



Cardinal Cabin

Joanne DeMaio

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From *New York Times* bestselling author Joanne DeMaio comes a heartwarming novel as merry and bright as a red-feathered cardinal taking flight.

Frank Lombardo's never been spontaneous. The closest he's come was accepting a side job chopping firewood for a lakeside community of rustic cabins. But with another lonely holiday season imminent, Frank's sister urges him to be spontaneous because, seriously, who does he ever expect to meet out in the woods?

With a suitcase in hand and a bit of reluctance, too, Penny Hart arrives at Cardinal Cabin on Snowflake Lake. It's only for a brief stay, though nobody knows where she is. Not her boss, not her friends...

Only Frank Lombardo. As the two unexpectedly meet at Addison's hidden hideaway, a spontaneous kiss sets everything amiss. But can the magic of this quaint New England town keep these snowy sweethearts together?

Cardinal Cabin is an enchanting tale about finding love where you least expect it. So come on inside. A cozy fire crackles, lights twinkle on the evergreen tree, snowflakes tap at the windowpanes, and little redbirds bring cheer this time of year.

Cardinal Cabin Details

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Author : Joanne DeMaio

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From Reader Review Cardinal Cabin for online ebook

Susan Peterson says

Cozy, heartwarming Christmas romance

Cardinal Cabin is a book that I will add to my collection of Christmas novels that I read every year. This is a tender, cozy, heartwarming romance...perfect to read snuggled in front of a crackling fire. Frank is lonely and a bit forlorn, wondering what all the fuss over the holidays is all about. Penny works for a travel agency, hiding out in a delightful cabin as part of a contest run by a travel agency. Their first chance encounter instantly sets off sparks! Their times together are so charming and romantic, sure to enchant readers. This book is brimming with ambience, love, and Christmas cheer!

Julie Barrett says

Cardinal Cabin by Joanne DeMaio

super good read, missed lunch yesterday and almost dinner because i was reading this book. this morning a full hour on the bike while reading and i'm finally done, with happy tears, thanks for writing such a meaningful story. cant wait for more!

Love this authors style of writing and know from just looking at the cover it's a keeper!

So happy to be able to follow the group of characters for the past several years as they grow older in the CT seaside community.

So the story starts out with Penny Hart and she's been assigned a secret destination contest where others try to guess where she's at and they also go inside the travel agent company to book their travels.

Story also follows Frank Lombardo who is a handy man of many talents as he goes about tending to Gus bird named cabins (loved the history behind them) during the winter months. So many chores to do and also help his sister Gina with wedding plans for friends.

Love the hidden treasures I found in this book: near and deer is an actual web site, hairspray does work for holding glitter in place, song by Frank is one I've heard before but never knew it by that name-yes hubby thought I lost it when I went to youtube to hear it-it's just Sept here; boat parade and all it stands for every year.

Learning how to snowshoe and ice fish-priceless! Penny tries to stay hidden but some meetings are inevitable and then others are told and will hold her secret. Other events occur and others discover her and it's just a matter of time before everybody will know. She has a week left to go.... Love hearing of others traditions, puzzle that turns into a picture for the wall-many of these I have myself and flip them over during different times of the year.

Love hearing of the birds and what to use to attract them-such fond memories of my mother and the birds she'd attract in her feeders.

Such detailed descriptions of the festivities and decorations at every location: games played during events and know they'd be so much fun to participate in; charity events.

Snowtorcycle-so cool! Love the nighttime adventures but he misunderstands a call he had overheard parts of it...

She hadn't planned on having company or her boss wanting her to go nationwide with the travel company....it's all one big fantasy, not real, or is it?

I received a review copy from the author and this is my honest review.

LORI CASWELL says

Dollycas's Thoughts

Every time I hear a new book is being released by Joanne I scramble to find room in my reading schedule as soon as possible. All her books have been a complete joy to read, they have tugged at my heartstrings and made me shed a few tears but most have happy heartwarming endings that leave me with a huge smile on my face.

