



# Mine Under the Mistletoe

*Kat Latham*

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## **Mine Under the Mistletoe** Kat Latham

Thanks to a transatlantic house swap, California girl Ashley Turner is finally going to fulfill her lifelong dream of a proper English Christmas. Her holiday plans did not include a sexy stranger climbing into her borrowed bed in the middle of the night. But in the light of day, Ashley can't help but wonder if Santa has delivered early...

Game designer Oliver Stansfeld can't wait to leave dreary London—and all its difficult holiday memories—for sunny San Diego. But a freak ice storm and a grounded plane have forced him back to his already-occupied flat. To make up for the mix-up, the least he can do is show his pretty houseguest where to get the perfect Christmas tree before he leaves.

The more time they spend together, the more their attraction grows, and soon Ashley is tempting Oliver to give in to the spirit of the season and snuggle up for the rest of the winter. As the ice melts and flights start taking off again, he must choose between giving in to the past or risking his heart on a chance at love.

28,000 words

## **Mine Under the Mistletoe Details**

Date : Published December 5th 2013 by Carina Press (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9781426897603

Author : Kat Latham

Format : ebook 77 pages

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

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## **From Reader Review Mine Under the Mistletoe for online ebook**

**\*\*\*Cheryl\*\*\* says**

A cute Christmas read!!

This was a great sweet little romance story. Ashley and Oliver have signed up to house swap for the Christmas holidays. Ashley to go to Oliver's house in London and Oliver to go to Ashley's house in San Diego. Although due to the snowy weather Oliver is unable to make his trip with all flights grounded. So when Oliver return's home thinking that Ashley's flight won't have landed he is wrong and he find Ashley fast asleep in his bed. Stranded together for the holiday season, Ashley and Oliver figure out how to make the best out their situation. They spend time together and more they do together the stronger the feelings for each other grows.

I love that this book is also set in London. It's not often that books are set in London. I loved the chemistry in the story between Ashley and Oliver and you really felt there connection. Although this story is only 77 pages long, it felt a lot longer as so much happens but the story never felt rushed. I really enjoyed reading it

Overall a great sweet heart warming Christmas story.

**ARC provided from NetGalley for Honest review**

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**Aurora Italia says**

I really liked this one it was short, sweet and really cute. I love that it took place in London. The disabled rep is questionable but other than that I really enjoyed this.

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**Irene says**

4 stars

Mine Under the Mistletoe was a lovely read that pulls at your heart strings and leaves you full of happy feels.

I found both Ashley and Oliver real and likeable.

Oliver is dealing with the loss of his sister and Christmas is not a holiday he's looking forward to, all he wants is to escape London and be on his own in sunny San Diego.

But Mother Nature had other plans for Oliver, after a snowstorm shuts down the airport Oliver is having to reschedule his travel plans. Knowing he won't be leaving anytime soon Oliver heads home only to discover someone in his bed. This scene had me laughing out loud, Ashley's reaction to having a strange man getting into bed with her was hilarious.

I can still picture Oliver bent over in pain and asking for a minute to regroup, umm did I mention he happens to be naked at the time? :P

Poor Ashley when she signed up for the holiday home swap she never imagined she would be dealing with a naked man on her first night in London lol

This story touched my heart, what started off with me laughing had me nearly in tears and wanting to hug Oliver.

Oliver's story was so sad, after opening up to Ashley and spending a beautiful afternoon together he ends up panicking about his feelings and hurts Ashley with his actions.

Ashley knew Oliver was reacting to his past and she wasn't going to let him walk away without him knowing how she felt.

While the I love you's happen quickly I appreciated that the author gave us an epilogue that shows the reader a glimpse of their life together over the next 12 months.

I'm really happy to have read Mine Under the Mistletoe and will be reading more from Kat Latham in the future :)

Thank you NetGalley and Carina Press for the ARc in exchange for my honest thoughts.

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### **Jana at ThatArtsyReaderGirl.com says**

Doesn't this book sound a little like The Holiday? That is one glorious movie and my favorite movie ever, so I was super excited when I found out that this book is about a transatlantic house swap! Even better, a man and a woman are swapping. And even BETTER, the airport gets shut down and she makes it to his London home... but he does not make it to her California home. SO... they have to both stay at his house. I mean, come on. How could you not want to read about this? It sounds super romantic, not to mention an accident waiting to happen! House swapping sounds like one of the coolest adventures ever, but I think I'd be a nervous wreck having a stranger living in my house. Anyways...

