

*Moonlight  
And  
Mistletoe*

*A Story of  
Romance, Love and Faith*

*Written By Rev.  
John Marinelli*

# Copyright

Moonlight And Mistletoe is protected under US Copyright laws. Any reproduction or other use is prohibited without the written permission of the author.

Copyright: Ocala Fl. By John Marinelli 1/19/2020.  
[johnmarinelli@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnmarinelli@embarqmail.com)

All rights reserved

ISBN: 9781087868974.

# Table of Constance

Copyright.....	2
Preface .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Chapter One.....Moonlight Madness.....	7
Chapter Two.....The Mistletoe Waltz.....	15
Chapter Three.....Lovers On Parade .....	22
Chapter Four.....Wine, Women And UT-OH.....	29
Chapter Five.....Blur By Design .....	37
Chapter Six.....Love Songs That Never Die .....	46
Chapter Seven.....Tomorrow & Beyond .....	56
Chapter Eight.....The Wedding Party.....	62
Chapter Nine.....Times And Seasons .....	69
Chapter Ten.....As Time Goes By .....	77
Conclusion.....	85
About The Author.....	87
Gallery of Poems .....	89

# Preface

Moonlight and Mistletoe is about two married couples, one couple that lived in the 1800s and another in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Although they lived at different times in history, they both lived in the same town and in the same farmhouse.

They were from different worlds, with different lifestyles and different values. The modern couple somehow found themselves wishing they could be more like the couple from the past.

Both couples are joined together by a family journal, an actual record of the lives and times of the couple from the past.

The aim of this book is to call attention to the power of God to direct one's destiny into a majestic flow of God's grace.

The storyline is the blending process that transforms two hearts and reshapes their desires into one divine expression of God's love.

# Introduction

Our story begins with moonlight shining through the trees onto the porch of a little farmhouse in central Indiana. The year is 2020. Jim and Mary Travis are sitting on the porch swing and reading a family journal that dates back to the 1800s.

The journal is a record of the lives and times of Mike and Laura Travis, Jim's great great grandparents. Mary is reading as Jim listens to the story unfold.

William, Mike and Laura's only child, wrote the journal after their passing 1945. It was a keepsake to be passed down from generation to generation. It's now in the hands of Jim Travis, the only living grandson.

The journal record covers a time period from the Civil War through 1930. It was written as a tribute to their lives and as a testimony to their Christian values.

The story in the journal begins when Mike and Laura are in their seventies. The year is 1930. They are looking back over the years and remembering how they met. It was a very romantic time and full of laughter over the silly things they both did while courting and being together.

*Mary Reads*  
*The Journal's Introduction*

My name is William P. Travis. I will be narrating this story. My knowledge is extensive as I am the only child of Mike and Laura Travis.

My parents could not have thought, not even in a million years, how they would ever stay together so long. They would always say, "If it hadn't been for the grace of God." Then they would laugh and hold one another close, giving thanks to God for helping them through the last 50 years.

My father would jokingly blame all the things that went wrong on the moonlight. He swore that the light from the full moon made him act so silly.

My mother, on the other hand, blamed the mistletoe that hung in the doorway every Christmas. She said it had a special romantic power that pulled her to my dad and kept her frazzled.

# Chapter One

## Moonlight Madness

Jim interrupting Mary, “I have a question. What is it about moonlight that causes folks to believe in superstitions?”

Mary answers saying, “I was doing some research for a college paper last week and came across a book that talked about moonlight.

According to the 1944 Farmer’s Almanac a person can have good luck during a full moon but not always. Bad luck is also a possibility. Here’s what the Almanac says:

### *A Full Moon Means Good Luck*

- It is lucky to expose your newborn to the waxing Moon. It will give the baby strength.
- And it’s also lucky to move into a new house during the new Moon; prosperity will increase as the Moon waxes.
- It is lucky to see the first sliver of a new Moon “clear of the brush,” or unencumbered by foliage.
- Ever wonder why people keep rabbit feet? It is lucky ... especially if the rabbit was killed in a cemetery by a cross-eyed person at the dark of the Moon.
- It is lucky to hold a moonstone in your mouth at the full Moon; it will reveal the future.
- It is lucky to have a full Moon on the “Moon day” (Monday).

