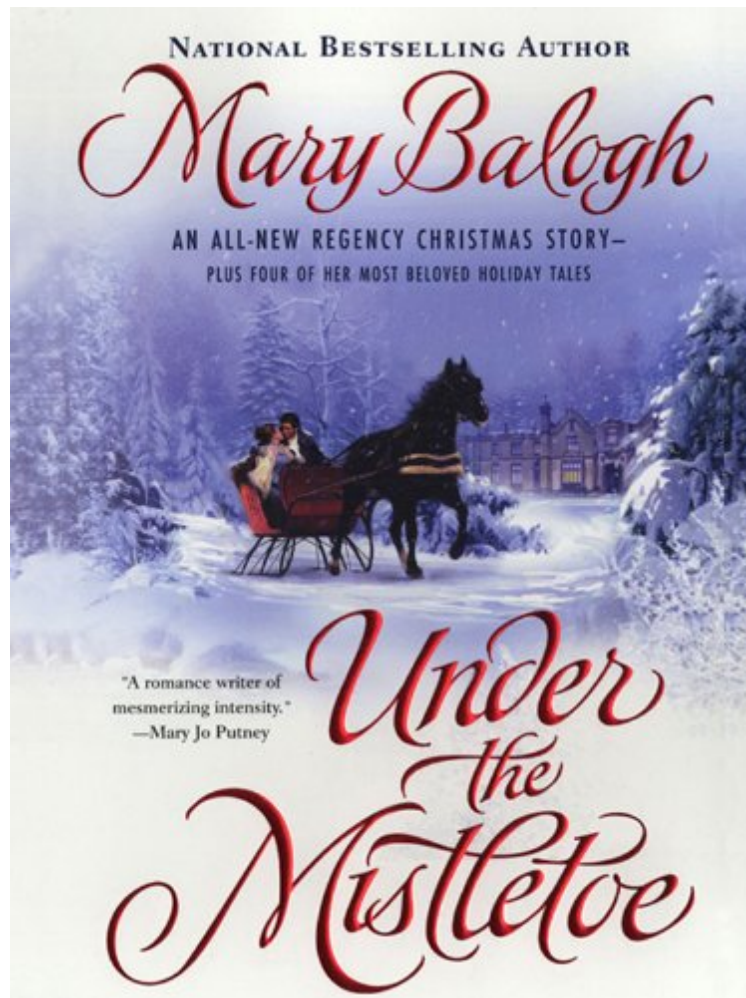


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Under The Mistletoe

Von Mary Balogh

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Von Mary Balogh : Under The Mistletoe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Under The Mistletoe:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein ganz besonderer SchatzVon CustomerDie Sammlung "Under the Mistletoe" erschien erstmals vor ein paar Jahren und obwohl ich die brigen Geschichten schon kannte (teilweise waren sie auch auf deutsch erschienen), habe ich mir das Buch dennoch gekauft und es keinen Moment bereut. Ich bin sicher, dass ich die eigens fr diesen Titel geschriebene Geschichte "A Family Christmas" auch heuer wieder lesen werde und bestimmt mit dem gleichen Vergngen wie die ersten Male.Es ist die Geschichte eines Ehepaares, beide sind noch sehr jung, vor allem die junge Ehefrau. Sie haben zudem nicht aus Liebe geheiratet, sondern wurden, ohne dass sie sich richtig kennen lernen konnten, des Geldes wegen verkuppelt. Beide nun mssen ihre eigenen Unsicherheiten berwinden, die Missverstndnisse, die daraus

