



## The Mistletoe Effect

*Melissa Cutler*

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## **The Mistletoe Effect** Melissa Cutler

It'll be a Christmas to remember when hotel heiress Carina Briscoe falls for cowboy James Decker, the bad boy stable manager of her family's Texas resort, after they're roped into pretending marriage. The marriage might be a sham but the sparks between them are anything but. Still, with a little help from the heroine's interfering family, they might end up with the greatest Christmas gift of all: true love.

## **The Mistletoe Effect Details**

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Author : Melissa Cutler

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# From Reader Review The Mistletoe Effect for online ebook

## Deborah Mingle says

My review is gonna follow behind the blurb that the Author post when the book is .shown to the public for pre-.\release and on release day.Carina and Decker are awesome i'm gonna shorten the first of the book some .There's drama with a capital D . Carina sister is the one suppose to be getting married and at the alter a man she really thought she love turned out she didn't know so well so we have a runaway bride . Well if there is no wedding the Mistletoe Ranch will lose all its luck people that get married there end up staying happily married and not one person that has gotten married there has ever gotten divorced so this is where everyone looks at Carina as to what to do now (hint) there is a reason why they do but you will have to buy the book and read it and find out. Decker and Carina pretend to get married for the ranch's sake of course lol but Decker has a few stipulations of his own Carina has to move in with him for a month and they do everything a married couple would do and that means living together. Decker has lusted after Carina since he started working there at a very young age but he felt she was off limits but what Decker didn't realize Carina has had fantasies about Decker since he started there but he was considered a ladies man and wouldn't wont someone like her she just drooled from afar. This book I Love it .It has humor,;wise cracking granny,Romance,Love.and tons of hot steaminess and we have one hot man who stands up for his pretend wife's honor (just maybe he fill more for her then he lets on). this book is a must have in my opinion. When a book can make you laugh and touch the heart and be just suspenseful enough you are not quite sure whats happening next. I for one see this book going to the top . Melissa Cutler you done one amazing job on this book and thank you for the honer of a ARC for my honest review.

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## Pat says

Briscoe Ranch Resort has a reputation for it's grand Christmas Weddings. For the last fifty years a phenomenon called The Mistletoe Effect has stood the test of time. June and Ty Briscoe, original owners of the resort were married there and since then every wedding performed at Christmas has never ended in divorce. The resort now run by her son Ty and his family is basking in the success of the Mistletoe Effect and Granny June is everywhere with her smart phone taking pictures for Facebook.

Carina Briscoe is the executive in charge of events. She really dislikes Christmas; her life as she knows it ends on Halloween as the wedding season goes into high gear. This year is especially difficult, one of the brides is her sister Hailey, who is bordering on Bridezilla. Plus, an international wedding magazine is at the resort to take pictures. When Hailey storms out of the wedding and disappears it seems the magic of the mistletoe is jinxed. But, her Dad has a solution.

James Decker, known as Decker arrived at Briscoe Ranch ten years ago as a bad boy cowboy looking for a job. He has worked his way to Manager of the stable and lost his wild and crazy reputation. Nothing has diminished his infatuation/lust for Carina over these past years. They both work ridiculous hours with no time to socialize. When Mr. Briscoe comes up with the solution to stop the jinx....Carina and Decker are "fake" married, he see's a chance to finally have some time with Carina. They will live as husband and wife until December 25th. Carina agrees, partly for the sake of the resort, partly for her attraction to tall, dark and gorgeous Decker. Let the season begin!

The descriptions of the decorations, the food, and the gardens make you feel you are there. The heat between Decker and Carina is sizzling and the characters add so many smiles to the story. If you're looking for a Holiday story with lots of romance, laughs and family.....this is the book for you.

I received a copy of this eBook from the publisher for an honest review.  
Pat Fordyce

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### **Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

I'm a bit behind on reviewing this book or call it early since it's a Christmas themed story. I read this book early this month and it's my first holiday themed book for the year. The Mistletoe Effect is a little naughty, a little nice and whole lot of Christmas love. Getting geared up for some holiday spirit? This is the novella for you!