## *The Moon Can Also Bring Bad Luck,*

- It is unlucky to have a full Moon on Sunday.
- It is unlucky to see the first sliver of a new Moon through a window; you'll break a dish.
- And it's certainly unlucky to sleep in the moonlight, or worse, be born in the moonlight!
- It is unlucky to point at the new Moon or view any Moon over your shoulder.
- It is unlucky to see "the old Moon in the arms of the new" or the faint image of the full disk while the new crescent Moon is illuminated, especially if you're a sailor. Storms are predicted.

Folklore has it that childbirth and even marriage are influenced by the Moon.

As the Moon regulates water, it's an age-old belief that it also regulates the rise and fall of our emotional tides.

According to some lore, the full Moon is an ideal time to accept a proposal of marriage as love is amplified. This certainly does not mean that marriages that do not happen on Full Moon nights are not successful – although it could be less than auspicious to get married when there's no Moon in the sky at all.

Further, the Full Moon is the best time to consummate marriage, according to the ancient Greeks, while the New Moon is the best time to drain out stale energy and belief systems.



The New Moon phase is also the one best for breaking up.

According to folklore, if a young woman sees a dove and glimpses the new Moon at the same instant, she should say: “Bright Moon, clear Moon, Bright and fair, Lift up your right foot, There’ll be a hair.” When she removes her shoe, she’ll find a hair the color of her future husband’s.” (Source: 1944 Farmer’s Almaniac)

## *Moonlight And Crazy*

Mary continues her answer to Jim’s question about moonlight madness. “Surely you have heard of a “Lunatic.” You know, the crazy guy that is not all there. Luna means moon, a lunatic is one who has lost touch with reality and it is the moon’s fault. Some would say that a lunatic is a moon-sick puppy.

However, being in the moonlight with your spouse or special someone is not crazy. Mike and Laura must have known this first hand.

According to the journal, they made it a habit to take a stroll two or three times a week in the light of the moon. It brought them closer together emotionally and kept their arguments down to a minimum. Moonlight madness was just what the doctor ordered.

Let’s get back to reading the journal.”

Laura laughed when Mike blamed the moon for his shortcomings. She said, “You mean to tell me that your wild lifestyle and imature actions were a result of too much moonlight?”

Mike shrugged his shoulders and smiled saying, “Well yea! I was under a spell. I was moonstruck. Ever since the

first time we held hands, I fell into a lovesick stupor. You were so gorgeous that I could not control my actions.”

Laura laughed again and said, “You’re Crazy” Mike replied, “See, it’s the moonlight”

Laura couldn’t leave it with Mike getting the last word so she began to formulate a “way back then” list of Mike’s values. She wanted Mike to see himself then and now. He had changed a lot yet was still that crazy lovable guy.

She began with: “You used to say that there was no God. That wasn’t the moonlight. It was your own belief that faded away over the years.”

Mike agreed saying, “You are right. I started to believe in God when I saw His love flowing out of your spirit to me. I couldn’t deny it. It was patient, kind, loving and full of forgiveness. It made me love you all the more and helped me to be a better person. I never knew God’s love until you came into my life.”

Laura was taken back by what Mike said. She was overjoyed and yet had no reply. There was complete silence for about a minute as Laura and Mike just looked at each other. Then Laura spoke saying, “It wasn’t all God’s love, you know? I was there too, loving you with all my heart. See, it took two of us to bring you to the truth.”

So Laura and Mike went down memory lane together talking about the good life they shared with each other over the years. The moon rose up in the evening sky and disappeared behind a cloud. A cool breeze began to blow causing a chill in the air. It was time to call it a night and retire to the living room to sit by the fire.

## *Mike's Confession*

Mike extended his hand to Laura and led her to the living room but did not sit down. He said, "There are some things I need to say before we get too far from memory lane."

