



## The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition)

By Ami Weaver

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*In her debut novel for Harlequin Special Edition, Ami Weaver gives a lonely single dad and his sweet son the perfect holiday gift—a nanny with a secret who just might heal their family in time for Christmas!*

Josh Tanner and Maggie Thelan share one unbreakable rule: *no romantic entanglements*. Period. So the lonely doctor hiring the former teacher as a live-in nanny for his little boy shouldn't be any kind of threat to their creed. Especially since Josh won't let go of the past—and Maggie can't tell Josh who she really is....

But rules are made to be broken, and while Maggie only wants to know the nephew she never knew she had, deeper feelings keep getting in the way! As the holiday season creeps closer, his rules collide with her secret. Can their unexpected love survive the truth?

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## **The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) By Ami Weaver Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Two-time Golden Heart® Award finalist Ami Weaver has read reading romance since she was a teen and writing for even longer. Now she can be found drinking gallons of iced tea at her local coffee shop while doing one of her favorite things—convincing two characters they deserve their happy-ever-after. When she's not writing, she spends at the lake, hangs out with her family and reads. Ami lives in Michigan with her four kids, three cats and very supportive husband.

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*Thirty-Eight Easton Street.* Maggie Thelan double-checked the address on the big blue Victorian with the sticky note on the steering wheel. Her pulse kicked up a bit as she eased the car to the curb.

She drew in a deep breath and let it out slowly, trying to calm the butterflies in her belly. Cody, her nephew, lived here. Her half sister, Lucy, had lived here until her death. It would be Maggie's home during her stint as Cody's nanny.

If she got the job.

*No way am I missing this chance.* She grabbed her purse and keys and checked her reflection in the rearview mirror. Hair behaving, mascara not smeared, all good. She did a quick application of lip gloss and wondered for the millionth time if she shared her Black Irish coloring—dark hair, blue eyes, pale skin—with her half sister.

With any luck there'd be a photo out for Maggie to see. Anticipation quivered through her as she threw open the car door.

She'd gotten through the first interview just fine. Cody's grandmother, Ellen Tanner, was a lovely woman, warm and friendly and concerned about her grandson's welfare. This time, she'd meet Cody and his father and hopefully walk away with the job.

She'd staked everything on it.

Not wanting to think about that, Maggie hurried up the walk, her ponytail blowing over her shoulder in the wind. Being October in northern Michigan, the breeze had a bite to it but the sun still held some warmth. The maple trees on the front lawn blazed gold and flame.

A couple of squat pumpkins sat on the front porch. Maggie stepped around them and up to the heavy front door.

She pressed the doorbell and the door opened almost instantly, causing her to take a big step back and stumble over one of the pumpkins behind her. "Whoa," said a deep voice, and he grabbed her elbow before she ended up smashing the pumpkin under her rear. She pitched forward and felt a firm, broad chest under her cheek. He smelled of clean laundry and soap. Warmth seeped through his blue oxford dress shirt.

Or maybe that was her face, burning with embarrassment.

*Smooth, Maggie, real smooth.* She stepped back, carefully this time, cleared her throat and promptly forgot what she'd been about to say as her gaze traveled up.

Oh, he was tall, north of six feet and broad, with light brown hair that curled slightly at the nape. And his eyes. Damn if she hadn't just lost her voice in those whiskey-colored eyes.

"You all right?" His voice, laced with amusement and concern, snapped Maggie out of her trance.

"Yes. Thanks for the help." She thrust out her hand as she tried to recover her scattered wits. "Maggie Thelan. I'm here for a second interview for the nanny position."

He raised his eyebrows, arched over those incredible eyes. They weren't the color of just any whiskey, but the good Scotch stuff her father had favored. Her heart pinged. The man grasped her hand, his palm warm and slightly rough on hers. She sucked in a breath at the unwelcome little shiver that zipped up her arm. "Dr. Josh Tanner. Nice to meet you," he said as he released his grip.

"You, too," she replied. Dread seized her. This man was Cody's dad. What if he thought she'd be a klutzy danger to his son? *Good one, Maggie.*

He stepped back. "Come on in. Have a seat over there." He indicated the sofa in a comfortable living room. *Photos.* Her pulse picked up a bit as she made her way to sit down.

She cleared her throat and smiled as he sat down opposite her. She peeked around him at the pictures on the mantel. *Shoot.* Some of them were too small to see the subjects clearly. She snapped her focus back to find him studying her with a crease between his eyebrows.

Her stomach clenched. "Is there a problem?"

He hesitated a split second. "I have to say I was expecting someone older. I told my mom—" He broke off and the frown deepened.

"What?" Her stomach tightened. "Why do you need someone older?"

"I just thought, well, more experience, maybe." He had the grace to look slightly embarrassed.

Maggie's eyebrows shot up and she straightened her spine, spearing him with the look that had sent plenty of fourth-graders scurrying back in line. "I've been a teacher for ten years, Dr. Tanner. I assure you, I have plenty of experience with kids."

