



## Christmas with the Colburns

*Keely Brooke Keith*

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## **Christmas with the Colburns** Keely Brooke Keith

It's Christmastime in Good Springs, and Lydia Bradshaw is eager for the light at the end of her year—the Colburn family's big holiday gathering. When she discovers none of her siblings are coming back to the village this year, she believes Christmas will be ruined. As Lydia faces a gloomy holiday in the Colburn house, an unexpected romance brightens her favorite season. Will it be enough to rekindle the light of Christmas?

Spend Christmas with the Colburns in this inspirational holiday novella. If you like the traditional setting and sweet romance of Amish Fiction but are looking for something new, read Christmas with the Colburns today to jump into a fast-paced story of Christmastime in a hidden land.

Holiday recipe included!

## **Christmas with the Colburns Details**

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Author : Keely Brooke Keith

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## From Reader Review Christmas with the Colburns for online ebook

### **Andrea says**

This was a very sweet visit to the Uncharted series. Wonderful characters!

Lessons of accepting loss and change. A voice from the past helps Lydia deal with the sadness that changes in traditions caused her.

Though it wasn't the same, Christmas at the Colburns was still wonderful.

\*I won a copy of this audiobook in an online giveaway. No review was requested.

The opinion expressed is entirely my own.

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### **Brent Soderstrum says**

This is a short novella based on the Uncharted series Keith has written.

In this short story Lydia is getting ready to celebrate Christmas and many of her siblings will be unable to attend since they have plans with their new families. This disappoints Lydia and she gets a little depressed because the family traditions are falling by the side she thinks. Marrying into another family will effect the family traditions you have grown up with since now you are dealing with another side of the family who also has family traditions. This is an issue all of us deal with.

I enjoyed the story but like many short stories they end too soon. I like how God plays a part in this bringing good out of what we perceive as a bad situation. I like the quote "God is never surprised by our circumstances."

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### **Miranda A. Uyeh says**

This story portrays a theme beyond the traditional Christmas message. With major emphasis on family traditions, one can note that this is a story that can work for just about any season/non-season. Though a novella, and so a fast read, the elements that put the story together aren't lacking in any way that will disturb the overall wholesomeness of the story. Characterization, plot, setting, and theme are delicately and skillfully handled so that it feels like a novel, too, which in my opinion, is a sweet bonus. The characters of the Uncharted Series, already firmly rooted in their roles by now, take on a different stage than what we're used to—the Colburns have always been one in everything, but for the first time, as life moves forward with the event of many changes, some traditions had to be let go for new ones to be born. Clearly, the message that man wasn't made for the benefit of tradition, but vice versa, was something to note and applaud.

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### **Jenark says**

What a perfect story, right here as the holidays are gearing up to begin. The holidays can be so wrapped up in tradition and Christmas With The Colburns reminds us that eventually traditions must change or evolve. We

can face change by kicking and screaming like a toddler or embrace the new normal.

I enjoyed getting another peak into the Colburns family's lives. And I believe I especially enjoyed this novelette because it focused on Lydia and how she handled broken traditions; I saw myself in her.

This story gives us the chance to examine ourselves and all the "must haves" that come with Christmas. Is the birth of Jesus any less amazing without the twinkling lights, pile of presents, and plastic Santa in the yard? Being from the south, I've heard a bit to much from my northern in-laws that Christmas just isn't Christmas without snow. However Jesus was born in a barn without a tree, fake Santa, nor twinkling lights and He's the true reason we celebrate. Maybe less would remind us more of Jesus.

\*This book was given to me by the author for my reading pleasure. I enjoyed it so much I had to share a review. I only wish it was a full novel because it's such an engaging read.

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### **Teressa says**

"A Delightful Novella for the Holidays and Christmas"

"Christmas with the Colburns" was a charming, sweet novella. I like that it was clean and I especially enjoyed revisiting characters I've been familiar with before. Lydia is such a wonderful person. I love the way Isabella gave her a book that had belonged to her mother as she tries to keep her own family traditions strong. This book sparked the Christmas spirit in me as well.

There was a great message here. And for me that message was that it doesn't matter where you are and who you spend the holidays with. It's about unconditional love and giving oneself to others and remembering the true meaning of Christmas. Things may not always turn out the way one expects but minus expectations, they turn out the way they're meant to be.

Keely Brooke Keith is a wonderful author and I love the Cherry Salad recipe and will be trying it for the holidays. What a delightful gift.

Kate Fisher's narration was perfection. She has a nice tone in her voice with the right inflections for Lydia. She does an exceptional job and I could listen to her read all day. I hope there'll be more of this series and if so, I hope she continues to narrate it.

I definitely recommend giving this book a listen as well as the "Uncharted" series. All are terrific.

Audiobook received in exchange for an honest review.

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### **stella says**

#### **Good reading**

I enjoyed all this authors books.Loved the characters and the land.It would be great if we all could live this way.I want to read all her books!

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### **Jasmine says**

Christmas comes to the Land...

While reading the previous books in the Uncharted Series I had wondered several times if they celebrated Christmas, and if so, how and what were their traditions. I was quite pleased to dive into Christmas With Colburns and find out.

Sadness and joy fill the pages of this slim little book as once again Keely Brooke Keith transports readers to the Land.

