



## The Christmas Promise

*Sean D. Young*

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## **The Christmas Promise** Sean D. Young

Jennifer McClendon is in need of a vacation. What better place to get away from everything than a sun-drenched tropical island? And there's no better way to get over her ex and have some fun than to spend a little time with a handsome software engineer who's also on holiday. What could it hurt? They won't see each other again anyway.

Simeon Baker wants more than a holiday romance with the gorgeous woman he meets on vacation, but a tragic accident that almost ends his life leaves him in hospital for months, and he isn't able to follow up on his promise to keep in touch. But Fate steps in four years after their magical island holiday, and Simeon realizes Jennifer didn't only leave the island with good memories. If he can convince Jennifer to give them a chance at something permanent, this might just be their first family Christmas.

Each book in the McClendon Holiday series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1 A McClendon Thanksgiving

Book #2 The Christmas Promise

## **The Christmas Promise Details**

Date : Published October 9th 2017 by Entangled: Bliss (first published November 3rd 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Sean D. Young

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Genre :

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## From Reader Review The Christmas Promise for online ebook

### Shone says

#### Together Again

Jennifer McClendon story is set around the holiday season, when everything should be happy and carefree. The mother of twins Jennifer has everything but happy, a chance meeting again with a pass friend turns her life around. Well written story with define and complex characters. A story of forgiveness, understanding and patience.

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### Lillian says

*I received an eARC of this book via Netgalley. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of this review.*

*The Christmas Promise* by Sean D. Young is the second in her series A McClendon Holiday which revolves around the McClendon sisters. Each book can be read as a standalone with characters crossing over to the other books. This particular book is about Jennifer McClendon and a vacation that gives her more than she bargained for.

I like Jennifer. She's a strong heroine who despite circumstances (like finding her boyfriend cheating on her) keeps going. She doesn't allow the lemons that life throws at her to get in the way of her hopes and dreams. Simeon is just as likable. In fact I found myself falling for him. He's a little more vulnerable than Jennifer and once he commits to something he commits himself wholly which I admit caused me to swoon a little.

The romance and plot of this book was a little all over the place which is where it lost me. The pacing was odd. The beginning when they first meet moved at a fast pace. Then when it fast-forwards a few years the pace and plot dragged. There wasn't enough to keep me interested, yet I finished the book because I was invested in the characters by this point. Also the writing style...this was more a case of "it's me, not you." It just didn't work for me. At times it felt clunky and overly detailed and I would rather have just enough detail to get the picture and allow my imagination to do the rest of the work.

Overall, *The Christmas Promise* was just an okay read for me. It's a sweet, (surprisingly) clean romance set around the holidays. There is plenty of drama and a little tugging of your heartstrings as well. If you enjoy contemporary, second chance romances, I highly recommend it.

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### Isha Coleman says

What romance should be. An abundance of heart presented with a large quantity of love. I've read three books from Ms. Young's, McClendon series and find myself more hooked with each character I meet. Jennifer and Simeon merge old Hollywood classic romance with a steamy helping of modern day sex appeal wrapped up with a nice precious bow.

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## **CHANDRA FIELDS says**

### **The Christmas Promise**

This was awesome book. I fell in love with the Characters, don't want to spoil it for you by giving away too much! I would definitely recommend this book to read!

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## **Shannan Harper says**

### **Wonderful read**

I saw that a friend read it, so I checked it out from the library and I'm so glad I did. The characters were very relatable, and I was so happy for the ending. I will be looking for more reads from this author.

