



A Christmas to Remember

Jenny Hale

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Everyone loves Christmas – *don't they?*

Carrie Blake *loves* her job as a nanny but, while her friends are settling down, all of Carrie's spare time is spent with other people's families. Though it breaks her heart, her New Year's resolution is to embark on a new career *and* fix her love life.

As Carrie starts her last job, she's sure she'll be going out on a high – the house is *amazing*, the kids are adorable, and she's in charge of decorating the tree!

The only problem could be her boss... single-dad **Adam Fletcher** might be both handsome and successful, but he's *always* working. Doesn't he realise he's missing out on precious moments with his son and daughter?

As Adam's family arrive for Christmas including his sensitive sister, Sharon, and his fun-loving elderly Grandpa, Walter, Carrie realises that she might just have found the perfect allies in her quest to persuade Adam to loosen up. There's still time for Carrie to make this the best Christmas ever... after all, **Christmas is the time for miracles, *isn't it?* Let the festivities begin!**

A Christmas to Remember Details

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Author : Jenny Hale

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From Reader Review A Christmas to Remember for online ebook

Susan Buchanan says

I enjoyed this book, but not as much as Coming Home for Christmas which I absolutely loved. I liked the fact Carrie was a nanny, but had her own life wishlist which wasn't currently being met, given the lack of opportunity due to the nature of her job. I loved the children's father - from the beginning. I really enjoyed the fact that children were such a big part of this book. Adam's family were lovely, especially his mum, and the side plot of his sister and her problems was very well done. The only thing I didn't like was Carrie's constant uncertainty. I know you can be uncertain around a potential partner, but I think it was too much. I realise that she was the help and he was the employer, but I still felt she was too slow to cotton on in matters of the heart. Carrie's obvious love of children was apparent and the way she didn't give up with the father in trying to make him spend time with his children showed she was a strong personality. A good read.

Rachel Gilbey says

Thank you very much to Bookoutre and Net Galley for the advance review copy of this book. This is my honest review.

Carrie is a nanny, and before accepting the job with the Fletcher family, had already decided that this would be her last nannying job.

Adam Fletcher is a divorced dad to 4 year old twins Oliver and David, and runs a successful company. He at first appearances, appears to put his job ahead of all of his family, especially his children.

Carrie accepts a short term position over Christmas, while the twins are staying with Adam. After a few days his whole family comes to stay as well. Everyone is determined to persuade Adam to spend more time with his children and family.

I found this to have all the elements of a fantastic Christmas read, including children, a character open to change and some romance, add in some Christmassy crafts, decorations and activities.

This was a sweet and touching book about family life at Christmas, which I enjoyed thoroughly. I will definitely be reading Jenny Hale's other books in due course.

Elaine says

I already read and really enjoyed Love Me For Me by Jenny Hale and so I was excited to read this one, but unfortunately I really did not like it at all.

Carrie is a top nanny and has taken on a temporary job over Christmas looking after four year old twins Olivia and David, for their father Adam Fletcher. Adam is a workaholic, he is devoted to his job and sadly it leaves him with virtually no free time to spend with his family. Carrie picks up on this immediately and decides to do her best to ensure that he eases up on work and enjoys Christmas with his children and starts to

build up a better relationship with them. The story is cosily predictable, as we watch Carrie also fighting the attraction she feels for Adam. We know exactly how the story is going to end from the first chapter, which sometimes is no bad thing because that is exactly the sort of read we want at times.

My problem with the book was Carrie herself – I hated her! She seemed to change from sickly sweet simpering to sanctimonious at the drop of a hat. When I worked as a childminder I was taught never to be judgemental about other people's lifestyles, yet Carrie, as a top nanny, totally disregarded this. We hear all Carrie's innermost thoughts and there was something decidedly creepy about her especially when she thought about her special "moments" with Adam and the times when she was furious (in her own mind) with him for taking phone calls from his office when they are having a "moment". It is his job, he is her boss, and if he wants to answer a phone call, then he jolly well can – he doesn't have to answer to her! I half expected the story to take a U turn into a "creepy nanny from hell" story. Thanks to the publishers for the review copy, but sadly this one just didn't work for me.

