



A Grosvenor Square Christmas

Anna Campbell , Shana Galen , Vanessa Kelly , Kate Noble

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Enchantment touches a tall gray house in Grosvenor Square. The legend of Lady Winterson's Christmas ball promises true love and happiness to one lucky couple. Four short tales.

1 *1803 - The Seduction of a Duchess by Shana Galen*

Rowena Harcourt, Duchess of Valère, never forgot the handsome footman who helped her escape the French Revolution. For fourteen years, Gabriel Lamarque has loved Rowena. Now at Lady Winterson's Christmas ball, has fate finally given him a chance to win her hand?

2 *1818 - One Kiss for Christmas by Vanessa Kelly*

Nigel Dash is London's most reliable gentleman, a reputation he never minded until he fell in love with beautiful Amelia Easton. Amelia sees Nigel as a dependable friend, not a dashing suitor. At Lady Winterson's Christmas ball, Nigel vows to change Amelia's mind by sweeping her off her feet.

3 *1825 - His Christmas Cinderella by Anna Campbell*

At the season's most glittering ball, a girl who has never dared to dream of forever after discovers a Christmas miracle.

4 *1830 - The Last First Kiss by Kate Noble*

Susannah Westforth always loved Sebastian Beckett, but he only sees her as a friend. When Sebastian takes his Grand Tour, Susannah transforms herself into a woman he must notice. Now Sebastian is back, just in time for Lady Winterson's Christmas ball and to see his little Susie, all grown up.

A Grosvenor Square Christmas Details

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From Reader Review A Grosvenor Square Christmas for online ebook

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This was such an exciting free book deal on Amazon Kindle. I am an admitted huge fan of Anna Campbell, so I ran to get it when she said it was free in her newsletter. What a pleasant surprise that I enjoyed all the stories more or less equally. One caveat, if you don't care for very short romance stories at all, give this one a miss.

The premise was quite pleasing. This collection of stories revolve around the concept of a ball held by a particular doyenne of the ton known for throwing a Christmas ball where a particular couple finds their true love match. You would think the stories would be samey with this idea. In fact, quite the contrary. Each story had a different feel. In fact, you could go down the list and suggest themes for historical romance and this short collection more or less covers the gamut.

I liked the fact that an older heroine finds a second chance at love in Shana Galen's story. The inclusion of a Scarlet Pimpernel-type hero who rescued her and her son from the bloodthirsty French revolution and the fact that that same man has been in love with her for many years made this a delightfully romantic story. I didn't think I would enjoy having a heroine with grown sons as the main character, but it didn't bother me at all. I liked it, in fact.

Anna Campbell's story was the most passionate. I am not much of a fan of forbidden lovers, but she makes the desperate, illicit passion work in this story. Plus the hero is delightfully Scottish. The heroine is of the Cinderella variety, so you have to be in the mood for a downtrodden heroine. However, the romantic in me loves how the hero makes her long-cherished wish come true at the end.

Vanessa Kelly has a nice guy hero who is sorely lacking in historical romance. Thanks to her for that. While I love bad boy, dangerous heroes, I also love sweet, kind heroes and I like the idea that the hero can be that really adorable guy that always has a kind word for a wallflower and is a really good friend. This story hit my 'aww' button.

Readers who like friends to lovers stories will enjoy Kate Noble's offering. Our hero realizes that he took his next door neighbor and boon companion for granted when he returns to find her a diamond of the first water who has no time for him, despite her tomboy past. I liked the turnabout is fair play aspect of this story. It also reminded me of movies like Sabrina, where the hero realizes that his heroine has been there waiting for him all the time when he is about to lose her.

All in all, a very enjoyable, and quick read that this reader enjoyed when she collapsed exhausted on her bed on Christmas evening. I am so grateful that this was a free Christmas present on Amazon. Thumbs up!

Maria says

This novella is included in the anthology A Grosvenor Square Christmas. If you would like to know my thoughts on it and on the other stories of the collection, just click on the link below.

My review of "A Grosvenor Square Christmas"

Rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars.

Merged review:

Four short stories, all of them set in the Regency era, and all of them with a main character that somehow links these novellas to each other. Lady Winterson lives at No. 3 Grosvenor Square in London and every year during Christmastime she invites the *ton* to her spectacular ball, where they say the magic of Christmas lets true love blossom. Is that true or is that just a way to show the charm and wealth of the Countess of Winterson?