He nodded, reluctance still etched on his face. "I saw that on your resume. You are by far the most highly qualified candidate. My mom thinks highly of you and I trust her judgment. Your background check is clean and the references are excellent, so as long as Cody likes you we'll consider this a done deal."

Relief flooded Maggie even as she noted he didn't look pleased about the whole thing. "Thank you. I hope he does, Doctor. I'm looking forward to meeting him." *More than you'll ever know.* The chance to know Cody, hopefully learn something about her half sister, meant everything to her. Her heart squeezed. Since her father's death and learning he had kept his older daughter a secret, Maggie's world had been in a tailspin.

He glanced at his watch. "While we're waiting, do you want to see where you'll be staying?" he asked.

"I'd love to," she said.

A quick perusal of the mantel on her way past revealed photos of Cody, either alone or with his dad or Grandma. Nothing of Lucy. She climbed the creaking stairs behind Dr. Tanner and since it felt wrong to look at the view of his rear she kept her eyes at his waist. His pants were frayed at the belt loops, a little detail at odds with the crisp pleats in the front.

Upstairs, he walked past three rooms to the end of the hall and pushed open a door. "This be okay for you?"

Maggie stepped around him, catching a whiff of his scent as she did so. The little jolt of awareness was almost drowned out by the pleasure that flooded her at the room.

"This is beautiful!"

The room was huge and she could see a balcony through French doors. A four-poster bed sat across from the fireplace, where a cozy little grouping of furniture had been arranged. She could picture herself reading to Cody there, snuggling by the fire on a cold and snowy night.

A little shiver of joy ran through her. She couldn't ask for a more perfect setting to get to know her nephew.

"There are plenty of extra sheets if you want to use them, and comforters, too. Not sure what you'd like, but if you don't find something that works just buy what you want and I'll cover it. Bathroom's in here." Dr. Tanner stepped around her and pointed to the first of two doors. "Closet's the next one."

Maggie pulled open the door and peeked in at the bathroom. Double sinks, oversize tub, separate shower. Fresh towels, no doubt his mother's touch, on the towel rack.

A master bedroom. Why didn't he use the master? Too many memories?

"Dr. Tanner, really, this is amazing. I love it." She moved over the plush carpeting to the four-poster and ran her hand over the smooth wood of the footboard. Unless she missed her guess, this bed was an antique.

When she looked up, she caught him watching her with caution and something else, a something that made her skin get hot and reminded her she was alone with a gorgeous man. In a room with a bed.

The one man she couldn't have and wouldn't want anyway.

So why had her mouth just gone dry?

"Josh," he said, and Maggie blinked, her thoughts thankfully derailed. "Call me Josh, please. You're not my patient."

"Josh, then," she murmured.

A banging from downstairs made them both jump, shattering the awkward moment.

"That'd be Cody and my mother," he said, relief clear in his voice. "Let's go meet them."

Cody Tanner, age four, looked up at Maggie with serious blue eyes ringed with long, dark lashes. Light

brown curls haloed around his head. Her heart melted, and emotion crashed over her in a fierce wave. She ached to pull him in her arms. This little boy was the only link to the half sister she'd never have the chance to know. He dropped his gaze to her feet and she swallowed hard.

"Hi, Cody." Maggie stuck out her hand, but Cody ignored it, instead pressing against his grandmother's leg. She tried to ignore the sharp sting his rejection produced.

"Code," his father said in a gentle voice, "you can do better than that."

Cody looked up at Maggie, his big blue eyes swimming with tears, and shook his head.

Maggie's heart cracked. "It's okay—" she began but Josh shook his head.

"Cody, we talked about this. Remember?"

"Don't want her," Cody cried and Maggie sucked in her breath, each word almost a physical blow. "I wanna have Mrs. Herman!"

Josh knelt down in front of his son. He tugged Cody into his arms. "I know it's hard on you. But she had to leave, Code," he said. "You know that. She had to go help her daughter out. She'll miss you and she loves you. She'll call and send you letters. Remember?"

Cody dipped his chin. "I know," he mumbled, and his father hugged him.

"Now, let's try this again. What do you say to Ms.

Thelan?"

Cody slid a sideways glance her way. "Hi," he muttered and Maggie smiled.

"Nice to meet you, Cody." Oh, if he only knew.

Ellen held out her hand to her grandson. "Cody, you want to help me make some sandwiches for lunch?"

Cody brightened. "C'n I have peanut butter?"

"Of course. You can even spread the jelly if you want."

"Okay." With a last cautious glance at Maggie, Cody followed Ellen into the kitchen.

Josh looked at Maggie. "Mrs. Herman is Cody's former nanny. Her leaving has been hard on him. I'm sorry you had to see that."

"Don't be," Maggie said, and meant it. "He is attached to Mrs. Herman. It's a loss he has to process. I understand. It'll take some time, but we'll be okay."

