



Blame It on the Mistletoe

Nicole Michaels , Nicole McLaughlin

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Sometimes all it takes is a leap of faith for Christmas to work its own magic in BLAME IT ON THE MISTLETOE

'Tis the season for small-town Missouri boutique owner Brooke Abbott to get crafty. Much as she adores making art for art's sake—decorating windows, designing ornaments, crafting the perfect present for under the tree—this Christmas she needs the gift of good customers. *Lots* of them. Sweet Opal Studios will go under if she can't do some serious business before the New Year...and she has no time to lose. What Brooke needs is an honest-to-goodness miracle. Instead, she finds a burglar lurking in the back room of her shop. And here she thought the holidays couldn't get any worse! Or maybe things just got a lot better. Turns out the burglar is none other than Alex Coleman—local bad boy slash legendary heartthrob, childhood best friend to Brooke's older brother, and...future landlord? That is the question. He's come home for the holidays to see his grandmother, make peace with his distant mother, and settle his grandfather's estate, an estate that includes the building that houses Sweet Opal. What he never expected was to bump into a grown-up Brooke, whose spirit, charm, and irresistible good looks give him pause. Should he go back to Oregon as planned, or give small-town life a chance? The only thing Alex knows for sure is that before he walks out that door, he's going to get Brooke beneath the mistletoe, where anything can happen...

Blame It on the Mistletoe Details

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From Reader Review Blame It on the Mistletoe for online ebook

Danielle (Love at First Page) says

3.5-4 stars

I'm just over here sorta crying because this was so unexpectedly lovely. Exactly what I needed to read. Yes, the editing could have used some work, but who cares? At least for tonight, I didn't mind at all. Swoon swoon swoon.

Featured on my 2014 REC IT post.

Andrea at Reading Lark says

Review Posted on Reading Lark 12/15/14: <http://readinglark.blogspot.com/2014/...>

I am one of those people who can spend hours watching the Hallmark channel as the winter holidays descend. I love the movies that feature holiday romances and happy endings. I decided that this holiday season that I would spend some time reading stories set around the holidays to supplement my Hallmark movie fix.

Blame it on the Mistletoe is the story of Brooke Abbott, the owner of a local craft and decor shop, and Alex Coleman, the town's former hottie bad boy. Brooke has had a crush on Alex for as long as she can remember, but when he returns to town she assumes that things will be the same as always. Alex will smile and be polite, but he will only see her as the shy and quiet kid she used to be. To make matters worse, Brooke is still reeling from an abusive relationship and Alex has no intention of staying in his tiny Missouri hometown for long. Holiday magic interferes and the two are brought together over and over again until they are forced to pay attention to their attraction for one another.

I loved spending time in Preston with Brooke and Alex. Their story kept me reading and I kept rooting for a happy ending for these two. It should be noted that there are moments when this one leaves the wholesome Hallmark path to deviate towards some pretty steamy moments. I'm typically of the school that more is less regarding intimate moments, but I found that that didn't hinder my enjoyment of this story.

In addition to the romance, I loved the relationship between Brooke and her older brother, Ryan. Ryan is protective of his little sister and wants to help her heal after her negative experiences with her ex. In true older brother fashion, Ryan does interfere from time to time when he shouldn't, but Brooke learns to stand up for herself where he is concerned.

This one is sweet and predictable, but there are times when these are the sort of stories I crave. Blame it on the Mistletoe is the perfect wintery romance to get you in the holiday spirit. I highly recommend curling up with this one next to the glow of your Christmas tree with a mug of hot cocoa.

One Last Gripe: I want more of the town of Preston and its inhabitants. This one ended too soon!

Favorite Thing About This Book: Brooke and Alex's relationship - it is the perfect blend of sugar and spice. Alex is the perfect Book Boyfriend for the holiday season.

First Sentence: Snowflakes whirled around Brooke Abbott's head in blustery waves as she started down the sidewalk and back to her shop from the Stop & Go convenience store.

Favorite Character: I can't decide between Brooke and Alex. I loved them both.