The Texas Hill Country Resort is known for The Mistletoe Effect, A fifty-year record of divorce free marriages that takes place in the first twenty-five days of December. This year that streak is at risk which Carina Briscoe will try to save with the help of cowboy, James Decker. Oh, he's more than willing to help but with conditions that will knock Carina out of her high heels.

I enjoyed Cutler's short story. I've always enjoyed her writing and the story she delivers. In this case, a sweet, funny and a hot read. I'd really prefer this book was longer though. There's so much more to tell, IMO.

I'm not sure what Ms. Cutler's plans are but this can be a start of a good small town series. It's complete with meddling family members, nosy town, and a grandma who thinks she knows everything. I'm definitely hoping for more.

\*ARC provided by publisher

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### **Dianne says**

Carina remains aloof to most of the employees at her family's destination hotel, which has the magical reputation of being THE place to hold a December/Holiday Season wedding for true bliss. But could this year be the one that breaks the spell? When her sister, of all people runs out on her own wedding, it's up to Carina to save the day, the hotel's reputation and the Mistletoe Effect. Number one problem? No groom. Enter the stable manager, hot and handsome Decker, Carina's secret crush. Can they pull off this sham of a marriage? Is there any truth to the legend of the Mistletoe Effect?

Melissa Cutler and **The Mistletoe Effect** is going to be one of the best feel-good novels of the season! Ms. Cutler gives us a colorful cast, a beautiful time of year, and romance, true romance, filled with ups and downs and ups, again. Fast, fun, enlightening and sweet as sugarplums, I was stuck in smile mode throughout the entire book. I only cried, once and it was an "Ahhhh, isn't that sweet and romantic and OMG,

I'm going to cry," kind of cry.

Pure light, fun romance where the journey to the end is like a sleigh ride over a slightly bumpy road! Love romance? Love the Holidays? Love the magic of love during the holidays? It's all here! Go ahead, admit it, you like Mistletoe Love Stories!

I received an ARC edition from St. Martin's Press in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says**

THE MISTLETOE EFFECT by Melissa Cutler is one exciting ride from the get-go, until the end.

The Briscoe Family are the elite in the event planning business, with The Texas Hill Country Resort as THE place to be. It's Christmastime and the wedding business booms in December due to the famous "Mistletoe Effect". Not one marriage in the last 50 years performed at the resort has ever ended in divorce. Things are about to get shaken up real good when to kick off the latest Christmas season, Haley Briscoe jilts her groom at the alter, leaving the Briscoe family in the lurch. A wedding MUST happen or that booming business will go right down the drain and the family's reputation as well. Above all things, tradition must be upheld and Mr. Briscoe and his mother, the quirky, Granny June are going to make sure that happens.

Carina Briscoe, Haley's responsible sister, who manages the events, is stunned but sort of relieved her sister cold cold feet. She doesn't particularly like her would-be brother-in-law but she is torn. On one side, she has to keep her father happy and do whatever is necessary to maintain the resort's sterling reputation, but on the other, she dreams of a life outside of the family business.

Cowboy, James Decker arrived on the back of a motorcycle almost a decade ago, since then he has had his eye on Carina Briscoe, but has never done a thing about it. After all, Carina and her family are way above him, or so he thinks. When Haley runs off leaving an open spot for a wedding, Carina and James take up the mantle and save the day, but under the strangest of circumstances. Carina the workaholic always was attracted to James, but she always thought he would never notice her. Well how wrong she is, when James agrees to play groom for this mock wedding, he insists that Carina ACT a real wife for the month of December, including living under his roof and sharing a bed and before you know it the holiday spirit is in full swing with Carina and James playing house.

