



Until January

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I have a happy life—a great career, wonderful friends, and a nice family (for the most part), but parents don't like to let their single thirty-one year old daughters spend Christmas alone. Apparently, no matter how successful you might be in your career or how independent of a life you may lead, you can't be trusted alone during the holidays. You might snap Fatal Attraction style and make rabbit stew for your married lover's Christmas dinner.

But I'm a vegetarian, and I don't date married men, so my parents have agreed to let me spend this December by myself. I'm even looking forward to it—at least I was until HLG came back. HLG is short for Hot Lawyer Guy. I know his name, but it's easier if I think of him as HLG because he's my unattainable crush. Every woman has a mild obsession they need to kick, and he's mine. If he would just go away for good, this December would be perfect.

Until January Details

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From Reader Review Until January for online ebook

Monica says

Until January is a great romantic and funny read that any single girl could totally relate to. Gretchen is single and this Christmas really doesn't want to go home to her parents questions about finding someone so she decides to stay home for Christmas. She recently has found her neighbor totally irresistible and is crushing on him badly but finds out he has a girlfriend. During a series of meet-ups at odd hours of the day, she knows she has no chance but can't help to daydream. After weeks of not seeing him, he resurfaces and this time minus the girlfriend. Will this be her chance of making something happen or will Gretchen continue to let things slip by the wayside? Once you get to know HLG you will find him just as irresistible as Gretchen does. This is a couple who you will root for and hopefully, by the new year, things will all work out for all. Until January is all about what the New Year can bring and that is the best thing about it right? It's all about life's endless possibilities.

Eva • All Books Considered says

Can't wait to read the associated books!!

Hilda says

Free on Amazon as of 12/22/14.

I would have loved this book if the MC Gretchen didn't talk about how old she was every other paragraph. The word "old" and "spinster" came up so much I stopped counting. I don't think 31 is old. All of my friends are that exact age and just got married, had their first child, or are dating. Not once have I thought we are old. I would think that for an up and coming lawyer this is relatively young. I understand that from some family members (older generation) and friends who didn't go to college this might be old but that isn't how I see things. I couldn't get into the story because she was so jaded and poor Sean was so patient and nice. I am glad he persisted and showed her how much he cared for her but really, if he'd moved on I wouldn't have felt bad. She sabotaged the whole thing from the beginning.

I needed more to like her. I think the 95 pages of this novela weren't enough for me to care. It was a cute story and had some very good parts but it was just meh for me.

Michele A. says

Gretchen and Sean meet in passing as they both live in the same building in Manhattan. Gretchen is a lawyer, as is Sean. When Gretchen sees Sean she describes him to everyone as HLG (Hot Lawyer Guy) and continues to do so throughout most of the book. Gretchen was a bit tough to take at times. She called herself a spinster pretty regularly (even though she is 31) and acted like a teenager throughout most of the book. I got whiplash trying to figure her out. Sean was upfront from the beginning and Gretchen put all of her focus

on protecting herself and didn't realize that she was playing with his feelings also. When it became clear to Sean that she was not truthful about something she claimed she was going to do, he called her out on it and let her off easy. I would like to see where their story goes, but hope that Gretchen does not continue to sabotage their relationship. A good holiday read and hopefully the beginning of a nice romance.

Kimberly Westrope says

When Gretchen decides not to join her family for the Christmas holidays, she resigns herself to spending them alone in her apartment. Then she runs in to the HLG (Hot Lawyer Guy) who lives in her building, a guy she's had a crush on for quite some time. Turns out, he's not only smoking hot, but super nice as well. Seems he's going to be spending the holidays alone too. Perhaps this Christmas won't be so bad after all.

This is a hilarious and also very sweet Christmas romance novella. I laughed out loud at some of the antics. They hit very close to home. The characters are wonderful and quite lovable. This is actually a story I will want to read again. I can't wait to read more from this author.

Vikki Vaught says

I purchased this book last year and didn't get it read during the holiday season. This year, I pulled up all the Christmas books I downloaded last and I'm trying to read one each day since most of them are either short stories or novellas. I loved the cover on this one, which is why I chose to read *Until January*. I'm very glad I did. This is a delightfully light-hearted read!

Gretchen Patton has had the hot for one of her neighbors for quite some time and refers to him as HLG—hot lawyer guy—instead of his name. Gretchen decides to spend Christmas alone since her twin brother goes to Tahiti with his soon to be fiancée and she doesn't want to spend the holidays at her parent's cabin in the wilds of Nova Scotia.

Sean McGowan returns from his father's funeral with no set plans for the holidays, except work. Since he's been gone for two months, he has to spend most of his time preparing for a big case in January.

When Gretchen and Sean meet by chance at the mailboxes in the lobby of their building, he asks her to go to mass on Christmas eve. Turns out he's also attracted to her. Will Gretchen and Sean give into their attraction or decide it's too big of a risk?

I truly enjoyed *Until January* from start to finish. I adored both characters, especially Gretchen. Of course, I'm sure the reason I enjoyed her character more is because the entire story is written in first person, from her perspective. I'm not a huge fan of first person POV, but for this book it worked.

If you want a fairly quick read to get you in the mood for the holidays, with humor and a lot of camaraderie, then I suggest you give *Until January* a try. You will not be disappointed. Happy reading!