In Cardinal Cabin Penny Hart arrives at Snowflake Lake on a special assignment for her job at the travel agency. It is part of promotion that entails her sending a photo clue each day to be posted in the travel agency's window for people to submit guesses about where she may be staying.

Frank Lombardo is responsible for chopping wood for the cabins on the lake. He is surprised to find Penny has fallen in a snowbank soon after her arrival. Helping her up he hears his sister's words in his head "be more spontaneous" and he does something very spontaneous after he gets Penny back on her feet. Something that could change both their lives...

Staying in the Cardinal Cabin on Snowflake Lake as Christmas draws near sounds perfect to me. Penny Hart finds it absolutely delightful, but she can't venture far from the cabin because someone could see her and the contest would be ruined. The people staying in the other cabins are sworn to secrecy. Frank too must keep their meeting a secret even though his sister and his friends know he is hiding something. The whole premise is absolutely charming.

This story is well written, poignant, and is a perfect holiday read. It is filled with wonderful true to life characters that are fun and engaging. The setting is positively idyllic. I loved the way Penny and Frank's romance unfolds very quickly, almost love at first sight.

The cardinals have extra meaning for me as a cardinal sighting is said to mean that a loved one who has passed away is nearby. Cardinals have always been a favorite of mine and I have collected many pictures, plates and figurines over the years, but they have a greater meaning for me since my son passed away. Penny has an experience with one in the book that had me laughing and I thought that is a passed loved one clearly trying to tell her something.

This is an excellent addition to Joanne DeMaio's Addison Cove series. They can all be read as stand alone but I encourage you to read them all. This one should be at the top of your Christmas Reading List!

Penny Stone says

CARDINAL CABIN

AUTHOR: JOANNE DEMAIO

FIVE STARS

Once again, Joanne Demaio has created a brilliant heartwarming holiday love story. **CARDINAL CABIN** gives you that peaceful, joyful Christmas feeling and fills you with happiness. I would love to walk down the charming streets of Addison, Connecticut and see the festive store fronts decorated for Christmas, and wave at Gus as he guides another group of jolly folks on the holiday trolley excited to see the holiday decorations.

Penny Hart is a travel agent for Suitcase Escapes. This Christmas Suitcase Escapes decided to sponsor a mystery contest. The winner must discover the location where Penny is spending the holidays. Every day another photo and clue is posted in their front window. All the town people are abuzz with excitement trying to figure out her destination.

When Gus picks up Penny on his famous snowtorcycle to deliver her to the holiday destination, she is unaware that her life is about to become fun and exciting as well.

Frank Lomardo is a handsome, considerate and single, part-time helper at Snowflake Lake where Penny will reside at Cardinal Cabin for two weeks.

When Penny and Frank's paths cross, they are both smitten! Neither of them expected the passion and attraction that lead to romance, misunderstandings and a little matchmaking.

CARDINAL CABIN is the perfect holiday read. Grab a cup of cocoa and enjoy! If it is your first Joanne Demaio book, you will want to immediately download her others and add her to your favorite author list.

Mrs Mommy Booknerd <http://mrsmommybooknerd.blogspot.com> says

FirstLine ~ "What's it all for, anyway?" Frank Lombardo asks.

I love the holidays and I love books that make me long for the spirit and feeling of the wonderful holiday. DeMaio can really get to the heart of her characters and makes the reader really understand their point of view, which makes the reader feel connected to them. I adored this whole story. I loved the setting, the characters and the story. I loved that this story made me feel good, got me in the mood for Christmas and makes me believe in the power of love. DeMaio is a great storyteller and one not to be missed.

Carol says

I am a fan of Joanne DeMaio's books and Cardinal Cabin did not let me down. Penny Hart reluctantly took on an assignment of going to a secret hideaway vacation place, and providing pictures and clues for a contest. Contestants can enter and also discuss their travel plans. She is charmed by Cardinal Cabin when she arrives and later decides to go for a walk to look for a location for pictures.

