

Romance Reviews Today

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AN ENCHANTED SEASON - M. Shayne, E. McCarthy, N. Singh, J. Johnson

Berkley Sensation

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Paranormal Romance Anthology

The Gift of the Magi - Jean Johnson

Iowa - Present Day

Rachel and Steve are the newest in the long line of Rutherfords who have owned the Bethel Inn. After a tornado damaged the inn and uncovered additional structural problems in the old building, they had to take out a heavy mortgage to make repairs. Mr. Harrod, the banker, makes Scrooge look saintly, and he can't wait to take over the property with the first missed payment. When an unexpected heavy blizzard causes their holiday guests to cancel, and Rachel and Steve are visited by Harrod's local thugs making threats and gloating, they are terrified they will finally lose the family heritage. It looks as if this Christmas is destined to be stressful and unhappy. The arrival of three unexpected guests, Buddhist Cassie, Muslim Mike, and reform Jew Bella, finds Rachel offering them accommodation out of the storm, whether they can pay or not. The guests insist on not only paying, but also insist that the thugs pay for their rooms too. To survive a storm of this magnitude, everyone will need to work together. With restored hope, Steve and Rachel find themselves being thankful for much more than the inn. They have no need to know that they are a planned part of Cassie, Bella, and Mike's long, continuous journey.

The Gift of the Magi is a new take on a traditional tale. Rachel has come to the country from the big city, and she does her best to support her fiance. Running an inn and the attached dairy is burdensome. Steve bears as much of the work load as possible, and they have very little time left for each other at the end of the day. Close quarters give everyone the chance to grow, find their inner strengths, and show their true characters. The contrast of well-drawn characters, good, bad, and saintly, gives the story a light-hearted feel. Moral lessons are practical and gentle, rather than righteous, and are often given in humorous doses. Sharp writing and imagination make this a completely enjoyable holiday tale.

AN ENCHANTED SEASON is a wonderful anthology with something to please every paranormal fan. Each story is different and well told with Christmas, love, and connection as the central theme. Fill your holidays with angels, magic, shifters, and spirits. Readers won't want to miss AN ENCHANTED SEASON.