



Ice, Snow, & Mistletoe

Jocelynn Drake

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John Sullivan is escaping to Denver. Even with a massive snow storm on his heels, he plans to hide away in his cabin in the mountains and ignore Christmas. It'll be just him and a bottle of whiskey until the new year when he must return to Cincinnati for his best friend's wedding.

At least, that's the plan until he runs into Oz at the airport.

Oz ... the man who should have been just a fling. The man who was fun and laughs but quickly turned into so much more before he completely kicked John out of his life.

Oz who desperately needs his help...

John is ready to leave Oz stranded at the Denver airport in the coming blizzard, but he finds himself possibly staring down at the reason Oz pushed him away, and John can't say no.

Second chances don't come around often, but John is willing to fight for one with Oz.

Ice, Snow, & Mistletoe Details

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From Reader Review Ice, Snow, & Mistletoe for online ebook

Jennifer?Pher? says

Hmmm...not as much love for this one as last years installment of this "series".

I had high hopes for John's story and although this had a lot going for it it just didn't live up to my expectations.

There just seemed something artificial about it. Maybe had there been more to what they experienced together when they first met I would have had more of a foundation for their reconciliation. Truly, even the run in at the airport didn't leave me feeling any longing.

I did enjoy it and I am super happy, it just wasn't true love.

Brown Eyed Girl ~Suzanne~ says

My first holiday read of the season. This was good, I liked the beginning a lot but this entire premise seems to have been done so many times!

J Too Many Books Too Little Time says

I was a little worried with this one. Definitely some mixed reviews.

But I ended up really liking it.

Yeah, Oz was a bit frustrating at times and there was a bit of back and forth. But nothing crazy.

Lyndy Ann ? says

????????? 5 Build a snowman stars ???????????

Read for the second time and John & Oz still have the Christmas magic.

I DEVOURED Ice, Snow & Mistletoe, I loved everything about this Christmas romance and it has everything you need for a wonderful read.

John & Oz = two sexy guys ✓?

Lizzie = cute little girl ✓?

Second chance romance ✓?

Snow storm ✓?

Spenser & Evan ✓?

This is my eleventh Jocelyn Drake m/m book this year.

Chris says

I really enjoyed this book - such a lovely story about second chances in love ♥?

? Todd says

[children (hide spoiler)]

Cadiva says

Jocelyn Drake knocks the festive romance out of the park again

Just as in last year's *Walking on Thin Ice*, this visit to Cincinnati and to Spenser's best friend John is an absolute joy.

Unlike Spenser though, John hasn't found his Happy Ever After and his family dramas have made Christmas a painful event for many years.

When he bumps into the guy who pretty much broke his heart five years earlier, he's ready to walk away, just like Oz did to him, when he realises the probable reason that happened.

Watching these two navigate their way through all the trials of discovering neither had truly moved on was a lesson in how to create tension without ever overwhelming the story.

John and Oz are perfect together, if only Oz can learn that his happiness is just as important as his family life, and if John can persuade him to let him fully into his world.

I also liked that the ex-girlfriend didn't provide the usual obstacle but that she too learnt to stand on her own two feet. I also liked that she was encouraging about John and Oz once she found out and she made Oz open his eyes a bit.

It was also fab to bump into Spenser and Evan again and see the continuation of their HEA with a New Year wedding.

I hope Jocelynn comes back to this setting again.

haletostilinski says

Very sweet and entertaining, quick holiday read. I enjoyed it a lot.

Oz and John met six years previously and had a casual kind of relationship but not for almost 6 months

before Oz mysteriously and harshly broke things off with John. Obviously they were totally in love but were both too scared to say anything, and that resulted in a lot of miscommunication because these boys didn't talk about anything too real when they were in their casual relationship because that is what they said it was at the beginning, just both of them having a casual, fun time together and that was it.

Obviously, it quickly became a lot more serious for them but they didn't say anything to each other about being more.

We find out why Oz broke things off and why he did it instead of just telling John what was going on, and while I got it, I wanted to smack Oz upside the head. Like! He kept such a big thing from John and broke it off rather than tell him the truth. Boy! (view spoiler)

So after all that, they by random chance run into the other - literally - at the airport after 5 and a half years apart and find out they're on the same flight. When Oz ends up stranded in Denver after the flight because of whether, John offers to let him (view spoiler) have a room at the house he's staying at.

