



Let It Snow

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The weather outside is frightful, but this Minnesota northwoods cabin is getting pretty hot.

Stylist Frankie Blackburn never meant to get lost in Logan, Minnesota, but his malfunctioning GPS felt otherwise, and a record-breaking snowfall ensures he won't be heading back to Minneapolis anytime soon. Being rescued by three sexy lumberjacks is fine as a fantasy, but in reality the biggest of the bears is awfully cranky and seems ready to gobble Frankie right up.

Marcus Gardner wasn't always a lumberjack—once a high-powered Minneapolis lawyer, he's come home to Logan to lick his wounds, not play with a sassy city twink who might as well have stepped directly out of his past. But as the northwinds blow and guards come down, Frankie and Marcus find they have a lot more in common than they don't. Could the man who won't live in the country and the man who won't go back to the city truly find a home together? Because the longer it snows, the deeper they fall in love, and all they want for Christmas is each other.

Let It Snow Details

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From Reader Review Let It Snow for online ebook

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****4.25 Stars*****

...a small town in the middle of a snowstorm, the place that had made him feel good and right and centered for no reason except that somehow it simply had.

This was so much more than I expected it to be! I love when that happens! Equal measure of sweet and sexy.

Frankie and Marcus were such endearing characters. I loved both men's vulnerabilities. They had the same fears, but unique to their experiences.

Frankie was afraid to live...constantly paranoid about his "swishy" appearance and his effeminate mannerisms. He understood that the world would never see him as "manly," but he was all man...with manly wants and manly desires. All he wants is to one day find a place where he feels like he fits in.

Marcus was afraid to live...he grew up having to play the part of the guy's guy. Big, burly men like him weren't gay. He follows the path that he thinks he should be on, and then finally allows himself to fall in love...only to be betrayed. Having closed himself off to relationships, he's back in his home town licking his wounds.

Frankie and Marcus are about as opposite as you can get when it comes to physical appearance, but their hearts were meant to intertwine. They wanted the same things in life...the same visions for their future, the same dreams.

The evolution of their relationship was sweet and realistic and filled with understanding and attraction. While they had quite the bumpy start, once they came together it was evident that the two men simply clicked. There was a comfort between them layered with affection, intimacy, trust and desire.

I wish there was an epilogue, but I'm completely happy with where things are with Marcus and Frankie. Hopefully we'll get more of them in the series.

Grab a mug of something warm, curl under a blanket and enjoy this sweet winter read.

Elsbeth says

This was soooooo cute, I loved it! I want more, when is book two coming out. Soon I hope, I don't think I can wait until next Christmas!

:)

So no pressure.

:p

Edit: 10.29.14

YAY! Book two is coming out next month. So excited!

◆*Arianna◆* says

“Let it snow” is an opposite attract story about two men who are learning together how to enjoy every moment, how to really live, not only exist.

Frankie is a 27 years old gay man, who's a little effeminate. He works as a hairdresser in the big city. He has a nice life, loving his job and having some nice friends. Frankie knows how is to be judged by others because you are different. He wanted all his life to be accepted and not to be judged because he's gay. He's scared that people will hurt him because he is who he is.

On his way back home from Tanksgiving at his parents, Frankie's gets lost. It's winter, it's cold and he needs a place to stay. He leaves his car and starts walking until he finds a cabin. Nobody's home, but he can't freeze to death in a snow storm, right? Warming up, Frankie falls asleep. Later when he wakes up, he finds in the cabin live three man, three “bears”, all with beards. Two of the three man are very welcoming and ready to help him offering him a place to stay, but the third looks at him like he wants to kill him. He is sure that this grumpy, but very good looking beard man wants him gone.

Marcus doesn't need to be near a man like Frankie. Not because obviously he is gay, but because he's attracted to him and he reminds him of his cheating ex. Marcus has a lawyer degree, but he left his life in Minneapolis to come to take care of his mother who has Alzheimer. He lives now with his two friends Paul and Arthur in their cabin.

There's some tension between Frankie and Marcus, Frankie believes Marcus hates him, but things are going to change when Frankie gets pissed off with Marcus's rude behavior. They admit they are attracted to each other and they practically agree to pretend to be in a relationship until Frankie goes home. Soon, both of them wish they were in a real relationship and not in a pretend one.

None of them expected to find in each other what they needed or to start falling for each other. Too bad they are not ready to make compromises to be together. What will happen when the storm ends and it's time for Frankie to go home?

This was such a sweet story. It's sexy and at times funny too and so very romantic. It's been a while since I read such a sweet M/M romance. Maybe because it's a holiday/(almost)Christmas story, but I really, really enjoyed it.