Ashley and Oliver are both looking for something. Growing up in poverty, Ashley has never had a real Christmas. And Oliver is looking for a way to survive the pain Christmas brings him. Neither of them were entirely happy to discover they would be sharing a home until Oliver could fly out to California, but they decide to make the best of it after an awkward encounter when Oliver enters his dark room and falls into bed... right on top of Ashley. Oops! She smacks him in his happy place, and he falls to the ground, naked and in pain. And that's how their love story begins.

Oliver feels for Ashley and her strong desire for a beautiful Christmas, so he takes her shopping for a tree, takes care of her when she slips and falls on the ice, watches her decorate her tree, and enjoys her peppermint hot chocolate. I love the tension and the romance that grows from the bud of friendship. They confide in one another and share their stories, bonding over their sad memories and hope for a better future. I don't like sad books at all, so I was happy to discover that the book did not feel sad for me. I just felt hope for them and excitement over the possibilities of their love story.

I really enjoyed this sweet, quick Christmas read and would recommend it to people who love The Holiday! While I think the movie is better, this book will make you smile and remind you that the most important part of Christmas is having someone special to share it with.

Find this review and many more at That Artsy Reader Girl!

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## **Bethany says**

Mine Under the Mistletoe was a sweet Christmas story. Only being 77 pages, you'll be able to read it in one sitting.

Ashley Turner had planned to spend Christmas in London with her roommates. Unfortunately, life happens and her roommates are no longer able to go. Not wanting to give up her Christmas holiday that she has been saving for, Ashley decides to still go to London and stay at the home she has switched with her own home in San Diego. Spending her first night in the house alone, Ashley is woken up by a naked man climbing into bed with her.

Oliver Stansfeld doesn't want to spend Christmas in his home that is filled with memories of the past. A house swap in a different country is just what he thinks he needs. A snow and ice storm keeps Oliver from going anywhere. Coming back home to catch a few hours of sleep before he can try to fly out the next morning is all he wants to do. He wasn't expecting to find a beautiful stranger in his bed when he gets home.

Stranded together for the holiday season, Ashley and Oliver figure out how to make the best out of their situation. Feelings between them grow fast the more time spent together.

Anyone who is looking for a fast, sweet Christmas read, this could be the book for you.

*An ARC was kindly provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **DelAnne Frazee says**

Title: Mine Under The Mistletoe

Author: Kat Latham

Publisher: Carina Press

Published: 12-5-2013

E-Book ASIN: B00F942U0U

Pages: 77

Genre: Romance

Tags: Contemporary

Sensual Level: Hot

Overall Rating: Very Good

Ashley Turner was fulfilling a lifelong wish to spend Christmas in England. She had saved for years and now she lay nestled in bed dreaming of Santa and Christmas pies and hot chocolate. Her dream fragments when suddenly a naked man falls on her in the bed. Defending herself she has him writhing on the floor when she reaches for her bedside lamp. When she does not find it she remembers she is not in her own bed, yet that of one she switched with for the holidays. She almost knew the answer she would receive when she asked the intruder his name.

Oliver Stansfeld had planned to be sunning himself in San Diego, far from any reminders of home or Christmas. A winter storm has him stranded for an unknown time. Supposing the women who exchanged homes with him for the holidays were having the same problem her returns to his home and decides to sleep and try again on the morrow. What he found was a hellcat defending her honor. Over the next few days as they wait for his flight to resume they get to know one another. Oliver wants nothing to do with the holidays while Ashley embraces everything Christmas. What could they possibly have in common? What kind of future could they share when they resides on different continents?

Read to find how the magic that comes with Christmas can heal two wounded hearts. This is a short novella that warms the heart. It will put you in the Christmas spirit no matter where you live. I love holiday romances because they bring out the Christmas feeling in me no matter the time of year. "Mine Under The Mistletoe" was no exception. Thanks to Kat Latham for a delightfully humorous story to lift the gloom of a cold winter night. It make me wish I too could venture to England or some other special spot for the holidays, but also this story made me grateful for the family and friends I shared this last holiday, the first since my mother passed. It reminded me that pain of loss can be eased by the laughter and joy shared with others. I hope you enjoy "Mine Under The Mistletoe" as much as I did.

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### **Char (1RadReader59) says**

Ashley was fulfilling her life's dream, she had saved for five years to be able to do it. She was doing a home swap with Oliver, her to London and him to San Diego. But...there was a bit of a problem. Although Ashley was able to make it to London and safely to Oliver's home. Oliver was snowed in unable to leave all flights were grounded. So, back home he goes to his home.

If only he had called first. I am sure he is rethinking that action now. You see Ashley is a young, single woman from the United States. Not any state but California and she is very capable of caring for herself even when she's half asleep. As he so harshly finds out. Can begin to guess what happens when she wakes with a start to find a strange fully naked man in her bed? And she acts instead of reacts...Oliver couldn't blame her. He thought her flight never made it in since his never made it out. You see he was trying to leave the memories behind for Christmas. California on the beach where it's warm and no memories of what and who he lost was the ticket.

