



## The Christmas Wedding Ring

*Susan Mallery*

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In her youth, Molly Anderson couldn't help crushing on gorgeous bad-boy Dylan Black—even though he only had eyes for her older sister. When things didn't work out between them, he said goodbye to Molly as well, vowing they'd have a great adventure when she grew up. Years later, dumped by her fiancé just before Christmas, she's finally ready to take Dylan up on his promise.

A guarded Dylan always had a weakness for Molly, and when she waltzes back into his life—grown-up and gorgeous—he's stunned. So why not whisk her away for some no-strings-attached fun?

Laughter-filled days and late-night kisses are changing Molly's life, for good. The only gift she truly wants now is Dylan's love, but when he discovers the secret she's been keeping, she may lose him again...this time forever.

## **The Christmas Wedding Ring Details**

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## From Reader Review The Christmas Wedding Ring for online ebook

### Karen Furlong says

Predictable but a cute story.

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### Susan says

Good story of two people at crossroads in their lives, how they helped each other and found love at the same time. Molly had known Dylan when she was a teenager and he was her sister's boyfriend. He'd been a bad boy motorcycle rider who always had a kind word for her awkward self. He left town the day of her sister's wedding, but not before promising Molly an adventure any time she wanted it, once she'd grown up.

Molly had had a huge crush on Dylan and was sad when Dylan left town. Fourteen years later her life is a mess and she needs a break. When she comes across the ring he had given her, she remembers his promise and decides to look him up, hoping for an adventure that will take her mind off her troubles. She screws up her courage and reminds him of his promise, challenging him to keep it.

When Dylan left their hometown he set out on a path that has transformed him into the owner of a successful motorcycle design company. It's so successful that he has had an offer to buy the company. He's not sure what he wants to do, as he spends so much time now on paperwork he no longer has time to do the design work that he loves. If he sells, he can concentrate on designing, but he would be working for someone else. If he doesn't he's still stuck with all the paperwork. When Molly arrives, he remembers the promise, and thinks that some time away may be just what he needs to clear his head and make a decision.

I loved seeing Molly and Dylan together. Molly still has her crush, but is working to keep it contained. She's grown out of her awkward stage, but still doesn't see herself as attractive enough to appeal to a hunk like Dylan. Her self esteem has taken a hit with the loss of her job and her ex-fiance's cheating. She's also undergoing a health crisis that has her on edge. But with Dylan she's learning how to have fun. She's also discovered that her crush never really went away, and being with Dylan those feelings are turning into love. She's impressed with the man he has become, not just his success but also the way she can talk to him about anything. When their attraction blossoms she has a hard time believing he could really want her, but he does a great job of showing her.

Dylan was a great guy. His "bad boy" status doesn't really apply any longer, as he is a responsible businessman. He was surprised by Molly's arrival and how pretty she had grown up to be. When he hears her request he realizes that helping her could help him also. I loved seeing how connected he felt to Molly from the start. As they began their adventure, Dylan seems to have an instinctive sensitivity to what Molly needs. He sees her insecurities and works hard to show her how special she is. The more time he spends with her, the stronger his feelings for her grow. In spite of his success, he still doesn't feel like he is the type of person she would want in her life.

When their adventure is over, both Molly and Dylan have decisions they have to make about their futures. Both of them discover that they are not happy without the other in their lives. I loved seeing the difference the trip made in Molly's outlook and how that affected her decisions. Dylan also had to face the fact that he

had fallen in love with Molly, something he had never thought possible. I loved seeing what he did with his decisions. His big moment with Molly at the end was really sweet,

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### **Taylor says**

This was such a cute Christmas read! I love Susan Mallery's books and this one was so good! Loved Dylan like crazy! I suggest this book for an easy and fun Christmas read!

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### **Geri Reads says**

#### **3.5 stars!**

This was a cute holiday read featuring an innocent heroine and a 'bad boy' hero. I enjoyed and liked it but I didn't love it. And for anyone who knows me, this is the kind of books I tend to love. Unfortunately, this was just an okay read for me.

Molly Anderson had been in love with Dylan Black ever since her older sister introduced him to their family. But Dylan Black only had eyes for her sister and Molly was content to fade into the background and suffer silently from her unrequited love for Dylan. Unfortunately, Dylan and her sister broke up and the day of her sister's wedding, Dylan gave Molly a ring and promised her that if ever she is in need of some adventure that she would come and find him and they would go on an adventure together.

Forward to 14 years later, Molly is a successful accountant, on the verge of a life-changing event, when she finally took up Dylan on his offer. Dylan also has some decisions to make, and what better way to think about it than spending it with an old friend.

