



## Holly Lane

*Toni Blake*

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The weather outside is frightful, but kisses by the fire are so delightful ...

Sue Ann Simpkins is working hard to rebuild her life and find some holiday spirit. A weekend away from Destiny in a cabin on nearby Bear Lake seems like the perfect Christmas gift to herself—until her ex's best friend, Adam Becker, shows up at the door, claiming the cabin is his! And if that's not trouble enough, how had she never noticed how gorgeous he was?

Alone for the holidays and forced to play a reindeer at the local department store, Adam's been feeling rather Scrooge-ish himself. But finding the smart, sexy woman he's admired since elementary school waiting in the house he rented is helping to brighten his humbug mood. And when a sudden snowstorm strands them together in very close quarters, leading to one very hot night together, Adam soon realizes that what he really wants for Christmas is a second chance at love. Now all he has to do is convince Sue Ann...

## **Holly Lane Details**

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Author : Toni Blake

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## From Reader Review Holly Lane for online ebook

### Splage says

3 1/2 stars. A very sweet and cozy read about 2 wonderful characters who have known each other forever. They are both divorced now, Sue Ann just recently, and they never looked at each other before with potential for romance. It wasn't really highly exciting, but very well written and warming to the heart. I also thought it was very realistic in the way both Adam and Sue Ann shared custody, as well as, ran into there exes in their small town. Most of the time the bad spouse is out of the picture in romance books. Both characters appeared in previous books, I vaguely remember them, my memory isn't as good as it used to be. Adam was just a sweetheart, he was so good to Sue Ann. Sue Ann's ex, Jeff, was a major butthead and even though there was a little confrontation in the end I would have loved to see both Sue Ann and Adam stick it to him much worse... I am a vindictive person, what can I say.

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### UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Toni Blake's *Destiny* series is the perfect blend of contemporary and erotic romance, making each story tender, feel good, and incredibly sexy. I guess I'm pretty demanding, but even in my erotic reading I want a believable story and a good solid relationship with people I can care about. I want to feel an emotional connection - to laugh when they laugh, to cry when they cry, and to sigh when they sigh. Well, *Holly Lane* gave me all that, and more.

*From the cover:*

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I'm being totally honest when I tell you that Sue Ann was not a character I ever thought I'd care about because she just seemed so perfect... *too* perfect, in fact. Perfectly dressed, perfectly married to a perfect husband, being everyone's perfect friend with a perfect life - perfect, perfect, *perfect*... So even when I heard about this story, even when I learned that her perfect world was falling apart, I still wasn't sure what to think, whether or not I'd become invested in her enough to care what happens. Boy, was I ever a fool to doubt Toni Blake's ability to not only make me care, but to make me care *deeply*.

From the very first pages my heart broke for Sue Ann who's learned that her husband has fallen in love with another woman and wants a divorce. She never saw it coming, and now she has to not only put her life back together, but find a way to build a future for her and her daughter, Sophie. So, was the perfect Sue Ann really perfect? Nope! Did I want to slap her silly sometimes because she was being too stubborn? Yep! But these things, her imperfections and her stubbornness... they were actually part of what made me love her. Her struggles, her heartbreak, her trials and triumphs... I was right there with her, cheering her on, getting to know this woman who was able to overcome her own insecurities and was capable of accomplishing anything!

If you've read much of her writing, you know that Toni Blake has a knack for taking everyday characters who've just been floating around the peripherals of a story, of bringing them in, and making them shine. That's exactly what she did with Adam. What an amazing man he is! Understanding, compassionate, caring, hard working, unconditionally devoted – and of course, sexy as sin! I enjoyed watching him put his own past behind him and open himself up to the possibility of loving again. And it was a delight having the opportunity to see he and Sue Ann grow closer as their relationship transformed from one of friends-since-childhood to lovers, and then to something more.

Another real treat was visiting with Jenny and Mick and getting a glimpse into their married life. They have come so very far together, and their future is looking brighter and brighter.

