



Waiting for Winter

L.B. Gregg

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Some mistakes are worth repeating.

Luke always thought he and Winter were the perfect couple—until the day Winter announced he was taking a new job and they were uprooting and headed for Germany. No discussion. No debate. For the first time in his life, Winter miscalculated. Badly. Now Luke is trying his best to move on with his life, but Winter is back in town and he's set on digging their relationship out of the deep freeze.

Waiting for Winter Details

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From Reader Review Waiting for Winter for online ebook

Katharina says

[Never-Neverland to OMG-please-fuck-me-now-and-never-leave-me (hide spoiler)]

Max says

Unless this story is seen as a cautionary tale, it is a recipe for disaster in healthy long-term relationships. There is at least a 15-year age difference between the two main characters. Normally, I like this arrangement unless the power dynamic between the two is very unbalanced as it is here. Winter feeds off the need to show that Luke is inferior. Winter thrives on being either the corporate raider or the worldly sophisticate. Of course, Luke is not. Worst of all, Winter expects Luke to give up everything he has—his job, home, family, friends, language, nearly everything he is—just to help Winter feel more fulfilled. What about Luke's fulfillment and needs? They are mentioned nowhere in the story other than Luke's sexual desire for Winter. Even their nicknames for each other sound like "win" and "lose."

Sad. Really pathetic. There are worse things in life than being lonely, like having no self-respect. Luke you need to grow up and find out who you are. Also, move to a warmer clime where you know the language, and for God's sake, stay away from Winter.

Evamaria says

2.5 stars

I wanted to like this book, but unfortunately I couldn't stand Winter. I didn't like his personality. He was such an arrogant ass.

Luke apologized several times before he got a meager apology from Winter. This was too late, too little to redeem himself.

Usually I like this author, but this story disappointed me.

??? Michaëlle ♡?? says

3.4 Stars

Well, if this is the worst book/story I read this week I'll consider myself damn lucky...

That said, I wanted more from this tale; specifically, more of Winter groveling for Luke's forgiveness. Sure, he *said* he'd do all these awesome things to make it up to Luke, to get him to trust and love him the way he

used to...but I'm more of the "actions" not words kind of girl. Show me.

And yeah, okay, there was some fault on Luke's part...but what's a guy to do in his situation? His partner up and makes such a huge decision and just expects Luke to go along with it? Giving him only a couple weeks notice? I'd have tossed the asshole out, too, if only to protect my heart...and do some self-reflection to find out if I picked someone that cared little for what I wanted, or if I'd ceded all the power to someone who made a decision for me thinking that's what I wanted him to do. Either way, yeah, no. Time apart was the right thing.

Kinda wish Luke hadn't caved so quickly to sleeping with Luke during the first visit though as it made him look like a doormat. I get the second bout of weakness...but not the first.

le sigh

Anywho, it was still a good listen. If anything Derrick McClain made this so much more enjoyable. I really liked the voices he used for each character and the performance was neither over-the-top or deadly-dull.

Annery says

I came to this because I love getting short ABs to fill a couple of hours and though I do like **Derrick McClain** sometimes he doesn't work for me. I'm thrilled that on this occasion he was excellent because the story deserves it. **L.B. Gregg** is a "new-to-me" author and I'll definitely try more.

This is the story of Luke and Winter, a case of opposites attract who turned out to be a perfect couple until they weren't. Winter is one of those company fixers, think Richard Gere in *Pretty Woman*, who travels for his work. Luke, his younger partner, is fine with staying back and keeping the homefires burning until Winter makes a unilateral decision to move to Germany, which Luke isn't having and they separate. The book opens with Winter trying to reconnect after some months of separation and suitably progresses, as befits a Holiday romance, to their reconciliation by Christmas. This summary may sound clinical but I felt that it was beautifully done, but more importantly, believable.

What I loved about this story is a long list, but primarily I liked that it's a story about adults in an established relationship and that neither the author nor the characters shy away from what that might mean. The author doesn't pretty-up a CEO like Winter. He is ruthless, pragmatic, and used to getting his way. Though he comes around and apologizes, beautifully, to Luke for how he's behaved as pertains to their relationship and we, as readers, are confident that Luke will be well loved and taken care of, we're also sure that Winter will continue to be the successful businessman with all that entails. For his part Luke is honest enough to recognize his powerlessness in the presence of a Winter who wants him back, to see where he himself has been at fault, whether by commission or omission, and more importantly to forgive and hold tight to the good thing they have and not dwell on his hurts, perceived or real.

Those are the other BIG themes in this story: forgiveness, true love, and, more importantly, the willingness to alter or modify our dreams and plans because sometimes, that other life is just as good, just as rewarding. It's just different. Sometimes we are so wrapped up in what we thought our life would be or look like that we can't see anything else, any other options, but they ARE there. And they're not bad.

As for the romance between Luke and Winter, to me, it felt real, lived in, and genuine. And still sizzling.

Valerie ❄️M/M Romance Junkie❄️ says

I enjoyed the writing, but I wasn't invested in the relationship. Win came across as a dick, and I didn't care enough about him at the end to root for him. I thought Luke deserved better.

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Sweet story of broken hearts, mended after a year apart, and firmly together again. Short audiobook narrated beautifully by Derrick McClain. Grab this one for your Christmas stocking.

Christy says**3.5 stars**

The story and the narration were both good. I feel like this would have been great as a companion novella. If there was a full length novel before it, and this was a 'what happened next' kind of thing. Overall, an enjoyable Christmas audio.

Elizabetta says**3.5 stars**

Menfolk can be so stubborn sometimes. But, hey, it makes for some good post-breakup-but-still-pining for you sexual tension.