#### **My Thoughts**

As much as I like Susan Mallery, I really had a hard time suspending disbelief at the thought of Molly just walking up to Dylan, who's basically a stranger at this point, to go on an adventure with her. Yes, Dylan did promise her an adventure but I would have loved it if they had reconnected prior to going on that adventure.

I did like the slow-burning element of their romance. Plus, I'm always a sucker for the unrequited, friends-to-lovers trope anyway, so it's kind of a given that I would enjoy this.

While I liked Molly, but there were times when she was just too insecure. Yes, I get it, you're not beautiful. There's no need to remind us that every single second. There's nothing more annoying than a heroine who keeps thinking she'll never ever be good enough.

Dylan is the quintessential Mallery hero. He's supposed to be a 'bad boy' but I never got to see that. Yes, he rides a motorcycle and he wears leather jacket, but I do think there's more to being a bad boy than just the clothes.

Overall, this was an okay read. I still enjoyed parts of it and I would still recommend this for those in the mood for a short holiday read. Plus, the ending was really good. I love a good old-fashioned HEA wrapped in a pretty bow.

An ARC was provided by Harlequin in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Patrice says**

I read this story as my 1998 published book for my "A Lifetime of Books Challenge". I absolutely adore the work of Ms Mallory, especially the Fool's Gold Series. As much as I enjoyed this story, I can tell that it was an early work of hers, originally published as *The Wedding Ring Promise*. The writing style is a little less refined, as compared to other, more recent, endeavors. I really like the fact that the heroine in this book is from Mischief Bay, where Ms. Mallory's latest series of books takes place. This is a contemporary romance, where the heroine, Molly Anderson, is a young woman that had a crush on her older sister's boyfriend, Dylan Black, when she was a teenager. Now, battling some upheavals in her life, she decides to take stock and look up her sister's ex, to make good on a 14-year-old promise. This is their story of running away from life's problems, finding common ground, and battling the challenges that life has thrown them, and maybe, just maybe, finding love along the way.

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### **Melanie says**

*The Christmas Wedding Ring* was a very sweet holiday romance about taking risks and learning to live life to the fullest.

As a teenager, Molly Anderson couldn't help having a crush on bad boy Dylan Black, her older sister's boyfriend. After things didn't work out between Dylan and her sister, Dylan left town but not before he promised Molly an adventure when she was older. Fourteen years later with her life taking a few unexpected turns, Molly is ready to take Dylan up on his offer. Dylan always enjoyed being around Molly and after she unexpectedly comes back into his life, he's more than willing to whisk her away for a few weeks of fun.

Molly didn't have the best childhood as she never seemed to be enough for her parents who either ignored her or constantly criticized her. Her relationship with her sister was also strained until they were adults and were able to rebuild the relationship. Prior to her decision for a break from her life, Molly had a rough few days with one bad thing happening after another. After finding out everything she went through, I more than understood her need for an escape.

Dylan grew up on the wrong side of the tracks with an abusive father and an alcoholic mother. To say Dylan was ready to leave his hometown behind is an understatement. After leaving, Dylan opened a motorcycle shop where he does custom modifications to bikes. His business became quite successful and Dylan actually has more people wanting his bikes than he's able to take on.

After seeing each other after fourteen years, Molly and Dylan develop an easy friendship with attraction layered beneath. I enjoyed their ability to talk to one another and how they were able to open up about the problems in their lives. The attraction between them is well done and I was happy to see that the barriers that kept them from advancing their relationship sooner were legitimate issues. When things did progress, it was done perfectly and I enjoyed the direction things went. The ending of the book was one of the best parts in my opinion and I really liked the way everything wrapped up for Molly and Dylan.

Overall I really enjoyed *The Christmas Wedding Ring* and it was the perfect read to put you in the holiday

spirit. I definitely recommend this book if you're looking for a fun, holiday romance.

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### **Virginia Campbell says**