The next morning though sparks something in Oliver her never thought he would ever feel again, hope. But, it was conflicting with the memories. So, now what you will have to do is read and see where and if it takes these two anywhere. For me the way the book ended felt incomplete. I liked it better before the epilogue. Who said that? Did I say that? I can't believe I did since most of the time I am the one who wants and epilogue. For this book I think the author did it an injustice. That's why I gave it 4 stars instead of 5 stars. Provided by netgalley.com

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### **Janet says**

As we're told in the synopsis, *Thanks to a transatlantic house swap, California girl Ashley Turner is finally going to fulfill her lifelong dream of a proper English Christmas. Her holiday plans did not include a sexy stranger climbing into her borrowed bed in the middle of the night. But in the light of day, Ashley can't help*

*but wonder if Santa has delivered early...*

*Game designer Oliver Stansfeld can't wait to leave dreary London—and all its difficult holiday memories—for sunny San Diego. But a freak ice storm and a grounded plane have forced him back to his already-occupied flat. To make up for the mix-up, the least he can do is show his pretty houseguest where to get the perfect Christmas tree before he leaves.*

Seeing Christmastime London through Ashley's American eyes was the perfect way to enter into this sweet, clever, poignant "cabin" romance. And who doesn't like snowy cabin romances where nature provides a reason for two people to meet and fall in love?

The story opens with Oliver's Christmas tragedy of sorts: *Airport's closed. All flights canceled. All day. Three days before Christmas and one of the world's busiest airports was closed due to a cold snap they'd been unprepared for. Didn't that just say it all? If America was the land of optimism, Britain was the home of everything going tits-up.* Oliver is a realist about the situation whereas Ashley's head is filled with *Love Actually* and *A Christmas Carol*. Even Oliver's vocabulary delights her, *Ashley knew she should protest, tell him not to start a fight on her behalf, but oh my God a hot British guy was calling someone a wanker.*

Oliver and Ashley both have pasts that make Christmas a troubling time for them—Oliver's sister and flat mate died last Christmas. His sister lived with him because of circumstances that haunt him still. Ashley and her mother endured years of poverty with Christmases that were rich in love and symbolism, exemplified by the yearly ornament Ashley's mother made for her. Ashley too is alone now.

Ashley takes a serious tumble on the ice and Oliver feels totally responsible, *It was all he could say. For the second time in his life, a young woman lay broken in front of him, the victim of his stupid decisions.* While Ashley and Oliver sit around, slowly getting to know each other, more memories start to emerge. Christmas had always been very important to Oliver's sister—one of the reasons he wanted to escape to sunny spicy San Diego. Ashley picks up on this, *Yesterday she'd caught glimpses of a man preoccupied by something, a man who seemed to be struggling with sadness.*

Their interchanges about food and expectations are delightful, *...his head snapped forward again, and the sparkle returned to his eyes. "I've got it. Brick Lane. Indian curry? He tells Ashley to forget fish and chips or Yorkshire puds or anything else you might've heard about. Chicken tikka masala is our national dish.*

Lest you worry that Kat Latham's novella is all gloom and memories of doom, it isn't. Oliver is the perfect host, opening his heart and city to the lonely young American, telling her it's *because you shine with happiness, angel.* He dangles the traditional treat of a panto before her and she asks *um, is that a word I should know?* Oliver is shocked to his core. Laying it all on the line, he says, *That's it. I'm taking your Dickens away and showing you modern London later. Prepare yourself for...*

This seems like a good time to leave Ollie and Ashley. Ashley has come to London armed with Charles Dickens, candy-cane underwear (the gift of her stateside roomies) and a desire to *suck the marrow out of every moment of this trip.* Oliver, understanding Ashley's all-American wish to have a man beside her who puts some effort in the wooing and the mood of burgeoning love, goes all-in on love and finds the courage, with a few twists and turns, to face his future. I enjoyed this tasty and occasionally tart Christmas punch—a lovely holiday treat.

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## **Natalija says**

Mine Under the Mistletoe is a must read for the holidays! The author does a great job of capturing the spirit of Christmas and getting you into the festive mood. The story itself is emotionally moving and incredibly romantic. It also makes you want to curl up under a blanket with a mug of hot chocolate. I loved this book and I would definitely recommend it.

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## **Puna says**

3.5 stars

Sweet Christmas story.