Frank and Gina Lombardo co-own the two story Addison Boat House and are preparing it for a local wedding. Frank, like Penny is not in an relationship and wants to fill his extra hours so he takes on a side job of chopping wood and doing minor repairs at the cabins at Snowflake Lake where Penny is staying. He is outside chopping wood and spots her falling in the snow. He hurries over to help her up.

The cardinals in this story flit in and out of it often. I have always loved them and was sad when I moved away from the Midwest. But later on a vacation to Massachusetts, I saw one at the Plimouth Plantation. First I heard a cheery voice and then turned. The male cardinal brought tears to my eyes. So this book is very special to me because I learned some cardinal folklore and it made me realize that I had always associated winter and Christmas with cardinals.

This book is full of treasures and easily connects with my memories. I hope that you will take a cup of cocoa and read it on a cold wintry night.

I received a review copy from the author and that in no way influenced my thoughts or feeling about this book.

Kathleen says

In *Cardinal Cabin*, author Joanne DeMaio transports the reader to the tranquil small New England town of Addison, Connecticut for a heartwarming Christmas tale of family, friendship, and finding unexpected love.

Penny Hart is a travel agent at Suitcase Escapes in Addison. She is a reluctant travel agent who doesn't like to leave the comfort of her home. But when her boss Ross recruits her for a holiday travel mystery promotion called "Where in New England is Penny?" Penny finds herself renting a bird-themed cabin (Cardinal Cabin), providing photo clues of her mystery location for two weeks leading up to Christmas at Snowflake Lake, a secluded lakeside community that is Addison's well-kept and treasured secret.

Frank Lombardo and his sister Gina own Addison Boathouse, which serves a dual purpose of boat storage on the lower level and a banquet hall on the upper level that has become the town's premier waterfront venue. Between the duties at the boathouse and a side job as a handyman at the lakeside cabin community of Snowflake Lake, Frank has no time for romance. But Gina wants her brother to loosen up, be spontaneous, and take a chance at finding love.

A walk in the snow-covered woods of Snowflake Lake provides an unexpected meeting between Penny and Frank that ends in a spontaneous kiss. Who would guess that this secluded lakeside community would help their relationship blossom into something more as a secretive travel promotion, the magic of cardinals and the mystique of little cardinal themed cabin by the lake, and Addison's holiday spirit gives them an unexpected chance at finding love?

Cardinal Cabin is a wonderful Christmas story that will tug at the heartstrings and fill the reader with seasonal joy. Author Joanne DeMaio weaves a spellbinding tale set in the quaint New England town of Addison, Connecticut, that captivates the reader's attention with a heartwarming romance. This delightful holiday tale has a rich description of the breathtaking small town setting, holiday tradition, lovely cardinals, Christmas decorations, and delicate swirls of snowflakes. Penny and Frank are given an unexpected chance at love as their story unfolds in a magical way that will make the reader believe in the power of love and friendship, and the joy of the holiday season.

There are not enough words that I can express about the simplicity and beauty in which author Joanne DeMaio weaves her wonderful heartwarming and multi-layered stories that are filled with a mixture of love, friendship, family, and life's unexpected special moments, it is simply breathtaking. As the readers follow Penny and Frank's story, they will discover the delightful secluded lakeside hideaway cardinal cabin, it is

simply magical!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much this wonderful story spoke to my heart, especially because of my love of cardinals. When I saw that the author wrote a holiday novel with a cardinal theme, I knew it would become my favorite story, and I wasn't disappointed. The richly vivid description of the town of Addison and the hidden hideaway beauty of the bird-themed cabin lakeside community of Snowflake Lake is phenomenal, you'll yearn to visit the area and watch the lovely cardinals flit among the snow-capped tree branches. Ms. DeMaio has a special gift for transporting the readers into every story that she weaves while leaving them yearning for more!

