



A Stone Creek Christmas

Linda Lael Miller

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Stone Creek veterinarian Olivia O'Ballivan communicates easily with animals, but men are another story. Especially rugged architect-turned-rancher Tanner Quinn. Olivia's uncanny bond with his daughter Sophie's pony, Butterpie, has him questioning her sanity, while she wonders if he's not just a drugstore cowboy. Then twelve-year-old Sophie conspires with Olivia to get Tanner into the spirit of Christmas with all the trimmings, including a tree-lighting ceremony and a man named Kris Kringle in a sleigh driven by seven reindeer...and a donkey. But will a holiday miracle transform the globe-trotting Tanner into a rancher—and family man—for all seasons?

A Stone Creek Christmas Details

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From Reader Review A Stone Creek Christmas for online ebook

Beth L. says

I am enjoying this series

monica says

Un hombre enamorado

Una historia que no puedes dejar de leer.emotiva ,linda y muy realista.Tanner tiene miedo a entregar su corazón después de haber perdido a su esposa.olivia tiene un don especial con los animales pero también a perdido mucho y juntos encontrarán el coraje para darse una oportunidad .

Lynda says

If you love the author's McKettrick Series, this book fleshes out some of the characters in the series.

This Christmas story centers around Olivia O'Ballivan, the local Stone Creek, Arizona vet and Tanner Quinn, new to the area with absolutely NO plans of making his permanent home there. Or anywhere else for that matter.

I think my dogs not only talk to each other but sometimes it is absolutely clear what they are saying to me as well. However, Olivia has an ability to actually "communicate" with the animals she treats as well as rescues.

You will truly enjoy Ginger, the sassy old dog who never lets Olivia get by with anything. And has no problem reminding her that the Christmas season *is* here and that for once Olivia SHOULD be a part of it. As well as opening her heart to Tanner and his daughter.

Just read the book! Ya gotta love a Christmas romance with a talking dog, a real reindeer, a tree seller whose name really is Kris Kringle. A lonely pony named Butterpie. Plus the McKettrick's! Grab the book and enjoy yourself.

Beth Railey says

about Olivia O'Ballivan and Tanner Quinn

jenjn79 says

I'd probably give this book three thumbs up if I had three thumbs ;) It was a great, if short, read - fun and sweet, romantic and whimsical, with just enough emotional angst to keep it from being too light.

The book connects to LLM's McKettrick series and Stone Creek series (which are also connected to each other). Though this is called *A Stone Creek Christmas*, connecting it to the historical western Stone Creek series, it's a contemporary (i.e. modern) romance. And it more directly connects to *The McKettrick Way* (also a Silhouette SE release) in that the hero of that one is the brother of the heroine in this current book (and both are descendants of Sam O'Ballivan from the Stone Creek series).

A Stone Creek Christmas features veterinarian Olivia O'Ballivan who has the unique ability to converse with animals. She can hear their calls for help when they need it. Tanner Quinn's not really sure he believes that, but he can overlook the oddity for a chance to get to know the pretty doc. Anything more than a little fun is out of the question, though. Tanner runs from commitment, and has ever since his wife was killed. But with the holidays approaching, Tanner gets a chance to see that maybe he's run long enough.

This was a fun book to read. It's quirky and cute, yet romantic and sweet. And I love books that have animals in them...and there was a lot of animal stuff in this one. Some of it had me laughing out loud. Ginger the dog was hilarious. And don't discount Rodney the reindeer. Would have loved to see more of him.

Even though it's a short, sweet holiday story, there was still some substance to it with Tanner having to figure out what to do about the problems in his life. And Olivia and the rest of the O'Ballivan siblings have to face and issue from their past. Those things added some depth to the story so that it wasn't too light and fluffy.

So if you want to read a book that's full of holiday cheer, cute animals, and a nice romance, I'd definitely recommend this one. I loved it, and was smiling when I finished. Plus, if you're a reader of either of the two LLM series mentioned above, you'll probably want to read this one.

