



A Very Coco Christmas

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It's 1985, and eighteen-year-old Coco Pinchard is home in London for Christmas after her first term at Aberystwyth University.

She has started to write, and fallen hopelessly in love with Daniel Pinchard, a devilishly handsome musician from the wrong side of the river. But Coco's overbearing mother has other plans and resumes her campaign for Coco to meet and marry the 'right sort of man', preferably Kenneth, son of her best friends Adrian and Yvonne Rosebury, who will be joining them for Christmas.

As snow falls softly over the city, and Coco tries to juggle a series of hilarious events, the stage is set for a Christmas lunch like no other.

A Very Coco Christmas is a delicious, stand-alone prequel short story to Robert Bryndza's smash-hit Coco Pinchard series, with a glorious cast of characters including Daniel's mother Ethel, sister Meryl - and a turkey called Jean Paul Belmondo...

A Very Coco Christmas Details

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From Reader Review A Very Coco Christmas for online ebook

Labijose says

I just wanted something light and funny to read for Christmas. Light it was, (just about 85 pages), but funny, not so much. Just an occasional smile through the Christmas lunch. It's my second Coco book. Don't know if I will be reading any more of this stuff.

Mark says

Another Team Bryndza book, 'Lost in Crazy Town', I have likened to the fantastic Armistead Maupin 'Tales of the City' books and darn me if Robert Bryndza hasn't pulled another one with Coco! Just like Mary Ann, Mouse, Brian, Mona and, (of course,) Anna Madrigal, Coco and her friends and dysfunctional in-laws have become almost like friends themselves. In particular, there is one instance in this short novella where I got the same thrill as I did on my first reading of 'Tales of the City' when a character, who had not really been described clearly or named, suddenly turned out to be Beauchamp Day or D'Orothea. No; it's **him** (or her)! Towards the end of this story, Coco answers the front door and the character at the door only had to say his first name and I got inordinately excited because I recognised who he was!! I didn't need the following exposition, I'd already got it! (I won't say who, so as not to spoil it for any Coco fans yet to read this book.)

It **did** help me to make more sense of the first book in the Coco series, ("The Not So Secret E-mails of Coco Pinchard"). When I read that and reviewed it, I said that I didn't know what to make of Coco at first, it seemed like the author didn't really know who she was supposed to be and it was only when things started to go wrong for Coco, that I started to actually **like** the character, as she seemed to become more focused and consistent. This book clarified things for me - it was actually **Coco** who didn't really know what or who Coco was! I was torn between wanting to slap her, (as she seems to go around with her mind on other things all the time,) and cuddle her because it really brought back to me that feeling of breaking away from home to go to university and starting out on the journey to the adult you will eventually become. At times it was a little too close to my own experience for comfort - how did Robert Bryndza know that I didn't pick my college by which one offered the best course; I merely looked at a map and picked the ones furthest from home that offered a Graphics degree? (Although not for **quite** the same reason as Coco!)

But this smashing little book isn't just for existing Coco fans. Yes, it is great to find out how Coco met her future husband and his family, (and the character at the door,) and while there weren't any real laugh out loud moments for me, there are enough amusing moments to make it an enjoyable addition to the Coco series, but more than that, it's just a blooming good story. It is by turns funny, appalling, (being reminded of the 1980s fashion faux pas, being someone who lived through them,) and romantic. There are some really beautiful, yet simple, descriptive parts, particularly when Coco is daydreaming off into her romantic world; for instance, the opening passage, when Coco's romantic ruminations turn a windy, soggy Aberystwyth seafront, with its windblown Christmas lights into a magical backdrop with the rain-refracted lights transforming her shabby bedsit into a fairy-lit boudoir.

It is only a short and easy read, but I suggest, (as the first page is designed to allow you to send the book instead of a Christmas card and costing little more than a decent card,) do as I have done and buy several to

send to your more bookish friends as Christmas cards. I promise you they'll thank you for it, as this is perfect material for reading as you crack open the selection box on Christmas Day evening, after the relatives have left and you can relax!

Lisa says

Enjoyable Christmas read with lots of laughs :)

Richard says

When many people think of Christmas, they have in mind some idyllic holiday involving pleasant interaction with family and friends, festive decorations including cheerful fire and Yule log, good food, delightful music playing softly in the background, some time spent on not-too-taxing charity work, and so on. It's a non-sectarian commercialized version of peace on earth and good will to all.

This is the Christmas eighteen-year-old Coco is hoping for. But it's not the Christmas she's going to get, for alas, fate has other things in store. Instead of the ingredients for the ideal holiday celebration described above, what she has on her hands is a recipe for disaster.

