



Christmas with My Cowboy

Diana Palmer, Lindsay McKenna, Margaret Way

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“The Snow Man” by Diana Palmer

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“Kassie’s Cowboy” by Lindsay McKenna

A brutal blue norther is battering Wyoming just in time for Christmas when solitary former Marine Travis Grant finds his childhood sweetheart, Kassie Murphy, injured in her car just beyond the ranch where he works. For Travis and Kassie, this snowy silent night will be one last chance to put the painful past behind them—and treat the wounds only love can heal.

“Her Outback Husband” by Margaret Way

Scott and Darcey MacArthur were the perfect couple, devoted to their life together on the family cattle ranch. With one blistering rumor, it ended in heartbreak—but Scott's mother has a scheme that will reunite them in the Outback for a holiday that will prove it's the season for forgiveness.

Christmas with My Cowboy Details

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From Reader Review Christmas with My Cowboy for online ebook

Linda says

Wonderful

As always another amazing read by Diana Palmer! The whole book was wonderful. Diana Palmer's heroes are always without fail strongly, handsome, wealthy and intelligent in their business lives. When it comes to their hearts, they are dumber than a bag of rocks. It is always a pleasure to read one of Diana Palmer's books.

Conny says

I was a First Read Winner of this book and I really wanted to like it more, but it just did not do it for me. The Snow Man by Diana Palmer, the main male character was so unlikeable for me that I never really cared about him, he said such awful things to Meadow that I just could not find it plausible that she would still be in love with him. There were moments of humor but few and far between and Meadow was a very weak female lead and I would have preferred her to be a bit more fierce.

Kassie's Cowboy by Lindsay McKenna, had more likable characters and it dealt with a serious issue of PTSD but the storyline was so slow moving that I found myself skipping ahead, which is never a good sign. Her Outback Husband by Margaret West, had such weird dialog between the 2 main characters that I never really cared for them and I ended up skipping ahead.

The anthology had everything that I like, cowboys, wintertime, romance and happy endings, so I was very disappointed when I just could not make a connection with the book.

Carrie Sprys says

Cowboys and Christmas—what a magical combination! Three authors, Diana Palmer, Lindsay McKenna, and Margaret Way charm their readers with these western holiday romances, delivering their stories with a giant red bow on top.

Palmer's "The Snow Man" is a story about mending fences, both literally and figuratively on a Colorado ranch. Neighbors Meadow Dawson and Dal Blake have a tumultuous relationship stemming from years of secret yearning and bitterness. Between solving a robbery in their small town and solving the mystery of their intense feelings for one another, this couple learns to join together both their hearts and their ranches just in time for Christmas.

Lindsay McKenna's "Kassie's Cowboy" bring holiday magic and light into the painfully dark relationship of Marine Travis Grant and his former sweetheart, Kassie Murphy. While suffering from PTSD, Travis retreats to his small Wyoming ranch and workshop to avoid any emotional triggers, to include his lingering feelings for Kassie. But when a harsh snowstorm leaves them stranded together at Travis' home, a little holiday magic seems to draw the two together and bring down the remaining barriers, enabling their hearts to heal once and for all.

Margaret Way's "Her Outback Husband" takes readers on a journey to the other side of the world and shines

a light in the lives of Australian couple Scott and Darcey MacArthur. A marriage broken apart by lies, deceit, bitterness, and jealousy. Betrayal of a close family member damages the characters to the point you feel they may never recover. But with the help of a determined mother and her fervent prayers, Scott and Lindsey will learn not only to trust one another again, but trust in the magical love they share this holiday season.

I received this advanced copy from Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.

Brenda says

Christmas with My Cowboy – three stories in one book!

by Diana Palmer, Lindsay McKenna (Goodreads Author), Margaret Way

The Snowman – I really enjoyed this book. It went by quickly and I was disappointed when it was done. I love Diana Palmer's books. The books were read pretty quickly. They move right along. It's a little early for me for Christmas, but I tried to get in the mood as I was to read three books about Christmas with this one. Three authors in one. First was Diana Palmer.

"Kassie's Cowboy", second was the story by Lindsay McKenna. Kassie is driving when she hits black ice and puts her car into the snowy ditch. Right in front of the home of former Marine Travis Grant her childhood sweetheart. He runs down when he sees the accident to rescue whomever was in the car. Imagine his surprise when he finds Kassie there, who was his childhood sweetheart. He carries her inside and patches her up. The roads are impassable and she slowly starts learning about how he is now that he's gotten out of the Marines and why he lives so far out of town. He has PTSD and doesn't want to be around people. He doesn't want any women in his life, they might get hurt. The book was good it moved along pretty well, I have to say I didn't like it quite as well as I liked the first story by Diana Palmer.

