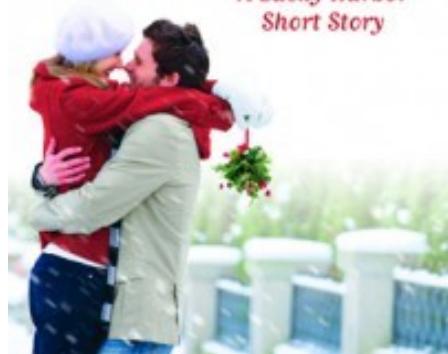


New York Times Bestselling Author

JILL SHALVIS

Under the Mistletoe

*A Lucky Harbor
Short Story*



Under the Mistletoe

Jill Shalvis

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Under the Mistletoe

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Under the Mistletoe Jill Shalvis

JUST ONE MORE KISS

There's no place like home for the holidays. And the Lucky Harbor Bed & Breakfast is bursting with festive lights and good cheer. But for Mia, Christmas is turning out to be anything other than merry and bright. Her recent break-up with her boyfriend Nick has made her return bittersweet. But then a surprise arrives, when Nick follows her to town bearing gifts-and asking for forgiveness.

Nick grew up without a family of his own so he's overwhelmed by the love that Mia receives from all her relatives, gathered together to celebrate the season. Under their watchful eyes, Nick finds earning back her trust the hardest thing he's ever had to do. If he succeeds, he will receive the greatest gift of all, Mia's love for a lifetime.

14,000 words

Under the Mistletoe Details

Date : Published December 4th 2012 by Forever Yours

ISBN :

Author : Jill Shalvis

Format : Kindle Edition 80 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Novella, Holiday, Christmas

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From Reader Review Under the Mistletoe for online ebook

Kelly22 says

3.50 Stars - Contemporary Romance Novella / Chick-lit

Jac (For Love and Books) says

WARNING If you have not read the first 2 Lucky Harbor books? There is a HUGE spoiler in this review, so stop reading NOW**

Have you heard? I love Lucky Harbor! You hadn't? Ok, well here it is: I'm a Jill Shalvis Fan-Girl and I LOVE Lucky Harbor!!!

This short little novella is the story of Mia, Tara and Ford's daughter! We've fast forwarded 5 years, Mia is living in NYC and wants her boyfriend -Nick- to come back to Lucky Harbor with her for Chloe and Sawyer's wedding. *YES, they waited FIVE YEARS to get married* But Nick really drops the ball, he lets Mia go without him to Lucky Harbor – and thus she has decided that he didn't pick her.

So Mia goes home alone, and then Nick follows to try and win her back. This story is short, and unfortunately I never felt attached to the characters. It felt forced, too quick and really lacked character development. (And I found myself really wishing it would have been the story of Mia and Carlos instead – simply because we already knew him and so as rushed as this story was it would have been easier to enjoy.

It nearly kills me to write a not-so-wonderful review of a Lucky Harbor read, but I have to be honest here. Save your time, and your money. This novella is hardly worth it for fans of the series. (And while we got to attend Chloe's wedding? We didn't get any details, so don't buy it expecting that either!) I guess I'll go back to waiting anxiously for the next full installment of Lucky Harbor!

Paula says

Minor spoilers for anyone who hasn't read the first three books of the Lucky Harbor series - which I HIGHLY recommend!

Take an hour out of your day, make some coffee, curl up on the couch with a blanket, and get ready to enjoy an adorable, funny, heartwarming short story that will make your toes curl it's so sweet.

Remember when we found out Tara and Ford have a daughter together named Mia? This is her story.

In *Under the Mistletoe*, we get to see a glimpse into five years to see where Mia is. She is now living in New York getting her degree and has been dating Nick for six months. She's in love with him and has high hopes he feels the same. But when she asks Nick to go with her to Lucky Harbor for Aunt Chloe and soon-to-be Uncle Sawyer's wedding, things don't go as planned. Mia is left to go to Lucky Harbor by herself with a broken heart. Nick soon realizes he's made a mistake. Fearing he might lose Mia forever, he follows her to

Lucky Harbor with the hope he can win her back.

"You're it for me. You're everything." He paused and let his gaze touch her every feature. "You're the best choice I ever made. You're my only choice."

When this story ended, I really wanted MORE of Nick and Mia's story. I'm greedy like that when it comes to the Lucky Harbor series. And if you've read the first three books of the Lucky Harbor series, you get to revisit with some old friends: Tara, Ford, Maddie, Jax, Chloe, Sawyer, and even Lucinda had a brief part.

I love how Ms. Shalvis always weaves humor, family, and romance into a story. Even in a short story like this one, she manages to add those elements. She has become one of my most favorite contemporary romance authors.

