



# The Christmas Wish: All I Want for Christmas / First Impressions

*Nora Roberts*

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**Fall for romance this holiday season...**

## **All I Want For Christmas**

Identical twin boys Zeke and Zach only want one gift from Santa this year: a new wife for their lonely single dad, Mac Taylor, a builder who fixes things up in their small town. But convincing their love-wary dad that their music teacher, Nell Davis, is not only part of Santa's plan, but Mac's soul mate, isn't quite as easy as they'd hoped...

## **First Impressions**

When Vance Banning moves to rural Maryland, all he wants is peace, quiet and to keep away from women. The last thing he needs is his outspoken—yet infuriatingly sexy—neighbor, Shane Abbott, getting into his business. But he has no idea how determined Shane is when it comes to giving a helping hand—or a loving heart.

## **The Christmas Wish: All I Want for Christmas / First Impressions Details**

Date : Published October 18th 2016 by Silhouette (first published 1994)

ISBN : 9780373282289

Author : Nora Roberts

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**Nora Roberts**

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## From Reader Review The Christmas Wish: All I Want for Christmas / First Impressions for online ebook

### Sharon says

This book consists of two novellas: "All I Want for Christmas" and "First Impressions."

In the first tale, identical twins Zeke and Zach ask Santa Claus to send their widowed father a woman to be "the mom." They ask that she have "yellow hair" and like little boys. To their surprise, just such a woman turns up to be the school music teacher.

In the second tale, Shane returns to her home town to open up an antique shop and meets a mysterious man whom she is sure is "the one" without even knowing why.

Needless to say, there are many slips betwixt cup and lip in both stories before they get to the HEA endings.

The first story was cute, and the second one reminded me of "Pride and Prejudice." Fun, quick Christmas romance reads on both counts.

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### ~?~Autumn♥♥ says

This is my first and my last book by Nora Roberts. These are not for me!

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### Marilyn Fontane says

The Christmas Wish by Nora Roberts is one of 3 books I picked up as remainders after Christmas last year and saved for this. It is not actually a novel, but a collection of two novellas originally published in 1984 and 1994. Only this short collaboration is from 2016. Nevertheless, both are fun stories.

"All I want for Christmas" is about twin boys, Zach and Zeke, who are in first grade and are being raised by their father, Mac Taylor, and have been since they were born and his wife left the three of them. Naturally Mac is a lot protective of his sons.

They decide (very early so he will have time to provide it) to ask Santa for one big gift this year--the mom. They tell their father they want two-wheelers, but decide not to ask for anything more; they don't want to be greedy and risk losing their big gift. When school starts, they meet Nell Davis, the new choir teacher in the high school. They decide she would be perfect to fill the role they want. The rest of the novella takes us to Christmas to see what Santa does about this unusual request. It is a lovely Christmas story.

"First Impressions" does end at Christmas, but is hardly a Christmas story. It is very romantic and a lovely story, however. Two people, neither of whom realizes they need someone else, find one another--with a lot of complications. Shane Abbot inherits her grandmother's old farmhouse and decides to quit teaching history in high school and fix the farmhouse up to include a Civil War Museum and an antique shop, selling first of all many of the pieces in the old homestead. Since the house is in general disrepair, she works like a demon to do so.

Vance Banning is a business executive who is licking his wounds and using his hands to recover from a disaster of a marriage and boredom with the business life. The home he is restoring with his own carpentry skills is next door (across and down the lane) from Shane's home. Both Vance and Shane are proud of their

own independence and hard working skills. But life gets complicated. It is a very romantic and engaging story. Who cares about Christmas?

It was a fun book to read. I liked both stories. The characters, the plots were engaging. The title of the book is misleading; the dates are hardly recent. But I got it for almost nothing and truly enjoyed reading it. Who could ask for more?

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### **Diana Lester says**

Couldn't get into it. Tried both stories and didn't finish it.

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### **? Kimberly says**

All I Want for Christmas narrated by Patrick Lawlor shared the story of twins Zeke and Zach, who ask Santa for a Mommy who bakes cookies and will love their Daddy Mac Taylor. If that synopsis doesn't scream holiday and Hallmark movie, I don't know what to tell you.

The developing romance was adorable and heartwarming. It was fun seeing the children plot as the adults fumbled. Mac has some baggage to overcome but tender moments, holiday spirit and the antics of these twin boys had me wiping a tear and smiling.

