



31 Kisses

Chautona Havig

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When one plus one equals thirty-one...

It happens every day.
Guy meets grandpa—and girl.
Guy knocks grandpa off ladder
Guy kisses girl to make it “all better.”
Every day.
For a month.
Just your normal, average, all-American romance...

Meet Chessie and Carson. She goes “all out” for Christmas (and every other holiday including Columbus Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Flag Day); he doesn’t own a single thing that could be considered decorative—unless you count the stickers he stuck to his dresser back when he was three.

Neither of them have ever had a serious relationship; both are opposed to frivolous expressions of affection. How on earth did they get tangled up in a “kiss-a-day-during-December” pact?

31 Kisses Details

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From Reader Review 31 Kisses for online ebook

Fiction Aficionado says

I loved this novella! Chautona Havig definitely doesn't write your run-of-the-mill romances, and this one is no exception. Some I've enjoyed more than others. But of the ones I've read so far, I can say without a doubt that this is my favourite. Chessie and Carson are so stinkin' cute together—and Chessie's lack of filter is part of that charm—and I didn't even mind that most of the 31 kisses were implied rather than written. It was everything about the way these two were together and the way their relationship developed that was sweet. In fact, I would go so far as to say to have written in rather than implying most of the kisses would have spoilt it.

If you're after a sweet Christmas romance that's a little different, I'd definitely give this one a try!

Lonzine says

Sweet and Tart and Oh So Lovely

I love the way it all came together. It begins with a loving grandfather (affectionately known as Gumpy) seeking the right man for his granddaughter. It continues with holiday decor traditions, Hershey Kisses (and Hugs) and an unconventional pact to explore possibilities by sharing one Kiss and a kiss per day for the 31 days of December. No sex, fondling, groping or any such thing. Just a kiss for a Kiss. Sound implausible?

Not when the writer is Chautona Havig. It works because Chessie and Carson actually talk...to one another, themselves, family and to God. And they listen to the same. And no one in this story is perfect; which is why I gave it five stars. It was just a lovely peek at one of the ways a couple might meet and grow to like and love.

Some might call it unrealistic, but I think it's full of hope for something special and unique. Why is the only acceptable Christian romance expected to be predictable and formulaic?

I don't think Godly romance is that prosaic or anemic. The love story between Christ and His Bride is fraught with plot twists and turns. But we have great expectation of a happily ever after.

Kristen says

2.5 stars

The beginning and middle were really good for me, then the ending sort of dragged on. It is a cute premise for a story. Girl & boy meet, they have a spontaneous kiss, then decide to spend the next 31 days of December getting to know each other, while sharing 1 kiss a day, no more.

Most of the kisses I thought lacked something to be desired. And I think she should have ended the book on the 31st with a proposal, but she carried it on a bit too long I think.

Overall a really cute and clean story, one that I probably won't read again but I didn't feel like it was a waste of my time.

Pris says

Unconventional, fun, interesting, romantic.

Those are just a few words that popped in my mind when trying to describe Chessie and Carson's story. It's really unique in its concept but that doesn't take away from the author's ability to deliver a really good story that gave me all the feels.

I found this story interesting due to two things: first, that you get to experience a story that actually follows up the MCs lives day to day for a whole month(!); but also, because it answers the question "how does she pull off the fact of describing 31 kisses?" (by focusing on the feelings, of course!). You can find that endearing or you can get used to it ;) In my case, this writing style grew on me and I ended up finding it refreshing. A well-written, clean, recommended read.

Lorraine says

I absolutely loved the quirky, Christian, romantic comedy.

Lynda Knapp says

Great read!

Loved the tradition that these two started. I enjoy Chautona Havig's books. This was very entertaining. I definitely recommend this book.

Florence S. says

Sweet Story of Young Love

Boy meets girl. Her grandfather loves him but his mom doesn't love her at first. But the God that brought them together gets them through.

Valerie (Val's Vicinity) says

This is a light and fluffy read, with great characters and a fun storyline. Chessie and Carson's first meeting

was humorous, and I found it quite amusing how Chessie's grandfather ("Gumpy") immediately started trying to fix them up.

