



Beaux, Ballrooms, and Battles: A Celebration of Waterloo

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For Readers who enjoy a bit of history with their Romance...

A historic confrontation

Beaux, Ballrooms, and Battles is a celebration of the bicentenary of the showdown between Wellington's "Infamous Army" and Napoleon's Grande Armée. Wellington's Allied Army consisted of a hastily organized mélange of inexperienced men from several countries who didn't even speak the same language.

A backdrop of war

While life in Regency England continued much as it had been, the war with Napoleon was a constant source of preoccupation as young men who eagerly set off to become heroes in battle sometimes returned with life-changing injuries or worse, didn't return at all.

Nine stories of love tested by the trials of war

A collection of sweet Regency stories of courage, hope, and the miracle of love surviving in uncertain times, brought to you by nine distinguished historical romance authors.

Beaux, Ballrooms, and Battles: A Celebration of Waterloo Details

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Author : Jillian Chantal , Tea Cooper , Susana Ellis , Aileen Fish , Victoria Hinshaw , Christa Paige , Sophia Strathmore , David W. Wilkin , more... Heather King ...less

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From Reader Review Beaux, Ballrooms, and Battles: A Celebration of Waterloo for online ebook

Nicky Penttila says

Nine stories of romance highlighting Waterloo, in sweet Regency style. I liked best Folie Bleue by Victoria Hinshaw, which features an older lady's telling her story of lasting love that started in Brussels. Not a Close Run Thing at All by David W. Wilkin also uses reminiscence to good effect, while Copenhagen's Last Charge by Heather King uses humor to leaven the horrors of war.

Emy says

3.5 - good stories, but some dire copyediting let it down. One particularly glaring example was a description of Wellington as "indistinguishable" when context indicated that it meant he was *unmistakable*!

April says

Simply, WOW! An awesome collection of nine Historical stories by nine very impressive authors. This collection is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars. Each story has a tale of war, loss, grief, torment, passion, romance and the love that saved them.

Set during the turmoil of war. These characters fight for more than their country, King, and a way of life, they must fight for their future, they have to learn to leave the past where it belongs, in the past, to move toward their future. Angst and love aside, this is an amazing collection of nine uniquely written tales. Each author adds their own writing style to the collection.

A very delectable, passionate and very satisfying collection. Fans of Historical Romance will find an absolutely amazing series of stories. Another must read Historical collection! A wonderful way to find new authors! I thoroughly enjoyed this collection. Another collection for my library! An awesome job, ladies! I, myself, look forward to your next grand adventure, rather as a group or individually. I look forward to reading more of your tales.

* Personal buy *

Rating : 4.5

Heat rating : Mild

Reviewed by : AprilR

Georgia hillstrom says

I was so surprise that I received this book through a goodreads first read giveaway. Susana Ellis signed the book sent it to me with several other goodies. Gosh was I happy, made my day. I had an accident tore my

achilles tendon. So my otherwise not so good day was made better. I started at the beginning of the book then skipped around stories. Gosh once I started one I could not quit until I had finished the story. The Lost And Found Lady is a lovely story of good intentions gone wrong. Remarkable how Catalina over came the hardships in her life to her father finding her and ultimately ending up with the love of her life. I really liked Copenhagen's Last Charge also. The details of this time

period how clothes, dancing, the Ton were upmost in the wealthy families. I was impressed with the accuracy of detail of the battles. Even though fictional names, characters were similar to actual people who fought that war. I have read so much on that era, this was a different genre regarding Waterloo. The character in every story seemed so personal. This collection is just a light, a little tragic, with humor and of course love. Was so nice to read a historical romance with "just" kissing, and hints. I sure I will re read this book as it was comforting to read about happy endings.

Crystal Cox says

This is a delightful collection of clean traditional historical romance stories set around the battle of Waterloo

Jeremiah's Charge ~ Jillian Chantal - Sweet story with very good writing but the heroine was not my flavor , I like a little more sass .

The Caper Merchant ~ Tea Cooper - I really enjoyed the chemistry between Pandora and Samuel.

Lost And Found Lady ~ Susana Ellis - This one really packed a punch for a short story not just love with the H/HH but also the love of a parent.

Captain Lumley's Angel ~ Aileen Fish - A wonderful story of war,loss,pride and love winning in the end.

Folie Bleue ~ Victoria Hinshaw - I just adored this story. It was like you found an old diary that had been forgotten under the dust of days gone by.

Copenhagen's Last Charge ~ Heather King -A great story filled with humor and I really loved the banter between Meg and James.

