

# Endearing Christmas Novel Uplifts Weary Hearts this Holiday Season

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*“A Very Bavarian Christmas will transport you to a world where romance and real life, heartache and promise converge, all generously sprinkled with Christmas magic.”*

—KATE BATTISTELLI, author of *The God Dare*



Holly Noel Bringham is trapped back in her hometown of Bavarian Falls personalizing ornaments at Neumann's, the famous mile-long Christmas store—and she doesn't even like Christmas.

Problems, not presents, are stacking up for Holly. She's in her thirties, still single, and sleeping in her childhood bedroom due to a failed start-up in the city.

Holly needs a turn of heart in order to unlock what's next. The only guy showing any interest in her is quirky Frank, who keeps her laughing but makes her feel boxed in. Then there's handsome Nik, who has a shady past but takes her ambitions seriously. As Holly works through fractured relationships and embarrassing misunderstandings, she stumbles upon love in the Bavarian-themed town from which she tried to distance herself.

### **Holiday Romance/Christian Contemporary/Holiday Fiction**

ISBN 978-1-7354685-0-1 | Trade Paper | 342 pages | \$15.99

eBook: ISBN 978-1-7354685-1-8 | \$7.99

Hardcover: ISBN 978-1-7354685-2-5 | \$21.99

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR: KATIE M. REID** is the author of *Made Like Martha*, podcast host of *The Martha + Mary Show*, a singer, and a songwriter. She has published articles on: TODAY's Parenting Blog, HuffPost, Focus on the Family, Crosswalk, (in)courage, LightWorkers and many more. Katie has an award-winning essay published through Women's Memoirs. She has a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and is a fan of hot cocoa and Christmas lights. Katie, her husband, and five children live in Michigan, where the wonder of the holiday season is never far away. Katie encourages women to walk in freedom as they live out their God-given purpose at [katiemreid.com](http://katiemreid.com).



**Praise for *A Very Bavarian Christmas***

"Just in time to remind us all of the hope still waiting at the end of a hard year, comes Katie Reid's *A Very Bavarian Christmas*. Let her reluctant ornament decorator, Holly, remind you why home is a beacon, healing a gift, and how love, like hot chocolate and the meaning of Christmas, can warm you from the inside."

—LISA-JO BAKER, bestselling author of *Never Unfriended* and podcast co-host of *Out of the Ordinary*

"If you're looking for a holiday-themed read that will warm your heart but also make you think, *A Very Bavarian Christmas* is the perfect pick! The storyline and characters draw you in from the get-go and you'll find yourself relating to their struggles, cheering for their victories, and being reminded that everyone needs grace and kindness, because we never know what it's been like to walk in their shoes."

—CRYSTAL PAINE, New York Times bestselling author, podcaster, and founder of MoneySavingMom.com

"*A Very Bavarian Christmas* is everything you want in a story to delight you over the holidays! I hope this is the first of many novels from Katie Reid!"

—AMBER LIA, bestselling co-author of *Triggers* and *Marriage Triggers*

“Bavarian Falls is the capital city of Christmas, and Holly Noel is its most reluctant citizen. Sparkling with humor and radiating with warmth, *A Very Bavarian Christmas* is a heartwarming tale in which Christmas spirit is abundant, but not without strings attached. Fans of Hallmark’s ‘Countdown to Christmas’ will be swept away by this powerful journey of healing, reconciliation, and the second chances we must allow ourselves to take.”

—BETHANY TURNER, award-winning author of *The Secret Life of Sarah Hollenbeck* and *Hadley Beckett’s Next Dish*

“Author Katie Reid shares an honest, true-to-life story of love and loss, acceptance and forgiveness. As heartwarming as a cup of hot cocoa and filled with authentic, memorable characters, *A Very Bavarian Christmas* will transport you to a world where romance and real life, heartache and promise converge, all generously sprinkled with Christmas magic.”

—KATE BATTISTELLI, author of *The God Dare*

“I am not exaggerating when I tell you I literally could not put this book down. I read it in one sitting. The plot took me right into the holiday-loving town. I could picture the scenes as if they were my favorite Hallmark Movie. Happy holiday feels filled my heart as the plot and excellent character development drew me right in.”

