

What happens when you take a single mother and mix an old romance that had gone wrong with a new romance that is going right??? Ingredients for a disaster just waiting to happen!

A Cozy Holiday Romance

By Jackie Adams

Order the book from the publisher Booklocker.com
<https://booklocker.com/books/14089.html?s=pdf>
or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.



Jackie Adams

*A Cozy
Holiday
Romance*

From Halloween to the New Year

Copyright © 2025 Jackie Adams

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-959621-96-6

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-959621-97-3

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-911-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

The characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2025

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Adams, Jackie

A Cozy Holiday Romance by Jackie Adams

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024925757

Chapter 1

Destina is getting little Colin ready for school. The whole morning all her four-year-old son could do was talk about Halloween. He's excited for it this year, the first in their new home since leaving Mexico. It's not easy being an immigrant without papers at risk for deportation.

Already in this four-season state of Missouri, the leaves are turning pretty colors. Fall's season of Halloween is definitely upon them. "Mom, I'm going as a ghost! Nobody will be able to see me. What if they walk right through me?" He sticks his chest out proud, to carry out his Halloween costume of choice.

She smiles down at him, proud of him, too. "Ghost it is then, Colin. I don't think they'll walk through you. Sounds like a mighty good choice to me." Anything is better than thinking of standing on her feet for the next eight hours at Mel's Diner. There are perks to waitressing, like quick cash tips, but sore feet isn't one of them.

Destina continues to get Colin ready. He jerks his shirt from his mother's hands. "I can do it, mom. I'm not a little boy. I'm this many." He holds up four fingers and starts counting them.

She is trying to rush, because if he takes any longer, she's going to be late for the bus again. Mel already warned her one more time coming in to work late he'd deduct it from her pay.

That's the last thing she needs, since she already takes less for cash. She barely gets by as it is. Besides, she hates disappointing others. Being late would definitely disappoint Mel.

She needs to call her brother, Juan. How long has it been since she's talked to him? Not since she moved into her new place. He's probably already forgotten about her existence. He's really climbed his way up the ladder at the investment company he works for. Unlike her, who is still waitressing and has been since the age of eighteen since she had Colin. You'd think she'd grow up by now. What's she going to do if she loses this job?

Thankfully Colin distracts her, "Mom, how about these?" He holds up two mismatched tennis shoes.

She shuffles his hair, "No, remember we bought you the Ninja Turtle ones."

He says, "Oh, yah! I want to wear those!"

By the time Destina walks Colin to school, she's worried she's going to be really late. She doesn't talk to his preschool teacher, Ms. Kate, like she's made the habit of doing for the past two weeks. She simply walks him in, and then she hurries out. She's sure Ms. Kate will understand.

By the time Destina catches the bus and gets to Mel's Diner, she sees there's nobody there. Maybe Mel won't be so upset, since she's only three minutes late. But then, she sees

he's got his cooking apron on. Jerome, their cook, must have called in again. Mel is clanking pots and pans together. He sees her as she walks in, and he holds up his wrist pointing at his watch. He says, "I don't know what I'm going to do about the two of you. One not showing up, while the other is always late."

"I'm sorry, Mel. I couldn't help it." Destina doesn't want to put the blame on her son, so she leaves well enough alone.

"Lucky for you, nobody's here yet." He says as he puts the plates on the shelf above him. "Now hurry with your apron already, before they start to arrive. You're also going to have to work register, Nancy called in sick, too."

"Is Tina still working?" She asks as she ties the apron behind her waist.

"Yah, she'll be in." He finishes prepping the kitchen, while Destina counts the cash in the register.

She thinks she knows why he always assigns her the register with the responsibility of the tables. Tina has worked here for longer. Working with Mel longer obviously gets you the easier perks. She hates working at the register, because it means she'll be late picking up Colin late again, which will cost her an extra hour at the preschool.

Tina comes marching in and salutes Mel like he's her drill Sargent. It makes Destina laugh. Tina tells her, "Good morning."

“Good morning, Sunshine.” Destina smooths out her apron, sticking a couple of pens in one of its pockets.

Tina says, “Oh, boy. I’ve worked my way to sunshine. It must be my sunny like disposition.”

Mel drops a plastic glass and says, “How many times have I warned you about coming in late, Tina? I was just telling Destina not to. What kind of example are you showing her?”

