



Snowflakes & Cinnamon Buns

Claire Castle

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Cameron Pearce loves to work hard and play hard. Living in New York City, means lots of men and lots of variety. He isn't looking for love.

When he goes to his small hometown Dickensville for Christmas, food, friends, family and seeing his best friend Levi are what's on the agenda. He also hopes for some friends-with-benefits enjoyment.

Levi Jones owns and runs his own café in Dickensville. He loves the Christmas season and all that comes with it. Decorating, baking, and snow among other things. Another perk is when Cameron visits home and he gets him all to himself.

What will happen when true feelings are revealed and everything is put on the line. Will their friendship survive? Can best friends go from hooking up to a real relationship? Do they even want to?

This book contains delicious cinnamon buns, a cute westie and sexy hot men to warm up your holidays.

Snowflakes & Cinnamon Buns Details

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Author : Claire Castle

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From Reader Review Snowflakes & Cinnamon Buns for online ebook

Len Evans Jr says

Although part of me felt like 3/4 of this book was just good friends having hot sex, which was not a bad thing. This book only excelled because of the last quarter once Cameron got past his fear and told Levi that he loved him. Despite me wanting to slap Cameron silly a few times, I really enjoyed this book. It is such a sweeeeeeeeet story of 2 practically life-long friends with benefits finally moving on to what was meant to be. Overall, it is a deliciously sweet love story and of course got me all tearful by the end. Sometimes I think instead of stars for gay or m/m romance books I should rate them by the number of tissues I go through per book! :o) Anyway... read this book!1

Cadiva says

Cute holiday short with a sweet romance at the heart

This is a sweet festive romance which manages to stay cute even with the generous amount of sex which goes on through the first quarter of the story.

Levi was super cute, Cameron needed a bit of warming up to but their friendship was strong, even without all the additional "with benefits" element of the narrative.

Things did feel a bit surface only at times and I wasn't quite sure whether the London trip secondary plotline quite worked for me.

But the ending was cute and I liked the small town setting.

Kristin says

Premise of the book is Cameron loves returning to Dickensville over Christmas – it's become a holiday tradition to spend time with his best friend Levi and time with his Mom. He and his mother are close, Cameron's father walked out on them when he was five and she raised him on her own, something he's never forgotten. Cameron has watched friends break up, get married and divorced, and the sordid love affairs that destroyed relationships. He wants to part of any kind of emotional entanglement. But Levi wants more than friends with benefits status...

Unfortunately, I think I'm going to be in the minority here - I completely bounced off this story. It hit several of my quirks"

Cameron's an executive of a marketing firm, with a *condo*, in *New York City*, at AGE 28. No, he was not born with a silver spoon, he does not come from old or new money, his (non-existent) father did not hand him the family business.

One of my biggest issues with some m/m romances is the unrealistic portrayal of the 20-30 year old age

bracket, kids recently graduated from college and they have fully furnished condos and are executives of some company. Mmm...no. Doesn't work for me.

Cameron's mother is totally clueless that her son is boinking his best friend. She doesn't find it odd how many NIGHTS Cameron spends at Levi's? She doesn't see the more than casual familiarity between the two young men? She obviously knows they are both gay, they've been friends since high school, and she doesn't put two and two together?

This is going to be an odd one, but I did say these were my quirks. I got tired of the sex. ((GASP!)) Yup. About page 40 I was ready to put the book down and walk away. I could see where the book was going (actually, plot said as much in the first chapter) and it was like watching Otto run Kevin over with the asphalt roller machine in the movie *A Fish Called Wanda*. Except I could walk away.

But I didn't. I kept going.

I liked Levi – he was nice, he liked helping people, you could see he adored, no *LOVED* Cameron. Cameron was a clueless douche. What Cameron did to Levi was just inexcusable and that just didn't sit well with me. Now, I can see how the author wanted to bring the plot full circle with the Holidays and all, but I'm sorry. If I were Levi, I would have given Cameron the hand. No one deserves that kind of treatment after baring their soul.

So I'm sorry, but this story didn't work for me. I'm sure other readers will get more out of it than I, cups of tea vs coffee and all that.

Review is cross posted at Gay Book Reviews

A copy of the book was provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Mirjam says

Cameron Pearce and Levi Jones, best friends since they were together on a field trip in 8th grade.

Cam, a marketing executive, enjoys the fast live in New York City and Levi lives in their home town of Dickensville, running his The Drink & Dunk Café. Cam & Levi *never had a romantic relationship, so we were not exclusive* but they do enjoy their friends-with-benefits relationship *Super-hot sex when we met up a few times a year, if we were both single.*

Cam & Levi are very attuned to each other, their chemistry works and the sex is scorching hot! They spend the Christmas holiday together, having fun and a lot of sex.