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## **Jaime Arkin says**

Do you love the movie The Holiday? I do... I mean, I was just reminded when talking with a friend on twitter just how much. I think it oftentimes gets overlooked by movies like Love, Actually or the fact that Jack Black is in it, but the premise of it is something I would love to try... you know if people wanted to come stay in gross Wisconsin in the middle of winter. Anyway... there is a point to my ramble, I promise. Mine Under The Mistletoe borrows a bit from The Holiday, but only in that California Girl Ashley and Sexy Brit Oliver are set to trade places for the Christmas holiday.

Ashley, never having had a proper Christmas is set to live out her dream of a proper English Christmas and Oliver is running away...away from the memories that he continues to struggle with and he thinks sunny San Diego is the answer.

A freak ice storm grounds Oliver's plane and he's forced home never expecting that Ashley has arrived, and Ashley was definitely NOT expecting a naked brit to attempt crawling into bed with her. After a knee to the junk and a bit of panic they finally realize what has happened and who each other are.

Even though Oliver isn't a fan of the holiday, he offers to show Ashley around the area and help her get her first Christmas just right. But the more time they spend together, the more their attraction to each other grows, both knowing that what they have can go nowhere and when the time comes, will they find a way to make things work, or will they go their separate ways? You'll have to read to find out.

This is the second novella I have read in the All I'm Asking For Holiday Collection from Carina and I really enjoyed the story! The characters themselves were likable and well fleshed out for a novella.

Both Oliver and Ashley are struggling with loss and they form a bit of a silent bond over it, and while their stories are a bit sad, they never really overshadowed the build of the relationship between them.

My only issue of course was the quick 'I love you's', but I also realize that this is a novella and there are only so many pages to get there. I just struggle with that insta-love portion of these short stories sometimes. I will say that that doesn't take away from the sweet love story that you get with Mine Under The Mistletoe.



If you're looking for some quick holiday reads that will have you cheering for the characters and swooning over the guys, I can vouch for 2 out of the 3 short stories in this compilation –*Mine Under the Mistletoe* is the perfect read I'll definitely be looking for more from Kat Latham in 2014!

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### **Norma says**

Cute. Similar to the movie, "The Holiday"

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### **Michelle says**

3.5 stars - a nice, quick Christmas story

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### **Ana says**

Ashley Turner has swapped houses with Oliver Stansfeld leaving behind sunny San Diego for what she hopes is the idealized English Christmas she grew up hoping for. Oliver is fleeing London and all the feelings and grief Christmas there would mean.

But Christmas for Ashley and Oliver is not turning out as planned. Oliver is stuck in London after deep snows ground all flights out, so he heads back to his house and his bed to wait for the airport to re-open. His bed isn't empty however as Ashley made it in to London in one of the last flights to land. Their introduction is hilarious and worthy of the best of British farce.

This is a story of about the best of intentions, horrible mistakes, regret, loss and choosing love, set in a beautifully drawn modern London.

I almost wrongly nitpicked myself out of enjoying this story due to a small insignificant detail about Christmas lights and the difference between British and American plugs in the first few chapters. However there is nothing to nitpick about the romance in this story. I really loved how Ashley and Oliver got on, how naturally their relationship developed with all its hesitancy, false-starts and set-backs. I thought the resolutions were also natural and emotional. 5 out of 5 stars

The Publication date was Dec.5, 2013, Digital ARC provided for free by Publisher via NetGalley.

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### **Angela says**

*Mine Under the Mistletoe* ended up being an endearing mix of fun and poignant - I wasn't expecting the poignant when I picked it up, but it really added to the story. I do, however, wish it had been a little bit longer to deal with some of the very intense feelings it began to address in the two main characters.

Ashley's one of those people that is determined to find the best in everything. She's a bit naive, but utterly kind, caring and optimistic. That's not to say that she doesn't recognize the bad things that happens - she understands them very well - but she adapts and forges ahead. I found myself liking and respecting her quite a bit (which helped with the naivete that showed up occasionally).

Oliver is dealing with some heavy, heavy guilt. This is what I thought needed to be addressed a bit more. His sister was in a car accident when she was fourteen and apparently both brain damaged and paralyzed. She died on Boxing Day the previous year. It's well understandable why Christmas is so hard for Ollie, and why he's so desperate to get anywhere but here.

I really enjoyed the way that Ashley didn't push Ollie. She let him come to terms with his issues, and his worries on his own. He'd share them when he was ready and could. And he did. It was incredibly sweet watching these two bond. I did have a bit of a problem with the quickness and intensity of Ashley's feelings though. After just a couple of days they're in love, and with all the grief they were both dealing with I felt that was a little unlikely. I did see how they *could* make it work though, and was happy they were going to - and the epilogue at the end left me smiling and sure in their HEA.

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