The bottom line: *Holly Lane* is a Christmas story, it's true, but this much love, this much happiness, hope and passion should be celebrated all year 'round. I'm so very glad I finally took this off the shelf and spent this Valentine's Day surrounded in the magic of Christmas in Destiny, Ohio.

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### **Jae says**

What happened to Sue Ann here? I remember that I loved her in book #1. I even went to TB's FB wall and begged her to write Sue Ann's story. I loved her *that* much.

But imagine my disappointment with her in this book. I just didn't feel the connection between her and Adam that first time in the cabin. I would expect a bit of a wooing (or get-to-know-you-better) done first before she jumped him. Shouldn't she feel somewhat awkward or inappropriate about lustng after her ex-husband's best friend? He was her daughter's god father, for crying out loud. And that night was all about lust and lust alone! A heroine in heat does not make an attractive picture.

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I just flipped and skimmed through after the first 40%. Jenny and Mick's predicament was the only interesting part of the whole book. I didn't enjoy this book much. Pity, how I was anticipating Sue Ann's story all this while. :(

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### **Shawna says**

4 stars – Contemporary/Holiday Romance

I intended to write a review for this long before now, but life has been rather stressful lately and sidetracked me a little. But better late than never I suppose.

Toni Blake's *Destiny* series has all the things I love in contemporary romance: a charming small town setting, genuine characters, witty dialogue, humor, intense emotion, and steamy love scenes. I find that holiday themed romances serve as great reminders of why I enjoy reading romance and also help inspire me to get in the spirit, so a Christmas themed addition to the *Destiny* series was a joy indeed.

‘Tis the Season for reflection, remembrance, and celebration of what’s truly important in life: family, friends, love, laughter, music, food, and yes, romance. But Sue Ann, who’s still reeling from her husband’s emotional betrayal and their recent divorce, is finding the Christmas holiday season less than jolly. A quiet, solitary getaway at a remote lake resort seems like an ideal solution to help her get in the holiday mood, and the last thing she expected is to find herself stuck in a cabin during a snowstorm with her ex-husband’s best friend, Adam Becker.

Adam is feeling rather Grinch-ish about spending the season without his kids and isn’t any happier to find himself bunking down with Sue Ann than she is. Well, that is until their surprising mutual attraction sparks hotter than a roaring cabin fire and they discover all kinds of steamy, creative, and festive ways to enjoy being snowed in together. But once they’re back in their hometown of Destiny, things aren’t quite so simple, and Adam finds that convincing Sue Ann to take a chance on them might just take a holiday miracle. It’s a good thing he’s got a reindeer trick up his sleeve.

Being told “I’m not in love with you anymore” by the person she loved and trusted most left Sue Ann devastated and heartbroken. She’s struggling to rebuild her life and to heal and opening her barely mended heart and giving her fragile trust again seems too risky. But she’s determined to make the season not only as normal as possible, but also special and memorable, for her young daughter. Adam’s friendship and support brings extra cheer and warmth to their holiday, and when he gives her daughter a Christmas surprise she’ll never forget, Sue Ann learns that putting your faith, hope, trust, and love in the right person is a truly rewarding gift.

***Holly Lane*** is a feel-good romance and a wonderful respite from the hectic holiday season. 4 stars!

*I received this Avon/HarperCollins e-ARC from Lindsey Faber, Toni Blake's assistant, via NetGalley.com.*

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## Kathleen says

Story Rating 5 stars

Character Rating 5 stars

Romance rating 5+ stars

Heat level 4 stars

Overall Rating 5 stars

Toni Blake sure knows how to write one heck of an emotional romance that had me rooting for love to find

it's way into the H&h's future. The story grabbed me right from the start and I had a really hard time putting it down.

The hero Adam oh my, he sure knew how to care for the woman he wanted. I have never read a story such as this where the hero just goes above and beyond to make the heroine and her daughter happy. At one point I was crying for the joy of what he just did for them and babbling on to my 11 year old son about what the hero just did, LMAO!