—JENNIFER HAND, Executive Director of Coming Alive Ministries

“*A Very Bavarian Christmas* is the perfect cozy read. As a perfectionist who fears failure and the dreaded ‘not living up to my potential’ more than anything, I identified so much with the main character of this book. And as a self-proclaimed holiday movie superfan, I adored the setting of a Christmas store in a Christmas town during the Christmas season! For anyone who struggles with a life that doesn’t meet her hopes and expectations or anyone who loves sweet romantic comedies with a holiday twist, this book is a gift for every season!”

—MARY CARVER, host of The Couch podcast and co-author of *Fake Snow & Real Faith*

## Interview Topics for Media

**If you are interested in booking Katie for an interview, please submit your query to her assistant, Christine, at: [hello@katiemreid.com](mailto:hello@katiemreid.com)**

Here are some of the topics that Katie is happy to talk about, surrounding the holiday season and the creation and message of *A Very Bavarian Christmas*:

- The importance of pivoting your passion while remaining obedient to God's call, even when it looks different than expected.
- The surprising things Katie discovered as she wrote a fiction book instead of non-fiction, like: you learn to follow the characters instead of trying to lead them in a certain direction. Writing fiction can be like a treasure hunt, with twists and turns and a destination that doesn't look like you thought it would—similar to our current climate.

- Christmas can be a hard time for many. It is important to be compassionate and patient with one another as we navigate heartache and lofty expectations around the holidays.
- A line from an original song in the book is, "A key to peace is turning to face that which holds you down. The way to freedom is not out of reach. Turn the knob, let yourself be found." Addressing issues from your past can help you move forward in freedom, as the main character, Holly Noel, discovers.
- While relationships with your loved ones are important, God is the only one who can be your everything, not your husband, kids, job, or hobby.

## **Q & A**

### ***A Very Bavarian Christmas* by Katie M. Reid**

#### **1. As a published non-fiction author, what made you decide to write a fiction book?**

I've always had a vivid imagination but was intimidated by the thought of writing fiction. But after visiting a Christmas store in the summer of 2019, I was inspired to try my hand at writing a holiday rom com novel. The story shaped up quickly and I had so much fun writing it. While I still plan on writing more non-fiction, there is a lightheartedness that comes from writing and reading fiction, and if we ever needed some of that, the time is definitely right now.

#### **2. What surprised you as you were writing *A Very Bavarian Christmas*?**

While writing this novel, there were many surprises. For example, some of the characters became more prominent in the story and others didn't come to the forefront as much as I thought they would. It was like I was following the story's ebb and flow vs. bossing the story around. The characters each had their own strengths and hangups and those needed to be discovered and honored as the story came to life.

#### **3. Like the main character in your book, Holly Noel, Christmas can be a hard time for many. What tips do you have for navigating the holiday season when you've experienced hurt or loss?**

One of the hardest Christmases my family had was in 2012. We had been waiting to adopt for awhile and had just experienced a failed adoption attempt. We celebrated early that year because we needed a little Christmas right that very minute. It was a quieter holiday, as we held our kids close and didn't do a lot of extras. We needed time to grieve and heal and it helped to keep things simple.

Creating a new tradition or just choosing a few, instead of many, can help refresh your heart during a tough season. Be kind to yourself and be honest with your people about how you are doing. It's hard to muster up happy when you're struggling but it's also good to be around loved ones who will offer comfort and support.

**4. What are some of your favorite holiday traditions?**

My family likes to watch “Elf” and get a live Christmas tree. I love the smell of the tree, much to the dismay of my allergies. One of my favorite things to do is stare at the Christmas lights at night, when the house is quiet, as I sip hot cocoa.

One of my favorite childhood memories is going to the Christmas Eve service at church and then coming home and enjoying a delicious spread of holiday snacks before we headed to bed. We also were allowed to open one gift on Christmas Eve.

**5. The main character is in her 30’s and single and is struggling with life not turning out like she expected. What advice do you have for those in a similar situation?**

I was one of the last of my college friends to get married, and I understand in part how it feels to feel left out and left behind. Even though my circumstances were different than expected, I’m glad I didn’t settle for Mr. Wrong.

There can be undue pressure on singles that you need to find a man...but fulfillment comes from God first and foremost. Don’t delay in living out your God-given purposes and also don’t expect a future spouse to be your everything.

When I was first married I tried to make Adam my everything, which was unhealthy...no-one can live up to that, except God. Whether single or married, God is our true source of satisfaction and He is with us and for us, even when things don’t turn out how we envisioned.

