

# THE Mistletoe INN

## Johnson Production Group Press Kit

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### **One-Liner**

How does an aspiring romance novelist attempt to realize her dream of being published?

### **Synopsis**

Kim Rossi is an aspiring romance novelist with dreams of becoming published. When Kim's boyfriend Garth dumps her citing his need to seriously focus on his writing and wanting someone who seriously focuses on theirs, Kim decides to do something bold: she courageously faces her fear of criticism by signing up for a week-long, winter romance novelist writer's conference in beautiful, majestic Vermont. Kim is beyond excited: not only will publishers and agents read her raw manuscript; there is a contest where the winner is awarded a meeting with her literary idol: the famous and enigmatic romance novelist H.T. Cowell.

While waiting to check into the beautiful, snow covered Mistletoe Inn, Kim meets Zeke, a handsome and fellow aspiring writer whose luggage collides with hers, making for an awkward introduction. They bump into each other again as next-door neighbors checking into their respective rooms and again at the first cocktail mixer, where after some small talk, Kim turns around to find her ex, Garth, standing there wondering why she, of all people, would be at a writer's conference. Garth tells her to lower her expectations, declaring he will win this contest. She readily accepts his challenge, wanting to prove him wrong for not believing in her.

During the conference, Kim attends several workshops where she is paired up with Zeke – who seems to know quite a bit about romance writing. At one point, despite her adamant protest, he hijacks her laptop and begins to read her not-even-close-to-being-ready manuscript, reminding her she needs to be more resilient to feedback. While she panics, he tries to offer constructive criticism and it's later announced to the entire conference that she, not Garth, wins the first round of the competition! A small victory, but she still doubts herself.

As Kim and Zeke work together during the week, she confesses she lacks confidence and he admits post-divorce, he's suffering from writer's block, signing up for the conference as a way to knock it loose. During an evening stroll through the decorated streets, they share a heartfelt talk, which turns into a playful snowball fight and there is a charged moment between them. She begins to trust him – and

finally takes a leap – allowing him to read her entire rough manuscript; she pleads for him to be nice, and he promises to be truthful. He tells her it’s solid, but needs perspective, and surprises her with airline tickets to New York for the day to see the world through her characters’ eyes. As the competition heats up, Kim makes a startling and astonishing discovery about Zeke and despite finally feeling more confident about her work, leaves the conference feeling betrayed and rejected. When Zeke unexpectedly arrives at her doorstep Christmas morning with a mysterious envelope, Kim realizes the only person needed to believe in herself is her, and along the way also opens up her heart for unexpected love.

## Producers

Executive Producer  
TIMOTHY O. JOHNSON

Executive Producer  
NORMAN STEPHENS

Producer  
OLIVER DE CAIGNY

## Key Cast

<u>CHARACTER</u>	<u>ACTOR</u>
Kim Rossi	ALICIA WITT
Zeke	DAVID ALPAY

## Key Cast Biographies

### ALICIA WITT



Christmas List.”

Starting with her debut in 1984 at the mere age of seven as Alia in David Lynch’s science fiction classic, *Dune*, Alicia Witt has garnered nearly a three-decade long career as an actor and singer-songwriter.

Witt recently received rave reviews for her role as Paula in AMC’s critically acclaimed series “*The Walking Dead*.” Witt is currently appearing and singing on ABC’s hit drama series “*Nashville*” as country star Autumn Chase, and seen on cult favorites “*Supernatural*” (CW) and returning to David Lynch’s long anticipated “*Twin Peaks*” on Showtime, reprising her role from the original series. In 2016, Witt starred in Hallmark Channel’s original movie “*The*

In 2014, Witt joined the cast of the Emmy® Award-winning FX series “Justified” as Wendy Crowe, the smart and sexy paralegal sister of crime lord Danny Crowe. She made a provocative addition to this critically acclaimed series.

