

A Scandalous Regency Christmas

Christine Merrill , Annie Burrows , Marguerite Kaye , Barbara Monajem , Linda Skye

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5 short stories by various authors, previously only available as ebooks, collected for their Christmas theme.

TO UNDO A LADY

Christine Merrill

Danyl Fitzhugh vows he can turn any woman, even innocent Sarah Branford, into an actress. But Sarah is more than she seems...

AN INVITATION TO PLEASURE

Marguerite Kaye

Captain Fergus Lamont has invited Susanna Hunter to spend Christmas with him in the Highlands. He suggests she pretends to be his fiancée...

HIS WICKED CHRISTMAS WAGER

Annie Burrows

Lord Crispin Sinclair will come home for his brother's Christmas nuptials only if widow Lady Caroline Fallowfield will share his bed...

A LADY'S LESSON IN SEDUCTION

Barbara Monajem

Notorious rake Camden Folk, Marquis of Warbury desires beautiful Frances Burdett. And Yuletide at his country estate is perfect for her seduction...

THE PIRATE'S RECKLESS TOUCH

Linda Sky

Juliana Wright needs the help of devilishly handsome Captain Rawden Wood, a renowned pirate. But he could dishonour her or reveal her biggest secret!

A Scandalous Regency Christmas Details

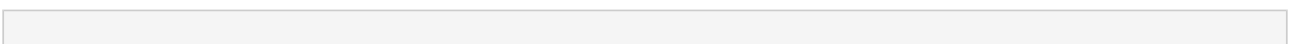
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From Reader Review A Scandalous Regency Christmas for online ebook

Maura says

To Undo a Lady - Christine Merrill - 2/ 5 - A little too dark for my tastes. Sarah runs away from her abusive husband and is begging on the streets when Danyl comes along, offers her money for sex and she takes him up on it. He then offers to train her as an actress, to which she agrees, as it will be income and a chance to stay away from her husband. Danyl and Sarah supposedly develop a friendship, but it is difficult to really see their connection. Sure, there's lust between them and both Danyl and Sarah really seem to feel sympathy for the other, but it doesn't really feel like these two have a friendship or that they love each other. And then Danyl finds out about Sarah's husband and (view spoiler). And this remains a secret from Sarah, which has me wondering at the honesty in their relationship and how she might feel about Danyl if she ever found out.

An Invitation to Pleasure - Marguerite Kaye - 3 / 5 - A decent, but not very memorable read. It's short, sweet and romantic and that's about it. In the prologue, Fergus warns Susanna against marrying her fortune-hunting and dastardly fiancée. She of course, having no idea who this guy is and being a bit weak willed says "get the hell out." She marries him and regrets 3 years of her life. Then, she's invited to Fergus's home in the highlands to spend Christmas with him. He thinks he'll offer her marriage and she'll accept out of gratitude, since she's now a widow and has no other prospects. She's thinking of having a nice Christmas and then getting on with her new, independent life.

The characters were fairly bland, not bad, but nothing that stands out. One of the downsides to this novel is that it relies on a premise that was hard to believe. First of all, that Susanna would travel to the highlands to spend Christmas alone with a virtual stranger. Second, that Fergus actually believes he ruined her life by pointing out what a bad bet her fiancée was. Don't we think she would have figured that out on her own? What did a little foreknowledge hurt? This was the sort of plotline that needed a much longer novel to convey very well. Oh, and (view spoiler)

His Wicked Christmas Wager - Annie Burrows - 2.5 / 5 - Caroline seeks out a bitter and angry Lord Sinclair, to ask him to attend his brother's wedding. He has not forgiven her for betraying their love and marrying another 6 years earlier, and looks upon this as a chance for revenge. Caroline is disappointed to realize that Sinclair is the kind of man to humiliate her, but hides her emotions rather successfully, allowing Sinclair to continue believing that she's heartless. But her mask slips just for a moment and Sinclair seeks her out, in turn, to find out what really happened. This was a VERY angsty little novella. Unfortunately, it didn't quite wrap up satisfactorily...and by that, I mean that there was just too much bitterness and resentment that had built up between them, to the point that I couldn't really believe they could just set it all aside in so short a time. It felt like they had a lot more to work out before their HEA.

A Lady's Lesson in Seduction - Barbara Monajem - 4 / 5 - Cam has plans to seduce Mrs. Frances Burdett, not because he's a rake, but to show her that the husband, whose death he was partially responsible for, was wrong to insist that she was cold and passionless. He intends to show her that she is warm and fiery and full of passion. But she's learned her lesson well and it takes some convincing to get her to see that she's capable of letting go to carnal passions. By the time he succeeds, Cam realizes he loves her. This was pretty cute. Probably the least dark and angsty of the entire anthology so far. Cam's reasons are pretty suspect for me to start...sorry but "making amends" is no reason to go about seducing a widow. But he comes around to realizing that his reasons were because he loved her the whole time...and for once the "I loved you all along" card played pretty well in this situation and was believable.

