



Christmas Homecoming

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Grady's been waiting for over two years to see his lover, Joey, who's been deployed in Afghanistan. It looks like it's going to be Valentine's Day at the earliest before they're reunited, though. Oliver's been keeping Grady busy during the holiday season, and he just might have a Christmas surprise for Grady at the Hammer's annual Charity Auction that the man will never forget.

Christmas Homecoming Details

Date : Published December 21st 2011 by Torquere Press

ISBN :

Author : Sean Michael

Format : ebook 41 pages

Genre : Erotica, Bdsm, Romance, M M Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Contemporary, War, Military Fiction

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From Reader Review Christmas Homecoming for online ebook

Tam says

This review can be found in Brief Encounters Reviews.

I went searching to see if Grady and Joey were featured in another Hammer story, but I couldn't find it, unless they are in an anthology somewhere. I felt I was missing how they got together and the parameters of their D/s relationship. However, the story starts at Thanksgiving when Grady is at Oliver and Jack's for dinner. Joey is in Afghanistan and hopes to be home for Valentine's Day, but you never know with military service.

Christmas arrives and Grady is not feeling the mood. He's been unable to connect with Joey in Afghanistan, and now Oliver is pressing him to help out at the Christmas auction at the Hammer Club. The last thing he wants to see is all the Doms and their subs being all cute and romantic, however he agrees. As the auction winds down, one last sub is up for bids, Grady is stunned to see that it's Joey. It seems Oliver helped get Joey home without telling Grady, and now he's out of the military and a civilian. They quickly head home to reconnect.

The next part of the story deals with Joey's readjustment to civilian life and that of someone's sub. This portion of the story takes place over about 18 hours, as Joey pushes Grady, doing things he knows will get him punished, in order to feel that his life is back the way it should be. It deals slightly with the reactions of a veteran who has been living on high alert, and just the change from being the man in charge in a war-zone, to being completely not in charge in his personal relationship.

The story is fine, the BDSM is quite light and consists of some spanking and light bondage, but I never really connected to them as a couple because I didn't know anything about them. Joey noted being in the service for eight years, but how did they meet, and how did he become a sub? As I said, perhaps I missed their original story in the mix but it doesn't mention that it's a continuation of a story. Joey is definitely not the flighty fluttery sub of some Hammer stories. He's a soldier, he's big, he's strong and while definitely submissive, not type you usually see in these stories so that was a nice switch. Fans of the Hammer series will enjoy it, but it didn't catch my attention as some stories have.

Danielle Gypsy Soul says

It might be different if I'd read the earlier books in this series and knew these characters but I haven't and really this was just one long sex scene set at Christmas. Joey had been gone for two years (which isn't all that realistic - even if you were deployed that long you get to have a few breaks along the way) and he'd just surprised his lover who is also his Dom. The two end up having sex a few times and that's the book.

Joyfully Reviewed says

To date it's been two incredibly long, painful years of being apart while Joey does a tour in Afghanistan and Grady waits for him back home. Their friends at the Hammer Club are doing their best to keep Grady's

spirits up though everyone knows he will only be complete when his sweet sub returns, safe and sound.

The last thing Grady wants to do during the holidays is to be a part of the Hammer Club's annual Auction. If not for Oliver's nagging Grady wouldn't have to put up with the torture of watching Doms hook up with their subs at the club. It's pure torture until a special someone walks on stage as a last minute entry.

Missing a loved one is difficult enough, add the holiday season to the equation and it's ten times worse in Christmas Homecoming. When Grady and Joey get back together the erotic passion literally explodes as the lovers reconnect in the most primal of ways. Careful, the pages are so hot and sensual they may burn your fingers. Christmas Homecoming is a clever mix of sweet and spicy.

Reviewed by Lisa
For Joyfully Reviewed

Lucia says

Nice short story about a waiting dom and his marine sub. Great that even in a short story their problems with coming home were handled. And of course as in a lot of the Hammer stories, great (and a lot of) sex ;)

My Dichotomy Life says

I'm really disappointed with this book I usually love SM's books, especially the Hammer series, so finding one disappointing is unusual.

