



Tales: Short Stories Featuring Ian Rutledge and Bess Crawford (Ian Rutledge, #0.5, #12.5)

Charles Todd

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Now published together for the first time: Charles Todd's absorbing short stories—"The Kidnapping," "The Girl on the Beach," "Cold Comfort," and "The Maharani's Pearls"—featuring everyone's favorite Scotland Yard Inspector Ian Rutledge and intrepid battlefield nurse Bess Crawford.

These vibrant tales transport readers from the home front in Great Britain where ominous clouds of war will soon lead to the trenches of France, to the bloody front lines where Lieutenant Rutledge must risk his life to save his men. And finally to the exotic, dangerous India of Bess Crawford's youth.

Together they create a fascinating glimpse into the extraordinary backgrounds of two of mystery's most popular characters.

Tales: Short Stories Featuring Ian Rutledge and Bess Crawford (Ian Rutledge, #0.5, #12.5) Details

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Author : Charles Todd

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From Reader Review Tales: Short Stories Featuring Ian Rutledge and Bess Crawford (Ian Rutledge, #0.5, #12.5) for online ebook

Rebecca says

This is just a short book, with a few short stories involving the two heroes/heroines of the majority of Charles Todd's books, namely Bess & Ian. I was disappointed that there weren't MORE stories, but I sure enjoyed the ones in the book!

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I'm quite thankful for this collection of short stories because it gave me a chance to finally read something by Charles Todd. I own the first book in both the Bess Crawford and the Ian Rutledge series, but I have not read any one of them yet. I also have the latest Bess Crawford book **A Pattern of Lies** so this gave me an opportunity to read about both Crawford and Rutledge and see if I find the stories and the characters to my liking. And, I did. Yes, these stories are not so long, but they are well written and interesting and left me with a feeling of needing more and of course since this is me we are talking about a need for both characters to actually meet since both series takes place during the same period. Another thing, perhaps it's the period, but reading Bess Crawford made me thinking about Laurie R. Kings series about Mary Russell. Something about Bess made me think about her. Can be that they both took care of wounded people during WW1 or something. But I think readers of the Mary Russell series would like Charles Todd's books as well.

Now on to the stories. There were two stories each about Bess Crawford and Ian Rutledge.

Bess Crawford finds a dead body on a beach in "**The Girl on the Beach**" and she and the local police try to find out who the dead girl is and who took her life. I liked the story. I got introduced to Bess and I instantly liked her and felt that I wanted to know more about her. **3.5 stars**

In **the Maharani's Pearls**, we got to meet Bess and her parents in India. Bess is told by a fortuneteller that someone she cares for is in danger. I liked this because we got a story about Bess when she was younger and it gave an interesting glimpse into her childhood in India. **3 stars**

A young gets kidnapped in **The Kidnapping**: and Ian Rutledge must figure out why anyone would kidnap her and who's behind it. Since it's a very short story isn't it really time to get to know Ian Rutledge that well, but he seems to be a capable policeman. **3 stars**

In **Cold Comfort** must Ian Rutledge figure out why two brothers want a man dead while fighting in the First World War. This story was really good, it started a bit slow, but, in the end, it was my favorite story in this collection. **4 stars**

The collection also contained the first two chapters of the new book **A pattern of Lies** and I usually try not to read chapters of a book, but I did it this time since this was a blog tour and also since I do have the book so I knew I could continue with reading **A pattern of Lies** if I wanted to. And, I wanted to, but that is another story...

I received this copy from the publisher through NetGalley return for an honest review! Thank you!

Lsilberman says

Some nice detective mysteries featuring detective Ian Rutledge and nurse and would-be detective Bess Crawford.

Jeanette says

These are entertaining. One of the Bess stories has her at 12 years of age in India where her father serves in the English regiment. And one of the Ian stories I had read before- it happens IN the trenches during the Great War. Not before or after. And has to do with logistics of the tunnel diggers.

The last quarter of this copy was an intro to a new Charles Todd. It's a marketing technique I personally abhor. There should have been another short story instead, IMHO. This mother and son have found their niche and are making up some grim tales. I prefer the Ian novels much over the Bess Crawford. She is super observant, but her hardness and prig style of independence tends to bore me. It's basically just too rigid? Most of the time I guess her every direction. With Ian copy, Hamish always adds enough guile and cheek to stir the depths of the pot.

