



Christmas Camp

Karen Schaler

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From the screenwriter of the Netflix Original viral hit, *A Christmas Prince*, comes another heartwarming holiday story about a beautiful Grinch who's determined to get her dream job even if it means spending a week at a Christmas Camp where she discovers an unexpected love.

Haley Hanson's idea of the perfect Christmas is escaping to the Caribbean to work so she can avoid all the traditional Christmas distractions. Over the years, she's sacrificed her personal life to climb the corporate ladder at a prestigious Boston advertising agency. Now she just needs to land a coveted Christmas toy company account to make partner. But first, her boss, Larry, thinks she needs a holiday attitude adjustment, so he ships her off to a Christmas Camp at Holly Peak Inn to help her find her Christmas spirit.

Arriving at the charming mountainside inn, Haley meets the owner's handsome son, Jeff, and feels an instant spark, but resists the attraction, refusing to be distracted from her goal of doing all the required Christmas tasks as fast as possible so she can get back to work.

At first Haley struggles with all the traditional Christmas Camp activities. It's not until she finally allows herself to slow down, live in the moment, and let Christmas back into her heart, that she begins to grow closer to Jeff. But when he finds out Haley's come up with a plan to help his dad save the struggling inn while he's been trying to convince his dad to sell it, their relationship takes a serious holiday hit. Now it will take the magic of the season to bring these two hearts together.

Christmas Camp Details

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Author : Karen Schaler

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From Reader Review Christmas Camp for online ebook

CLM says

What if your boss made you go spend a week at Christmas Camp to find the true meaning of the season? What if he gave your rival that extra week to work on a huge client presentation while you have to do it late at night or at dawn? Wouldn't you really deserve to find a cute guy at the inn to make up for that kind of injustice?

My review: <https://perfectretort.blogspot.com/20...>

Mary Brown says

Camp Christmas

Karen Schaler

5 Stars

Synopsis:

From the screenwriter of the Netflix Original viral hit, A Christmas Prince, comes another heartwarming holiday story about a beautiful Grinch who's determined to get her dream job even if it means spending a week at a Christmas Camp where she discovers an unexpected love.

Haley Hanson's idea of the perfect Christmas is escaping to the Caribbean to work so she can avoid all the traditional Christmas distractions. Over the years, she's sacrificed her personal life to climb the corporate ladder at a prestigious Boston advertising agency. Now she just needs to land a coveted Christmas toy company account to make partner. But first, her boss, Larry, thinks she needs a holiday attitude adjustment, so he ships her off to a Christmas Camp at Holly Peak Inn to help her find her Christmas spirit.

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Review:

When I read this book, I thought I was watching a Hallmark Christmas movie. It had everything you need to get in the Christmas spirit: humor, family, tradition, good food, snow and love.

Haley is a woman who knows her mind and has her priorities set. And work is her number one priority. She wants to make partner at the advertising agency where she works. When she is at Christmas Camp, all she can think about is getting all of the activities done and heading back to her job. But somewhere along the way, her priorities change and she realizes that there is more to life than work. The characters are well rounded and well developed. I thought they all added to the story in a positive way, just as they all added a

positivity to Haley's life.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted women's contemporary. I felt like I was reading a cozy mystery without a mystery. This was a clean read and I really enjoyed it a lot. Be sure to pick up this book for a great holiday reading.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC of this book provided by the publisher, HarperCollins Publishers and Edelweiss, which I greatly appreciate.

Michelle says

This was a great book! Heartwarming story about a grinch who goes to Christmas Camp in order to convince her boss to give her a Christmas account. I will definitely watch the Hallmark movie when it comes out! This is a fun easy read, perfect for putting you in the holiday spirit!

Aisling says

A perfect light Christmas read. Sweet romance, good secondary characters, and a fun plot make this a very good example of the Christmas book genre. Where this book is great is atmosphere. I really saw the decorations, felt the cold, smelled the cookies (and omg they are ALWAYS eating) so it really does fling you into the Christmas feeling. Very cute.

Carlene Inspired says

Find this review and others at [Carlene Inspired](#).