James has another motive, and it's to open Carina's eyes and show her that the resort is not the only thing that matters, and also to stand up to her overbearing father and live the life she wants to live, not the one her

father has planned for her. Of course in this process, emotions get involved and a true relationship emerges and though neither wants to admit, they are actually enjoying being a couple, but what will happen at the end of the month when James gives notice and moves on to another job? Oh boy there is so much to this story that you will just have to grab it and find out for yourself.

THE MISTLETOE EFFECT by Melissa Cutler is a perfect example of this author's amazing writing ability. I went into this story not knowing what to expect and came out with a huge smile. I love how the strong cowboy takes Carina into hand and he also becomes her champion when it comes to her finding her true happiness. James is one amazing hero. While I so wanted to smack Carina in the head a few times and tell her she needs to start saying the word, NO, I totally empathize with her, because that's so one of my big problems too. This is a fun story with a wonderful outcome, not just a great holiday read, but one that is timeless.

~KIMBERLY~

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### **GraceMyBookSnack says**

In this story the Briscoe Ranch Resort is THE wedding destination for couples planning a wedding. Why? It's because of the Mistletoe Effect. This ranch resort holds a history of couples marrying there in December and who are still happy and going strong. The Briscoe family wholeheartedly believes in the Mistletoe Effect; however, all that is threatened when one wedding turns into a disaster. What's a family to do to keep the Mistletoe Effect alive? Stage a faux wedding, of course, and hope no one notices.

Carina Briscoe and James Decker are the lucky two who are persuaded by her family to get married. Is this actually a blessing in disguise? These two have been admiring each other from afar for years. It took me a while to warm up to Carina. Let's just say she's fiercely loyal to her family and work that she keeps putting her true dreams on hold. Decker is just an overall dreamy cowboy sporting a black Stetson! He really just wants Carina to be happy, but all this "wedded bliss" comes with a time limit.

The thing with marriage of convenience stories is that they have to be pretty convincing to me. I actually thought the beginning of this story was a little over the top. The Briscoe family is very hard set in keeping up a happy image for the sake of the business. Yes, things go a little backward for Carina and Decker, but their romance was fun and made me smile. They even got a little kinky thanks to certain items in a certain basket of goodies! In the end I was convinced. Perhaps the way Melissa Cutler wrote this story and combined it with the spirit of Christmas is what made me believe. Plus, the comic relief from Granny June just made me giggle all over the place!

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### **Jackie Ferrell says**

The Mistletoe Effect is a great Christmas story by Melissa Cutler that I loved reading.

Carina Briscoe is the wedding and event coordinator at the Briscoe Ranch Resort which is owned and operated by her family. The resort is busiest during the month of December due to the "Mistletoe Effect" that it is known for. For the last fifty years, beginning with her grandparents June and Tyson Briscoe, every couple that has been married in December hasn't gotten divorced.

Haylie, who is Carina's sister walks out of her own wedding ceremony after being enraged by the actions of her soon-to-be husband. Granny June and Mr. Briscoe, Carina's dad tells her that she has to get married or the Mistletoe Effect will be jinxed. Mr. Briscoe tells the Ranch Foreman, James Decker that he needs to marry Carina to save the Mistletoe Effect.

James Decker has had his eye on Carina since the day he was hired at the Briscoe Ranch nearly ten years earlier. He sees this as an opportunity to spend the time with Carina that he has always wanted to, but was afraid of losing his job. He even insists that she live in his home as husband and wife as a condition of him agreeing to this marriage. Carina also agrees to this because she has also been interested in him since he started working for her father.

Carina is also a seamstress and she designs wedding dresses on the side. I loved how she and Decker shared their dreams, their history and their feelings. They encourage each other to go after the dream they have. The relationship really grew throughout the story.

Granny June is so funny throughout the story. She is always taking candid pictures with her smartphone to post on Facebook.

I highly recommend this holiday read. You will love it as I did!!!

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## **ItsAboutTheBook says**

*Review can be read at It's About The Book*

4.5 stars

I was taken totally by surprise by this book. This is not one I would normally choose. I'm more of a mystery, thriller or romantic suspense fan. But, happily, I let some friends convince me to try, just once, a Western Romance with a holiday theme. I didn't expect to fall head over heels in love with this story. But I did.

