



# I'll Be Home for Christmas

*Lori Wilde*

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**I'll Be Home for Christmas** Lori Wilde

**Christmas in Twilight, Texas, is all merriment and mistletoe. The Cookie Club is whipping up their most festive sweets, the townspeople are scrambling to get their holiday shopping done, and Joe—a hometown guy with a restless heart—is dreaming about the woman he wants to kiss most...**

...And who happens to be staying at his sister's place over the holidays, while Joe's sister is away. But Joe isn't quite sure he wants to be a living Christmas present to runaway law student Gabi Preston.

Joe thinks the sassy sweetheart he nicknames "Trouble" won't inconvenience anything but his healthy sex drive. But when he discovers the reasons Gabi escaped from her life, he aches to give her everything she's never had. As the magic of the season draws them together, the gift of love is the only one worth giving...

## I'll Be Home for Christmas Details

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Author : Lori Wilde

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# **From Reader Review I'll Be Home for Christmas for online ebook**

**MelissaB says**

**\*\* 3.5 stars \*\***

A little too sweet at times but still a decent Christmas romance

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**Deborah Morgan says**

Ahhh...back home again.

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**Pamela Johnson says**

This is a fast paced wonderful Christmas story that I wanted to jump into and live next door. It is heart warming and in the traditional Christmas town. I want to move there, live there. Not to be missed if you love romance, tradition and community.

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**Ann says**

I love going back to Twilight, Texas and this is book 7 in this loving family oriented series. Joe is home from Florida to run the Christmas Tree farm while his grandfather recovers from his stroke. Gabi is in town staying at his sister's house and the two are spontaneous combustion. She running away from her law school and her memories of her dead brother. As always the magic of Twilight brings them together and love prevails. A wonderful Christmas tale that brings a smile to your lips and a tear to your eye. Enjoy

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**Mary says**

**A great Christmas Read**

A great feel good book. It is definitely a miracle type book. Going from a miserable life to a good one for all in the story.

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**Lesley Jones says**

I love visiting Twilight, TX. The way Lori writes captures your heart. Gabi and Joe each had their own demons to fight before they reached their happy ending.

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## **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/1Ny854r>

Lori Wilde has been on my Author TBR pile for ages and, oh, I've been missing out! I'll Be Home for Christmas was lovely. Simply lovely. A beautiful romance, characters you can't help but love and root for, a spirited town full of heart and warmth. I laughed, I smiled, I finished the book reading blurry words from all the feels and tears. Everything a Christmas romance should be.

Alright, so the quick of it is that Gabi needs to think some things through--law school it turns out isn't for her-- and on a whim she switches lives with an internet friend who's also found herself in need of a holiday escape. They'll switch homes, lives, everything...for three weeks. Just until Christmas. She's always dreamed of spending Christmas in a small town that celebrates in style and Twilight has it in spades. Including a hunky Christmas tree farmer who's ready to help spice up her holiday adventure even more.

Joe and Gabi. I loved both of them. They've had such different lives--his family is warm, gregarious and loves to celebrate everything and her family...doesn't even realize she's left town--but they complimented each other well. I loved that Gabi was a natural listener and cared for others. And that Joe dropped everything to run his grandfather's tree farm when he fell ill. That he loved his family fiercely and was a wonderful dad.

They just fell right in with each other after a rather funny first meet and it was heartwarming and a little magical too as they got to know each other. There was a lot of chemistry and tension but just a little bit of actual sheet time (nothing too detailed).

I loved them getting to know each other as she settled into town. The spark and feelings of more that quickly followed. It didn't feel rushed or cheesy even though it was all happening at warp speed. It just felt perfect.

And then there was Twilight. I love Twilight! This is my dream town. No doubt. They embrace everything to do with the holidays and celebrating life and each other. They're warm, friendly, caring. They have good hearts and make you feel like your home. I loved getting to spend time with them and seeing Gabi come alive as she explored the town and their holiday traditions.

