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Yes, here I am popping up again with my *late* monthly newsletter. It's a super busy time for me as we sail full-steam ahead to the release of *Not My Little Drummer Boy* on November 6th. Even though I have two whole weeks break from the day job, it's no holiday. Still, this is what I love doing most, and I'm excited to bring you Teddy and Rachel's book. This week I'm giving you another sneak peek: you get to see the blurb first. Enjoy!



**She's not asking Santa for a puppy.
She's not wishing for a pony.
And a certain drummer boy is definitely
not on her Christmas list.**

All Rachel MacDonald wants for Christmas is to make it through her best friend's wedding with her dignity intact. Fresh from a holiday heartbreak—courtesy of her flaky ex-fiancé—she's armed with retail therapy and a strict 'stick to sensible choices' policy. With a partner's seat at her law firm hanging in the balance, she can't afford distractions. But when she's paired with charming drummer Teddy Hargrove in the wedding party, her resolve

crumbles faster than day-old Christmas cookies. A no-strings fling with a hard end date might be the only reckless choice she's willing to make.

Teddy's earned his spot on Santa's naughty list—and his charm makes it impossible for anyone to hold it against him. As the irresistible drummer of Stellar Riot, he's never pretended to be anything but a love-'em-and-leave-'em musician whose ex-girlfriends still send him Christmas cards. But one look at Rachel in her emerald-green bridesmaid dress has him wondering if it's time to change his tune. Too bad she's got him filed firmly under 'Christmas Bad Idea #1.'

Partnered in a wedding-week Christmas challenge—with gingerbread showdowns and carol face-offs—they can't outrun their very inconvenient spark. Love might be the real win, if Rachel can trust her heart to a drummer boy who's never played for keeps—until now.

PREORDER NMLDB HERE!

Thanks to everyone who played Spot The Difference with the images of Teddy and Rachel. Yes, there were several differences that keen-eyed people found, including Teddy's watch (not on the final cover) and Rachel's snowflake necklace (added to the final cover). The lucky winner of an ebook of *The Twelve Days of Christian* was Kiara.

NMLDB ARC News

The number of people wanting to ARC read for me has really grown. While that's a good thing, it also makes managing it very time-consuming if I try to do all the ARC distribution myself. For that reason, there are three ways you can get an ARC of *Not My Little Drummer Boy*:

1. Sign up through Hayling Bookstorm. I'll send out the link for that sign-up in a quick email when it goes live on October 8th. Through this method, you'll also go in the draw to receive a paperback copy after release.
2. If you're on NetGalley, request on there. Hopefully the book will be available from October 6th. Handy hint: good feedback ratios and links to where you post reviews really help with NetGalley approvals!
3. Contact me directly at the link below. I know some of you have been with me before, some right from the beginning, and I know some of you would

prefer to work with me directly. I'd love to have you on the team.

DIRECT ARC SIGN UP



More Christmas fun and games

While it's not essential, you'll love Not My Little Drummer Boy even more if you've read The Twelve Days of Christian.

Get the ebook for less than a cup of coffee!

Author Update

So where to next? That's always the question when I finish a book. And it's a hard one because I have so many ideas! However, I'm prioritising my series and trying not to run off and chase all the other bright shiny things. This is the current plan (which could change!!):

1. Start drafting **Sidelined By You**, Book 2 in the Heartlands rugby series. After *Blindsided By You*, I'd always planned to write Nathan and Meghan's story next. I had a lot of readers begging for more of Nathan—and why wouldn't you? Cinnamon roll, single dad. But I've had Kyle Stewart on my mind. He's a reforming playboy and I love those. Plus his story falls in chronological order and it seemed to make sense. I'm excited to bring Quinn Jamieson, world-class triathlete, into his orbit and watch the sparks fly. If things go well, I may still write Nathan's book, **Outplayed By You** and release two in that series next year. That would be awesome!
2. Quietly start on Book 3 in the Stellar Riot Christmas series. I'll tell you that this will be Ollie's book. Any guesses as to who he's paired with? If you don't know now, you may find some hints in *Not My Little Drummer Boy*! My working title for this book is **My Ollie Jolly Christmas**. If you have another idea let me know!
3. Allow myself to play with ideas for a standalone, a little passion project. As a big fan of F1, it was probably only a matter of time before characters from that world started making themselves known. These two are coming on strong and I can't deny them a chance to have their story out in the world.

Books To Take A Look At



This month I'm sharing some books that release over the next few months that I have on my radar. It's hockey season again so I'll be reading three new hockey books. *Revolve* (by Bal Khabra) is a third in series and *Sin Bin* (by Chelsea Curto) a fourth. I highly recommend reading the earlier books in both series.

It's also the season for new release Christmas books. I'm excited that two authors I've enjoyed this year, B.K. Borison and Piper Rayne are both releasing Christmas-themed books. I'm especially excited to see the characters from *The Nest* series get one more book

Caroline's Story Nook

Reading: I'm back with one of my favourite sports romance authors, Elle Kennedy. This time it's with a new group of hockey boys and their girls. Both **The Chase** and **The Risk** were great reads. Also excited to see her Off Campus series coming to life on screen. The casting is fabulous! I seem to spend a lot of time watching reels of them.

In sync with the northern hemisphere summer I got to Annabel Monaghan's **It's A Love Story** (enjoyed) and Carley Fortune's **One Golden Summer** (obsessed). The audiobook of OGS is so good and I defy you not to fall for Charlie Florek.

In a different vein, I ate up VE Schwab's vampire story, **Bury Our Bones In The Midnight Soil** and continued my goal to finish *Throne of Glass* by the end of the year with book 2, **Crown Of Midnight**.

Watching: Not much apart from **Blood Of My Blood** and motorsport. F1 and Australian Supercars dominate our weekends. Slipped in a rewatch of **Sleepless In Seattle**. Realised there was a reason I should have gone up the Empire State Building.

Listening: I'm loving old favourites from **The Killers** and new favourites from **Wolf Alice** (featuring on the NMLDB playlist)

Caroline's Corner of the World



In August, I had a fantastic time at the Romance Writers New Zealand Conference. Caught up with old friends and made new ones.

Started with a 90s themed cocktail party so I got to rock my Nirvana tee! It was also wonderful to soak up all the craft and marketing tips from some incredible authors.

I'm a number one Input and number 2 Learner on the Clifton Strengths test so it really filled my cup to overflowing. A standout for me was Sarah MacLean who came all the way from the US and did an incredible workshop on conflict. As someone who tries to shy away from it in real life, it's an area I have to work hard on in my writing.

Another highlight of the weekend was being a finalist in the full-length book award for The Twelve Days of Christian. Made hubby come to the awards dinner so he could share the moment!

Here in New Zealand we're into my least favourite season, Spring. It's so changeable that it drives me crazy! What's your favourite season? What one do you dislike? See you again in mid-October when maybe hints of summer are pushing through!

Caroline

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Newsletters



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