The Pirate's Reckless Touch - Linda Sky - 2 / 5 - This came down to a matter of taste. I'm not sure if it was the author's intention or not (probably not) but this felt like a tongue-in-cheek sort of story, like a caricature of itself...what with them hurling insults like "Bucko" and "Rapsallion" the kind of OTT, cliché attitudes of the pirates and the heroine and how quickly they get to using sex as persuasion. The hero is not a gentleman and not particularly honorable since he more or less takes it for granted that because she's on the ship, she's his to have sex with - the only thing that stops him is the cleverness of the heroine and plenty of very timely interruptions. She's got some dastardly plan up her sleeve and (view spoiler). Aside from all that though, the characters don't really get time to interact and get to know each other or in anyway connect in anything other than the physical. We learn absolutely nothing about them as characters and they don't even get proper understanding of each other's personalities...other than she's clever and he's horny and opportunistic. There's a strong lust between them, but they don't fall in love or anything. So it's not much of a romance.

Mary says

I enjoyed this anthology of five novellas set at Christmastime during the Regency period. Almost all the stories begin with the main characters decidedly NOT in the Christmas mood, but by the end they have managed to find the magic in Christmas after all. Several of the stories involve young widows who have had marriages that ranged from disappointing to disastrous. The confirmed rakes they encounter do their best to change the ladies' opinion of bedroom relations, and in the process end up falling hard themselves. Each story is unique with interesting settings such as the theater, the Scottish Highlands, and a pirate ship.

I definitely recommend this collection when a quick read is needed at Christmas or any time of year. The romance is a little racy, but no more so than most historical romance books today.

Alison says

I was given a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

I'm such a sucker for a Christmas book, especially anthologies - so was really looking forward to this one.

The reader/buyer should know that these stories have all been previously published as ebooks under the Mills and Boon Undone! line. Also note that they all contain sensual themes and scenes from the beginning. I think it was a good idea that the cover also contains this message 'Five Sexy Stories' for those who are perhaps looking for the sweeter stories published by them.

The stories are:

To Undo A Lady by Christine Merrill

An Invitation to Pleasure by Marguerite Kaye

His Wicked Christmas Wager by Annie Burrows

A Lady's Lesson in Seduction by Barbara Monajem

The Pirate's Reckless Touch by Linda Skye

I usually enjoy Christine Merrill's stories - but as these are all shorts - I found it very hard to believe an actor who buys a prostitute (who is actually a lady who has run away from her abusive husband) could fall in love

so quickly! I found it quite coarse actually. Nice, er, murder off of the husband too...

Marguerite Kaye's story is of another disappointed wife, but this time the hero is about to seduce her into marrying him while she visits his picturesque Scottish home. Much more charming, with a sweet ending this one.

Annie Burrows' story was also quite fun - though a little blackmail included - a classic case of misunderstandings being cancelled about by new love.

Frances Burdett and Camden Folk's story (though I couldn't get on with the hero's name) by Barbara Monajem was also quite nice - with an interesting Christmas twist of goblins to bring the couple together!

I didn't particularly enjoy the final story so much, as the pirate idea didn't really work so well with the other and came across as quite ludicrous. I did like Juliana's spirit however, but it was no match in terms of Christmas stories with the middle three.

All in all it was a mostly amusing read with a beautiful cover, but not one of my favourite Christmas anthologies. I would have been better pleased with the three middle stories, and the first and last ones being left out.

Damaskcat says

This is a collection of five short stories which are Christmas themed and set in the Regency period. These stories are something a bit out of the ordinary. Romance readers are familiar with the scenario of young eligible and beautiful girls attending the London season and finding a husband after a few trials and tribulations. These five heroines are older and more experienced and some are widows after short and unsatisfactory marriages.

My particular favourite was 'To Undo a Lady' – a runaway member of high society takes to prostitution and the stage. I also enjoyed 'His Wicked Christmas Wager' about righting old wrongs. All five stories were enjoyable and entertaining reading and kept me occupied for a couple of afternoons. Of course everyone knows the outcome but it is the process by which the hero and heroine reach their happy ending which gives the entertainment.

Overall this is a feel good read and an ideal book to curl up with over Christmas – preferably accompanied by a glass of wine and probably a mince pie or a box of chocolates.

I received a free copy of this book.

Hilary Mack says

Much as I love romance at any time, there's something about a Christmas based story which adds to the magic. Snow, festivities, families gathering and the urge to put right things that have gone wrong during the year lend themselves wonderfully to tales of falling in love. Set the tale in the Regency period and for me,

it's pretty near perfect.