resultieren. Sie müssen lernen, miteinander zu reden. Vor allem die junge Frau muss lernen, sich gegen ihre dominante Mutter durchzusetzen und ihre eigene kleine Familie - die beiden haben bereits einen kleinen, ein paar Monate alten Sohn - gegen deren Einmischungen zu verteidigen. Mary Balogh schildert dieses einander Kennenlernen des jungen Paares feinfühlig, auch mit leisem Humor. Während sich die beiden näher kommen, entdecken sie auch ihre Gefühle füreinander und gestehen sie sich und dem anderen auch endlich ein. Dieser Kernhandlung hat die Autorin einen Rahmen aus ebenfalls glaubwürdigen Charakteren gegeben. Weihnachten wird für alle Beteiligten ein wirkliches Fest und natürlich für den Leser ebenso! Die übrigen Geschichten verblasen ein wenig neben dieser feinen Charakterstudie, sind aber doch hübsche Geschichten, wie man sie sich für die Weihnachtszeit wünscht und in denen man auch die eine oder andere Unglaublichkeit in Kauf nimmt. Aber dafür ist Weihnachten ja auch die Zeit der Wunder!

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Four excellent and one so-so Christmas-themed short stories Von Helen Hancox I think that Mary Balogh is probably the best author currently writing Regency Romances. In a hugely overcrowded genre her books stand out because of their characterisation, insights into human nature, depictions of scarred and damaged people finding healing and, important to me, the good attention to historicity. Under the Mistletoe is an excellent example of Balogh's work in short-story form. Although an author who can write truly sublime stories sometimes she gets it wrong and produces something rather underwhelming (I can think of three of the 'Slightly' series and 'No Man's Mistress' as examples of these). And this collection has four excellent stories and one so-so, thus a good example of how she can write! This book is a collection of stories that were published separately previously in anthologies and it's a great opportunity to read them all together although it does also highlight some of the similarities in the stories; they're probably best read one at a time with a couple of days in between to truly appreciate them. "A Family Christmas" deals with the estrangement between the newlyweds Mr Chambers and Mrs Chambers. She was given in marriage to him, the son of a Count, by her titled parents in order to restore their fortunes. Mr Chambers has been living in London for all but the first two weeks of their marriage and Elizabeth is living in his country estate with her 3 month old son and, very unfortunately for her, her domineering and overbearing mother. Elizabeth's mother looks down on Mr Chambers as his fortune comes from trade and Elizabeth fears that he despises her for marrying for money and yet as the Christmas season progresses they both find that they may have been mistaken in each other. "The Star of Bethlehem" deals with another failed marriage where Estelle and her husband the Earl of Lisle have been miscommunicating for their entire marriage, two years. The Star is the engagement ring that Allan, the Earl, gave to Estelle and yet when she loses the ring she fears she has lost all chance of ever being reconciled to Allan. It takes a thieving chimney sweep and the Christmas season to allow them to see each other truly for the first time. "The Best Gift" is the story of Jane Craggs, illegitimate schoolteacher who has never experienced Christmas in her 23 years. Expecting to spend the Christmas season at the school where she teaches she finds herself called on to be companion for one of her pupils, Deborah, whose parents are away and who thus will have to spend Christmas with her uncle, Viscount Buckley. The Viscount is appalled that he has to deal with Deborah and more so when he arrives home with Deborah and Miss Craggs in tow to find his illegitimate four-year-old daughter at his house - her mother has died and she has been sent to him. Yet somehow the four mismatched people come together to create a proper Christmas and Jane is determined that the Viscount keep his daughter with him and not send her away so that young Veronica doesn't have a life like Jane did, devoid of love. But Jane gets rather more than she bargains for. "Playing House" is a story of childhood love that was separated by circumstances. When Stephen's older brother died unexpectedly he became heir to the Marquess of Bedford and found himself courted and feted, marrying a woman who turned out to be heartless and with no fidelity. When his wife dies Stephen eventually has to take care of his daughter, Dora, and returns to his country home for the first time in six years to try and give her a genuine Christmas. However he almost instantly finds his childhood sweetheart Lillias on his doorstep asking for help and thinks she is out to catch herself a Marquess. Stephen's suspicion and Lillias' dismay that her warm and friendly companion has become a cold and remote man make it very uncomfortable for them when thrown together and yet Dora and Lillias' younger siblings help to bring them together as they begin to understand what each means to the other. The fifth story, "No Room at the Inn" is the disappointment. We see a group of eight people snowed in at an Inn and an ill-assorted group they are. When a young unmarried woman needs somewhere to give birth she and her man are given the stable to sleep in as they aren't 'quality' but as the baby starts to be born the people in the Inn see things rather differently. There's a rather unlikely new romance in the story, a married couple re-engaging with each other and a mysterious character bringing the people to a new understanding of themselves. The device of the baby almost being born in a stable felt too clumsy to me and the story overall just didn't work. With the exception of the last story these are all very charming tales that I will want to read again. Perhaps they are rather over-sentimental about Christmas in a rather cheesily American manner, perhaps there is rather too much repetition of events (partly because the stories weren't originally collected together) but it's still a great read and a great introduction to Mary Balogh if you are new to her.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. My favourite collection of Christmas romances Von Ina You can always trust Mary Balogh to write wonderful romances, be it as a novella or a novel. In this collection, I especially like A Family Christmas, The Best Gift and Playing House. I read this book every year, usually several times. It's so sweet and heart-