Both main characters are so lovable and real. Frankie was adorable! He is funny and sweet and caring and he has such a big heart. Marcus might be grumpy at start, a grizzly bear, but later he is so fantastic. He is tender,

loving and so protecting with Frankie. He wants to protect him from anything, from the entire world. Frankie brings the best in him. He is a good son, practically putting his life in hold to care for his mother and he's a good friend. For someone who thought that he's broken for a relationship, he's so good at it.

I really liked how Frankie and Marcus's relationship progressed. While everything is slow-paced, nothing felt dragged. Their relationship is intense and it's for both of them something new, but special. I also liked how they communicate with each other and how honest they are with each other about their fears.

The side characters are great. Marcus's friends, Paul and Arthur are very enjoyable and entertaining characters. They are good men, friendly and ready to help Frankie at the beginning and to give him a warm bed even if he's a stranger. They are good friends, wanting Marcus to be happy and to take a chance to happiness. I really enjoyed how the author portrayed the small community, with people who are there for each other, caring and supportive.

If you are looking for a sweet read, with endearing characters and a great romance in the most magical time of the year, look no further and pick this one up!

.Lili. says

I loved this. Sweet & sexy! 5 Stars ♥

Susan says

I get grouchy when retailers start pushing Christmas on us too early.

I don't really love the effeminate male lead character.

I was in a mood recently and if I read another cheesy M/M romance book, I was going to give up!

Thus, it was with great surprise that I SO ENJOYED THIS BOOK! I'm reading about Christmas the day after Halloween? Frankie is a sassy, self-proclaimed wanna-be-princess, hair stylist? This book is awwwww-inducing? Yes! Yes! Yes! ...and I just was taken to my happy place and brought OUT of my funk!

The book has all the makings of those typical, yet endearing Winter reads. There's snow, the couple is forced to stay together, they hate each other and then fall for each other, the small town rallies...and for that, it would be a standard 3-star read. Good enough.

But Heidi Cullinan takes it further. First off, there are layers and layers, and more hidden layers in this story waiting to be peeled back.

Frankie's fear of bullying in small towns.

The low-income projects angle.
The “I wasn’t happy in the city” storyline.
The sick mother.
The charitable work that feeds the soul.
The “even though I’m “swooshy”, I’m still a man parts
The friends w/ benefits.
The I-like-BDSM-but-my-partner-doesn’t-seem-to angle

You’d think it all would actually be too much. But, Cullinan doesn’t use a heavy-hand with any of this stuff. The story parts all kinda feed into and intertwine with each other...and it works.

Let it Snow is a caring sweet, romantic, hot, thought-provoking read and...and though it feels like a gift, it’s one of those holiday books that actually can be read any time of the year!

Martin says

Oh boy, I’m gonna say I’m not a big fan.

The first half was pretty hard to stomach for me. It didn’t work as a romance and it wasn’t erotica, either. It was more or less just awkward. But I stayed with the story, because the gay Goldilocks and the Three Bears theme does have a certain appeal...

Tell me it isn’t so, LOL.

Frankie Blackburn is a city stylist (which seems to be the political correct way to say ‘hairstylist’) who visits his parents in the countryside at the beginning of December. A snowstorm turns dangerous for him and he ends up wrecking his car in a ditch. Freezing and disoriented he walks through the storm and reaches a cabin in the woods. The door isn’t locked, so Frankie seeks shelter from the cold and falls asleep. When he wakes up, three hairy lumberjacks look at him and - once he’s done fearing to fall victim to a gay-bashing - he realizes all three are gay.

So far so good. But what went down in that cabin is so utterly crazy that I simply couldn’t enjoy this story as a Christmas romance...

The big hunky Papa Bear, Marcus Gardner, is actually a lawyer who fled from big city life (and a cheating boyfriend) to live with his high school friends Arthur and Paul, who both work as loggers in the same town they grew up in. Arthur and Paul sleep together, but they are not a couple. Despite having sex on a daily basis (for 20 years, if I interpreted things correctly), they absolutely do not match and don’t consider themselves in a relationship. It’s not even hinted that they ever intend to be in one and the later books will have both guys as MCs in their own separate stories.

So having them as fuck-buddies sharing a cabin with Marcus is the epitome of awkward.

When Frankie joins their cabin life, they try to reel him in for group sex, but Marcus makes sure that this book's love story is actually one between Frankie and Marcus only (which I was insanely grateful for).

Still the loud sex noises from Arthur and Paul in the same cabin that Marcus and Frankie slept in were so inappropriate that I couldn't take this story seriously...

Especially when Marcus and Frankie did become intimate with each other and tried to compete with Arthur and Paul on who made the louder noises in the shared cabin...