"The Christmas Wedding Ring" is a very prettily packaged re-issue of author Susan Mallery's 1998 release "The Wedding Ring Promise". It took me a while to get into the groove of this story line and to find the appeal of the characters. I am a longtime Susan Mallery fan--so I kept reading. As the hero and heroine got reacquainted with one another and they grew on each other, they began to also grow on me. As a teenager, Molly Anderson was hopelessly infatuated with her older sister Janet's boyfriend. Dylan Black was gorgeous, charming, and a leather-clad, motorcycle-riding "bad boy". What made him even more irresistible to Molly, self-conscious about her braces, blemishes, and chubbiness, was his kindness. He often took the time to talk to her, and his gentle teasing made her feel like he really saw her and liked her for the real Molly. When Janet and Dylan stopped dating, and she soon found a "suitable" marriage prospect, Dylan decided to leave the area. Before he left, however, he and Molly had one last talk, and he gave her the golden wedding band he had intended to give Janet. He told Molly to hold on to the ring until she was grownup and ready for the adventure he had promised on his motorcycle. When that time came, she was to find him and give him back the ring, and off they would go. Fifteen years later, a grownup Molly is at a crisis point in her life, and when she comes across the ring, she decides to find Dylan and see if he remembers his promise. Dylan Black has become a successful businessman, owner of Black Lightning, a cutting-edge motorcycle manufacturing company. Dylan has also reached a turning point in his life, and Molly's surprise reappearance into his life comes at just the right time. Their "adventure" becomes the journey of a lifetime, one of personal discovery and emotional growth. Passion flares to life, kindled by friendship and mutual need--but will it be enough to last a lifetime? Will the holiday season become even more poignant and joyful with the gift of true love?

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### **Anna Drenick says**

I can't believe I read another one you guys. I'm done.

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### **Amarilli Settantatre says**

3,5 - Carino, nella sua semplicità.

Un soft-romance, dove la dolcezza la fa da padrona.

E tuttavia molto belle le pagine dove l'uomo tutto d'un pezzo si dimostra capace di empatia e tenerezza molto rare.

Una lettura adatta per chi ha voglia di sognare e crearsi un po' di energia positiva.

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

Molly Anderson was 12 when she first laid eyes on Dylan Black her older sister's boyfriend. She had always

been the outcast in her family but Dylan never reacted to her that way.

He always took an interest in everything she was doing, her school, or her ideas.

At 18 he was by far the most handsome guy you ever saw. Unlike all her other boyfriends he would talk to Molly. He would tell her jokes, tease her about silly things but never in a mean hurtful way like her own family. Since Janet saw no future with Dylan, coming from a trailer park kid and show no future in him she broke up with him. Dating and marrying Thomas.

On the day of the wedding Dylan shows up only making it to the back of the church. He needed to see for himself that there was no hope left for him and Janet. When Molly sees him from the alter and sneaks off with no one noticing. She catches up with Dylan. She finds out he's leaving and reminds him that he said that he would take her on an adventure when she was grown up. He said he never breaks a promise and gives her the gold ring he never got a chance to give to Janet. He tells her when you're grown and you're ready, find me and give me this back and we'll go.

Dylan would never guess that Molly would not only have had an awful childhood but that the last week she had, had the three most horrendous days of her life. So, who would ever guess that 14 years after he'd given her that ring she would be standing before him. Dylan's mind is expecting little 14 year old Molly with braces, acne, and glasses. Yet the Molly he sees is little full grown voluptuous Molly. He wouldn't say she's model beautiful but she's pretty in a cute way, with soft curves. Not his type he said to himself.

She was nervous as they talked and since it was close to lunch they go out. Molly explains in a roundabout way why she wants, no needs, to go on this adventure. Dylan is sure she is keeping some secrets but before he can follow his brain he says yes. Partly because he has issues going on with his business he has to make decisions on too. They plan on leaving the next afternoon. He needs to get his business in line you see. He has become a successful businessman, but that is all I am telling you...

I loved this story beyond words. The emotions that come in the waiting that Molly has to endure is beyond accurate and painfully true I felt every moment again with her. The dynamics between Dylan and Molly are unbelievably touching and erotic. Their love scenes are a scorching hot bag of fire. But like the rest of the story line done in a tasteful manner. I give this 5 stars ++. Provided by Net Galley.

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### **Denise says**

This December I wanted to read a nice Christmas story. This book had very little about Christmas. Simple, repetitive writing for this short rewritten novel.

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### **Brina says**

Ich bin bereits seit Jahren begeisterte Leserin von Susan Mallerys Werken. Zuletzt ist diese Leidenschaft leider viel zu kurz gekommen, sodass dies nun wieder dringend nachgeholt werden muss. Auf der Suche nach neueren Werken von der Autorin ist mir besonders "Pleiten, Pech und Prinzen" aufgefallen, sodass ich diesem Buch unbedingt eine Chance geben wollte und ich bin froh, dass ich es getan habe, denn es ist wunderbar.