Where does one start with Christmas Camp? Do I start by telling you it's the perfect Hallmark movie in book form? Do I tell you the girl is relatable and Christmas really does bring magic and love into her overworked life? Or do I tell you it's all thanks to the smart dog? Oh, I tell you all of that? Okay, it's all true! Christmas Camp is the story of Haley Hanson and her desire to make partner at her advertising and marketing firm. Only the challenge has to do with Christmas and Haley's idea of Christmas is being poolside with her family...while still working. Meanwhile Jeff is all about the season, even if he wants his dad to give up the camp and move a little closer. He still believes and he's out to prove to Haley she knows nothing about the true spirit of Christmas. She struggles with the activities, referring to it all as boot camp, but as she learns to slow down she also learns how to open up allowing the unexpected to happen. But is Christmas just for a season or is it a forever feeling?

Christmas Camp by Karen Schaler arrived right on time for me. I love the holidays, nothing is better than brisk air, peppermint flavored coffee, and decorations everywhere, but work's had me exhausted lately and my spirit was more Scrooge than even Haley's. This book has everything you could possibly like about Christmas in it. From the decorations to the activities to the sweet, more personal moments, it's exactly like that first, untouched sparkly snowfall. I really connected with Haley's goal to reach the top and her desperate desire to give her parents everything after they had given so much to her. She's lost sight, for sure, but she's got the spirit in her. Jeff is a bit of a tough guy, all handsome and closed off. They bump heads the entire way, but it makes for a funny and cute story that was easy to follow and even easier to fall in love with.

Christmas Camp is a feel good story, the kind you'll want to read again and again. It's more than a romance though and I think readers will fall in love with the secondary characters we get to know during Haley's time at camp. It's the perfect book for the season and while I'm excited to see the movie, I'm more excited to read this year after year as the holiday season draws near.

ARC provided.

Asheley says

This is the perfect grab-some-hot-chocolate, snuggle-with-a-blanket, feel good holiday story. It is positively dripping with Christmas and I love everything about it.

Haley works in advertising in Boston and dreams of becoming partner. She needs to land a huge campaign to clinch the partnership, but that campaign centers around a Christmas theme. The problem is that Haley doesn't celebrate the holidays at all and wouldn't know about creating a Christmas-themed campaign if her life depended on it. Her boss decides to send her to Christmas Camp before he'll even entertain her marketing pitch. Haley will be "enjoying" a week-long, all-inclusive Christmas intensive with a few other guests hosted by Ben and Jeff, an aging inn owner and his son. Ben absolutely loves Christmas and has been hosting these camps for years to share the joy of the holidays with people of all types. He used to host along with his wife, but sadly she is no longer alive to host with him, so his son has stepped in to help him carry on the Christmas Camp tradition.

At Christmas Camp, Haley meets couples that are looking to reconnect over the holiday, those that are alone for the first time over the holiday, and holiday enthusiasts just wanting to be around *more* Christmas. But she's really the only one there without any desire for Christmas. She sneaks her laptop and phone so she can work whenever she can even though it is against the rules. This is a little frustrating for the hosts and the other participants, but over the course of the week, Haley's begins to enjoy the holidays festivities little by little. Making snow angels, enjoying Christmas cookies and other treats, cutting down her own tree and decorating it with her own theme – these things become something that she enjoys rather than a burden, and she is able to relax rather than stress over the work she is missing.

This is a fairly straightforward story of person-who-hates-Christmas learning to confront why they dislike Christmas, then learning to have some holiday spirit. I love stories like this with main characters that almost seem Scrooge-like or Grinch-like that end up eventually softening their hearts. This one reminds me of Sarah Morgan's *Sleigh Bells in the Snow*, although it is much less romance-y than Ms. Morgan's story. Christmas Camp is overall a more feel-good story that I love because of all of the characters in it and because of everything that they do, and it just happens to have a very slow-burn romance with a little bit of promise at the end. (Hint: If you're looking for a holiday *romance-y* romance, you are not going to find that here.)

I already added it to my yearly holiday reads rotation because it was super fun and I'd love to read it again.