The Seduction of a Duchess - Shana Galen (2.5 stars)

This was quite good until the author started to describe the protagonists' thoughts about each other. I did not feel comfortable reading them and thought they were too lascivious. That was a shame because the plot (a second chance at love for a widowed duchess) was not a bad idea. This novella is part of the "The Sons of the Revolution" series but I am afraid I will not read the other books.

One Kiss for Christmas - Vanessa Kelly (3.5 stars)

Sweet novella about a man that cannot declare his feelings for the woman he loves because he fears her rejection. Nigel Dash was a very amiable hero and I loved what he did to please her beloved Amelia. It was lovely to see how the girl's feelings changed throughout the story thanks to the unexpected charm Nigel did not know to possess. Book number 4.5 in the "Stantons" series.

His Christmas Cinderella - Anna Campbell (2 stars)

Like the first novella, this one had a good premise. A poor girl that falls in love with a rich man and hopes to become his wife, though her life does not even allow her to dream. Sadly, I lost interest in it after a few paragraphs because of the detailed description of an intimate scene between the protagonists. I thought it was totally unnecessary to turn a shy Cinderella type of girl into a mistress. If you prefer clean stories, do not pick this one up.

The Last First Kiss - Kate Noble (3.5 stars)

Ms. Noble's story was very cute. It is probably a cliché plot (a girl and a guy grow up together and while the girl is deeply in love with him, the guy needs something more to open his eyes and see her hidden beauty), but I found it amusing and quite good.

Conclusion: I did not like this collection of short stories as much as I expected. Probably because I thought it was a clean book and instead I found out that there were some descriptions (in the first and third novellas only) that I did not enjoy reading. I was not that comfortable reading all those details. I guess it depends on the fact that I tend to prefer sweet books instead of spicy ones. It was a shame, though, because I love Regency England and I so wanted to give this one a higher rating!

Ally says

Let the holidays begin! I'm off to find some of my own mistletoe

Look, if I'm a Jew surrounded by all things Christmas (yep, married to a Gentile), I'm gonna do everything I can to embrace the celebration and family oriented parts of the season. Gotta get myself in the mood to get my Santa on. First step, a Holiday Challenge with the Historical Romance Book Club: <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

Shana Galen: The Seduction of a Duchess:

Super cute. Super short. In fact, too short. As in we don't even get to see if indeed the MCs start a courtin'. I need more.

Vanessa Kelly: One Kiss for Christmas:

Another super cute. This time good old Nigel has been pining for this year's diamond of the first water but he doubts his worthiness. You are worthy, old boy! Make your move.

Go for it! And he does. This story got a soft four star from me. I need to read more Vanessa Kelly.

Anna Campbell: His Christmas Cinderella:

This one took a bit to grow on me. Started out with a bam and I wasn't sold on the hero. What was going on here? Then the heroine made a self-sacrificing move and was rescued by a fairy god-mommie and great things happened. This was way more moving than what I expected. Hard four stars.

Kate Noble: The Last First Kiss

Save the best for last! This story not only gave us the love between two MCs who had grown up together but tied all the stories together. When the MCs meet again after a three year absence and the heroine has grown into a beautiful woman, the hero continues to treat her like the teen she was when he left. Well, she ain't having none of that and the hero finally realizes he wants her as a woman, not as the buddy he thought he would come home to. It's all stars and hearts from there on out!

Signed,

Super happy reader filled with holiday goodness.

LaFleurBleue says

That was my first "seasonal reading" to prepare for Christmas and the cold weather ahead. Not that obvious, even if it is the middle of the cool season here. Indeed the coolest temperature I ever saw on the thermometer was just a few days ago with a balmy 25.6C (78F), not exactly what we're used to for Christmas in Europe, or most of North America either.

Except for the mentioning of snow, mistletoe and holiday spirit, this book was a miss. I was also looking forward to reading it to discover recent successful authors that I had never tried before, except for Vanessa Kelly, which I had tried once and not found fantastic.

At least that was the one good thing about this anthology, it will help me save both money, time and hair not buying and reading full length novels from authors that I most probably would not appreciate.