Dawn says

I was given an ecopy of this book by Kim at Bookouture in exchange for an honest review which I'm more than happy to give. Kim really knows what books I like and I always trust her choices. Who could say no to a Christmas book, it has to be the best time of year for me.

The main character Carrie is a hugely successful nanny who has reached the point in her career where she has decided she needs to take control of her own life and plan for a family of her own and a fresh career. This was to be her last nannying post intending to get a grip with a fresh start in the new year.

Christmas brings its own memories to each of us but for most I'd say warmth, smells, home, family and friends would evoke quite a strong image. Carrie is introduced to The Fletcher household and finds none of the above, despite the fact that it's only a couple of weeks to Christmas. Adam, the father is a work-a-holic with only very part time care for his children since his divorce from their mother, hence the need for a nanny and has made no plans at all for Christmas.

I took an instant liking to Carrie who despite her experience and confidence knowing how to interact with children wasn't so confident asserting herself with other adults. She has serious confidence and anxiety issues - relying on self help books to get her through each day, yet when the need arose she managed to go in guns blazing, then worried about the consequences afterwards.

Carrie used to helping children with different problems and situations seems to confidently know how to get Adam's children Olivia and David on side. Their father was a different matter. She was troubled from the outset by the lack of interaction between the children and Adam. Carrie has confidence issues when moved out of her comfort zone, yet despite this goes back time and time again to confront Adam to try and get him to understand what he's missing by not spending time with his children.

Support unexpectedly comes in the form of Adams family who come to stay for the holidays, quickly enveloping Carrie into their fold but unbeknown to her bring their own set of issues and opinions too. Each and every character was someone I wanted to know more about - from Joyce, Adam's mother who draws her

family around her with home cooking, to Walter, Adam's grandfather, who sees everything and dispenses wise words when needed.

This is a truly magical book and was so beautifully written, bringing together trust, confidence, love and family to iron out the creases. Many situations were made worse by the various characters being backed into a corner but time and honest talk - not always welcomed though, resulted in eyes being opened and obstacles eventually flattened.

There is some romance thrown in for good measure but not when you expect it. Like most readers I like to second guess what is going to happen but Jenny threw a few curve balls to throw me off course. This is a book of discovery and growth for more than a couple of the characters and I thoroughly enjoyed taking their journey with them. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves a happy ending but in a book that isn't all predictable. I so wish Adam's mother Joyce would have added a few of her recipes to the end of the book - I was left planning for Christmas and wishing we had a little more snow in England.

Thank you Jenny for such a beautiful read which had me hooked from the very first page.

Rebecca Carter says

I really wanted to enjoy this book to get into the Christmas spirit. Unfortunately I'm sorry to say it just didn't do it for me. The main issue was the main character of Carrie. She was a nanny hired to help a Father look after his two young children over the holiday period. She discovers he works such long hours that he doesn't really know his own kids. So she sets out to help them make "memories" together while at the same time attempting to figure out what to do with her life and what career she should retrain in, so she can get a life and basically a husband.

I just found her so cliched and sickly sweet perfect that she ended up being annoying and a bit creepy in how she saw the family and became so attached within a matter of days. I found it difficult to believe she'd be so interfering towards her boss and the little time he spends with his kids-she was after all just a nanny that he hired as he was too busy to look after them. It's like she thought she was Mary Poppins and on the occasions she did doubt herself it was almost like it was added to try to make her appear less stalker'ish and weird. Then the ending. I won't say anymore so as not to spoil it, but I felt sorry for the guy in a way with little miss stalker.

Sorry to the author for the bad review, although it wasn't my cup of tea I'm sure lots of others will enjoy it.