Maggie held her breath while Josh gave her a thoughtful look. "Let's have a seat and go over what exactly you'll be doing."

Maggie's heart soared. "Does this mean I officially have the job?"

"Yes."

Even with the reluctance in his voice, relief flooded her. Maybe her luck had finally turned, after all.

*Too young.*

Later that evening, Josh's thought upon seeing Maggie Thelan for the first time kept playing through his head. And too gorgeous, with that long dark hair and those blue, blue eyes rimmed with dark lashes. Similar to Lucy's, really, but hers had been a paler blue. He pulled his thoughts back to the problem at hand.

His mother was playing matchmaker.

He groaned and clicked the TV remote, not seeing the images on the screen. He'd specifically requested an older woman so there'd be no chance of anyone thinking there was anything remotely marriageable about him. That possibility died with Lucy, as it should have.

But Mom clearly had other plans. She'd told him over and over to move on. To let Lucy go. He'd listened politely, but he knew it didn't matter. He'd made a promise to her, intended to keep it. He'd managed it for nearly four years.

But then Maggie stumbled into his life and now things were not quite so cut and dried. She made something he'd buried long ago want to sit up and take notice.

Josh groaned again and scrubbed his hand over his eyes.

*Hell.* She'd be the nanny. Meaning she'd be living here, under his roof, right down the hall from his bedroom.

Josh shifted on the bed. Uh-uh. No way could his thoughts take that course. No.

Maybe he could tell her he'd changed his mind, they didn't need her and he'd go find a nanny on his own.

A nice, grandmotherly type. Someone who wouldn't remind him he couldn't get involved with another woman.

"Daddy?" Cody's voice sliced across his thoughts.

"Cody. I thought you were sleeping." Josh hit the mute button on the TV. He patted the bed beside him. "You okay?"

Cody nodded as he crawled up next to Josh. "Yeah. Is Miz Thelan gonna be my new nanny?" His voice dropped off.

"Mrs. Herman isn't coming back," Josh said gently. "You know that, Code. We need someone to help us out around here. Ms. Thelan seems really nice. I think she'll be a good nanny."

*So much for not hiring her.*

Cody bit his lower lip. "But—don't—if I don't get a nanny won't Miz Herman hafta come back?" The words tumbled out in a rush.

"No. Oh, Cody, is that what you thought?" Josh's heart broke and he reached over to hug his son to his side, felt the little body nestle into his own.

Cody shrugged his small shoulders, then nodded.

Josh spoke gently, knowing how hard this had been for his son. "Cody, she loves you, but she had to go."

"Like Mama," Cody said matter-of-factly, and pain seared through Josh, cutting off his air for a heartbeat. *Like Mama.*

"Mama can't come back. But she loved you, too, Cody." His voice grated in his throat. Lucy had adored Cody, doted on him, loved him with every last fiber of her being. This Josh knew without a doubt. Guilt crushed him every time he thought of it. He was the reason his son didn't have a mother anymore.

"Miz Thelan is pretty," Cody said. Josh said nothing, stymied by the realization that he couldn't deny he agreed, or what it meant. "Will she live here? With you an' me, Daddy?"

"Yeah," Josh said and wondered again if having Maggie under his roof was a good plan.

"Then I guess it's okay to try her, Daddy." Cody's small face was serious. Josh hid a smile.

"Then we will. I think she'll be just fine."

"Is she gonna cook for us?"

Josh shrugged. "She said she could but we'll see."

They looked at each other for a moment, and Josh knew they were both thinking of Mrs. Herman's practical casseroles.

Years of casseroles.

"No, um, cassy-oles?" Cody ventured and Josh laughed.

"She doesn't look like the casserole type but we'll ask her tomorrow when she gets here just to be sure. Okay? Now let's get you back to bed."

"Okay." Cody slid off Josh's bed. Josh followed him across the hall and tucked Cody back in. He ran a hand over the boy's curls and Cody gave him a sleepy smile.

"G'night, Daddy."

"Night, Code." Josh lingered for a moment, enjoying the little rustles Cody made as he settled. Then he returned to his room, flopped on the bed and stared at the ceiling.

Sleep wouldn't come easy for him tonight.

Maggie pulled in the driveway of the big blue house, her car packed to the gills. Everything else had gone into storage when she sublet her apartment. That had been a bit of a risk. If this nanny position had fallen through, she'd have been up you-know-what creek without a paddle.

At least it would be familiar territory.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **George Carter:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and make progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know which you should start with. This The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

#### **Dustin Davis:**

The reserve with title The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) has lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This specific book exist new expertise the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world currently. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

#### **Katherine Shadrick:**

The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) can be one of your basic books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

#### **Michael Mitchell:**

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you actually, why because this The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) publication written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written with good manner for you, dripping every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still question The Nanny's Christmas Wish (Harlequin Special Edition) as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't evaluate book by its cover, so do you still needing another sixth

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