Which is why I enjoyed "A Scandalous Regency Christmas", five short stories by some of my favourite Mills and Boon authors.

Of the five stories, three were wonderful and one was enjoyable. Only one was a disappointment, which is a good average, on the whole.

The three wonderful stories all had one thing in common: they could not have taken place at any other time of the year. Were it not for the Yuletide festivities, Marguerite Kaye's Susanna would not have been visiting Captain Fergus Lamont in "An Invitation to Pleasure" and there would be no story. Similarly, Annie Burrows' "His Wicked Christmas Wager" and Barbara Monajem's "A Lady's Lesson in Seduction" rely on festive family gatherings and would not have worked so well at other times. The tiny world of the family from which there is no escape, traditions and obligations, expectations, even superstitions add to the mix and make all three perfect Christmas reading. Of course, it helps that the heroes are the kind of men I'd like to meet, while the heroines are people I'd like to be, and I am rooting for them all the way.

Linda Skye's "The Pirate's Reckless Touch" suffered because it could have been set at any time of the year. The Christmas timing often felt like an add-on to qualify it for this anthology. The tale itself was fun and if I hadn't been looking for that Christmas connection, I would have enjoyed it much more.

The only disappointment in the set was "To Undo a Lady" by Christine Merrill. Normally a favourite author, the story suffered from its short length which meant the villain couldn't be fleshed out. This in turn made some of the hero's actions unsympathetic, leading to him being unlikeable – the death knell of a romantic hero.

Still, the other stories more than made up for the disappointment of this one and, all in all, "A Scandalous Regency Christmas" gave me an enjoyable evening's reading, which I would very much recommend.

Tina says

3.5 stars

I really enjoy stories that take place around Christmastime, and I also like reading about the Regency period, so this is a nice combination of five short stories. Some stories are better than others, but all in all the length of the book makes it a nice holiday read.

All of the stories are very quick and most of them flow nicely for being as short as they are, but I think they would have been a lot better if they were longer. Most of them are well written and, although they are quick I did not feel like I was being rushed through everything that took place. But I did have a problem with "To Undo a Lady" because everything happened entirely too fast, which made the story feel like there were so many important details missing. I truly believe that it had the potential of being really good if it were not so short that I could not connect with the characters.

This is a nice holiday read. If you like a story where things happen quickly, then you will enjoy this anthology.

I received a copy of this book for free from the author, Marguerite Kaye, in exchange for an honest review.

Sonya Heaney says

Originally published **HERE** .

I probably should have paid more attention to the ‘sexy’ on the cover, because these are not ‘sweet’ Regency stories!

TO UNDO A LADY

Christine Merrill

This one I thought was going to set the tone for the rest of the book, and it started with sex in an alleyway! I have enjoyed some of Christine Merrill’s writing before, however, and I have rather a lot of faith in stories with theatrical settings, and I did enjoy it a lot. As is so often the case, I would have loved to see this one as a full-length novel. There’s more than enough material for it!

AN INVITATION TO PLEASURE

Marguerite Kaye

I really enjoyed this one. For historical romance, England is my go-to setting, and I find Scottish historicals to be more of a mixed bag. However, I was thrilled with this story, and will be tracking down more by the author. I think it helped enormously that she actually is Scottish, and the way the culture was threaded through the romance made this a special read.

HIS WICKED CHRISTMAS WAGER

Annie Burrows

This was a nice, solid read. I love some angst, the theme of lost love found again. Some of the themes in this one were a little similar to the story before (which is in no way the authors’ fault), so I think I should probably have not read them back-to-back.

The heroine spends much of this story naked!

A LADY’S LESSON IN SEDUCTION

Barbara Monajem

Another nice little story, which (with the short word count) turned steamy pretty fast. I liked the atmosphere the author created, which was helped by the fact the characters were fairly isolated from society, with a private, more intimate Christmas setting.

THE PIRATE'S RECKLESS TOUCH

Linda Sky

I'm going to have to admit I'm not fond of pirate stories, not even when a favourite author like Sabrina Jeffries writes them. I think of rotting teeth and bad body odour, rather than anything sexy and romantic!

I got the feel from this story that the author captured – for those who like this type of story – the charm of old school pirate romances. If this is your kind of thing, I know you'll enjoy this one.

Amanda says

Christmas had always been that special time of the year. Combine with my favorite Regency Romance, it is like having a small box of chocolate with every flavor in it. Each story is totally unique and sweet in their own way.

To Undo a Lady by Christine Merrill. Danyl Fitzhugh, the theater director urgently needed a female lead before Christmas. He found one novice street walker and trained her to be a fine actress. The said woman turned out not what she seemed to be. She was a lady, the wife of an known Earl of Sconsbury. They fell in love and when the Earl passed away unexpectedly, he asked her to marry him.