Sue Ann the heroine had been through some resent tough times and things there for a while were just getting tougher. Because of what she had been through, she kept pushing Adam away. While others had a hard time with this part of the story, I kind of understood it. I put myself in her shoes and thought I would have been conscious too.

I loved that Toni also included all of the other characters from the previous book's in the series in this book. Especially Jenny and Mick who had a small story happening in this book. I am hoping that we find out just what happens between these two and this story line in the next book.

More stuff that I love, as usual Toni added music to this story too but because it was Christmas theme, she used Christmas music. The Christmas theme was a very nice touch,

The love scenes were really HOT and sensual. Man that Adam sure knew how to please a lady, lucky Sue Ann.

This story was heartwarming and heart wrenching all rolled into one. No need to worry though because it does end happy.

I'll be waiting impatiently I might add for the next Destiny story to be released.

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### **Saly says**

I had heard so much about this book that I didn't think I would enjoy it but I still did maybe because I kept the bar so low.

I understood Sue Ann, even if she was like a pendulum swinging from here to there, within a period of six months her whole life had unravelled, her perfect husband left her for another woman and didn't have the decency to respect her and her kid's feeling and instead paraded her around. Sue Ann was trying to keep her daughter happy, get back to work while keeping it all together, so it was tough and her not having faith in herself enough to start a relationship with Adam, a man she had known all her life was understandable, so was her dill-dallying keeping in mind what she had been through, was it hurtful? Yes, it was but you can't hurry recovery.

When Adam and Sue Ann get snowed in, things get hot and heavy between them which is weird, Adam had been her ex's best-friend for years, with nothing between him and Sue Ann. We also see Adam trying to deal with his scrooge attitude, missing his boys and accepting the failure of his marriage.

All in all I enjoyed the book.

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## Auntee says

**Trust.** Trusting yourself, trusting others, letting your heart be open to love and risking hurt, being vulnerable, and putting the past in the past and moving forward---that's what *Holly Lane*, the fourth book in Toni Blake's small town romance **Destiny** series is all about. And even though the heroine in this story (Sue Ann) gave me some real hair-pulling moments, I loved this story, mainly due to the sheer awesomeness of the hero, Adam Becker.

So here's the story: 33-year-old Sue Ann has been blindsided by her husband leaving her for another woman and her subsequent divorce. Where did she go wrong? How did she not see this coming? She thought her life with her husband and 7 year old daughter (Sophie) was near perfect. How could Jeff do this to her?

Months later over Thanksgiving weekend, Sue Ann decides it's time to get her head together and move forward, so she rents a cabin on Bear Lake for the weekend. But uh-oh, it seems the cabin has been double booked when a not-so-stranger shows up at the door. It's childhood friend (and her ex-husband's best friend), and Destiny's all-around good guy, landscaper Adam Becker, who arrives with his hunky self and grouchy, grinchy mood. Adam's bummed because his twin 7 year old boys are away for the holidays with his ex's parents, and this is the cabin where all three of them usually stay for some holiday fun. Now his boys aren't with him, and his cabin's been invaded by *Sue Ann*, and my, doesn't she look adorable in her skimpy pajamas...but jeez, this is *Sue Ann*! Who he's known *forever*! He can't be attracted to his best friend's ex wife--can he?

*Adam...*

Well you can take it from there. Two attractive people, loads of chemistry, snow-bound in a remote cabin, both feeling a little lost about the direction of their lives, a little bit too much to drink, *loads of chemistry*...oh yeah, you get the picture. But is this a one time, sex-only thing, or could there, *maybe* be something more? Do Sue Ann and Adam have what it takes to develop a real relationship? Or will Sue Ann's trust issues (and boy, does she have trust issues) get in the way?

I loved this story, and I love this entire series. Maybe because it reminds me so much of another favorite series, Robyn Carr's **Virgin River**. The same small town vibe where everyone knows your business, the same quaint atmosphere, the recurring characters (in this series, it's 5 girlfriends) and wonderful storytelling with plenty of character development and loads of details. And plenty of hot romance! Oh yes, Adam and Sue Ann are plenty hot, no question.

