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Posted on 06 July 2019 By Heidi Cullinan

#Download Kindle Ñ Santa Baby ì eBook or E-pub free

Santa Baby starts pretty much immediately after Winter Wonderland left off, with no preamble or break, so it feels like a straight continuation of that story Except, of course, the

focus is on Arthur, Gabriel and Dale. Many of my friends don't read this book, because polyamory is not for them, or because this story takes a couple that got their happy in a previous book and alters it. Fair enough, I totally get that I, however, quite enjoyed it. Was this story necessary? Well, no, not in the sense that it is such an integral part of the overall story that if you don't read it, you'll lose out. Truly, if *Sleigh Ride* was perfect for you as the story of Arthur and Gabriel, that's awesome. I was good with that one, too, but I wanted to see what Ms Cullinan got up to with this one. I love ménage stories, if they're done well, and I knew that Heidi Cullinan could pull it off. Even still, *Santa Baby* was different than my expectations and not in a bad way, at all. I recall in *Sleigh Ride*, Arthur saying he didn't want to share Gabriel. I thought that was sweet, but a bit out of character for Arthur, considering how much he really enjoyed having a third to play with. I figured at the time that the basis for his assurances, in that regard, was because he felt that was what Gabriel needed, and maybe he even wanted to try monogamy, as well. So when *Santa Baby* starts and Arthur observes the intense attraction that Gabriel feels toward Dale, well, he saw an opportunity to explore something new with his lover and he took it. Of course, things don't really go as planned, because Gabriel, well, he is pretty much as neurotic as I am and he panicked. He was not really ready for such an exploration, as much as he wanted it, and I think that Arthur pushed for it a bit too much at first. And I totally got it. It's one thing to want an experience, but it's totally another thing to actually go through with it. Gabriel's barely comfortable being with Arthur, he has no idea how to bring a third in especially one he sees he could have real feels for. That terrified him, because Arthur is his world and he doesn't want to lose that. But Arthur, being Arthur, gets to the real crux of the issue and does everything he can to help Gabriel be who he needs to be. So *Santa Baby* is all about discovering your truest self and learning how to navigate those waters. And Gabriel doesn't have to do any of it alone because he has Arthur to be his rock and he has Dale to show him the poly ropes. And I liked that. And in the true Heidi Cullinan way, she takes a topic she wants to explore and she does it thoroughly from the viewpoint of someone just figuring things out. That's her style and I'm good with it. The dynamic between Arthur, Gabriel and Dale was certainly different than I am used to in a ménage type story. Arthur, while he loves to have a third to play with, he isn't poly. His focus is on Gabriel and his happiness. And Dale comes with some pretty persistent baggage that needs to be dealt with. Dale is polyamorous, but that is something he tells very few people because of the stigma behind it. People see cheater or homewrecker and sometimes he trusts when he shouldn't, but who hasn't, right? He is still dealing with one of those situations that just won't go away. So there are definitely hurdles, here, but no one is left out in the cold. Arthur, Gabriel and Dale all get something out of their arrangement, and they all have something to give. The whole deal with Ronny, the abusive ex, man, that made me ill. Ronny is a master of manipulation and he is not a good person. At all. Every time Dale had to deal with that man, I got sick to my stomach just like Dale. My only real niggle is just how easily that whole thing was dealt with. It was wrapped up with a