Laura says

4th in the Stone Creek series and also connected to the McKettrick series--it follows the 9th book in the series, *The McKettrick Way* (about Brad O'Ballivan and Meg McKettrick). This is the first modern day Stone Creek book.

Olivia O'Ballivan, descendant of Sam O'Ballivan, is the town veterinarian. She is jokingly called Dr. Doolittle for her ability to communicate with animals. She really does communicate with them, too. Olivia is taken with her new neighbor, Tanner Quinn, who is the contractor for her new animal clinic in town.

Tanner Quinn is a widow who tries to keep his 12-year-old daughter safe by storing her away in boarding schools. Problem is, she misses her dad and her pony, who also is depressed without her. Tanner doesn't attach to anyone or anything since he lost his wife, but Olivia has him thinking twice about her and his daughter.

The book is a little goofy...Olivia's talking with her dog and the other animals is a little bit out there. Still, it

is cute. It reads like a Christmas movie-of-the-week. I could totally see this one on Lifetime.

I have read all the Stone Creek books, but have only made it through a few of the McKettrick books (I think I am through the first 4), so I was a little lost with all the McKettrick talk (Brad, Meg, Sierra was mentioned, etc.). It didn't hurt the story for me a bit, but I was trying to put the pieces together a lot. To make it easier, reading the current day McKettrick books (especially McKettrick's Way) would be good.

Cute and Sweet...a good read to get into the Christmas spirit.

Ladiibbug says

#4 Stone Creek series - Contemporary Christmas Romance

A lighthearted, sentimental, cute Christmas-themed book that left me feeling warm and fuzzy.

Olivia O'Bannion is a vet who can hear animals' thoughts and communicate with them. Rodney the reindeer, Butterpie the horse, her own dog Ginger ...

Many different couples and characters and lots of personal conflicts and issues are in the air at Christmas time. I enjoyed this very much!

I've been reading the western historical Stone Creek series set in the Old West, so I was surprised that this Stone Creek series book is a contemporary book (?). It also features characters named McKettrick, which I think is a separate western historical series LLM writes. These people must be current day relatives of the folks from the Old West books.

Oh well, it's still a heartwarming Christmas romance!

Jackie says

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BOOK SYNOPSIS

Stone Creek veterinarian Olivia O'Ballivan communicates easily with animals, but men are another story. Especially rugged architect-turned-rancher Tanner Quinn. Olivia's uncanny bond with his daughter Sophie's pony, Butterpie, has him questioning her sanity, while she wonders if he's not just a drugstore cowboy. Then twelve-year-old Sophie conspires with Olivia to get Tanner into the spirit of Christmas with all the trimmings, including a tree-lighting ceremony and a man named Kris Kringle in a sleigh driven by seven reindeer...and a donkey. But will a holiday miracle transform the globe-trotting Tanner into a rancher--and family man--for all seasons?

My Thoughts

Having not read the previous three books in Stone Creek series can honestly say that even though am sure it would have helped with some of the secondary characters back stories that this 4th book can be read on it's own merits as Olivia and Tanner's tale is complete in itself.

This is another favorite author whose work I always seem to miss out on but am always glad of a chance to read as she spins heartwarming romances that touch you deeply and leave you feeling both tearful and happy when the last page turns!

There is a bit of whimsy, a lot of tension, past emotional wounds that need healing for both Olivia and Tanner but most of all there is the beauty and joy of Christmas shared with family-friends and loved ones that proves to be the best gift anyone could ask for.

A contemporary romance set during the holidays that brings to life the sights and sounds we all look forward to year after year.

[Kindle version borrowed from Public Library]

Cassandra says

Schon auf den ersten Seiten, war ich sehr angetan von der Tierärztin Olivia. Wer Tiere in Not nach sich rufen hören kann, der kann nur meine Sympathien im Sturm gewinnen. Ich liebte es mit ihr und ihrer Hündin in die eisige Kälte aufzubrechen und habe mich auch zusammen mit ihr, für den Architekten von nebenan begeistern können. So fiel ich geradezu kopfüber in die Seiten.