Now, what can mar this, just a bit? Sue Ann! While I generally liked her, and could see where she was coming from, her issue with not being able to fully trust Adam at times drove me crazy. There was a scene in the book where Sue Ann was almost there, ready to let go and give her heart completely to Adam, but then he did something (withheld some info from her) and poof! That was it, things were over between them, and I said "WTH, are you *nuts*? Over *that*?" I just thought Sue Ann held Adam to an impossible standard, and expected him to be perfect. *No one* is perfect, Sue Ann, including you, so give the guy a break. I mean, Adam did so many *wonderful* things for Sue Ann and her daughter, I don't know how she couldn't want to hog-tie him and never let him get away from her! With Adam, I thought his good *far* outweighed any bit of bad in him.

So yes, Sue Ann drove me crazy a bit with her push-pull relationship with Adam, but I still loved the story. Loved the scenes with her girlfriends Jenny (One Reckless Summer), Rachel (Sugar Creek), Tessa (Whisper Falls), and Amy (the upcoming Willow Springs?), and I enjoyed the little side story of Jenny and Mick regarding Jenny's desire to be a mother. I thought Sue Ann's relationship with her young daughter Sophie was spot on, and I understood her mama-bear overprotective tendencies, and her desire to make Sophie's first Christmas without her mom and dad together a memorable one, and her job and money worries.

But what really made this book for me was Adam. Yes, he was a bit of a grouch, but I didn't find him *that* bad. To me he was a sexy sweetheart, just in the way he treated Sue Ann and Sophie, and especially with the things he did. (view spoiler) Needless to say, I fell hook-line-and-sinker for him!

Fans of this series, you're in for a treat. I think you'll like and maybe love Sue Ann, and *adore* Adam, and you'll root for Sue Ann to *come to her senses already!* Let go and embrace the awesomeness of Adam Becker! How many times in life does a guy like that come around? *Holly Lane* had me turning the pages madly, and sighing and wishing for *just a bit* more when it was all over. The epilogue (view spoiler) 4 1/2 stars

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\*I received this ARC from Netgalley\* (thank you Lindsey!)

### **Fani \*loves angst\* says**

4.5 stars

A christmas romance to warm the soul. Sweet and tender, and despite this being a premise I don't generally like (heroine falling for her ex's best-friend), it worked here, probably because Adam was so lovable:) I know some readers had issues with Sue Ann's cold behavior at times, but being a practical person myself, I can't give her fault for taking the practical aspects of their liaison into consideration and resisting her heart's desire for so long; I too happen to believe that especially when there are kids in the mix, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Another great, feel-good story from Toni Blake.

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### **?Karlyn P? says**

4+ stars.

Great holiday romance! Holly Lane is a good book for anyone wanting to get into the holiday mood. In addition to a great second-chance-at-love romance between Adam and Sue Ann, Toni Blake subtly (and cleverly) blends one of the great classic holiday stories -- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens -- into a her own magical retelling. There was so much holiday cheer included with this story, I felt like I was watching a great Christmas movie mixed with a warm and sexy romance. Seriously, make some hot cocoa, toss your favorite holiday throw over your lap, light the fire or some candles, turn on some old holiday music in the back ground, and then snuggle up with this book.

So what is a girl to do when she might be falling in love with her

ex-husbands best friend? And what is a guy to do when his friend's ex-wife is driving him mad with desire? And why does it keep snowing every time they are alone?

Sue Ann's world has been spinning ever since her husband left six months earlier for another woman. On top of that, the ex has been shamelessly parading the new lover all over town. Now she's a single mom looking for work, and the last thing she needs is anything else making it more complicated. She needs a break and decides to rent a cozy little cabin just for herself while the ex has their daughter.

Nice-guy Adam has been just miserable since his crazy ex-wife's family took the only thing he cares about – his seven year old twin sons – away for a month long ski vacation over the holidays. He's making everyone around him just miserable too, so he is looking forward to spending time alone in the cabin she rents every year. That is until Both Sue Ann and Adam find themselves together by double booking the same cabin during a terrible snow storm.

