



The Mistletoe Haunting: Legend of Minster Lovell

By David Slattery-Christy

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A Mistletoe Bride is murdered on Christmas Eve, 1893. Her ghost haunts the family stately home, Willow Manor, until her remains are discovered and the truth revealed. Set in the present day and Victorian England, the tragic young bride can at last share her story and put right the terrible injustice that destroyed her family and those she loved. The city of Oxford's Randolph Hotel, and the village of Minster Lovell, the site of the stately home, are the locations for this heartwrenching story of deceit, love and betrayal. The Mistletoe Bride, a local legend, was popularised in a poem by Thomas Haynes Bailey in 1884, and then set to music to become the popular song: The Mistletoe Bough!

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Editorial Review

Review

"A beautiful book and beautifully written." *Kat Orman, BBC Oxford.*

"Chilling down to the soul...a fantastic ghost story." - *Stormi, Boundless Book Reviews*

"The most memorable ghost stories are frightening because they expose the demons within us and in *The Mistletoe Haunting - Legend of Minster Lovell*, David Slattery-Christy achieves this with admirable aplomb. Too many ghosts in fiction are simply used for shock value, but there's a mournful quality to Slattery-Christy's prose as he exploits the line between the seen and unseen, where the living meet the dead and the mysteries of life are revealed. He understands that most ghosts are sad, and are attempting not to frighten us, but to urgently communicate something that they might find rest, and to this end his novel seems perfectly pitched. He knows just when to linger and create atmosphere, a sense of place, or sympathy with his characters, instead of falling back on trite clichés and this adds immeasurably to both the quality of his writing and the intricacies of his plot. The legend of the Mistletoe Bride, immortalised in Thomas Haynes Bayly's poem *The Mistletoe Bough* certainly provides the scope to descend into routine shock and horror, but Slattery-Christy's twists add for a far more suspenseful and ultimately chilling read that is nigh on impossible to put down.

A gothic ghost story to be read with the lights on, *The Mistletoe Haunting - Legend of Minster Lovell* has all the hallmarks of a classic and is recommended without reservation." - *Book Viral*

"Superbly crafted work with an engaging and sympathetic protagonist. Moving between modern times and the Edwardian era it gradually unravels a moving tale about a young innocent betrayed by those around her. David Slattery-Christy's narrative is absolutely convincing and flawless in its depiction of Edwardian England and its social milieu. As the book moved towards its conclusion it was impossible to stop reading and it was a page turner. The villain receives their just desserts. This sensitively written tale is highly recommended." - *Anne Gaelan, Amazon 5**

About the Author

David Slattery-Christy is an author and playwright. He studied journalism for his BA Hons Degree (City University London), a Teaching Degree at Lancaster University and Masters Degree at UCLAN. He has written and published several plays and books and also worked on the Oscar- and BAFTA-winning film *Gosford Park*. His Novello biography *In Search of Ruritania* was featured on BBC Radio 2 as part of the BBC's Great War Commemorations. More information at www.christyplays.com

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