5 Gold Crowns

Heather says

Lovely

Gretchen is a single 30 something woman living in NYC. She's got an expensive education in law and chooses to work as a public defender while her show off twin brother with an equally expensive education is swimming in money and gloating to their parents about spending Christmas at some destination he's taking with his girlfriend. Not wanting to spend the holidays with her parents, she tells them she is going to the Bahamas for Christmas but ends up staying home in the archaic apartment left to her by her grandmother. Little does she know that the hot lawyer guy who shares a building with her might be just what she needs to bring her out of her funk, but is he even interested in her?

This was a good book, it's funny and romantic, and although you can't help wanting to smack some sense into Gretchen at times, you also can't help but pull for her and hope that everything will work out for her. I recommend this book if you're looking for something that isn't too long but also not too short either, are looking for a holiday read, and love romance. It's not chalked full of smut but it has its moments- it's a slow burn that will leave you hoping that the author will continue the story at some point just so we can see where they ended up. I enjoyed it!

Kelly Anne O'Connor says

This is my first read from Mary Whitney but it won't be my last!

This is the perfect holiday read, it's romantic, funny and has a really hot sex scene enough to warm up any winters night.

I'll admit that I downloaded this because it was free but it's one of the best free books I've read.

Gretchen is the thirty something lawyer who is facing spending Christmas alone. She spends a lot of her time obsessing over Hot lawyer Guy or HLG who lives in her building. So how does Gretchen spend the holidays, read this awesome novella to find out !

Mary promises, more from Gretchen and Sean soon. I can't wait.

Robin Shawn says

This is a very short, very sweet novella. I'm glad the author is continuing it because there is definitely more story to tell. I really like both the main characters.

Carrie Elks says

I've been a fan of Mary Whitney for a long time. Being a Pol Science graduate, I have a penchant for her political romances, loving the way she can make a campaign seem sexy. Her heroes are always sex-gods in suits; her descriptions of them is a gift, and it keeps me coming back for more. So when she released her latest novella—Until January—I was first in line to snap it up.

Until January tells the story of Gretchen, a thirty something lawyer living in New York. Working as a lawyer for legal aid isn't bringing in the cash, but it's fulfilling and challenging and is a job she loves. Unfortunately her love life isn't quite so satisfying. The only singleton among a group of friends who all seem to be settling down, Gretchen despairs of ever finding the one.

Instead, she settles for crushing on the guy who lives in the apartment upstairs from her—aptly nicknamed 'Hot Lawyer Guy' (or HLG for short)—who unfortunately has a very beautiful, very successful girlfriend.

When Gretchen's brother bails out on a family Christmas to spend it with his girlfriend, Gretchen decides to spend Christmas alone in her Manhattan apartment. And as luck would have it, so does the Hot Lawyer Guy – Sean. What follows is a whole novella full of fabulous festive fun. The two of them eat good food, drink fine wine and even manage to make it to Midnight Mass. Plus she finds out that the beautiful, intimidating girlfriend is a thing of the past, leaving the way open for a little Christmas romance.

As with all Mary Whitney stories, this is choc full of detail, and she fits a lot into 95 pages. It's short enough to read in a day, and contains everything I look for in a romance; chemistry, conversation and a dash of humor. Until January is the perfect companion to these cold, wintry days and nights.

D. Elisabetta says

I can't say I hated it, but I certainly didn't like it. I found the protagonist to be hard to like. I wanted to know more about her; less about her unrequited crush. The spinster undertones, the fact they kept repeating her age over and over again (yes, I understood that you're 31 from the first five times) etc. I'm not a fan of the workaholic, perpetually single and bitter woman trope. It's one of those tropes that will make my eyes roll. I've seen it done well but more often than not, it's terrible.

I'm also not a smut fan, so I skipped over those pages.

Overall, I wasn't interested in any of the characters (except maybe the cute and fluffy Great Dane named Babette). I didn't buy into the love between the two main characters. I seem to be the minority with my opinion. Regardless, there's nothing I would write home about.

If you like those Lifetime sexy romance movies, you'll probably like this. However if you're not a fan of the genre like myself, you'll do better skipping this. I certainly would've preferred skipping it.

Irene says

5 heartwarming stars

Until January was a lovely holiday read.

If you're looking for a feel good book to read over the holidays I highly recommend Until January by Mary Whitney.

Melissa says

The start of this book was somewhat of a turn off for me. Gretchen (terrible character name FYI) was complaining the entire time almost nagging. She seems spiteful and almost miserable throughout the book even when she and Sean start hanging out she still is waiting for the hammer to drop. "Glass half empty." Sean's character was likable very straight forward. He also grabs the bull by the horns. There are a few things to tick off that I didn't like. I never like love within a week. It's just not my thing. I also thought it was strange that they were very adolescent in the way they communicated with one another until the end. Some of the writing was great. Some of it was lacking. There were minor grammar errors which normally don't bother me at all. But since this book didn't completely sell me they stood out to me.

Roselover24 says

So sweet!!

This is such a great short romance! Not too much drama just a nice well told story with a swoons guy to crush on

Andrea says

"In less than a week, I've fallen in love with someone who most likely will break my heart because why would I ever break his?"

I am SO HAPPY I read Until January! From the second I saw it, I had a great feeling about it, and I've had good luck with this author. I opened it immediately, and only paused to push it hard on my friends and fellow readers.

Until January was witty, charming, heart-warming, and sexy. The perfect holiday quickie. I honestly can't SQUEE! hard enough! Read it.
