



## Feast of Stephen

*K.J. Charles*

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A Charm of Magpies Christmas coda.

Stephen and Crane have finally got away on their long-awaited Christmas break, along with Crane's henchman Merrick and Jenny Saint. A promised gift is made, and a request unexpectedly and magically fulfilled...

This story comes after *Flight of Magpies* and is not a standalone read. Download now in any format from Smashwords.

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## Feast of Stephen Details

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Author : K.J. Charles

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## From Reader Review Feast of Stephen for online ebook

### Ami says

[rings (hide spoiler)]

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### Ms. Smartarse says

[they did (hide spoiler)]

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### Marcie says

Crane, Day, & Merrick,  
\*clears throat\*

Babes, I love you so.

I want you to know,

That I'm going to miss your love the minute you walk out that door.

So please don't go.

Don't go.

Don't go away.

Please don't go.

Don't gooooo.

I'm begging you to stay....

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### Kat says

I'm reading this at work right now and renamed the file 'International taxes' just to be on the safe side. I applaud my own sneakiness.

So I know that not everyone was convinced of the attraction between Stephen and Lucien in the first book. But I don't think anyone can get this far into the Magpie Lord series and still doubt the depth of their love for each other. This was a delightful short story in the spirit of the Holidays with its blazing fire, brandy, storytelling and magical midnight passion.

“Lovely eyes,” Crane said soulfully.

“Lovely way with an execution order,” Merrick returned. “You like ’em dangerous, that’s your trouble. If they ain’t leaving a trail of dead, you ain’t interested. No offence, Mr. Day.”

A treat for the fans.

And the last paragraph holds sweet promise.

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### **Meags says**

#### **3 Stars**

This served as a sweet little final moment with this wonderful cast of characters.

And that little comment Crane made at the end?!?..

**“I will wager anything you like, in a hundred years’ time, some distant Vaudrey relation is going to pick one of these (rings) up and think, *Oh, what a lovely heirloom*, and put it on, and the whole blasted business is going to start again.”**

...YES!! What I wouldn’t give to have Charles write a modern day spin-off! Yes, please, and thank-you kindly.

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### **R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says**

#### **4.5 Stars!**

Um, the only thing that this hammered home is the cold hard fact that I want a freaking TOME of Crane and Merrick’s misadventures - past and future!

I’m just too upset and indignant that it won’t ever happen so imma gonna be over there in my cups. Feel free to join me if you want to commiserate in mutually shared misery.

\*hiccough\*

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### **Susan says**

A delightful little treat for fans of the series!!!

\*sigh\*...swept away to a cabin/holiday home to just share tales and enjoy each other. Loved it!

I'm still trying to get used to Merrick with a, um, lady friend. But, good on him. You go, Merrick...get your bad self some! :)

Yet, the highlight of it all...the LOVE and adoration and amusement and devotion between Stephen and Crane. GAH...how can this adventure-filled, supernatural, historical, mystery series manage to BE SO FREAKING ROMANTIC!?! Ms. Charles, I applaud you as usual...

And...a glimpse of Jonah...have I told you HOW MUCH I heart Jonah? (note to all: you MUST read Jackdaw)

Ok, enough gibberish...thanks for this nugget KJC! Happy holidays indeed!

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### **Heller says**

Loved these characters, loved the story. I read it while waiting to board the plane and I know my fellow travellers were glancing at me and wondering what was making me smile like the Joker. Perfection my airport buddies, I'm reading perfection. Be jealous.

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### **Ingie says**

[ and his new 'Lady', *Jenny Saint* (hide spoiler)]

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### **? Jaela ? Killer ? QUEEN says**

This short story takes place after book 3. Crane and Stephan go on their infamous Christmas vacation and Merrick and Saint accompany them.

It was basically all of them dining together and telling stories from the past when Crane and Merrick were in China.

Although the writing is very good, this book had too much Saint and Merrick in it, leaving Crane and Stephen look like secondary characters. And the other part was storytelling.

Enjoyable but I would have loved more Crane and Stephen in it. The book is called after Stephen, but he isn't the MC in here.

3.5 stars

## **K.J. Charles says**

A free short (6Kish) Christmas present for Magpie readers. Stephen and Crane finally get their Christmas getaway, where stories are told, wassailing may happen, and a couple of promises made in Flight of Magpies come to pass.

This is Magpie 3.5, set after Flight, and thus full of spoilers and won't make any sense as a standalone. You have been warned.

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## **Vivian says**

Cozy end with merriment and even a bit of magic. Devilish because as one book closes another is opened with a peekaboo tease as one of the dangling threads from an earlier Magpie story is tugged.

Favorite quote because for me it was tequila:

“We drank some shit in our time, but that—”  
“My head still hurts in bad weather.”

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## **Adam says**

Dammit, I'm going to miss these two!

Stephen and Lucien, along with Merrick and Jenny, are spending Christmas at Lucien's hunting box. While there, the four make merry and, presumably, begin a tradition of shared Christmases.

This free short has everything that fans have come to expect from the Charm of Magpies series. There's humour, some action (through storytelling), some feels, and a bit of hot smexytime to top it off.

'Feast of Stephen' also briefly features Jonah, and I can't wait to read his story in Jackdaw. I'm also really hoping that K.J. Charles continues to write shorts of Lucien and Stephen from time to time!

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## **♣ Irish Smurfétté ♣ says**

Stephen and Lucien. *siiiiiiiiiiiiigh*

What I love? That Crane calls Stephen "witch". I won't give away any of the reasons why in this particular

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story, but... yeah.

*siiiiiiiiiiiiigh* ... Stephen and Lucien.

A never-ending imagination, Ms Charles has, and she utilizes it here again. Such delicious detail of place, and when, and who did what where and why. So much story told from a single, fire-lit, cozy drawing room in a warm and welcoming house in the middle of nowhere.

Stephen and Lucien... *siiiiiiiiiiiiigh*

To say they know how to tease and delightfully torture each other, well, they both use every talent at their disposal. It hasn't been easy, but forever is their future now.

*siiiiiiiiiiiiigh* ... Stephen and Lucien.

The reminiscing accomplishes its goal but felt a little drawn out, losing some focus. But I honestly don't care because...

Stephen and Lucien... *siiiiiiiiiiiiigh*

The Charm of Magpies series is a mix of gritty paranormal, wonderfully imperfect relationships, fun mysteries and one of the most well written couples in fiction.

Yup, you know their names... ;)

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## **Richard Derus says**

I loathe that this is the last we'll see of Lucien and Stephen. I'm off to get Jackdaw. I don't want to leave this magical England yet.

A trip away from London to celebrate the new family's first Yule together. Stephen Day and Jenny Saint, guttersnipes elevated by Lord Crane's love for one and acceptance of the other, revel in fine new clothes, fine old brandy, and good company with many tales to tell.

But here's what you should really know: The entire series is about making what many of us, and sadly many QUILTBAG folk around the world, do not come with automatically: a logical family instead of a biological family. Crane and Merrick are closer than most people ever become, bonded by their adventures and their utter aloneness in the world. Day, always different, always apart and other, comes to bask in the inclusion he feels when he's with the two men. Now young Miss Saint, whose magical talent is never going to win her friends in the staid community of witches, comes at last to feel what the men are offering her.

She is home.

It makes the fact that we're not getting another tale with these four as its focus for...well...who knows. And that's okay.

(Actually no it's not okay at all and I'd like to take this moment to let Author Charles know that I have a voodoo dolly and a working knowledge of the operations of plantar fasciitis and I'm not afraid to deploy both in service of the need for more stories.)

