



Home for Christmas

Cally Taylor

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Beth Prince has always loved fairytales and now, aged twenty-four, she feels like she's finally on the verge of her own happily ever after. She lives by the seaside, works in the Picturebox - a charming but rundown independent cinema - and has a boyfriend who's so debonair and charming she can't believe her luck!

There's just one problem - none of her boyfriends have ever told her they love her and it doesn't look like Aiden's going to say it any time soon.

Desperate to hear 'I love you' for the first time Beth takes matters into her own hands - and instantly wishes she hadn't. Just when it seems like her luck can't get any worse, bad news arrives in the devilishly handsome shape of Matt Jones. Matt is the regional director of a multiplex cinema and he's determined to get his hands on the Picturebox by Christmas.

Can Beth keep her job, her man and her home or is her romantic-comedy life about to turn into a disaster movie?

Home for Christmas Details

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Author : Cally Taylor

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From Reader Review Home for Christmas for online ebook

Hayley says

An enjoyable festive read!

Sarah Lee says

Another Christmas read, this time Home for Christmas by Cally Taylor. It was a nice book but not much at all about Christmas. I think authors and publishers have cottoned on that people (like me) buy books which they think are going to have a Christmas story / theme to them. This did not. It was an ok read but the characters were slightly annoying, I kept wanting the 2 main characters to sort themselves out! Ok but not fantastic.

Helen says

Fab and love the fact that most places are real places in Brighton

Tatyana Naumova says

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Lorenzo Phillibuster Fireworks says

It had taken me twenty-four years, but I finally understood two things. First, that isn't about someone saying three little words to you, but about being loved for who you are, who you really are and not who you think the other person wants you to be. Second, the words "I love you" only mean something when you can repeat them right back.

Beth and Matt aren't having much luck in the love department. Matt is being chased by a very temperamental ex-girlfriend – who lost the girlfriend status after throwing scalding hot coffee in Matt's face. His ex-girlfriend has tried everything: stalking him, showing up at his local pub in just an overcoat, faking an ankle injury, and oh yeah, faking a pregnancy.

Meanwhile, Beth has never had a boyfriend who hasn't cheated on her, or dumped her with the classic "it's not you, it's me". She has never had a boyfriend tell her they love her, and she doesn't hear it from her own mother all that often either. So all Beth wants is for boyfriend Aiden to tell her he loves her. Only he doesn't, he tells her he needs space, that "it's not you, it's me".

"You're just having one of those men-withdraw-to-their-cave moments I've read about in Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus. And I'm cool with that. Honestly. Go back to your cave and build a fire or, um, draw some pictures of stampeding buffalo on the wall or whatever, and I'll wait until you're ready to come out again."

Just when Beth wants to sit at home and cry, she gets more bad news. The beautiful, beloved, independent vintage cinema she works for is being sold to the biggest cinema chain in the world and there's only one job going to be left for the current staff. Making things even more difficult, the guy that's going to be interviewing candidates, Matt, busted her practising her "I Love You's" on a cut out of George Clooney. Beth is desperate to get that job and save the unique character and charm, but the whole process is a bit of a disaster – imagine the mortification of splitting your pants (sans underwear) while trying to abseil down a cliff as part of a management workshop – and it seems all aspects of Beth's life are in turmoil.

I picked up this book in order to spread the magic of Christmas with a nice Christmas story and the thing is, while this story occurs during the last few weeks of December, it's actually not about Christmas at all. So while it was a cute story, all I could think was "Just get to the Christmas part already!!" So in that sense, my expectations for this novel were disappointed in a way they wouldn't have been had the book not been called *Home for Christmas*.

While I didn't particularly warm to the two main characters, Beth and Matt, I did **love** the story and details surrounding the old theatre. The place itself had more character than either of the two main characters and I could picture it so vividly in my mind that I really wanted to physically go to this place and just stand there and look at it. It was honestly the best part of the novel, and had the emphasis solely been on the story surrounding the cinema I would have really loved this novel.

