



## Home and Heart

*Chris Quinton*

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It's December in the Cotswolds, deep in the heart of England, and Ben Elliot of Home-Safe House & Pet Sitting is looking after Mrs Bonney's home and two dogs while the elderly lady is away for two months recovering from an operation. When her black-sheep grandson, Adam Prescott, turns up on the doorstep, Ben has to take in the stray human as well. Adam, hurting and betrayed by family, boyfriend and Fate, needs to have his faith in others restored, and Ben decides he is the one to do it.

Having gone through an acrimonious split with his boyfriend, Adam has no home, no money, no job and nowhere to go, except his grandmother's house. The son of an abusive, violent father, there's a lot of anger and resentment in him, demons he must exorcise. When he learns an unpleasant truth about his father, Ben helps him come to terms with it, and to find a new direction for his life - together, Ben hopes. But then Adam's ex-boyfriend shows up, offering him the world on a platter if only Adam will come back to him.

Christmas may not be a time of celebration for Ben.

## **Home and Heart Details**

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## From Reader Review Home and Heart for online ebook

### Ami says

This one is an endearing tell about "getting back on your saddle" again theme. Adam shows up on his grandma's house, after being burned -- losing his business, having a bad break-up his lover, and broke as well. But with Ben's positive attitude, Adam is able to get back on his feet, and I guess, along the way, find his real "home" as well.

I like the contrast character of these two men, and it is written so well. Ben is a positive guy while Adam is more grumpy (life hasn't been good on him, I guess). I like how Ms. Quinton makes an approach towards domestic abuse in not a simple way. See, Adam and his mother suffered from abuse from his Dad. However, after several years, turns out that those high-and-lows that his father was experiencing were symptoms of Bipolar Disorder. I like the fact that it's not a simple explanation on that.

I enjoy how the relationship between Ben and Adam develops ... how they settle for friendship at first before acting on their strong attraction (by the way, LOVE how Ben shouted his feeling for being in love with Adam, one of my favorite scenes!). The fact that Ben is adamant not being Adam's "rebound fuck" is refreshing.

With wonderful setting -- winter in small English town -- and a couple of such cute dogs(!), it results in a very good and satisfying Christmas-y story.

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### Lauraadriana says

#### 2.5 Stars

I kind of didn't dig this story. I waited and waited for the chemistry to kick in, but it never happened. At least for me. Adam's short fuse and flying off the handle like every 15 minutes got old fast. Also the cliché of the "cold heartless English old lady"...Did not do it for me either. The dogs were awesome...But Ben and Adam's romance was just so-so for me.

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### Candice says

What a wonderful story. A very sweet romance.

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### Serena Yates says

I liked this story, which has a lot of Christmas spirit, two men who are attracted to each other but take the time to build a real relationship, and a lot of realism in how they master their lives. The issues are those we can all relate to: weird exes, the need to find a job to survive, parents who do not always understand us and the attempt to lead an honest life, respecting others' wishes. Oh, and did I mention cute dogs that are true secondary characters in their own rights? I loved them!

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Ben is a man with plans. He knows he wants to get his masters degree, and he works hard to make the money to do so. House and pet sitting is something he likes to do, and his understanding of human (and animal!) psychology helps him with that. When Adam comes along, Ben is surprised how strong the attraction is, but he doesn't let it overwhelm him. Well, with a few small exceptions, he manages to stay in charge.

Adam is hurt, angry and has lost everything – starting with his business and his scheming boyfriend. He is afraid he has also lost his family, since his father abused him years ago, but doesn't know where else to turn except to his grandmother. Luckily, this is where he also runs into Ben, whose 'calm and collected' way of dealing with life may be the total opposite to his, but the attraction and chemistry is definitely still there. Adam has a hard time learning to trust Ben (and I can't blame him), but knows instinctively Ben is different from his crazy ex.

This is a great love story, with wonderful characters and a rich background. It is believable, but still uplifting and I really found myself charmed by what was going on. If you like realism in your stories, but still want lots of romance, if a credible 'villain' who presents a real temptation is your thing and if you like happy endings, you will probably like this book.

NOTE: This book was provided by Silver Publishing for the purpose of a review on Queer Magazine Online

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### **Mandapanda says**

Just couldn't get into this one. It all started too quickly and had zero chemistry.

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### **Arthur says**

[Yet, Adam didn't become a bitter man (although sometimes he

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### **Kyra says**

Unfortunately I have to agree with those who mentioned the lack of chemistry. Friendship, yes. But when Ben started thinking about building something lasting with Adam (after knowing him for a day or two) it just seemed to come out of nowhere. I was like huh, did I miss something? I usually like Chris Quinton's books but she didn't convince me with this one.