First of all, the writing captivated me before I had a chance to connect to the characters. Melissa Cutler takes all those words and phrases and weaves a captivating tale, full of style, perfect flow and pacing. A beautifully crafted story.

The story started strong and stayed strong, with a run-a-way bride refusing to marry her intended....in the month before Christmas. Oh, boy. This is a big problem. You see, the story takes place at the Briscoe Ranch Resort, a resort that specializes in destination weddings...especially at Christmas. And there is a legend....The Mistletoe Effect....a legend that claims that for 50 years every single wedding that has taken place in the 25 days before Christmas at the resort has resulted in a lasting and happy marriage. This legend has made the resort famous and the Briscoe family wealthy. And the runaway bride? She's Haylie Briscoe, youngest daughter of TY and Eloise Briscoe, the owners of the resort.

It. Is. A. Disaster!

With the reputation of the family and the resort at stake, elder daughter, Carina, who accidentally caught the bouquet when her sister threw it in a huff, is called upon by her father to step in and save the day. A wedding has been staged and, by gosh, a wedding there will be! It's the 50th anniversary of the resorts big wedding

extravaganza and the guests cannot be disappointed! Family tradition and honor must be upheld. Carina objects that there are no men in her life! But James Decker, the best man for the dissolved wedding steps up. He will be the groom, but he has conditions; he wants the “fake marriage” to be real until Christmas.....almost three weeks away. Carina is stunned! A fake marriage to the cowboy stable manager of the resort....the hottest guy with the sexiest Texas drawl she’s ever heard....the guy she’s had a crush on for ten years? Oh! Hell no. Or...maybe it would be fun, just what she needs for a little distraction from her high pressure job.

That sounds like I’ve told a lot of the story, but I haven’t. That and much more is in the first chapter. The rest of the story is even more fun. Carina and Decker have a very fine, sexy time getting to know each other. Decker learns that Carina has dreams and ambitions that have nothing to do with her demanding job as the event planner for a world renowned wedding destination, dreams that she won’t pursue because of her demanding family and her self-less devotion to them. Carina learns that Decker has plans that will take him away from the resort very soon. Together they learn that maybe dreams and plans can change and be better when love enters the picture.

This is a fun read from beginning to end. I think anyone who enjoys a beautiful story will fall in love along with Carina and Decker. I did.

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## **Vânia Nunes says**

The Texas Hill Country Resort is famous for a tradition: their weddings in full Christmas season. And now that the family business is doing great, nothing like celebrating the date performing the marriage of a family member, Haylie Briscoe.

Everything was going well until the votes time comes, and the groom, Wendell, in a moment of weakness or nervousness, confesses to the bride he had no time to prepare his votes because he drank too much the night before in the midst of his bachelor party with a stripper.

The enraged bride leaves the altar and said no more marriage.

Mr. Briscoe and his mother, Granny June, who had founded that business along with her ??late husband, were more concerned about the ruined and the gossip to their business than the happiness of the bride. The fame and tradition of the place were at stake. A curse could befall the property and they go bankrupt, The Mistletoe Effect.

A marriage needed to be done urgently.

Carina Briscoe, the eldest daughter, manager ceremonial and third generation to take care of business, was accused of failing to take account of the groom, future brother-in-law, and if he had made the votes in time. So she would have to take the place on that wedding. But who would be the groom?

James Decker worked for the Briscoe for 10 years now and secretly plotting his departure for work on competition in something that gave him more pleasure. But before he was there as Wendell's best friend. Seeing Carina being accused for something that was not her obligation, and knowing how much she gave blood for that family business, he ends up being wrapped around the situation and pass from best friend to a passionate boyfriend/groom.

It would be a fake wedding to placate the media and maintain the reputation of the Resort. But really, James

was already got a crush on Carina for some time, and if he could enjoy his last days as an employee of the family bankrolling her husband, would be a great pleasure.