Tina goes on to explain how she couldn’t help it. Her daughter, Alexandra, wouldn’t put her ballet shoes on, even though she wanted to wear them. She says, “Kids, they’re so confusing and stubborn.”

Destina never heard Tina talk about having a daughter before.

Tina finishes tying her apron and tells her, “She’s on the autistic spectrum.”

Destina asks, “How old is she?”

Tina tells her, “She’ll be five in October, and all I hear her talk about is how she barely missed starting school this year, because her birthday is the latter part of October. She goes on and on how she’s too old for pre-school.”

Destina explains to her, “My boy’s four and he goes to Pre-Kid Pre-school. Where does Alexandra go?”

Tina tells me that her daughter attends the one across town. It's where Tina went when she was a little girl, and even though it's costly, she wants Alexandra to go there, too.

Destina nods her head while she makes a fresh pot of coffee.

Mel tells them both, "Come on, ladies. This isn't a social event. Don't you have something to do, Tina, like wipe down the tables or fill the ketchup bottles?"

Tina winks at Destina and shakes her head. "There's always too much to do, Mel, too much. You work us like dogs."

The day goes by faster than Destina thought it would. She's glad, because all day long she couldn't wait to get home to Colin. He doesn't seem to like pre-school. She wonders if he'll be happier if she put him in the one Tina has her daughter in. I mean sure it's across town, which equals getting up earlier for both her and Colin to catch the bus, and Tina said it's pricier. Destina mentally notes to check it out.

At the end of their shifts, the other two waitresses walk in, Thelma and Glory. Destina leans over in the back to Tina and asks, "What was the name of the Alexandra's pre-school again?"

Tina tells her, "It's 'Come Aboard'."

"Thank you. Do you think we can set up a play date for our kids?"

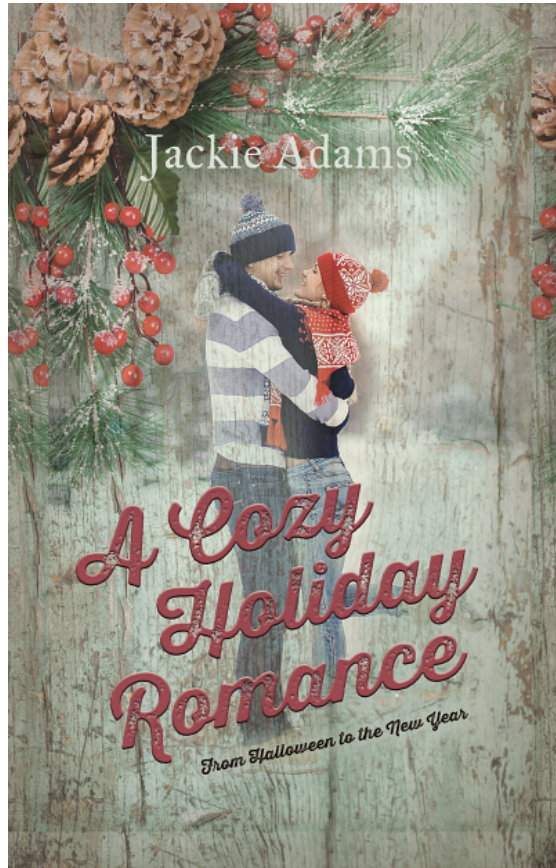
Tina says, "I'm off this whole weekend. Either day is good for us."

Destina looks at her schedule and asks, "How about Sunday?"

Tina unties her apron, "I'm going to take this nasty one home to wash." She talks a little louder so Mel can hear her, "I don't think he ever washes them." She looks back at Destina. "Hand me yours, too."

Destina finishes writing the name of the pre-school on her schedule. She unties her apron and hands it to Tina. "How about noon?"

Tina says, "Yeah, sure, noon it is. Alexandra and I will see you then." She passes Destina a card that has the local library's number on it. She then flips it over and it reads, "My cell phone number is on the back. If anything comes up call me!"



What happens when you take a single mother and mix an old romance that had gone wrong with a new romance that is going right??? Ingredients for a disaster just waiting to happen!

A Cozy Holiday Romance

By Jackie Adams

Order the book from the publisher Booklocker.com
<https://booklocker.com/books/14089.html?s=pdf>
**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**