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Like my FMC Haley, in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, I'm just a teeny bit Christmas obsessed. So, I couldn't help myself, I had to do the Christmas in July thing this year. And Christmas is about gifts, right? So there are a few nice freebies for you scattered in this newsletter.

## monthly book giveaway

Sharing my favourite reads





## July Giveaway:

### Holiday Star

**One doctor. One movie star.**

**One house.**

**One month until Christmas.**

**What could go wrong?**

Every year, just before Christmas, I love to pick myself up some holiday themed romances. One of those I enjoyed last year was Melissa Dymond's *Holiday Star*. It has all of my favourite tropes: forced proximity and celebrity meets normal person (but you probably knew I loved them from *7KHZ7HOYH 'D\ V RI } & KULVWLDQ*

Melissa wrote two versions of this book, one sweet, one spicy. So when you enter the draw, let me know which version you'd prefer.

Enter here to win!

Congratulations to our June winner, **Crystal**, who received a copy of the delightful Jessica Joyce's road trip rivals to lovers romance, *Rock & Roll*.

## author update

Caroline's writing life

This last month has been all about Christian and Haley. I have one more week of self-edits before *7 Kingdoms* is sent to my editor. I love how technology means we can collaborate with the people we want, no matter where in the world they are. If you haven't updated your copy of the book yet, click the link below.

The final book will have two extra goodies at the back which I'm also working on now. One will be a link to a bonus epilogue—I love creating bonus content for all my books as it allows me to linger with my characters a little bit longer. There will also be a sneak peek at my 2025 Christmas book, featuring Haley's friend Rachel, and Teddy, the drummer in the band Stellar Riot. Tentatively titled *0-1*, I'll dive into that book later this year.

In the meantime, I'll restart work on *% Book 1* in the Heartlands small town/sports romance series set in Scotland. I'm looking forward to getting back to Jenna and Geordie and their best friend's brother/age gap romance.

One goal I have, when budget allows, is to produce my books as audiobooks. With family members with visual impairments who can only read on audiobooks, I know how important audio is for accessibility. However, to use my preferred approach with human narrators is out of my reach for now. But this week, I had a tiny taste of it when as part of a narrator takeover on TikTok, the lovely Anne Marie Lewis voiced an extract from *7 Days*. It was so exciting to hear someone read my words.



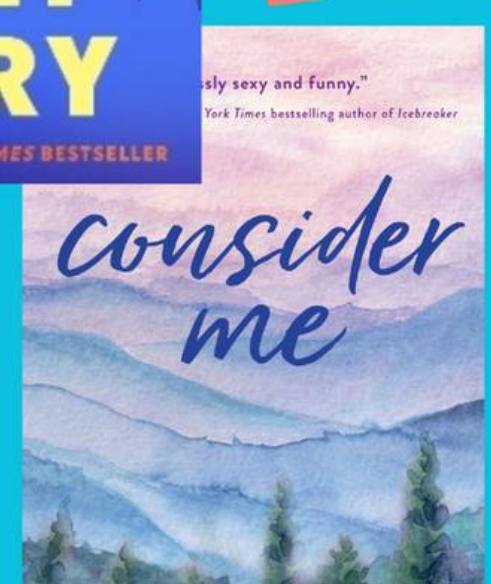
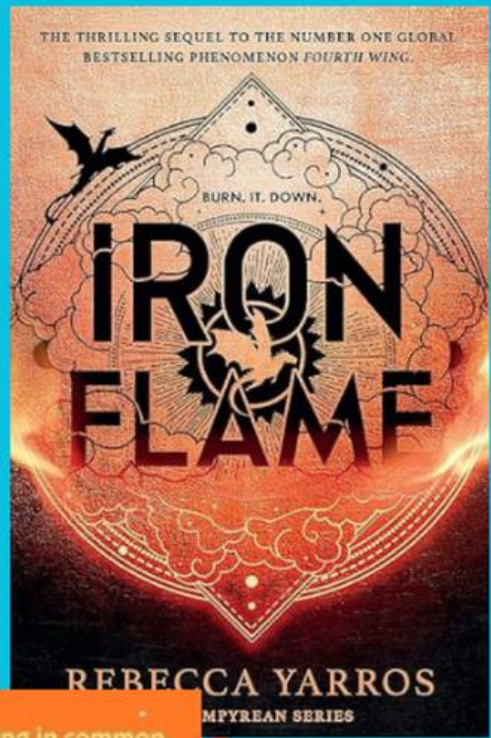
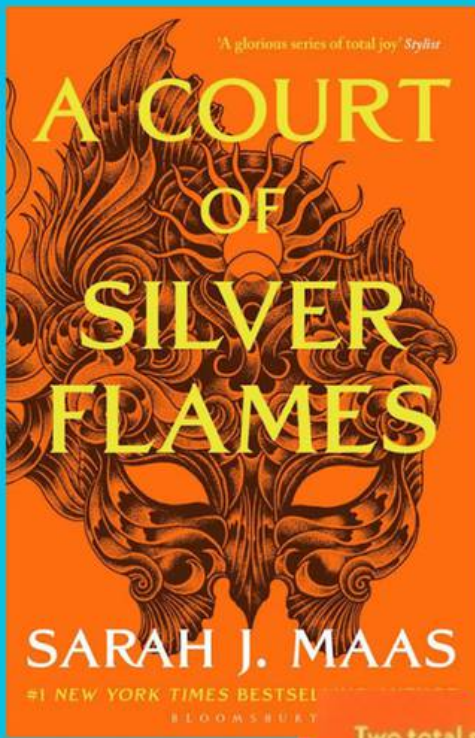
Along the way, there's been this luminous glowing ball growing inside me. It pulses, its light and warmth slowly expanding with each thud of my heart, with each step I take in time with his, in every squeeze of his hand and the way his arm tightens across my shoulder, pulling me in close as we pause to gaze in awe at each new marvel, under the spell of this place. I recognise what blooms within, even though I haven't felt its nearness for so long. Happiness. Christmas makes me happy. But this year there's something else. Someone else. Christian makes me happy.