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### **Simsala says**

#### **3,5 stars**

A nice and somehow quiet romance. Troubled and temporarily homeless man meets his knight in shining armor. Including two cute dogs and a nice but stubborn old lady this story is full of cliches and cardboard

characters what would bother me more at any other time. But it works as a sweet and light Christmas story...

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### **Meggie says**

The idea for the plot was interesting, but the way it was written, just didn't click for me. The feelings were not there and couldn't be felt. Sure friendship, between Ben and Adam, was there but this love relationship just didn't fit the picture. It wasn't real at all. Adam had too many problems to be able to focus on Ben as a lover or more. So no, this story didn't convince me. And the attraction wasn't there at all.

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### **Karen says**

Ben knows what he wants and he's got a plan, he's working on getting it.

Adam is adrift his world had blown up in his face, yet again and he's lost, in need of love and support. So he turns to the one person who in the past offered him some semblance of security...his grandmother. But when the door to Grandma's house opens it's not grandma who's there but Ben, the sexy, optimistic house-sitter, who in spite of everything gets under Adam's skin and in spite of his efforts finds himself caring for this weary, worn family member of his latest assignment.

As the two find themselves forming a tentative friendship they also find themselves caring for each other more than might be advisable. But when matters of the heart are involved sometimes timing isn't always everything.

Home and Heart was a quick enjoyable holiday read, while it didn't enchant me as much as this author's previous book that I read. I had no problem finishing it.

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### **Elsbeth says**

This book wasn't bad, it was just kind of boring and I missed the usual British snark.

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### **Ann says**

3.5 Stars

This was a sweet story with just enough heartbreak and angst to keep it interesting. I would have liked it to be longer though. I liked Adam and Ben together and their interactions were really well done. It read like two real guys getting to know one another and I love that back and forth banter.

Adam's story is a heartbreaker and Ben was the perfect match for him. I would like to know more about Ben too. He's such a likable guy, but I mostly felt like I knew him through the context of his job or other people. When he really shares his feelings with Adam I finally felt like I got a taste of him and then the story was about over.

## **Lillian Francis says**

Sweet fluffy story that made me feel all warm inside. A definite reread for days I need a literary hug.

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## **Vio says**

### **3.5 Stars**

An enjoyable and sweet romance. Two adorable dogs and a crotchety old grandma. Adam and Ben are good and loving, cute. I did want to shake Ben he was much too controlled at times. He needed to let fly and grab Adam and love him.....which he does eventually and very nicely.

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## **T.A. Webb says**

Ben is a homesitter, taking on assignments for Home-Safe to earn money while he saves up enough to go back to University to get his Masters in Psychology. This ten week assignment for the crotchety old Ms. Bonney, while she recuperates from surgery and takes a nice cruise will allow him some breathing room. And he gets to dog sit. But he is warned, no shenanigans with loose women - like that will be an issue.

Adam is Ms. Bonney's grandson. He has lost his business, his lover, and, he thinks, his family. After sleeping in his car for the past four days, taking a chance on asking his grandmother for help is looking like a better and better idea. But will she turn her back on him again?

When Adam shows up at Ms. Bonney's door, he meets Ben. Will the initial attraction win out, or will Adam's irritation and temper?

There is an easiness and sweetness to Ms.Quinton's writing that draws me in and makes me care about these two very different men. Where Ben is all glass-half-full, Adam is rough edges and elbows and angles. Ben has been to college, ha family that is willing to help him out, has a plan for the future, and is looking for that one man to complete his life. Adam, as we see, has a much rougher backstory, and sometimes is his own worst enemy.. But what I really like about these two characters - they are realistic, behave as real men would, want something more than sex, and, eventually, act to get it.

The integrity in the two men shows up in the writing also. Ben refuses to compromise this promises to Ms. Bonney. Adam refuses to allow to allow Peter, the ex he runs away from, to run his business or his love life. Neither settle. And Ms. Quinton structures this charming story simply - boy meets boy and they fall in love - and sticks with it in tone, language and feel. A small English town as the setting, Christmas the time of year, and two characters who play off of each other so well. It is wonderful when a writer commits to an idea, sets the stage, then spins out a yarn that wraps around you like a warm blanket in front of the fire on a cold winter's night.

What better present to have under the tree than this quiet gem of a story from a writer who knows what she is doing. Happy holidays to you too, Ms.Quinton.

Hot chocolate for the soul.

Tom

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