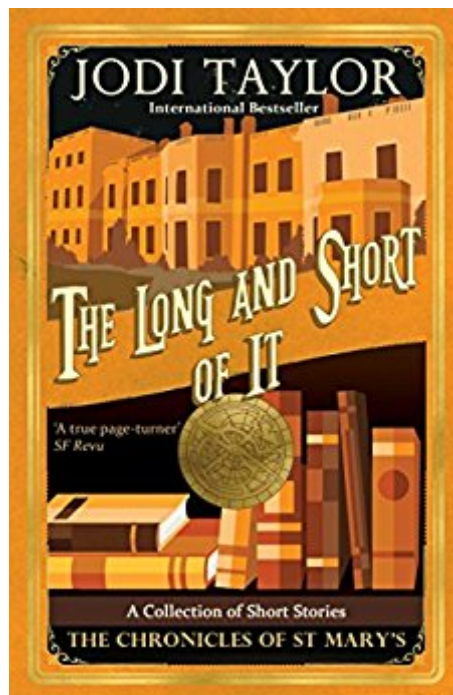




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# The Long And Short Of It: The Chronicles Of St. Mary's Book Nine



## Synopsis

Follow the disaster magnets of St Mary's as they hurtle around history! The ninth book in The Chronicles of St Mary's Series collects the bestselling short stories in print for the first time.   
When a Child is Born A jump back to 1066 to witness the coronation of William the Conqueror goes slightly astray. Roman Holiday Max and her team become spectacularly involved with Julius Caesar, Cleopatra and a basket of confused asps. Christmas Present An attempt to rescue lost historians involving an enraged pig and Boudicca herself. The Very First Damned Thing Discover the truth about the very beginning of St Mary's. Ships and Stings and Wedding Rings A gun left behind in Ancient Egypt and a race against time to prevent a catastrophe. The Great St Mary's Day Out Hooray! It's a happy holiday. For everyone except Max the only one with her mind on the job. My Name is Markham Alfred, the cakes and Mr Markham. The Great British Bake Off it's not! And a bonus a new and previously unpublished short story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I absolutely LOVE Jodi's marvelous stories, and was thrilled to find the short stories in one collection - which was clearly marked as such. It doesn't seem right to give such a gifted author fewer stars than she obviously deserves, just because some readers didn't READ that this was a compilation of

prior shorts, plus an original (which was marvelous!) Authors NEED those 5 stars, and it's rather petty to deny them! I will always give Jodi 5 stars; she DESERVES them!

I love the St. Mary's series, and snatch up each new book as soon as I realize it's available. Which is what I did with this one. Unfortunately, I should have read a little further on in the description. This book, which has listed as "book #9", is actually all the previously available short stories, which I already own, plus one new one, which if I'd waited a day or two, I could have gotten for 99¢. Still, if you haven't already devoured the short stories, get this. It's cheaper than buying them individually, and they are well worth your time!

This book fills in some storylines from the Saint Mary's series and I really enjoyed it, especially when the stories were all new to me. I think it is very UNFAIR for previous reviewers to give it a low rating only because they had already read these short stories, and the description of this book said they were, all but one, previously published. Love all Jodi Taylor books, also the thoroughly enjoyable A Bachelor Establishment by "Isabella (Bitchface) Barclay". Would love to read more along that line, and of course, more from the Saint Mary's gang, who I am missing.

My 5 stars are primarily for the last short, which takes place after the end of the 8th novel, "And the Rest Is History". It neatly capstones that superb novel--but stands all by itself, believe me--and is the file-sharing fun we've come to expect from author Taylor and her creations. And the wonderful tiny bit at the end...I believe some of those fetid vapours have got in my eyes. I am not crying and smiling with delight! All the shorts are good reading (and I have rated their ebook versions), but the final is a real treat for we who have devoured and loved the entire series. We do want more though, dear Ms Taylor, please!

I haven't enjoyed a body of work so much in years... and I've read a LOT of books, articles and short stories in many different genres in my life. Jodi Taylor brings her quirky characters to life through impossible situations, heart breaking tragedies and eye tearing hilarity. How she does that so well is her very special gift. I sincerely hope she finds her "lost" work and continues unfolding the depths of St. Mary and her inhabitants.

I always start out by saying, I'm the biggest St. Mary's fan there is, and that's still true, but even I have to admit that Ms. Taylor could do better. First, though, I don't understand many of the other

reviewers' complaints, as the blurb in the ad for this book clearly says that it's an anthology of her previously published short stories, with only one "new" story. So, I don't think criticisms of redundancy are at all fair. It IS fair, though, to say that many of us (me included) bought the entire book for that one new short story, and that the short story in question is rather blah. As the only new part of this book, she should have made more of an effort. Or, she should have added two or three new 'blah' stories, if that's the best she could do. It is VERY fair to say that when I found out that the new short story here will be released as a single in a few months, presumably cheaper than, I was a little perturbed; that should have been announced at the beginning. The harsh reality here seems to be that Ms. Taylor has written a popular series of humorous adventure books, but has now (with this book and the prior, very dark "And the Rest is History") peaked in her writing trajectory and is headed downhill. I am quite dismayed by this and hope I'm wrong; after all, it would be very easy to fix!! Why not write about Max and some of the newer characters (the trainees, Lisa, etc)? She could devote a whole book to fixing, and having fun adventures with, Guthrie and Grey, and Dieter and Kal, and so on. There is no real need to moving Max's life & career along; just stop and have adventures in the present. Let other characters advance while Max pauses. Or, release a new book set between two past ones. I'm sure many fans share my frustrations and would love to see things like this. Trying to end on a positive note, I would point out that, if you remove the slapstick and boilerplate from the new story, there is a clever and provocative gem hidden in the haystack: Calvin Cutter asks, why is knowing and telling the details of history (that is, the whole reason for St. Marys' existence) really important? The careful reader will note that this question recurs throughout all the books, and (from Mrs. Partridge on down) is never really answered.

I love this series so much and the characters are wonderful. This particular book had some shockingly sad parts...I really wish some of those things had not happened to these characters whom I love!. I am not spoiling any plot line.. but that was sooo sad. It was a terrific book though as always, and I cant wait until the next one.. and I am hopeful that a few of these unfortunate twists will be resolved. I recommend this series to everyone. It is a gem. Bravo.

I love all the books that go with the series but..... I wouldn't have bought this book if I had realized that it was mostly all the short stories that I've already paid for and read. The one new story is fresh and good but not worth buying this book just for that. They really should not repackage old stories and resell again for a new price: feels like we got the short of it.

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