"Her Outback Husband" the third story by Margaret Way. Not my normal read but I have to say I enjoyed the story. Scott and Darcey MacArthur were divorced. When she had to go into the hospital she found out through her Aunt that her best friend Becky had a one-night stand with her husband. She couldn't live with that she believed her Aunt, although her husband kept telling her that he did no such thing. She and her Aunt weren't really close, but she tried to keep in touch as her Mother had passed away. Several years later Scott's Mother invites Darcey home for the annual polo match and ball afterward for the Christmas holidays in the Outback on the huge ranch owned by the MacArthurs. Darcey decides to attend, much to Scott's dismay, as she wants to be able to see her ex-Mother In-Law. Darcey and Scott are going to find that the lady had a plan and they are going to well....I can't tell you or it would ruin the story.

The three books were really enjoyable, it was nice to go from one story to the next, I didn't have to hunt around for something else to read, I just flowed from one story to the next and they all had the Christmas theme running through them.

I received this book through NetGalley.com as a kindle format in exchange for an honest review. This is that review.

Description from Good Reads:

From the snowy, wind-whipped prairie to the remote Australian Outback, a cowboy's loving kiss makes this Christmas merry and bright . . .

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Mirrorlight says

DNF

First story was rushed and lacked that connection I look for when reading.

Second story had errors that were to distracting.

Bonnie says

Christmas With My Cowboy. It has three stories in this book. I read the book in book form.

1. The Snow Man by Diana Palmer. I really liked this book. Meadow Dawson inherited her fathers ranch. Meadow knows nothing about ranching. Before her father passed away she had a crush on neighboring cattleman Dal Blake. He is twelve years older than her and he always insulted her. Now she is a woman and he noticed her more. He really has always liked her. Anyway Meadow has a husky dog and he sneaks out the doggie door and go in the doggie door at Dal Blake's house. Dal's big cat goes in the doggie door at Meadows. This is a romantic and funny story. A very good read.

2. Kassie's Cowboy by Lindsay McKenna. Another good story. Marine Travis Grant has been back home for two years. He has PTSD. He doesn't want to see his old girlfriend because of the PTSD. Travis never got over Kassie Murphy and she never got over him. In a snowstorm Kassie had an accident in front of Travis house. Because of all the snow Kassie had to stay there for several days. During that time Travis didn't have any nightmares. Now there romance is back on. Dealing with PTSD. A good read.

3. Her Outback Husband by Margaret Way. Another good story. Scott and Darcey MacArthur were the perfect couple. Until Darcey's aunt got a gal to lie and say she had sex with Scott. It was Darcey's best friend so she believed her when she said it was true. Scott was mad that Darcey didn't trust him. They got a divorce. Two years later Scott's mother invited Darcey to their place for Christmas. Hope to get them back together. Long story short they did get back together. Darcey's aunt told her why she lied about the affair. Darcey took her aunt never to come to their place again.

Cheri says

I liked the 1st 2 stories. The 3rd was just ok.

Amanda Sheila says

I honestly read this book solely because of Diana Palmer and I'm heartbroken that the story didn't live up to my expectation. The Hero's mean, as usual, classic Dp's Hero, but man, the heroine really driving me crazy. For once, I wish for once she'd step up and defend herself instead of getting hurt but then succumbing easily to Hero's "mature" kisses. In the end, I'm pissed. So yeah, 2 stars. Still, I look forward to read more Diana Palmer's books.

Clare O'Beara says

The first story features a young woman who had a childhood crush on an older guy from the next ranch, who always enjoyed embarrassing her and being rude. She comes back home after some years away in a demanding job, having inherited the ranch. And the guy next door is still unwed, no surprise as he is what Americans call a jerk. He still is rude and enjoys embarrassing women. There is not any reason you can come up with which would make this determined, worldly woman be attracted to this man. Nor do I see any reason for the many, many, many references to a certain red dress the girl wore exactly once as a teen. To sweeten all this obnoxiousness the author gives us a cat and a dog. Which in no way makes up for her heroine's use of Regency romance terms like insufferable. Sorry, this is the worst romance I have read by this author, who has written much better. Although there are cattle.

