



The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding

Amanda McCabe

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A country Christmas at Barton Park

Plain, sensible Rose Parker is a self-proclaimed wallflower, but she's always dreamed of dancing with Captain Harry St George...

Once, Harry wouldn't even have noticed Rose. But now, after a hard war, Harry knows he's a different man. Shy, sweet Rose intrigues him more than any gregarious young lady—but he must marry a rich bride to save his mortgaged estates...and Rose is no heiress. Now, more than ever, Harry needs the magic of a mistletoe kiss...

The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding Details

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From Reader Review **The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding** for online ebook

Phylisha Stone says

A good regency romance.

Cecilia Rodriguez says

The story is set in 1820. While at a Christmas gathering, Captain Harry St. George gets reacquainted with Rose Parker, a woman he briefly met five years ago. Some of the story line reminded me of the classic movie: *The Enchanted Cottage*.

Candace Nagy says

The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding by Amanda McCabe is a little predictable but I truly didn't mind. It was light-hearted and romantic. There isn't a lot of drama and it is easy to follow. The story was very well written and the characters were well developed. The characters seem real and there is a depth to them that draws you in. Rose is maybe not the most interesting heroine, she is plain, sensible, kind and selfless but is very easy to like. Then there is Harry, who is the hero of this story. What I really liked about him was his positive attitude. Even though he suffered an injury during the war and came back to his home in shambles, he takes everything in stride. He is quite fascinating. Rose and Harry are perfect for one another and I found their story to be romantic and sweet. Overall a wonderful and enjoyable story.

Caz says

I've given this a C at AAR.

The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding is a pleasant, light-hearted story set in an English country home at Christmastime in which two lonely people find love amid the hustle and bustle of a family house party. It's an easy read to which the word 'nice' can be frequently applied; the hero and heroine are nice people, their hostess is nice, the hostesses children are nice, the book as a whole is nice... I think you can see where I'm going with this. It's one of those books that has nothing wrong with it, but which isn't going to set the world alight, either.

In the prologue – which is set three years before the rest of the story – Miss Rose Parker, her mother and younger sister, Lily, are attending a summer party at Barton Park the large estate owned by their cousins, the Bancroft family. The recent death of Mr. Parker has left them with large debts which meant they had to leave their home in order to repay them. They live quietly in a small cottage, but the Bancrofts continue to invite them to Barton Park from time to time, and it's at this particular gathering that Rose first meets Captain Harry St. George, the handsome but somewhat retiring owner of the neighbouring estate, Hilltop Grange. Harry and Rose talk briefly, dance together and recognise that they have made some sort of connection; and

Rose, normally a very pragmatic young woman, starts to dream, just this once, of a different life and a home of her own. Sadly, however, her girlish musings soon come to an end when she overhears that the Captain is to marry the lovely and sophisticated Miss Helen Layton.

Moving forward three years, we find Rose living with her overbearing Aunt Sylvia as her paid companion. Rose's sister, Lily, married the man she loves – the local curate – and now has two small children, and their mother continues to live in her tiny cottage; the money Rose earns in her position is enough to make sure she can live reasonably comfortably. Sylvia is cantankerous and exacting, so Rose can't deny the relief she feels when she receives a letter from her cousin Jane inviting her to Barton Park for Christmas, ostensibly to help with the children and give them some music tuition.

Harry St. George has left the army, no longer eligible for active service following the loss of one eye. All the while he was in the army, he dreamed of coming home to Hilltop Grange and living the quiet life of a gentleman farmer, but with the place in a serious state of disrepair, it seems he will have to marry for money if he is to restore it and fulfil his responsibilities to his dependents. His brother Charles reminds him that Lady Fallon – formerly Miss Layton, who married a much older man shortly after Harry embarked on his most recent stint in the army – is now a widow and has been left very well provided for; perhaps she may be the solution to Harry's money worries.

When Rose and Harry are reunited at Barton Park, it's almost as if the intervening years have never happened, and they very quickly pick up where they left off, conversing easily and without embarrassment or any of that stiltedness that often attends the building of a new friendship. Rose and Harry are decent, intelligent and compassionate people and developing emotional connection between them is well drawn. Their romance is sweet and tender, and there's no question they are perfect for each other – apart from the fact that Rose hasn't a penny to her name and Harry needs money.