This is such a fabulously charming story you don't want to miss out reading during the holidays!

Rating: B

-- *A Romantic Book Affairs Review*

Find us on Twitter and Facebook too!

Holly says

First off, this is a novella...a **really** short novella, which is disappointing since the story felt totally rushed, and just when I felt like I was starting to like the hero, the story ended (color me shocked when this already short novella ended abruptly at 55% - the remaining 45% consisted of previews for other books in the series. I really hate when publishers do that. Grrr).

My second problem was that I was extremely disappointed to realize that Mia's HEA didn't involve her Lucky Harbor boyfriend, Carlos. I thought the two of them made such a sweet couple, and when I saw this was about Mia, I just assumed that this was their story. But no...she has moved away and fallen for another man, and Carlos has another girlfriend. *sniffle* So...I guess because of that, and due once again to the shortness of the story, I wasn't really happy with who she ended up with. Nick may have grown on me over the course of a full length novel, but he didn't make that great of an impression on me in this super quick holiday story.

On the bright side, it was great to see Jax & Maddie. Chloe & Sawyer and Tara & Ford (Mia's parents) once again. I do love the residents of Lucky Harbor and while I have enjoyed the last couple of books in the series quite a bit, it was wonderful to see the original 3 couples once again.

So, this may have fallen a bit flat for me, but I am still a huge fan of the series and beyond excited that there are more adventures in Lucky Harbor on the horizon.

More book reviews can be found on my blog: <http://ravingbookaddict.blogspot.com/>

Karla says

Overall I was very disappointed in this story, a first for me with a Jill Shalvis book. I didn't buy into the pairing of Mia and Nick at all! The only thing I enjoyed was seeing the characters from the first 3 books in the series. I felt like we got short-changed with this one.

Booklover, Indianapolis says

(May) I should have known better. I didn't like Mia when she was introduced in the second book of this series. Now, I'm not adopted and don't know anyone who is adopted. But she was such a brat - she was 17 herself and yet came in with an attitude of "well, of course you took the easy way out by just getting rid of me, giving me up and never looking back." I don't think many, if any parent, chooses adoption lightly. And I'd think that in this day and age, at 17 you'd be mature enough to at least understand that, even if you still have mixed feelings over the whole thing. And she was so horrible to Tara, but so nice to Ford, and never really seemed to give them credit for the fact that they too were only 17 when Tara was pregnant, no money, no idea of their future, doing what was hard but still best for both themselves and their baby. Fiction always makes adoption sound so horrible - the adopted kids never feel like they belong, never feel like they are good enough, and never feel complete until they find their birth family, even if they had a wonderful life with their adoptive family. I hope in real life it's not so dismal.

So now 5 years later, and Mia is 22, dating a nice guy for the past 6 months. SIX months, not six years. They've never said ILY, never discussed a future. But she surprises him with a plane tix back to see her birth family (who she is of course very close to, to the point where her birth parents are referred to as Mom and Dad - which really bothers me, as she has wonderful parents who raised her from birth) for a family wedding. He does not want to go (he's an orphan, product of the Foster Care system, and was spooked at the idea of meeting her whole family and the unspoken commitment that would mean). So she takes off in a snit, w/o talking to him or telling him how she feels or why she's upset. He of course immediately hops a plane after her. Her birth mom says "well, he let you go so he's gotta earn your heart back." Really? She ran off and didn't even try to have a conversation about it or understand where he was coming from. Just got pissed and hurt and ran away and of course her family takes her side. But, he is there, proves himself to her, and they end up HFN (with a strong HEA indicated in their not too distant future).

Ech, that's an awful long ranty review for a tiny short story w/not much substance, but for some reason this hit all of my annoyance buttons. And one last thing - he has a ring for her. He has never said ILY, not sure what exactly he wants, but somehow he manages to have purchased a ring for her before all of this went down. Makes no sense. And Carlos, her first love - he showed up 4 months ago to propose - but now he's got a new girlfriend who is his true love? Pretty quick moving! Last rant - she says her bday is the next month. It's a Xmas book, so that means her bday is in January. Yet he gives her a ring w/sapphires "her birthstone." Um, nope - January is Garnet, September is Sapphire!

Visionary says

I really hate hate writing this review. I "really" wanted to like this enovella. Even though I got disappointed on "who" the hero was, I gave it my all to get past that and like the story.

Storyline was cute and moderately enjoyable. Just my disappointment on the hero colored my feelings and the reading of the book. Honestly as I read deeper and realized Mia's hero would not be Carlos I truthfully wanted to delete the book off my kindle and find another book.

But I forced myself to finish the novella. I even tried to like Nick since he has more in common for Mia but failed. Just became so detached to his character and the story line.