One Last Kiss ~ Christa Paige - I really enjoyed reading this story of the sweet but strong Beatrice and the ohh so tempting Colin.

A Soldier Lay Dying ~ Sophia Strathmore - A story about a hero who would protect those he cares about even in his death but will it take death to do so ?

Not A Close Run Thing At All ~ David W. Wilkin - A story about lost love and a second chance. I had a hard time with the writing style but I'm sure many others would find it enjoyable.

I would recommend this set of stories to anyone looking for light,sweet, and clean historical romances I took a break in between each story because I read a lot of books at once :)

Selene Grace Silver says

A balanced and consistent collection of sweet historical romances occurring in the days before and after Waterloo. I enjoyed all (except maybe one of the stories--so 8 good experiences out of 9, not bad).

Consistently, professionally written and edited. Best suited for readers who like their romances historically accurate and on the sweet side--I don't remember any of the stories describing more than chaste kissing, frankly. Since the setting of all the stories is during the Battle of Waterloo, the youthful, innocent nature of

the relationships work successfully as a contrast against the horror of war. Nota bene: I'm friends with one of the writers (Susana Ellis) and her story was my favorite in the collection, not surprisingly, but I also really enjoyed several of the others. For 99 cents, I think this collection is a good deal. Another review posted suggests the historical inaccuracy of the Australian soldier, but if you check out that author's historical discovery on Susana's blog, you'll see that there was evidence that an Australian did serve on the British side during the war.

The Just-About-Cocky Ms M says

Fifty Shades of Waterloo

The danger of publishing to celebrate a watershed event is that the results often arrive in too much of a hurry. Most people in the Western World have been aware of the 2015 bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo for quite some time, but perhaps the authors of the nine stories in this anthology billed as a "Celebration of Waterloo" either lost track of the time or decided at the penultimate moment that putting out an anthology would be A Great Idea. Obviously, quite a few readers thought it truly was, judging from their enthusiastic reviews. But I must respectfully dissent. I know... there is always one in every crowd.

I'm not a fan of romance novels and stories, finding the required formula too confining and the outcome absolutely guaranteed in advance. Despite this reservation, I wanted to sample something from The Other Side of Waterloo, since I'm an avowed Francophile, and we didn't do well that day. So all nine stories feature ladies of various ages and social stations with gentlemen, usually officers, meeting, dancing, loving, leaving, and returning. All nine supposedly pay homage to the Regency era, a formal, precise, mannered, and largely artificial social goldfish bowl made popular by Jane Austen and duplicated, more or less, in these stories. Yet what I found, unfortunately, was a complete lack of understanding of the social habits and customs of the period. I also found that those stories that ventured into the arena of warfare, either in the Peninsula or at Waterloo itself, had no more understanding of the subject than a housecat gets quantum physics. What bothers me in this regard is how unnecessary such whopping mistakes need to be, not when there are so very many web sites dedicated to every imaginable aspect of Living Large in the Regency period, and fighting to defend England, when that was required.

Almost without exception, these stories made the same mistakes, leaving me the impression that I was reading about a bunch of 21st-century folks in fancy dress trying to be polite. I nearly tossed my Kindle across the room when several female characters say, "Please, call me [inset first name here]." And for Wellington to call the Duchess of Richmond's daughter "Georgy!" Not done, No one paid any attention to proper English, either; all but one of the stories was littered with anachronisms that minimum editing would have noticed and removed. The list seemed endless, but here are a few of the worst: just take a second; thinking he might be delusional; weighed his options; holed up; cover for her, turning the corner; tangled with; very upscale neighborhood; headed this way as we speak; had no clue. There is no excuse for this. None.

I always pay attention to the use of French because it is either butchered or used when it shouldn't be. One story, in particular, suffered from not only unnecessary French but also ridiculous Spanish. No character speaking to another character in French should ever speak such awful lines as these: "La tempéte, it is not a threat;" "if we leave immédiatement;" "it was miraculeux that you saved me;" "We met and we have had three merveilleux months together." And just so folks know, Angelique and Fleur were not proper first names for French women, even of the lower classes—more appropriate for prostitutes in mid-19th century Paris. Nuns

would never give a female orphan given to their care Étoile. French nuns were practical, not fanciful--they would have given her a saint's name, usually two for good measure. A vicomte's daughter would not be called Justine, nor would she be Justine Marie Beaudreau, unless she is from Bayou Lafourche by way of Quebec. Spanish fared no better, although its appearance was mercifully brief. Finally, one story doesn't even bother with real French. Instead, the villain, a French dancing master, actually said, "Please, monsieur, not ze bullet." All that was missing were the twirling mustaches.