Tami says

Rezension kommt bald auf meinem Kanal!<3<3

?Lynn? says

A cute holiday read. Too bad it took more than half of the book for it to get to the cute parts.

Sophie says

Posted originally <http://www.reviewedthebook.co.uk/2014...>

A Christmas to Remember is another charmingly gorgeous novel by Jenny Hale, who has fast become one of my favourite authors. I love festive books which focus on what I consider the most important aspect of Christmas, the family aspect, and this book includes that in abundance. In it we meet Carrie, who's spending the festive season working as a nanny with single dad Adam and his two lovely children, Olivia and David. Adam throws himself into his work and is seemingly oblivious to the fact he is surrounded by family and missing out on so many moments with his children. It's left for Carrie to try and make him understand the importance of making memories and this was such a touching theme to the novel. Christmas for me is always about spending time with family and each year, we look back at moments from Christmases gone by and laugh and smile about them. When you've got little kids, surely you need to embrace the magical feel of Christmas, just for them, and I was desperate for that to happen here. A Christmas to Remember had a lovely warm, cosy feel to it and was so beautiful – the first book I'd choose to recommend for anyone looking for a heart-warming, Christmas read.

Carrie was a main character I liked instantly. Frustrated with the lack of direction in her own life, Carrie is approaching her last job as a nanny. She loves spending time with other people's kids but more than that, she wants her own. She wants to settle down in her own perfect little family and make her own life better, instead of helping everyone else. But you know, she does a pretty wonderful job at helping other families. Carrie's so caring and considerate – I couldn't help but love her character. But what made me connect with Carrie the most is that I could relate to her so well. She's a worrier, she battles with anxiety, she's insecure and has a lack of confidence and the only time she feels okay is when she's trying to help other people. I completely understood all of her issues and so, I warmed to her. I wanted to see a beautiful transition for Carrie throughout this novel, not only because I adored her character but because maybe it would give me hope too. I loved Carrie's strength though and how she always wanted to help everybody else, without fail. Maybe her concern over everything might irritate some people but if you live with anxiety dominating your thought processes, you can see that really she has beautiful spirit and just want the best for her.

The format and writing in A Christmas to Remember, as I've come to expect from Jenny, was stunning. Each chapter starts with a quote from one of the self-help books Carrie feels the need to use. Not that they do her any good, since they always bring up more problems than she started with. Bless her, I've never used self-help books but you know that feeling when you google a problem that needs fixing and end up with about ten more issues you didn't know were there to begin with. I loved that the quote for each chapter hinted at the sense of direction the novel was about to take. It was cleverly written and this book had everything I wanted to see, from a lovely slow-building romance to a great mixture of family to building trust, caring for each other and the attempts to make the best Christmas possible. I loved the way Carrie approached Adam, how she carefully worked at him to make him see what he was missing. Though she always had his kids' best interests at heart, there was also the progression of a little something between her and Adam. I loved how meaningfully this was built up, without it being forced upon us too soon or too late, even, to believe in it. But I was of course wholeheartedly behind the hope of a happy ending – a magical, memorable Christmas for Adam and his family and maybe a new sense of positivity and direction for Carrie too.

I could really discuss A Christmas to Remember all day long, but I don't think anybody would last reading

this review for much longer. So my last mention will go to how wonderfully well Jenny developed every single character in this book, and we are introduced to quite a few of them in Adam's family. There was Adam's grandpa, Walter, who was warm and wise and always came in at the right moment. I adored him. Another character that particularly struck me was Adam's sister, Sharon, who had her own little story to tell. This was, again, written beautifully and sensitively and it worked its way into the main story perfectly, because we really get to see it enhance Carrie's character too. The focus on the dialogue and interaction between family members in *A Christmas to Remember* was great to read. Each character had their own individual voice and I could feel for them all – each just wanting the family to step up as one and make this Christmas special. My favourite moments came from the time Adam and Carrie spent with Olivia and David, but actually there wasn't a moment in this novel I didn't love. I could read Jenny Hale's beautiful writing for months on end and never tire of it. After two months of reading Christmas novels so far, *A Christmas to Remember* is the best standalone and more than that, one of my favourite novels of the whole year too. Truly beautiful.