The premise is good, an established couple separated due to military service (marines:-D), very much in love. Oliver has helped the sub surprise his Dom at the annual Christmas Auction. Not expecting his Lover home before Valentines Day Grady is delighted to see his Boy.

That's when it starts to fade for me. The emotions don't feel right, nor do the responses or prose.

Maybe it's me.. I'll read this again in the future and hopefully feel differently.

Maggie says

Rating 3.5

Anne says

Great little story about Joey, returning home from a military tour, to his lover, Grady. Grady and Joey are clearly in love and in an established relationship. I would have loved a longer story with these two. This story gives readers very little of their background. Even more than being told of their back story, I would have loved a longer story that showed more of Joey adjusting to civilian life. For instance, readers are shown

Joey's anxiety about finding a job, but that issue is left unresolved. The story is mostly hot sex, but there is a lot of love between Grady and Joey that is shown, too.

Carolyn Loyacano-filby says

Like

Hammer Club is a wonderful series. I wish I could read faster! All the men are nice and very caring.

Wendy Ann says

And here we get a little more Hammer charity auction goodness in the form of an existing couple who gets reunited after a long separation due to military service. Joey definitely needs help from Grady in getting grounded and centered after finishing up his career with the military and becoming a civilian once again.

Serena Yates says

This story is fun, a little cheeky, and a lot hot. I loved visiting the Hammer Club and its annual very naughty Christmas auction again. This year the story focuses on one couple, and that made it very enjoyable for me, especially since it is so short and Grady and Joey have quite a story to tell.

Grady, the Dom, clearly misses his sub a lot. He loves Joey with all his heart and finds the separation very hard to deal with. Two years of absence with only a few visits is a very long time for any couple, but for someone as much in love and need for the other person it is doubly hard.

Joey, the sub, has just as hard a time. Not just is he far away and risking his life on a daily basis, he misses the framework only Grady can give him. Military orders are one thing, but what he's looking for goes much deeper. Finding his way back into obedience isn't easy, but his acting out and testing the boundaries leads to some extremely hot situations.

If you like BDSM stories with lots of love and respect between the two partners, if reunions are your thing, and if you're ready for some very hot 'punishment' scenes as Joey gets back into his headspace, you will probably like this story.

NOTE: This book was provided by Torquere Press for the purpose of a review on Queer Magazine Online

Katy Beth Mckee says

Joey has been overseas serving in the military overseas and his master Grady is really missing him. Grady doesn't really feel in the holiday spirit but Oliver talks him in to coming and helping with the auction. He seems to be getting more down by the second. So the wonderful holiday surprise is very emotional. A great holiday story of love reunited.

Pam says

It's another fun and entertaining holiday short, with two wonderful characters in Grady and Joey. I loved that this one focused on an established couple and having Joey be a returning serviceman only makes it better. The story is a well written little holiday gem filled with blistering hot sex as sub Joey tries to get what he needs from his lover and Dom.

Lily says

Xmas themed story set in the *Hammer* world.

JustJen "Miss Conduct" says

This Hammer short is about Grady, and his partner, Joey, who is away at war. They are all assembling at the ever present Oliver and Jack's home for a Thanksgiving gathering where Oliver is trying to convince Grady to assist him with the annual holiday benefit auction at the Hammer. Predictably, Joey makes it home to surprise Grady at the auction. The rest is them getting reacquainted. Ooh-rah.

Plainbrownwrapper says

This one is basically all about the sex. The setup is that Grady, a Dom, is missing his sub, Joey, who is a Marine in Afghanistan. It is Christmastime, and Grady doesn't expect Joey to be home til after Valentine's Day. But Joey shows up unannounced at the Hammer Club's Christmas charity auction, where Grady is helping out. Then lots of sex happens.

This one has more of the "I know what's best for you, boy" D/s attitude, which irritates me. And punitive spanking, which also irritates me. And no serious acknowledgment that Joey has been a perfectly capable functioning human being, commanding other soldiers, for several years -- now he's just "boy" again. So, not my type of BDSM story. But not too bad, as these things go.
