



Christmas Past

Jodi Taylor

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Christmas Past Jodi Taylor **The First Farrell Family Christmas**

Max, Leon and Matthew - together at last for Christmas at St Mary's - a time of conspicuous consumption, riotous misbehaviour and the traditional illegal Christmas jump. And this time, it's inter-generational.

Donning her unfamiliar mother hat, Max takes Matthew back to 19th century London, where they plan to deliver a parcel of Christmas cheer to his former friends, but find themselves confronting the terrifying Old Ma Scrope in the process.

'Tis the season to be jolly.

It's also the season of goodwill towards all mankind.

Pity no one told Max.

Christmas Past Details

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From Reader Review Christmas Past for online ebook

Bram says

Another delightful little short story from the St. Mary's nutcases. This time with a wonderful Christmas feel-good atmosphere and some much needed mother/son bonding time to boot.

As always, the writing and humor are the same level I expect from Jodi Taylor, and I'm very happy that for once she didn't rip my heart out and stomped on it, instead focusing on some much needed healing. Very short, but entertaining nonetheless.

4 stars for warming this old cynics heart, but not amazing either.

Trish says

Another Christmas short story from our favourite disaster magnets. Yes, I'm a bit late since it's already January, but that didn't diminish my enjoyment in the slightest.

Now, I will admit that I still haven't read novel #8 but the short stories are balm to my soul so I couldn't resist this one any more than the last.

Leon and Matthew are living with the time police in Max's future. Leon for medical reasons after what happened to him in #8 (but he's about to return for good apparently) and Matthew out of his own free will because after what was done to him, he doesn't exactly have strong family ties. Which breaks Max's heart but she doesn't show it.

So this Christmas, Leon and Matthew come to visit and of course it's all about yet another illegal time jump (it's a Christmas tradition after all) - only this time it's just Max and Matthew and for a very good reason.

I will not go into details or tell you if, or what, goes wrong. Suffice it to say that this one very much pulled on my heartstrings in a good way and had some very satisfying moments plus some hope for the future.

Richard Derus says

This short story, a slight fortysomething pages, will reaffirm your faith that shitty small-souled ill-smelling people will gracelessly meet their fate as soon as Author Taylor has their number.

Happy Christmas, Disaster Magnets.

Kelly says

Marvelous St Mary's Christmas story!

Alexandra says

Short holiday story involving mostly Max and Matthew. Ending is a bit unbelievable, but can be forgiven as the intent is for a satisfying feel-good story. Fans of the series should enjoy it, but won't miss anything important if skipped.

Mburrows says

Love, love, love. Since Jodi Taylor is my favorite author I would expect nothing less than the best. I was not disappointed. Anxiously awaiting the next installment.

Nicole says

At last, the wait is over and the annual St Mary's Christmas romp has arrived and it was well worth the wait.

Max, Leon and Matthew are finally going to spend their first Christmas together. It has been particularly rough for them. Matthew kidnapped by Ronan and left in Victorian slums was finally rescued by his father. For Matthew years have passed whilst for Max it was only days. Instead of a baby she found herself with a small, untrusting boy who bore little resemblance to the baby that she loved and adored. .

However, it is Christmas, and what would Christmas at St Mary's be without a secret and illicit trip into the past as Max tries to regain her son's trust and love.

This has to be the best of all the short stories....though I suspect that I say this every year...It is certainly the most atmospheric as Jodi brings to life what life the characters and places described in her writings. A lovely edition to the series and if you don't have a little cry at the end I can only assume that you have no soul.

Bradley says

Short and delightful xmas story featuring our scariest mom yet. Max. Also, arguably the worst. Or best. Depends on your POV. :)

She takes her child to disease-ridden London to give food and blankets to Matthew's old friends in the muck.

Time-travel can be nice, sometimes, and no one got pissed on. This time.

The best part is the yelling. Go Max!

A very Scrooge-y story. :) And cute.

Sydney Young says

Oh thank you for this one!! Just mad that I didn't know about it until today!

Emma Flanagan says

I'm now fully caught up on all things St Mary's and actually have to wait for the next book. ?

Josie Jaffrey says

Yet another excellent short story in the St Mary's series. It was heart-rending, engaging and hilarious in classic Jodi Taylor fashion. I became distinctly misty-eyed on more than one occasion.

I can't wait for book 9.

Sara says

One Christmas tradition of late has been reading the annual St Mary's Christmas short story, and this years edition was really good. I loved the interactions between Max and Matthew, I found them really heartwarming and genuine. It's great to see Max develop as a character into more of a mother figure for Matthew, even if it covers a lot of heartache. More then previous years this also felt more like a 'traditional' Christmas tale.

I did miss Peterson and Markham though, but I suppose they do have to recover from those injuries at some point.

ClareM says**A Merry Christmas ?**

YESSSSS! This is satisfyingly totally Taylor, and pure Max. I can hardly wait for the next volume. More soon, please!

Karsyn says

Cute good story, typical Christmas at St Mary's fun, without the chaos. 3.5 stars, rated down just because it's too damn short.

Wing Kee says

Beautiful heartwarming tale.

I love these little short stories that Taylor does for St. Mary's they are always character driven and add so much heart to the ridiculous and zany antics of the full series. This one focuses on Max and Matthew a wonderful and delicate relationship that has been happening for a while not but this little tale was so well constructed I can't even put to words the wonderful feelings I had at the last line of dialog from Matthew at the end of this tale. It's good. It's so so so good.

Onward to the next book!