The "Kiss-a-bell" is a cute idea, substituting a plastic bell container full of Hershey's Kisses for the traditional mistletoe. With the huge role that chocolate plays in this book, it's hard indeed to not want some of those chocolates that Chessie and Carson are constantly exchanging! ;)

Chessie's personality often reminded me of Dr. Temperance Brennan from the TV show Bones. No, Chessie is not a scientist, but she has the same blunt way of communicating, and an overly-rational way of looking at things, both of which add up to create many amusing moments. Thankfully Chessie isn't crass like Dr. Brennan, so there's not any objectionable content here. :)

This is a great read for the Christmas season; it's very fun without seeming cheesy or fake. There's just enough conflict to keep a nice balance, but not enough to stress you out or dampen the fun feeling of the story. If you're looking for a fun Christmas tale that won't get you down, look no further, this is the ticket!

Dee says

Two-haiku review:

She says what she thinks
Meets him in grocery store
It starts with one kiss

I loved this story
Clean, innocent Christian love
It warmed up my heart

Greg says

One of my "guilty pleasures" this time of year is sweet, gentle, Christmas love stories, and this one fit the bill. It was humorous (I found myself chuckling often at the dialogue and plot turns) and was uplifting rather than upsetting. I find that the older I get, the less I want anything "upsetting" in my discretionary time. Chessie was a bit unusual in her filter-less outspokenness, but she quickly grew on me. Even if not in real life, it is a relief not to wonder about someone's unspoken messages, or ulterior motives. Carson was a little more conventional, but comforting in his singular lack of pride or angst, and his sincere appreciation of Chessie's quirks. And Gumpy was a funny sidekick. I enjoyed it...it was a good travel read.

??Trea says

I really didn't care for this book at all! I couldn't see the chemistry between the couple at all, and was often bored throughout the book. I had to force myself to finish it, because not even the cute grandpa character could save this story! I will be avoiding this author in the future.

Esther Filbrun says

Review coming soon.

Natalie says

Sweet story, realistic characters, and Christmas kisses! I had a really good time reading this book. First time to try this author, but I have several of her books on my Kindle and am now eager to read the rest. These characters were so fun and relatable, I didn't want the book to end.

Naomi Brignola-van calster says

Like 'Jack', this book completely relies on romance to fill it up.

Not my style.

Also, Carson thinks like a girl. I sincerely hope men don't think about their 'heart's song' and any guy who recreates a book scene instead being original...ugh.

Yes. I will definitely go read Aggie's Inheritance to comfort myself.

In her defence, this is the second of her books that I didn't love. All her other books are just terrific.

Anna Marie says

I wanted to like this book. I really, really wanted to like this book.

The premise was cute - instead of mistletoe, they have a Kiss-a-Bell, filled with Hershey's kisses, and you don't get chocolate unless you kiss someone. The characters with the Kiss-a-Bell are Gunnar (Gumpy) Jorgensen, and his live-home granddaughter, Chessie, who is blunt and outspoken to a fault... but new neighbor Carson likes her all the more for it. He wants chocolate, likes Chessie and gives her a kiss to get his Hershey's... and electricity struck both of them. They decide to share just ONE kiss a day for the month of December, and of course you know where THAT'S going...

... sort of. Except the writer with this delicious and witty premise can't write for crap. Half the time the dialogue makes no sense, she doesn't clarify who is saying what, and... well, December *dragged* itself out, but when we hit January, it was at a dead-run, the pace throwing off the whole book. Worse, December establishes you in this old neighborhood with decorations and homey coziness, and January flings you out into the bleak, cold world where nobody really wants to be.

So I wanted to like the book. I enjoyed half of December. But the author totally blew it with her lack of

talent in story-telling, and the mussed up, harried plot changes that stripped the novel of the things that were endearing, in the first place.

I should add that it has christian undertones, but I was very pleased that it didn't choke you to death with the 'god' references, or force a conversion on Gumpy. As an ex-christian, most books of this genre drive me batty on this point alone, but it was completely tolerable.