Laura lovingly smiled and said, "OK"

Mike wanted Laura to know his heart, how he really felt inside. There had been many arguments over trivial things and sometimes even hard words were exchanged. Mike found it difficult expressing his inner most feelings but this night he knew he had to try.

He cleared his throat and began to speak saying, "I know that I was far from being a good husband when we were first married. My thinking was all messed up. I was a very liberal stinker. I was against most everything that was traditional and moral. How you ever put up with me, I'll never know."

"We argued a lot back then. I always admired you for standing up for what you believed. You were passionate about your values and pushed back when I threatened them with my immoral suggestions, like the time I wanted us to live together without being married or the time I wanted to steal a cow from our neighbor."

## *Laura's Godly Stand*

"You told me, in no uncertain terms, that it was your way or the highway...that you were not going against God to be with me. He always came first."

"You made me think about what I was saying and doing. I was forced to choose between you and my beliefs. The thing is, my core beliefs were based upon other folks expectations."

“I am so glad that I chose you and realized that God was not so bad after all. He’s the good guy and worthy of my faith and trust. I turned my life around because I wanted what I saw in you. I saw Jesus and it changed me from the inside out.”

“Every time I hold your hand or kiss your lips or become close in any way, I feel joy and peace and love. It’s a wonderful thing and it’s because you stood up and didn’t let my foolish heart rule over you.”

“I love everything about you and am pleased to have spent these almost 50-years together.”

Laura was speechless. She heard words come from Mike that had never been spoken until that night. She could see his love for her beaming all around the room. It was like a bright glow emanating from his personality. Tears came to her eyes and she hugged him and they kissed.

Then Laura said, “See, it wasn’t moonlight madness that kept you in the darkness. It was the work of evil spirits that wanted your eternal soul to be damned with them in the day of God’s judgment.”

“The moonlight does not make you crazy. It instead makes you happy that you are alive and loved. That’s why we spend so much time in the light of a silvery moon or in the glow of the harvest moon. It truly is a place for lovers to enjoy each other and to be romantic.”

Mike agreed with Laura and they settled on the sofa continuing to talk. After all the deep emotional moments Mike changed the subject saying, “I hope William can get time off to be with us at our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary party. He, and the grandkids will be shocked when we tell them we are planning to sell the farm and move away to a warmer climate.”

“Moving will require a lot of sacrifice and some major

adjusting but it will allow us to enjoy our twilight years. You're still a good-looking woman and when I lose weight, I'll be gorgeous too."

"Just think about it? Moving will put us in touch with lots of other retirees that have also moved from their homes all around the country. We will rub shoulders with New Yorkers, Canadians, Midwesterners, and even New Englanders."

"That's going to be strange. Lots of different accents and ways of life mixed together in a retirement community way down south. I don't know if I will like that, now that I think about it. What do you think, Laura?"

Laura took a few moments to think about what Mike said and then replied, "I think it will be great. We will get to see how the rest of the country lived over the same years that we spent on this farm. It will be a fun time to share stories and romantic interludes."

Mike agreed and they moved on to other topics. He looks at the fireplace and said, "How about if I make a fire and you do the hot tea thing. Then we can cuddle by the firelight with a blanket? It's getting colder out."

"The season is changing again. I can't keep up with them anymore. I just get settled in summer and it turns into fall, then winter and spring and back to summer again. I am going to enjoy not having seasons to worry about. I hear it is always sunny and warm down south."

Laura laughed and said, "I hear that it gets cold there too just not as severe. All in all, we'll have a great time meeting new folks, sharing old stories from our past and drinking iced tea."

Mike started to think more about moving and was overwhelmed. He looks at Laura and says, "What do we do with all this stuff? We will have to have a huge sale and

we'll have to sell our wagons and horses and livestock and what about the dogs?"

Laura feels Mike's panic and tries to calm him down saying, "Wait a moment. We don't have to do this today or even tomorrow. It is going to take a while for us to get it all together. Don't freak out on me now."

Mike calmed down and they resume their cuddling by the fireplace.

