



Sarah Morgan

## Once upon a Christmas

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**Once upon a Christmas** Sarah Morgan  
What's your number one Christmas wish?

Bryony's daughter has put a dad on her Christmas list. That leaves Bryony with one month to find the perfect man, so this year she's wishing for a miracle!

While she's looking for love, her best friend Helen is doing the opposite. Her Christmas wish is to forget all about the white dress hanging in her wardrobe - and her faithless rat of a fiance.

Helen and Bryony's festive cheer definitely needs a boost, so it's lucky that once upon a Christmas, wishes really do come true...

(Text on cover)

## Once upon a Christmas Details

Date : Published October 2012 by Mills & Boon, Harlequin (UK) Limited (first published January 1st 2004)

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Author : Sarah Morgan

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## From Reader Review Once upon a Christmas for online ebook

### Claire Robinson says

5 - "I've got you and there's no way I'm letting you go." Stars!

Sarah Morgan has officially become my go-to Christmas author. *Once Upon a Christmas*, is actually two of her earlier releases - *The Doctor's Christmas Bride* & *The Nurse's Wedding Rescue*, published together as a duology.

### "It's Christmas... It's supposed to snow."

Although the second book isn't strictly a Christmas story it does run along from the end of the first book, and the first three books in the *Lakeside Mountain Rescue* series give each of the Hunter siblings their happily ever afters, I enjoyed Bryony and Oliver Hunter's books so much I have their brother Tom's book already lined up on my Kindle to read next.

Books 4 - 7 all do seem to be set on or around Christmas, so I am mainlining-Morgan for the rest of the year!

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### Denise Gregory says

Enjoyed this one too - Set in the Lake District gave it a different feel ;-)

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### Dalia says

2 Heartfelt, heartwarming, feel-good, leave-you-with-a-smile-on-your-face stories.

2 different and delicious heroes each in his own way. Jack is stubborn and can't see the truth even if it hits him between his eyes. He is in love with Bryony, his best friend since childhood, but he doesn't admit it even to himself. He just becomes all macho and jealous when she decides to date other men cuz her daughter Izzie wants a daddy for christmas. At times I wanted to slap some sense into his thick head : )

Oliver is so sweet. He is a man who knows his own mind. He knows what he wants and goes for it. He falls in love with Helen at first sight and he is not afraid to admit it. He is ready to wait till she is over her heartbreakng break up with her jerk ex- fiancé. A man ready to settle down for a change. Thank you Sarah Morgan : )

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### Paula Sealey says

A combination of two stories with character crossover, Once upon a Christmas is the perfect heartwarming romance for curling up with during the festivities.

Part one of the story follows Bryony, a young single mum who has been given the task of finding her

daughter a father for Christmas. Best friend since childhood, Jack, thinks it's an awful idea and does his best to scupper her dates. You can probably see where this plot is going, but don't be put off, as Sarah Morgan's humour really comes to the fore with these two characters and I found myself laughing at the rapport between them many times.

Part two sees Bryony's friend Helen arrive in town, distraught over the break-up of her relationship. In steps Bryony's brother Oliver, who thinks he can cheer her up and that she just might be his perfect partner. Although not as enjoyable for me as Jack and Bryony's story, and definitely lacking in Christmas references, it is still a warm and entertaining romance.

Nobody writes these kind of stories with the great balance of humour and warmth as well as Sarah Morgan does and that's why she has become my favourite romance author.

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### **Ylva says**

100% Christmas fluff.

Reread the second story october 2018 - still enjoyable fluff.

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### **Jade aka MrsTosh says**

I don't know what it is about Sarah Morgan but she manages to weave me in to her spell from the first page of every book.

This one was not exception, from the front cover which was beautiful and glittery to the content which left me with a huge smile on my face. I am a sucker for a happy ending and she delivers every time.

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### **Rachel Gilbey says**

I don't know why I keep being amazed when I read a Sarah Morgan book, because she is consistently brilliant at creating romances to fall in love with yourself, in the most fabulous of locations. This may be one of her slightly earlier books, but it's still the same level of quality you know, love and would expect from an author of this calibre.

There are two separate stories in this book, which are separated as Part 1 and Part 2, but part 2 is a direct continuation of part 1, but the main character focus changes. In the first half the story is about Bryony, her daughter Lizzie, and her best friend Jack.

Lizzie made her list for Santa early this year, and put just one thing on it, she wants a dad, giving Lizzie six weeks to find a man, fall in love and get engaged at the very least, or destroy a little girl's belief in Santa. Only problem is Lizzie generally doesn't date, and is very much in love with the one person who never notices her as a woman.