warming.

Kurzbeschreibung In this beautifully written Christmas gift to her readers (Booklist) New York Times bestselling author Mary Balogh draws on the warmth of the holiday season to heal the wounds of the human heart in five cherished novellas of family, friends, lovers, and strangers.... In *A Family Christmas*, an estranged husband and wife make an unexpected connection and an illuminating discovery during the holiday season. *The Star of Bethlehem* is a lost diamond ring causing a rift in an already troubled marriage until a servant solves not one mystery but three surrounding its disappearance. *The Best Gift* can come at the most unexpected moments, especially for a lonesome teacher enlisted over the holidays to chaperone the niece of a notorious rake. *Playing House* finds an impoverished young woman longing to celebrate just one last, joyous Christmas before she and her orphaned siblings are separated forever. And in *No Room at the Inn*, a winter storm on Christmas Eve brings a young couple in from the cold, desperately in need of warmth and shelter for their unborn child. From Booklist Balogh's lovely early Christmas gift to her readers is five exquisitely crafted novellas set in Regency England at Christmastime, each featuring children. "A Family Christmas," which was written for this collection, portrays a couple who discover on Christmas that their problems hinge on her believing that he looked down on her for marrying money, while he thought that she looked down on him for "buying" a wife. In another tale, an antagonistic couple lose a ring but get it back in triplicate when they help a conniving little chimney sweep. Another heartwarming story features a diverse group of travelers marooned at an inadequate inn by torrential rains who learn the meaning of Christmas when a destitute couple seek shelter to have their baby. Balogh also presents a tale with echoes of *Jane Eyre* in which a young teacher experiences her first Christmas and helps a notorious rake experience love for the first time when she does not disdain his illegitimate child. Diana Tixier Herald Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen Praise For *Under the Mistletoe* If you haven't had the seasonal pleasure of Mary Balogh's Christmas stories in past years, *Under the Mistletoe* will be a real treat for you. For those of us who have loved her stories for a long time, this anthology is a must buy. The Romance Reader Reading a Mary Balogh book, whether a novel or a collection of novellas, is always a great delight!... This collection of Christmas-themed novellas is definitely a keeper, and I can't recommend it highly enough! Each story is a beautifully faceted gem, one not to be missed, but instead savored. As I prepare to enter a New Year, I do so with the warmth of these beautiful tales stored in my memory. A Nights Dream of Books Ms. Balogh has put together an enchanting book of lovely Christmas stories that will truly mesmerize readers. Each of the stories will touch the hearts of every reader and this reviewer definitely recommends having a box of tissues handy for the truly loving emotional tales. The Romance Readers Connection Charming. I enjoyed this fun holiday collection. Historical Romance Novel News These five Christmas tales are delightful historical romantic gifts. The Best s [A] lovely early Christmas gift five exquisitely crafted novellas. Booklist