This one has snow blizzards in Vermont and two hard-headed ex-lovers (Luke and Winter) who barely find their way through the snow and hurt to communicate what went wrong in their eight year relationship. They broke up a year ago when Winter (Win) made plans to move to Germany for his work, and Luke got pissed when he wasn't consulted first. So, a year of hurt feelings and anger ensues. But the easy booty call at the top of this chapter in their story shows that things still run hot with these two.

Win makes a quick stop back in town, and Luke plays cold and hard to get. Until Win (re)charms his pants off. Because, by golly, Winter is too hot (sorry, couldn't resist), and Luke can't resist the nookie. It's true, the sexual tension is undeniable and that works really well in the story.

This starts off well, I really liked that tension built up around hurt and misunderstanding, the wait to see how these two would figure it out... the hope for comfort. But... you can't look too closely at these characters; they really come off as pretty silly if you think about it too closely. After eight years together (!!!), when a few words of communication would have helped, they go off to their broody corners, licking their wounds. C' mon.

We don't get Win's viewpoint, and he comes off as aloof, arrogant, not terribly likable. And, Luke... we don't get any background *at all* about *who* he is, outside of his relationship with Winter. What does he do? How does he occupy his time? (hint: the title says it all) We know what Win does... All we know about Luke is that he was the one to break things off, and he's pining and bitter and alone. Our image of him is as the lover who gets left behind, and he **only** gets galvanized when Winter shows up again. (And god help him, Win's nick for Luke is 'Lu') Sorry, but it all just works to diminish (and almost emasculate) Luke in my mind. And the ending only reinforces that.

The short story format doesn't work as well, here. The anger and tension is dealt with too quickly. We don't get enough time to really buy the possibility of their getting back together-- with a too-ready neat bow at the end.

Waiting for Winter is part of the Comfort and Joy holiday anthology.

Sara says

Um...

Oh and this song was on while I read most of this... just fucking perfect.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSRte...>

Anyta Sunday says

While I agree with Emma's sentiment about Winter needing to grovel more, and Luke needing to stop taking the blame, I find I still loved this read.

The descriptions and pacing of story really worked for me, and I liked the spark of these characters. Could have used a little fleshing out--more sorries and showing of change--but nevertheless, great writing. I didn't skim a beat.

My first L.B. Gregg book, I think. Must check out more . . .

Emma Sea says

Oh my god, I can't even grrrastfwglghjklasfrtyuiwefteowrhgeqor9uteiqudhgvpvqehrfg!!!#\$\$%^&(@%#\$&!!!

!Where is my groveling apology? Where is Winter's abject begging for forgiveness?

Winter, you're a dick. Luke, STOP FUCKING TAKING THE BLAME. Stop waiting for Winter and grow a spine. He will never change, no matter how many hand-blown Christmas ornaments he buys WITHOUT YOU.

AND IT'S ALL OKAY BECAUSE HE *MARRIES* YOU? ARE YOU FUCKING KIDDING ME?

I had no idea the epilogue would make me hate this book more.

Stoopid book

Natasha says

HEY, YOU! L.B. GREGG!

How. Fucking. Dare you.

Seriously, friends, this is some bullshit right here.

L.B. Gregg has made a fool out of me.

The nerve of an author to take everything I **love** and fit it all into one neatly packaged, beautifully presented little story. How dare you. I have shelves labelled "100-stars", and "favorites" that this short is now on, and they still don't feel like enough. Because seriously, how do I read something else after that? Me--Natasha Snow, disliker of many things, general *Bah*, *Humbugger*, and snarky reviewer. It would be like gorging myself on my grandma's famous coffee cake for an entire day, and then having to eat spinach for a week.

You, L.B. Gregg, have created my perfect characters (That's right folks! Not one, but *two* fantastical main characters!) and paired them together in the scenario I love most, in just the dandiest way. I was prepping myself to leave my home life here in Canada to move to fucking Berlin to be with Winter, a fictional character. While reading *Waiting for Winter*, IT DIDN'T EVEN SEEM UNREALISTIC TO DO SO. My shit is pretty much packed!

Oh, how I've fallen in love with Winter. We're going to have babies (Don't ruin this for me!) and they're going to be named Winter (jr.) Snow. AW. Adorable and strippery? Maybe.
I'm getting sidetracked.

I'm keeping this review spoiler-free because I plan to rec it to friends and buy it for them and suchsuch, but it's difficult to explain the level of wonderful writing, colorful characters, and overall loveliness of this story.

Which is just fucking rude.

Because now I'm ruined forever to other stories, and I don't want to read a single one. I'm just going to reread this another time or two or possibly forever. It's just so funny, and so clever, and so damningly romantic.

The length of this story was fantastic. I felt the angst, the love, the loss, the pissiness, the redemption, the sexiness. All of it.

If this is Gregg's most recently published story, I must say she has hit a wonderful stride that has left *me* very pissy as I await her next story. Because this is great.

Really, honestly, just . . . fantastic.

And damn you for that! I'm ruined! *shakes fist in the air for all of eternity*

Susan says

AUDIOBOOK REVIEW: December 7, 2015

4 Stars

I really really enjoyed this audiobook! Narrator Derrick McClain was really entertaining and totally captured both Winter's and Luke's character nuances. It's a short, quick listen but totally put me in that LET'S ALL LOVE EACH OTHER holiday mood!

Recommended listen!

Review of full anthology here:

Salsera1974 says

4.4 stars.

I'm generally not a fan of holiday season stories - I'm not so good with the schmaltz. But I read them anyway. Why? Because Christmas. How do I avoid getting caught up in Christmas? I love it! But I also read them because sometimes, I stumble over a beautifully written, unsentimental gem, like *Waiting for Winter*. I thought I had already read the best reunion story I was likely to find this year about five or so months ago; I was wrong. This was moving, amazing, and worth every second of my time. I'm so glad I found this one.
