepts. A couple of years later they're on the verge of divorcing when Christopher's in a serious accident.

This is not a lighthearted romance--this is a puts you through the wringer story of a couple deciding whether they're going to stay married and making the changes that are necessary.

Kathy says

Oh my heart, Jennifer really knows how to tug at my heartstrings. I feel such strong emotions every time I read one of her books. She writes characters who are so real, I can feel their pain and celebrate when they triumph.

This is a novella but the characters and story line are fully developed and this book left me feeling completely satisfied. So well done!

I LOVED this one and recommend it to anyone who enjoys good clean romance.
Another great book from author Jennifer Peel, can't wait for the next one.

Content: Clean with a little mild language and innuendo

Source: Digital ARC

Alisa says

I was so excited to see a new series by Jennifer Peel, and this does not disappoint! These stories are shorter than her usual books, but packed with emotion - and, of course, great characters!

Jaime has been in love with her best friend Christopher for over 20 years. After his wife Bianca died, she is a nanny for his young daughter until she decides she needs to leave them and move on with her life. Christopher convinces her to marry him instead, but after being married for two years she can't live with unrequited love any more and files for divorce.

We get some flashbacks to understand their history better. After an accident, Jaime finds herself in possession of Christopher's journal and starts to get some insights about him and their relationship. Christopher has to change some things and work to get her back; he needs to prove his love and show her that he is the same Christopher she has been in love with all these years.

I loved Christopher's friend/business associate Beck and can't wait to get his story next...

Rating: 5 stars

Content: Clean (some mild innuendo between an estranged couple and mild swearing)

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

NaDell says

Sweet, short story about these characters who grew up with crushes on each other and had life take them into different directions until they are finally thrown back together to see if they still have feelings for each other and if they are compatible. Some parts of the book are heart-breaking and difficult to read, but this book was a great story by Jennifer Peel who seems to knock books out of the park! I'd like to read the next book in the series.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

My heart always does a little happy dance with my brain anytime I get a new book from Jennifer Peel. She is easily one of my favorite authors because she just knows how to write books full of emotion. Her characters are larger than life and fill up the pages and my heart. She is such a gift to my book obsessed world. :)

This is the beginning of a new series of novellas and I have to say that I'm pretty excited about them. I have read the first two and I'm in love. These first two books are very different from each other. This first book is definitely heavier and delves deep into the emotions. My heart was seriously all over the map. All over. Smiling, sighing, cringing, howling, weeping, warming, smiling. I love being taken on an emotional journey with characters.

Like I said, Jennifer Peel just knows how to write a satisfying story in many forms. I love her books. If you haven't read anything by Jennifer, and you love romance, you should go get her books now! :)

Content: mild swearing, innuendo

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Jacob Proffitt says

This is a short romance that I wish had been a little shorter still. Which is a weird thing for me to say because short is usually a killer for me in romance. Peel really does a fantastic job making this romance work, actually, because in addition to short, a lot of the dynamics of the relationship are conveyed through memories and journal entries. Which really shouldn't have worked but it totally did.

My main attachment to the story was Jaime and Allie (Chris' daughter). I just ached for them from the start and really enjoyed their obviously loving relationship. Chris, on the other hand, just exasperated me. Peel is good enough that we get what Jaime sees in him, even as we wonder what the crap happened to make him so useless in the present. This was important because we had to understand why the relationship was so far down that Jaime, who clearly loves him still, is pushing for divorce.

Anyway, this totally works and I enjoyed it. Still, you could cut (view spoiler)

That late development in the spoiler dropped this down to 3.5 stars and nearly had me rounding down to three. If the finale hadn't had some seriously good zing to it, I'd certainly have dropped it down. But it did, so rounding to four it is...

Jessie says

I loved this book! At 122 pages, it was a faster read, but still felt fully developed. Jamie and Chris have always been best friends, and she's loved him for years. When he does ask her to marry him, it is not because he's realized how perfect she is for him, it's because he needs her to keep taking care of his daughter, and doesn't want to lose her.

If you haven't guessed, that's a pretty rocky foundation for their marriage. I loved Jennifer Peel's approach to this story. I definitely felt tugging on my heartstrings, but she didn't snap them. Jaime was an amazing woman. I loved all of the little things she did to show her love for Chris. And I loved watching Chris fight for what he had previously taken for granted.

I started right in on Beck and Call as soon as I finished this. I can't wait to read more in this series. Keep them coming, Jennifer Peel!

Disclosure: I received a free copy of his book, in exchange for an honest review.

Brooke -Brooke's Books says

Heart wrenching story.

