



## Merry Mistletoe

*Emma Davies*

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**Merry Mistletoe** Emma Davies

**From the best-selling author of *Letting in Light*, a deliciously romantic Christmas novella...**

Sherbourne Mistletoe has been prized and sold at the annual Mistletoe Fair for over a hundred years; but could this year possibly be the last? With her father's sudden death and debts mounting up it looks as though Freya's only hope for the future is to sell her beloved family home. And to make matters worse, the only contenders to buy Appleyard Farm, are the people she'd least like to sell it to – her rival growers, the Henderson brothers, who seem always to make life so difficult for her.

It's magical stuff though, mistletoe, and the arrival of the mysterious Amos Fry, brings a glimmer of hope that might just mean Freya can fall in love with Christmas all over again.

As the snow begins to fall, cosy up and find your sparkle this Christmas with another big-hearted, and wonderfully warm read from the author of *Letting in Light*.

## Merry Mistletoe Details

Date : Published October 20th 2015 by Amazon Digital Services LLC (first published October 15th 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Emma Davies

Format : Kindle Edition 92 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Romance, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Merry Mistletoe for online ebook

### Frances Andrews says

I loved every page of this book x it was Christmas wrapped up with the excitement of unwrapping x truly a sweet light Christmas read x I look forward to more Emma xxxx

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### Rose English says

#### Book 33 of my Goodreads challenge

This is the second reading of this wonderful book, I love the writing of this author and reading this again was just as good as the first time, if not better.

#### First Review

I write this with a little trail of sentimental tears, slowly drying upon my smiling face. What a wonderful little story.

I could well relate to Freya's excitement over visiting Worcester for a spot of seasonal shopping. I'm like a kid in a toy shop too at Christmas. I loved the warm wonderful descriptions of the house & the orchard and I knew exactly how Freya felt during her little accident, the same happened to me earlier this year.

The characters are very likeable, **Amos** the wise drifter & **Sam** well what can I say about Sam ? Handsome, caring, a true gentleman, I fell in love with him myself. My tired eyes spilt tears of sadness & joy I will remember this story for a long time.

I shall be looking out for more stories from Emma. Check it for yourself & Happy Reading :-)

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### Agi says

"Merry Mistletoe" is my first book by Ms Emma Davies, and again I'm very happy to discover her for me. I didn't hesitate to hit the "request" button, the blurb sounded so inviting and I truly loved the cover. And even though this is a novella, not a full - length novel, I could immediately feel the warmth and feelings shining from the pages. Writing style is one of the biggest highlights of this story, I think, it's exceptionally lovely, tender and it just envelopes you with its warmth.

It is a lovely Christmas story that put friendship in the centre, written in a very lovely, eloquent way. The idea of Mistletoe Day was totally new to me, I've never come across this in books or internet, but sadly, after reading "Merry Mistletoe" I still am not sure what it is. This novella was also full of Christmas spirit and felt truly festive, with all this snow falling down, and well, in fact there was a great warmth to this story.

The book is written in a form of a countdown to Christmas, but also it was a kind of end to something and new beginning of something. The story doesn't introduce us to many characters, so it is really easy to quickly

understand who is who and that something happened to them in the past, that there is a secret or two that need to be revealed. The characters are easy to like or to dislike. I think that, even though I didn't get him so much, it was Amos that was the most colourful character - he was kind and took the things as he got them, and even though it is not deeply explored, or isn't explored at all and we are left to guess, there is the overwhelming feeling that Amos had history, that something happened to him.

I truly liked how much Freya was involved with her farm, Appleyard, and she would do anything to save it, but that she also knew when she must say "I can't anymore", which doesn't mean that she gives up! I really kept my fingers crossed for her and it was sad to see how she was struggling - there was this overwhelming feeling of sadness around Freya, I was guessing that her past was not the easiest one, and I really wanted that she succeed. You can't help but feel empathy and sympathy to Freya.

"Merry Mistletoe" is a sweet, charming story that, sadly, didn't wow me as much as I hoped, and as other bloggers, so probably "it's not you, it's me" case again. It just felt a little too unrealistic for my liking, and yes, I did like Freya, she was a lovely girl, but there are limits to a character being lovely. Everybody loved her, she could make no mistake, everybody was rooting for her, and there was not a single flaw to Freya. It was just too saint - like for my liking. And I still can't put my finger on Amos - where did he come from, and who he was in fact? Santa Claus? Guardian Angel? What was his role? (Update - if you are as confused as I was, please read Emma Davies' brilliant guest post about inspiration for writing Amos - she explains it really great!) Also, the past of Freya and the Henderson brothers was not explained in as many details as I would like. In fact, the story felt a little too flat and too abrupt, and this is perhaps why I couldn't warm to the characters or to the story itself.