While pretending to be in love, James and Carina exchange confidences, dreams, desires and end up discovering that the Mistletoe Effect may be more beneficial than evil.

The pace of the story is good. The begin is funny, with all that wedding confusion, but a little later, that situation about Carina never say no to the excesses of their parents and even have the courage to express what her dreams were, it starts to get annoying. Just when James starts to interfere and take her pain, making her wake up in her current situation, the story takes a better direction.

The two end up finding themselves in a similar situation: James is between going to another ranch as a manager or follow Carina to another city, where she would realize her dream. And Carina was undecided whether kept as the next Briscoe generation to manage the business or going to be a designer of wedding dresses, her secret dream.

Together, they decide the best future, knowing that any chosen, the marriage would prevail.

**4 stars**

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### **JoAn says**

The Mistletoe Effect by Melissa Cutler is my first Christmas story this year and I enjoyed every minute of reading it.

Carina Briscoe is the family work horse, she thinks of herself as a "knight" who slays all of the dragons. She is the eldest and has already been announced as the "heir apparent" of The Texas Hill Country Resort. Although she is the events manager and does love putting on the weddings that this resort is famous for, she loves designing and making wedding dresses more. Unfortunately, that can only be a hobby because she is always "on call" to her family.

James Decker came to the resort 10 years ago as a wild and out of control young man without any roots. He's grown up and worked his way up the ladder to manger of the resort's stables. He has lusted for Carina since he got there but never wanted to jeopardize his job.

Carina's sister Hailey is be married at the resort and what great publicity for the resort that a family member will contribute to the "Mistletoe Effect", until the wedding doesn't happen. Ty Briscoe, Carina's father, and Granny June step in to save the day by announcing that their will be a family wedding. You'll have to read the story to find out more.

Carina and Decker's relationship was hot and smexy but also very real as they shared their dreams, their history and their feelings. The relationship really grew throughout the story.

The pace of the story was steady and I never lost interest. The secondary characters often pulled the story along and Granny June was funny and often over the top with her smartphone antics.

Thank you, Melissa, for my first Christmas story of the season. I couldn't have started off with a better selection.

I received an ARC edition from St. Martin's Press and NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

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## **Tina "IRead2Escape" says**

### **Hotness Rating 3 out of 5**

Oh my goodness, *The Mistletoe Effect* is such a fun, crazy, romantic holiday read. Even though it has a holiday setting it very much can be read and enjoyed anytime of the year. The romance between our hero and heroine is just a sweet, feel-good relationship. The secondary characters are over-the-top crazy and driven. I can not tell you how many times in reading this book I was shaking my head and thinking "dear Lord, I thought my family was bad". Their bad is more of the since "they are rich they are eccentric and if they were poor they would be nuts" category.

Carina Briscoe is the glue that holds the family hotel together. Sure her dad is the driven one who is in charge and issues the orders, but Carina is the one that puts everything into motion and solves every problem. Because of this she isn't one bit surprised when she's offered up as the sacrificial bride to protect the hotel's reputation. You see the hotel is famous for *The Mistletoe Effect*. Couples who marry at the Briscoe hotel during the holiday stay married. Thinking it was perfect publicity Carina's dad invites all kinds of press to this year's wedding to document the marriage of Carina's sister to her flaky boyfriend. In true self-centered baby sister fashion everything has changed. We have a runaway bride and Mr. Briscoe is determined to have someone get married rather than risk the 100% track record of *The Mistletoe Effect*.

James Decker appreciates his job running the stables at the Briscoe hotels, but it's a dead-end job. So, when he gets the position of Ranch foreman in another state he knows it's the opportunity that he's been dreaming of. The only glitch is the owner of the ranch says he'll only hire Deck if he gets Mr. Briscoe's formal recommendation. This could be tricky if not handled correctly. Then opportunity presents itself. It seems that Carina is in need of a "pretend husband" and he just happens to be available. He's always found Carina incredibly sexy and sees how she does all the work with little appreciation. He finds that he wants to help her. Now, will he be able to walk away when the agreed upon time is up?