Mareli says

this one was really a fairy tale, with dogs and horses and reindeer talking... I liked it like a tale.

Cruth says

Author: Linda Lael Miller

First published: 2007

Length: ~2800 kindle locations

Setting: Contemporary. Stone Creek, Arizona.

Sex: Explicit-ish.

Hero: Contractor. Widow. 12yo daughter.

Heroine: Veterinarian

Definitely a *Christmas* story with appearances by Santa and his reindeers and a little Christmas dust.

Overall, an okay romance. No suspense. Just a relationship development with a rapid, Christmas-y ending.

The paranormal (Olivia can speak to animals) was pointlessly added and did nothing for the story. Similarly, the possible mother-drama was wimpy and the possible terrorist angle was non-existent.

Overall I liked it. There was nothing to *dislike*. But I wouldn't go out of my way to recommend it.

2.5 stars, rounded down because while I want to read the stories for the other family members there were too many opportunities for depth lost.

Stone Creek:

Book 1 The Man from Stone Creek (historical) - Sam O'Ballivan and Maddie Chancelor

Book 2 A Wanted Man (historical) - Lark Morgan and Rowdy Rhodes

Book 3 The Rustler (historical) - Wyatt Yarbrow and Sarah Tamlin

Book 4 A Stone Creek Christmas (contemporary) - Olivia O'Ballivan and Tanner Quinn

Book 5 The Bridegroom (historical) - Gideon Yarbrow and Lydia Fairmont

Book 6 At Home In Stone Creek (contemporary) - Ashley O'Ballivan and Jack McCall

The O'Ballivan Family:

Stone Creek The Man from Stone Creek (historical) (2006) - Sam O'Ballivan and Maddie Chancelor

The McKettrick's The McKettrick Way (contemporary) (2007) - Meg McKettrick and Brad O'Ballivan

Stone Creek A Stone Creek Christmas (contemporary) (2007) - Olivia O'Ballivan and Tanner Quinn

Stone Creek At Home In Stone Creek (contemporary) (2009) - Ashley O'Ballivan and Jack McCall

Montana Creeds A Creed In Stone Creek (contemporary) (2010) - Steven Creed and Melissa O'Ballivan

References:

Author's website: <http://www.lindalaelmiller.com/books/...>

(Read in Holiday in Stone Creek)

-CR-

Ayu Wirdha says

Akhirnya Gideon & Lydia dibuatkan cerita jg. Mereka muncul di buku 2 & terhubung ketika Lydia terkena pneumonia, ayahnya tewas & dlm pengasuhan ibu tiri yg kejam. Gideon & Lark merawat Lydia sampai bibinya datang utk merawatnya. Saat itulah Gideon memberikan surat ke Lydia, bila Lydia dlm kesulitan maka kirimkan surat itu ke Stone Creek maka Gideon akan lgsung datang. 10thn kmdian dlm keputusan setelah bibinya meninggal, rumah seisinya akan disita krn hutang, bibi buyut & housekeeper yg menjadi tanggungan, Lydia menerima lamaran Jacob-banker yg kaya raya-walaupun dgn karakter yg menyebalkan. Gideon bekerjasama dgn bibi buyut & housekeeper membawa kabur Lydia sblm acara pernikahan & pergi ke Stone Creek. Utk menghindari tuntutan hukum Gideon menikahi Lydia. Gideon sendiri ke stone creek mendapat tugas dr pemilik tambang utk memata2i penambang yg membangkang. Semakin lama bergaul dgn penambang yg hidupnya diperas, blm lg ancaman kehilangan pekerjaan dgn kedatangan org2 China sbg pekerja, membuat Gideon dilema. Buset deh, thn 1900 di usa pun pekerja China sdh datang & mengambil alih, tdk berbeda di Indonesia skrg malah lebih dahsyat ekspansinya. Kekurangan novel2 LLM adalah endingnya yg kurang dramatis pdhal konflik2 yg terjadi cukup menegangkan eh terakhir2 malah datar2 saja.

