



## Holme for the Holidays

*Miranda MacLeod*

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**Holme for the Holidays** Miranda MacLeod

**An American musician with a broken heart meets a local farmer with a hidden past on a holiday house swap in Yorkshire. A charming romantic comedy that will fill your heart with holiday cheer**

A country cottage is the last place Paige expected to spend the holidays, but a year after her girlfriend dumped her, her life is in shambles. A last minute house swap sends her from California to Yorkshire to put her life back on track. She doesn't believe in forever anymore, but when she meets a raven haired beauty in the local pub, she seizes the chance for a night of fun.

On the brink of fame and fortune, Fiona suffered an unthinkable loss, and a year later she's given up on singing, and just about everything else. When the brother she relies on too much skips town "for her own good" and loans his cottage to a stranger for the holidays, her life is turned upside down. She knows she can't make a new relationship work, but when she meets a purple haired American at the local pub, she figures it wouldn't hurt to blow off some steam.

They never meant to see each other again, yet from the very first morning when the vicar comes to call and Paige gets mowed down by a runaway llama, they just can't seem to escape their lives becoming increasingly, and hilariously, entwined. And when a series of calamities threatens Christmas in Holme village, the two must work together to save the day, and maybe find true love along the way.

**A year ago, their lives fell apart. Can a bit of Christmas magic help them build a new life together?**

## Holme for the Holidays Details

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## **From Reader Review Holme for the Holidays for online ebook**

### **Yoly says**

Very nice romantic comedy. It was very funny, it had me laughing out loud many times, and the relationship between the two main characters was very charming.

Great Christmas read :)

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### **Charlie Avocado says**

Fluffy vacation book. More enjoyable than the first in the unconnected series, Waltzing on the Danube. I liked that it was set around Thanksgiving and Christmases. I'm a sucker for those holidays though! Also there was more character depth to this one than Waltzing.

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### **Melissa Clark (The Lesbian Bookworm) says**

I recently read Holme for the Holidays by Miranda Macleod for the monthly book club on the Lesfic Readers and Writers Slack channel. I really like the thought of reading a Christmas themed book to get in the mood for the holidays. This book was just the thing to kickstart my holiday spirit.

Holme for the Holidays is the second book in the American's Abroad series and functions as a standalone. I really enjoyed this book. Paige and Fiona make a really cute couple. While the book happens in a short span of time it doesn't feel insta lovey. They really get to know each other over the short amount of time that they are together. Fiona's backstory is really heartbreaking. I don't know how if I would be able to handle losing someone I loved in the way that Fiona had.

The setting is one of the best parts of this book. There is something magical about Holme. The way the people in the town jumped in to help out when needed. Also, the thought of a white Yorkshire Christmas was so sweet.

The humor really makes this book stand out. The scene with the Vicar was one of the funniest things I have ever read. I also liked the addition of Dolly, the llama, and Maxine, the dog. The animals really brought life to this story.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes romantic comedies.

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### **hubsie says**

I meant to read this over the holiday but it got lost in the shuffle, so I blew through it in a day. It was a nice story, nothing ground breaking, very reminiscent of the movie "The Holiday" but the lesbian version. I didn't really get "the feels" from it, but it was an easy, light read with not a lot of drama. I put it firmly between "It was ok" and "I liked it."

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## **Michelle says**

### **Definitely worth the read!!**

It's been a while since I've read a book that made me laugh out loud, so if you are in the mood for a romantic, feel good story with a dash of humor, buy a copy and get reading!

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## **lov2laf says**

This book is part of the "Americans Abroad" series but it's a standalone read.

Fun character driven f/f romance that takes place in the small UK village of Holme between November and January.

Paige has been strung along by her manipulative ex for her entire adult life and is still emotionally enmeshed with her. Fiona is still healing after the death of her girlfriend. Both need a kickstart to move on to a healthier place and find each other helps them to do so.

Though self-punishment, guilt, grief, and low self-esteem play a role in the story, the read is also peppered with humor and we get an engaging and positive romance with believable characters. The book started to feel a little long but, at the same time, I enjoyed the investment that was put into our leads and their individual arcs. The book is dialogue heavy which I prefer and Paige and Fiona are likable and easy to root for.