So much fun! Seriously, the grandma is crazy and off-her-rocker, laugh-out-loud funny! Yes, Carina's father doesn't know the word thank you and seems to take her for granted, but he comes around when it's important. I loved that it didn't take long for it to be Carina and James against the rest of the family. The way they banded together to make the best of everything and didn't resist or waste their attraction was perfect! It drives me nuts when an author manufactures issues to create more drama. Kudos Ms. Cutler for not doing this with this couple!

Thank you to NetGalley.com for the loan of this book in exchange for my honest review.

You can find this review and others at [www.riverinaromantics.com](http://www.riverinaromantics.com)

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## **Pam says**

I have enjoyed many of the books by Ms. Cutler and when I saw she had this Christmas book, I jumped at the chance to read it. This is a cute holiday themed story that gets you in the spirit of the season.

Carina is all about the family business, she works long hours to make others happy while they are staying at the Briscoe Ranch Resorts, guests are either enjoying a dream vacation or their dream wedding. There is something special about a Briscoe Wedding, a lasting legacy that many couples want to be a part of, in the fifty years they have hosted weddings at the ranch, there have been no divorces, a phenomenon called the Mistletoe Effect.

Carina's sister Haylie is having her wedding at the ranch, starting off the wedding season with a grand affair that will include a spread in a national wedding magazine to showcase the ranch. Unfortunately when they are about to exchange vows, the groom confesses to one and all that he did not write his because he was spending the time enjoying a second bachelor party with strippers. Chaos ensues as Haylie runs down the aisle. Carina's parents and grandmother become nervous about the Mistletoe Effect and quickly decide they need a stand-in for a wedding, as they look at Carina and the ranch foreman Decker.

James Decker has been the foreman on the ranch for over nine years, he has enjoyed working there but is about to make a change, moving to another larger ranch. Decker and Carina do not know each other well, she is always working and he has always known she is the boss' daughter and off limits. Keeping up with a fake marriage will be difficult for the two but since it is only a month, they feel up to the challenge, it doesn't hurt that the chemistry between them sizzles.

This is an entertaining story that shares the magic of the season.

Carina is a workaholic, I am not sure how she gets everything done in a day, she not only oversees all the weddings at the resort but she also creates wedding gowns that are in such demand that there is a waiting list. She is torn; wanting to do what is correct for her family and their legacy but also wants to do something for herself. Most times when facing her family, she lets them make decisions for her but Decker is different, he wants her to make her own decisions and waits for her to choose, and he gets mad at times when he feels she is being taken advantage of by her father.

Decker is an interesting man, always stayed away from her throughout the nine years he worked there, I found it amazing that not once in that time did he flirt with her even though there is this attraction. It seems all the employees at the ranch had a certain idea about the type of person Carina is, all business and no fun, but Decker found out quickly that she has a totally different side of her, fun and sexy. When they enter into this fake marriage all bets are off and they have enough chemistry to light up a room, the scenes they have together are amazing and make for some fun reading.

The pace is fast as the story is on the short side and it works well as the two have a month together in this fake arrangement. They both work long hours but they strive to make the most of their time together. There are several bumps in the road mainly when he gets angry that she does not stand up for herself and then there is the upcoming end of not only their fake relationship but also their working relationship since he is about to take another job. Secondary characters are key, as this is a family business, I really enjoyed Granny Jane, she is funny and although pushes to get things done no matter who she involves, I like her. And when Carina's sister comes back expecting the world to be excited for her, I was pleasantly surprised with their father's reaction, not only about Carina but also about Decker, the ending is perfect.

Complete review at: [Ramblings from a Chaotic Mind](#)

Copy from publisher for an honest review

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### **Cynthia says**

I really enjoyed this story, at first I wasn't so sure, then the story took off and pulled me in. It is a short read about two people who have wanted to be together coming together through family pressure. It starts off with a wedding that doesn't happen to a wedding that did happen as part of a ruse.