Guess Shalvis really built up the belief that once Carlos and Mia grew up, became more mature, that the promise that they'd reunite like her parents remained with me. I liked the pairing from *The Sweetest Thing* and often wondered about the two often. It was noble of Carlos to let her go to live her life.

So no matter how she would have wrote this without Carlos just would not have settled right with me. Others may be alright or love the story. It just seemed so jarringly wrong with me. Blame it on me being a Virgo, and once we "believe" something should be, we stick to it.

Felt the same way about a Lisa Kleypas book. Built up hype of a possible pairing, so when the book came out, to find out the hero I had hoped for the heroine was another. Disappointment. So I can see myself re-reading the other Lucky Harbor books but this one.

Though it was AWESOME to see Chloe, Sawyer, Maddie, Jax, Tara and them all. To know that Maddie and Jax had two children. That did spark something...

Cara says

I love this series. This was a case of a story without a point. There wasn't enough substance to even make a short epilogue much less a novella. I really love Jill Shalvis, and some of my favorite books have been hers. But this should not have been a novella that you should need to pay for. I was excited to read this and to have another taste of Lucky Harbor, but this was unfortunately very disappointing. Bummer.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

12/08/2012 Full Review posted on: <http://www.2geekgirlsreviewbooks.com>

Overall Rating = 2.5 Stars

Book Cover / Book Blurb = 3 / 4 = 3.5 Stars

Writer's Voice = 3 Stars

Character Development = 2 Stars

Story Appreciation = 3 Stars

Worth the Chili = 3 Stars (\$1.99 on Amazon & B&N)

This is my first Holiday book/novella of the season. I love this author. She is on my favorite author list. I know I can count on her for some great characters and some light romance. This didn't disappoint in that category. My big complaint probably isn't a fair one ... it was just too darned short for my liking. I normally stay away from a short story unless strongly encourage, or in this case, by an author I love. So, I get what I

asked for - I just wanted more of it. A woman's lament ;) Read all my comments on the blog.

I would like to thank the author and publisher for providing this ARC. ARC of Under The Mistletoe provided by Hachette Book Group, GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING in exchange for an honest review.

+++++

12/05/2012

2.5 Star

Full review coming soon. Just too DARNED short!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Shey's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 Stars

After months of anticipation, at least I have been, we finally get to visit Lucky Harbor, Jill Shalvis did not disappoint with this magical Christmas short story, Under The Mistletoe.

We first meet Mia in The Sweetest Thing now five years later Mia 22 is a beautiful young lady living in New York working on her graduate degree. She has been dating Nick for six months. Nick an attorney, just passing his bar exam his goal is to help kids that have made bad decisions around the country, could he be any sexier ladies!!!

Brought together by their mutual childhood backgrounds, both being abandon, however Mia being adopted and now being apart of not one family but two families, whereas Nick was shuffled from home to home until he was 18, doesn't do families, doesn't know how to handle the idea.

When she asks him to join her for Christmas in Lucky Harbor, well Nick freaks out. Walking away, Mia heads home heartbroken.

Although this is a short read you learn a lot about Mia and her insecurities, about herself, her feeling about her biological parents, Tara and Ford, even Carlos. Oh, yes Carlos is even there!! Of course, her doubts about Nick come into question.

Coming to Lucky Harbor, Nick didn't know what to expect but knowing he needed to correct his mistake, such a smart man, he finally sees the family that Mia is part of. The very protective uncle's, Jax and Sawyer, yes thank you Jill!! Of course meeting Tara and Ford, yes Ford still gives the, I will kick you're a\$\$ look, he's a father after all, and still so very yummy!! Can't forget Lucille, our wonderful noisy neighbor I don't think a book would be the same without her.

Even with all the craziness going on Nick realizes it's not so bad. This is something he wants to be a part of with Mia. It wasn't so easy for Mia, it took a little time, but sometimes it's not about how much but just knowing when the time is right.

This was an amazing short story, with two amazing people. I might be biased because I am a fan girl of the *Lucky Harbor* series and Jill Shalvis. I don't really care, I re-read this book 3 times, it was just that good, really. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Romantic, sexy, sweet... *Under the Mistletoe* is a Christmas novella from the *Lucky Harbor* series and, like everything Jill Shalvis writes, is a very charming story. And, it's the perfect way to kick off my holiday reading!

Just one more kiss....

There's no place like home for the holidays. And the *Lucky Harbor* Bed & Breakfast is bursting with festive lights and good cheer. But for Mia, Christmas is turning out to be anything other than merry and bright. Her recent break-up with her boyfriend Nick has made her return bittersweet. But then a surprise arrives, when Nick follows her to town bearing gifts-and asking for forgiveness.