I was waiting for tired tropes to hit, namely the shoe dropping or a forced fight to occur but luckily we were spared. The couple does have a spat but, by a miracle, the author chose to have the characters believably communicate and patch things up right away. Major kudos for that.

Enjoyable read.

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## **moxieBK says**

Holme for the Holidays — Miranda MacLeod (20 chapters) Dec. 14-15, 2017

This is a book with two consenting women, with a dash (or two or three) of sexy bits. If this bothers you, move along.

I started this on Dec. 11, but I didn't start really reading it until Dec. 14. Every holiday, I try to get in at least one holiday-themed lesbian book. This is the one I chose this year; I am glad I chose it.

This is a great story about two women who suffered personal loses and then a year later meet up for a quickie that becomes more.

The begin of the story felt a little long, but I think that was power for the course, because it really set the story up. When the heart of the story finally started it flowed easy and nice. Easy and nice like:

madcap/screwball comedy flowing! There were times I was laughing so much to myself, I worried people were going to start looking at me strangely, as I was reading this at work during breaks. This screwball comedy continued for a good portion of the book, before it was scaled back (which is too bad...they were the better parts.)

Supporting characters were as good as the main protagonists. In fact, all the characters were fairly well drawn out; just enough info was given, and given at the right time. (For example, we don't know much about Fiona's brother's looks until Brit sees him online.) In fact, even the sexy bits were just right. Somewhat sexy, but just enough to let the imagination take over for the rest.

The only downside was that the last third of the book dragged. I still enjoyed the story; it is one the better holiday lesbian stories I've read; but it left me just a teeny disappointed. Still good and recommended. I did not know this was a second in the series book. Don't be off-put by that. It reads pretty much as a standalone.

Three stars.

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### **Jaie says**

This was much better than #1. I enjoyed the setting and the characters. Sure some of the whirlwind solutions to long-term problems were a tad unrealistic, but it's a holiday rom-com.

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### **Loek Krancher says**

#### **Brilliant!**

In an instant everything in her life turns upside down. Now she has pushed away everyone and she hates Christmas. It only adds to her guilt she has carried around for a long time. Fiona must learn to confront the painful past in order to let love in. Things turn around and the connection between them is too strong to ignore. A brilliant story, tender, heartwarming and with some funny scenes. I enjoyed the writing style, how the story developed, the charismatic characters, how the two countries differ in culture, the amazing two animals and of course the end. I definitely recommend it!

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### **Alena says**

DNF at 17%. Don't really like either of the main characters, so not really motivated to continue. Even the Yorkshire setting can't get me to stick with it.

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### **Richard says**

OK, this is about the biggest dollop of pure squee I've gobbled up in a long time. It also has some good thoughts in it, so it's not pure fairy floss. The book opens in a San Francisco apartment, right before Thanksgiving, and introduces us to the rather manipulative Veronica (a violinist) who is breaking up with her

long-time girlfriend Paige (a pianist) beside the sink where the 27-pound turkey is defrosting. (Gee, thanks Veronica; I'm glad the book is about Paige, not you.)

Meanwhile, in the Sydney Opera House (that's in Australia), talented soprano Fiona is just winning a *major* life-changing vocal competition when she learns that her girlfriend back in Yorkshire is seriously ill. There ya go: two neat young people who don't know one another, each on the cusp of personal tragedy... What could go right?

I read this pretty much in one long sitting on a lazy Sunday afternoon/evening beneath twinkly multi-colored Xmas lights above the mantel... It was *exactly* what I was looking for at the time. (Saw it Sunday morning on Bookbub for 99 cents, read the first paragraph and sort of didn't stop reading until I'd finished it mid-evening.)

It's super romantic and squishy and has musicians in it, so it hit a whole handful of my emo-buttons at once. I spent most of the time half in tears, so yeah... My rule of thumb is pretty much five stars if the author makes me cry.

Even though this carries a tiny logo in the front-matter that claims "Apple Blossom Press, Boston MA" that company has no web presence that I can find, so it seems to be a self-pub title. The writing and editing are both excellent. (OK, I spotted less than one handful of little typos, which I kept track of; so if someone needs them I can fork them over.)