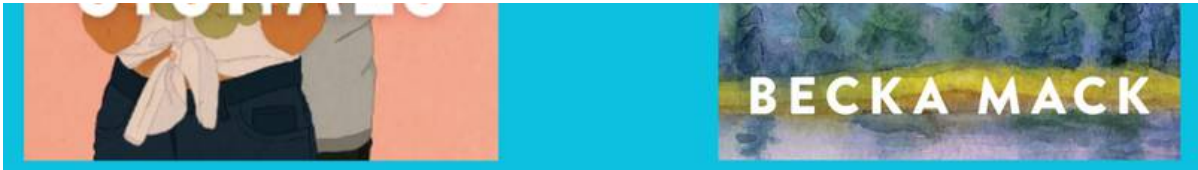
Click the link below and you'll get the book with new chapters added! (Remember, entering your email to get the book won't see you signed up for my newsletter twice as long as you use the same address as this email came to.)

The 12 Days of Christian

caroline's story nook

Books, films and music





**Reading:** People describe Emily Henry as the queen of romance and she certainly is a top contender for the crown with *The Love and Summer*. Her words coupled with Julia Whelan's narration are enchanting and this is easily another top book for me, not just for 2024 but a forever favourite. If you haven't read it, I encourage you to do so. Miles and Daphne are a special couple in such a terrible situation who find a way to put it behind them while finding their way to each other.

Other great reads this month:

*The Love and Summer* by Sarah O'Neil. Now I become one of those people patiently waiting for the next book in the series.

Ditto with *The Love and Summer* ending. January and the release of *Onyx Storm* can't come fast enough.

*The Love and Summer* was the sweetest story, the third in B.K Borison's Lovelight Farms series. The fourth comes out soon. I'll be sad about that, as I'm not ready to leave the town of Idlewild.

4. *The Love and Summer* by Becca Mack was a little step back into hockey romance. I love a good redemption story and seeing playboy team captain, Carter, clean up his act for teacher Olivia was a delightful (and spicy) read. The other guys in the team are like a bunch of overactive puppies and I'm looking forward to reading on in this series to see their stories unfold.



**Watching:** After travelling back in time to [1963](#) and [1986](#) with the two [<H O O R Z Y A R E C H>](#), we've embarked on some time travel of another sort. This time it's with an old favourite, [' R F W R L](#) : K R but with a new Doctor and his companion Ruby Sunday. Ncuti Gatwa who was incredibly good in [6 H \[ \( G X F D W I N G S R A \)](#) equally enjoyable performance in the role of the 15th Doctor.