Bibliothekerin says

I have revised my initial review because I read another review that made a good point (see final paragraph). With that in mind, I lowered my rating to 3 stars—though frankly, I feel it deserves more like 2.5 stars. This is a compilation of several Charles Todd novellas, or short stories, as I consider most of them. (“Novella” by definition is a smaller novel, longer than a mere “story”.) (Sorry that “mere” sounds biased; I just didn’t know how else to say it without ruminating *ad nauseum* on word choice.) Some of these titles barely qualify as short stories, they are SO short (“The Girl On the Beach”). But length varies widely. In one case—“The Maharani’s Pearls”—I wish it had been much longer, because readers really have not been told much about Bess’s time in India. (Strictly speaking, the Northwest Territory of India is now Pakistan, but that did not occur until after Bess and her family left.) So if you can’t find an individual title in your public library, remember this anthology. I’ve found that anthologies are often the only place to find short stories. Keep in mind that the term “novella” is used much more frequently now in publishing for what should be deemed a short story (no doubt to boost sales). Final point: I agree with reviewer Elizabeth Elwood who criticized the fact that one third of this anthology was neither short story nor novella, but chapters from a future book. There should have been more “tales”, not a book preview. This publisher trend is getting out of hand. Yes, it’s nice to get a sneak peak, but NOT at the expense of the book in hand. I advise checking this out from the library rather than buying it. We need to remind publishers that we want value for our money—not filler.

Carolyn says

Good fast read from one of my fav authors.

Karen says

This collection includes two Ian Rutledge stories, which were reasonably good, and two Bess Crawford stories, which were not. Plus, one of Todd's gifts as an author is characterization, and there just wasn't much of that here. A good collection for fans of these two series, but not for anyone else.

Majanka says

Book Review originally published here: <http://www.iheartreading.net/book-tou...>

Tales offers four stories set in the worlds of Bess Crawford and Ian Rutledge, and a sneak peek at the new Bess Crawford book, *A Pattern of Lies*. The Ian Rutledge stories, “Cold Comfort” and “The Kidnapping” both take place during and after World War 1, whereas the Bess Crawford stories take place during the Great War.

Despite being short stories, the plot is fleshed out and the stories offer a good introduction to the series. There's plenty of mystery and suspense in each of them, and they made me eager to read the full-length books featuring these characters.

Elizabeth Elwood says

A buyer beware comes with this review. Since I love books of short mystery stories, I was delighted to see that Charles Todd had published *Tales*, a collection of short Bess Crawford and Ian Rutledge stories. However, much as I enjoyed the stories, I was really irked to see that 53 pages, or fully one-third of the book was made up of the first two chapters of the next Bess Crawford novel.

With regard to the stories themselves, they do serve to add interesting background for the main characters in the Todd mystery novels. One story is set during Bess Crawford's childhood in India; another shows what Ian Rutledge went through in the trenches during the war. The plots are slim, with the solutions often appearing through chance or previous experience of the protagonists rather than straight detective work. However, the settings are vivid and the stories provide a pleasantly light read.

Therefore, my main concern with the book was a publishing issue. I have no problem with the fact that *Tales* was a slim volume with only four stories, but I consider it a cheat to have the book padded out with promotional material for a future mystery novel. There should have been additional stories in place of these chapters. I regularly buy the Charles Todd mysteries, often in hard cover, believing it's important to support writers by purchasing books; however, as a matter of principle in protest of this cheap marketing trick, I will be getting the next Bess Crawford book from the library.

Joe Slavinsky says

A nice little companion piece, for fans of both Inspector Rutledge, and Bess Crawford. Two short stories for each, giving us a little more history of both characters. In Rutledge's case, one story set before the war, and one during. In Bess' case, one story when she was ten, in India, and the other set in 1916. All were well-written, of course, and quite entertaining. There's also a preview of "A Pattern of Lies", which is the 7th Bess Crawford novel, although I didn't read it. I have the actual novel, which I'll be reading next.

Sarah Haman says

fun and short. Most of the tales happen before the Bess Crawford or Ian Rutledge books.

Anna H. Frim says

Four for Four

Todd does not disappoint. While short stories are not his usual format, he draws a convincing setting, believable characters and interesting plots that pulls the reader in until the resolution of each cleverly drawn scenario.

Paula says

Good. I'll have to try the novels.

joyce parks says

Charles Todd .. Short Stories

This was my first time of reading a book by Charles Todd. I cannot wait to read more, especially featuring Ian Rutledge.

Stephanie Pieck says

A nice collection of short stories to enjoy, as the authors state in the intro, between the novels that feature Ian Rutledge or Bess Crawford.