Least Favorite Character: Mr. Orsman

Barb Lie says

Blame It on the Mistletoe by Nicole Michaels is a very sweet and charming romance that takes place close to Christmas time. This is the first book I have read by Michaels, and I enjoyed it very much. Brooke Abbott is our heroine, and she runs a small boutique in this small town of Preston, Missouri. Brooke rents her boutique called, Sweet Opal Studios, where she designs and makes her own jewelry, as other wonderful unique trinkets. She is having trouble making ends meet, especially with construction being done by her store, blocking people from noticing her. She meets some of her local store owners, who go out of their way to help spread word of mouth.

Brooke has been staying in the apartment upstairs from the store, to save money, and does not tell the landlord. One day while working, she hears noise upstairs and literally runs into Alex Coleman, our hero. Alex is the grandson of the woman who owns the store. He has just come back for a visit and was planning to stay in the apartment. Brooke is shaken, but Alex tells her to stay, and he will go to a hotel. They are friends from childhood, with Alex being Brooke's brother's best friend.

What follows is slow build relationship that has Brooke gun shy, as she came off an abusive relationship. Alex at first distances himself, having been threatened by Brooke's brother to stay away from her. But he is determined to learn more about the now grown up and beautiful Brooke. Their romance was very well done, as I really enjoyed them together. Alex is faced with making a decision in life that will create hardship for Brooke, but make him a very rich man. What will he do, as he sees himself falling in love with Brooke? Will Brooke be able to trust that Alex is not her Ex, and allow herself to follow her heart?

Blame it on the Mistletoe was a very nice storyline, with some great secondary characters. A pure romance during the Christmas holiday, a great couple, and a happy ever after. What more could you want..

Barb
The Reading Cafe

Monica says

Brooke is struggling to keep her shop afloat and determined to make her dreams come true of having her own shop. One day she finds a stranger in her store who turns out to be her brother's childhood best friend Alex. Alex was her childhood crush and despite the years of not seeing him, he still can make her heart skip a beat.

Alex has come to town to try to make amends with his mother who wasn't always there for him growing up. He has also come home to see his grandmother and deal with the aftermath of his grandfather's death. He learns that his grandfather has left him a building on Main Street which just happens to be the location of Brooke's shop. While the shop is run down it has a prime location and is wanted by a company for a major

project. Alex doesn't know what to do since he never was close with his grandfather and the building doesn't hold any emotional attachment to it, but now that he and Brooke have gotten close and a blooming romance is happening he doesn't want to come between Brooke and her dreams.

I love how this story is all about second chances not only in love but also in life. Each one is dealing issues in their lives which surprisingly each one has helped each other deal with. I also liked how we see them deal with the issues and grow in the process. While Brooke thinks Alex has saved her future it's really vice versa in my eyes. Brooke has helped him come to terms with his family and has also made Alex want to stay home and build a real life for once.

While Christmas isn't the main focus of this story it is indeed the perfect backdrop for it. Once again the magic of Christmas shines a light on the miracle of the season, showing us that no matter how down things seem anything wonderful can happen this time of year.

Dianne says

Once again, the Holiday Season is filled with the magic of Mistletoe and Love! Brooke has learned some hard lessons since her days of being the little sister of one of Alex Coleman's cohorts in crime. Now a struggling shop owner, Brooke is hoping the Christmas season will help keep her shop afloat. The last thing she needed was a burglar, late at night. After braining the said burglar with a pot, she discovers that her childhood crush is back in town and now sporting a "splitting" headache, thanks to her. Humiliating? Embarrassing? Or could it be one of the miracles of Christmas that Alex has returned to town to take care of some family business after a long absence and he sees Brooke in an entirely grown up way?

The sparks fly and things heat up more than coal in a stocking, as these two continually face misunderstanding after misunderstanding, while denying the obvious, with or without Mistletoe, their kisses are magic.

Blame It on the Mistletoe by Nicole Michaels is a quick and light holiday read that will fly by, the perfect escape when time is in short supply but your heart wants to share in the magic of love during the Holidays! Ms. Michaels has threaded conflict, doubt and the fear of making the same mistakes of the past and packaged a wonderful read for the romantic in all of us.

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

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Zoey Talbon says

I feel kind of betrayed. There was barely any Christmas.

Erin says

Firstly thank you to St Martin's Press for approving me for a review copy of this title via NetGalley. I was drawn to the book because of the cover and the Christmassy theme!

The story is all about creative Brooke Abbott and her old crush Alex Coleman.