The other two stories don't have cattle so barely qualify as cowboy tales. The second is actually nice as a carpenter with horse and occasional PTSD helps a woman during a snowstorm. Most of the account is backstory thoughts as the two are snowed in together for a few days. In other words, no action after the start.

The third tale occurs in Brisbane over Christmas, hot and sociable. The heavily padded account begins with a thirty page prologue - bad idea - which could have been covered in a page. Family, society and manipulation are at the back of a marriage gone wrong. A nice counterpoint to the wintry tales.

I read an e-copy through Fresh Fiction. This is an unbiased review.

Layne says

Snow Man by Diana was good. Kassie's Cowboy by Lindsay McKenna was ok, Her Outback Husband by Margaret Way was ok in plot, however, she used terminology of Australia. Things seemed disjointed. Don't read again.

P.e. lolo says

This book has three stories in one book. The first one by Diana Palmer was just okay. The male lead character I did not care for at all. His attitude towards Meadow and the way he enjoyed to embarrass her even as an adult just showed how much he was not a cowboy or a man he was especially after her father had passed away. The second book by Lindsay McKenna, goes with the Whiskey River series if you read those and has a vet's and childhood friend's reconnecting. They are also dealing with his PTSD while he has helped her from her car accident, now can they stay connected not just for Christmas, but afterwards also. A good story. The third book takes place in the outback of Australia and for me I found this to be a little choppy. Overall not bad I was glad for the middle story. I got this book from Netgalley.com I gave it 3 stars. Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Book Lover says

If it was possible to give a book a negative rating, this one deserves it. Only read two of the three stories. DNF

The Snowman - Diana Palmer

Meadow Dawson has been in love with Dal Blake since she was a teenager. I couldn't figure out why. It didn't make sense.

Dal Blake is an egotistical, condescending, Neanderthal asshole. And that's being kind. He spews harsh, unkind words out to Meadow every time he sees her. He makes fun of her, puts her down, and laughs at her in front of other people. And he's 35 years old! Ten years her senior.

This was an unbelievable romance in every way.

Kassie's Cowboy - Lindsay McKenna

This writing and relationship felt juvenile/adolescent even though the characters are in their late 20s. I skimmed and rolled my eyes a lot.

As it was, I picked this book up and put it down too many times, moved on to other books. After the disaster of the first two stories, I just couldn't make myself read the last one. DNF

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC provided by NetGalley and the publisher.

Tonya Warner says

Three short stories in one.

The Snow Man by Diana Palmer - **

Meadow Dawson is a klutzy former FBI agent that has inherited her father's ranch. Trying to figure out ranching using YouTube is not cutting the mustard.

Dariell 'Dal' Blake wants nothing to do with Meadow. She has been chancing him since she was a teen, and he is to old to deal with her forward, but clumsy ways.

There are lots of hints about what might be the cause of Meadow's klutziness, but nothing becomes of it. And a bit too much of everyone has a dog an dknows exactly what it's like to lose one.

Just a bit too much repeat.

Kassie's Cowboy by Lindsay McKenna - ***

Travis Grant left behind his high school sweetheart, Kassie Murphy when he went off to the military.

Coming home with severe PTSD, he drove her away. No way could he risk her life when he wasn't sure he wanted to even keep on living.

Kassie has never let her love for Travis go. Finding herself stranded and injured in his home, she hopes to help him find the love is still there.

Overall, a really sweet story.

Her Outback Husband by Margaret Way - *

Scott and Darcey MacArthur let a rumor get in the way of their marriage and cause them to divorce. Back in town, Darcey is invited to the MacArthur family holiday endeavors. Finding herself once again with Scott, Darcey has to face the fact that she behaved badly, and left their love down. Scott has to decide to take a chance, and find love again and get past the events and people that lead to their downfall.

Overall, blah. Bland. No real life to it.

Only the middle story did anything for me.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

“The Snow Man” by Diana Palmer ==> asshole + doormat

Donna Repsher says

I wish there was an easier way to rate and review books in an anthology, so what I plan to do is rate each novel in this anthology individually as I finish reading it, so this part of my review only pertains to the first novel in the anthology, The Snow Man by Diana Palmer, and although I've read every novel she's ever written under all of her pen names, to say that this one was disappointing is putting it mildly. In all honesty, I can't give it more than a one-star rating. The ratings for the second and third books in this anthology will follow.

