



The Christmas Mansion

Hollis Shiloh

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In a world of gas lighting and horse-drawn carriages, Rex is fixing up an old mansion to host a Christmas party for his wealthy family's business. He meets a gentle, insecure magician named Gene, who's come to work on the crumbling mansion's moldings. He doesn't expect to fall in love.

Note: This story first appeared in "Christmas Delights," a collection of Male/Male gay romance stories set in and around the Christmas season.

Length: 9,615 words

Heat level: sweet

Themes: Christmas, magic, gay romance, sweet romance, historical fantasy

The Christmas Mansion Details

Date : Published January 16th 2014 by Spare Words Press (first published December 1st 2013)

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Author : Hollis Shiloh

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From Reader Review The Christmas Mansion for online ebook

Carly says

A sweet story that's perfect for any time of year!

Rex is a social butterfly that loves to entertain. Gene is quite, insecure and doesn't see himself as the unique man he is.

Opposites attract in this heart warming short story about finding love in unexpected places. Rex and Gene are drawn to each other but each holds back for different reasons. Their hearts recognize that each holds the key to completing the other, and The Christmas Mansion offers the happy-ever-after ending that is Shiloh's signature storytelling style.

Well written, with characters that engaged my heart. Hollis once again draws me fully and completely into the magical world created in The Christmas Mansion!

Meka♥books says

I would rate this 2.5 stars. If this short read was suppose to be during or around the Christmas season, I missed it. Yes, the mansion was being fixed up for a Christmas party and with a few mentions of the cold and snow falling, this fell short of the holiday season.

As the book descriptions foretell, "The Christmas Mansion" is a sweet story. Both Rex and Gene are likeable however I was a bit miffed at the fact that Gene is a magician. I think his talents as a magician could have shined more showing how his talents aided in the remodeling of the mansion. Because the magic was mention but not given any detail, this talent could have been left out.

Although the story is sweet, there was something about Rex and Gene's relationship that did not work for me. I felt like they both were insecure in their own ways: Rex with his looks, Gene with his lack of confidence and shyness. I did however love that Rex was not assertive with Gene, letting Gene set the pace of their relationship.

The book has a few errors including name flops but the story flows none the less. If you're looking for a clean, sweet read, & don't mind some errors, check out this short story.

Gaa-chan says

3.5 stars

Em says

Rex is renovating a property for an extravagant Christmas party and hires adorable but insecure magician Gene to help him fix things up!

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Yes, I read a sweet little Christmas story in June! I'm a rebel, what can I say?
Anyway, Rex is fixing up an old mansion for a big important Christmas party that his family throws. He hires all kinds of workers, among them Gene. A shy, unassuming man with magical abilities. Poor Gene doesn't have a lot of self esteem but Rex sees what a treasure he really is. This was a cute light little story and it's free! So go read it.

CrabbyPatty says

A sweet magic-related M/M short novella centering around a big Christmas party and a mansion that is extensively repaired for the party. No sex, but a couple gentle kisses, and the promise of a sweet happy-ever-after. A nice "palate cleanser" of a story!

Lila Hunter says

Unrated

This was an odd little story. It's hard to explain, but I liked it and at the same time did not. It has great main characters, awkward magical elements, and a strange sense of place. But overall, everything works.

It's a really quick story for those looking for an off-the-field kind of Christmas story.

Trisha Harrington says

This was a cute little story. There was nothing I really loved about it apart from the characters. Well, love might be a bit strong, but I thought they were sweet together.

There isn't steam in this, but there are some sweeter moments. Both characters had self-confidence issues which added a bit to the story.

This was nice and short and didn't take a lot of effort to get into. It was also free on Amazon when I picked it up, so that's a bonus.

Tori says

Hard not to enjoy this sweet short story. Didn't blow me away, but didn't hate it either.

Gina says

free on amazon

Ryan says

I think I've already mentioned my recent addiction to m/m romance stories. It all started with getting NOOK last Black Friday, and it seems that I can't stop reading them. I've found myself enjoying some authors more than others, and even liking certain motifs or character types more than I thought I would. Some of the stories are really heavy on the sex, and most of it is pretty hot. There are times though when I want a simple romance, light on the sex, and in some cases no sex. And that's what I got with The Christmas Mansion.

It's cute, simple, and sweet. Rex is a guy who gets to plan lavish parties for his family, who are all bankers. He doesn't have a head for numbers, so he plans events for them to entertain their clients, and to woo new ones. He has found a beautiful, but rundown mansion to fix up for their Christmas party. Gene seems to be the misfit of his family as well. He doesn't have as much magic, doesn't have a boisterous personality, and doesn't see himself as all that special. When he shows up to redo the moldings, he's almost self-effacing. As different as the two men are physically, and in their personalities, they fit together. They don't allow anything to happen until the job is complete, at least Gene won't, and it seems as if the wait was good for them. By the time the job is finished, and the party is thrown, it seems as if they are ready to move onto their next projects, as a couple.

This was the kind of book I want to read during the holidays. It has romance, magic, and just enough angst to keep it interesting. It's a guaranteed happy ending, which is what I need to have this time of year.

Lucy says

Just sweet and lovely. Gene is gentle, unsure and I loved the interaction between the two.
Edit: Reread it, still love it.

Sarina says

Really cute little story with a holiday theme. I thought it was sweet how Rex feels the need to try and take care of Gene but also how he has the patience to stand aside and wait until Gene is ready for anything more than a professional relationship. The only thing I wish is that the magic was perhaps a slightly larger part of the story; I didn't really see any point in bringing it in an mentioning it if it was going to be such a miniscule element of the story. That's just me though; otherwise it was an enjoyable little story.

Rogene Carter says

Absolutely magic and sickeningly sweet even on the third read.

Kogiopsis says

I don't want to be too hard on this book because a) it was free, b) I always feel bad ragging on queer stories unless there's something seriously unhealthy in them, and c) y'know, in the end, it did basically what it promised it would do. It was a pretty bare-bones, charming, short romance story. That's just... not enough to get more than three stars from me. If it had been longer - if there'd been more time to develop chemistry, in particular, or to show a bit more of the world and its magic - maybe it'd rate higher. It *did* do a good job with showing the main couple as mutually supportive/positive in each other's lives, so there was definitely potential there.