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## **Kendra says**

Full review appeared on Reader's Edyn on 10/04/17

I could not finish this book. I didn't even complete the 3rd chapter. I wanted to like it. I liked the description and the cover was sweet, but the writing just wasn't for me. I'm not exactly sure what happened. I ended up reading like a telegram. Read a sentence. Stop. Read a sentence. Stop. I got so bored and I couldn't get in to the book at all. To begin with, she walks in on her boyfriend having an affair and her reaction was so non-typical that it wasn't even a little believable. I can tell you if that had happened to me, I would have gone Carrie Underwood on his ass! Jennifer just comes off as helpless initially. She wonders what she's going to do about the plane tickets that were made on her credit card. Seriously? And before that she's upset because she has to get her key back from him, but then later has an epiphany and calls building management to change her locks. Duh! Then she takes off on the vacation they were supposed to leave on a couple of days later and meets a guy who piques her interest. I hung out for a bit thinking it would get better, but their dialogue was so boxy and uninteresting. It wasn't even flirty, it was just boring. I mean – UGH! Just look at the small section I included. Stick a fork in my eye! And this was all before the 3rd chapter ended! Oh wait! You mean if you get your hair wet, you know how to fix it? You don't say! Now that's talent! Good Lord! Is this really the kind of conversation you would have with the guy you just decided to spend your entire vacation with?

I used to read absolutely every book through until the end whether I enjoyed it or not. I had some weird quirk about what I might be missing if I didn't stick it out. Now I am to the point that I would rather spend my time with books that I enjoy. After 3 chapters, I had to move on from this one. I was curious so I did a little digging. This book was released in 2015 under Samhain Publishing. It had pretty good reviews, which shocked me. Maybe it read differently. I don't know. But this version I can only currently locate 1 review for and it is raving about this story. So here it is ... this is purely my opinion and others may really like this story. If you do, good. I'm glad for the author. But I prefer my books to flow and engage me; the opposite in this case. If you follow my reviews and tend to agree with my opinions, do not waste your time here.

Kindle version provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jos-renee Marks says**

This is a very nice holiday read, it moved a little slow for me at times, but the characters were well developed and allowed you to connect to them in their discovery of love and trust. Jennifer and Simeon lose their way thorough lack of trust and tragedy and struggle to find it again. It's a sweet endearing love story that one will enjoy.

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### **Krystal says**

Another heartwarming story from Sean D Young with the adorable McClendon family! I enjoyed this even more than the first in this series. Jennifer and Simeon's relationship impressed!

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### **Jessica says**

Jennifer McClendon has plans for a romantic getaway for two. When she catches her boyfriend cheating she goes on vacation solo. She meets Simeon Baker and they hit it off. After vacation, they promise to keep in touch. Jennifer comes back with more than just memories but doesn't hear from Simeon. Simeon gets in a near-fatal car accident and is unable to keep in touch with Jennifer. When they cross paths three years later he is surprised to find Jennifer with a family. He fights hard to win her back and show her it was always his intention to keep in touch.

In an Oyster Shell - It is a romantic book that is clean which I love!

The Pearls - I love in the beginning that Jennifer strikes out on her own after she finds out her ex is cheating. It's poetic for her to meet cautious Simeon who throws caution to the wind when he meets her.

The characters are unforgettable. I love Jennifer she is strong and secure in herself. A great heroine that I enjoyed following through the story. Simeon was also a character of great strength though he tends to be a little more vulnerable. The joining of the two makes for a great story.

The romance was nice. It was a bit of a whirlwind romance at first and simmers into something more sustainable later. I love how committed Simeon was to Jennifer and her family when they are finally reunited.

Full Review: Writing Pearls

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### **Lorice says**

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### **Bec\_BookMagicReviews says**

Jennifer 'Jenn' McClendon and Simeon Baker spent a week getting to know each other during their time on a beautiful tropical island. Then when they both returned to Chicago, Simeon was hoping to spend more time with Jennifer, but things didn't turn out like he hoped after a tragic accident that almost ended his life. Now though, three years later, they have a chance to be together again. Will Simeon be able to win Jennifer's heart, or will he lose his chance at happy ever after with her?

What a totally wonderful, emotionally-intense, heartwarming read this author has delivered in this second story of their McClendon Holiday series where the main characters had me sympathizing with them because of all they've been through with Jenn's ex betraying her the way he did and then what happens to the hero that makes him break his promise of wanting to get to know Jenn better once they're back in Chicago. Will it take Jenn long to forgive Simeon? Will Simeon react well when he finds out Jenn's secret? However, it was from the moment that the hero and heroine came back into each other's lives after spending their island holiday together that had me reading this story quickly, determined to discover whether Jennifer would allow Simeon back into her life. Will she make the right decision for their children?