I sat down and read this delightful little novella in around a couple of hours. It was definitely easy to get lost in the pages. I quickly sympathized with Lydia's disappointment and honestly thought that at least her closer siblings should have given her a little consideration and I felt a bit put out with them. But things do have a way of working out even if it isn't quite in the way we expect.

I truly enjoyed how the story was laid out, with the past and Lydia's present coming together in surprising ways.

If you've read any of the other Uncharted books or love Christmas novellas you won't want to miss Christmas With The Colburns from Keely Brooke Keith.

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### **Kim Gregory says**

This is the fourth book in this series and it is more a novella compared to the others. I liked the message in this story - basically, "It's not about you!" Things weren't going the way Lydia wanted them to go at Christmastime and she was getting very discouraged until her aunt gave her a short journal from Lydia's mother. It was a time in her mom's life that was during Christmas and it taught her that she needed to think about others first. I went through a lot of emotions in this one.

This is a clean read.

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### **Katie W says**

I have enjoyed reading about this hidden community and their lives in an uncharted land. What a fun treat to spend Christmas with them and get another story out of it!

Lydia is the beloved heroine from Book 1, and I liked reading about her and her family after the happily ever after. It isn't easy to balance a family and a career as demanding as Lydia's, as she soon discovers. Lydia is a character deeply entrenched in tradition and change isn't easy for her. She's feeling nostalgic and it's hard to think about the holiday traditions being different. A change in attitude and her outlook on life is in order and a family secret and a romance may be just the things to help.

I loved the descriptions of daily life in this place, as well as the descriptions of the traditions. The added recipe sounds good and like one I may have to try. As usual, I'm excited to see what happens next in this land

and with these people, who are quickly seeming like friends.

Content: mild inspirational elements; mild romance; nothing else of note. Clean!

\*I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Beverly Laude says**

Lydia Bradshaw is a Medical Doctor, young wife and mother. Between taking care of her infant, Andrew, her blind, aging Great-Aunt Isabelle and her patients, she doesn't have much time for herself.

When her siblings decide to spend Christmas somewhere else instead of at the Colburn house, Lydia is upset and saddened. Her Aunt Isabelle seems to sense this and gives Lydia a journal written by Lydia's mother. While Lydia reads her mother's story about the happiest time of her life, Lydia finds her joy returning for the season.

This short novella is inspirational, heartwarming and entertaining. A great listen for the Christmas holidays, especially if you are finding yourself short on the holiday spirit.

The narrator, Kate Fisher, does a great job and adds a lot to the enjoyment of the book. I was given a copy of this audiobook by the writer/narrator/publisher and chose to review it.

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### **Darla Damron says**

What a fun Christmas story to remind you of the true meaning of Christmas. Not much conflict but just a sweet story about reaching out to others during Christmas.

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### **Iola says**

Keely Brooke Keith sent me a complimentary copy of her Christmas novella as a thank you for reviewing the three novels in the Uncharted series. She didn't ask for a review, but I'm thrilled to write one.

Christmas with the Colburns is a Christmas novella that follows on from the Uncharted trilogy, all of which I've read and enjoyed—and it's probably best to have read the Uncharted novels first, both because they give the history of the Uncharted island, and because there will be some spoilers for those who haven't read them.

However, it's a little different in terms of plot: rather than following a romance and a mystery, as the earlier novels did, it's about Lydia's disappointment at the prospect of not having a traditional Colburn family Christmas, and how an unexpected gift changes her attitude.

It was a short but enjoyable story which gives a little more background to the Colburn family, and hints at some future changes (and romances) in the village of Good Springs. Recommended for anyone who has enjoyed the Uncharted series.

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### **A Holland Reads says**

I loved the Christmas setting of this book. What a perfect way to spend a summer afternoon but to read a Christmas themed book. This was a novella so it read rather quickly, but had the impact of a full length book. I felt for Lydia when she learned that she would be spending the holiday without her family but then things turn around for her. Like all the other books the author's attention to detail really added to the story. A good addition to this series.

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### **deb says**

Lydia Bradshaw is excited about Christmas until things that she expects to happen changes. She will learn that there is more to Christmas than tradition and family does not necessarily have to be your blood relatives.

What a beautiful Christmas story with a subtle, but powerful message. I love part about not allowing bitterness to take root, it is so important to realize that just because things don't turn out the way we want it does mean it is a bad thing. Lydia, learned to embrace the positive things, trust that God always has a better plan, family are those whom you choose to embrace in your circle and Christmas is about sharing the love of Christ. What a truly amazing short story and it will definitely get you in the Christmas spirit.

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### **Kathy Heare Watts says**

#### **GOD IS NOT SURPRISED BY YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

I enjoyed this Christmas story of the Colburn family mainly seen through the eyes of Dr. Lydia Colburn Bradshaw. This book is a spin-off from the Uncharted series and can be read well as a standalone. The plot kept me captivated and is full of emotions, many trying to capture and recreate past family memories. The dialog is open, honest and heartwarming. I especially enjoyed the journal from Lydia's late mother that told more on the family. Lydia is heartbroken that the family traditions are changing and her siblings are starting their own traditions and she feels they are going to ruin Christmas. It hit home as I thought of my own childhood memories, then marrying and moving away and starting new ones for my family, and now dealing with adult children and grandchildren. This is definitely a heartwarming and emotional story. I think reading all the Uncharted books would be very enjoyable. Disclosure: I received an e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions, and ratings are my own.

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