The setting is good, although I can't remember which state the inn is set. I'm pretty sure it is definitely in the northeastern US, somewhere not too far off from Boston, which is where the characters live when they're not at the inn. (Perhaps the inn location is mentioned in the story but I don't remember.) At any rate, I love the inn with the snow and hills and forests, and the feeling of community and family between the hosts and guests. The Christmas vibe is also very present with the trees and decorations and hot chocolate and foods and activities. I think these may be the things I love most about the book, after the characterization which is fantastic.

It was a great idea for the author to place so many different types of characters in the camp together because I cared so deeply for all of them and felt curious about their lives beyond just how Haley saw them. Like Gail, for example, who is alone for Christmas because her son in the military is serving time overseas. And John, who is a divorced physician who works long hours, but is at camp with his two teenage children so he can spend quality time making memories with them over the holidays because they are growing up and will soon be moving out as adults. Great characterization made this story full and rich and robust.

The front of the book mentioned, in all-caps across the top, that this will soon be a "major TV movie" and that is exciting. But I honestly cannot imagine the movie being any better than this book. This is exactly the type of Christmas story most of us are looking for when we are making our holiday reading lists. A follow-up isn't necessary at all, but I would definitely read it because I'm curious about what is next for the Christmas Camp itself and for Amelia and Jeff, and the rest of the guests from the camp.

I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. Thank you, William Morrow Books!

Find this review and more like it on my blog, Into the Hall of Books!

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quote:

Since she traveled a lot to visit her clients, she took pride in the fact that she never checked any bags, going with the philosophy that there were two kinds of luggage, carry-on and lost.

My Review:

I enjoyed this mild and sweet holiday storyline of a female workaholic named Haley. The writing was insightful and finely tweaked with those humorous and thoughtful touches that kicked the narrative up from good to cleverly exceptional. The main character of Haley wasn't exactly a grinch but a mild female version of Scrooge. She was exceptionally driven and prone to be selfish and thoughtless in what she said and did in her eagerness to get accounts and make partner. She worked all the time and didn't make time to relax, date, or socialize outside of work. She wasn't vile, just obnoxiously ambitious and work-obsessed. Her boss staged a covert intervention as "a holiday attitude adjustment," by sending her to "Christmas Camp," an inn with traditional activities geared to bring families together during the holidays. This is one of those rare books that is chaste enough for my elderly mother's Sunday School book club and Hallmark Channel wholesome, yet still entertaining to me. My favorite character in the story was the exceptionally clever Max - the Wonder Dog, whom I believe was largely responsible for Haley's transformation.

Mayda says

It isn't that Haley has lost her Christmas spirit, she never really had any. Growing up poor, there wasn't much money to indulge in a lot of holiday decorations or gifts, so Christmas wasn't much different from the other days of the year. Now that she had a career and some money to spend, she treated her parents and herself to a Caribbean vacation each year at Christmastime, instead of celebrating the way most people did. But now, wanting a promotion at work and to be put in charge of a toy company's account, her boss gives her an ultimatum. She must spend a week at a resort's Christmas Camp, to awaken her nonexistent Christmas spirit, or the plum account would go to her rival. So off Haley goes, determined to quickly ace the assignments at the camp and return to work. But things don't quite go the way she expected. Author Karen Schaler has penned a delightful light romance that *is* filled with the Christmas spirit. At the core of the novel is the fresh idea of a Christmas camp, where guests come to interact with fun activities and outings. You might be able to guess how it ends, but likely the journey there will be filled surprising twists. This tale might even inspire its readers to hold their own mini camp, if just for an evening's fun. In fact, a couple of recipes and a game of Christmas charades is included in the book for just that purpose. This is a fun and entertaining romance, a perfect holiday read.

Hayley says

I couldn't resist looking at the Christmas novels on NetGalley recently and found myself downloading a few. Christmas Camp was the one that called to me the most due to the gorgeous, snowy cover and I'm so happy to say that the novel is every bit as fabulous as it looks!