I was ready to quit this around the 50% mark.

BUT, the second half of the story was surprisingly good. It centers around Frankie trying to socialize in the town of Logan. He starts doing the hair of elderly ladies at the local retirement home and becomes a little superstar because of it, since Logan doesn't have a decent hairdresser, let alone one of Frankie's caliber. So Frankie suddenly feels welcome and appreciated in the town he was so afraid to even pass through at the beginning, which was totally heartwarming to see.

I also liked Frankie as an unusual type of romance MC.

Let's be honest, he was a wig and a dress away from being a drag queen. The references to John Inman were so frequent that the author basically forced the image of a girly slender gay stereotype in my head.

But Frankie was a very likable guy who had lots of bad luck with love and seemed to finally have found a match in Marcus, who cherished exactly the kind of soft female side of a man that Frankie never managed to conceal sufficiently to pass off as a 'real man'. Surprisingly enough, I never felt this story drifted off to a chicks with dicks type of story. Frankie definitely was a man at all times. I liked how Marcus and Frankie fell together like puzzle pieces and the ending was very sweet and heartwarming.

So the second half of the story saved the book for me.

Still, with Arthur and Paul throwing their (completely non-relevant) sex life in my face, I only rate this

3 stars!

Heller says

4.5

This book is all kinds of adorable and I loved everything about it. I'm so glad that Heidi couldn't find a snowed-in story and wrote this one. Merry Christmas indeed. Now I'm just waiting for book 2 in the series, I just hope I don't have to wait until next Christmas to get it.

Kaje Harper says

This story just fit my mood, something sweet but not too much sugar, with fun characters, and just enough holiday cheer for the season, without causing santa-overload. I really loved Marcus (and all the three bears, actually.) And Frankie was a man with more depth and complexity than it seemed at first. A great choice for a holiday read, and maybe a reread. And the Minnesota setting was a bonus for me. (Although seriously,

Heidi - a moose? :)

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

This book was like a big, steaming cup of marshmallow-fluffy, gay hot cocoa. It was just smiles the whole way through, and it made me want to snuggle down with a blanket and a big bear-man of my own. Too bad my husband is more twinkly than bear... maybe a beard and some bench pressing... I digress...

This book will make you happy. It made me happy.

I'm not usually one for really effeminate MCs. I always *want* to like books with these kind of men, but I tend not to connect with them as much. Here, I thought that Frankie was adorable and I was immediately in tune with him. I loved him and his open, big-hearted personality. However, gruff, reticent Marcus really stole the show for me. I thought that his journey to trust and let someone in again was really realistic and very well done.

Overall, I think Heidi did a great job with this story. I also see a lot of potential for other books in this series, which I'm pumped about. I'll certainly be buying them.

****Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review****

Lauraadriana says

I'm just going to put it out there, the burly bearish older man with an effeminate flamboyant younger man trope works on me LIKE A CHARM. I love the dynamics that can come from this type of love story. The older, more jaded man, finally finding someone that deserves his devotion, someone who brings out in him all the tenderness he's forgotten he has to give. And then that younger man finding someone who cherishes him JUST THE WAY HE IS... That makes all those things that everyone branded as wrong in him, exactly the things that make him even more precious to his lover.

THAT place, the place of acceptance, of seeing in the person you love that vulnerability and treasuring it, making that very "weakness" the place of strength where to grow your love, THAT place is where Heidi Cullinan brings it like no other author for me in this genre. This story charmed me. How could it not with that cozy little cabin in the woods, and the three cranky bears who end up with a very reluctant Goldilocks?!

Like I mentioned this book has three bears, and this story is all about the Papa Bear and his Golden boy. Marcus was a high powered lawyer in Minneapolis, but a failed relationship and disillusionment with his fast paced, ambition driven career made him give it all up. Now's he's back living in Logan, Minnesota where he grew up, staying in a cabin with his two best friends, Paul and Arthur. Frankie is a young man working as a hairdresser in the Twin Cities, things are not terrible, but they are not great either, and on his way back home from Thanksgiving at his parent's place, he drives his car into a snow bank in the middle of an ice storm, and ends up stuck in the middle of nowhere town of Logan, Minnesota.

Poor Frankie leaves his car behind, and starts walking until he ends up in a cabin, where he has no choice but to hunker down until the storm passes. He's a little trepidatious, his earlier stop in a local cafe kind of scared him. The men in this town seemed a bit menacing. But he goes into the cabin anyway he doesn't really have a choice....Just so happens the cabin is inhabited by three very bearish bears *whimpers*, actually the same

guys from the cafe. And at least one of them is looking at Frankie like he'd love to eat him up as a midnight snack...Things could get interesting...