bow, with hardly any trouble at all But then this is a Christmas story, after all, so I'll forgive that Santa Baby might not be your cuppa For a lot of people I know, that is definitely the case For me, though, I was glad for this story. 3.5 stars rounded down because still no 1 2 stars here on GR and my brain is still in a quandary about this one It's a matter of personal taste If you're a fan of Heidi Cullinan then I'm sure you're probably already aware of much of the controversy surrounding this book So let's start with the elephant in the room A large portion of this story is focused on the change that happens in Arthur and Gabriel's relationship when Arthur realizing that Dale Davidson, Marcus's friend and the developer from the twin cities who's going to help Logan's economy by making it into a vacation destination is interested in his fiance Gabriel What was suppose to be one time night of kinky sex and fun for the threesome ends abruptly leaving Arthur and Gabe to deal with a surprising realization and Dale making a hasty retreat to the city feeling alone and rejected It's Arthur who finally takes matters in hand and plots to draw Dale back to Logan to try and put all their lives back onto a happier path only to discover that Dale needsthan love he needs help Years of being in an abusive relationship have done a real number on him and his abuser is trying to insinuate himself back into Dale's life This was one hella complex story in a lot of ways So I'm going to try and share my thoughts on this without being spoilerish or confusinggood luck to me I finished this book yesterday and to be honest I'm still trying to work through a lot of it but the one thing I did realize is I honestly have to give props to the author because what she's tackled here is a pretty complex issue in what's probably a not so popular way A lot of readers don't want to see the dynamics changed in established couples and I'll include myself in this group but Ms Cullinan's vision of Arthur and Gabe's future did just that and while a part of me maybe frowned a little over this, all things considered it was not my biggest dilemma with this story Maybe if Arthur and Gabe had beenthan a one book couple I would have struggled with it evenIf it had been a couple from a long standing series like Ty and Zane from the Cut Run series I probably would have just thrown my hands up and said Oh hell NO and taken a total pass on the book But it wasn't so I was willing to read and see where this would go What I found when all was said and done was that this was a huge emotional roller coaster ride that left me feeling a bit conflicted and confused One of the issues that this story deals with is Polyamory and I know some of the reviews that I peeked at said the story at times felt like a Poly 101 course and maybe it did but for me this was good I knew the word and what it meant, but beyond that I neededinformation to be able to process how it would impact the MCs in this book so I was honestly relieved that it was information that was filtered into the story for me What I quickly realized is that from my perspective it's not cheating When a third party enters into a relationship with the knowledge and consent of both partners and everyone has been honest with each other in regards to expectations and feelings and there's no dishonesty involved then there is no cheating Had Gabe and Dale or Arthur and Dale initiated a relationship without the others knowledge then yes, cheating has entered the equation But

this did not happen and another one of the things I liked about this story, the communication between Gabe and Arthur was good it was open and I think this was due in a big way to Arthur's determination to make things work and to make sure Gabe, whom he so obviously loved was happy Arthur ended up becoming one of my favorite characters He truly embodied what it means to love someone You put their happiness before your own His objective from start to finish of this book was to see Gabriel happy To give him what Arthur quickly recognized as being what Gabriel needed to feel happy and complete, but it didn't stop there because it also felt like doing this made Arthur feel happy and complete What was missing from this for me was that I didn't feel like Gabriel had that same imperative feeling about Arthur I needed to feel like that Arthur's happiness and well being was of equal importance to Gabriel I know there were a couple of times that he spoke the words but the words just didn't seem to contain the emotion I never got the sense that Arthur's happiness came before all else for Gabriel In fact there was than one instance where I was left feeling like Arthur's love for Gabriel was stronger and because of how their relationship changed I needed for this not to be the case That Gabriel opened up his heart and made room for someone else along with Arthur wasn't my issue that I felt like he gave some of what had been Arthur's place in his heart to that person was I think what it comes down to is that at the end of it all I really needed to feel a sense of balance had been achieved between the three Not that they loved each other the same because they were three different men filling different needs within each others lives but I needed to feel that the core relationship between Arthur and Gabe had not been diminished, changed yes, all relationships grow and change it's part of what keeps them healthy and good, but growth and change shouldn't diminish what they had and yet to me it felt like that was exactly what had happened In particular the event that happened immediately prior to the actual wedding of the 3 couples Marcus Frankie, Paul Kyle and Arthur Gabriel was not something I was happy with and only reinforced my feelings that what was between Arthur and Gabriel had diminished and not remained as strong or stronger than it was originally My last big stumbling block with this story was in regards to the resolution of Dale's abuser I loved that this man was brought to justice That Dale who he obviously had a long history of abusing was totally removed from the case and not a part of it left me with two really big issues¹ it just didn't seem realistic and even importantly² there were other victims involved and it made me feel like they got tossed under the bus to spare Dale Why was their suffering any less painful than Dale's Did they all get the option to be removed from the case to spare themselves further hurt and torment Sorry this part really bothered me For the most part these are my main thoughts in regards to Santa Baby and here I sit at the end of it all still wondering how to rate this book I like Heidi Cullinan's writing style and in this case it worked well for me and helped to give me some insight to a subject that I really knew little about There were parts of the story that I really liked, parts that bothered me and things that yes, I just plain didn't like But at the end of it was a story that has left me with a lot to think

