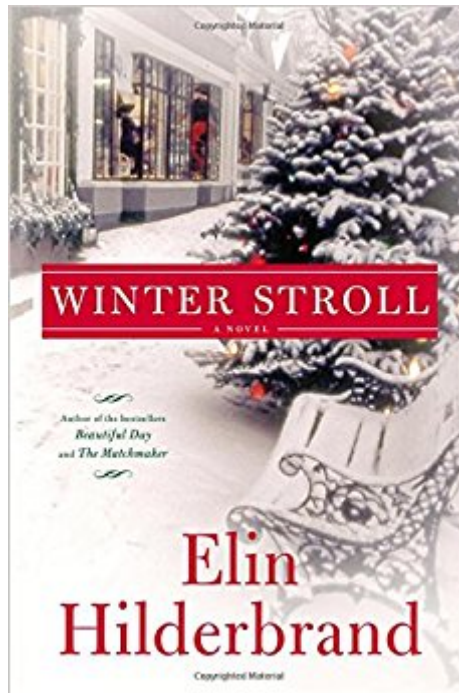




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Winter Stroll (Winter Street)



Synopsis

"Happy Holidays 2015! It has been a rough year for the Quinns, but I would like to start by saying thank you for all of the well wishes and positive missives sent our way." Another Christmas on Nantucket finds Winter Street Inn owner Kelley Quinn reflecting on the past year as he writes a holiday letter to friends and family. Though the year has had its share of misfortune and worry, the Quinns have much to celebrate. Kelley, now single, at least is on better terms with his first wife Margaret, who is using her celebrity to lure customers to the inn in record numbers. Their son Kevin has a beautiful new baby, Genevieve, with the Inn's French housekeeper, Isabelle; and their daughter, Ava, is finally dating a nice guy--her devoted colleague, Scott. Now the Quinns are looking forward to celebrating Genevieve's baptism, welcoming Isabelle to the family, and enjoying the cheer of Nantucket's traditional Christmas Stroll. But just when a peaceful family gathering seems within reach, Kelley's estranged second wife, Mitzi, shows up on the island after souring on her relationship with the inn's former Santa Claus. Soon Kelley isn't the only Quinn entertaining a surprise guest from Christmases past as lovers old and new gather beneath the mistletoe. With jealousy, passion, and eggnog consumption at an all-time high, it's going to take a whole lot more than a Christmas miracle to get the Quinns--and the inn--through the holidays intact.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I love Elin Hilderbrand - have read and enjoyed all her summer books (Blue Bistro is a favorite!) but Winter Stroll is grim and dreary. A Christmas book is meant to be a light, escapist kind of reading.

Her summer books - while having complex characters - are filled with delicious food, fun, etc. so the books are enjoyable. Here Bart is held captive (we think) by a group worse than ISIS (Elin's description) and after that - what really matters? How can any group of characters function if their son, brother etc. are living your worst nightmare? Ava's singing in an ugly Christmas sweater seems insane given that her brother is held captive. Bart's fate alone is so depressing it sucked the life out of me for the whole book. Then we move to descriptions of children with cancer (re Drake), pill addiction, someone is in prison (depressing again!) and of course every character is in two relationships. The 3 grandchildren are (understandably!) in horrible pain. How is this a Christmas book? I forced myself to finish it (skimming quickly) and the ending is so disingenuous - an awful cliffhanger. Yes, she wants us to buy her third book in the trilogy - but this was just mean and even in a trilogy each book should stand alone. Every character is miserable and hanging on by a thread. I found the whole book depressing.

Over the summer I have read all of Elin Hilderbrand's books and found them to be highly entertaining. However, the abrupt ending of Winter Stroll leaves a bad taste in my mouth. It's as though the author simply got tired of writing and stopped without providing adequate closure to the story and its characters. I don't appreciate being set up.

She has a nerve charging full price for this quick and annoying read. These characters, that I have loved in the past, are now self pitying, badly behaved, self absorbant people. Quite frankly they are tiring. Either Elin had to get a book quickly to her publsher or she had better things to do. She clearly did not take time to develop this book. Save yourself the money and time.

Somewhat disappointing, the characters were weak and not as likable as in the first book. Most of the characters were silly as though the author had just rattled them off in order to finish the book. what happened to the ending!!!! Finished! Caput! Zilch!! a complete waste of hard earned money!!!!

Other than the fact that it takes place in December, I hardly see how this qualifies as a holiday story. I want a Christmas/holiday tale to finish with cozy, happily-ever-after ending. This book is depressing and offers no resolution to any of the story. Apparently this is #2 in a trilogy. We will have to wait until next year, I guess. Well, count me out. Furthermore, the author has made several mistakes in continuity. In the first book, it is mentioned that Ava's friend Shelby has to go pickup her teenage sons. In this book, Shelby is expecting her first child. Also, the age of Margaret is sketchy.

She's 60, her oldest son is 39. Simple math would tell us that she was 21 when she had him. But, no. She was 23 and in grad school when she fell in love with Kelley (her first husband), so probably at least 25 when Patrick, her oldest was born. Is it so hard to keep track of these things? I had not read any Elin Hilderbrand books until I read *Winter Street* (book #1) and will not read any more.

I loved all the other books I read by Elin Hilderbrand and I liked this book up to a point, but then it seemed to lose something - and the ending was just up in the air. There was no closure. I certainly hope she plans on writing a sequel and let us all know what happened cause this ending was not at all satisfactory.

Sheer enjoyment. I always love Elin Hilderbrand's books. Here, she revisits the Quinn family from her previous novel, *Winter Street*. Patrick is in jail for insider trading; his wife, Jennifer, has developed a trashy addiction to help her cope; Kevin is adjusting to fatherhood and an unexpected encounter with his ex; Ava is trying to choose between two men, one of whom might have a crush on someone else; and Mitzi is regretting leaving her husband for Santa Claus. A fun read, with some plot threads resolved and others left hanging, so I bet there will be a sequel.

Always love Elin Hilderbrand. I enjoyed all of the characters and how they had developed and changed since *Winter Street*. The feel of Nantucket in the winter was very enjoyable as I grew up in a small seaside village in Massachusetts with many of the same traditions. The story ended with so questions, can't wait for the next in the series.

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