With very few exceptions (like her novel, *Lacy*) Diana Palmer sticks to her usual formula--a young, insecure virgin, Meadow Dawson, an older man, Dal Blake, whom she falls for when she's still in her teens, and who treats her to frequent verbal abuse, cruel comments about her looks and attire, and in this novel he even refers to her more than once as dressing like a prostitute, and then he publicly humiliates her. This leads to his all-to-late realization that he's done all this because he's been secretly in love with her and behaved this way because wanted to keep her at a distance because of the difference in their ages. No matter how badly he treats her, Meadow still loves him, and when he finally acts on his attraction she can't say "yes" to his proposal fast enough. Of course, she puts up with all this because he's "dishesy". As if that wasn't enough, she's somehow managed to land a job with the FBI, failed at it, and then got a job working as an police investigator locally. The large ranch she inherited is being run by the cowboys on it, and she doesn't do much more than watch videos about ranching, rather than asking her staff to teach her what she needs to know. Considering how inept she is at her job as an investigator, I'm wondering how she managed to get into the FBI to begin with, and here's the spoiler--by novel's end she's now an assistant district attorney, but when did she go to law school and where? How any woman can still love a man who mistreats her in such a fashion is utterly beyond my comprehension, and all is forgotten and forgiven because her dog was injured in a robbery?

Oh yes, and Meadow is a klutz, falling while standing still, falling during her FBI training, falling into a coal bin and a punch bowl and interviewing a violent sexual offender in prison who seemed so nice to her that not only does she interview him alone, she asks that his cuffs be removed. Are we supposed to be surprised when he attacks her? Were there no prison guards available? As for her clumsiness, we eventually learn it's the result of a childhood fall and a mild concussion, but no tests were ever performed. Are we to believe that everyone in this town is that inept at their jobs including the local doctor?

As if that weren't enough, Meadow begins dating her boss, the police chief, Jeff, almost as soon as she starts working there. In what world is that okay? Dal tells her that the sheriff likes strong perfume and is a staunch liberal--and after all the crap he's put her through, she believes him. After Jeff can barely breathe in the car because her perfume is too strong, at dinner Meadow lies about her conservative views and pretends to be a liberal, which obviously turns Jeff off. Why on earth would she take dating advice from Dal, who also happens to appear everywhere she and her boss go, with a lovely woman on his arm, one who Jeff is really attracted to, just to rub it in.

All in all, this book was beyond unbelievable, and it was so far behind the times when it comes to how modern women behave, women who aren't to be blamed for being raped because of the clothing they choose to wear, who don't have to put up with verbal abuse from anyone, who somehow manage to actually be competent at their jobs, and who, after realizing they have serious issues with balance resulting in numerous falls, have enough good sense to see a doctor about it.

I don't know why I keep on reading this author, and I believe it's because I am an optimist and keep hoping that she'll again write a novel as moving as *Lacy*, and realize that it's 21st century, but I'm beginning to give up hope.

I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this novel. The opinions expressed are my own.

Kassie's Cowboy by Lindsay McKenna, the second title in this anthology, is a spinoff from the author's *Wind River* series, and is a sweet, sappy, third chance at love story, and I give it 3 stars.

Kassie Murphy, the heroine, was abandoned as an infant, adopted by loving parents, and fell in love with Travis Grant from early childhood. At age 18, Travis joined the Marines, with Kassie waiting patiently for

his return--but he didn't return, at least not the Travis she once knew, and not immediately after his stint was up. Instead he entered black ops, was deployed many times to Afghanistan, and finally came home with a severe case of PTSD. When Kassie comes to see him at his job at the Wind River Ranch where he's now working, he tells her he doesn't love her anymore and that they have no future, breaking her heart yet again, but she never really gives up hope. As the owner of Kassie's Cafe, she hires female vets with PTSD, and long, after-hours talks with them give her some understanding of all they've been through.

When Travis sees an SUV go out of control on the icy highway outside his retreat and fine furniture workshop, he comes to the rescue, and is shocked that the unconscious person inside is Kassie. In the middle of the blue norther, with no way to get her to a hospital, he brings her inside, tends to her wounds and they get a chance to become reacquainted with one another during the 5 days in which they're snowed in. While Travis is still fearful that getting too close to Kassie will put her in danger due to his PTSD and the nightmares and flashbacks which with he's been dealing all alone, we really see no evidence of it in this short novel.

Is this third chance at love at Christmastime the charm? While there's not a lot of drama, it's a touching story, and worth the price of admission.

I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this short novel. The opinions expressed are my own.