about and that's something that I really respect when it happens. So for that reason I'm going with 3.5 stars and a strong recommendation that anyone who is interested in this story check out all the reviews there's a wide range of diverse opinions out there about it and it's worth at least checking them out and making your own informed decision before you decide yea or nay as to whether or not you're actually going to read it. A copy of Santa Baby was graciously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. #Download Kindle à Santa Baby ° Trimming The Tree Is Fun With Three Twin Cities Developer Dale Davidson Has Come To Logan, Minnesota, To Turn It Into Christmas Town, Not To Give In To Arthur Anderson's Offer To Join Him And His Fiancé, Gabriel Higgins, For A Christmas Eve Threesome Dale Is Polyamorous, But It's Clear Arthur Is Offering A Night Of Fun And Nothing Maybe One Night With The Couple He Admires So Much Won't Hurt Together The Three Of Them Light A Fire Hot Enough To Boil Lake Superior In January, And One Night Of Fun Becomes An Extended Engagement As Dale Puts Down Some Tentative Roots In His New Hometown Everyone Loves Dale, Logan's Own Santa Claus, And Somehow No One Knows What Wild Times Are Happening Right Underneath Their Noses No One Knows, Either, The Complicated Ways They're Falling In Love With One Another But A Shadow From Dale's Past Emerges, An Abuser Threatening Him With Violence And Shame Ronny Doesn't Want A Happy Ever After For Dale, Only To Draw Him Back Into A Consuming Darkness It Will Take The Love Of Not Only Gabriel And Arthur But All Of Logan To Convince Their Santa He Has Nothing To Be Ashamed Of And That He Will Always Have A Home In Their Hearts DNF 45%

I went into this with an open mind but I'll stop here, so no rating. As it turns out, polyamory is not my thing at all, but this is not the reason I didn't like this, so let's get this out of the way. Poly is NOT cheating. It's unconventional and diverse, and works for some people, but not for others. If you're anything like me, you will not like this story at all. But it bothers me when people refer to polyamory as something disgusting and shameful. Imagine that you were poly, in a healthy poly relationship and someone called you disgusting. How is this different from someone bullying you for being gay? The problem was, that this felt like Polyamory 101. It happens and lately with Cullinan's work I feel like I'm reading this through a pamphlet or something. Too preachy and didactic. It's like the author goes out of her way to convince the reader, instead of letting her characters do the work. Also, Dale the third guy was introduced to us from the get-go. As soon as the book starts, Dale is already there for some time and already lusting after Gabriel. And these feelings were mutual. Since the author chose to use an already established couple that a lot of readers have loved, maybe it would be best for things to progress a little slower. Arthur was annoying. He was borderline pushy about the whole thing. I really wish that the author had used a different couple for this. 3 Stars. I'll begin by stating that this review will not reiterate the plot of this story if you haven't read the rest of this series and/or you haven't read the synopsis for this book then I wouldn't bother reading this review because it is most definitely spoiler filled. To absolutely nobody's

surprise least of all mine this was a tough book for me to read I feel like I went through the emotional wringer with this one There were aspects of this story and several moments throughout which made me smile and or cry, and for that I have nothing but praise to dish out to Cullinan Then again, I m a reader who personally believes in monogamy for myself and shies away from books that mess with already established couples, which, for me, made this a really tricky book to emotionally and intellectually navigate.To be clear, I believe that every single person has the right to love who they want however they want to love them, and if polygamy is your thing, then I wish you all the best in your romantic endeavours But for me personally, I m all about monogamy I want to love and be loved by one person, wholeheartedly, mind, body and soul That s just how I roll I don t think there is anything wrong with either way of loving, but I also don t enjoy being made to feel bad for being a monogamist either which, if I m being brutally honest, is how I felt at certain points while reading this story I don t believe Cullinan meant to come across judgemental or preachy if anything, I m sure the exact opposite is true but there were several instances in this story when I felt like my personal beliefs were being negatively scrutinised, like those who believe or practice monogamy in their personal relationships were too close minded to embrace their hearts full potential to love I was quite perplexed by this, particularly because I feel like I m a live and let live kind of person, who praises books such as this for expanding my knowledge and challenging my thinking for the better, yet I felt like I, in turn, was being judged for feeling how I feel It s hard to explain and I m not angry, just saddened that this was the reaction I felt The thing is I really enjoyed the book in general I still adored the small town setting of Logan and the secondary characters still warmed my heart and provided great support and unconditional love towards the main characters, Arthur, Gabriel and Dale The decision to take an established couple Arthur and Gabriel and make one of them polyamorous Gabriel was an interesting move by Cullinan As I mentioned before, I hate when the happiness of established couples is messed with, but impressively, this turned out to be much less of an issue for me, here If it had to be done then I m glad it was done the way it was Cullinan handled this new development skilfully, providing the reader with an understanding of the intricacies of polyamory and why it was happening to these characters, while encouraging the reader not only to understand, but also accept, support and care for the happiness of all parties involved At least, that was my experience I put this down to the fact that everything that was happening or had the potential to happen between the characters was discussed first They talked, as a group of three, continually, before anything happened with anyone else There were absolutely no secrets honesty and communication were key I appreciated that and it allowed me to completely disengage from any feelings about behaviours being unfaithful, because they weren t thank God As for the characters themselves, I really liked the new addition of Dale, and even though I would have preferred he be incorporated into this series in a different way, I can admit that he fit well with Arthur and Gabriel, both together as a threesome and individually within pairs I