Best Line of the Novel: *"If someone's told you I've got a grandson, they're pulling your leg, darling. I haven't been near a fanny since I popped out of my mothers in 1932."*

Worst Line of the Novel : *"Do something wild," he urged as he leaned across the table and shot me what I think was supposed to be a saucy look. "Cause a scene, upturn the table, throw a glass of wine at me. Go on, Tiger. Get me hot, turn me on, make me do a little mess in my pants."*

Karen says

a parte o título que quase não faz sentido com a história em si, é um chick lit com todo clima das festas de fim de ano em Brighton, uma protagonista bem cliché e tudo que eu adoro!

Iris says

Christmas time is just around the corner. So it was time for some Christmas themed books. After a little search I found this one. I really liked this one. Yes, maybe the story was a little predictable. I didn't mind.

Sometimes you just feel like you need such stories.

The story is told from two point of views, the female and the male. So that is what is different from the other books. Although there are books that have the same thing.

I really liked reading this one and thoroughly enjoyed this one, hence the five stars. Sadly not enough Christmas is mentioned, although I only noticed it once I read some reviews.

Love Fool says

Beth Prince has always loved fairytales and now, aged twenty-four, she feels like she's finally on the verge of her own happily ever after. She lives by the seaside, works in the Picturebox - a charming but rundown independent cinema - and has a boyfriend who's so debonair and charming she can't believe her luck!

Desperate to hear 'I love you' for the first time Beth takes matters into her own hands - and instantly wishes she hadn't. Just when it seems like her luck can't get any worse, bad news arrives in the devilishly handsome shape of Matt Jones. Matt is the regional director of a multiplex cinema and he's determined to get his hands on the Picturebox by Christmas.

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This was funny and charming... it didn't get me in the Christmas spirit but that's okay. Actually, the only time Cally Taylor really mentioned Christmas was towards the end and to me, it was nothing.

I can picture this book turned into a funny romantic comedy, it was hilarious and Beth was adorably helpless.... and she wasn't annoying!

I gave this 4 stars because I thought the ending was too corny.

Leah says

Back in 2009, Cally Taylor's debut novel blew me away. I loved it. Heaven Can Wait was one of the most refreshing and enjoyable, not to mention unique, Chick Lit novels I've ever read. The magic set it apart from all other Chick Lit novels and I was gutted Cally's second novel was pushed back to 2011 from 2010. Slowly, slowly, though, the release date for Cally's second book has been arriving and I was thrilled to pieces to receive a bright pink proof copy of Home For Christmas.

Home For Christmas is an enjoyable Christmassy novel. I can see the novel's point, I read it in a matter of hours, but at the end of the day it's nothing more than an enjoyable Christmas novel that I will have forgotten this time next year. Home For Christmas is lacking everything Heaven Can Wait had. The only thing that's retained from Cally's first book to her second is the humour and the lovely characters. The rest is gone. There's no magic to speak of (apparently, magical novels don't sell very well, so Cally had to take all of it out. And it shows) and it just has the kind of plot I feel like I've read a million times before. That doesn't necessarily make it a bad book - because it wasn't, I didn't want to throw it out a window - but it's not very memorable. It's like I could see what Cally was trying to do and she did it well enough... But it just wasn't good enough. It was good, but it wasn't great.

The novel ticked all the right boxes to be a good novel, but when I got to the end I just felt disappointed. I liked it, but it has the kind of plot many authors have done before and there was nothing that particularly stood out to me. The plot was fine – Beth loves working at the Picturebox and when she learns a bigger company are trying to buy it, she's devastated. Enter Matt, who works for said bigger company. Throw in a ditz best friend, a psycho ex-girlfriend (on Matt's side), a total idiot of an ex-boyfriend (on Beth's side), chuck in a pushy mother who wants to move to Australia (Beth's) and a Granddad who just wants to see his Grandson happy (Matt's), stir and you're done. Oh, and not forgetting Carl, the total creep Beth works with and allows to bully her considerably. And it's set at Christmastime (score one for Cally Taylor writing an obligatory Xmas novel, woohoo!). I know that probably sounds flippant; heck I'm sure the entire paragraph sounds flippant but I was expecting more from the book and I felt it was all just ho-hum.