I used to be completely unaware that Christmas reads were such a thing but I absolutely love them, especially at this time of year! I hadn't ever read anything by Nicole Michaels before though so wasn't sure what to expect of this Christmas romance and I really enjoyed it!

The story is short and sweet and follows Brooke as she becomes reacquainted with Alex after mistaking him for a burglar. I really liked the creative side of Brooke's character. It was unique and original to her and her story. Brooke has had a bit of a troubled time with an ex and her store is her new beginning and safe haven. I loved her independence and determination to prove that she could make her dream come true.

Alex, oh Alex. He was gorgeous! Simply by name association I had Alex O'Loughlin in mind when I read this story. I imagined him completely different than who he turned out to be. He's a bad boy with a really genuine nice guy quality to him too which makes him sweet!

The story is told with a dual narrative, which I really love in a book which allows the story and the characters to develop at a good pace in keeping with the length of the novella. Seeing the story from both sides here also gives you more of an insight into Alex's character and the reason for his return home which Brooke isn't privy too which actually makes you root for her all the more!

I can definitely recommend this read on the lead up to Christmas!

Jaime Arkin says

Super cute and lovely!! Exactly what I was hoping for!

Rachel Lacey says

This was such a fun read! I loved the characters, Brooke and Alex, and the chemistry between them. And can I just say, I really want to shop at Brooke's shop this Christmas season because it sounds amazing! :) This was a perfect holiday novella, heartfelt and endearing.

Perdani Budiarti says

Aq selalu tertarik dengan tradisi kissing under the mistletoe, jadi ketika kutemukan buku ini dengan tidak sengaja, aq senang sekali. Sayangnya eksekusinya kurang rapi. Ketika Alex tidak menepati janjinya kepada

Brooke d paruh pertama cerita ini, langsung saja penilaianku berkurang padanya. Pun ketika dia menyembunyikan sebuah kebenaran terkait keberadaan toko Brooke. Kok dia gk bisa jujur ya.. Duh. Trauma Brooke hanya disinggung sekilas dan dia memang terbukti sudah tidak dibayangi rasa takutnya tersebut setelah melihat antusiasmenya ketika bersama Alex *uhuk

Apakah Ryan memiliki ceritanya sendiri? Hmm.. Aw belum hunting buku2 karya Nicole Michaels lainnya

Just 2,5*/5

Dawn Parker says

Really cute holiday book. Puts one in the Christmas spirit. :) Perfect with the drama, suspense and hot/steamy. I loved that this book had a geat epilogue!!

In a small town, Brooke runs into her brothers best friend, Alec, whom hasn't been back in many years. To say sparks fly is an understatement. They are both now old enough to act upon their attraction, if outside factors don't intervene.

**This is my honest opinion based on ARC.

Home. Love. Books. says

To read this review and others like it check out my site at www.homelovebooks.com

December brings for more Christmas books, so everybody get ready! So first book up this month is Blame it on the Mistletoe, and I have to say I picked this book because I am seriously in love with the cover. It just screams Christmas and it's also just so cute and adorable, I couldn't help but want to read it.

So while this is definitely a Christmas read (being that it takes place during the season and there are some definite Christmas themes throughout the book), I honestly think this book would work at any time of the year.

So as it turns out Brooke and Alex know each other from a long time ago, as it turns out is that Alex used to be friends with Brooke's brother. But a long time has passed, and Alex doesn't live in town anymore, and Brooke definitely has a past of her own.

Brooke owns this crafty little shop in her small town, and I quite frankly love it. It seems like a shop I would like to visit. I love that she is so crafty (if there was more time in the day I would be as crafty as Brooke is). So one night, she ends up mistaking Alex as an intruder in her store, and the two of them end up talking and remembering each other.

I'm not sure what exactly sticks out to me about why I like this book so much, but I think when it comes down to it I just loved Brooke's character, and also Alex is such a good guy that it's really easy to like him. I liked that he was a honorable guy, even though he was more than a little bit misunderstood. But Brooke, she has worked so hard to overcome what happened to her with her ex, and she has carved out a nice little life for herself, and I love that about her. She's passionate about it, and she gives it her all, which I love.

The writing in the book is really nice and enjoyable, the pacing is great and the story really just flows. It was really easy for me to get caught up in the story, and to really want these characters to end up together. After reading this book I can honestly say I really want to read more of this author. So if you like Christmas books then this book is one you should without a doubt check out.