But. This is a very gentle and very intelligent novella that combines a little romance, troubles and Christmas spirit. I liked the moments when Freya was in the village at the auction or just strolled through the streets decorated for Christmas - it all looked very peaceful, and very cosy, and I love such places, and Emma Davies has wonderfully brought it to life. She has created a warm and fast - paced novella with a sparkle of magic with some twists and turns about friendship, Christmas magic and finding happiness.

Copy provided by publisher in exchange for a review.

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### **Katie Ann says**

A lovely story line, I can't wait to starts the next book x

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### **Claire Robinson says**

4 - **"Magical stuff, mistletoe."** Stars!

*Merry Mistletoe* is the first work of Emma Davies that I have read, and in respect of the story-line and its Christmassy-ness it ticked all of my required boxes, and in great style.

I think there is always something charming about taking a simple storyline, and giving a little Christmas magic. If the writing is up to snuff, it then morphs from simple into something very special. Freya and Sam have known each other since childhood, and as the book progresses, due to the more contact and time they spend with each other you come to learn that although living on neighbouring farms, their friendship was broken, and the reasons why.

***Despite the torrents of life, things always endured.***

Having suddenly lost her beloved father, Freya is tasked with getting in the seasons Holly and Mistletoe harvest with the help of drifter Amos, and hardly any help from her toad of a boyfriend. Things do not go quite according to plan and Freya ends up without said boyfriend, a broken arm, and due to lack of money is forced into looking to sell the farm.

This was a quick, entertaining and heart-warming read. It bought a tear to my eye when reading of Freya's yearly visit to the Christmas Decoration display to choose a new ornament in memory of her father, as this is something I do every year with my mother although I am lucky in that she is still with me to make the selection. If you are looking for a little Christmas sparkle and a well written '*Happily Ever After*' I urge you to give this little novella a go.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was my pleasure to provide the above honest review.

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**Cora Tea Party Princess says**

*I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.*

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**Suze Lavender says**

Appleyard Farm is Freya's home. She loves working there and her high quality mistletoe is famous. She sells it at fairs and she always gets really good prices for it. Unfortunately she can't keep the farm going any longer. She doesn't have the money to continue and needs to sell her beloved home. There is a potential buyer and accepting his offer would mean financial freedom, but is she really happy with it?

Freya's relationship is quite impossible, Gareth doesn't want to help out on the farm and he doesn't contribute anything to the household. He wants Freya to sell the farm as soon as possible. He also isn't happy with Amos, the man Freya has hired to help her out with the work. He does it for a place to stay and some food on his plate. Amos is determined to help Freya, only he isn't sure what he should do. Freya's situation seems impossible, but maybe there's a way out after all...

Merry Mistletoe is a sweet and light Christmas romance. I loved reading about the farm and about the fairs. Freya could use some love and happiness in her life. Slowly her past is being revealed and that also influences her present. She wants to keep the farm, but because of her financial problems she can't run it on her own. I kept wishing things would be all right. She's absolutely wonderful and the same goes for the other main characters. This story lifted my spirits and I think it's a great festive novella.

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### **Karen Mace says**

I received a copy of this via NetGalley in return for a fair and honest review

Can never resist a gorgeous christmas cover so this is what drew me immediately to this novella - and my theory of good cover = good story has worked its' magic again!

if you're looking for a lovely christmas novella that will warm you on a cold winters night then this is the book for you! Immediately felt empathy with the main character, Freya Sherbourne, who is trying to continue the family business of growing mistletoe as the business of selling Sherbourne Mistletoe has been running for 100 years but since the death of her father it has been a real struggle for her. The reality of having to sell the family home and business is beginning to sink in for Freya but with the help of the mysterious but endearing Amos who seems to be in the right place at the right time, then the business lives on for another Christmas.

Poor Freya has also been unlucky in love in the past so tends to keep herself to herself and this isn't helped by the rival family business run by the Henderson brothers - Stephen (boo hiss!) and Sam who seems to do all the work and keeps a quieter, lower profile.. Enjoyed the dynamic between the brothers and Freya and the reader soon learns of their shared histories which really adds some twists to the story.

Really love how Freya never gave up despite her doubts and fears and all the curveballs that were thrown her way and highly recommend this for a warm, fuzzy feel good read this Winter!

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### **Aimee says**

This is a charming little book that will get you into the Christmas spirit. It tells the story of Freya, a woman who has recently lost her beloved father and now has to sell the home that she loves because she cannot run the farm on her own. Along comes a kind traveler, Amos, who comes to lend a helping hand and direct Freya to a possibility of love with someone that she had given up hope on long ago.

This is a short book, an easy Christmas read that really brings out the spirit of the season, helping others in need, forgiveness, and finding hope in trying times. The characters are likable and the love story involving Freya and Sam is very sweet. If you are looking for a cozy Christmas story this holiday season ,this is the perfect book.

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### **Katrina Hart says**

Marry Mistletoe (Kindle Single) Author Emma Davies.