All 4 novellas were too short with around 30 pages each - no character development, no secondary characters were achieved. One characteristic those novellas also shared was the absence of historic realism and my complete inability to buy any of the stories.

Two things I positively hated: 1. the heroine of novella 3 was called Champion. Even Barbara Cartland would not have dared give such a ridiculous first name and especially to a female character. I thought it was her family name for a long while. 2. The last novella had a style which irritated me to no end, with an accumulation of parenthesis filled in with a repetition of the previous words (with a repetition of the previous words). Irritating isn't it (irritating). Yeah, worse in my opinion than an overflow of !

Sue Gerhardt Griffiths says

The magic of Christmas is well and truly alive in these four Christmas stories. Loved this anthology, each story was adorable and witty and the fourth book has a fabulous ending concerning the loveable butler who featured throughout all four books.

Definitely recommend this anthology over the festive season.

Aoi says

I was a bit too impatient to wait for the holidays, this anthology does bring in the holiday mood.

1803 - The Seduction of a Duchess by Shana Galen : 4 stars

An unusual romance- both in terms of age and social classes. It was a wonderful story, though I confess to wanting to more about the hero's past.

1818 - One Kiss for Christmas by Vanessa Kelly: 1 star

DNF. It's all well and good to have a "just dependable" hero. But it's a little putting-off when the hero calls himself that, over and over again. This short story didn't catch my interest

1825 - His Christmas Cinderella by Anna Campbell: 5 stars

Amazing! Ms. Campbell didn't waste any time and got me hooked onto the story. Keeping in spirit with the synopsis, I won't be revealing the details, but this one's a emotion wringer..

1830 - The Last First Kiss by Kate Noble: 4stars

Quite cute. It's every girl's childhood fantasy after all; to dazzle and make an unrequited love fall at your feet.

Celestine says

These were four well written short stories with an interconnected location and hostess. The stories span several decades. They were just the right length for my distracted attention during the holidays. All are sweetly romantic, with the offering by Anna Campbell having some added spice.

Andrea says

There was magic to be found at the Christmas Ball at No. 3 Grosvenor Place. One need only look in the right place.

Lovely Christmas anthology of four sweet stories set around No 3, Grosvenor Square, where every year one couple finds true love at the traditional holiday ball.

Shana Galen: The Seduction of a Duchess ~ 2 stars

A widowed Duchess finds the man who saved her and her children's live during the French Revolution - her former footman. This story was much too short for me. Both characters have feelings for each other and the story is just them confessing to it. I really wanted to see how her children reacted to her marrying a former servant, or. Something. Anything really.

Vanessa Kelly: One Kiss for Christmas ~3 stars

Good and depending Nigel Dash has been in love with Amelia Easton for a while now, but he always thought she was way out of his league. Determined to make her see him as more than just, well, dependable (don't blame me, his words, he keeps saying it, it annoyed me after a while even though I really loved him. He was good, and decent, and kind for crying out loud. I wish he'd had more of a backbone...). Cute, adorable, and fluffy!

Anna Campbell: His Christmas Cinderella ~ 4 stars

For the past 6 weeks, Campion Parnell has been enjoying her secret affair with Lachlan McMarnie. But now, her aunt (the evil stepmother with whom she has been staying since her parents died) is determined to move them back to the country after her daughter failed to attract a suitor. Lachlan only has one night to make her believe that he wants more than that...

How Anna Campbell manages to put so many emotions in so few pages is still a mystery to me. But she does it. Lovely story!

Kate Noble: The Last First Kiss ~ 5 stars

While her best friend, Sebastian Beckett, is enjoying his Grand Tour, Susannah Westforth is trying her hardest to learn from her aunt everything she can about attracting the man she loves. She has transformed herself from a gangly girl who runs wild in breeches into the most sought-after debutante, but will Sebastian realize that all she wants is for him to notice her?

I absolutely adored this story! It also had a heartwarming secondary romance about the widowed hostess and her butler which was just adorable!

Overall, I really enjoyed these stories. I love that I found two new authors to look out for, so if anyone has

any recs for books from Kate Noble and Vanessa Kelly, let me know!

This anthology is currently free on amazon!