I'll Be Home for Christmas was like getting a warm hug from your grandmom who smells like fresh baked Christmas cookies. Utterly comforting and perfect. Wilde stole my heart. No question. I can't wait to get back to the earlier books in the series.

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## **Isha Coleman says**

I'll Be Home for Christmas made me feel sentimental. Lori Wilde has a way of bringing her readers into the

story. Although emotions play a large part in her stories, each read has it's own personal message. The message of this read is family is important but love is key to happiness and stability. I'll Be Home for Christmas is an ideal edition to Ms. Wilde's Twilight series. The perfect gift to the one's we love. I really loved this story. Joe's determination to prove Gabi that in him she has found her home was adorable. I always know that I have found a great author and read when I look forward to discovering every book in their series. That is exactly how I feel about Lori Wilde. Received an ARC of this story in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Susan says**

Good book with a sweet romance and characters with real world problems. Gabi is running away from her old life by switching homes with an online friend. After years of living up to her parents' expectations, she has realized that she isn't happy, so she quits law school and comes to Twilight to find out who she really is. There she meets Joe, her friend's brother, a good looking guy who she is immediately attracted to.

Joe is the family rolling stone. Diagnosed with ADHD as a kid, even now he finds himself unable to settle down for long. When his beloved grandfather has a stroke, Joe comes home to run the Christmas tree farm while his grandfather recovers. The work is physical, which helps him stay focused, and the bonus is being with family for the holidays. He's surprised to find Gabi staying in his sister's place, and can't stop thinking about her.

I liked Gabi a lot. She starts out as something of a lost soul and ends up a determined woman who knows exactly what she wants. When Gabi was six years old she lost her beloved older brother to cancer on Christmas Day. She and Derrick had often talked of all the things they would do at Christmas time when he was better. She blamed herself for his death (the reason why was heartbreaking) and set about trying to fill his place in her parents' lives. When she finally realized how unhappy she was, she came to Twilight to experience a real Christmas and decide what she wants to do. I loved seeing her throw herself into all the Christmas activities and how happy they made her. Because she had spent so much of her time growing up concentrating on her studies, she hasn't done much socially. The effect Joe has on her is instant and intense, but she's not sure if she should do anything about it. She's only there for three weeks and doesn't want to distract herself from her goals. But what a distraction!

Joe was a real sweetheart of a guy. He's well aware of his personal challenges, and believes that because of them he will never settle down. He tried once and it didn't end well. But as evidence of what a good guy he is, he is still on good (though frustrated) terms with his ex-wife and contributes to the care of her daughter. I loved how he was the one who stepped up to take care of the Christmas tree farm because of how much it means to him. He's also a real charmer and has no trouble using it. He's attracted to Gabi, but sees her as the settling down type, which makes getting involved with her a bad idea. However, there is something about her that he can't stay away from.

I loved the development of their relationship. Joe helps her get settled in Katie's place (a yurt!) and unsuccessfully tries to stay away from her. I loved seeing him dive into helping her experience everything that Christmas in Twilight has to offer. What he doesn't expect is the way that Gabi helps to calm the restlessness that he always feels. As she helps him deal with issues involving his ex and her daughter, he starts to wonder what it would be like to settle with Gabi at his side. I also liked the way that he made Gabi

see her own worth as a person instead of just the one who keeps everyone else going. I loved seeing Gabi learn so much about herself with Joe's help. She also helps him with his own issues dealing with his ex-wife, and shows him that he's not the screw-up that he thinks he is. She worries that the feelings she has for Joe aren't real. I really liked the way that Joe gives her the space she needs at the end to figure things out. The ending was really sweet and romantic.

As always, one of the best things about the Twilight series is the emphasis on love and family. Joe's family is well aware of his issues, but is always there for him. I loved his grandfather's story of his own restless past and the parallels to Joe's life. I loved what Joe did when he learned the story of Gabi's life, and the effect it had on her relationship with her parents.