The characters helped to keep me reading. Sure, they're all carbon-copy cookie-cutter Chick Lit characters – Beth with her hopelessness in life/love/job and her ability to wear ridiculously tight pants to go abseiling thinking they wouldn't split(!) and Matt who despite thinking his girlfriend Alice is a psycho, still allows her to walk all over him when most people would tell her exactly where to take herself, but despite their foibles I did like them. Beth was charming in a strange sort of way, despite her stupidity over the pants and despite the fact she let Carl The Creep treat her like crap. She made me laugh, and I found her very amusing. Matt, too, was endearing at times. I did find him a tad weak (re: Alice) but I liked his banter with Beth, I thought they got on really well together. The rest of the characters were fine, with Matt's Granddad being the stand-out character for me, I absolutely loved him and his and Matt's relationship was just amazing to read.

I know I probably sound like a Debbie Downer on the novel, but it honestly wasn't a bad novel. It just sort of ticked all the requisite boxes without really challenging itself. I think Cally having to take out the magical elements is probably what caused its downfall because it does feel as though something's missing. It does feel a bit soulless. But like I said, I did enjoy it (and I know if I keep saying that, you're all going to think I doth protest too much) I just expected a better follow up from the author who brought us Heaven Can Wait. It kills me that authors have to write to an expectant publisher and take out any elements that don't follow the Chick Lit handbook. Doesn't how much I – and many others – loved Heaven Can Wait prove that a bit of magic isn't going to kill a novel dead? I would love to pick up a German copy of this novel, as Cally was allowed to keep in the magic and I'd love to see how that differed with all of its originality in tact. (Of course, I would have to learn German first, sadly.) It's an alright novel. I feel bad I didn't love it as much as I wanted to, but it just wasn't a patch on Cally's first novel.

Ali Bookworm says

A pleasant enough festive read

Georgina says

<http://chicklitaholic.blogspot.com/20...>

When Christmas time rolls around each year, I love to read as many Christmas chick lit novels as it is physically possible to do so. After reading and being captivated by Cally Taylor's novel Heaven Can Wait, I knew that Cally's latest novel Home For Christmas would be on the top of my reading pile as soon as I received a copy.

Beth Prince, a twenty-four year old romantic, works in the Picturebox, a charming independant cinema. Beth

has a boyfriend she believes is her dream man, there's just one problem, none of her boyfriends have ever told her they love her. Desperate to be told 'I love you' for the first time Beth decides to take matters into her own hands and then wishes she hadn't. With Beth feeling low, bad news arrives in the handsome shape of Matt Jones, the regional director of a chain cinema who is determined to get his hands on the Picturebox.

Home For Christmas is told from two different viewpoints; Beth and Matt's, with each chapter alternating between the two characters. I really enjoyed being able to gain two perspectives on events that unfolded throughout the novel. Usually in chick lit novels, the male characters' feelings and emotions are not portrayed, so this was a refreshing change that I would love to see in more novels. At many points in the novel I did find myself literally laughing out loud. I really enjoy any book that I read to be humorous, even if only in a subtle way. Home For Christmas really excelled with the humour injected into the characters, adding an extra spark to the novel. Cally Taylor's wit is one of the reasons she is such a fantastic author that I will always look out for. The characters were another contributing factor as to why I enjoyed Home For Christmas. Cally Taylor has managed to create characters that I really cared about by really bringing them to life. Beth, while at times being a little naive was caring and extremely likeable. I couldn't help hoping that she would find love and be able to keep her job at The Picture Box cinema. I also really enjoyed reading about Carl, although I detested him as a character, he definitely made certain moments within the novel very entertaining.