John's family, aside from his sister, sucks ass, so John has a few of his own demons he's working through, but at John's family's nice cabin in the mountains, he and Oz reconnect, but Oz has some things in his life weighing him down and keeping him too scared to take that leap with John. Again this suffered from a case of "one MC doesn't grovel enough after screwing up, other MC forgives them too easily" buttt it wasn't as bad as it could have been. At least Oz explained things and apologized, and also...okay he and John were super cute and hot together all at the same time, so I was a little more lenient this time, even though Oz totally should have groveled a little more *humph*

Also, the sex was super hot in this. Loved it! This is my first of Jocelynn Drake's books that isn't co-written and I'm happy to say that she is just as enjoyable and good a writer on her own as she is with a co-author. The writing was strong, it kept my interest the whole story, and she created likable, interesting characters with great chemistry.

Definitely recommend this as a quick, entertaining, fun holiday read! :D

~☆~Dαni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Why did Oz have to be such a douche canoe? I could have forgiven him for pushing John away five years prior, but to do it again because "Oh, my life is just so crazy and you deserve better"?

Nope. I hate that martyr bullshit; it's immature and selfish, and I just can't.

John was a nice guy, longing for a family, who forgave much too easily.

The best part was Spenser and Evan's wedding; oh, and the hot sex.

I'm going with a reluctant three stars because this was an easy read with some sweet moments.

Mirjana **DTR - Down to Read says**

*****2.5 Stars*****

Well, I'm super bummed. Walking on Thin Ice by Jocelynn Drake was one of my favorite holiday reads last year, so I was super excited for this follow up with Spenser's best friend, John. Add in a second chance romance and I was downright giddy with anticipation.

Unfortunately, this book ended up being frustrating, underdeveloped and cliched.

John and Oz met years ago by chance. Oz had arrived early for a date with a woman and was hanging out killing some time outside the restaurant when John happened to walk by. Eye contact and a smile piqued Oz's interest. John continued on to the gay bar across the street, leaving Oz to figure out his next steps. He was just newly coming to terms that he may be bisexual, and he really wasn't in the mood for this date to begin with....so he took a leap of faith and followed John into the bar. A couple of drinks, some teasing and flirty conversation, and Oz and John decide they should continue their night elsewhere.

ZOOOOOOOM it's almost six year later and John, quite literally, runs into Oz at the airport. We find out that the men had a casual "it's just fucking but secretly it feels like more" relationship for a few months all those years ago. Oz abruptly ended things, John was crushed and they never spoke or saw each other again.

Turns out, both men are heading to Denver. John to bury himself at the bottom of a bottle in the last place he remembers his family being happy and Oz to pick up his daughter. Blizzard strands Oz in Denver unable to return home to Cincinnati with his daughter, soooooooo John offers up his place until they can fly out.

And so begins my frustration. Oz was just so damn hot and cold with John. Pushing him away one minute with his whole martyrdom routine "my life is too crazy for you," "my focus has to be 100% on Lizzy," blah blah blah and then getting all up on John the next minute.

"You know you're sending so many mixed signals right now. After last night, I thought..."

"I know. I'm sorry. I - I just can't let go."

"Don't want you to."

"This is a bad idea."

Rinse and repeat for almost the entire book.

And let's talk about John. John has crappy parents. Manipulative, selfish, and just plain ol' crappy. Growing up, for two brief weeks every holiday, that wasn't the case. They were all one big happy family while visiting their winter home in Denver....and John longs for those happier times. And this is where Oz and Lizzy felt like a ready made, instant family. John's desperation for it made me a little uncomfortable at times.

Also, we don't really get much of John and Oz's history. Not enough for me to feel connected to the longing they feel for each other and the yearning for "what could have been." We get brief glimpses of a couple of moments, but nothing for me to really sink my teeth into and feel invested in.

I couldn't reconcile the Oz of now with the Oz of past. Past Oz was just discovering his bisexuality, he was tentative and nervous because he'd never been with a man before John, and he's never been with a man since John....and Present Oz was all kinds of controlling, dirty talking, alpha top. Obviously all of this confidence happened while he was with John, and I wish we could have seen that...seen their first night together, how things evolved, how the feelings grew. And I'm not gonna spoil, but that breakup scene was bullshit. It was

abrupt and lazy.

And don't even get me started on the cliched "the ex is a monster" situation.

So there you have it. A book I really, really wanted to like but ended up mostly shaking my head at while reading.

