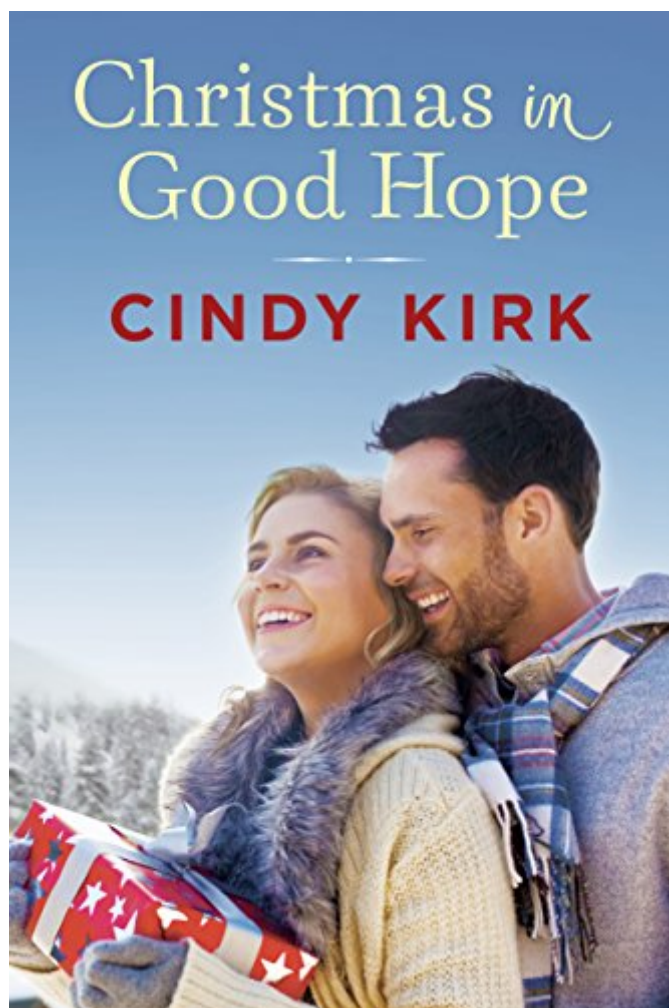


The book was found

Christmas In Good Hope (A Good Hope Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

Ami and Beck would rather forget the past, but this Christmas of love is one to remember. Amaryllis Bloom's cheerful smile greets everyone in Good Hope, Wisconsin. But her merry facade hides a dark secret she won't ever forget. Still, she throws herself into celebrating Christmas and convinces her handsome, and stubborn, new neighbor to join her. Beckett Cross, however, is determined not to celebrate the holidays. He moved to Good Hope to leave behind reminders of how he'd had it all and lost everything. But it's hard to resist adorable Ami, the designated keeper of the small town's holiday traditions, when she asks for help with the Twelve Nights celebrations. And Ami has a hard time resisting Beck's soft Southern drawl and gentle eyes. Will a Christmas miracle give them a second chance at love and the hope to heal both of their hearts for good?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cindy Kirk has crafted a sweet, heartwarming story that sets the perfect tone for the holidays. Her heroine, Ami Bloom, is the kind of woman I'd love to call my friend. She has a secret, though, which

Ms. Kirk reveals to the reader at just the right pace. Beckett Cross is a man of mystery, harboring his own secret pain that is keeping him from living life to its fullest. I found myself cheering for Ami and Beck as they slowly opened up to one another and learned to deal with their past hurts. The town of Good Hope, where neighbors help neighbors, felt real, engaging and full of interesting characters. I especially loved the Cherries and their commitment to keeping traditions alive. This is a wonderful read. If you're looking for a book to put you into the holiday spirit, Christmas in Good Hope is it!

I'm not a romance book reader. In fact, this may be my first. Since it was free with Prime, and I was feeling the pull of holiday nostalgia, I gave in and decided to try it. It was like the book version of Hallmark Christmas movie. With an awkward sex passage or two thrown in. It hit the spot and fulfilled my need to live in a quaint little town where Christmas is done right. Little local bakeries, and restored Victorian houses and community welcome wagons. Oh if such places really existed! The story was a bit predictable, but that is good because when you are reading a book like this, you come to expect certain things. Like if you had bought a chocolate chip cookie and ate it only to discover it tasted like a snickerdoodle. This book delivers on the Christmas cheer. However I could do without some of the author's attempts to pump up the drama or to make characters more complex. Just let a good thing be a good thing! I loved the small town characters, and the web of relationships that were set up for subsequent novels. I have to say, I just may read the next, or perhaps the whole series. The only drawback for me was sex - just thrown in there, almost as if the author were trying to check a box. Sex, whether in real life or in fiction should be more than having a box checked. You need build up. And while there was tons of flirting, I just didn't believe that the characters would jump into so quickly, nor did I like the almost graphic to the point of lacking finesse way it was written. I do enjoy a good love scene, but sometimes less is more. And especially in a quick and happy little book like this, I wish the romp would have been written as more of just that - lighter and less serious. But as a first time romance reader, maybe I'm out of touch with what the genre calls for. Either way, I don't think I'd sign up for just any romance novel any time soon, but I am longing to return to Good Hope.

This book should really not be in the romance category. This is more like a Hallmark Christmas special, with some romance thrown in on the side. Death, and life issues, are the focus of this book, not romance. There are many heavy stories going on here with many characters. And much of the book is focused on loved ones who have died, or the main characters' friends or family, all of whom

come up quite frequently DURING the romantic moments. Literally every romantic scene has the two leads talking or thinking about either their departed loved ones, or other people and their problems or tragedies (and there are MANY tragedies in this book). Please, focus on the romance for a couple of paragraphs, and THEN discuss or focus on those other things! But the author has them doing both at the same time, which I find really bizarre. So any warm fuzzy or hot and heavy feelings you may have had while the two leads are flirting and getting affectionate are completely derailed. Even while engaging in their first foreplay, Ami's talking about some people they barely know--I am not kidding! He finally says, "Enough about them," and I had to roll my eyes and say... uh, ya THINK?? If my husband and I are being affectionate and I talk about anything other than what is going on between us, it's a total turn off for him--obviously. And it's also a turn off for the reader; it's like-- ooo this is nice-- oh wait now I have to think about the really sad thing that happened or this other situation that's going on. My other problem with the book is the super duper large amount of writing devoted to Christmas stuff. Christmas decorations, food, activities, songs, etc etc. During the first third of the book I was enjoying the descriptions of Christmas and winter things, but after a while it seemed over the top. I know this is a Christmas book, and I love Christmas, but I started feeling like I'd been locked into a Hallmark shop. Call me a Scrooge or whatever... it was like, OK I get the point already! Anyway, it's a good read if you love Christmas and Lifetime and Hallmark. Just don't expect the traditional romance genre.

Reviews have spoilers so be made aware there may be a spoiler in this one. Although this book is about Ami and Beck falling in love, in my humble opinion it's about a community that cares for one another, and especially during Christmas. This small town really celebrates Christmas as it should be. I really enjoyed this story. The characters were individuals just like any small town community has, some liked, some not so much, and some outstanding, and all believable. Ami is one of the outstanding ones. She's very likable, community minded, willing to help others when needed, but hard on herself. The story made me feel comfortable even the few unlikable characters didn't irritate me. I found my self grinning during most of the book. So if you want a nice "feel good" read this is it. Beware, you may get a sweet tooth while reading and need to stop and have a good cup of hot chocolate and a muffin. Enjoy! Good reading to all, retired to read

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