Adam and Sue Ann begin a steamy affair that quickly becomes far deeper, but their lives are just too complicated for a relationship. There are deep trust issues to work out, urgent personal matters to attend to, and their once simple life is now moving so fast it's hard to catch their breath. But in small town Destiny, they simply can't avoid each other.

I honestly loved this book, and I think Adam was one of the best hero characters in the Destiny series so far. LOVED him! What a great guy. He isn't a perfect kind of guy. He made mistakes in his last marriage that he still struggles with, and he even has a short temper, but he would go to the ends of the earth for Sue Ann and her daughter.

Sue Ann was also great in her own way, and made a fiercely protective mother, but I did get frustrated with her too. In the beginning it made perfect sense to keep her relationship with Adam as platonic as possible, but I found her pushing him away less and less convincing as the story unfolded. But when she was with Adam, I loved her.

The story was holding a high 4.5-5 star rating for me up until the very end. Sigh. I was on such a high at this point, but the ending was a bit too farcical for my tastes. I thought Adam and Sue Ann deserved a bit better resolution. (Don't worry, there was a great HEA!) I also would have liked it if some of what happened at the very end happened a bit earlier in the story, but I was still pleased as punch to see it all happen.

Over all, the story was fun, sexy and laced with great holiday cheer. I highly recommend it to fans of the Destiny series or fans of holiday romances.

I got this book as an ARC copy provided by the Author and Netgalley.com.

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### **Karla says**

Wonderful! I just could not put it down. When I read the prologue I felt my heart crack for Sue Ann, and I wondered how she could come back from this devastating beginning, or for her, the end of the life she had known. Adam Becker, that's how. Sweet, charming, good guy Adam Becker, only he's had a bit of a

personality change, and not in a good way, except when it comes to Sue Ann. I thought she might annoy me, but I felt her strength, and understood her need to set things right in her life before she could trust and love someone else. Adam is that guy, and what ensues is a romantic, passionate, magical, heartwarming, story about a second chance at love. It was like *Miracle on 34th street*, except this was Holly Lane in Destiny Ohio, so cliché, but it worked.

An added bonus was the side story with Mick and Jenny, my favorite characters from this series, although Adam and Sue Ann have them on the run!

I look forward to returning to Destiny and wonder who, and what Toni Blake has in store for us next. Logan and Amy?! Whoever, whatever, I can't wait to come back to Destiny!

Thanks Kathleen for introducing me, not only to this series, but to Toni Blake and her alter ego, Lacey Alexander. It's all been good!

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### **KatLynne says**

A sweet, warm holiday romance.

Adam Becker is divine. Having grown up in the town of Destiny, he is known for his kindness and always there to lend a helping hand. A people's person for sure. He is such a sweetie and I really liked him. Divorced with twin sons that are away for the month, he is feeling down and not looking forward to a Christmas without his children. Already having a cabin booked at Bear Lake, he decides to continue their annual tradition and stay there himself.

Sue Ann is still reeling from the betrayal of her ex and their divorce. One of her biggest concerns is for her seven year old daughter and how she will cope this first Christmas without her father at home. Sue Ann is determined to make this Christmas special but is definitely not in the holiday mood. Thinking that a weekend getaway will help her relax and maybe gather more courage, she books a cabin at Bear Lake.

Throw in an unexpected snow storm, one cabin overbooked and these two long time friends find themselves sharing a night...and what a night!

But as a new day dawns, reality sinks in. After all, Adam is her ex's best friend and Sue Ann is dealing with major trust issues! Is there any hope that these two can have a second chance at love?

This is a sweet, warm romance full of small town charm, holiday magic, hot, steamy lovin' and two people who have been hurt by love and their journey on letting go and having faith to love again.

I enjoyed revisiting old friends and catching up with their news. Mich & Jenny Brody have a situation that caused me concern and I was very glad to see it resolved.

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## **Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

### **Posted on Under the Covers**

All I want for Christmas is Adam Becker!!!!