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### **Shari says**

A Christmas story that you will not be able to put down. Shows how important family and friends are in the holiday season. I have always loved visiting Twilight and this is no exception.

Gabi, a lost soul has come to Twilight for three weeks to have the perfect holiday season. She did not expect to find her true love, Joe. Joe is running his grandfather's Christmas tree lot, he welcomes Gabi into his world. Even that is not perfect when his exwife and daughter show up expectantly.

Loved all of the traditions of the town! A perfect town in a snow globe. Living out our dream!

I highly recommend this book to all Christmas lovers!

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### **Yvonne says**

We are back in Twilight, TX. The quaint and friendly town that seems to heal the body and soul and gives people hope.

The main characters are Gabi, a young woman that has swapped homes for 3 weeks with Katie, from Twilight.

Joe, is back home in Twilight , taking care of the Christmas tree business owned by his Grandfather, who has had a stroke and needs help. When these two meet there is instant chemistry.

While other reviewers will write about the story, I will take a different route. The story is more about family dynamics. Sometimes parents, in their grief ,put pressure on their children . If that child is passive and kind, and only wants to please the parents, the soul and spirit of that child can be crushed or left unattended. That is the case of Gabi.

Joe , is kind and a good man , but due to ADHD, was a trouble maker as a kid and is still sometimes labeled as “different”. They will have to overcome personal and external obstacles but will be able to grown and shine at the end. This is another wonderful story by Ms Wilde. And if like me, you haven’t read all the books of the series, you’ll want to grab them and transport yourself to Twilight.

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## Jo says

A very sweet holiday romance.

Gabi has just dropped out of law school after a disastrous mock trial, and decided to escape her life for Christmas and swap lives with a woman she met on Pinterest. Twilight looks just like the little town in the snow globe her brother gave her before he died.

Joe is a wanderer at heart, believing himself unable to settle down, but he loves his family and his grandfather's Christmas tree farm, and he's helping out at the farm after his grandfather had a stroke.

I really liked Joe and Gabi. Both haven't had easy lives, but together they just made sense. Their romance was sweet and wonderful.

There's something so very lovely and comforting about reading a small town romance. Especially during Christmas times. And I really liked Twilight. All the family dynamics, and the cheerfulness, and the way everyone was intertwined into each other's lives.

This is my second book by this author, and even though at times it was too sugary sweet, that was exactly what I needed.

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## Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

This was such a charming Holiday themed story. What we have here is a bit of "exchanged student" theme...kinda. Two friends that meet through pinterest of all places, keep contact with each other through email. Our heroine wants a taste of Christmas which she has never had Her younger brother died when she was young on Christmas and ever since her parents have avoided celebrating it. But Gabi Preston wants everything that comes with the celebrating of Christmas. The caroling, finding the perfect Christmas tree, the music, and the happy celebrations, the snow and sledding and much more. Her friend wants to get away from Twilight and its small town charm and the stress of the holidays. She wants to relax in the big city. So they decide to switch places. But upon arriving, Gabi is surrounded by Joe, her friends over protective brother who wants to know where his sister is and why she isn't in Twilight and exactly where he can find her. OH boy, these two. Things start off to a rocky start for them. They have great chemistry with each other, but they have only two weeks. So nothing can be permanenet. As they end up spending the time celebrating and connecting. I was completely won over by reading this Christmas setting with a small town charm. I love reconnecting with previous characters from the series. All the fun cute clubs of various women in town. There was quite a bit of emotion, and brought me to tears when it came to Gabi and her brother. He is the reason she craves a Christmas experience, she wants to honor him and I really liked that about this story. Having a strong family connections that come into play in the story. Joe is such a swoon worthy hero. He is protective, strong and caring. The romance was steady but didn't take too long for some action to happen. They only have two weeks together, so when it feels right they embrace what they have together....trying to make every moment count. Emotionally provacative and a lightly sensual romance that builds into a stunning love story!! BEAUTIFULLY SPUN ROMANCE!!!