Cam is has difficulties with having any kind of romantic relationships *I had never opened my heart completely to anyone, and that was the way I wanted it to be. That was what worked for me, it had all this time, and I had never second guessed it – never had to. I was never committed and never planned to be. I couldn't give my heart and soul to someone and risk them crushing it or taking it out from under me.*

When Levi pours his heart out to Cam he is baffled and act like a major asshole and I really think Levi forgave him too easily, especially the *WHOLE* year, not weeks or even a month, no a *WHOLE YEAR* to take his head out of his arse!

But this is a short story that needed to be wrapped up, it's told from Cam's POV and I would have like to have some things skipped in favor of more groveling and begging in the end.

MsMiz (Tina) says

I usually give Christmas stories a bit more latitude when it comes to schmoopie sticky sweet story lines. I LOVE a good holiday love story. This one however, was filled with too much sex in the short pages, not enough feeling between the Mis (besides sex) as too why they should be together, and Cameron being a really idiot. In the end it turned out okay, even if I think that Cameron should have had to work a little harder for his HEA.

Mari Cardenas ~ Bayou Book Junkie says

4 Stars!

Cameron is back home in Dickensville for Christmas and he hopes he'll have the chance to hook up with his favorite best friend with benefits, Levi, while he's there. Only this time around, Levi seems different and when Cameron finds out that Levi has deeper feelings for him, Cameron runs away. Later, he realizes he messed up, but will he get his act together before it's too late for them?

I really liked Levi. Even if we didn't get his POV, he seemed like a nice guy, sweet and caring. Cameron, on the other hand, was all about living in the moment and being anti-relationships, yes, he had his reasons, which were somewhat valid, but it was frustrating how he self-sabotaged himself with Levi. It took me a long while to warm up to him, especially since I don't really get why he had to wait so long to realize what his real feelings for Levi were. A year is almost too long for that, no matter how much not in tune with your own feelings you are. It was nice that he put an effort into gaining Levi back, even if I felt Levi forgave him way too quickly. Still, they were smoking hot together and Ms. Castle blew me away with her sex scenes. Damn! I feared my kindle was going to catch on fire at some point! *fans self*

Ashton was a lovely secondary character and I hope this isn't the last we've seen of him and Rory was adorable and stole the scene everytime he was in it.

Overall, this was a solid debut for Ms. Castle. The book is well-written, with just a few minor flow issues that in no way detracted from the enjoyment of the book, and it's a sweet, romantic, hot Christmas story with just a bit of angst and a lovely HEA to balance it all out that was a delight to read. Very recommendable!

*** Copy provided to Bayou Book Junkie for my reading pleasure, a review wasn't a requirement. ***

CrabbyPatty says

Cameron and Levi have been friends since 8th grade and although Cam now lives in NYC and Levi remains in their home town of Dickensville, they have a long-standing friends-with-benefits relationship:

We never had a romantic relationship, so we were not exclusive. Super-hot sex when we met up a few times a year, if we were both single. That was it. It worked for us.

Levi and Cameron have great chemistry and the sex is *hella* hot - Claire Castle knows her way around some very steamy scenes. But when Levi wants more, Cameron can't handle it - he's very "risk adverse." After being abandoned by his father when he was five, Cameron "didn't believe in relationships, or finding 'the one.'" That experience told me it could never work and I would probably be abandoned in the end. Keeping things easy - feelings and commitment-free - meant less entanglement and problems. At least that's how I saw it."

I was really into this story until Cameron made what I think of as "HUD" - the huge unilateral decision. (view spoiler)

Okay, I realize that the HUD is not going to be a make-or-break plot point for everyone, but personally it didn't work for me. Loved the initial relationship between Levi and Cameron and loved the sexual sizzle, but disliked the HUD and Cameron's frankly asshole-ish ways. I give *Snowflakes & Cinnamon Buns* 3.5 stars but completely understand that "your mileage may vary."

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.
Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

Apolishedreader says

This is a friends with benefits holiday novella. I had high hopes because friends-to-lovers is just a fave of mine. It had potential in the first quarter of the book, but the writing just didn't work for me. It really felt like I was being told things were happening as opposed to experiencing the story. I just didn't *feel* anything. The sex had its moments, but most of it was boring.

I know this is a novella, but the characterization was lacking. There was so much potential to play up each guy's strengths with Levi's baking and Cam's great relationship with his mom, but there was barely any expansion on those. The "closeness" between the two friends was mainly demonstrated through sex with only minor details about their friendship and the development of it.

How Cam missed all the signs of where Levi was going is beyond me. Probably just denial...and selfishness. Cam's reaction did not endear me to him AT ALL and by the end, I was hoping Levi found someone who was worthy of him.