While the couple is falling more and more deeply into love, the author is also setting up a potential romance between Charles and Helen, both of whom are obviously dragging a lot of emotional baggage and who were – at times – more interesting than the two principals. I assume their story will be told in a future book. In the final stages of this one, Ms. McCabe employs one of my least favourite plot points, the 'I love you too much to ruin your life by marrying you' cliché, and the only point of conflict in the romance – Rose's lack of funds – is easily solved by the wave of the fairy godmother's wand (or in this case, an aunt's sweep of the pen). On the plus side, however, the author does a terrific job of describing the Christmas parlour games and traditions, the decorations and the food, injecting her gathering with an engaging degree of Yuletide spirit and cheer.

The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding is a well-written story which is ultimately somewhat bland. As I said at the beginning, it's not bad, but it's not especially memorable either, and I suspect that its low-angst, low-drama storytelling may appeal to some readers more than others.

Julie says

A gloriously romantic Regency tale that is absolutely impossible to put down, *The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding* is a charming historical treat readers are simply going to love.

Rose Parker is a shy, plain and sensible wallflower who is used to putting other people first and herself last. After her father's death, Rose had to be strong for her mother and sister's sake and she has done her utmost

to ensure that her family do not suffer unduly after the discovery of her father's many debts. Poor Rose has had to sacrifice her own happiness for the sake of her family, however, she does derive comfort from one night she had spent dancing in the arms of the dashing Captain Harry St. George – even though she is perfectly aware that a future for the two of them is out of the question for Harry needs to marry an heiress to rescue the flagging fortunes of his family estate and Rose, in order to make ends meet, needs to work as a companion to her formidable Aunt Sylvia!

Harry had once had high hopes of marrying Lady Helen Fallon and restoring his family estate to its former glory, but unfortunately Helen had refused to wait for him and she got married to another, leaving him scratching his head wondering how he was going to rescue the dilapidated family seat and the livelihoods of the many people living on his estate. Knowing that he must marry an heiress, Harry knows that he must be sensible and find a suitable bride who is wealthy enough to save his estate from ruin – so why can't he stop thinking about the intriguing but penniless Rose Parker?

When fate thrusts the two of them together, Harry knows that he should give Rose a wide berth and focus on rescuing his estate. But every single woman he comes across pales into insignificance when compared to Rose. When fighting off their feelings for one another proves impossible, Harry and Rose find themselves at a crossroads, but will they choose their heads over their hearts? Will Harry's duty to his estate cost him his heart's desire? And is Rose willing to spend the rest of her life wondering what might have been, if only she had the courage to fight for the man she loves?

The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding is sheer romance reading perfection from start to finish! A tender, heartwarming and irresistible historical romance fans of Mary Balogh are simply going to devour, The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding is a touching and mesmerizing tale about two kindred spirits who find one another and triumph against all the obstacles standing in their way that is sure to bring a tear to even the most jaded of eyes.

I absolutely loved Captain Harry St. George who was a dashing, sensitive and charismatic hero who stole my heart and Rose is a simply wonderful heroine who reminded me of Elinor Dashwood with her selflessness, goodness and love for others. I also thoroughly enjoyed the sub-plot involving Lady Helen Fallon and hope that she pops up in other stories as she is a fascinating character.

A spellbinding romantic read that I highly recommend, The Wallflower's Mistletoe Wedding continues to cement Amanda McCabe's standing as a superb writer of historical romance!

Malvina says

At first I was bewildered with the plethora of characters introduced in this book, fast discovering that this is the third book in a series 'The Bancrofts of Barton Park'. However, McCabe's writing skill ensure you knew who was who, and after a while it didn't matter. The story concentrated on Rose, an impoverished cousin to the Bancrofts, and Captain Harry St. George, newly returned from the horrors of war, a neighbour to the Bancrofts. It all came together rather well, and I suspect the next story in this series will be Harry's brother. Lovely and festive.