Saly says

A short holiday oldie. Hero was town bad-boy who comes back to town. Heroine was in an abusive relationship but is now rebuilding her life and is the owner of her own shop, which happens to be in the building the hero just inherited. These two quickly fall in bed together and everything was a little too quick & neat for my tastes. I mean hero losing such an expensive deal just so that the heroine could keep her shop was just a bit over the top!

Mary Brown says

Blame It On The Mistletoe by Nicole Michaels is a cute holiday read. It is the story of two people, Brooke and Alex, who knew each other in the past and now have met each other again. It is the story of former friendships and future romances.

Brooke owns a boutique in Missouri and she needs a Christmas miracle. She needs to increase business for the boutique or she may lose it. She is not sure how to do this, but she knows that's the only way she will still have a business. She has to come up with a plan to make it work.

Alex Coleman is back in town to take care of some family business and he cannot believe his eyes when he sees Brooke. She was the little sister of his best friend, but now she is all grown up. He wants to get reacquainted with her and see if there could be a future. Is there a way that Alex can help Brooke save her business and make her his?

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is a quick easy read. The characters are well developed and well rounded. Brooke and Alex are people you would like to have as friends. Their relationship is sweet and heartwarming and I just wanted to keep finding out about how the relationship would work out.

If you are in the mood for a light funny holiday read, I would recommend reading this book. I have not read any other books by this author but I plan on picking up more of her books.

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review. I would like to thank NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for the opportunity to read and review this book.

Amanda (Hootie) Clark says

3.5 stars

Blame It On The Mistletoe was a very cute, sweet and quick holiday read that will surely get you in the

Christmas spirit. A story about a childhood crush on your brothers edgy best friend coming back to town after being away for years surely got my blood pumping.

SO Brooke is back in her hometown after a tumultuous breakup with a somewhat abusive ex boyfriend and she's following her dream. Creating art and running her own shop hoping to cash in on the holidays in this small town. Everything is going great for her so far. She's got her independence and a little apartment above the shop. What else could she need? How about permission from the current landlord to actually STAY there? Technically she's not supposed to be there and discovers that when her brothers high school best friend shows up having been told he could stay there for the duration of his stay in town. Once the confusion is settled and Alex finds another place to stay the two try to get to know each other better. Everything may be looking up for Brooke but Alex gets some news about his inheritance that could make it hard for Brooke to continue with her dream if Alex decides to cash in on his good fortune.

I love these kinds of romance stories. The childhood crush/siblings best friend just makes me giddy. Alex was the somewhat slutty kid from the wrong side of the tracks. Brooke was the awkward kid sister who didn't stand a chance....until now. With Brooke's brother Ryan meddling and trying to keep Alex away from his sis and the news he gets about Brooke's store, their relationship isn't all gum drops and candy canes. Alex gets his chance at redemption from a rocky past as the bastard son of the mayor's kid. I loved Alex even though he worried me a little bit. He didn't make excuses about his past choices to anyone especially Brooke's brother who knew all about him. He's grown up over the years and when Brooke catches his eye after all this time he was the perfect gentleman/sweetheart.

Brooke was a strong enough heroine. Having overcome an abusive relationship enough to get away from the guy and start over proved her growth. I would have liked to know more about that situation because throughout the story both her and her brother seemed to worry that the guy would come back around so I was kind of expecting some kind of confrontation eventually. The way the author wrote out the story it seemed like that might have been the direction she would go in but that particular aspect just sort of went away after a while with no resolution. One aspect of Brooke's character I did really love was her ability to stand her ground with her overprotective brother and mother. She wasn't the injured little bird they treated her as. She was strong and independent. A fighter.

Blame It On The Mistletoe didn't knock my socks off but it did give me a warm fuzzy feeling and raised my Christmas spirit a little bit while reading. Brooke and Alex were a great couple with passionate chemistry and an interesting history. Ryan was an interesting character and because I enjoyed this story I wouldn't mind reading a story about him in the future should the author decided to write one about him. If you're like me and you need a little nudge to get into the spirit then Blame It On The Mistletoe is the perfect book to curl up with next to a roaring fire and some hot cocoa on a cold night.