Major spoilers (view spoiler)

Forget the "more" feelings, Cam was a crappy friend, cowardly and self-serving, and he got off easy in my opinion. I hope Levi made Cam spend the next year making it up to him.

Jenny Wood says

A very short little Christmas read...

Cameron is coming home for the holiday's and he needs the break from his "work hard, play hard" type of lifestyle... We don't see that, it's just kind of self-proclaimed. When he gets back into town, he stops by at his childhood friend Levi's house first.... They have a kind of FWB relationship when he comes to town.... It's hot, if a little cheesy...but it seems to work for them. Cameron spends the whole holiday with Levi, doing things together and catching up, like friends do.

However, I'm kind of on the fence about this one because while I do like friends to lovers and second chancers... I thought Cameron was extremely selfish. Nobody is that clueless, he had to have known that Levi had feelings for him, but for a second, lets say he didn't know... he was possessive and jealous when he thought someone else was flirting with Levi, he was really boyfriend-y, acting as if they were together, even AFTER Levi told him that he loved him. He might've been pulling away in his head, but he wasn't at all while they were together.... Cuddling and kissing him the way it was explained. I mean, all the while, knowing he was going to up and leave. How selfish is that?!!!

Then...he stays away for A YEAR.... Not a couple weeks while he gets himself together, not a couple months, realizing how much he misses and loves Levi back, nope.... A whole entire year!!! And Levi, pshhh. Make him work for it, man... when he does come back ...AFTER A YEAR... he's all arms wide open and forgiving, like he didn't just leave you high and dry, no contact for THE LAST YEAR!

Am I the only one with a problem with alla that??? I mean before they were FWB, they were supposed to at least be friends, best friends actually.... But you don't have any contact with him for a year after he tells you how he feels about you? That's cool....

Anyway, alls well that ends well I guess... it does have a HEA ending that too, is cheesy but cute. I just can't get over all the stuff in the middle.

3 stars from me.

Alex says

2/3

Ann says

A hot little seasonal number to get you in the mood. Best friends forever Cameron and Levi get together and come to realise they are more than friends.

Well worth spending a couple of hours snuggling under a blanket with this one!

Denise GremoryKohta says

I have to say first off I am majorly impressed. The story has a great pace and well developed characters. And this is the author's first book. Amazing job. It also left me wondering what will happen with Ashton. I'm thinking Steve might be a good place to start. Plus, what's up with James? See what happens when an author writes good stuff. You get these pesky fans wanting more. Seriously, congrats on a great start.

Ami says

2.5 stars

Except for Cameron being an idiot, this was pretty low angst. BUT, I've been reading several holiday stories on a row with low steam level, and this one seemed to have sex in every chapter (including that solo-shower-jerk off ... it's SO YEARS ago!!!), which bored me to death. I know that Cameron said he and Levi were friends with benefits, but I could do LESS sex and more romance.

And Ashton the hired help felt weirdly like a third wheel or something.

Funzee Shu says

Cameron and Levi had been friends for years. And for year, they had explore each other sexuality and stick to 'only casual, friends with benefits'.

Christmas will always be the best moment for Cameron for years. Every years he'll come to his hometown to spend the Christmas with his mom and seeing his best buddy, Levi for his delicious cinnamon buns and their 'mutual encounter'.

For years, Cameron had shared their bed with Levi with involved no feelings, but not this year. Because he start to feels something more than just a friend with Levi and get jealous when he found out someone flirting with him. When Levi finally show him his feeling, Cameron start to panic. He keep denying what he feels and leave...

Will they found their HEA this Christmas?

???

I'm so glad to have the privileged to read this debut Christmas Novella by the new author Claire Castle.

The story is so sweet and very Christmassy about friends-to-lovers that will warm you this Christmas.

ARC is kindly provided by the Author in exchange of a fair, unbiased and honest review

Diverse says

Reviewed by Jenn for Diverse Reader

+++++

I love Christmas romances and I love friends to lovers romances! This book was a double dose of awesome for me!

Cameron and Levi have been best friends since middle school who eventually added benefits to their friendship. This has worked out great for them for years. Cameron lives in NYC, a two hour plane ride from their hometown. The two get together many times through each year and always have hot no strings sex. Throughout this arrangement, the friendship stays intact. What happens though when Christmas loving Levi admits to commitment shy Cameron that he loves him?

Cameron does not react well and it seems as if it will take a Christmas miracle to reunite these two. With some help from a friend, maybe Cameron can pull it off!

I loved this story so much that I wanted to decorate my house! Cameron and Levi's love for each other and for Christmas is so obvious and so heartwarming. Saying that, the heat between them is crazy hot! Such a great, sexy holiday read!