Haley is a workaholic and is something of a grinch, she has zero Christmas spirit but is vying for a partnership in her firm and this means winning a lucrative toy campaign requiring lots of Christmas joy. Her boss decides that the things she needs is a week at Christmas Camp to find her Christmas spirit and Haley has no option but to go.

I loved this novel so much! It's set in the week before Christmas and is full of festive spirit. I get so disappointed when a novel is marketed as a Christmas read but you really only get Christmas at the very end of the book but I'm so delighted that Christmas camp has all the Christmas you could possibly want from start to finish!

Haley is determined to get through the activities as quickly as possible each day so that she can return to her room to get on with her presentation but the adorable Max the dog has other ideas! He latches on to Haley right away and is determined to get her involved. I loved Max so much, he's made me want to get a dog. He really is a character!

The Camp activities include things like making cookies, going sledging, cutting down a Christmas tree – everything you can think of that relates to celebrating Christmas. I've always adored the festive period and still I want to go to this Camp, it just sounds so magical and wonderful!

There is a potential romance in this book between Haley and the owner's son but the path of true love doesn't run smoothly for these two and I was never quite sure if they'd ever manage to get things worked out so they could be together. I enjoyed these parts of the novel but especially the way that it was more about Haley working out her own life and what she wanted rather than her bending her will to be what a man

wanted her to be.

There is real heart in this book; it explores so many of the complicated emotions that always come with the festive time of year and does it in a way that is really genuine but also always uplifting. I shed a few tears reading this book but ultimately I finished it with a great big happy smile on my face!

Christmas Camp is a really festive, feel-good novel and I highly recommend it. This is going on my list of books that I'll read again in future at this time of year!

This review was originally posted on my blog <https://rathertoofondofbooks.com>

Gaele says

Haley is determined to make her mark in advertising, and has restructured her life to get one step closer to her dream. Friends, family and romance are all pushed aside, and the last big thing she thinks will ensure that promotion is on the horizon. If she can land this toy account, she just knows that she'll get that promotion – but her boss has other ideas for her. He thinks Haley is missing that special something that only an injection of holiday spirit can bring – so he sends her off to Christmas Camp to find her inner Santa spirit. Not something she wanted, but she assumes that she can 'heads down' and strategize in order to win the client over, and that she can return to work bringing a new client in and adding partnership to her resume.

A reluctant participant, Haley isn't all that into the 'activities' list, and while she finds the owner's son attractive – she's got her own game plan that doesn't include the myriad activities scheduled. Jeff is helping his father, and while it's apparent that the camp is struggling, what's not so apparent is that Jeff thinks his father should sell up and enjoy his life without the worry of finances and bookings. But, Haley isn't an advertising whiz for nothing, and she sees the potential in the place, even if she was dragged, kicking and screaming, into activities. She's not only got an eye on her own plans, she's also found a way to help Jeff's father make a going concern of the camp, much to Jeff's dismay.

Feeling very much like a Hallmark movie, although missing some key world-building and description that would have brought additional imagery into the story, allowing more of a feel for the camp setting. The reluctant celebrant in Haley – and not really feeling as if we have reasons to grab onto why she's focused only on work, and while she discovers life other than the 9 to 5, there were still some questions and holes in her personality, and in the relationship that just didn't work for me in the ways I'd hoped. Not a bad story at all, it just didn't all fit together for me in ways that would make me rave about the story – although I can say that I think it would be an intriguing and entertaining tv movie. A bit of a mixed bag, I know, but with so many other choices out there for 'finding your joy' holiday stories, this is one that goes on the if I have time pile.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via Edelweiss for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Review first appeared at I am, Indeed

Janet says

A Dynamite High 5 Stars for Christmas Camp by Karen Schaler. I can see why this is being made into a TV movie, so well-deserved! We first meet a harried and frantic Haley Hanson as she's working overtime and perfectionistic as ever and hoping to get the project for her company's biggest client; none other than a toy company. It's that magical time of the year where children dream of Santa and presents under the tree, but Haley is not a Christmas person, yet she still strives to land this client. Her boss calls her into his office and suggests she go to Christmas Camp in order to gain some Christmas spirit and at the end of her trip he will then decide which proposal is best; hers or her colleague's. Off she goes, quite reluctantly to Christmas Camp, which happens to be a beautiful lodge in the mountains, quite the contrast to the busy, city streets of Boston.