Off screen a classically trained pianist and phenomenal singer, Witt is one of those rare talents whose passion as a singer-songwriter is also gaining tremendous attention from both the industry and her fans. Alicia is currently in the studio recording her newest album, 15,000 Days, with Grammy® Award-winning producer Jacquire King (Kings of Leon, Norah Jones, Ingrid Michaelson, Tom Waits, James Bay). She recently made her debut at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and has also performed live as a musical guest on CBS’s “Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson” and “The Queen Latifah Show.” Witt released her first full-length studio album, Revisionary History, in May 2015, which has garnered comparisons to Elton John, Fiona Apple and Carole King. She has opened for Ben Folds Five, Jimmy Webb and John Fullbright to name a few.

Witt’s many film credits include 88 Minutes alongside Al Pacino, Warner Bros’ hit Two Weeks Notice opposite Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant, Last Holiday with Queen Latifah, Urban Legend, The Upside of Anger, Mr. Holland’s Opus, Four Rooms, Fun and Vanilla Sky, directed by Cameron Crowe.

Witt received the Special Jury Recognition Award for Acting at the Sundance Film Festival for Fun, in addition to being nominated for an Independent Spirit Award in the category of Best Debut Performance. She also won Best Actress at the US Comedy Arts Festival for Playing Mona Lisa.

Other significant roles that fans may recognize Witt from include Showtime’s “House of Lies,” NBC’s Emmy® Award winning “Friday Night Lights,” CBS’ “The Mentalist” and NBC’s “Law & Order:

Criminal Intent,” alongside Chris Noth. She spent four years on the CBS hit show “Cybill” and has appeared on the HBO series “The Sopranos,” CBS’s “Two and a Half Men,” “Ally McBeal” and David Lynch’s “Twin Peaks.”

On stage, Witt starred in Neil LaBute’s Tony nominated play Reasons to be Pretty at the Geffen Playhouse. She also appeared at London’s Royal Court theatre in Terry Johnson’s Piano/Forte and made her West End debut with Neil LaBute’s The Shape of Things. She has also performed at Williamstown Theatre Festival and is a regular participant in the 24-Hour Plays on Broadway and the 24 Hour Musicals off-Broadway.

Witt is a triple threat in the business and no signs of slowing down are present in either her demeanor, nor her actions and hunger for more.

## DAVID ALPAY



David Alpay is best known for his recurring role on the CW series “The Vampire Diaries” and being a regular on Showtime’s “The Borgias” and “The Tudors.” Alpay was also a series regular on the Canadian series “Billable Hours” and starred in Hallmark Channel’s original movie premieres “Ice Sculpture Christmas” and “Sleigh Bells Ring.”

Alpay starred in the feature film *They're Watching* as well as in the Sundance film *Ten For Grandpa* and had a supporting lead in *Man of the Year*, alongside Robin Williams, Christopher Walken, Laura Linney and Lewis Black. He also played a lead role in his first film, Atom Egoyan's *Ararat*, alongside Christopher Plummer and appeared with Plummer again in Richard Attenborough's *Closing the Ring*, which also starred Shirley MacLaine. He will soon be seen in the independent features *Birdland* and *Prodigals* which is set to premiere at the Whistler Film Festival.

On television, Alpay has guest starred in a number of hit television series, including Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva," CBS' "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," USA's "Royal Pains," TNT's "Rizzoli & Isles," USA's "Fairly Legal," Starz's "Crash" and FOX's "Dollhouse." Most recently, Alpay starred in Lifetime's drama series, "The Lottery," guest-starred in an episode of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and had a recurring role in "Quantico." He was recently set as a lead in the SyFy pilot "The Haunted."