I thought Patrick Lawlor was the perfect narrator to captor both the boys and their gruff Dad. 3.5 cups of hot chocolate

First Impressions narrated by Terri Clark Linden shares the friendship and courtship of Vance Banning and Shane Abbott. The tale takes place in rural Maryland during the holiday season. Shane has moved home to her childhood home, leaving a teaching career to open an antique store. Vance has bought the dilapidated property next door. He is grumpy and keeps to himself. Rumor has it he is fixing the property but is unemployed. Shane needs help with some redesigns and repairs in order to convert the first floor into her shop. She hires Vance and the tale that unfolds offered tender moments, growing pains and complications from others that kept me listening into the wee hours.

I loved watching their relationship unfold. Roberts did a fantastic job of allowing me to both understand and admire these characters. She also introduced a few characters that you'll desperately want to smack. We do get a little miscommunication as things are revealed, but I promise it was worth the tension. Roberts gave us some toe curling heat, but she has a way of omitting details while stoking the fire making it one that all will enjoy.

Teri Clark Linden brought the story and characters to life, even her male character. I wouldn't hesitate to listen to a book she narrates. 4 mocha lattes

Audio provided by Publisher. This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Book Reviewer

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### **Ash says**

The first story I liked a bit more but it was way too short. The second one was just too many ridiculous tropes thrown together, and I dislike romances built on "I am rich/famous but I can't tell you because you might not love me" sort of lies.

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### **Joanne says**

All I want for Christmas was a snooze-fest. I finished it barely a day ago and couldn't tell you much about anyone in it.

First Impressions I was liking, but it went off the rails a lot for me at the end.

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### **Capri Kay says**

I loved both these books by Nora Roberts. It was my first time reading and it definitely won't be the last. Both books featured apprehensive heroes hurt by their past lovers with energetic heroines that bring the spark back to their lives. All I want for Christmas was a sweet read and I fell in love with the twins Zack and Zeke. I felt like I was able to bond with the story better due to their innocence. I enjoyed the first half of First Impressions where the hero and the heroine were really getting to know each other but I felt it was lagging behind towards the middle. But it picked up the pace towards the end. That is the only reason I'm giving this book 4 stars. Nevertheless they were good reads.

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### **Sara Jane says**

All I Want for Christmas at least had a decent story line from the beginning. First Impressions had too much romance and not enough story.

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### **Suzi says**

3.5 stars. A good getaway Christmas romance read. Others who have reviewed this seem to like the first story better. I prefer the second. There was just more story to it. It's what gave it the half star boost. The cover says, "Two holiday stories: One great price". Here's a tip, go to your local library. Enjoy getaway stories like this for free.

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### **Kristi Lewis says**

Two Christmas stories in 1 book...great bargain! Both were good reads. All I Want For Christmas was a quick little story about twin boys wanting Santa to bring them a new mom for Christmas. She comes to town as a music teacher and a few mishaps along the way with the boys father.

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Such a sweet story.

First Impressions was an even better. Set in rural Maryland and Shane returns to refurbish her Grans homestead left to her and start a new life, start her own business and hires Vance Banning to help do the repairs and remodel on her home. She falls in love with Vance. Vance tries not to do the same, but can't but help falling for Shane. But he hasn't told her who he really is.....but of course all ends happy ever after. A good book to end my Christmas season!

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### **Kelly says**

Fluff with a typical Harlequin romance plot, but timely for this time of year. I wish the author had focused on All I Want for Christmas and made it a longer story rather than including First Impressions in this book.

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### **Elizabeth Tyminski says**

Two short stories that were basic Christmas fluff with very implausible plots that wrap up very quickly with happy endings. These were shortened Hallmark Christmas movies in book form. Would have rather watched the movie.

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### **Mildred Rupert says**

There were two different stories in this one book and I loved both of them. Nora Roberts is one of my favorite authors. I love reading her stories and I love reading stories about the magic at Christmas Time. I guess the first story "All I Want for Christmas" is my favorite, I love the character of Fred. You gotta read it.

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### **Evelyn says**

Totally enjoyed this book. All I Want for Christmas is a short story but engaging all the same. The twins wish made this a sweet story.

First Impressions is about Shane & Vance. It was an interesting give & take kind of story. I liked how they helped each other.

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