Ingredients:

1 intelligent but sensitive teenager with issues and guilty secrets (think Adrian Mole, but slightly older and female).

1 charismatic boyfriend from the "wrong side of the tracks."

1 domineering and upwardly mobile mother (think Hyacinth Bucket, but younger).

1 submissive but caring father (think Richard Bucket, but younger).

2 fashionable guests with grumpy son in tow.

1 party crasher hovering flamboyantly in background.

3 lower-class relatives of boyfriend.

1 cuddly but independent turkey (think James Herriot, but kicked up a notch or three).

Pound, beat and mix ingredients until arms get tired. Place in bowl. Cover with crust of Murphy's Law.

Pinch hard around edges. Place on Kindle or bookshelf heated to room temperature. Read until done. Laugh your head off.

Serves as many as you like.

Maryline M's Bookshelf says

This review was first published at M's Bookshelf - <http://mssbookshelf.blogspot.be>

I was delighted when Robert told me about A Very Coco Christmas. I'm a big Coco fan since reading The Consequences of Love and Sex, so I couldn't wait to join in on one of Coco's Christmases. And as to be

expected from our beloved Coco, it was an... eventful Christmas. In this 'prequella' we see the start of 'Coco Pinchard' and I loved (re-?)meeting some key-characters, people who will stay in Coco's life long after this Christmas Lunch from Hell.

A runaway turkey, a horrible (and I mean HORRIBLE) mother, social hierarchy and snobs, snow and 80's London. Sit back and enjoy this charming and entertaining Christmas novella.

Jonathan Hill says

This book is billed as a prequella to the hit comedy Coco Pinchard series and it was my first encounter with the character. I can say with certainty I'll be encountering her again!

It's a love-story-cum-farce set at Christmas but, unlike in some farces, I really warmed to these characters. They are well-drawn and very funny indeed. As events steam towards the suitably chaotic conclusion, I revelled in spending time with Coco and Daniel and their families, who meet to great comic effect. Hugely enjoyable and very Christmassy too!

Oh, and a turkey almost stole the show and my heart!

Vicki - I Love Reading says

a fun, quick easy read.

Phryynne says

I read every one of this author's crime thrillers as they are published but I only just found out he writes romantic comedy as well! So just to dip my toe into the water I thought I would try this little Christmas novella.

It made an excellent introduction. Coco appeared as a student at Aberystwyth University in Wales and this was her first Christmas after meeting her boyfriend Daniel. Coco's mother is a snob and Daniel's works as a cleaner so when the two families get together for Christmas lunch things are pretty sure to go wrong. Very wrong in fact and very funny.

A delightfully entertaining little book which caused me to load book one in the series onto my Kindle immediately. I am looking forward to seeing lots more of Coco.

Ján Bryndza says

Great Christmas humour. Coco Pinchard at it's best. Especially her mother, such a character :-) Coco meets Ethel for the first time and of course there is huge drama and a turkey called Jean Paul Belmondo... :-)

Lisa says

Yet again Rob has wrote another brilliant book.

I love Coco and all her dramas and a very Christmas Coco does not disappoint it as everything I have come to love from this fantastically funny series starring the one and only brilliant Coco Pinchard.

In this novella we are taken to Coco's past, while she was at college, back when her and Daniel had only just met and begun dating and before she became a writer. I loved the story of how she and Daniel started, the first time she met his mother was hilarious. Ethel as never failed to make me laugh and this was no exception. Other than Coco herself I think the other star of the show is John Paul the turkey. Yes you read right. The turkey, I am not going to say anything to give away his part in the story I'll let you read about him yourself.

Reading about Coco's upbringing was an eye opener too, her mother was the perfect snob, I must admit I knowing Coco as I have come to this was a big surprise and again only added to the hilarity.

We also see how she met Chris for the first time which again wasn't without drama.

Coco's world is fast becoming one of my favourite comedy series and reading how it all began is another piece of her drama filled life I loved reading. I can't wait for more.

Marianne says

A Very Coco Christmas is a prequel in the Coco Pinchard series by British-born author, Robert Bryndza. Coco (Karen to her parents) has come home to England for Christmas after her first term at a Welsh University, with a boyfriend in tow. Daniel and Coco are in love, but Coco is pretty sure her snobbish mother, who already has the ideal man all picked out for her, won't be pleased. Daniel's carol-singing stunt at their door confirms this, and hard words ensue.

