



## Naughty but Nice

*Donna Kauffman*

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**?Tis the season for sweet surprises . . .**

Businessman Griffin's never believed in luck . . . until sassy-sweet small-town baker Melody turns his world around. Except there's a catch: There's no way he'll be able to build his empire *and* hold on to her. This new love could destroy all his dreams—or make this Christmas better than he ever imagined possible . . .

Originally in the The Naughty List anthology

## Naughty but Nice Details

Date : Published October 30th 2018 by Zebra

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Author : Donna Kauffman

Format : Kindle Edition 102 pages

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## From Reader Review Naughty but Nice for online ebook

### Claire Robinson says

3.5 - "You have a weakness for accents, do you..?" Stars!

Novella three in the *Hamilton Christmas* series gives us Thomas Griffin Gallagher and Melody Duncastle's story. The heir to the Hamilton fortune, has set his sights on regenerating the town named after it, and baker extraordinaire and owner of *Cups & Cakes*; Melody is less than enthused with his plans...

*Why did he feel as if the best thing that happened to him was slipping through his fingers before he even had the chance to figure out how to hold onto it...*

As with the previous two novellas I loved the couple in this book, with their initial verbal sparring and instant chemistry it made for great reading as they worked through the fact that they were on opposite sides of the fence in regards to Griff's plans. But there are deeper reasons for it, and once Melody understands that, it's full steam ahead into relationshiplandia for them.

**"I take care of what's mine... I always have. And I always will."**

I enjoyed *Naughty But Nice* as much as its predecessors, I just didn't find it offered up any of the Christmassyness that *Unleashed & Lock*, *Stock & Jingle Bells* did, which is why I rated it a little lower. Donna still offers up a really enjoyable story though, and I loved that the epilogue brought all three couples together.

ARC generously provided by the author via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### Sarah says

**Naughty but Nice** is a novella by **Donna Kauffman** that was previously published in the **The Naughty List** anthology and has now been rereleased as an ebook as part of the Hamilton Christmas series in time for the holidays.

Melody gave up a stressful career and big city life and hasn't looked back once since she became a baker in a small town. She loves the more relaxed pace of life in her small but charming town so is absolutely horrified when she finds out a developer wants to give the place an upgrade to put it on the map. The last thing she wants is to see an influx of tourists destroy the friendly atmosphere she moved here for so she is determined to work alongside other small business owners to stop the development from going ahead.

Griffin is struggling to deal with the revelation that he had a whole other family that he never knew about and the fact that he is the heir to the Hamilton fortune. Unfortunately things aren't all what they appear in Hamilton Industries and unless he manages to turn things around Melody's town is going to be in serious financial trouble. He knows exactly what he needs to do to make things happen and he has a track record of getting it right but first he needs to get Melody and the other locals to accept his plans and help him implement them.

This story is more of an enemies to lovers trope. Melody is determined to stop Griffin from making the

changes the town needs but she doesn't understand the motives behind his choices. The attraction between them is instant and since this is a novella the romance moves at a quick pace between them but it was still a fun story and it was nice to see the conclusion to questions about the Hamilton family that were raised in the first book in the series, **Unleashed**. Overall I've really enjoyed this series, it got me in the mood for the holidays and was a perfect December treat.

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## TSN says

DNF 15%

Not something for me.

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## Cheryl Basile says

I'll be honest--I just don't know about this book. It's a tame story that takes place in small town Hamilton, Virginia, where Melody Duncastle owns a bakery and coffee shop that specializes in intricately decorated cakes and cupcakes. Thomas Griffin Gallagher comes to town from West Cork, Ireland, because he's heir to the town's largest employer-- Hamilton Industries. Hamilton Industries is struggling, and Griffin (as he's referred to in the book), is a successful developer who has helped other small towns thrive by developing their brand and unique characteristics. He wants to do the same for Hamilton, but Melody, who grew up in the town, doesn't want to see it change. At the public hearing, she speaks out against his plans to overhaul the town's image and built a resort to bring in more tourists.

Based on those circumstances, there should be a LOT of tension between the two of them, since they are both strong people and have opposing views. But I didn't really feel the depth of tension that should have been there. They are physically attracted to each other from their first meeting (when Griffin comes into Melody's shop for a coffee), and the author did a great job of showing that. But I was disappointed that Kauffman didn't develop the conflict between the two of them over the town's future.

Maybe it's just me--I like 'lots of tension and conflict in romance books. I like to be on a roller coaster ride while I read the book. I didn't feel it with this book.

I felt that the book was written from an omniscient point of view--like I was hovering over them, watching them but not really engaged in their story. I finished the novella wishing and wanting more. Maybe if I had read the other books in this series, it would have been more fulfilling? Perhaps I'll check them out. She has written quite a few books, and some of them -- like the Bachelors of Blueberry Cove--sound interesting. Her book titles are very intriguing! So maybe I'll check them out since she is a popular writer for many.