*Received via Netgalley for an honest review.

Cora Tea Party Princess says

5 words: family, love, christmas, making time.

Damn, that was sweet! So sweet. I think my teeth hurt.

This book takes a very well used story line of a super-rich work-obsessed single dad who hires a nanny/au pair/party planner and all sorts of warm fuzzies ensue. And this book does it so well.

I actually loved every single character. Every one of them. I couldn't help it! Carrie tugged at my heart strings with all of the love she had to give, Olivia was just freaking adorable, David was seriously cute and Adam sounded delicious.

This story really got me in the mood for Christmas, and I loved the underlying message. You should always make time for your loved ones, and it's something you can very easily forget to do.

I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.

Suzanne Zulauf says

This was my favorite out of Jenny Hale's three novels! I didn't want to like Carrie, as she really shouldn't have had any reason to judge her boss. And actually, I loved that she had the children's interests at heart from the get go and she didn't let it bother her that she would have to stand up to their father. I knew I could count on Hale to turn this into a love story that I would find believable and one that I would root for. As the reader, I knew Carrie needed to ditch her self-help books, but I knew if I was patient, Hale would find just the right moment to change Carrie's life! And she did! I literally could not put this book down all day and loved falling in love with Adam's family as Carrie did. I thoroughly enjoyed the Richmond setting and could vividly picture the adorable town and cozy atmosphere. I actually finished the book and couldn't wait for the

holiday season to get here! I wanted to grab a holiday ale, sit by the fire, and decorate! Not many books can take me to that place, but this one did. Congrats, Jenny Hale, on a fantastic seasonal love story!

Nicole says

This was my second book from Jenny Hale and I liked it as much as my first read of one of her stories. Frankly always during this time of year I read a lot of Christmas books, just because if I catch some good one, it really brings me into season and I immediately start feeling Christmassy. Well if I picked a good one is the base line. With Hale it definitely was the case.

Her characters are lovely, you get into them and can feel with them right after a few pages. She is able to write and create a nice, little story and in no situation she exaggerate the characters or the story, even at the end (because that's often a flaw in those kind of books, there's too much, especially in the end, were as reader you roll your eyes and think " come on, that really absolutely only happens in a fairy tale").

Not so with her stories. Further more, I have read lately a few books where the female main character got on my nerves, sometime so much that I had to push me through the book!

I felt with Cassie here, liked her behaviour, her acting, how she played along.

Adam was just a cuty which I enjoyed as a character as well.

A good, easy book, just for some relaxed afternoon reading :)

Stacie says

2 1/2 - 3 "I really wanted to like this more stars :("

So much potential, but the h annoyed me terribly. She constantly had these long inner monologues that drove me insane; and she was so insecure for no real reason at all. She kind of ruined the story.

What I liked was the premise of the story. Workaholic single father falls for the nanny that opens his eyes to what he is missing out on with his children and family by putting work before family. At Christmas time at that! This would seem a no brainer for me, but with the h, it just fell way short. I did like Adam, the H. As well as the children (they were adorable) and Adam's extended family. They were all great. Especially his mother and grandfather.

Overall, I have to say it was a bit of a struggle to finish this one :(but it was a sweet story.

Happy reading.

Candy says

This is a really festive, feel good story :) For a full review see my blog : candysbookcase.wordpress.com

Jo Hughes says

I would like to thank Bookouture, especially Kim Nash for sending me a copy of this in exchange for a fair and honest review.

First off I would like to comment on the very lovely festive cover, really does make you imagine snow at Christmas.