3,6 stars

Melissa says

Linda Lael Miller is my guilty pleasure. Sure I read other romances, but I don't seem to enjoy them nearly as much as I do hers. And since this one combined a Miller romance with Christmas, well it definitely "tis the season."

Olivia is a veterinarian in the small town of Stone Creek. Her brother, Brad, once a famous magician is now building a shelter that she'll be the head of. He's brought in Tanner Quinn to build it too. Tanner is a good guy, but flighty. After the death of his wife he sent his daughter to boarding schools with high security to try to keep her safe, and has moved around quite a bit, never staying in the same place year after year. So when he develops an attraction to Olivia, it pulls at him a little bit. Nevermind the fact that she thinks she can talk to animals and may be just a little strange in his opinion.

Olivia was pretty tame for a heroine of the book. Sure she had her thing with animals but it is downplayed so I kind of wonder why it was mentioned at all unless it was just to make the dog, Ginger, a more interesting character. I kind of would have liked to see more about it. Tanner was a pretty believable character though. His desperation between wanting to keep his daughter safe yet still wanting to make her happy was a conflict that I think a lot of parents would have and could relate to. And the daughter was cute, although she definitely acted older than her age. The only real problem I have with the characters is that they usually seem to be insanely rich or at least know someone or is related to someone who is. It'd be nice to have an average joe thrown in once in awhile who has some money issues. But I suppose that would ruin the fantasy of it all.

The plot was simple. Tanner comes to town, meets strange veterinarian, has worries about daughter and they

all have family issues that they have to come to terms with. But they threw in the Christmas aspect and a little bit of magic (supernatural) and it gives it a twist. Since this is a romance novel I do have to say that there are sex scenes in the book. They aren't long or greatly graphic by any means, but they are there. So if you prefer your romances without the love scenes, Miller is probably not an author for you. The rest of the writing is down to earth and comfortable and it made it an enjoyable holiday read because of all the Christmas aspects in it.

I'll definitely continue to read Miller. It's hard to find a terrible book by her and I enjoy most of her books that I've come across.

A Stone Creek Christmas

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211 pages

Review by M. Reynard 2012

More of my reviews can be found at www.ifithaswords.blogspot.com

Amy says

I loved this story; it will definitely be one of the Christmas reads I come back to time and time again. I liked Olivia and Tanner, and enjoyed watching them get to know each other. But what I truly liked, was the hint of magic in the story--I loved that Olivia could talk to the animals, and I liked that Miller brought Kris Kringle and the reindeer into the story. I only wish Rodney had played a larger role in Tanner & Olivia coming together. I felt like we were set up for him being the key and it turned out to be Butterpie instead that truly pushed them together. Regardless, I like to think that Christmas magic really does exist out there, if we're only willing to keep our eyes (and hearts) open to it. Olivia was definitely open to a little magic, given her affinity with the animals, but it was fun watching Tanner learn to believe.

Colleen says

Continuing Miller's tales about the O'Ballivan clan of Stone Creek, AZ, this novella focuses on Olivia. The veterinarian who can communicate with animals. As the title suggests, this one occurs around the holidays and centers on Olivia's relationship with her family -- older brother Brad, his wife Meg, and her younger, twin sisters Ashley and Melissa -- and the handsome new neighbor and newcomer to town Tanner Quinn and his smart & stubborn daughter Sophie. Brad has hired Tanner to build an animal shelter that Olivia will eventually run. Events are immediately sent into play by a wayward reindeer named Rodney, Olivia's friendly canine companion Ginger, Sophie's hope for a real family, and a stranger named Kris Kringle that put Olivia and Tanner on a romantic collision course.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novella, although I would have enjoyed it more if it was a standard novel-sized story. I would have preferred to learn more about Olivia, Tanner, Sophie, and the animal characters before events over the holidays brought these folks together.
