



All I Want for Christmas Is a Duke

Valerie Bowman, Vivienne Lorret, Tiffany Clare, Ashlyn Macnamara

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The holidays are a time for dining, dancing, and of course—dukes! Celebrate the Christmas season with this enchanting collection of historical romances featuring the most eligible bachelors of the ton...

A childish prank may have reunited the Duke of Hollingsworth with his estranged wife, but only the magic of Christmas will show this couple 'tis the season of second chances...

Sophie Kinsley planned to remain a wallflower at the Duke of Hollyshire's ball. Yet when a dance with him leads to a stolen kiss, will the duke be willing to let her go? Or will Sophie's Christmas wish be granted at last?

To the Duke of Vale, science solves everything—even marriage. When the impulsive Ivy Sutherland makes him question all of his data, he realizes that he's overlooked a vital component in his search for the perfect match: love.

Patience Markham never forgot the fateful dance she had with the future Duke of Kingsbury. But when a twist of fate brings them together for Christmas Eve, will the stars finally align in their favor?

An Avon Romance

All I Want for Christmas Is a Duke Details

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From Reader Review All I Want for Christmas Is a Duke for online ebook

Amanda says

If I was just rating The Duke's Christmas Wish by Vivienne Lorret, I'd give it 4-stars easily as it was my kind of catnip. The story revolved around a starchy, science-minded hero who invents a mathematical matchmaking system for the ton and whose experiment quickly goes awry when the brilliant, yet wholly unsuitable according to his theory, heroine appears on the scene and steals his heart. Chaos in the form of broken elevators, clandestine hand touches, kisses against bookshelves and an errant frog or two soon ensue and it all makes for a truly delightful holiday read.

Sadly, the other stories of this anthology were fairly average by comparison and my final rating reflects that.

SmartBitches says

Full review at Smart Bitches, Trashy Books

Normally I'm pretty cynical about Christmas. I'm not a practicing Christian, and I've worked in either retail or logistics long enough that the commercialism and chaos that precedes the holiday season exhausts me (I once worked till 2 a.m. so a shipment of children's bedsheets that were on sale would hit the store in time for Black Friday–then slept for four hours and went back into work).

This year, though, I'm clinging to anything happy and festive, desperate to feel good about something. I put my tree up before Thanksgiving (I didn't put one up at all last year). I've been Googling recipes for eggnog and Glugg, and I've been reading Christmas romance like whoa.

All I Want for Christmas is a Duke is a collection of four Regency novellas by Valerie Bowman, Tiffany Clare, Vivienne Lorret, and Ashlyn MacNamara. I was especially intrigued because the characters in the Lorret novella were referenced in *When a Marquess Loves a Woman* and the hero is a scientist.

I would give the first two novellas in this anthology C's—they were just sort of meh. I was swept away by the last two so I would give them A's, meaning the anthology as a whole averages out to a B.

- Elyse

Phoenix77 says

Averaged out to 3.5 stars

Some of the stories were much stronger than others but my overwhelming problem was that they were all too short! By the time the action has put the main characters together and the story picks up some momentum (and we get a quickly sex scene) all the problems are resolved within a few pages and we get "The End."

There are two really great stories in this group that are crying out to be expanded into a full length story, or at least a longer novella.

Valerie Bowman says

The Duke and Duchess Trap!

Donna says

This was a very enjoyable Christmas anthology.

Valerie Bowman's story was a take on the movie "The Parent Trap". Since I grew up watching Hayley Mills' movies I loved it!

Tiffany Clare's story was a Cinderella tale. I liked it a lot but wondered, since the heroine was a Lady, why her father had never set aside a dowry for her when he remarried.

Vivian Lorrett's Duke was an inventor and sure he had a formula for making matches with no emotions. That worked until he fell in love. This was fun.

Ashlyn MacNamara A couple who fell in love years ago gets a second chance at happiness and lets no one stand in their way. Nice story.

I really enjoy holiday stories and can easily recommend this book.

Kristi says

The first novella is "The Duke and Duchess Trap" by Valerie Bowman — 2.0

I was disgusted and disappointed with the hero.

(Slight spoiler alert and rant)

I hate when the hero professes to have always loved a women, most especially one his married to, but has "meaningless" affairs during their separation even though the heroine has not (not that I would like that either). If I am to believe that the love means something, then the affairs — sex with another person — is NOT meaningless to me. If the author goes that route, then there should be a convincing set of scenes to show real regret and shame and for him to really grovel. The author has to make me believe he means it and to somehow redeem the jerk.

This does not even come close to happening in this story. I get that this was to be a riff on “The Parent Trap,” but the story lacked a believable reunion and the affairs he had while they were separated were almost shrugged off and certainly not regretted by him. Boo.

The second, “Sophie and the Duke” by Tiffany Clare— 3.0

This one was okay. I didn’t feel the intimate scene was believable and the tension of the awful step-relatives was odd as I kept expecting a confrontation that didn’t happen. And then even when it did, it was ended quickly by a distraction.