The second half of the book is about Bryony's best friend Helen, who ends up meeting and living under the same roof as one of Bryony's brothers Oliver.

All of the action is set in a small town in the Lake District in winter, and Bryony, Jack and Oliver are as well as doctor's also members of the mountain rescue team. This leads to some wonderful in the field medical emergencies, and just shows how human and compassionate medical professionals can be.

It has been since I last read an older Sarah Morgan book, that I last read a medical romance, and again I am reminded at how much I am missing out on by not reading more of this sub genre, as although I would faint in real life situations, I am fascinated reading about doctors and nurses. Let's face it there isn't much sexier than a gorgeous fictional doctor, saving someone's life!

Once Upon A Christmas is two cosy romances, that just draw you in, you may know where the story should end, but the journey is so delightful, you are happy to come along for the ride. Lizzie in part one really reminds me of the little girl from Miracle on 34th Street, while part two had me falling head over heels for Oliver, which felt a bit like I was cheating on Jack from part 1!

Wonderful boo

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### **Irena says**

review to come.

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### **Stephanie (Stepping out of the Page) says**

Once Upon a Christmas is the second book that I've read by Sarah Morgan, but I know it certainly won't be the last! Last year, I read Angels in the Snow and really enjoyed it, so when I heard about her newest book, Once Upon a Christmas, I jumped at the chance of reviewing it and I am so happy to say that it didn't disappoint

This book is separated into two interlinking stories, one telling the story of Bryony and Jack, the other of Helen, Bryony's best friend and Oliver, Bryony's sister. Though they are two separate stories, thankfully neither of them lack in depth. I did prefer Bryony's story slightly more than that of Helen and Oliver, but both stories were really enjoyable. Though the stories were rather predictable, they were lovely to just sit back, relax and read - this really is a perfect winter book! There are lots of Christmassy references in this book, so it does really immerse you into the atmosphere and setting - however, it wouldn't put me off reading it at other times of the year.

I really liked meeting all of the characters that we were introduced to as they all had vibrant personalities - even the secondary characters felt very real. The way that the characters interacted with each other was very lifelike and so the book felt realistic. The chemistry between Bryony and Jack was fantastic to read about - I really got drawn into their relationship and willed them on. Jack's relationship with Bryony's daughter was touching and I loved the family dynamic. The chemistry between Helen and Oliver was also well written, but for me, it did feel a little sudden or rushed, nevertheless, I grew to love them both as a couple. I thought that there was just the right amount of romance in this book. I thought that for the most part, the story moved on

well and I enjoyed the anticipation of the next move. The romance wasn't too sickly sweet for me, but passionate and loving. For those who enjoy more steamy scenes, there are a couple in the book that are sure to satisfy, without being too over the top.

I must admit that I was left a little disappointed about the lack of exploration of Bryony and Helen's friendship - though Helen is Bryony's best friend, we never really got to see them interact and if we did, I think that may have been beneficial for the connection of the two stories.

This really was a fantastic Christmas read which I'd highly recommend to anyone who is wanting an easy, festive read. It's always nice to read something light and heartwarming at this time of year, and with lovable characters alongside a beautiful wintery setting, Once Upon a Christmas will not disappoint!

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## Ana says

Also posted on This Chick Reads

*\*Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review\**

Actual rating 3.5/5

WHAT? Surprised I'm still reading Christmas books? Well don't be, because I really don't care if it's February, July or December. I can read Christmas books all year round. Especially if they are written by Sarah Morgan! Last year I read Sleigh Bells in the Snow and I absolutely fell in love with Sarah's writing, so when I was asked to review this book, I really couldn't be happier. There's something so warm, so comforting in reading Christmas books, no wonder I'm so addicted to them.

Once Upon a Christmas is indeed a light and feel-good festive read with all essential elements a good Christmas book should have. The cover is stunning and the writing is wonderful. What I found most interesting is the fact it's divided into two parts, telling two stories but they are well connected. The first story is about Bryony and Jack and the second one is centered around Bryony's brother Oliver and her good friend Helen. So that's a really strong connecting and both stories flow, perfectly intertwined around these 4 characters.

The two stories are a bit different, of course because these couples are different, so you might end up liking one better than the other. In my case, I wasn't really fascinated with Jack as a character, I hated the fact he called Bryony 'Blondie' and really found it so irritating at times. But him and Bryony do share a long history, the fact they know each other for 20 years. Yet I didn't like him calling her that way, it just seemed a bit disrespectful, but Jack is Jack...once you get to know him, you'll realize he doesn't have bad intentions, and is really fond of Bryony and her sweet daughter.