Carina has had a crush on Decker since she was teenager, as a grown woman she still would love to get her hot little hands on him, along with a few other parts. Her sister is getting married to, it part of the famous Mistletoe Effect with 100% success rate and zero divorce for those that get married in the month of Dec at the hotel. Her sister and husband-to-be have a misunderstanding and the wedding is called off. Granny June said there must be a wedding. Carina and Decker are pushed in to getting married, it is supposed to be a sham marriage.

Decker himself has had a few fantasies about the lovely Carina. He sees his way to get his hot big hands on the woman he has wanted for years. He puts a few demands into agreeing to this sham marriage. Her father will agree to anything if Decker will just marry his daughter to keep the Mistletoe Effect going. Their marriage starts off as a sham but will it stay that way or will they find there is more to Christmas than keeping the hotel's name intact?

I enjoyed reading this book, the sparks fly between not only Carina and Decker but the family as well. It was a wonderful love story with many lessons for us as readers. It reminds us not only of what is important but what love is all about. It isn't a story that you have to really keep your mind on, just a fun loving book full of surprises. Family learns the true meaning of family, family learns to stick together and become one.

This is a lovely read to add to your holiday collection. In it you will find the true meaning of Christmas. I highly recommend this humorous read that will keep you smiling and chuckling throughout the wonderful pages the author has written. If you love Christmas stories you will not want to miss *The Mistletoe Effect* by Melissa Cutler.

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### **Patty McKenna Van Hulle says**

A Fairy Godmother (with a SELFIE addiction) uses a Texan sized dose of MISTLETOE PIXIE DUST to bring an undervalued heiress & a reformed BAD BOY cowboy many happy endings!

Carina Briscoe is an event planner extraordinaire for her family owned, Briscoe Resort Ranch. She can juggle events, calm down nervous brides, conquer mothers-in-law & pull apart hair pulling bridesmaids, but she can't do 2 things, stop being her self absorbed family's door mat & can't string 2 words together in the presence of BAD BOY James Decker, head cowboy at the ranch. Her family is a mish-mash of kooky folks, with a sister & the family Princess, Haylie, her Botox & "runs to the spa for all conflicts" mom, Eloise, controlling "money can & does buy me anything" dad, Ty, & the wicked cane wielding, Selfie Queen, Facebook addict & grand Dame of the clan, Granny June! And as all heroines learn, what Carina struggles

with the most, will come bite her in the a\$\$!

James Decker came to the Ranch 9 years & 11 months ago, riding his BAD BOY motorcycle, sporty a black eye, wearing a 10 o'clock shadow & his yummy "blessing the female population" Wranglers, but he has had a great job offer. He wants to grab & lasso it, but he needs a glowing recommendation from controlling boss, Ty Briscoe, to make it happen. So he plans to show Ty how responsible, dependable & mature he is now, than he was back in his Bad Boy days! What do they say about PLANS?

"The Mistletoe Effect!" is the Ranch's wedding booking weapon & for the past last 50 years, they have a divorce free marriages for all couples who get married between December 1-25. December is amazing & money making for the Ranch, but really sucks for Carina. So on December 1, there is a worn out Carina (wearing a Mrs. Santa bridesmaid dress), as Haylie is yelling at her "didn't write my vows" groom, a well place beotch slap, a spiraling bouquet, a diving Carina, a high 5 touchdown catch & Granny June snapping pics, as she exposes her Halloween undies to mow other than Decker! So now the Ranch's "Mistletoe Effect" is a risk, so the clan's Selfie Queen sprinkles some of her FLASHY "FACEBOOK APPROVED" PIXIE DUST & she gets Carina & Decker faked married!