Nick grew up without a family of his own so he's overwhelmed by the love that Mia receives from all her relatives, gathered together to celebrate the season. Under their watchful eyes, Nick finds earning back her trust the hardest thing he's ever had to do. If he succeeds, he will receive the greatest gift of all, Mia's love for a lifetime.

I truly enjoyed this book, but I wish it had been longer. It takes place five years in the future and Mia – Tara and Ford's daughter from *The Sweetest Thing* – has been away at college, growing up and falling in love. It would have been nice to have a deeper glimpse into this part of her life, but all-in-all, it's a great story. It's a *happy for now* tale with the promise of a beautiful *happily ever after* down the road, and because Mia and Nick are young and just starting their lives and careers, I wouldn't have it any other way.

This novella took no more than an hour to read, so if you're looking for a Jill Shalvis fix, or needing something quick to read for a Christmas themed challenge, then this is a great book to choose!

My thanks to netgalley.com and Forever, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing, for giving me a copy of this story for review. It was such a pleasure!

Sheng says

Nick wasn't the guy that I thought Mia would end up with. I mean even though Carlos found love doesn't mean that he has forgotten his first love. But I'm happy that Carlos found someone who'd love him more than Mia could ever have.

Crista says

[She was the disillusioned long lost daughter of Ford and Tara (hide spoiler)]

Alex says

The Deal: Mia thinks that her relationship with Nick - a promising young attorney - is basically perfect, so she's shocked when a few days before Christmas she invites him to her aunt's wedding in Lucky Harbor and he says a categorical no.

Both Nick and Mia were given way as babies but Mia was adopted and grew up surrounded by love, and eventually developed a close relationship with her birth parents (Sawyer and Tara from The Sweetest Thing). Nick wasn't so lucky and he still has a hard time committing to any kind of relationship.

Which leads to them getting into this big fight. A fight he regrets almost immediately and prompts him to follow Mia to Lucky Harbor to try to set things right.

My Thoughts: Let me start by saying that I'm a person who enjoys novellas, okay? I think that when they are well done are wonderful little morsels of awesome.

Sadly, I don't think Under the Mistletoe was very successful. I kind of already had a sense of who Mia was supposed to be because of the previous book, but for someone who claims to be okay with the whole adoption thing, she still bases all her self-worth around 'being picked'. And Nick was said to be this very mature guy, but he didn't act like it. They are both supposed to be in the early-to-mid 20's but act like 15 year-olds often enough. Plus, the Mia from the Sweetest Thing seemed a lot more mature than this one, five years later.

It sure was nice to see the couples of the original trilogy again, but I didn't care for the main story. More than in love Mia and Nick seemed to be in lust and the way things were resolved were just... too convenient to ring true. And Carlos? (Mia's former boyfriend-love-of-her-life? yeah, his place in the story made me go Oh, really?)

I know I love Lucky Harbor and that's probably why I'm being hard on this story. Is it horribly written? nope, but it ain't all that great either.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Posted on Under the Covers

Mia is all grown up now and is lady in her own right. In New York, she has made a life for herself. She's got a BA in Psychology, decent digs, and a sexy, sexy boyfriend named Nick. For six months, Nick and Mia have been in a whirlwind of love, but with the holidays coming up and Aunt Chloe's wedding just around the corner, Mia is asking Nick to make that next step with her. She's going to ask him to come to Lucky

Harbor with her to be her date at the wedding.

The bomb drops when Nick says no and Mia can do nothing but pick up the pieces of her heart from the floor and pack up her things for her plane ride to Lucky Harbor. There she finds old loves and a whole lot of hurt, but it seems that love isn't giving up too easily this time around.

In a story filled with laughter and love, Jill Shalvis delivers yet another heartwarming love story that will lift your spirits and keep you wanting more. *UNDER THE MISTLETOE* is a very short, but well done novella. Shalvis manages to create such depth in her characters in such a short amount of time. Furthermore, she is also able to create distinct, likeable personalities as she introduces new characters into a world where readers are completely enamored with the people already. I think the events of this book, such as the wedding could have easily made this novella into a full-length book because a lot happens and the characters to develop really well at a fast pace. It's a true testament to Shalvis's writing where she can give characters a solid story whether it be in novella format or a full-length.

Familiar faces are brought back into this novella and I just about died when one particular character came back. Carlos deserves his own book! What he does for Mia in this book is sweet and let's face it – it was sexy! And I think once readers read this novella, they will be right there with me when I say that he should get his own book (or at least a novella).

UNDER THE MISTLETOE is the perfect holiday read to warm you up and make you laugh. You can expect no less from Jill Shalvis. She always delivers and Mia's story is no different.

*ARC provided by Netgalley