Very well, everyone, who thinks Audra, Pandora, Emmaline, and Amelia are typical Regency names? Didn't think so. I won't dwell on the clothing, but most of it is Not-Regency, either in style or materials. No organdies, no sateens, no ermine stoles or lace stoles worn over one's hair. No young lady, the same one with the 1889 lace stole over her hair, tells her maid to "take the night off" because she's going to a ball. I also noticed a number of Not-Regency behavior by several of the heroines, ranging from the ridiculous to the implausible. Widows generally didn't sing and play cards a month after their bereavement; young ladies, no matter how feisty, would ride astride through the streets of Brussels; a young lady would not traipse downstairs in her robe—more properly, dressing gown—to receive anyone, least of all the man she loves; and no young lady is going to tell a handsome officer to call her by her Christian name and then kiss him, in public. Nor would a young man announce his "engagement" in public, without having spoken to the young lady's father first, and then the father would announce it himself in time. I am amazed at how very modern eight of these stories are, and how very unaware the authors are of anything about the social customs, language, and manners, of a very iconic period that everyone and her Aunt Jane seems to be writing about.

Then there is the history and related issues. Some of the stories make more use of the historical aspects before and during Waterloo than others, and some make the battle a part of the story. I would have preferred both were ignored entirely, with a concentration on the Duchess of Richmond's ball. Or not, since a couple of stories were obviously unaware of any details of this most iconic and written-about social occasions. So much was completely wrong, from military chain of command, to uniforms and artillery and horses and saddles and wounds and their treatment. Quite a lot to choose from here, but I'll share only a few: "...when the French began to unload their canon with powerful volleys." Cannons, please, unless you are referring to church law. Artillery fires barrages; muskets fire volleys. Artillery is not unloaded. "...the tin smocks of the cuirassiers," and "cannon ball of steel." Cuirassiers wore breastplates, not smocks, and they were of steel, not tin. Cannon balls were iron, not steel. Wounded soldiers were carried off the battlefield on makeshift stretchers, not gurneys, a 1921 invention. There is no such thing as a "base camp," and no lieutenant-colonel ever commands a senior field marshal. Orders and military correspondence was written on paper, not vellum, which is calfskin, thin or otherwise.

No civilian, especially a woman, would be traipsing through the countryside less than a mile from the huge battle at Salamanca/Arapiles and remain untouched. A great deal is made of rockets, but the author fails to note the crucial difference between the Royal Horse Artillery, which used the rockets, and the Royal Artillery, that didn't, as well as thinking the standard artillery for the unit were "age guns" when they were three-pounders. A character mentions two famous British agents, calling them "Scoval and Colquohon," when their names were really George Scovell and Colquohon Grant. And if someone is a spy or agent, it is not common knowledge—"...the role I have played in the war is common knowledge. A spy, a courier, a messenger..." The heroes in these stories who are wounded, one in particular, seem to moan and complain and carry on about what amounts to flesh wounds, or, at least, that is how they are described, rather sketchily, I must add. With that much malingering, it's a wonder Wellington managed to prevail at Waterloo. By the way, Wellington was not referred to as the Iron Duke until some twenty years later than Waterloo. And finally, there is the amazing trip of one of the young ladies and her entourage from Brussels to Antwerp and then to the Midlands, all in a day. The mind boggles.

It is not for me to criticize the tropes and conventions and hallowed usages of romance novels because I won't knowingly read them. However, if I were a fan of this genre, I would certainly be looking for something, anything, more imaginative and less clichéd—and painful—than these jewels: "Leaf-green orbs;" "he veiled those fathoms-deep pools with his lashes;" "manly chest;" "the rough timbre of his accents were lowered, provoking;" "His lips quirked;" "His eyebrow quirked." As for the females, they all have knots in their throats, all sorts of things roil around in their stomachs, they melt into their heroes' arms, or every bone in their bodies melted. And they blush. A lot. All the time. Surely you all would prefer something different?

I noticed that several people reviewed the stories individually and remarked that they either didn't like the last story or found it hard to read. From my viewpoint, which is clearly different, it was the only story in the collection that was well-written, true to the era in terms of believable characters, language, and social conduct, and it is historically accurate. It didn't feature eyelashes and blushes and broad shoulders.

As always, reviews are a matter of the reader's opinion. I've expressed mine with, I think, enough concrete examples to show you why I didn't much like this anthology. But hey, my reasons for not caring for this book may be the very ones that will make you like it very much.