Carina agrees because he has been her fantasy man for years & Decker has always wanted slowly melt the Icy Queen, but Decker also demands that she move in with him during their fake marriage. So at the Sugarplum Suite, she gets Halloween UNDIES dropping kisses, he has her hard up against the same door twice & she has him any & everywhere she can! With a fake marriage, dreams encouraged, a fake shacking up, a basket of NAUGHTINESS, a male Wall of Shame, media in your face galore, Granny June taking Selfies with everyone, some pulling on BIG GIRL pants, "melting the paint off the walls" nights, a stolen winter wonderland & Velcro undies ripping to turn Carina & Decker's lives inside out! Is Carina finally ready to take what she wants? Will Decker take the 4 hour away job? Can they make their fake marriage for REAL? How rusty is Granny June's PIXIE DUST? Can Carina ever tell her dad where to stick? But most importantly, if I look up this romance Facebook page, will I found Granny June's SELFIES?

This is my 1st Ms. Cutler romance & she had me ROFL, HYPERVENTILATING, SNORTING & totally scaring my furry reading buddy, who has really sharp claws! If my romance peeps know anything at all about me, is LAUGHTER ROCKS my world! Ms. Cutler embraced hilariousness & ran all the way to Antarctic with it! Carina was such a people pleaser & yeah a door mat, but she just needed someone in corner, 100% behind her. Decker had no problem being behind, under, on & in front her 24/7! Decker was a reformed BAD BOY who grew up & pass all the males at the Ranch, but he had a damaged & bruised heart over his dad's death, but who better than a wedding planner, to whip out the emergency duct tape to start the healing! They were like puzzle pieces as they turn this way, twisted that way, used some much needed pounding & even NAUGHTY lube was used, but they made it work! Ms. Cutler also embraced the NAUGHTINESS factor & used fabulously fantastic humor, like her seasonal undies, to make this romance a "FLAME RESISTANT UNDIES REQUIRED" read! Now Granny June is my kind of Fairy Godma with her cane welding, Selfie taking, neck wrinkles poses & for forcefully HELPING her granddaughter catch her perfect match! There is not 1 thing I would change about this read, but I do DEMAND more Ms. Cutler romances because I am like Granny June, ADDICTED! So it is probably no BIG SHOCKER that I must give Ms. Cutler my top score of 5 fingers up & 10 toes, but I am also throwing in a SELFIE on Facebook in Granny June's honor, so watch out for it!

NetGalley ARC given for my honest review.

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## Christi Snow says

### My Review:

I'll admit that when I started this story, I wasn't too sure. It starts with a wedding that doesn't happen on this family ranch/hotel which is famous for its Mistletoe Effect and the 100% success rates of the marriages within the month of December. To not jinx the effect, Grandma states that someone has to get married. As the event planner for the family property and the one who rescued the thrown bouquet by her sister, Carina is the one chosen for sacrifice and James as the best man, gets the other vacancy in this wedding.

The set-up is a bit bizarre and unbelievable and even feels like it came from a different era...like the 40's or 50's. I did not like this section of the book at all and was doubting if I'd be able to finish it. I'm so glad I stuck with it because the rest of the book is fabulous.

Carina and James and their attitudes toward this marriage make this book work...after the marriage takes place...100%. There are no games or confusion in this story between these two. These are two characters who work 16-18 hour days...all the time. They don't have time for sex or romance so they both look at this as a 25 day period where they get to have "free" sex with someone who they are really attracted to with no penalties at the end. Neither one plans to make this marriage a permanent thing...it's just a show with a side of really hot, sizzling sex every night for a month.

I loved that aspect of it because the chemistry between these two is absolutely combustible. But despite everything they also become good friends too. They're living together, having lots of hot sex, and connecting in every way. They truly form a friendship too that made this story so incredibly sweet and romantic in the end. And I really was having a hard time seeing how the author was going to write herself out of the corner the characters are in. They have different dreams and aspirations which in no way should be able to keep them together, but Melissa Cutler managed it.

While the book had a somewhat corny start, the fact that this is a holiday book makes it easier to overlook that. And I promise you, the heat between the two characters and the incredibly romantic chemistry more than makes up for that in my book.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

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