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## Sarah says

16/12 - ***SO FANTASTIC!!***

A near-perfect romance, a perfect Christmas-themed book, set in a perfect little town that celebrates Christmas to the max. This is easily the best book I've read since October, possibly all year (I can't actually remember a book I loved as much as this, this year, but it couldn't have been read any more recently than October because nothing got above a four in November). 90% of my love for this book is attached to the town of Twilight (**LOVE** that name), it's hard not to get cravings for a cute, snow-covered little town when Christmas occurs in the middle of some unnecessarily hot summers that set half the bush on fire and break the train tracks.

I did have two complaints:

First, Joe **CHEEK**?! What kind of dreadful name is that (no offense to any Cheeks out there, but it might as well be Joe Leg or Joe Elbow)?! What's wrong with a nice, simple Anderson or Watson or Peters? If I was Gabi, I'd stick with Preston, otherwise she'll be Gabi Cheek, which sounds like 'gappy teeth', something my grandad used to call me whenever I lost a tooth as a child.

Second, the sex scenes were a bit weird. They started out good, lots of sexual tension, but then Gabi'd start thinking way too much for the situation. And not necessarily **about** the situation. Then the scene would end with a lot of one word sentences - 'Shoving', 'Thrusting', 'Building', 'Crashing', 'Falling', that kind of thing - and existential, woo-woo crap that just doesn't go with the fantastic sexual tension that had been building through all the earlier pages.

Fortunately my overarching love for Twilight reduced the impact of those two niggles. I love it so much, if I could, I would move there (are there really places in America like this?) I reckon I'd fit right in - I'm a good cook, I can knit, crochet, cross stitch and I enjoy a good book by a roaring fire (at moment I'm **not** enjoying the roaring air conditioning or the heat radiating onto my lap from my laptop). Will definitely be looking out for more books from this series!

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## Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

This is one of those books that seemed to get better the more that I read. I have to admit that I was not immediately hooked but the more I read the more invested in the story I became. This is the seventh book in



the Twilight, Texas series but it works well as a stand alone novel. I haven't read any of the preceding books in this series and didn't have any difficulties following the story.

This book takes the overall premise of the plot from the movie, The Holiday. Gabi is at a crossroads in her life and decides to switch houses with her online friend, Katie. She is ready for a change and is hoping that the town of Twilight, Texas will help her celebrate Christmas like she has always wanted. She does run into a few surprises with the switch. For one thing, she finds herself living in a yurt instead of the cottage she had hoped for. Her biggest surprise is the man living next door at his Christmas Tree farm, Joe.

I did like both Gabi and Joe a lot. How could you not? They are both about as close to perfect as can be. To be honest, I was really hoping that they would do something a little selfish because they just seemed too good to be true. As a couple, I did think that Gabi and Joe worked well. There was a lot of chemistry between the pair and their backstories also added a lot of depth to their characters. I also really enjoyed Casey's character in this story. She is a smart and spunky kid who says what is on her mind.

I liked the way that Christmas was worked into the story but it didn't take over. It really worked as a nice backdrop and I thought some of the things that this family did to celebrate Christmas were very original. The Christmas theme wasn't overwhelming so I wouldn't hesitate to read this book at any point in the year.

This romance was more sweet than sexy and I would recommend it to fans of contemporary romance. I plan to read more of Lori Wilde's work very soon.

*I received an advance reader edition of this book from HarperCollins - Avon Romance via Edelweiss for the purpose of providing an honest review.*

### **Initial Thoughts**

I ended up liking this one well enough. The first part was a little too much for me but it eventually settled into a nice little romance. I loved Joe but thought he was a little too good to be true. Gabi was way too perfect in my opinion. I found myself rooting for them anyway.

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