Cardinal Cabin is an enchanting holiday story full of warmth and comfort that will remind the reader of the magic, joy, cheer, and spirit of Christmas. It is a lovely story that will resonate with the reader for a very long time.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

Kristen says

A heartwarming holiday romance novel that makes you believe in being spontaneous, believe in being in love, and makes you feel right at home in the town of Addison. Enjoy this magnificent Christmas story with Frank, Penny and their friends on Snowflake Lake.

Christy says

I adore Christmas and winter books. I've read the two other books by Joanne that are set in Addison Cove, the same sweet New England town ins which Cardinal Cabin takes place. This is completely a stand-alone, but I highly recommend you read Wishing on Snowflakes too which contains the two other Christmas books: Snowflakes and Coffee Cakes & Snow Deer and Cocoa Cheer. Some of the characters from those books show up in Cardinal Cabin.

I love reading a book that feels like home, and Cardinal Cabin fits the bill. It is cozy (hmm, who would have thought I like cozy things...), fun, romantic, and sweet. The characters in Cardinal Cabin are very well written, and I want to be Penny. Just putting that out there. Her assignment for work is to keep the readers guessing. Each day she sends a new photo to her workplace, a travel agency, and at the end of her trip, the readers get to guess where she is. Little do they know that she is closer than they think.

Addison Cove feels so real, and I so want to take a trip to stay in Cardinal Cabin! When you read the book, I'm sure you'll feel the same way. And if you know of a place like this, please send me there. Maybe I'll meet my Frank too.

I highly recommend this along with Wishing on Snowflakes. You'll fall in love with the town and the characters. Happy reading!

Ann Croce says

Loved it!

Laurel-Rain says

Frank Lombardo's never been spontaneous. The closest he's come was accepting a side job chopping firewood for a lakeside community of rustic cabins. But with another lonely holiday season imminent, Frank's sister urges him to be spontaneous because, seriously, who does he ever expect to meet out in the woods?

With a suitcase in hand and a bit of reluctance, too, Penny Hart arrives at Cardinal Cabin on Snowflake Lake. It's only for a brief stay, though nobody knows where she is. Not her boss, not her friends...

Only Frank Lombardo. As the two unexpectedly meet at Addison's hidden hideaway, a spontaneous kiss sets everything amiss. But can the magic of this quaint New England town keep these snowy sweethearts together?

My Thoughts: Winter in New England comes alive in Cardinal Cabin, as the author paints gorgeous word pictures of the snowy setting and gifts us with images of the interiors. I could see the little cabin that Penny Hart has rented, from the outside cardinal door knocker to the milk can holding sprigs of pine needles...and can sense how she might feel as though she has stepped into a Christmas card. We follow her as she immerses herself in her surroundings.

And then there is Frank Lombardo, the man who is not spontaneous, suddenly captivated by Penny with the copper hair. He is chopping wood when he hears her cry out; she has slipped and fallen. Picking her up leads to an unexpected and spontaneous connection.

Familiar characters reappear in Addison, where I've enjoyed visits in previous books. I like how the old favorite characters return, and then we meet some new ones. And along the way, we get to visit places like the Snowflakes & Coffee Cakes and Whole Latte shops.

The romance between Frank and Penny grows unexpectedly. Meanwhile, Penny settles in to her vacation, snapping photos to email to her office: she is a travel agent at Suitcase Escapes, and a contest is going on at the agency. Contestants must guess where Penny has gone for her getaway. She doesn't like to travel, so her clever destination choice keeps her close to what she loves.

Near misses, some hilarious disguises, and a bad storm follow. Will the new pairing survive the New England winter and the hiding out required by the contest? Can a misunderstanding derail what they have begun? A beautifully wrought tale that made me want to spend Christmas in Addison, along with the characters. 5 stars.