Susan Mallery besitzt seit jeher einen sehr angenehmen Schreibstil, den ich bei ihren Werken stets genieße. Die Stimmung im Buch ist meist heiter, stellenweise aber auch melancholisch, da die Protagonisten beide ihre ganz eigenen Probleme haben. Dazu werden die romantischen Szenen niemals kitschig dargestellt und

die Autorin hat vermieden, besonders viele Klischees in die Geschichte einzubauen. Zugegeben, stellenweise war die Geschichte schon sehr vorhersehbar, vor allem, wenn man die Kurzbeschreibung betrachtet. Dennoch finde ich die Geschichte trotz der Vorhersehbarkeit gelungen, da immer eine gewisse Spannung in der Luft lag. Dazu sind die Figuren gut ausgearbeitet, sodass ich sie ins Herz schließen konnte.

Mit Molly lernt man eine Frau kennen, die sympathisch ist, aber durchaus auch nerven kann. Sie wirkt häufig unsicher, kann Komplimente nicht nachvollziehen und entschuldigt sich ständig für alles mögliche, was unglaublich anstrengend sein kann. Dennoch ist sie sehr sympathisch, denn sie wirkt authentisch, setzt sich für andere ein und handelt meistens selbstlos - auch wenn dies nicht immer gut ist. Nachdem sich in ihrem Leben einiges verändert hat, möchte sie einen Neuanfang wagen und meldet sich bei Dylan, dem Ex-Freund ihrer Schwester, mit dem sie vor Jahren einen Pakt geschlossen hat. Zusammen wollen sie ein Abenteuer wagen und eine Woche lang die Seele baumeln lassen. Dass es dabei nicht nur bei Freundschaft bleibt, dürfte schnell klar sein. Dylan wird ebenfalls sehr gut dargestellt. Aus dem kleinen Rebellen ist ein erwachsener und selbstbewusster Mann geworden, der mitten im Leben steht und für fast jeden Spaß zu haben ist.

Das Cover gefällt mir sehr gut und passt toll zum Titel. Allgemein muss man sagen, dass dem Mira Taschenbuch Verlag die neuen Cover sehr gut stehen und diese mittlerweile auch der Thematik angepasst sind. Die Kurzbeschreibung ist ebenfalls gelungen und hat mich spontan angesprochen.

Insgesamt ist "Pleiten, Pech und Prinzen" typisch Susan Mallery: romantisch, humorvoll und mit interessanten Charakteren bestückt, die ich direkt ins Herz schließen musste. Wer noch kein Buch von Susan Mallery gelesen hat, hat definitiv etwas verpasst. Kaufen, lesen und genießen!

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### **Cherise says**

It pains me to write unfavorable reviews for books written by favorite authors, and Susan Mallery is definitely one of my favorites. But as painful as it is for me to write this, it was just as painful to read it.

I must state that yes, I knew this is a re-publish of a much earlier work. I was expecting the book to have less polish than her newer ones, I like it when authors re-release oldies that I missed the first time around. I wasn't expecting a literary masterpiece. I was expecting a harlequin type soft and fluffy easy Christmas read. What I got? Frustrated!

Molly is at a crossroads in her life. In one short week her life completely unraveled and while she waits for more bad news (because our Molly is a pessimist) she decides to go on an adventure. When Molly was a girl she had a huge crush on her older sister's boyfriend, Dylan. When Dylan and her sister broke up he left her with a ring and a promise for adventure. She decides to cash in on that deal. And although he hasn't seen Molly in forever, he joins her.

OK, so the plot sounds unbelievable, but that's what I wanted. A little Christmas magic. Unfortunately there is little to no Christmas and zero magic. What the book is about is a whiny, self-pitying, repetitive woman who is too annoying for words. There isn't one aspect of her life where she isn't 'poor Molly' yet as she's relaying tale of woe after tale of woe she constantly states that she's ok, or over it, and the hero keeps telling her how brave and amazing she is. I just wanted to scream "If it no longer bothers you why are you boring me and poor Dylan talking about it!?! Oh, yeah, she's also a tease so not only does Dylan have to listen to her grip, he walks around blue and in pain half the book. She also has a spectacular habit of running off like

a 5 year old to cry.

Granted, she's going through some serious stuff, but the way all of it was handled and laid out was just too much. I couldn't stand her. Their relationship never develops, the whole adventure seemed so one dimensional and it lacked any chemistry. Had I not been obligated to review this book, I would have quit reading it. As it is, it took me way longer to read than it should have. I kept having to set it down while I tried to regroup and find my happy place again.

Definitely not a fan of this story, I am very disappointed. If you're looking for a feel good read, this isn't it.

