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## **ONCE UPON A COVE CHRISTMAS**

**a Christmas mystery, a little romance, and a touch of heaven**

***a new novel by bestselling author Maryann Ridini Spencer***

Santa Rosa Press® proudly presents the release of *Once Upon a Cove Christmas* by best-selling author Maryann Ridini Spencer (November 1, 2024, ISBN: 978-1-7362111-8-2 (Hardcover); Paperback ISBN: 978-1-7362111-9-9; Electronic Text (EPUB): 979-8-9889271-4-3). This inspiring new novel, which ranked on Amazon Kindle as #1 in Christian Mystery & Suspense Romance the week of its premiere, is the second book in the captivating Lavender Hill Cove series by Spencer, who has been recognized for her exceptional work in both fiction and nonfiction. The series' first novel, *Lavender Hill Cove*, recently won a 2024 Book Excellence Award and a 2024 International Impact Book Award for Christian Fiction.

### **Advanced Praise for *Once Upon a Cove Christmas***

“Maryann Ridini Spencer weaves a Christmas holiday tale of love, rivalry, human errors, and reconciliation set against the backdrop of the small village of Lavender Hill Cove. Romantic competitors, juvenile offenders, and village leaders come together to rise above their flaws, awakening to a deeper understanding of the essence of Christmas in their community. There is a message in her words to be cherished by her readers.”

~Father Gregory Elder, Ph.D., Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Palm Desert, CA

“Lavender Hill Cove, a New England village, is decorated in holiday splendor, and Ella Martin is captivated by the magic of this most wonderful season of the year. But everyone doesn't feel the magic or understand it. Vandals are destroying holiday scenes. But who? And why? So, the mystery begins, and as it unfolds, recently widowed Ella unexpectedly discovers she can fall in love again. *Once Upon a Cove Christmas* is a beautiful holiday story of love, redemption, and second chances. You'll tell your friends about this one!”

~Joanne Hardy, author, *The Girl in the Butternut Dress*, *Random Truths*, and *ABANDONED*

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**About *Once Upon a Cove Christmas***

a Christmas mystery, a little romance, and a touch of heaven

When a series of malicious acts of Christmas display vandalism destroy holiday cheer in the charming town of Lavender Hill Cove, Ella Martin and her detective sister, Julie, get embroiled in another who-done-it. Adding a bit of romance into the holiday mix, Ella runs into her old beau, famous musician Carter Huxley, who, after breaking things off, now wants to turn up the heat once more. However, this time, he faces competition from another prominent town member, Harrison Grant. As the two men vie for Ella's affections, Ella's new neighbor, Rosemary, a sweet but mysterious lady, helps Ella and Julie reeducate teen boys to the true meaning of how to live in the holiday spirit when they are caught in the copy-cat act of vandalizing Rosemary's Christmas nativity scene.

Books, conversation, friendship, and a little "angelic" intercession culminate in the much-anticipated Lavender Hill holiday gala coordinated by Ella and her friend and Firefly Lane Farms Catering and Events partner, Sophia Abrams, to facilitate and promote understanding, community unity, and the true meaning of Christmas.

"Christmas, a time of beauty and sacredness, especially holds a special place in my heart," said Spencer. "In writing *Once Upon a Cove Christmas*, I aimed to share a story that goes beyond the typical holiday narrative. It's a story that demonstrates how the season is not just about the festivities, gifts, or trimmings but rather a celebration of our Lord's birth and ultimate sacrifice—to pay our debt so that we may live. (*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life*, John 3:16). Through the character's actions and lives, I hope to convey how we might keep the Christmas spirit alive throughout each year."



**Visit Maryann:** <https://maryannridinispencer.com>

**Maryann's Amazon Author Page:** <https://www.amazon.com/author/maryannridinispencer>

**For interviews with Maryann, email [recprinfo@gmail.com](mailto:recprinfo@gmail.com) and put "Interview Request" in the email subject line.**