What I loved about this story was that both Marcus and Frankie had so much baggage, but they still were able to give into that gut feeling that hey had found something special. They both were scared of getting hurt, Marcus of getting his heart broken again, and Frankie of all the ways people could hurt him for being who he was. Marcus scared Frankie, he seemed like the kind of man who carried chip on his shoulder for having to be put in the same category as guys like Frankie. Frankie scared Marcus, because he reminded him of all the things he wanted, but knew he could not have. They started a stand off. Marcus was growly, but sort of protective and cared for Frankie's needs as much as possible. That just made Frankie confused, Marcus seemed to hate him, yet he went out of his way to make sure he was faring in the crowded cabin.

Frankie simply was HOT for Marcus, and sharing that small pull out couch was not helping matters, specially with the free BDSM porn audio show they got every night from Arthur and Paul up in the loft. Marcus on his side of the bed not faring any better...They just could not communicate, Marcus refused to talk, and it was driving Frankie CRAZY!!! Until he finally lost it and made Marcus come out with how he really felt...Things got sexy pretty quickly after that, their connection grew strong and intense. They had something special, something REAL. However there was actual REALITY, Frankie couldn't live in a small town where he would have to live with slurs and hatefulness, and Marcus could not face life in a big city. There was nothing to do but take advantage of the time they had together during the storm...After that they had to say goodbye.

One of the things I liked the most about this story was how it embraced that reckless optimism we feel around the holidays, the sense that we can really get our very best wish to come true...That we can make a difference in small ways, and big ways and that those things that we never would dare to hope can actually be within our grasp.

I loved Frankie and his fabulosity sweeping through the elderly of Logan one awesome hairdo at a time. Loved how the town banded together to help those who were hit worst during the storm, and loved how just by being who they were Marcus and Frankie made each other strong enough to reach for their happy ending.

Heartwarming and delightful...And of course very very sexy.

I very much look forward to more Minnesota Snow Stories.

To take a look at the wine and food I made for this story got to the The Tippy Bibliophile

Macky says

Awww that was really lovely. Five Xmas stars for giving me not only the warm and fuzzies but also for surprising me with how tender and at times poignant enough it was to actually bring on a little misty eyed, weepy moment or two but in a satisfying way... If you know what I mean!

Frankie just up and stole my heart alongside his grumpy papa bear Marcus, the other cuddly bears Arthur and Paul and the rest of the cast of engaging characters, who all managed to worm their way in there as well especially Marcus' mum who was so lovely and instrumental in the teary department by plucking at my heartstrings. I think some of my favourite parts were set around Frankie's visits to the home she was in... Just read it and you'll see why.

Sexy but not sleazy, sweet and hot it was charming, endearing and just Christmassy enough to suit the season but thankfully never over the top sickly sweet. Just a real delight to read and I loved it!

If you're looking for a warm, fulfilling Christmas comfort read that won't have you yakking up your egg nog then this is high on the list.

" Jingle balls, jingle balls, jingle all the way.... " < singing merrily on a high!! Lol. >

Lenore says

I suspected I wouldn't much like this book (based on my past experience with Ms Cullinan's work), but it's a Christmas story so I thought I'd try it. No time like the present, right? Boy, was that a mistake.

I won't dwell on the porno-movie-worthy setting of the cabin where the two snowed-in couples engaged in marathon sex sessions. I won't elaborate on how the distressing effect the secondary couple's exhibitionistic sexual activities had on the unsuspecting, terrified Frankie bordered on abuse. What I found tacky and disturbing others might find exciting.

I will however underline how, beneath the superficial stereotype-breaking, awareness-raising veneer, all this book achieves is to make sweeping generalisations and perpetuate prejudicial and stereotypical thinking not only regarding gender norms, constructions of masculinity, virility, and manhood, but also social structure, marginalized groups, and social categorisation, seeking to produce higher-order collective truths from oversimplified beliefs about specific people, social groups, and circumstances.

These lurk everywhere in the book: Small towns are chock-full of bullies and uncivilised folk. Poor people are filthy, churlish, small-minded, and undeserving of kindness. All immigrants live in impoverished areas, are extremely dangerous, and carry the prejudices of their home countries. Effeminate men aren't real men. Effeminate men are homosexuals. Big, silent, broody blokes with lumberjack beards and furry arses are real men. Lawyers are super smart. Hairstylists are super dumb. And so on.

I'm not partial to this sort of privileged, prescriptive, highly biased view of the world. Books such as Let It Snow are more deleterious than beneficial for the m/m romance genre.