Barb Anders says

Oh my gosh, this is like a Hallmark movie in a book...this book, in all its fluff was impossible to put down....like seriously. I started it on a Sunday morning with coffee and had all kinds of stuff to get done that day but instead, just kept coming back to it and was done by late afternoon. It was like impossible to leave alone! The characters were predictable but dear....the story itself was just so dang perfect...in kind of the most annoying way. But a perfect book to read on a lazy day....I only wish that I was reading it during the winter holiday season as that's when it took place. Very catchy ideas on love and the characters were endearing. I kind of hate to say I like it, because I usually read much more serious, involved books but it was a sweet book to read.

Linda Smatzny says

A sweet romance set at Christmas with the main characters being Frank Lombardo and Penny Hart. Both are lonely but not sure what to do about when they meet at the Cardinal Cabin. The book was an easy read.

Carol Boyer says

If you want to be swept away to a perfectly, magical Christmas story this is one filled with all those dreams that are filled with snow laden branches and the cheerful call of Cardinals, hinting of romance. What I loved was the many rich descriptions of the cabins decorated with pine, sparkling lights, burning logs in fireplaces, candlelight, and crystal table settings, the smell of wonderful food, and the warmth within and so much more. Penny is a travel agent who is promoting her Suitcase Escapes contest where she is hidden away in secret for customers to guess her location. In a surprise meeting with Frank, she literally immediately falls for his handsome lumberjack appearance. Their romance is sweet, yet at times there are moments when one walks away before learning the whole truth. Will the magic of the cardinals bring them back together? I loved the heartwarming enchanting dream like quality to this book, a truly wonderful magical Christmas story! It has all charm of Joanne Demaio's previous novels and more.

Judy Collins says

CARDINAL CABIN A magical nostalgic holiday escape —with an ideal New England snowy rustic storybook setting! Great to catch up with familiar characters from DeMaio's previous books.

Join me Oct 18 Blog Tour Host. Congrats to author on her 10th novel!

Bestselling author, Joanne Demaio returns to magical New England following *The Beach Inn* (summer) and her famous Christmas editions: *Wishing on Snowflakes*, a holiday collection of two books—*Snowflakes* and *Coffee Cakes and Snow Deer* and *Cocoa Cheer* with her latest holiday getaway to **CARDINAL CABIN** — another enchanting holiday adventure of unexpected love and humor, surrounded by a magical snowy rustic setting.

"Making the birds even more special, folklore has it that **cardinals grant wishes** . . . When you see a

cardinal, make a wish. But the important part. . . After making the wish, close your eyes, tight. . . If the cardinal is still there when you open your eyes, *legend has it your wish will come true.*"

Frank Lombardo (33) and his sister Gina own Addison Boathouse, the crown jewel of Addison. Serving a dual purpose, the summer months it is the main attraction for outdoor events with kayaks and canoes.

During the winter months, it is known for its weddings and Christmas party season as a premier waterfront venue at Snowflake Lake. With weeks of decorating the final touches are being completed. The brother-sister team carry out the legacy of their dad's business, turning it over to them to carry on.

Gina is married with a son and wants her brother to find love. He does not like discussing his single-status with his prying sister. He has purchased the large English Tudor home from his parents and she is bugging him about not decorating it for Christmas. *Why bother? What for?*

In addition to this business, he also is a part-time lumberjack at the cabin rentals.

Gus Haynes, the owner in his seventies, and getting older and with his wife's passing, needs help with the rustic cabins nestled in the snowy woods among the silver and sugar maples, willows, birch and elm trees.

From splitting logs to keep the wood burning stoves, snow clearing, and the seasonal chores of the property.

Of course, his sister reminds him he is taking himself "off the market" by working out in the woods for Gus on the weekends. After all, "who do you ever expect to meet out in the woods?" She urges him to be spontaneous. "Find yourself a girl for the holidays."

The last thing Frank wants is holidays and weddings. He enjoys escaping in the woods to keep his mind occupied away from match-making and his sister pushing him into a romance.