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### **Book Worm says**

Two broken people come together under very unusual circumstances and mend each other. Well, I certainly recognise this theme as not an unusual one. The unusual thing here is the way the story unravels. And I must say that I enjoy the way this author is able to let her characters come to life, to let the reader fall in love with their quirks and weaknesses instead of praising their "gorgeous bodies". If you enjoy a beautiful love story and some Christmas spirit - this is the read for you.

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### **Kara says**

"Holme For The Holidays (Americans Abroad #2)" is the second book I've listened to this week narrated by Stephanie Murphy, and she gave a great performance with this sweet story. It's also the second book I've listened to recently that features a vicar in a small english village! Plus, there's a lovable dog named Madeline, a llama named Dolly (get it?) and lots of very funny events!

Despite liking the narrator, I must warn you that the book suffers from terribly distracting poor audio quality throughout the recording. Audible and authors need to do a much better job reviewing a narrator's submission before releasing it if they don't want books returned.

The book opens with a couple of common lesfic themes: MC Paige is abruptly abandoned by her girlfriend, and MC Fiona's partner dies suddenly. Fast forward a year, and Paige finds herself in Holmes, having house swapped with Fiona's brother for a chance to get away and rebuild a sense of self-worth. Instalust ensues at

The Black Fleece Inn, and what was supposed to be an esteem rebuilding one-night-stand for both of them grows into more over the next many weeks.

There are lots of very funny moments in the book, and it was very enjoyable watching their romance grow. Paige, in many ways, is very similar to Fiona's deceased partner, and Fiona is determined to work harder to be a better partner in this new chance for a relationship. Paige is concerned that Fiona may be similar to her own former gf Veronica. Veronica dispels that notion herself!

The themes of miscommunication and second chances are handled deftly, and "Holme For The Holidays" delivers plenty of sweetness with a holiday theme. The village of Holme is an actual place, btw, and on the author's blog she includes photos of the village and the actual inn on which the fictional "Black Fleece" is based. Between Holmes and Axedale (from Jenny Frame's books), I really really want to visit a small english village!!!

I guessed at a matter of villainy just before it was exposed, but the book surprised me by not ending as I figured it would. I don't want to give it away, but Miranda MacLeod avoided the temptation to wrap up their relationship in an easy bow and ribbon, and included a final chapter that really made sense for the characters, acknowledging that they had grown as individuals; it made their HEA all the more believable. A very strong 4\* for "Holme For The Holidays", and if not for the annoying technical flaws with the audio, I'd happily re-listen to it and provide a 5\* rating, but I'm subtracting a star for the audio quality despite a great narrative voice.

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### **Luce says**

4 STARS - my final (?) Holiday read for 2017.

A nice Christmas story of two hurting women who heal each other.

Paige is a classically trained pianist in California her career is stalled and she is reduced to playing the organ at an Elvis themed bridal chapel. She broke up with her longtime girlfriend and has yet recovered or completely cut ties. Her BFF convinces Paige that she needs to spend time far away - that is how she ends up swapping for a cottage in Yorkshire for a couple of months. There she meets Fiona, a farmer who is also recovering from a great loss. Together they heal.

Huh. My description sounds like it is just angsty drama. It isn't. How can you, with a llama who is a sheepdog and an accident prone protagonist. Though I don't know if falling out a window in only a blanket counts as an accident.

This will make it on my Christmas re-read list for sure.

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### **Luffy says**

This is a simple and charming love story set in the US, England, and Australia. It's Christmassy in its theme. The author was capable of plotting out a decent story. But I couldn't mirror the high ratings that others have given.

The meeting between the two main characters is a happenstance. So far, so good. But we don't get to know much about them. Fiona remained a mysterious and inaccessible character. Ditto for Paige.

I don't have anything brilliant to report. The book simply lacked the magic of the prequel, Waltzing on the Danube. I loved the author's endeavor to graft a realistic stage but the unfolding of her story was limited by her inspiration. Still I liked it well enough, and that is reflected in my score.

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