Cherise Everhard, October 2014

Book provided by and reviewed for the Amazon Vine Program

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## **J.E. Benoit says**

***“I promised myself no regrets,” she whispered into the darkness. “No what-ifs, no second guessing. I promised myself that I was going to live my life, instead of always taking the safe route.”***

Rounding out my Christmas 2015 reading list, I recently finished *The Christmas Wedding Ring* by Susan Mallery. It was a sweet holiday story that had a nice message of being happy with who you are, making the most of every day and living with no regrets. Overall I enjoyed the story, I had a few gripes (which I'll get into in a moment) but for the most part I really enjoyed Molly and Dylan and was happily swept up in their romance. This book is perfect for the Christmas season because it'll leave you feeling all warm and fuzzy inside!

***“I didn’t want you to go. There were assorted reasons, but the only one I was willing to tell you was that you’d promised me an adventure when I grew up. So you handed me the ring and said that when I was ready for that adventure, I was to bring this to you.” She cleared her throat. Color stained her cheeks, and she ducked her head so she was staring at the table. “Well, I’m ready if you’re still willing.”***

So that's basically the premise of the story. When Molly Anderson was a teenager, she had a huge crush on her sister's boyfriend, bad boy Dylan Black. At her sister's wedding (to another man), Dylan shows up and Molly runs out to talk to him. He's on his way out of town and gives her a wedding ring that he had purchased for her sister, telling her that when she's grown, if she's ever looking for an adventure to come find him and bring the ring. Now, 14 years later, Molly is having the worst week of her life. With everything falling apart around her, she decides to run from her problems (at least for a little while) and she goes to find Dylan to cash in on that adventure he promised her. To Dylan's end, he's also being faced with some difficult decisions, and when little Molly Anderson (who's not so little anymore) shows up looking for him to take her on an adventure he sees it as the perfect time to go out and try to clear his head. So that's what they do, and along the way they are faced with some difficult moments and a growing attraction to one another. As things begin to develop between the two of them, Molly is worried that the secret she's keeping may have Dylan running for the hills if he finds out.

***“I was so gone on you. It’s kind of funny to look back now, but at the time, I was convinced I would never want another man.”***

***“Of course you wouldn’t.”***

**“What?” She looked at him.**

**“Hey,” he teased. “This is me. What else would I be if not the man of your dreams?”**

Overall the story was sweet and I appreciated that that Molly wasn't what most would consider perfect, she had a few extra pounds on her and she was pretty but not what most people would classify as beautiful. It was nice to have a realistic heroine, however the fact that we were constantly reminded of this fact and the fact that Dylan was perfect and she wasn't his type, became a little tiresome. I get it, Molly is insecure and Dylan usually goes for model thin, perfect looking women, I didn't need to be told 5 times in every chapter. It sort of cheapened their relationship a little, there were moments where Dylan would muse that she isn't his type where it almost made it sound like he was settling for her. But there were other moments where I could feel their connection and knew that there was something deeper between the two, I would have liked there to have been more of focus on this and less on their differences. Even if she brought it up half as many times as she did, we would have still gotten the picture. That was my only real gripe about the book, other than that I thought it was a sweet story and I did like Molly and Dylan's characters and how their relationship developed. They were cute when they teased one another and their tender moments were very touching.

I totally loved the ending of the book though. It was a perfectly sweet and happy way to end the story, like I said earlier, it will definitely leave you feeling all warm and fuzzy inside! I would recommend this book for a quick, easy and sweet holiday story!

**“All my life,” Dylan said, “I felt like I was on the outside, looking in.”**

**Molly leaned against his strong chest, and he wrapped an arm around her shoulders. “Not anymore,” she said.**

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### **Kate Vale says**

The secret that sends Molly over the edge is one any woman could understand, to say nothing of losing her job and hearing from her fiance that's he's jumped the traces with his secretary. What a jerk! What's a girl to do? Why, find a place other than home or her sister's place to lick her wounds and try to come to terms with what to do with the rest of her life. But who to do it with?

Molly's a smart girl and when she rediscovers the little gold ring her sister's former boyfriend had given Molly the day her sister married someone else, she knows who she needs to see--the guy she had a crush on at age 14, the guy her sister didn't marry. But would he do when he sees her?

As it turns out, Dylan needs time away, too, to decide if the offer for his successful motorcycle design company is worth taking. Why not accept Molly's out-of-the-blue request to get away for a while? She's not the same 14-year-old in-braces kid anymore. That's for sure.

... So off they go and what happens over that two-week period proves to Dylan that life is more than selling out for the huge amount he's been offered and that Molly is way more than the little sister of a former girlfriend. For Molly, Dylan helps her--with all the ways life has buffeted her. How refreshing to be able to set those issues aside, including the life-stealing secret, and to confront herself as she plans her new life. Setting it all in the Christmas season makes this redone story all the better.