## Production Credits

### Full Cast

<b>Actors</b>	<b>Role</b>
Alicia Witt	Kim Rossi
David Alpay	Zeke
Lucie Guest	Samantha
Casey Manderson	Garth
Linden Banks	Robert Rossi
Tiffani Timms	Luanne
Benita Ha	Karen
Shiren Van Cooten	Emma
Marion Eisman	Catherine McCullen
Krzysztof Bryjak	Tweedy Guy
Natalie Von Rotsburg	Registrar
Scott McGrath	Man with packages
Rhonda Dent	Book Agent
Ken Lawson	Norman
Sarah Lindsay	Kim stunt double
Chad Sayn	stunt coordinator

### Produced by

Timothy O. Johnson	executive producer
Norman Stephens	executive producer
Oliver De Caigny	producer
Leah Myers	associate producer
Navid Soofi	production manager

**Directed by**

Alex Wright

**Written by**

Michael Nourse

**Cinematography by**

Mike Cam

**Film Editing by**

Jason Nielsen

**Casting By**

Judy Lee

**Production Design by**

Heather Coutts

Lloyd Stone

**Crew**

Troy Scott	first assistant director
Jeff Croft	second assistant director

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Tim Lanham	set decorator
Laura Maier	assistant set decorator
Rob Van Poelgeest	lead dresser

Charlene Irani	on set dresser
Lauren Dominczuk	dressers
Ryan Gobert	
Greg Ryan	
Jeff Peters	
Boris Mashenkov	graphic artist

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Rory Tucker	property masters
Darcy Butler	

Elizabeth Mcleod	make-up artist
Katelyn Abbott	hair stylist
Taylor Barron	swings
Laura Sluggett	

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Yana Konteft	costume designer
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Linden Ligertwood  
Cecilia Ignacio  
Myra Gonzalez  
Stacey Bradder

set supervisor  
truck costumer  
background costumer  
buyer

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Andy Hodgson  
Kyle Vollstaedt  
Christian Lai  
Andy Alvarez  
Warren Tiplady

camera operator  
first assistants camera  
  
second assistants camera

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Pierre Cruz  
Gareth Jones  
Sepehr Mahbob  
Slatie Chu  
Noah Penner

gaffer  
best boy electric  
electric

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Steele Murdoch

generator operator

Michael Johnston  
Mark Kent  
Ian Nolan  
Martin Calvo

key grip  
dolly grip  
best boy grip  
grip

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Peter Gibson  
Tracy Murray  
Sam Sodeyf  
Jeff Charlton  
Doug Halvorson  
Gord Mackay  
Barry Hunt

transport coordinator  
transport captain  
drivers  
  
security coordinator

Steve Woodley  
Darcy Woodley  
Macayla Woodley

animal wranglers

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Garrett Vandusen  
James Burke  
Djamal Johnson  
Kyle Jensen  
Pejvak Fard

location manager  
assistant location manager  
key location assistants

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Christopher O'Brien  
Heraldo Abreu

production sound mixer  
boom operator

Anita Reilly McGee

script supervisor

Megan Turnbull  
Paralee Cook

payroll accountants

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Paralee Cook

production coordinators

Laura Geluch  
Alex Zahara

production assistants

Taylor Hastings  
Kristopher De Caigny

office clerk

Darren Devlin

third assistant director

Quinn Lewis-Bresch  
Chelsea Bresch

craft service/first aid

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Austin Gourmet  
Brandon Crewe  
Nabil Minnikh  
Konstantin Minnikh

catering  
caterers

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Ciarra Cook  
La Hilts  
Diane Chester

casting assistant  
extras casting  
extras casting assistants

Jennifer Roberts  
Lisa D'Allessandro

background wrangler

Andrea Whitburn

stand in

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Coastal Clearances  
Chandler Fogden Aldous

script clearances  
legal services

Law Corporation  
Front Row Insurance Brokers

insurance

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Leah Myers  
Devin Taylor  
Ron Penchalaiya  
Evan Graves  
Sean Travers

post production supervisor  
assistant editor  
second assistant editor  
visual effects  
colourist

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Annuit Coeptis Entertainment      picture post production

Finalé Post      additional post services

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Cinescope Sound      audio post production  
Gregor Phillips      supervising sound editor  
Gregor Phillips      re-recording mixer  
Aaron Olson      dialogue editor  
Ryan Thompson      sfx editor  
Alex Macia      foley artists  
Devon Quelch

## Producer Biographies

### **TIM JOHNSON** – Executive Producer

Tim Johnson is among the most active and reliable producers in the business thanks to top rate productions and an 'on time, on budget' reputation. Previously, he managed the production of ABC's THE DAYS (MINDSHARE/TOUCHTONE.) Prior to forming Johnson Production Group and Ignite Entertainment, Tim served as Head of West Coast Programming Executive and launched the successful series DOC (88 episodes,) SUE THOMAS, FBI, MYSTERIOUS WAYS, JUST CAUSE, PONDEROSA, CHRISTY, ITS A MIRACLE AND MIRACLE PETS.