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

I LOVE this anthology. Fantastic stories from wonderful authors.

Full review to come. lol

Julie says

A Grosvenor Square Christmas is an October 2013 release. This is a collection of four novellas by Ana Campbell, Shana Galen, Vanessa Kelly, and Kate Noble. All the stories are set in regency period England.

No.3 Grosvenor Square is rumored to be a magical place. Each year, the owner of the house, a widow named Lucy host an extravagant Christmas Ball. Anyone invited to the ball simply can not or will not miss it. The special butler, an institution, adds just right touch to make each story special.

From a Cinderella style story, to a man that is dependable , but considered dull, being in love with the most sought after girl in ton, to a middle aged duchess finally being reunited with the man who once saved her life, to the story of a man returning home to find his friend and former crush all grown up .

All these stories are heartwarming and romantic. A really solid collection of short stories. This one gets an A.

Faye* says

I was in such a Christmas mood so I tried this little book with four short stories. It wasn't really what I'd hoped, though.

If any of you have a recommendation for sweet christmassy love story, please please let me know, I'd really could use it. ;)

HR-ML says

Light, frothy Regency etc. novellas. The 1st was so short, if you blinked it was over!

I liked best "One Kiss for Christmas" by Vanessa Kelly. Where the man w/o the title 'won' the young lady.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

You do *not* want to miss this!!

Free today on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00FSLF4NO>

Four breathtakingly romantic tales of a **Regency Christmas** from four bestselling romance authors.

Down through the years, enchantment touches a tall gray house in Grosvenor Square. The legend of Lady Winterson's Christmas ball promises true love and happiness to one lucky couple. Who will feel the magic this winter?

1803 - The Seduction of a Duchess by **Shana Galen**

Rowena Harcourt, the Duchess of Valère, never forgot the handsome footman who helped her escape the French Revolution. For fourteen years, Gabriel Lamarque has loved Rowena—now at Lady Winterson's Christmas ball, has fate finally delivered a chance to win her hand?

1818 - One Kiss for Christmas by **Vanessa Kelly**

Nigel Dash is London's most reliable gentleman, a reputation he never minded until he fell in love with beautiful Amelia Easton. Unfortunately, Amelia sees Nigel as a dependable friend, not a dashing suitor. At Lady Winterson's famous Christmas ball, Nigel vows to change Amelia's mind—by sweeping her off her feet.

1825 - His Christmas Cinderella by **Anna Campbell**

At the season's most glittering ball, a girl who has never dared to dream of forever after discovers a Christmas miracle.

1830 - The Last First Kiss by **Kate Noble**

Susannah Westforth has always loved Sebastian Beckett – but he's only ever seen her as a friend. When Sebastian takes his Grand Tour, Susannah transforms herself into a woman he'll notice. Now Sebastian is back, just in time for Lady Winterson's Christmas ball – but the last thing he expects to see is his little Susie, all grown up...

You're invited to join the whirling dance at Lady Winterson's sparkling Christmas ball, where miracles happen and true love shines forever. How can you resist?

Juliana Philippa says

Overall. This is a generally sweet anthology that I didn't mind reading, but I think that's for the most part

because I got it for free; I would have been disappointed had I actually paid for it. There was nothing that was horrible, but nothing that really glowed either. One of the biggest downfalls was that these were all actually short (short!) stories, not even novellas, and how can you possibly develop a good romance in that short a time? It's difficult to pull it off in a novella, let alone a short story! Thankfully there's a pre-existing relationship that's taken place before we enter on scene for all four (actually, five—surprise!) couples, but still, I feel like the authors were somewhat setup for failure.

The overall setup is that all four stories take place at the same holiday party, though several years apart. The hostess and her butler are the anchor characters whom we see in each story and who coordinate and plot to get people together (though honestly, sometimes they have nothing to do with it, but the "story" of the holiday party is that every year, a lucky couple finds love).

"The Seduction of a Duchess" by Shana Galen — 3 stars

He wanted to kiss her, but it was so much more than that. He might as well have asked, may I steal your heart?, because that was what he was doing.