I've always been a fan of Toni Blake but I think she really stepped up in this story. HOLLY LANE is Sue Ann's story and for readers who have followed the Destiny series, they may be in for a little shock when they realize that the hero is not Sue Ann's husband, Jeff but actually his best friend, Adam!

In the previous books of the series, Sue Ann had the perfect life. She has a great husband, the perfect little daughter named Sophie, a beautiful home and a great job that she enjoyed. But then suddenly, Sue Ann's life is turned upside down when she learns that Jeff has fallen in love with another woman and wants to leave her. The divorce is swift and Jeff's decision to marry his new girl, Ronni is even swifter, causing Sue Ann to lose her balance for awhile.

In an attempt to calm down and brood a little (as she is entitled to do), Sue Ann decides to rent out a cabin for herself during Thanksgiving weekend to just relax. Unfortunately –or fortunately, depending on how you see it, fate has other plans for her. In comes the grumpy Adam Becker who usually rents this cabin out at this time, but by some miraculous mix up, Sue Ann ends up in his cabin and the only way to keep warm through the blazing winter storm is to have smokin', balls-to-the-wall, burn-my-fingertips-hot sex!

“Then he was situating her hips, pushing her down onto him, and making her cry out at the intense delight of being so forcefully filled.”

That is just a tease of why I love Adam Becker so much! The first sex scene is one of the sexiest I've read in awhile and I think it's because Blake nicely displayed Sue Ann's hesitation, her curiosity and her excitement, together making it about letting loose and forgetting about what wrong has been done to her recently. I rejoiced as this happened because what Sue Ann endures is tragic and has the potential for her to become bitter.

As I was reading this book, someone asked me how I felt about Sue Ann. Did I think she held back for too long, not trusting Adam fully with her heart? For a second there, I thought she did. After the stunt Adam pulled on Christmas morning, I really thought Sue Ann would see just how amazing Adam is, but when she didn't, I got scared. But that was promptly swept away when Jeff barges into Destiny again with Ronni, showcasing just how fragile and hurtful this experience is. HOLLY LANE spans approximately a month and there is no way Sue Ann could go from missing the presence of her ex-husband to suddenly loving his best friend so quickly and in a way that was believable. I think Blake did a great job of showing readers the up-and-down journey of experiencing betrayal and learning to trust once again, because it's not so easy in real life, why would it be so simple in a fictional novel? I admire the effort Blake put into this novel not just to make this a sweet and fun holiday-themed novel, but one that has substance and a whole lot of heart too. I adored HOLLY LANE to bits so much so that I believe it is my new favorite holiday read ever.

P.S. We also get updates on Jenny and Mick in this book! Some parts broke my heart but I still loved it!

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## **Manda Collins says**

Another fabulous installment in Toni Blake's Destiny series. Loved all the allusions to A CHRISTMAS CAROL and loved that Adam turned out to be as great a guy as he's seemed all along. I was shocked when I learned who his heroine was. Sue Ann and Jeff seemed so happy together, but one of the lessons of this story is that things aren't always what they seem. Who knew Jeff would turn into such an asshat? Not me. Fortunately, Adam is just perfect for our Sue Ann, and I loved the circumstances that brought them together. I love me some "snowed in and trapped in a cabin" stories! And there were lots of opportunities for "reindeer games" as Adam called them, as well as some really heartfelt emotional exchanges between them. Sue Ann was a little bit hard on Adam, I thought, but I got why she was gun-shy about getting into another relationship. I'm just glad she wised up in time for them to have a fabulous HEA! If you're looking for a sexy, fun, heartwarming read to put you in the mood for the holidays, look no further than HOLLY LANE. It's the perfect way to ring in the season.