Here she meets several characters, including one handsome man that infuriates and intrigues her all the same. She literally has Christmas thrown at her and in order to have a chance at that proposal, she must complete all of the activities. With her perfectionistic and competitive drive, she dives full force into everything and along the way she not only begins to open up to the spirit of Christmas but she begins to open her heart as well. Will Haley survive Christmas Camp and make that proposal? Or will her heart and self-being completely changed and open up to new opportunities?

I absolutely loved this tale, I laughed, cried and yes, I felt at times in Haley's shoes, that's just how well-written her character is that one can literally feel all that she goes through. The characters throughout this tale are amazing and each adds their own special spark of magic! Christmas is such a magical time of the year and its stories like this that make it all the more magical!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

I would love to see this story on the Hallmark Channel. It would be a fun, entertaining movie. To see this New England Christmas come alive more than it did in this book, would be wonderful. Karen Schaler has a fantastic way of telling stories and bringing a smile to my face.

Haley was a riot. From her Scrooge mentality to trying to navigate snow in a pair of spike heeled boots, you couldn't help but laugh at her. Her response to seeing her room at Christmas Camp, the rules and the activities that she was forced to endure were all hysterical. And then there was Max. But, as time wore on and she started to realize what her life has become, she opens her heart to the magic of Christmas Camp and possibly to Jeff. Now, if she could just come up with that idea that will win her boss over.

Jeff is concerned about his father. He wants him closer to him ... in Boston, not at Christmas Camp where all memories are of his mother. He loves the Inn and all the traditions but his father is getting older and can't handle it all himself. But, this Christmas Camp feels different. It could be the start of something wonderful along with the end of something that everyone holds dear to their hearts. It took some doing but they finally got Haley to come around and enjoy herself instead of just worrying about her project. And then he did the one thing that he never thought he would do or want, he fell in love only to find out that she has gone behind his back and gave his father hope for the future of Christmas Camp. How can he both love and loath Haley at the same time?

I absolutely loved this fun Christmas story. New to me author (I think this is her debut novel) has truly won me over and has me waiting to read her next story – Christmas Camp Wedding which is coming out in January. Her writing was fluid and fun and she truly knows how to tell a story.

Kathryn says

What a delightful, fresh, original Christmas season story. I wanted to resist it at first, but bit by bit it hooked me in and kept me reading on. I loved the characters and their stories, I loved the persistence of Max (a dog) and his insight into the human heart! I found myself wishing I was their at the Christmas Camp along with all the participants. I might be a little bit easily led I know, but I just couldn't resist the feel good message in this story.

Haley is a sort of Grinch. But... she doesn't really have all that much in common with that character, when you examine her life and her heart. Really that is in the right place. She has just become obsessed with work and her eye is forever on that goal. But thanks to her boss she gets a call to step outside her life and experience something different. I found myself on her side, wanting her to love her respite in this wonder filled place, but also to be successful in her ultimate goal.

I loved the activities, the friendships and relationships that were begun or strengthened. Mmmm all the feels of the Christmas season plus. I believe this just may have a follow up. I'm all for it!

Patricia Mainard says

I really enjoyed this book a lot. Everything about this book was completely amazing. I love the characters, the storyline, and the magical time of Christmas. The characters were well formed and excellently developed. I loved how they interacted with each other. The writing was great and held my attention. I definitely recommend.

Catherine says

This is a heartwarming holiday story about holiday traditions, family and love. Haley is aiming for a partnership at her Boston advertising agency, but her lack of Christmas spirit is hindering her chances at landing a huge toy company account. Her kind boss ends her for a week at Christmas Camp run from a bed and breakfast in the mountains. Haley is determined to earn her certificate from the camp as soon as possible and get back to work. Little does she know that with the help of a bossy golden retriever and the handsome son of the innkeeper, Haley may actually get what she needs for Christmas and for her life.