Again, this could just be me and my preferences. Others might prefer calm seas when sailing through a romance. I like stormy seas that toss and turn my heart, and make me cheer on the hero and heroine as they discover their true love.

Thank you to Netgalley and Kensington Publishing for providing me with an advanced review copy of this book!

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## **Rady Reads says**

Naughty but nice was amazingly written Insta lust to love novella. I admired the perfectly choosed wording of Mrs. Kaufmann. The plot was on the shorter side, well, it's novella, but still making you invested and giving you more than enough information.

Griffin' s mysterious parentage is publicly revealed. He is asked to save the Hamilton industries. He wants to bring them to thier previous flourishing days and needs the citizens' help by doing small but positive changes to the town.

Melody is baker with all her heart. She doesn't want any of that and fears about the future of their town.

Both characters although with different views were meant to fall in love. I was feeling their connection from the very begining and say they just clicked beautifully together.

I trully loved the story.

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## **Heidi says**

I picked this one up expecting a humorous and fun holiday read, but what I got was a big fat disappointment. I am guessing if you are reading this author and whatever series this novella ties into, it might make more sense, but in my opinion this one does not work as a stand alone novella.

Basically, the story starts with a successful Irishman coming to a small American town after he learns the truth about his lineage. I won't go into the details, but bottom line, he learns he was adopted and has relatives in the United States. There is a lengthy section about his family and all that which was boring.

Griffin arrives in town and meets the town baker, Melody. Sparks fly when the meet until she learns who he is and why he is in town. Melody then throws up resistance because she doesn't want her town changed.

Later, Griffin visits her bakery after hours to talk to her. They sort of get to know each other while baking and the hostility turns into smexy time, and that is the gist of the novella.

I don't know why this was billed as a holiday novella because there is only a couple of quick mentions of the holiday season. All the cheer and coziness of the season isn't present. The romance goes from zero to sizzle in an instant and not much else happens. It wasn't fun or flirty. It was downright boring.

I would not recommend this at all if you are looking for a holiday novella. It has no holiday cheer and a ridiculous insta romance. Snooze.

I received a copy of this novella in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own, and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

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## **Kim says**

His life took an unexpected turn that brought him to her village. She has a successful bakery/coffee shop that was her dead best friends dream. A contentious meeting has her trying to fight her attraction to him. He wants to charm her to his side of the changes. Can they change each the other's mind or will a not so secret affair change their lives forever?

Griffin want to change Hamilton into a resort town. Melody doesn't want the town to change. When she finds out who he is, she kicks him out of her shop. He's completely captivated on first seeing Melody and hearing her cursing. A heated exchange at a town council meeting has people of Hamilton wondering. Griffin stops by to make an appointment for a meeting to talk about the changes. He ends up helping her with her baking. A very passionate kiss leads to a night of passionate love making. Both Melody & Griffin reveal their pasts, while they're working. He can't believe how truthful he's being and talking about things he's never told anyone. That one night leads to many and them not wanting it to end. It's a well known secret that they're having a romance. Just before Christmas Griffin comes to tell Melody that he needs to leave for home. She's devastated by the news but when a proposal is forth coming and declarations made on both sides then a yes. Plans are talked about moving her and her business to his home town. Four years later a trip back to Hamilton shows how fast and much things have changed since they left. A memorial service is held for a recently deceased relative. As the cousins reunite for the service and reception all are delighted to see each other. A toast is made and a surprising announcement is made that full of joy and fear.

Donna Kauffman's Hamilton series is brought to a close with the story of the unknown relative who wants to change his family's town. Only to be blindsided by the attraction and love for the bakery owner who is happy with her shop as it is. The instant attraction is what brings them together but the love for each other keeps them together. A story of love of home, and family shows that you can have both with some compromise and laughter even when in the beginning your strangers.

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### **Shari says**

A perfect Christmas novella to read during the busy holiday season, and who doesn't like cupcakes. Melody is the owner of Cups and Cupcakes and Griffin has arrived in town to build his empire. Melody and Griffin are on opposing sides but they can not resist the chemistry between them. They both have pasts that they have to deal with before going forward.

A little bit spicy but still sweet. I loved these characters, even though novella length, great development. The ending was wonderful. This is the third book in the Hamilton Collection but can be read as a stand alone. So grab a cup of coffee and cupcake and enjoy the story.

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### **Deanne Patterson says**

This is the third and final book in the Hamilton Christmas series, as with the previous two it's a novella. It continues the Hamilton family story. This is Melody and Griffin's story. Fast paced and an enemies to romance type of story. Who can resist a book full of yummy scrummy cupcake making? Nice character development and I look forward to reading even more by this author.

Pub Date 30 Oct 2018

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Kensington Books through NetGalley. Thank you. All opinions expressed are my own.