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## **Lisa says**

As a huge fan on Toni Blakes Destiny series, I was a bit surprised as to whom this story was centered. After all, Sue Ann Simpkins seemed to have a perfectly happy marriage with Jeff. But perhaps of the standard of perfection put on these high school sweethearts, Jeff does an about face and divorces Sue Ann and quickly marries another woman, and to add a bit of insult, the new woman isn't even younger or prettier...she is just average so Sue Ann knows that it is true love. Sue Ann is blindsided by all of this and decides to take a weekend away at a small cabin to help clear her mind and get ready for the hustle and bustle of the upcoming holiday season. She knows she needs to make sure her daughter, Sophie, has a wonderful Christmas.

Adam Becker is in a bit of a Scroogish mood. His twin boys are spending a month away at a ski resort with his ex and he is naturally quite bummed out. He heads to a cabin in the mountains that he rents every year on the same weekend and is faced with an unpleasant surprise. His best friends (up to Jeffs divorce) ex-wife is there, Sue Ann. There was a bit of confusion during registration and it has started to snow quite heavily and there are no other cabins available so the two agree to share the bunks. But even though Adam and Sue Ann have known each other for most of their lives, they both see each other in a new light and this leads to one verrry steamy night in the cabin! Phew! But just as Sue Ann is letting down her guard a tiny bit, Adam reveals one of the reasons behind his divorce and her walls go right back up. Oh, but that magical snow that always seemed to be falling helps keep Adam and Sue Ann in contact (physically and emotionally) with each other and Adam deepens his relationship with Sophie, who is his goddaughter, but the drama with Jeff and his requests to stop spousal support and his calling Adam as a character witness keep these two battling wills. But will the holiday season filled with reindeer and snow and a special kitty help Sue Ann let down her guard to trust her heart to another?

Toni Blake has quickly become one of my favorite contemporary authors and I love her Destiny series and Holly Lane is the perfect holiday companion to an already fabulous series. She took a topic seen all too often in todays world and showed how true love can blossom from a very unexpected turn of events. I felt that Sue Anns feelings and her wall she had built up around herself was very true to how any woman would feel in the same circumstances and her love of her daughter and desire to do what was right for Sophie was spot on. When Adam (as Santa) tells Sophie he will try to bring a real reindeer for her, Sue Ann is quite upset and even though it was the best thing to say at the time, Sue Ann is heartbroken at the thought of disappointing her daughter on Christmas morning. And even though I saw the happy result coming, I still had happy tears

in my eyes. Actually, I sniffled quite a bit throughout this book. Toni Blake has a knack for writing emotional, sexy stories that will pull your heart strings and leave a big happy smile on your face and I know I can not wait for more. (Amy, I'm talking about you!) And fans on this series will be happy to know that Mick and Jenny have a wonderful, emotional side story that I thought played out perfectly! Overall, this is a perfect Christmas story, based loosely on A Christmas Carol, that will truly put you in the mood for the upcoming holidays! 5 stars

*I received this book from the publisher via netgalley.com*

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### **SofiaSevero says**

DNF

Ok i'm sorry but I can't do this anymore.

It is extremely rare for me not to finish a book, and I always feel really guilty afterwards. I mean, maybe it wouldn't be that bad. Maybe,just maybe,characters would change,things would happen, it could end with a bang !

But I dont seem to be able to even open the pdf once again to continue it from when I left it.

All my reviews are about personal enjoyment. And for me, this book was not the one.

For once, it starts right off with one of the things I hate reading about the most. A divorce. Then, it introduces another thing I really don't like to read about. Kids from previous marriages. This situation is not only for the getting-a-divorce woman but also for the I-already-went-through-a-divorce new love interest.

Her whining got on my nerves. I understand her situation and she has a reason to be feeling sorry for herself but honestly, I dont care. And I dont care if that makes me a terrible person either because we all have enough whining in real life already >.<

Maybe it was all because I was already not liking the story, but I managed to not like the sex scenes either. I had just read "Tangled" by Emma Chase, and I was used to that kind of writing instead.

So that's about it. I was looking for a snowy fireplace kind of read and this totally has the scenery I was looking for. Just not the cuteness of a first meeting and the magic in the air.

If you, by any chance, have that kind of book to recommend me, please do ! I'm incredibly eager for a decent snowy read !

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