Johnson is also responsible for producing the international hit series, DR. QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN for CBS PRODS/SULLIVAN COMPANY for over 5 seasons. During his 100-episode tenure, he also launched LIVE FROM THE RANCH with Orson Bean - a nationally syndicated talk show focusing on family values in America. He also developed and produced the original docu-drama COLD CASE for CBS network, which was the very first program to integrate television with the Internet.

#### Recent Projects:

Eat, Play, Love – Executive Producer  
Sleepwalking in Suburbia – Executive Producer  
The Stalker Club – Executive Producer  
Infidelity in Suburbia – Executive Producer  
Hunter's Cove – Executive Producer  
Double Mommy – Executive Producer  
Hearts of Christmas – Executive Producer  
The Rooftop Christmas Tree – Executive Producer  
A Snow Capped Christmas – Executive Producer  
A December Bride – Executive Producer  
The Mistletoe Promise – Executive Producer  
Stalked by My Mother – Executive Producer  
Stalked by My Doctor: The Return – Executive Producer  
Backstabbed – Executive Producer



The Convenient Groom – Executive Producer  
Killer Coach – Executive Producer  
Tulips in Spring – Executive Producer  
Hearts of Spring – Executive Producer  
Stalked by My Doctor – Executive Producer  
Becoming Santa – Executive Producer  
Magic Stocking – Executive Producer  
Just in Time for Christmas – Executive Producer  
A Gift Wrapped Christmas – Executive Producer  
A Mother's Instinct – Executive Producer  
Ice Sculpture Christmas – Executive Producer  
The Reckoning – Executive Producer  
Bad Sister – Executive Producer  
Family for Christmas – Executive Producer  
Double Daddy – Executive Producer  
Her Infidelity – Executive Producer  
Stalked by My Neighbor – Executive Producer  
Babysitter's Black Book – Executive Producer  
A Gift of Miracles – Executive Producer  
Strange Empire – Executive Producer  
Sugar Daddies – Executive Producer  
Paper Angels – Executive Producer  
A Cookie Cutter Christmas – Executive Producer  
Stranded in Paradise For Better or For Worse – Executive Producer  
Baby Bootcamp – Executive Producer  
Ring By Spring – Executive Producer  
Sole Custody – Executive Producer  
The Cheating Pact – Executive Producer  
Deadly Spa – Executive Producer  
Walking the Halls – Executive Producer  
June In January – Executive Producer  
Christmas in the City – Executive Producer  
Snow Bride – Executive Producer  
Dirty Teacher – Executive Producer  
The Surrogate – Executive Producer  
Merry In-Laws – Executive Producer  
A Bride for Christmas – Executive Producer  
Naughty or Nice – Executive Producer  
Christmas Crush – Executive Producer  
Teenage Bank Heist – Executive Producer  
How to Fall in Love – Executive Producer  
Home Invasion – Executive Producer  
Final Sale – Executive Producer  
Confined – Executive Producer  
Tornado Valley – Executive Producer  
The Wedding Dance – Executive Producer  
Trust – executive producer  
Toxic Skies – executive producer

Storm seekers – executive producer  
Making Mr. Right – executive producer  
Love Sick – executive producer  
Just Breathe – executive producer  
Devils Diary – executive producer  
Swarm – executive producer

## **JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP**

The Johnson Production Group contracts globally to produce television and motion picture content for international networks, studios and distributors. Based in Los Angeles and Vancouver, British Columbia, the company manages production, facilitates development and financing, procures distribution and guarantees quality and timely execution of its programs. While costs have gone up, so has the demand for quality. No longer is good enough, good enough. Johnson Production Group serves that segment when a show needs to be "A" quality, but produced efficiently enough to meet a locked budget. JPG specializes in value, protection of creative elements, and delivery of a quality finished product.