No more Heidi Cullinan for me.

Sara says

You know how you have different friends? Friends that you can spend time with even in a large group and you still get that connection regardless of who is around. But there is that other friend. The one that is special, so special that they need your undivided attention. It's not that they demand it, it is just who they are. The one on one time, the alone time is how you connect, how they touch you so deep that the moments you share together become part of you. For me, with books, that friend is anything by Heidi Cullinan. Now, I am known as a massive sneak reader at work but it's something I just can't do with Heidi's books. It's not that I don't eagerly want to read what is on the page, I so do; I just need that one on one time with me and the story. Just us, the two of us in our own world and that is all that matters.

I have to admit, Christmas makes me cringe. The holiday and what it has become turns me into a Scrooge of the Bill Murray persuasion. That being said, I do LOVE the holy hell out of Christmas stories, music and movies. They remind me that for whatever reason, this holiday, this season is a magical time and anything, even the impossible can happen. A bit of a romantic notion...did you see the blurb for this? Have you met me yet?

Frankie and Marcus, Marcus and Frankie...Where do I begin? I loved Frankie, just fell for him the instant he walked, or rather, struggled to find his way in his car, onto the page. I have thing for the boys with *the swish*. Their flamboyance is like a beacon that draws me to them. I want to be in their light, share in their joy and absorb their personality. Frankie was a treasure to read, to be in his head the first time he sees the bears in flannel at the café, the ones that he typically would be afraid of, I got it and I got him. His thought process was so easy to settle into and I did immediately. I connected with him in many, many personal ways.

Marcus...oh boy! You big old grumpy bear with the softest center EVER! How could I not love you and just want you to be happy? Want you to not feel the guilty over your life decisions and just find the happiness that is dropped at your feet, or actually on your couch. The love you have for your mother, your friends, your town and all the love that you have to give. Even bears need to have someone to give their hugs to. I loved your struggle, I struggled with you. I loved your kindness, I felt it. I loved your ability with snow suits, oh yeah. Damn boy!

The story is told in my favorite way with a slow burn. Goodness. I love how you get comfortable with the characters; as you get to know them, you know there is an attraction there but you put that to the back of your subconscious because the burn is so warm and cozy and then BAM! You are hit with the heat! You stumble back shocked, give your head a shake, look back at the page and dive right back in. I swear, each time I am stunned by the first kiss and this one was damn hot! Snow? Cold weather? What in heaven's name are you talking about? The boys are HOT and that kiss was only the beginning. Only. The. Beginning.

Marcus and Frankie were wonderful to read. I got everything I needed from them. From their first meeting, to the point where they finally gave in was so good. I loved how each man brought their baggage to the table; the dirty laundry was laid out in full color. Maybe it was the confines of the cabin, the magic of the snow as it cocooned them inside and made a new world for them? I don't know but it worked. Once they let it happen...it was wonderful. Have I said that yet? I can't stop myself from smiling as I write this. I have over 30 highlights and notes on my Nook and I have not looked at one of them while I write this, which is so not my way of business but I don't need to look at them. I loved them, which is why I highlighted them, but this story is so in my heart right now...*sigh*

This...this story is exactly what I needed. I was in a mood, a funk that I needed out of. I needed a book, a story, a chance to meet to boys who would make me fall so hard for them and make me believe...I got it with Let it Snow and then some.

I have to add: With each book from the author, I find something with the MC's that I connect with on a very personal level. This was no exception. It stuns me with the realization. While the book is fun to read, there are these moments where reality sets in. Where I have to take a deep breath and absorb the emotions from the characters as I feel it with them. I am an emotional reader, the romance gets me but when those connections happen, it floors me. It humbles me and reminds me of the reasons that I read; I read to feel, I read to escape and I read to fall in love with the characters on the page as they fall in love with each other. I read to get lost in a story that hits me with every emotion, touches every bit of me from the fantasy of the love story to the realization that things to happen, that people are a certain way and when I get all of that in one book; it's wonderful.

Ingie says

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(hide spoile

Gigi says

Ack! Another one to add to my everyone liked it but me shelf, which is very sparse.

I wasn't able to connect with this one. I didn't enjoy the characters, especially secondary characters Arthur and Paul. The setting was all wrong. There was no privacy, no intimacy. It creeped me out. It *completely* brought me out of the moment(s). The only reason this book even got 3 stars was because the HEA payoff at the end deserved a star of it's own.

That being said, I suggest folks look to all the other reviewers for help in deciding to read this one. It completely missed the mark for me but was loved by just about all of my GoodReads friends.

I truly hope you can read it for what it was intended: A fun, free spirited holiday romp meant to warm your heart.