I brought Marry Mistletoe after reading the blurb and thinking this is the perfect short read for a cold winter ish night/ evening because I couldn't wait until actual night to start reading this book. I have to say I fell in love with this story and the characters especially Amos the man who goes where the wind takes him too. He really felt like a special wise with a heart of gold kind of character.

The story itself is about Freya who lives in a place called Appleyard and was going through the

heartbreaking task of having to sell it and move on. After living there for so long with her dad who had passed away. Will she find the right buyer for the place or can Christmas miracle happen and she get to stay in her home? Read this feel good story to find out.

I thought Sam was a great character too and I liked how all the way through I was rooting for him to step out of Stephens shadow and grow his own path. I think Amos rubbed off on him a wee bit by then end.

Emma does an amazing job at making her story feel magical and emotional, with characters that are really unforgettable. This is the perfect short read leading up to Christmas. I might even read this one again on Christmas Eve.

I would recommend this story if you love a feel good Christmas read, with character who will pull you to them and make you want their dreams to work out as you follow them through mistletoe gathering and clearing a path for new love and friendship to grow.

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### **Rachel Gilbey says**

Merry Mistletoe was a sweet story, that really brings home the value of friendship and goodwill at Christmas.

Freya is dreading losing Appleyard Farm and the Sherbourne orchards, having had it in the family for over a hundred years, but when her dad did, he left a lot of debts, so Freya can't see any way out but to sell. But first she needs to do the last harvest and sell off the produce at the Mistletoe Fair.

Freya's only offer on the farm come from rival brothers the Hendersons, who she would rather not sell to, but may not have any choice. As the story progresses we discover she has had an interesting history with the brothers, one that I would have liked explained in greater detail than it was.

Freya has two main allies as this time, Sam, the Henderson who she doesn't hate as much as the other and Amos Fry. Amos Fry appeared randomly in the autumn, and has turned into a really good friend and helper on the farm, when Freya's boyfriend wasn't willing to do anything.

There is just something about the way Amos is described which makes me wonder if he was human, or some sort of spiritual being.

There is a countdown to mark each passing of time, and it is a countdown to Mistletoe Day, but having never heard of Mistletoe day, I would have loved an explanation as to what it is.

Merry Mistletoe is a entertaining novella, that is well written, although more details would have been nice in places, and a great snapshot into a December at a Mistletoe Farm.

Thanks to Lawsome Books and Netgalley for this review copy. This was my honest review.

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### **Alexina Golding says**

Perfect short story for this time of year.

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### **Jo says**

A delightful Christmassy read following the trials and tribulations of Holly, her mistletoe farm and her love life. My only gripe is that on my kindle edition spacing between some words was non existant and other words all merged into one - grrrr.

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### **Karen says**

This was the first of my festive reads this year and I couldn't have picked a nicer one - both in terms of story and also the cover, which I think is gorgeous and so appropriate.

According to my Kindle, this book would take about 1.5 hours to read. For a short(ish) story, it was perfectly paced and didn't feel rushed at all.

Freya has had a difficult year. This will be the first Christmas without her beloved father and money is tight, so tight in fact that she has to contemplate selling her much loved family home, Appleyard Farm. It's just a shame that the only people interested are her neighbours, the Henderson brothers. From the animosity shown by Freya, it is clear that there is history between them and all becomes clear as the book continues. Her live in boyfriend, Gareth, is no help at all, he just wants to sell and get his hands on the money and has no thought for Freya's feelings.

There are some lovely characters here. Firstly, there is Freya. She can be stubborn and sometimes frustrating, but I was rooting for her all the way and hoping that everything would turn out right for her. The Henderson brothers were chalk and cheese. Then there is Amos; what to say about Amos. He seems almost a magical 'fairy godfather' character. He is of no fixed abode, he prefers to sleep on the floor, and arrives at Freya's door to help with the many tasks that need to be done to keep the Farm going, especially at Mistletoe gathering time. I was never quite sure how old he was, but he was such a wonderful wise and kindly creation, gently manoeuvring people into situations for their own good – I think we all need an Amos in our lives from time to time!

The story begins 29 before Christmas and we first meet Freya when she is taking her mistletoe to sell at a fair, continuing a long held family tradition, although this may be her last ever mistletoe sale. Freya knows that the money will run out soon and the sale of the farm has become a necessity – if only it wasn't to the Hendersons.

Emma Davies' writing has a natural and easy flow and the characters (and even the not so nice ones) will engage you straight away. If you want a heart-warming and festive read to curl up with on a cold afternoon then I can recommend this one. I bought Emma's first novel, *Letting in Light* ages ago and its been languishing on my Kindle, all my good intentions of getting to it have been foiled but after enjoying this, I shall make an bigger effort to get to it sooner rather than later.

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**Yvonne Morgan says**

My first festive read this year and it was lovely.. brilliant storyline believable characters that you warmed to. From the title and cover to the end this little book was a festive gem.....Totally Recommend

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