A far cry from his Erika Foster series, this short story gives an excellent taste of Bryndza's earlier (and much more light-hearted) writing. Coco's madcap antics combine with some quirky characters (including a turkey called Jean Paul Belmondo) to give the reader some almost-slapstick romcom. There are three full-length novels and another Christmas-themed short story to be enjoyed in this series. Great fun!

Alba says

Originally posted on: <http://addictivechicklit.blogspot.com...>

What a fantastic novella! This 60 pages story is so packed with drama, craziness and laughs! I actually found myself laughing out loud more than once, especially with the fantastic Jean Paul Belmondo, the turkey. This prequella is the perfect introduction for the Coco Pinchard series and I am sure that after reading it, you will be left wanting to know more about this crazy gang.

Robert's style is refreshing and fun and takes you back to the eighties with ease. I highly recommend this short read for this Christmas as it has all the festive ingredients: copious amount of snow and food and a

Christmas dinner full of awkward moments.

Rating: 4,5

La La says

I wasn't expecting to like this as much as I did. It is a simple story, but it has good bones, made a statement, and the ending was hilarious! It even made me want to keep reading about the other adventures of university student, Coco. It was set in 1985, and I was a college student at that time myself, so that was a plus.

Philomena Callan Cheekypee says

I've not read anything by this author but while looking for a Christmas read I thought I'd give this a try. I'm so glad I did as this is a great wee read.

This is a lovely read that introduces us to Coco and some other characters. I found myself loving the characters and wanting to read more. Let's not forget the turkey :) some great laugh out loud moments. I read this in one sitting as I didn't want to put it down.

I'll definitely be reading more of Coco.

Holly says

Fasten those seatbelts; we're going back in time... all the way to 1985 where we meet an eighteen year old Coco as she returns home from University to spend Christmas with her parents in London.

Coco is not relishing the thought of returning home, especially as it means being apart from her gorgeous new boyfriend Daniel Pinchard (who she is pretty sure her mother wouldn't approve of...)

Coco has been in the door less than five minutes when her controlling mother insults her and attempts to set her up with the awful Kenneth Rosebury.

However, an unforeseeable set of circumstances involving turkey's (including one live one) lead Coco to being forced to introduce Daniel to her parents sooner than she anticipated as she invites him round for Christmas lunch. Although it's not just Daniel who'll be coming round to celebrate the big day, but his sister Meryl and his mother Ethel (complete with out-of-date pickled walnuts) will be sharing sprouts with Coco and her parents too...

If you read my blog regularly you'll know that I love the Coco Pinchard series and I am a massive fan of Robert Bryndza's writing and the trend very much continues with *A Very Coco Christmas* because I absolutely loved it (with tinsel on top!)

It was great fun to see a younger Coco and Daniel as they started their relationship as teenagers and it was also fascinating to see how Coco was when she was eighteen (I was delighted to realise that she is exactly the same as she is later on in life!) Things are just as crazy for Coco back in the 80s as they are in the modern day.

I also loved meeting Ethel for the first time and once again she has the BEST one-liners ever. That woman can do no wrong in my eyes and only she could call a turkey Jean Paul Belmondo...

This may only be a novella but so much is packed into it, a lot happens within these 83 pages and it's an extremely satisfying story. There's so much drama and so much comedy to this story, I really don't know how Robert makes it all happen, but he does, and he does it exceptionally well. There's the perfect blend of family, relationships, hilarity and love, as is the case with all of the Coco books, only with this one there's an added extra...CHRISTMAS! Could it be any more perfect!?

My only criticism with this novel was that it had to end. Seriously, I love Coco so much I could just read about her all day every day and it was fantastic getting to know her when she was younger and getting the low-down on how things started with Daniel.

If you're a die-hard Coco fan or have yet to discover the joy of Robert Bryndza's books then this will appeal to you either way. It's great to go back in time with these characters and at the same time it's also a brilliant introduction to them all. If you only buy one Christmas story this festive season then make it this one, it's the best 99p you'll spend!

Lorraine Sears says

What a fantastic Christmas present Robert Bryndza has written for fans of his fabulous and funny Coco Pinchard series, with the festive 'A Very Coco Christmas'.

This novella take us back to Coco's student days and establishes the basis of her relationships with Daniel, Ethel, Chris and Meryl. For a child of the Eighties, such as myself, this was such a brilliant and nostalgic trip down memory lane to a time when Christmas really was about family, not matter how bad they were. And on that note, Coco's mother is something else.

Having devoured the first two novels in the series and fallen completely in love with Coco and her wild antics, it was a bit strange to go back in time to when she and Daniel were so deeply in love and could do no wrong for each other. I almost wanted to shout at the page, 'Don't do it, Coco!'

