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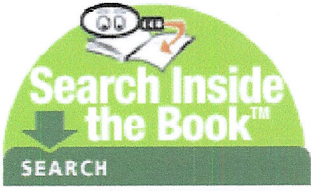
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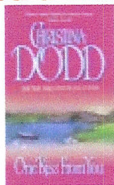
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Product Details

- **Paperback:** 320 pages ; Dimensions (in inches): 0.90 x 6.74 x 4.18
- **Publisher:** Signet Book; (October 28, 2003)
- **ISBN:** 0451210654
- **In-Print Editions:** [Hardcover](#) (Large Print) | [All Editions](#)
- **Average Customer Review:** ★★★★★ Based on 11 reviews. [Write a review.](#)
- **Amazon.com Sales Rank:** 49,805
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Editorial Reviews

From *Booklist*

Genova Smith convinces her employers, the elderly Trayce ladies, to let her bring an abandoned baby with them to a Christmas party at Rothgar Abbey, even as she does her best to get the Marquess of Ashart, the man she mistakenly believes to be the father, to accept responsibility for his actions. Ash has no intention of claiming the child, but he agrees to accompany his great aunts to the holiday fete, despite the family tragedy that has turned Ash and the Marquess of Rothgar into mortal enemies. When she is caught with Ash in a seemingly compromising situation, Genova agrees to a pretend betrothal but has no intention of giving in to her desires for the wickedly handsome Ash. While truth and forgiveness unite two long-estranged branches of a family, an intelligent, ever sensible heroine and an elegant, sinfully seductive rake spar with splendidly sexy results as RITA Award-winning Beverley, with her usual delectable wit and superb characterization, returns readers to the unforgettable world of her Malloren series. *John Charles*

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Book Description

Through no fault of her own, Genova Smith is in the precarious position of accompanying the Marquess of Ashart to a Malloren family reunion. Even more distressing, she and the infuriating rake have been caught in an unexpectedly passionate kiss, forcing her into the most dangerous situation of all: pretending to be betrothed to the one man capable of stealing her heart...

Spotlight Reviews [\(What's this?\)](#)

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5 of 7 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Another Christmas "Regency"**, November 9, 2003

Reviewer: **sasha30605** from Naples, FL

This book gave me an afternoon of pleasant reading and a fresh new story with familiar characters. I missed Rosa and Brand, but was happy for the dialogue with Portia. The style is different than the other Malloren novels, instead Winter Fire reads a lot like Beverley's Christmas Regencies such as Christmas Angel and Forbidden Magic. If you want frequent juicy sex scenes this is not the book. If you want a sweet romance that is satisfying in plot and character development (still containing a bout of sizzling sex) this is for you. I enjoyed the book and will read it again before Christmas.

Was this review helpful to you? yes no

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★☆ **Mhhh...**, October 31, 2003

Reviewer: [gallina33 \(see more about me\)](#) from Santa Fe, NM United States
Set in 1763 England, Jo Beverley's Winter Fire tells the story of Genova Smith, an impoverished companion, and the Marquess of Ashart. He is a womanizing, "tortured" nobleman, who apparently is dominated by his grandmother. His plan in this book? Destroy the Malloren's, Beverley's characters from previous books. I can't say I loved this book, but neither did I hate it. The beginning is a bit complicated, with too many things happening at once, and the author does not manage to describe the scenes well. Once I passed page 30, things started to make sense.

If you enjoy explicit sex scenes, this is not for you, there is one, almost at the end. But if light romance is what you are looking for...go ahead, and buy it.

Was this review helpful to you? yes no

All Customer Reviews

Average Customer Review: ★★★★★

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★★★☆☆ **Same old boring characters**, June 10, 2004

Reviewer: **A reader** from Menlo Park, CA United States

I like Jo Beverley -- she's only one of four romance writers that I will read...but this book's characters were the same old cutouts that she uses in so many other books and the plot just wasn't very interesting or believable. The quality of her writing falls and gets more cliched with each book. I really liked "Something Wicked," but I loved her regency romances, which were of much better quality and which I think were her best books.

Was this review helpful to you? yes no

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **Fabulous Georgian Period Malloren Family Addition**, May 15, 2004

TOP 500 Reviewer Reviewer: [Marilyn Rondeau \(see more about me\)](#) from Chicopee, MA United States

Setting - England 1763 --- In an effort to escape the home of her father and his new wife, Genova Smith found herself accompanying the elderly Trayce ladies,

Lady Calliope and Lady Thalia to Christmas revelries at Rothgar Abbey as their companion. The tedium of the journey ended abruptly as they stopped to aid another carriage on the road. Requesting assistance, the woman, identifying herself as Mrs. Dash, requested that Genova transport the woman's child and his wet nurse to the next inn to await the arrival of Mr. Dash. Mr. Dash turned out to be the dashing and devastatingly handsome Marquess of Ashart, who just happened to be the great nephew of the Ladies Calliope and Thalia. Handsome as he was, Genova was disturbed that he refused to acknowledge the child as his and seemed more intent on vexing her with some very disturbing kisses. After discovering that his Aunts were on their way to Rothgar Abbey to visit his mortal enemy and cousin, the Marquess of Rothgar, Ash agreed to accompany them the following morning.

Unfortunately, through a series of mishaps, the next morning found both both Ash and Genova in a compromising situation, which was witnessed by two other travelers. Lady Thalia quickly covered up the imminent ruin of Genova's virtuous reputation by claiming that Genova and Ash were secretly engaged. Agreeing to carrying out the façade of a loving couple for a few days before a public breakup, Genova found that there was more to the man than his purposeful attempt to destroy his mortal enemy. While playing at pretending to be in love, Genova discovered that her feelings for him had changed. Freeing him would be the right thing to do but it would leave her with a broken heart as she had fallen hard and deep in love with the dashing devil.

Although, this was Ashart's story, featured prominently as a secondary but important player in the story, was Rothgar and of course, he was as intoxicating and sexy as always. So, in effect, what the author has given us are two heroes in one amazingly wonderful story! Discovering and proving paternity of the child was secondary to the building of a peaceful pact of peace between the cousins and the dialogs and verbal duels were fabulous with all three players taking part - Ash, Genova, and Rothgar in this fully robust and skillfully plotted confrontation. Beverley is a remarkable storyteller who once more brings Georgian England to life with golden prose and emotional feeling into one more beautifully written romance. Awesome stuff from one of the stellar authors in this genre! --- Marilyn, Official Reviewer for www.historicalromancewriters.com ---

Was this review helpful to you? yes no

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful:

★★★★★ **More Mallorens! Christmas with the cousin who loathes them,**
April 18, 2004

TOP 500
Reviewer

Reviewer: [wmr-uk \(see more about me\)](#) from England

Genova Smith, spinster daughter of a naval captain, is befriended by the Ladies Trace and taken with them as their companion to spend Christmas at Rothgar Abbey, home of their great-nephew the Marquess of Rothgar. On the way, they are obliged to take a baby into their care, to be handed to its father at the next inn. The 'father' turns out to be the Maquess of Ashart, their other great-nephew, who strenuously denies all responsibility for the child. Genova doesn't believe him, however - and Ash's behaviour is very strange, given that he freely admits knowing and having been intimate with the child's mother.

Ashart, who has been in some disfavour with the king of late, suspects a plot to discredit him - and he thinks that the plot originates with Rothgar. So he takes advantage of having been caught in a compromising position with Genova to claim that they are engaged, since this gives him an excuse to accompany his great-