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### **Carrie says**

Naughty but Nice by Donna Kauffman is the third novella length contemporary romance in the Hamilton

Christmas series. This story was originally published in the The Naughty List anthology but is being republished as part of it's own Christmas collection. Each book in the series can be read as standalone stories with each featuring a different set of main characters however there is a bit of story carried over from book to book involving the Hamilton family to tie them together.

Melody Duncastle is perfectly happy running her small town bakery and has no urge to expand so when a developer hits town with big ideas Melody wants nothing to do with them. However, when Thomas Griffin Gallagher walks into Cups & Cakes Melody finds herself fighting an attraction to his charming looks and sexy accent. Attraction or not though these two definitely do not see eye to eye on their visions for their small town.

Having read all three of these novellas in the Hamilton series so far I couldn't help but notice the differences in characters and plot. Each set up between the couples is completely different with this one being more of an opposite attracts vibe with the couple disagreeing. Obviously being short books the romance happens quickly but as with the others I liked both characters and wished them the best. Great series to pick up right before the holidays for a quick dose of romance.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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### **Tracie R says**

This third in the Hamilton Christmas novellas by Donna Kauffman, Naughty but Nice is a fabulous conclusion to this series. Griffin and Melody are an unlikely couple, yet they are charming wonderful characters who find the path that leads to each other. I really enjoyed this story and series and look forward to exploring more by this author.

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### **Susan says**

Good story about a man who is all business until he meets a woman who teaches him how to enjoy life a little. Griffin is an Irishman who has come to the US to build a resort that is set to change the character of the small town where it will be located. Not everyone is pleased with his plans, especially bakery owner Melody.

There's more to Griffin than first apparent. He has concentrated on business and shut off his emotions because of the things he went through growing up. He never felt like he fit in and was bullied and abused by various family members. It was recently revealed that his father was adopted and Griffin has come to Hamilton to get to know his "real" family and learn about his inheritance.

Melody grew up in Hamilton, then left to become a lawyer in Washington DC. She came home to support her best friend who was dying of cancer, found she liked being a baker, and took over the bakery when her friend died. She has done her research on what happens to towns after Griffin's company "helps" them, and she doesn't like what she sees.

Griffin and Melody strike sparks off each other from the beginning. There is a definite attraction between them. I loved their first meeting, as Griffin was in search of coffee. She made her displeasure with him and his plans quite obvious there and again at the town council meeting. I liked the way that Griffin went to her

shop that evening to talk to her about it and ended up staying to help. Griffin was amazed by the desire he felt to tell her things about his past, things he doesn't share with anyone. Within a short time the two of them find themselves giving in to their attraction. It was interesting to see the two of them get closer, obviously falling for each other, while agreeing to disagree on the plans for the town. Melody believes that their relationship will last only until Griffin moves on to his next project and wonders how she'll handle it when he's gone. Meanwhile, Griffin comes to realize that what he feels for Melody is much deeper than he had ever expected. I loved seeing his big moment at the end, and how his feelings for Melody had changed his views of his family. While the story never had the big conflict that I expected from the opening scenes, it ended up being a pretty sweet romance.

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## Gale says

In Naughty But Nice, the third re-release that is part of an overall mystery, we finally get to the bottom of all the long-buried secrets. Thomas Griffin Gallagher has a lilting brogue that I can clearly hear in my head – that's how amazing this story is written. He comes to town to, let's say to propose a redevelopment. And he means it in the most loving way. Of course, not all the townsfolk are as excited about all the changes as he is to present them and he gets to meet his foil in Melody Duncastle. She gives him a run for his money, and makes him "sing" for his morning coffee, but Thomas gives as good as he gets.

Can't say too much as I don't want to give any spoilers but again, a standalone book where we get to visit with characters from the other two books to catch up with them and that's always fun. Thomas and Melody have to deal with their own pasts before they can be ready to work towards a future with each other. Their path is hard sometimes, but a wonderful story all around! And the ending made me giggle long past The End.

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## Terri says

This is a Christmas novella that continues the Hamilton story. It's the story of Melody and Griffin. Griffin has recently found out about his family connection to the Hamiltons and has come to the US with his panty melting brogue to try to save the business and town. Melody is not having any of it! His interference is not needed as far as she's concerned and Griffin can just shuffle off to Buffalo or wherever he came from! That is until she looks into his eyes and hears his accent. It may just be a little harder to harbor ill thoughts of him and his plan as her heart melts and her body warms up.

This was a great addition to the series!

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## Taryn says

This is the third novella in the trilogy where we meet Griffin, the young man whose secret we started to learn about in book one and got a more in-depth look into during book two. Griffin decides to visit the town where his life started and hopefully while there he can add on to the empire he has been building. Melody is a baker who loves her small town life and doesn't want anything to change. When Griffin and Melody come together fireworks explode. You see there is an undeniable attraction between them but neither of them wants to give up on their life's expectations. Follow along and see if the two can come together and be the amazing couple they know they can be or will their stubbornness get in the way? This was a great romantic holiday read with an ending that brought three couples together in family and in friendship.