**Listening:** I love it when I discover new music. It's so easy to spend all your time back with the same old much loved artists and songs. Recently, Instagram delivered ~~0 \ O H V 6 P L M V~~ with so many reels using his song Stargazing. This British singer songwriter has a wonderful voice and a whole swag of great songs. And he's coming to New Zealand later this year, so I'm hoping to see him live.



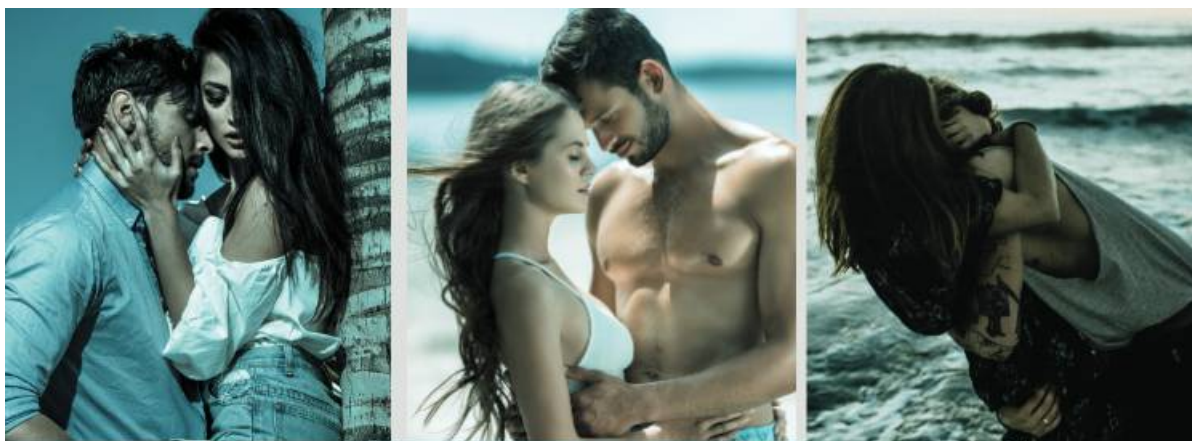


Why not get in the spirit of the season and check out all these Christmas Romance books?  
Some are freebies, others great recommendations for your TBR.

CHRISTMAS

IN

JULY



And because I know you all love gifts, check out these two free collections of romance books to add to your stash.

FIRST IN SERIES ROMANCE

ROMANCE  
FREEBIES

Surprise! We do have another dog of the month, because there's another dog in **7 K H Z H O Y H ' D \ V R I & K U T H S W K D Q**, an abandoned puppy that comes into the Canine Haven Rescue after having a sad start to life. Haley meets him at the vet clinic and he ends up having a very special role to play in the book. All the puppies in his litter were named after coffee because of their beautiful coat colours.

# Dog of The Month



*Kona*



### More Festive Fun

In the spirit of Christmas in July, I'm sharing some moments from [7D Q J O H G 7 K U H D G V](#) socials. If this book was a movie you might call it "Four Christmases, Two Weddings and a Funeral". Seriously, A LOT happens at Christmas in this book, with friends and found family. So if you want a read with Christmas vibes, here it is!

This scene is one of my favourites, when James lets his PA do his Christmas shopping. Leading to Kate, his sister's friend and his roommate finding something beautiful but inappropriate inside her gift. Oops 🔥 Get [7D Q J O H G 7 K U H D G V](#) link below. It's currently in the Smashwords sale for 50% off!

Tangled Threads

# caroline's corner

Welcome to my world





I'm writing this after a whole blissful week off from my day job and another to go. Winter has finally delivered the crisp frosty mornings and blue sky days I love. Meanwhile I'm envious of so many of you in the Northern Hemisphere enjoying summer and holidays in exciting places. My wandering heart and itchy feet are getting restless looking at all your holiday snaps. Not helped by my current position, sitting here watching the Sail GP races in stunning San Francisco Bay and recalling the fun we had there back in December.

So, my mind is once again turning to travel destinations. I'd love to hear your recommendations, especially the little gems that might not be so well known.

You may have parts of your country you consider must visit places. Send them all my way! The only way to survive not being on a trip is to plan the next one! And if you are one of those enjoying a holiday, I hope you're having the best time 💕



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