What I like about this story is how close it related to some of the family violence in today's society. There were still women like Sarah, too frighten and too hopeless to leave their abusive husband. It made what she had done in the story extraordinary. Yes, she had Danyl to save her at the end, but it didn't mean she was less brave.

And Invitation to Pleasure by Marguerite Kaye. Fargus Larmont, a Scottish Laird of Kilmun invited Susanna Hunter, widow of Lord Mountjoy he briefly met three years ago to the Highlands for Christmas, believing the only way to make up his blunt mistake was to marry her. She was shock when she discovered what was in store for her once she arrived, and was at one point going to turn and leave. They settled for an pretense in front of his clansfolks until Christmas. The kindling romance they felt three years ago reignited and at the end they were no pretense.

Christmas traditions of different countries had always fascinated me, and it is fantastic to see how the love blossomed while we pictured the decorations and how the Highlanders celebrate the festive seasons. We also get to catch a glimpse how three years had shaped them and matured them. After all, Christmas is a time of reflect. And certainly get to see that as well.

His Wicked Christmas Wager by Annie Burrows. Lady Caroline Fallowfield, widow of Lord Fallowfield

tracked down brother of her future brother-in-law to make the last attempt to persuade him to attend the wedding. Lord Crispin Sinclair, the said man who was also her one time love, agreed to do that under only one condition: She had to be naked in the same room with him for an hour. She reluctantly agreed. And in that hour, he discovered the real reason behind her sudden change of heart all those years ago. Once the misunderstanding was smoothed out, he asked for her hand and she accepted.

There is a certain way of Annie's writing that appealed to me from the moment I first picked up her book. She was the one who introduced me to the whole wide world of Regency Romance. I like how both of them had their own pains at the beginning and thought the other would, or should never understand. And how they discovered during the course of the event how they were so very wrong. I must confess I was in tears when this story ended. Happy tears, of course.

A Lady's Lesson In Seduction by Babara Monajem. Camaden Folk, Marquis of Warbury invited Frances Burdett, widow to Mr. Timothy Burdett, to his family country house for Christmas, in the hope to atone the mistake he made more than a year ago, which had caused her husband's death, as well as convince her to consider marrying again. In the house full of activities built up toward Christmas, plus one very clever hobgoblin. They soon realized the feeling he had toward her had been love all along, and managed to confess to her...about the past and present, before the bell rang.

This one is my personal favorite among the gems. I like how Cam held a torch for her, and not the other way around as in most of the Regency stories I had come across. The presence of clever hoggoblin is definitely the star of the whole story and the cause of my amused chuckle several times over.

The Pirate's Reckless Touch by Linda Skye. A Navy Captian's daughter Juliana Wright set out to seek the treasure her father had given up his life for. She hired the most notorious pirate Captian Rawden Wood to be her bodyguard. As they followed the legendary map she had possessed, they discovered nothing was what they seemed, and their growing attraction had gradually become bigger than the treasure they seek. It took them some time to face what their heart had known all alone-that they had fallen in love with each other from the moment they set their eyes on each other across the crowded room.

It's rather interesting and refreshing to see a combination of pirate stories and Regency Christmas together. Yet they compliment each other so brilliantly. Their interaction had been engaging from the first moment, and one could not help but wonder what more backstories could we learn from Capetian Wood should we given more length.

I solemnly recommend this anthology. It is light yet the little details in each story make it shine like gems among the other books.

Rebecca {Not reviewing at the moment} says

[Plot]

Danyl Fitzhugh is an actor and theatre owner in need of a woman. His leading lady has left, and he is in desperate need for someone to take her place. He encounters Sarah Branford outside his

Eileen Dandashi says

Title: A Scandalous Regency Christmas

To Undo A Lady by Christine Merrill

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A Lady's Lesson in Seduction by Barbara Monajem

The Pirate's Reckless Touch by Linda Skye

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About the Authors: All these authors write novel length historical romances. If you haven't read them, here is a chance to sample their voices in a lovely selection of sexy Regency settings. If you enjoy Christine Merrill's writing, she has her book *The Inconvenient Duchess* free today, December 1, 2013 on Amazon.

Back Cover Blurbs:

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Notorious rake Camden Folk, Marquis of Warbury desires beautiful Frances Burdett. And Yuletide at his country estate is perfect for her seduction...

Julian Wright needs the help of devilishly handsome Captain Rawden wood, a renowned pirate. But he could dishonor her or reveal her biggest secret!

My Thoughts: I liked all the stories. They were fast reads. I personally enjoy longer reads, however this was a wonderful sampling of the authors' voices. That being said, these shorter stories were tastefully done, fun and light--something to enjoy during the holiday season when time gets short for reads. Each story was quite different so when I went back through skimming I easily could remember each story in its entirety, each being distinctly different in their story lines.