also still found myself adoring Gabriel, even with the suddenness of the poly stuff which I'll never truly accept as a natural progression for his character due to how he was represented in book two but he continued to shine here, ensuring that my interest and adoration of his character only waned ever so slightly. What I was surprised to find was how impressive Arthur's character became. On one hand, I question how a man, who himself is NOT polyamorous, can so easily offer and accept when the love of his life Gabriel falls in love with another man Dale. I don't know whether to be wowed by his selflessness and confidence in his own role in Gabriel's life, or to feel sorry for him because he now must share in Gabriel's love. Either way, I've decided I was fascinated by Arthur's attitude and acceptance, as well as his fierce protection of the other two men throughout this story. His reactions were truly astounding and even brought me to tears on several occasions. One thing that also needs to be made clear is that even though this story is predominantly focused on Gabriel's new polyamorous status and his dual relationships with both men, Arthur and Dale also have an amazing connection, too, which should not be overlooked. For me, what Arthur and Dale shared didn't come across as romantic love, but they loved each other in a different way. They provided something crucial for one another which was completely separate from what Gabriel shared with each of them. It's difficult to explain if you haven't read the story, but in its own way, it worked for me. As I mentioned earlier, I like when my thinking is challenged. It's one of the main reasons I love reading, because I get to expand on my knowledge and challenge the way I think and feel about a wide range of diverse and complex topics. For me, Cullinan is one of my main perpetrators when it comes to M/M authors who get me thinking and feeling to the extreme. My reactions to her books are anything but simple, with ratings ranging from 2 stars through to 5 starred books, but this is why I think so highly of her and as such will continue to read her stories in the future with a mix of careful trepidation and assured excitement. This is an amazing, deeply emotional tale by Heidi Cullinan, about an abused man, trying to rise above and find his happiness. This is not a lighthearted Christmas story full of HoHoHos. This is a serious subject. Dale is a big, hunk of a bear who is organizing the campaign and logistics to make Logan, MN., a Christmas tourism town. We know Librarian Gabriel, and Handyman Arthur from book 2. Dale is attracted to Gabriel and also to Arthur's dominance. Gabriel is very much interested in Dale, but is wary within himself to not want the man. He and Arthur are engaged, in love, and he'd never hurt Arthur for anything. We get deep emotional conversations, soul searching, and indisputable dedication, unconditional support, and the freedom of self to explore, because Arthur understands what is going on. He accepts it, wants to expand it and is okay with Gabriel's opportunity. Polyamory loving than one person at a time. Arthur's a Dom and magnificent in that role, even though he's gruff, he is strong, proper and has an intense grasp of his role. An evil abuser in Dale's past is sending Dale into a tailspin. Arthur knows what to do, involving therapy also. This small community of gay men, a family of guys who are accepting, understanding, and fierce in their desire to help

