



Barbara Bouldin is an author of workplace romance novels set in Silicon Valley circa 1985

Hello everyone. I hope you are getting ready for this festive season, no matter what holiday you celebrate. You are going to get a peek at an Emma and Jake style celebration in 1986.

Christmas at BlueShark, a typical Silicon Valley Startup, was where technology intersected with traditional holiday traditions. Throughout Silicon Valley, holiday lights, futuristic ornaments, and wreaths decorated office lobbies, which was in stark contrast to the minimalist design usually present in the Valley.

At BlueShark, the atmosphere was charged and joyful. Handmade paper snowflakes hung from the ceiling, and a hand-painted sign that read "Work Hard, Play Hard, and Share Holiday Cheer" was strung across the back wall.

Old circuit boards, which had been turned into wall art, adorned the whiteboards. Spare LEDs had become bright decorations, and

Christmas lights flickered with the flow of a nearby power strip.



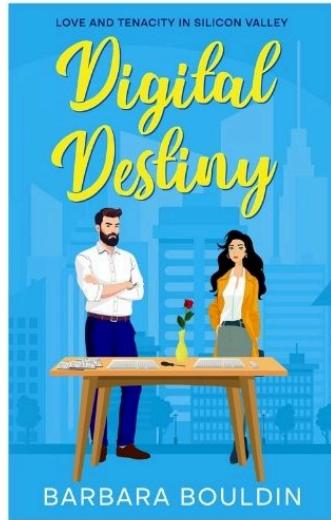
Jake and Emma performed a quirky Christmas carol set, which they rewrote with a software twist. They titled two of them, "We Wish You a Well-Commented Codebase" and "O Come, All Ye Test Cases." While they sang the lyrics, Kaitlynn kept the rhythm going on a keyboard.

Secret Santa was hilarious. Everyone drew names and brought small, tech-themed gifts. Items ranged from a vintage transistor radio kit to a paperweight made from floppy disks. There was friendly banter with jokes about notorious bugs and functions that were customer-unfriendly.

As the party drew to a close, spiked eggnog was passed around, and Ryan gave a thank-you toast without his usual grouchy undertone, so it matched the holiday spirit. There was a sense that the BlueShark team would build a product and company worthy of all their hard work.

Digital Destiny is fully launched and available on many of your favorite retail platforms. And don't forget that *Tangled Tech* will only be

available at the special price of \$.99 until December 26th.



Visit my webpage: www.barbarabouldin.com to purchase *Digital Destiny* and *Tangled Tech*.

Next time you hear from me, it will be 2026, so I want to wish you a Happy New Year.



Happy Reading,

Barbara

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