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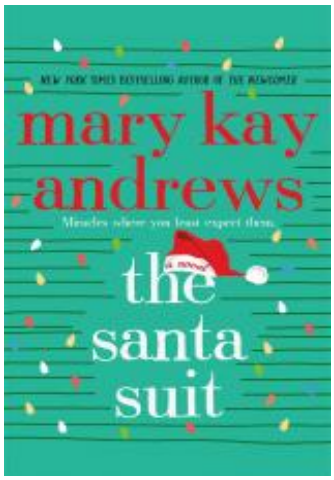
The Santa Suit

by Mary Kay Andrews



About the Book

From Mary Kay Andrews, the *New York Times* bestselling author of HELLO, SUMMER, comes a novella celebrating the magic of Christmas and second chances in THE SANTA SUIT.

When newly divorced Ivy Perkins buys an old farmhouse sight unseen, she is definitely looking for a change in her life. The Four Roses, as the farmhouse is called, is a labor of love --- but Ivy didn't bargain on just how much labor. The previous family left so much furniture and so much junk that it's a full-time job sorting through all of it.

At the top of a closet, Ivy finds an old Santa suit --- beautifully made and decades old. In the pocket of a suit she finds a note written in a childish hand: it's from a little girl who has one Christmas wish, and that is for her father to return home from the war. This discovery sets Ivy off on a mission. Who wrote the note? Did the man ever come home? What mysteries did the Rose family hold?

Ivy's quest brings her into the community, at a time when all she wanted to do was be left alone and nurse her wounds. But the magic of Christmas makes miracles happen, and Ivy just might find more than she ever thought possible: a welcoming town, a family reunited, a mystery solved and a second chance at love.

Discussion Guide

1. Following a bruising divorce, Ivy does something totally unlike herself. She buys Four Roses Farm on impulse --- and sight unseen. Have you ever done something wildly impulsive --- and unlike yourself?

2. As Christmas approaches, Ivy?s instinct is to burrow into her new home and ignore the holiday. But something about finding the Santa suit --- and discovering the previous owner?s connection to the community, changes her mind. What kinds of things put you in the holiday spirit? Certain songs? Scents?

3. Once Ivy finds Carlette?s note in the pocket of the Santa suit, she can?t help but try to figure out what happened to the little girl, and her father. Can you see yourself becoming an amateur sleuth? Where would you start?

4. Ivy?s new friend, Phoebe, tries to enlist her in what Phoebe regards as a harmless deception of her fiancé. How would you react in a similar situation?

5. Lawrence Jones tells Ivy that he decorates for Christmas every year, even though he has no one to spend the holidays with. What are your decorating traditions? Would you make a fuss even if it was just for you? Have you ever skipped it all together (or been tempted to)?

6. The village of Tarburton has an annual Christmas stroll with the downtown decked for the holidays. What traditions does your community observe at Christmastime? Do you have a favorite town to visit during the holidays where they do a particularly good job of decking the halls?

7. Ezra tells Ivy that he thinks Four Roses Farm found her rather than the other way around. Has a house ever spoken to you and felt right in your gut from first sight? Do you believe in fate?

8. As things come together for Ivy, the candy shop, Phoebe and Lawrence, Ezra gives Ivy all the credit. But Ivy insists that the Santa suit had something to do with it. What do you think? Do you believe in Christmas magic?

Author Bio

Mary Kay Andrews is the *New York Times* bestselling author of THE BEACH HOUSE COOKBOOK and more than 30 novels, including ROAD TRIP, SUMMERS AT THE SAINT, THE WEEKENDERS, LADIES' NIGHT, SPRING FEVER, SUMMER RENTAL, THE FIXER UPPER, DEEP DISH, BLUE CHRISTMAS, SAVANNAH BREEZE, HISSY FIT, LITTLE BITTY LIES and SAVANNAH BLUES. A former journalist for *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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