Sweet Gabriel seems lost as to how he can help, but he simply puts Dale in his loving arms, giving comfort. Their three way is intense, yet tender, emotional and loving. Dale and Gabriel get one on one times, as do Arthur and Dale, plus Gabriel and Arthur continue their richly fulfilling togetherness. There is hard core BDSM, accomplished with Arthur's incredible steadiness as a Dom. These men are symbiotic in their need for one another. Of course there are outside factors, hiding their polyamory, tough talks, and eventually plans to defeat the evil ex of Dale's. People don't understand the Polyamory and think it's cheating, when it isn't, it is consensual amongst the lucky people involved. They investigate the ex, acquire evidence, and use it to achieve justice. During all of this, Dale has moved to Logan, hoping to start a new life and have the peace he needs in Arthur and Gabriel's arms. It's a wonderful, well written tale of a deep topic, and healing comfort. We get the satisfaction of knowing Dale is healing. Highly recommended. ENJOY. Toward the end, we are given quite a lovely lesson and beautiful description of polyamory and we learn a lot. Wonderfully explained with gentle focus. In the end this book is heartwarming. Dale's abuse view spoiler was physical and mental, humiliating and controlling. hide spoiler. This is a great series and part 4 continued with the heat and romance. This is Gabriel Arthur's story that focuses on a new twist. Dale. The story revolves around polyamory and the love between Gabriel Dale and the D's relationship between Arthur Dale. As always family, friends and the town step in when needed. Can't wait for further adventures in Logan. I've put this on my not gonna happen because reasons shelf because I was hesitant about this book after reading the blurb, but then I had the book spoiled for me and nope. For the record, I have no issue with polyamory and I've read plenty of MMM, MFM, MMF books, but and it's not really a spoiler, but I'll put it under one just in case. view spoiler. Arthur mentions numerous times in Sleigh Ride that he doesn't want to share Gabriel. Also, Gabriel never showed any interest or made any comment about an interest in polyamory and now all of a sudden they're in a poly relationship. WTF. It just doesn't ring true. And when I got specific details about certain scenes, the evolution of the relationship and then the end. NOPE for me. Also, the heavy subject matter of abuse feels so far away from what this series is about it just doesn't fit in and doesn't follow the tone of the rest of the series. hide spoiler. Okay, so I gave up. I'm not gonna rate this one. It contains several themes that I don't like in my books: dom sub themes and cheating although it happens with everyone's consent and is lovingly called polyamy here. I really like M M M novels where three guys meet and become an item. What I don't like is a couple picking up a third and this book showed me again why, but with a different spin on things that caught my interest. Arthur and Gabriel are a couple from a previous book in this series. Gabriel is a shy twink librarian who seems to have found love with Arthur, a handyman and slut, but Gabriel doesn't mind him straying. This odd couple now takes on a third guy, Dale, who identifies as polyamorous, which frankly I've never heard before. Turns out it means he can have committed relationships with several men. And shame on those ultraconservative narrow minded bigots who mistake that behavior for cheating. i.e. moi. So a

guy like him would be the perfect third in an M M M story, right Only, Dale isn't much interested in Arthur, while Gabriel discovers he's polyamorous too and in love with both men Arthur, however, is open minded, which apparently means he takes all the sex he can get, no need for love Thing is with Dale being polyamorous and not interested in Arthur, will he now pursue other relationships on the side too This whole concept didn't work for me from the beginning to the end Arthur manipulated Gabriel into going for the polyamy concept, because he had power over him as his dom In truth, Gabriel might have just gone the traditional way and break things off with Arthur so he could be with Dale and he would have had to swallow the fact that Dale reserved the right to sleep with others, drawing the ultimate free pass as a polyamorous man But then that wouldn't have been much different to his life with Arthur, so To be honest, this concept is bullshit I'm sure it's a real thing, just as bareback sex parties are a real thing, but I still don't think either are smart. Having a committed partner is not only about intimacy and sex, it's also about family and finances Having a partner who also spends time with other lovers, telling them about you and your life together, is the ultimate breach of trust. I also don't like how the word polyamorous is thrown around here as if it were a new category, like gay bi straight Defining a certain behavior by a fancy name doesn't make it any acceptable. I know I'm being narrow minded here, but I read this story with a certain horrified fascination, wondering what else I might encounter in the romance genre to widen my horizon. I'm sure other people will love this, just as many people love dom sub stories which I can't stand at all So it's better I'm not rating this through the system, since this is not a book that would have had a chance with me to start with It did feed my curiosity, though. And I quite liked Dale, even though I didn't care for Arthur and Gabriel at all. DNF at 37%.

Trimming the tree
is more fun with three.



SANTA BABY



HEIDI
CULLINAN

DNF Totally and completely not for me.

New Post

The Pull Out Method
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