Little does Frank know he may stumble upon the girl of his dreams in these same woods.

Penny Hart has never ridden on a snowtorcycle before; however, appears this is the only way around in the woods to her rented cabin, driven by Gus.

Cardinal Cabin is among the small little charming rustic A-frame cabins and bungalows surrounding a secluded lake. She is here for a two-week stay and no one knows her whereabouts, except for Gus, the driver.

Penny Hart, (33) is single and in marketing with a travel company— Addison's Suitcase Escapes. She is hiding out for two weeks for a merry mystery. A secret undisclosed destination even to her coworkers.

She must furnish clues and people will need to guess her location. The winner will receive a getaway to the respective location. She must keep a low profile while here so her secret stays safe during the promotion.

"Guess Travel Agent's Holiday Hideaway for a Chance to Win the Getaway." On Christmas Eve one lucky entrant will be drawn to win an all expense weekend getaway at Hart's secret New England locale.

'Tis the season for adventure and Yuletide surprises, plus an unexpected romance.

As much as she treasures her own cozy apartment, she is excited when she sees her cabin all decorated for Christmas with even a tree. She has the feeling she has stepped into a woodland fairy tale.

The true beauty and magic were the many cardinals. . . "Each one looked like pretty red ornaments on the soft, snow-laden pines."

Then she spots a handsome lumberjack. Just like an old-fashioned movie or a nostalgic wintry postcard. She slips and falls on the ice and her cocoa travel mug and journal goes flying along with her blanket. Guess who spots her and picks her up?

Frank even kisses her before he thinks about what he is doing. Spontaneity? All he knows is that her name is Penny and she fell in the snow. They both are shocked and delighted at the same time. A mystery woman? A mystery man? They are embarrassed but excited. However, both decide they will get back to work and pretend this never happened. But can they?

Penny has to start with clues. She needs to keep her mind on her work, not a romance with a man she just met. She has to be creative with photos so as not to give too much away.

In the meantime, readers get to reacquaint themselves with characters from previous books at Whole Latte Life coffee shop and catch up with Wes and Jane and their upcoming wedding, among others.

Frank soon learns Penny's identity as well as Gus. Gus is a true romantic at heart and his wife loved the Cardinal Cabin. With a little "added help" and creative planning from Gus (he reminds me of Santa), the two lovebirds are pushed towards one another.

We also catch up with Greg (Wes' brother from a previous book) the doctor, which is not a welcome visit from Frank's perspective. *He always is after the ladies.*

However, pictures are worth a thousand words. Appears there is a spark of romance in the woods. But can the magic of this quaint New England town keep these snowy sweethearts together? Will cardinal wishes come true?

. . . "The magic of travel isn't always about how far you roam. It's about keeping your curiosity and sense of adventure even while close to home. Life can then take you in new and surprising directions."

From the hush of the woods, soft and calming, to the sparkling white snow, twinkling lights, and crackling fire, Joanne transports readers to a picturesque setting for her annual holiday edition with vivid imagery, descriptive holiday delights, and lovable characters.

With a little magic, romance, nostalgia, silver bells, and holiday cheer another heartwarming story! (loved Gus's character)

Being from South Florida, where it is sunny and warm year round, I look forward to my annual trip to wintry New England without the costly travel expense and extensive planning. Just turn down the A/C, close the shutters, grab a throw and a cup of tea or espresso and the author takes you on a magical adventure from the comfort of your own home.

I am especially fond of rustic, and miss my log cabin in Big Canoe, GA surrounded by deer, trees, lakes, and blankets of snow. This charming story took me back to those fond memories of past Christmases in the mountains.

If you have not read **Joanne Demaio books**, you are missing a rare treat. I have read all her books and

anxiously await the next. I continue to say, her series are prime for the Hallmark Channel! *Still looking forward to each of them "coming alive" on the big screen.*

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