The third, “The Duke’s Christmas Wish” by Vivienne Lorret, is a repeat for me as it also appears in the anthology “A Christmas to Remember” by Lisa Klepas & co. — 3.0

What I like about this one, oddly enough, is that it’s the first one I’ve read where the the story begins with the heroine, after one too many cups of tea, finds herself in dire need of a chamber pot. It’s a simple thing, but it’s one topic rarely touched on in stories — not that I’m lamenting that fact, but it IS a rare thing.

The fourth and last, “One Magic Season” by Ashlyn MacNamara — 4.0

This was my favorite of the bunch. Its theme of regrets and second chances fits perfectly with the Season. I was happy with my HEA.

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

The Duke and Duchess Trap by Valerie Bowman

I am sure this has been said more than one time but let be just say it again. This read is a blatant reminder of the movie 'The Parent Trap'. Right down to the twin daughters. The separation. The lingering love. The why you did not come after me. It was all there but in Regency style romance. This was a delightful read.

Sophie and the Duke by Tiffany Clare

I felt a few different things here. The early childhood bond between Sophie and shall I say it 'HER' Duke. Gave me the feel of a lost friendship renewed but there were those pesky step sisters and the step mother. Her father should have been thrashed. But this here was just a different, yet subtle spin on an age old tale 'Cinderella'. The read was nice and the pace kept going.

The Duke’s Christmas Wish by Vivienne Lorret

Think it odd that a Duke would want to dabble in the art of matchmaking. Thinks it not odd he did not find it beneath him. This Duke got more than he bargained for this time around when he is hit with something more

than money, titles, and the right lineage. Ivy comes in a make it all a different kind of match. This Duke learned that love has something big to do with a very successful and filling match. This read will remind you of many a romances that started out with her not having enough of something to make it possible, but love has its own way of showing you that it can be all you need.

One Magic Season by Ashlyn Macnamara

Second chances are what is need and what better time of the year to provide one but the Christmas season. Patience has her second chance with her Duke this season. It was the combination of the season and the fact this was a second chance for then that made this one the best one for me in this anthology.

For a magical holiday read, I do recommend you grab your favorite blanket, corner, mug of a hot drink, and don't forget you book/e-reader and dive right in for a holiday spirit filled read.

Lisa Filipe says

What a wonderful, lighthearted read! Will leave you smiling!

I have to say, if you are a reader of my blog, you know that I don't read a lot of historical's (usually limited to Lisa Kleypas and now Vivienne Lorret), but I saw this one was four novellas, and those are usually quick reads, so I gave this one a shot...and I am so so glad I did!!

I have to say, I truly enjoyed all of the four titles, they were creative, festive, and just the perfect mix of sexy and romantic! I did thoroughly enjoy Valerie Bowman's take on The Parent Trap. I love the original movie with Hayley Mills and Valerie's take was so much fun to read!

Vivienne, Tiffany and Ashlyn all followed up with three novellas that have you feeling the romance of the season! The one thing I loved about ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A DUKE, was that I was able to escape real life, and dash off to England for a while, attend some balls and find a true love! Don't miss out on this fun anthology!

Amy says

Valerie Bowman, "The Duke and Duchess Trap": It's a Regency version of the Parent Trap. The hero and heroine got married, had twins, and then irreconcilably split. They separated the twins and raised them as if they were not siblings--and one of them was not even told that she had a sister.

It's a terrible story, with a great deal of lying and selfishness and awful behavior because the parents were too ridiculously immature to be parents. It's completely disgusting and cannot be recommended.

Tiffany Clare, "Sophie and the Duke": Childhood friends reunite at a ball where a duke is supposed to find a bride. He rather inexplicably falls head over heels for his childhood playmate, and then tracks her down and marries her. Virtually no tension, but a nice enough little story.

Vivienne Lorret, "The Duke's Christmas Wish": I selected this book because I like Vivienne Lorret's writing, but this was completely unreadable. The first chapter is devoted to the heroine drinking too much tea and needing to urinate. The second chapter focuses on the hero acting like a cross between an autistic savant and an aristocratic ass. I read two pages into the third chapter and gave up. This is unreadably bad. Not recommended.

Ashlyn Macnamara, "One Magic Season": Woman traveling in winter gives assistance to a man whose carriage has crashed. It turns out to be the man who spurned her years ago. They hook up, and then he tracks her down and marries her. Again: virtually no tension, but a nice enough little story.

Jujubee says

Everything I wanted! 4.5 stars for this anthology. A welcome addition to any lover of Christmas-themed period romances library's. And very re-readable!

My ratings individually:

The Duke and Duchess Trap, Valerie Bowman 4 delightful stars

Sophie and The Duke, Tiffany Clare 4.5 reconnection stars. Loved Sophie!

The Duke's Christmas Wish, Vivienne Lorret 5 perfect romance chemistry stars. So much that I one-clicked the three novels in the series Season's Originals!