As for the dialogue, it was riveting due to what happened to Simeon that kept him from finding his way back to Jennifer after their island holiday; and what happens towards the end of this story that had me wondering whether this couple would get their happy ever after. Would one of the main characters be all right? Moreover, the heroine is strong and brave because of what happens to her at the beginning and how she handles it; and then what she goes through with letting Simeon back into her life. I also liked the close bond she has with her family and how they're always there for each other when it comes to needing advice. Will Jennifer listen to her sisters advice? Yet, what I liked most of all about the heroine was that she gave Simeon a chance to begin with, as there's something about him she just can't resist.

While the hero, he's been through a lot and it's understandable why his mother is so protective of him when it comes to her reaction to Jennifer and the kids. I also liked how persistent the hero was when it came to winning back Jennifer because he wants her so much and needs her in his life to be able to balance out his professional life with his personal one, otherwise he'll end up burning out from over-working like he was doing back when he originally met her. Yet, what I liked most of all about the hero is his growing bond with his children and how he was willing to do everything in his power to prove to Jennifer that he wants a place in his children's lives, which is proven with all his does for the kids.

Overall, this author has penned another really good read for this story where this couple's chemistry was strong; their romance heart-warming and on the sweet side; and the ending had me concerned for one of the main characters. Would they be all right? However, I loved how things worked out for Jennifer and Simeon in the end that shows how important love, family and happiness is and that they shouldn't let anything keep them apart, especially not after everything they've already been through. I would recommend *The Christmas Promise* by Sean D. Young, if you enjoy second chance romances, the surprise pregnancy trope, or books by authors LE Rico, Annie Seaton, Candace Shaw and Synithia Williams.

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## **Reading in Black & White says**

*The Christmas Promise* is a tale of heartbreak, a vacation fling, miscommunication, and a second chance at love. I read the book in one day and a more detailed review will be posted upon the book's release.

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## **Ava Smith-forrest says**

### **Forever**

A very romantic story. First there was heart betrayal then came friendship love heartache and anger. Then the ups and downs of buildings a relationship and family brings you to happily ever after. The best type of love story.

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## **Book Gannet says**

DNF@ 10%

This was a definite case of it's me, not the book, but this writing style really didn't work for me. Too much tell, with way too much detail. Your mileage may of course vary, but I really didn't need to know everything about Jennifer's new dress as she walks up to her boyfriend's house, while also all the details of their holiday and where she places every last thing she's carrying – case, keys, shut the door – especially when in my head “It Wasn't Me” was playing in doom-laden tones. Then it happens and she leaves and... I didn't feel anything, because I'm just being told stuff rather than feeling Jennifer experience it.

I also didn't need to know about everything she'd packed as she unpacked, and the way she meets Simeon is plain weird – waving at a complete stranger because, even though you can't see them clearly and have no idea if they're alone, they look hot and like someone you might hook up with so let's stalk them down to breakfast and have a really stilted conversation.

And this was where I gave in. The style didn't draw me in, I felt kept apart from what Jennifer was feeling, Simeon seemed creepy and there was just too much erroneous detail that left my attention wandering. Normally I would have pushed until at least a quarter or third of the way, but when I nearly abandoned in the middle of the first chapter, getting through the second seemed beyond me. Sorry.

(ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley.)

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## **Sharon L. says**

### **Sean D. Young knows ROMANCE!!**

This is Avery enjoyable read for the Holiday Season. Ms. Young knows how to craft an engaging romance. This is another installment of the Mc Clendon family . You are drawn not Simeon and Jen's story and you really want things to work out for them. She adds just the right amount of sensual passion to her stories without going completely over the top. The story of Simeon and Jennifer was well done of love lost and then found again .

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