Setting: 1803

Super short; not even sure it qualifies as a novella (stops at 17% on Kindle). Nice change in that the characters are much older and the heroine is older than the man (47 to his ~36). The heroine seemed interesting and I liked the dynamic between her, her sons, and her daughters-in-law—seemed like it could make for some really great additional scenes. I didn't buy the connection or love; maybe it's believable, if she really did spend that much time with him when he was the footman (apparently she taught him to read), but ... I don't know, it felt forced.

"One Kiss for Christmas" by Vanessa Kelly — 3.5 stars

With a mental sigh, Nigel consigned his dashing new persona to the dust heap. Life, it would seem, had consigned him to play only one role—that of dependable old Nigel Dash, always ready to take on whatever necessary task fate and the ladies of the beau monde decreed for him. "Of course, Miss Easton," he said. "I am only too happy to help."

Setting: 1818

This story features Miss Amelia Easton (already had several seasons, so late-late-teens/early 20s) and Mr. Nigel Dash (34). Nigel is the all-around-perfect gentleman, kind to little children and elderly women alike; he's Mr. Dependable and hates that he's not more dashing, as his name should suggest. He's been admiring Amelia from somewhat-afar for awhile now, but doesn't know how to make his intention known to her. He wants her to see him as more than just a friend as a "nice guy." Amelia, for her part, is a sweet if somewhat-spineless heroine; in this story we see her finally stick up for herself a bit when she says what she means, instead of just being polite and going along with the flow (which in the past has ended up with her engaged twice, and then having to break off the engagements).

I really enjoyed Nigel; it's such a nice change to have just a full-on, all-around nice guy as a hero. I mean, seriously, how often does that happen?! This is the first work I've ever read by Vanessa Kelly and I would definitely read her again. What I also appreciated was that there were some very funny lines that made me chuckle; for example, when Nigel is thinking through his positive attributes that might be appealing to Amelia: *No matter how much he trained at Jackson's Saloon, he only got leaner and tougher rather than imposing and muscled. Of course, his fencing skills were second to none, but unless he and Amelia happened upon privateers or highwaymen, Nigel was unlikely to have the opportunity to display that sort of prowess.*

"His Christmas Cinderella" by Anna Campbell — 3.5 stars

"Every time I see you, I remember why I love you," he said softly. She blocked the treacherous warmth that the declaration always inspired. He frequently told her that loved her. When he challenged her inhibitions. When he was buried deep inside her. When she made him laugh.

Setting: 1825

Lachlan Macmurrie, Earl of Ravenglass (28) and Miss Champion Parnell (23) met 6 weeks ago and have had a whirlwind romance ever since—albeit a very secret one that no one knows about. Champion is one of those poor-relations-treated-as-worse-than-a-servant heroines, who has been living with her aunt and cousins for the last 10 years. She met Lachlan at a masquerade ball and for some reason, plain, boring little Champion seemed to enchant him, and vice versa. She sneaks away to meet up with him and eventually their relationship develops further. Champion sees herself as a temporary mistress and although Lachlan tells her frequently that he loves her, she does not imagine that there could be anything more to their relationship—she's a little nobody, he's a much-sought-after and very eligible bachelor of the *ton*.

This story would have been so good as a longer novella or full-on novel. Anna Campbell is a mixed bag with me sometimes, so I wasn't sure where I would fall on this one, but I ended up enjoying it the most out of the lot. I really, really wish that we had been able to see the development of their relationship, because all of that that I just described is told to us very quickly, we don't get to observe any of it :-(. Regardless, I felt the connection between the two of them, though that's thanks to Campbell's writing talent—if only we had also been gifted with the actual development of their love story!! Very sweet and sizzling short story that made the anthology worth reading (again, keep in mind I got this eBook free; would I have paid just for this short story? I don't know.).

"The Last First Kiss" by Kate Noble — 2.5 stars

The butler simply shrugged. "I am Philbert, sir. I know everything."

"Did you know that she tried to kiss me, then?" Sebastian mumbled, kicking his boot against the grey stone balustrade.

Philbert's mouth crooked up. "In the ballroom? How very forward."

"No, not now. She told me she tried to kiss me before."

"Before...?"

"Before I went away. But apparently I wasn't paying attention, and she ended up kissing a log."

"And were you?" Philbert asked.

Sebastian's eyebrow went up, not understanding.