### **NORMAN STEPHENS – Producer**

Norman Stephens began his producing career with Krost/Simon Productions overseeing television movies and miniseries, including six films for CBS starring Elizabeth Montgomery. In 1985 he was recruited by Warner Bros. Television as VP Movies and Miniseries. Under his watch the Studio was the most prolific supplier of long-form programming to the major networks. His highlights included PROMISE, the most awarded program in television history, the multiple Emmy Award-winning biography of the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, MY NAME IS BILL W., and the miniseries NORTH AND SOUTH. He was promoted to Senior Vice President, Creative Affairs in 1990 and supervised the development and production of over 100 pilot scripts and more than 25 pilot productions. Product under his supervision garnered dozens of Emmy Awards, including "bests" for picture, director, writer, actor and actress.

Following ten years at Warner Bros., Stephens joined Village Roadshow Pictures in 1995 as Executive Vice President, Film and Television where he supervised all creative matters for this multi-faceted international exhibitor, distribution and production company.

In 1999 Stephens elected to form his own independent production company under which he produced the miniseries THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS based on the iconic Orson Welles' film. Directed by Alfonso Arau, the film for A&E Networks starred Madeleine Stowe, Bruce Greenwood, Jennifer Tilly, Gretchen Mol, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers and James Cromwell.

Stephens produced BANG BANG YOU'RE DEAD for Showtime Networks. In 2001, the film won four Emmy Awards including Best Picture, Best Writer, Best Director, and Best Actor for its star, Ben Foster, and also received the George Foster Peabody Award for excellence in television programming. In 2002, he produced BENEDICT ARNOLD: A QUESTION OF HONOR for A&E Networks. The film starred Aidan Quinn and Kelsey Grammer, and was directed by Mikael Salomon. It was the most-watched movie on A&E in the 2002 - 2003 television season.

Independently, Stephens completed the remake of the classic television movie, SYBIL. Directed by Joseph Sargent and starring Tammy Blanchard, Jessica Lange, and JoBeth Williams, and with a script by John Pielmeier, the film aired on CBS and Lifetime Networks in the 2007-2008 season. Also for Lifetime in 2010, he produced MY NAME IS SARAH, starring Jennifer Beals about a woman who pretends to be a recovering alcoholic to pursue a romantic interest until the burden of her lie requires her confession in

an AA meeting.

In June, 2009 Stephens completed a dramatic film, DARWIN'S DARKEST HOUR, based on the life of Charles Darwin and his wife Emma for National Geographic Television and Nova. The film starred Henry Ian Cusick (LOST) and Frances O'Connor (MANSFIELD PARK, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE). The film won the prestigious History Makers' Award for Best Historical Drama.

Since 2006, Stephens has also been affiliated with producers David Skinner and Tom Gorai of ShadowCatcher Entertainment in Seattle, Washington and is a producing partner on six projects ranging from theatrical feature films like DARK SURF, the story of the collision of vampire sharks on the surfing beaches of Southern California, and WHISTLER IN THE DARK about a dysfunctional family that finds reunion and healing during a harrowing bear hunt in Alaska.

Also in 2014, Stephens, with producing partner, Beverly Nero, produced NOBODY NOWHERE, the extraordinary true story of Donna Williams who survived neglect and abuse to emerge as the world's leading spokesperson for the vast variety of human beings on the autistic spectrum. In 2015 came a contemporary remake of BUTTERFIELD 8 written by JF Lawton (PRETTY WOMAN).

From 2009 through 2012, Stephens was affiliated with Evergreen Films based in Alaska and Los Angeles. His responsibilities included participating in the development of theatrical feature films that stretch the human imagination through the marriage of heroic story-telling and-cutting edge technology.