Renée says

Last year, Jocelynn Drake wrote one of the best Christmas stories of the season, IMO. This book is like Book 2 of the series, featuring Spenser's best friend, John.

Drake packed a lot into this novella, and she brought the feelz. No doubt about that. And I'm not the biggest fan of her other stories because of all the death and destruction. I like a little less **drama** in my books, and I figured I'd be safe with this one.

While it's written well with feelz galore, this one fell much flatter for me than Spenser and Evan's story.

John and Oz met years ago and ~~dated~~ fucked for a few months. Oz is bisexual, but John was his first time with a man. Life **drama** happened for Oz, and instead of being honest, he pushed John away purposefully.

Fast forward almost six years, and the two run into each other again at the airport.

I love the second chance trope, especially with sexual tension as combustible as these two men have. But Oz continues to be a douche nozzle and purposefully pushes John away - **because it's better this way**. Because John doesn't need Oz in his life with all his chaos.

Ugh. I hate the martyr bullshit. Serious pet peeve of mine. So, despite the writing and the feelz, this author couldn't quite keep the melodrama out of this book either.

It's a sweet holiday story, and if you don't mind the above niggles, give this one a go.

Denise H. says

**** Ice, snow, and mistletoe made it happen.****

John, a successful Lawyer,

has an unsuccessful family. He was going to the family cabin for Christmas...alone.

Oz, owner of his car repair shop,

is stranded by the storm at the airport with his young daughter, Lizzy.

Literally running into each other, Oz and John were stunned. Five years ago they'd been together, when Oz turned John away. John wants to find out why, so he takes them to the cabin. They spend a glorious couple of days, mixed with deepness, so that Lizzy gets a nice Christmas. In turn they get close again. John's family truths come out, and Oz explains his actions, that shattered them both.

Beautiful characters, hot sexiness, and a heartwarming story. Two men who are really two halves of a whole. Loved it.

ENJOY.

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Ariana says

3,5 stars

This Christmas novella unfortunately didn't push all the right buttons with me.

Yes, the cover is lovely (one of the most tasteful this year) and the story is well written with characters explored in depth.

John and Lizzie are lovable and cute in their own way, but Oz... I couldn't really warm to him totally. It's kind of forgivable to behave like an a*****e if you make up for it in an appropriate way. Not sure Oz really did that. I understood his worries to some extent, but not why he pushed John away the second time.

Still, this is Jocelynn Drake and if you have a minute you'll probably enjoy this pleasant read.

Elsa Bravante says

No soy nada fan de la serie MM que tiene la autora, pero el año pasado leí su novella de Navidad y fue la mejor o de las mejores que leí. Cuando vi que había escrito sobre el amigo de Spenser, protagonista del anterior libro, lo empecé con muchas ganas. Sin embargo, a pesar de que me han gustado los protagonistas y me ha entretenido mucho, creo que se queda a medio camino. Mezcla muchos temas, temas complicados: coming out, hijos, problemas familiares, y al haber tanta tela que cortar no se profundiza en nada. Muchos sentimientos, pero poca explicación y fáciles soluciones.

Meags says

3 Stars

I had such high hopes for this holiday read, mostly due to the fact that Drake's 2016 book *Walking on Thin Ice* ended up being my favourite Christmas romance of that season.

I tend to rate books against other books by the same author, and even though *Ice, Snow, & Mistletoe* was a decent, heartfelt holiday read, it simply didn't reach the same levels of awesome that its predecessor (and loosely connected prequel) achieved last year.

I will admit up front that I'm not a huge fan of second chance romances either - a main theme here - unless the reasons for a couple's relationship not working a first time around are solid, with circumstances that are fully understandable. Sadly, I find that most of the time the reasons given for a couple's initial separation simply don't fly with me, usually leaving a disconnect between me and one MC (or both), making it extremely difficult to believe in the potential of their HEA a second time around.

Clearly, this isn't always my reaction; many times I've loved the way second chance romances are explored and executed. However, regrettably, this was one of those times I found myself not convinced with the reasons given for the initial relationship bust-up. It seemed like utter martyrdom on one character's behalf,

and ultimately it felt like time-wasted - years, really - when the MCs could have been together and happy.

So, the relationship didn't win me over, but I still loved Drake's smooth and agreeable writing style, and I loved seeing Spenser and Evan a year on from Walking on Thin Ice, getting to see them reach their delicious HEA beyond their initial HFN!