I did find that unlike Cally Taylor's previous novel, *Heaven Can Wait*, Home For Christmas was a little cookie cutter for my tastes. While I, and most chick lit lovers, enjoy a romance story that is neatly wrapped up, I do enjoy a little originality, and in my opinion that is where this novel lacks. I also would have liked to see a little more of the Christmas theme within the story. While the novel ends at Christmas time, there is very little mention of Christmas for a book entitled Home For Christmas.

Home For Christmas is a very enjoyable, quick and charming read, that I managed to devour in just one sitting. I would recommend this book to anyone looking for a cozy Christmas read over the holidays. I will be looking out for more of Cally Taylor's novels in the future.

Jacki (Julia Flyte) says

First of all, despite the title and cover, this isn't really a Christmas novel at all. It feels like the publishing company thought that would be a good idea so they shoehorned in a couple of references to Christmas approaching and gave it a title that has nothing whatsoever to do with the book.

This is an easy enough read which I got through in a few hours, but it doesn't amount to much. Two pretty silly characters who each have their own hang ups dance around one another with the reader supposedly wondering will they-won't they get together at the end. Beth has been working at an old cinema in Brighton for six years. She loves movies and her dream job would be to one day run the place. Matt works for Apollo Cinemas, a massive chain which is looking at acquiring the cinema where Beth works. Beth has boyfriend issues and wonders why no one has ever told her they love her while Matt has recently broken up with a complete nutter who wants him back. Oh and he has a loveable Granddad to give him occasional pieces of hokey wisdom. It's all very predictable and I just couldn't bring myself to care about any of the characters. The business related parts felt completely unrealistic and the amusing parts just didn't do it for me.

I will freely admit that I don't read a lot of chicklit and I probably am not the target audience for a book like this, but I do like chicklit when it's written with a bit of genuine heart and humour. To me, this wasn't.

If you want a heartwarming, genuinely Christmassy chicklit read, I recommend *All I Want for Christmas*. Or

if you just want a similar story that works, I recommend The Opposite of Love.

Tita says

Mais um livro com o tema "Natal" mas desta vez um chick-lit.

Beth Prince é uma jovem que adora finais felizes e cinema mas que tem um desgosto, nunca lhe disseram "Eu amo-te". Além disso, acredita que o seu namorado Aiden é o seu "príncipe encantado".

Sabendo à partida que este era um livro chick-lit e pela premissa mencionada, confesso que não esperava muito da história mas posso dizer que até gostei.

Com uma história engraçada, com Beth a ser protagonista de episódios divertidos mas também pela história paralela do cinema, mas também com Matt, que tem uma ex completamente doida e um avô amoroso, foram ingredientes suficientes para me levarem a continuar a ler o livro.

É uma história leve e divertida, e a Beth lembrou-me algumas vezes a Poppy de "Eu Tenho o teu Número" por se meter em cada cena. Mas algo que me agradou bastante foi termos capítulos intercalados com o ponto de vista de Matt, algo pouco comum em livros românticos.

Não me alonguei na história pois não quero contar demasiado e porque esta é relativamente simples, mas para quem procura algo leve de ler e dentro do tema natalício, este livro é uma boa opção.

Mariazita says

Este romance é muito divertido, ri bastante com as peripécias de Beth. Ela trabalha num cinema antigo, e sonha com os filmes de amor, uma eterna romântica, mas nunca nenhum dos seus namorados alguma vez lhe disse "Eu amo-te". Beth sonha ouvir essa palavra mágica, mas ao longo do livro vai percebendo que amar é muito mais do que uma palavra dita.

E uma leitura simples, rápida muito romântica com partes muito divertidas.

Mais um livro que aconselho a ler para uns momentos muito descontraídos.

Tracey says

A not very interesting read to be honest. The characters had no real quality that made me like them. The plot was slow and there was no Spark between the two lead characters.