MY MOTHER'S FUTURE HUSBAND starring Lea Thompson for the UP Channel was completed in 2013. This touching coming together of a mother and daughter to explore new opportunities to love again after the loss of their husband and father was the network's Mother's Day feature in 2014.

Stephens is a graduate of Princeton University and attended Cornell Law School. He lives in northern Nevada where he, his wife and daughter are avid skiers in the Tahoe region of the Sierras.

### **OLIVER DE CAIGNY - Producer**

Oliver De Caigny is a Canadian producer originally from Belgium, his background in financing, production, and post production makes him a well-rounded producer for any type of production. His experience in financing and production agreements (film and TV series and movies-of-the-week), distribution agreements (both domestic and foreign) as well as international co-productions, Canadian tax credit, Telefilm Canada and Canada Media Fund incentives provides him with a well-rounded background in development, production and distribution for motion pictures, television series and productions.

#### Recent Projects

Eat, Play, Love – Producer

Sleepwalking in Suburbia – Producer

Woman on the Run – Producer

Infidelity in Suburbia – Producer

Sleigh Bells Ring – Producer

The Rooftop Christmas Tree – Producer

A Snow Capped Christmas – Producer

A December Bride – Producer

The Mistletoe Promise – Producer  
The Convenient Groom – Producer  
Tulips in Spring – Producer  
Hearts of Spring – Producer  
Becoming Santa – Producer  
Magic Stocking – Producer  
Just in Time for Christmas – Producer  
A Gift Wrapped Christmas – Producer  
A Mother's Instinct – Producer  
Ice Sculpture Christmas – Producer  
The Reckoning – Producer  
Family for Christmas – Producer  
Her Infidelity – Producer  
A Gift of Miracles – Producer  
Strange Empire (13 episodes) – Producer  
Her Infidelity - Producer  
Paper Angels - Producer  
A Cookie Cutter Christmas) - Producer  
For Better or For Worse – Producer  
A Ring By Spring – Producer  
June In January – Producer  
Baby Bootcamp – Producer  
A Badge Of Betrayal (aka Sole Custody) – Producer  
R.L. Stine's: The Haunting Hour (53 Episodes) – Associate Producer  
A Bride For Christmas – Producer  
The Dating Coach – Producer  
Radio Rebel – Executive Producer  
Seattle Superstorm – Producer

## **Billing Block**

Johnson Production Group Presents "THE MISTLETOE INN"  
Alicia Witt and David Alpay Edited by Jason Nielsen  
Casting by Judy Lee Director of Photography Mike Kam  
Production Design by Heather Coutts Lloyd Stone  
Executive Producers Timothy O. Johnson Norman Stephens  
Produced by Oliver De Caigny Written by Michael Nourse Directed by Alex Wright



**JOHNSON PRODUCTION GROUP**

With the participation of the Province of British Columbia  
Film Incentive BC

The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit

Canada

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## Meta Data

### LONG (max 540 characters) synopsis

At thirty-two Kimberly Rossi, a finance officer at a Lexus car dealership, has had her heart broken more times than she wants to remember. With two failed engagements, a divorce and again alone with no prospects, she hardly seems the type to dream of being a published romance author. Dreading another holiday alone, she signs up for The Mistletoe Retreat, a nine-day writing retreat in Burlington, VT. Deep inside Kimberly knows she's at a junction in her life and it's time to either fulfill her dream or let it go. The other reason she decides to attend the conference is because famed romance writer, H.T. Cowell, once the best selling romance writer in America, and the author whose books instilled in her the desire to be a writer, will be speaking in public for the first time in more than a decade... (514)

### MEDIUM (max 180) synopsis

When aspiring romance novelist Kim Rossi is unceremoniously dumped by her soon-to-be-published romance novelist boyfriend, Garth, Kim takes stock and decides to take a leap. (173)

### SHORT (max 54 characters) synopsis

A romance novelist pursues her dream of being published (54)

### 5 KEY WORDS

Christmas Romance Writer Novelist Vermont