"Were you not paying attention," he clarified. "Or did you know she tried to kiss you?"

Sebastian felt another shift in the world beneath his feet. Smaller this time, but so, so important. Something clicking into place. "No. I suppose I did know. I just pretended it hadn't happened."

Setting: 1830

Susannah Westforth (19) has long been in love with Sebastian Beckett (23). They grew up together and her hero worship eventually developed into a crush, and then became more and more serious as they grew older. When we first start the story, Sebastian has just left for his Grand Tour and Susannah is overwrought, upset that Sebastian doesn't know how she feels and that he doesn't seem to feel the same way. Her aunt basically tells her she needs a makeover, to make Sebastian start to see her more than as just his "little Susie." Three years later, Sebastian and Susannah run into each other again for the first time at the winter ball, and Sebastian is caught completely off guard by this goddess who has all the men enraptured, has apparently

turned down 7 marriage proposals (including one from an Earl), and who somewhat looks and sounds like his Susie, but also looks and sounds so very different.

Eh. Wasn't crazy about this one. I get the point about having to have him see her in a different way, but I wasn't crazy about the idea that Susannah, who when we meet her is clearly a non-Society girl and happy to be so, has spent 3 years being exactly that just so that she can catch Sebastian off guard and reframe how he sees her. She used to wear breeches and ride her horse all the time, and apparently she still sometimes wears breeches when she's at home riding, but whatever—I'm not a huge fan of the makeover move when it's such a profound one, but on purely superficial things. It was cute and there was some good back and forth between them (and the dialogue excerpt above), but Kate Noble has always been good at that, so I would expect nothing less from her.

Jennifer says

4 Stars

I read this for the 2016 TBR Challenge -- December -- Holiday Reads. The challenge is hosted by Wendy the Super Librarian.

A Grosvenor Square Christmas is an enjoyable anthology that is centered around a legendary Christmas ball hosted every year by Lady Winterson. I have had a difficult time getting into the holiday spirit this year so I am happy to report that this collection of stories made me smile. Three of the authors are known to me with Vanessa Kelly being the only one I haven't tried before.

"The Seduction of a Duchess" by Shana Galen

This is a concluding novella to Galen's Sons of the Revolution series, but I was easily able to get into the dynamics of the Harcourt family without having read the rest of the books. I loved the fact that the hero was about ten years younger than the hero and that they were older than I usually see in historical romance novels. The maturity of these two characters and their past encounters helped sell the shorter length of the story plus I thoroughly enjoyed the premise of the widowed duchess getting a second chance with a former footman turned war hero.

"One Kiss for Christmas" by Vanessa Kelly

This novella has two tropes that I really love: beta hero and unrequited love so I was predestined to like it. I just adored the setup and the way that the author developed the story. The hero felt very real and I wanted him to be happy. I also appreciated the fact that, while he had been in love with Amelia for a long time, he didn't put her on a pedestal. She was allowed to be a real person and was also someone I cared about. The plot moved quickly, but it didn't feel rushed to me. I find myself wanting to read the earlier books in the Stanton series to see more of Nigel.

"His Christmas Cinderella" by Anna Campbell

Now we shift to a courtesan/protector romance which isn't my normal choice of story. Thankfully, Anna Campbell's writing is almost always a winner with me and this was no exception. I thought the protagonists were likable though they were not as developed as I would have liked. The steam level was much higher and

it worked for the type of story that it was. I did feel like the hero's revelation towards the end was out of the blue and I think the plot would have benefited from a longer page length.

"The Last First Kiss" by Kate Noble

This was my favorite of the four novellas. The reunited childhoods friends storyline was perfect for this anthology and the evolution of Susannah and Sebastian felt organic. I completely fell in love with both of them and was rooting for them to find their happy endings. I also liked the way that the side characters were developed and provided such a good background to the romance. This was just a ton of fun and left me satisfied.

Overall, this was the perfect anthology for the holidays. The writing styles and plots were different, but the stories felt cohesive due to the Christmas ball theme. And I want to give a quick shoutout to all four authors for the extremely subtle way they developed the relationship between Lady Wintersun and her wonderful butler, Philbert. I came away from A Grosvenor Square Christmas with a smile on my face which is all I ask for in a holiday read.