One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, which means God with us. Even when we feel lonely or disappointed, this truth brings comfort...that God is with us through it all.

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” -[Matthew 1:23](#)

**6. There are two original songs in the novel, “Everything” and “The Yes of Christmas.” Can you tell us the story behind these songs?**

One night when I was writing, the song, “Everything” poured onto the page like a divine download. I can be prone to dramatics, but honestly, I was moved to tears through the lyrics and the tender moment that Holly experiences through this song. One of the lines from it is: *The way to freedom is not out of reach, turn the knob let yourself be found.*” At this moment in the book, Holly starts to turn the knob that opens the door to her journey toward healing.

“The Yes of Christmas” was the theme song from a church play I wrote in 2015. The idea behind it is that thousands of years ago, Jesus said “yes” to us—leaving the comforts of heaven and putting on flesh—by saying “yes” to Christmas and ultimately “yes” to the Cross,

so that we could be saved. It was pure joy to hear the kids from our church singing their hearts out to this song—a hope-filled message for the weary world.

In *A Very Bavarian Christmas*, students with special needs, at a local non-profit, sing this song. Holly is deeply moved by the idea of saying “yes” to Christmas as she is invited to live with open hands when it comes to things she cannot change.

**7. Addressing issues of the past can help us move forward in freedom. How has that been true for you and for the main character in *A Very Bavarian Christmas*?**

I didn’t realize how stuck I was, in several areas of my life, until my Life Purpose Coach, Darlene Larson, helped me recognize that in order to move forward, I needed to address some difficult places. Another friend helped me recognize that I needed to allow myself permission to grieve things, like our failed adoption attempt, and not try to just muscle through.

In *A Very Bavarian Christmas*, fragmented relationships at home and a failed start-up in the city contribute to the weight Holly carries. She eventually decides to face the past so she can start living more fully in the present and look forward to the future. It is not an easy choice or process, but a necessary one as she comes to terms with that which she tried to avoid for decades.

**8. What is your hope for your debut novel?**

My not-so-secret hope is that this story will move from the page to the screen and become a holiday Christmas movie. Wouldn’t that be fun?!

My hope for the readers is that they will experience lightheartedness and a reprieve from the cares of life as they journey with these characters from Bavarian Falls. I hope they see themselves within the story and even view the characters as friends. I also hope they are surprised by a few of the twists and turns in this novel.

**9. A theme of *A Very Bavarian Christmas* is laying down expectations and living with open hands. How does this play out with the characters and in your own life?**

In *A Very Bavarian Christmas*, Holly is faced with a choice: to live with clenched fists or open hands...to cling to her 5-year-plan or to pivot into a new possibility. Throughout the pages, you’ll discover what she chooses and why.

Laying down expectations is not my forte, and opening my hands in surrender is even harder. Yet, when I do, I experience more freedom and less stress.

I started writing this book after a major disappointment. It served as a distraction and an escape. I smiled most of the time as I wrote because writing fiction delighted my heart. When faced with a detour, a new route opened up and it led straight down Mistletoe Lane.

## **10. As a busy mom of five and an author, how do you find time to write?**

It's not easy that's for sure, but with some creative finagling it can be done. Ask your family if they are willing to pick up some of the slack as you write and let them know the deadline for your project.

It helps to reward your people with a treat or special outing once you get a chapter done. I often read portions of the book at the dinner table so my family could hear what was happening, and I could proofread at the same time.

You may have to get up early, or like me, stay up late—while the house is quiet. And sometimes you just write when it's noisy. But bit by bit you can make progress. I wrote a lot of this novel last November, during **National Novel Writing Month**. It was a busy time but the bulk of my writing was concentrated into a month. I used their technology to track my progress and showed my kids how close I was to the finish line.

## **11. What advice do you have for those who are interested in writing?**

My first piece of advice is to find a few friends who write or join a writer's group to encourage you, offer feedback, and help you stay on track.

I highly recommend getting a copy of the **Ministry to Business Guide**, and pouring over the sections on writing. I also recommend attending a writer's conference like **Flourish Writers** or the **Speak Up Conference** to meet other writers, receive training, and find out what it takes to see your book idea from concept to completion.

I also offer coaching for writers, through my **Inspiration Doula coaching calls** in order to help you bring life to your creative projects.