The novella is no more than an hours read, but what an hour. It was such a joy and went far too quickly. It was so good to spend time with the young idealistic Coco; I seriously didn't want the story to end. I hope Robert Bryndza has many more adventures with Coco to share with us, because I just can't get enough!

Julie says

This was the first 'Coco' book I'd read so for me it was the first in the series rather than a prequel. For a moment I thought I'd been caught up in a time warp. Set in 1985 it immediately took me back to my own University days and I had to double check when it was actually written as it captures the spirit of the time marvellously. Some great characters that rise above being stereotypes. A lovely short Christmas read.

Ana says

Originally posted on This Chick Reads

Copy provided by author in exchange for an honest review

A Very Coco Christmas is the prequel to the Coco Pinchard series and is a funny little book. With just bit over 50 pages, it's a quick yet very enjoyable read which even those who are not fan of novellas will like.

I'm not the biggest fan of novellas, however lately I've started to appreciate more these short reads, especially since I didn't have much time to read. However, this summer I read the third book in the Coco Pinchard series (Coco Pinchard, The Consequences of Love and Sex) and I knew I'm gonna enjoy this one too. I really really love Robert's writing and his sense of humour, it's fresh and effortless.

Coco Pinchard is sure one great character, and not the usual (stereotypical) chick lit heroine. In this novella, Robert goes back in time to where it all started, back when Coco was at the University and met her boyfriend Daniel. It's also the time when Karen became Coco and started to rebel against her family, especially her mother. There are just too many funny situations and this is more of a humorous book than a romantic one, which is why I love this series so much. Romance books have become too safe of a territory, so reading Robert's books has been really refreshing and just what I needed during some very exhausting days. They are the perfect books you need to relax and forget all about your every day problems.

However, there's one thing I really found bit annoying and that was Ethel's way of talking. As a character, I really like her, she's crazy (in a good way) and it will grow on you fast. However, her dialect or the way she talks was so so hard for me to follow. Sometimes, I'd had to go back, reading these sentences a couple of times just to understand what she was saying. I know what Robert wanted to achieve with this, and it's cute to a certain extent. But since I'm not that familiar with Brit dialects or slang, it was kind of hard to fully enjoy this novella and give it 5* instead of 4*. I actually had the same problem with #3 in the series, and this was also one of the reasons (if not the main one) for rating that one 4* too.

But, don't be discouraged by this, A Very Coco Christmas is indeed very Coco...and Coco is one of a kind. If you need a short, funny read with bit of Christmas sparkle, look no further.

Jean says

The Christmas holidays can be a crazy time of year, and Robert Bryndza shows just how zany things can get in his short story, A Very Coco Christmas (Prequel Short Story). Having read only his first two thriller novels, I wasn't sure what to expect, although I was aware that he has also written romantic comedies. But what can happen when a college girl from an upper class family brings her boyfriend's lower class family over for Christmas dinner? Will it be lovely, or will it spell disaster – with a capital D?

Karen, known to her university friends as Coco, is hopelessly in love with Daniel. The trouble is, she is leery of telling her parents about him, since she feels that they are snobbish and judgmental. Daniel, on the other hand, is happy to introduce Coco to his mother Ethel, who is one of those “what you see is what you get” kind of gals. I got a big kick out of Ethel. The other character I loved was John Paul Belmondo. I think I'll

just let you read the story to find out about him.

This little holiday tale is a fast read and is thoroughly enjoyable. I went from start to finish in one sitting with a single cup of tea! It brought many smiles and more than a few chuckles. Now I suspect I will have to read the Coco Pinchard series!

5 sparkly stars!

Christine says

Being a big fan of Robert Bryndza's Erika Foster thriller series, I decided to give his lighter writings a go. This is a cute fluffy short novella that introduces the reader to Coco Pinchard, the heroine of the author's Coco Pinchard chick lit series. I finished this in two sittings today as I ate breakfast and lunch. There is nothing deep here, but there are some great laughs. My favorite parts were the scenes with Jean Paul Belmondo who is the turkey striving not to become Christmas dinner, and the rather disastrous Christmas dinner itself. Coco's boyfriend Daniel's mother Ethel is a great character and I hope there will be more of her in the Coco novels. She provides some winning LOLs and helps neutralize Coco's mother, who frankly is a real b***h (Coco's words, not mine, but she's right)!

I saw enough here to pick up the next book in the series. I will save it for when I need some levity after a killer thriller or a bad day. Recommended for all who would like a quick, light, humorous Christmas read.