One Magic Season, Ashlyn Macnamara 4 second-chance stars. Would have been higher if smexy, His Grace, Nathaniel, would not have waited so long to get his Lady Patience!

Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

The Duke&Duchess Trap - Valerie Bowman. -3 Stars

Basically a historical version of the movie 'Parent Trap'

Sophie and the Duke - Tiffany Clare -3 Stars

'Cinderella' redone historically. Reunion-romance between childhood friends.

The Duke's Christmas Wish - Vivienne Lorret 4.75 stars

The Best one so far ! A re-write of Princess and the Frog with an adorable blue stocking couple. Loved them x

One Magic Season-Ashlyn Macnamara 2.5 stars

Lacks content comparatively.Nothing very memorable.

AnnMarie says

To begin with I thought this anthology, as well as having a Christmas theme, had a theme of taking a classic movie/story and giving it a regency twist. The first two stories I believe are based on The Parent Trap, and Cinderella. Neither fully follow the plots of those stories, so still manage to be original and a pleasure to read.

The latter 2 stories though don't follow that regency twist theme, so that put pay to my original idea. Either

way, the anthology is a real delight to read.

The Duke and the Duchess by Valerie Bowman is the one that is like the Parent Trap. As with that film, there are some lovely lighthearted moments, but some tear jerking ones as well. I especially loved the interfering Grandmother to the children (the Duke's mother), she is a fabulous character who come hell or high water wants grandsons, not just granddaughters.

Sophie and the Duke by Tiffany Clare has a Cinderella feel. The Duke of Hollyshire finds himself having to throw a ball to which he has invited all the eligible women in order to choose a wife and marry her before Christmas is over. He has had no interest in marriage and this ball is only taking place because if he doesn't find a wife in this fashion the money his father has entailed to him won't be released. Money which he needs in order to do a lot of much needed work on the family estate.

So he throws the ball, and that's where he meets Sophie Kinsley (our Cinderella). She lives with her horrid step mother and step sister, and as in Cinderella, she is treated unfairly. In fact Sophie couldn't have attended the ball if it wasn't a masquerade one. One where she hoped her mask would hide her from her Step family. The Duke and Sophie dance, and they are both drawn to each other. The story then goes on to tell if and how they manage to be together.

The Duke's Christmas wish by Vivian Lorret doesn't follow any story I know of. The Duke has to hold a ball and house party, which everybody believes is where he will be looking for a bride. In actual fact he is using his guests in an experiment in which he is sure to prove his latest invention. That of the perfect formula for a perfect marriage. Enter Miss Ivy Sutherland, a woman who believes herself fully on the shelf. She is only attending the ball because she wants to help her friend find a husband.

The Duke of course finds himself interested in Ivy but he fights the attraction tooth and nail because if he were to fall for her then it would prove his marriage formula a failure. Ivy is attracted to the Duke too, but she fights her feelings because, one, she is supposed to be matching him up with her friend, and two, she believes she isn't good enough for him.

The story that follows is about the relationship that forms between them despite the reasons it shouldn't.

I really enjoyed this story, apart from the romance and the obligatory tear jerking scenes, there were some very funny light hearted moments which had me laughing out loud.

The last story in the anthology I think has to be my very favourite of them all. One Magic Season by Ashlyn Macnamara is a wonderful tale of having a second chance at love.

Patience Markham fell in love with the Duke of Kingsbury, Nathaniel Westlake many years ago. He too fell in love with her. His parents didn't approve of her and set about splitting them up, which they successfully achieved.

10 years later, Patience is now Lady Worthington, a young widow after her husband's early demise. Nathaniel is a widower with twin children, his wife having died not long after giving birth. Neither marriage was a love match.

Fate plays a part in having Patience and Nathaniel meet again. They are both travelling in the same direction in a snow storm, and Nathaniel's carriage gets bogged down in the snow and is blocking the road that Patience's carriage is on. When her carriage stops and she realises that the weather is too bad to wait for the one ahead to be moved for her to continue on her journey, she decides to return home. She offers the man in the carriage ahead a lift to somewhere warmer via her 'Tiger' and he accepts. Well, it turns out that the man

in the carriage is none other than Nathaniel.

All the feelings from the past flood both of them but as they were both convinced that life had moved on , they tried to hide any feelings they have. He ends up staying at Patience's residence, and they have plenty of time to talk about the past and rekindle old flames. The problem still remains that Patience will never be good enough for the Duke and that his family will still want to stop any relationship between them. Will they have the courage to fight for what they want this time, or will family and society's opinion still get in the way?

This story has some beautiful, romantic, funny and passionate scenes. The main characters are so loveable and I would love to have read a much longer story about them.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Andrea says

[the parents figured out pretty quickly they had the wrong twin, an

Pamela says

3.5 stars overall. Some I liked more than others.

Annie says

Honestly, this was a 3 star anthology. I just wanted to see if the overall rating would change if I gave it 4 stars lol

Edit: It did