When we first meet Carrie she is sat outside of Adam Fletchers house waiting to go in and start her new job. What Carrie finds is a man who has thrown himself into his work after his marriage fell apart. Adams children don't know him anymore and it breaks Carrie's heart.

Carrie sets out to build bridges between not only Adam and his children but with his family as well. Little does she know she will lose her heart to him. Having put her own dreams on hold, she is now restless for her own family and wonders if she is doing things for the right reasons.

Carrie is really lovely she knows how to work with children ensuring they have a fab time even though she is crushed under her own anxiety issues. She also speaks her mind to Adam and makes him see things his family have been trying to see.

Adam is hot! What more can I say? He's my idea of Sean Bean when he was in Sharpe, I little rugged looking. Adam is lost, has never failed at anything before so when his marriage failed he hid in his work, I was hoping Carrie would help Adam find his way back. Don't we all want to mend a sexy guys broken heart?

Jenny asked me would I like to share a beer with him, my reply was I'd like to drink a beer off him but drinking a beer with him would be great too (read the book to understand the relevance).

This is for me is a wonderful Christmas story, romantic and totally enthralling read that's set around everything Christmas is about, children, family and some friends, add in beers, what more can you want? This is a page turner from the very first page and I wonder if Jenny will write about a couple from the brewery, just an idea!?!? x

Kimber says

This is a trimmed down version of my review, to view the full review visit [The Book Ramble](#).

I received a copy of this book from Bookouture on NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Carrie is a nanny, and while she loves her job, she's trying to plan for a future that allows her the time to make her own family. She falls for her new boss and his family and thinks that maybe they could be the future she's looking for. This novel is set against the backdrop of Christmas, which should inspire a certain amount of romance. However, this romance about a nanny who falls for her boss falls completely and utterly flat. The magic of Christmas was not present or alive in the book at all and the romance was both uninspired and uninspiring.

This book bored me. It was flat, with no emotional highs or lows, and was very repetitive making the whole

read sort of monotonous. The characters were boring and bland, with almost no real characterization just adding to the monotony again. I found the romance was basically non-present and mostly seemed like the hallucinations of a woman obsessed rather than an actual romance. The pacing of the book was really strange as well, which made reading the book something of a chore. Obviously, I was less than impressed.

Carrie, the female lead, in this book is a boring character to follow. She has no depth except for some rather shallow anxiety which is used to create introductions in each chapter. I didn't feel like Carrie was anxious so much as highly annoying, which really just speaks to the writing quality because there was basically no emotional depth present in this book. Furthermore, Carrie's "love" for Adam, which develops very quickly, seems rather more like a stalker than a real relationship.

Adam is probably the least romantic lead I've ever read. He is very boring and kind of...not a great guy. I was confused because Carrie would go on for pages about how infuriating Adam was because he was a bad dad, but then would sum it all up with "but he's really something, so sweet, so perfect". There was no evidence to suggest he was sweet or perfect anywhere in the book.

As I've said the romance, which is meant to be the central thing here, is really lacking. With two bad leads there's already a lot working against it. Add to this the complete lack of emotion in the book and it really just falls flat. There's no romance in this book to me. There are moments where there could have been romance, maybe there was supposed to be some, but it just fizzles and falls away. Part of this is due to the weird pacing issues in this book. The book is so slow, constantly dragging out these weird moments in the book, but then the romantic bits (sleigh rides, the first kiss) are just sped past and fizzle away. These pacing problems make the few moments of light in the book just fall apart completely and mean that the romance just never really surfaces.

The plot itself is pretty standard stuff, and is the kind of stuff that makes a good romance novel. Nanny falls in love with boss and his kids during Christmas. It's got all the right pieces to make a good romance, but the pieces are all bad and make the whole things just fall flat. The whole thing to me was just flat and boring. There was no momentum, no climax, nothing to keep me interested. The characterization was poorly done which made the romance bad too. I do not recommend this book at all.