Helen and Oliver were a completely different story. While Bryony is trying really hard to find a man, Helen is doing everything but. She's been very hurt in the past, so I could really understand her fears. But Helen and Oliver seemed more likable couple and I enjoyed their story more.

As usual when it comes to Sarah, the romance part was well and gradually built and the chemistry between

her characters is electrifying. Bryony's little girl was such a sweetie and her wish to have a dad for Christmas brought me nearly to tears.

Overall, this was a fun and enjoyable read. It reads really fast, it's fun and has lots of romance. So, if you're looking for an enjoyable read with lots of romance that will keep you warm on this cold winter days, this is the perfect book for you.

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### **Jenn - Reviews says**

I just LOVE Sarah Morgan's stories! They have such a gentle intensity, loveable characters and always leave me feeling so happy!

This book contains 2 stories: Bryony and Jack - both doctors, known each other their whole lives. I love that Bryony is honest with herself about her feelings for Jack. Not only that but she's honest about Jack's feelings for her, telling him exactly how he feels when he wouldn't dare acknowledge it himself!

The second story is about Bryony's brother Oliver. Also a doctor, he knows what he wants the moment he sees it. No doubts. And what he wants is Helen who is recovering from a relationship trauma and not willing to see that love doesn't always take time. Sometimes it hits you like a lightning bolt.

A fabulous feel-good read!

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### **Lauren says**

Didnt get much from this book at all, took me a long time to read and didn't grip my attention. Was advertised as a Christmas novel judging from the title but I did notice inside that it has previously been published under 2 other names before. Was split into 2 parts and the first part was at least set at Christmas but the other half had nothing to do with Christmas as was set after. Found the story unbelievable and thought the characters didn't act like you would expect people to. Was just a glorified romance that wasn't believable. Found it a shame as I have read Sarah Morgan before and liked them but this was a disappointment all round. Overall I'm glad to have the chance to move onto something else

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### **Shirley Revill says**

A really lovely Christmas story that I really enjoyed. Recommended.

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### **Nicola says**

Sarah Morgan is my own little glass of Christmas cheer and my end-of-year Morganathon continues with a romantic duology set in one of my favourite places.

***Welcome to the Lake District, home of snow, rain and neighbours who know what you ate for your dinner!"***

With doctors, mountain rescue, snow, best-friends-to-lovers, a broken-hearted nurse and a doc who's the best

medicine, you couldn't ask for more. Well you could, because there are about 6 more books in the *Lakeside Mountain Rescue* series after these two and I'm off to make a dent in them.

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### **C.J. Fallowfield says**

Two stories in one and admittedly probably my least favourites by Morgan, though she has set a very high bar with my expectations after reading so many of her other more recent releases. It's clear to see just how much she's developed as a writer, as while these were well written, they were lacking some of the magic I've come to expect and were a little repetitive. The fact I put it down at one point to sleep, which didn't stop me previously, tells me my heart wasn't as deeply into it as it should have been.

Story one revolves around single parent Bryony and her seven year old daughter Lizzy - Lizzy's one wish for Christmas is for Bryony to give her a Daddy, which doesn't give her mum much time to conjure one up, or risk disappointing her daughter, and making her lose faith in Santa for good. The obvious choice for her is her best friend Jack, who she's been in love with for years, but she knows he doesn't feel the same - The thing is Jack does, but he doesn't know it! It takes Bryony dating other men, or trying to as Jack sabotages them, to see what he's risking losing. This was only a three star for me, I just didn't like Jack at all, he wasn't written with as much likeability as Morgan's other flawed characters, so it took the shine of a potentially good story for me. Lizzy was my favourite character in this and it should have been the hero.

Story two is about Bryony's brother Oliver, a doctor in the Peak District, who goes above and beyond for his patients and has a heart of gold. When he spots Bryony's friend Helen at Bryony's wedding, looking broken and hurt, he swoops in to rescue her and make her feel better - which includes him faking a roofing problem to share a cottage with her, sending his practice nurse away on a month's vacation so Helen can work with him, all in the hopes of her falling for him. Oliver was a far more likeable character than Jack, but that said his relentless pursuit of a woman who had only just been jilted at the altar a few weeks before, was a bit off putting for me, making him come across as obsessive, pushy, and almost stalkerish, so that took some of the shine off this story too, meaning I only gave it a 3.5 star rating.

Both were packed full of interesting medical scenarios, which were well written with intelligence and obvious research, they were just lacking in the emotional connections between myself and the leads, and, in the case of story two, the slow build up of a romance to a HEA. At 3.25 stars for the book overall, it may be my lowest overall rating for a Morgan novel, but it won't put me off reading more of her work, or one clicking future titles, as it's clear to see just how much she's developed as a writer from her earlier work to the most recent releases.

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