



Tall, Dark and Royal

Vanessa Kelly

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Even in childhood, Dominic had made Chloe feel safe. Now she also felt thrillingly flustered by the powerful man he'd become, and by the longing he inspired. Because Dominic meant not only to protect her, but to untangle the lies that had separated them. Yet for Chloe, surrendering to temptation may be easier than risking a future that could ruin them both...

Tall, Dark and Royal Details

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Author : Vanessa Kelly

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From Reader Review Tall, Dark and Royal for online ebook

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

So happy that Dominic and Chloe get their HEA!!!!!!

Review to follow!!!!

It's almost obsessive how much I love the Renegade Royals series by Vanessa Kelly. Tall, Dark and Royal is no exception, even though it's a novella, it is superb. I always knew that English spymaster, Dominic Hunt had to have his own HEA. From the first, he has always cared for those around him, even if he never outwardly shows it. Once Chloe Steele returns from her self-imposed exile after so much heartache in her life, Dominic begins to come to life in her presence.

When Dominic is summoned because of a break-in at the manor where Chloe runs a home for pregnant and wayward ladies, he sees no other option but to protect her from herself. Chloe has always been a survivor, even after leaving her son behind to escape an emotional ruin of a life with an abusive man. Now back in her son's life Chloe is slowly regaining the life she missed out on in hiding, and the one thing that she yearned for was the love of a man.

Dominic has been in love with Chloe since they were little more than children and her leaving him so many years ago didn't extinguish the feelings he had for her. Now that she is back in his life and needs protection from some unsavory characters, he will not let her go. Dominic must find a way to burrow his way into Chloe's heart, grab on and jolt the lady from the shields she's built around her. Both Chloe and Dominic are no longer those children with stars in their eyes, they are two mature adults who deserve the comfort of each other's arms.

I have been a big fan of Dominic Hunt's since the very first, in Vanessa Kelly's Lost In A Royal Kiss. It's been his overbearing and methodical character that has made me love the Renegade Royals so much. Chloe's life has never been easy, but she rises so far above the expectations she has set for herself and never backs down from a fight. I adore these two who so very much deserve their happy ending. Vanessa Kelly's writing has wormed its way into my heart and Tall,Dark and Royal makes me a very happy reader. I highly recommend this story and I hope that you all will pick up each and every book in this series and savor them as I have. I eagerly await the next installment of the Renegade Royals and Vanessa Kelly's masterful storytelling.

~KIMBERLY~

Amanda says

I anticipated great things from this novella after having read about Chloe and Dominic's emotional roller coaster of a backstory in Lost in a Royal Kiss and Confessions of a Royal Bridegroom. More than anything really, I wanted this couple to have the HEA they had more than rightly earned; I didn't get that. Well, not completely anyway. I think it would've benefited the book greatly if it had been full length and honestly, Chloe and Dominic DESERVED more than just a bland novella that didn't seem to accomplish any of things it was intended to do.

I feel if the whole of the story had been solely focused on the rebuilding of the kinship and adoration

established between Chloe and Dominic first as children, and how that strong connection saw them through years of not only separation, but downright hellish situations. The conflict would've obviously been about them essentially re-learning each other and falling in love with the middle aged, world weary people they had now become. That to me would've made an amazing read. Instead we only got a small dose of that would-be magic, due in part to stubbornness and pride on both characters' sides as well as a pointless dramatic subplot that went absolutely nowhere. I wanted to FEEL all the yearning and misery and yes THE ANGST that Chloe and Dominic no doubt experienced in their 30+ years of separation and I just felt like Vanessa Kelly never fully went there. I wanted to ugly cry basically. Gosh you know things are bad when I'm practically begging for more angst in a story.

Now why only 2-stars? It's tough to explain my ratings system in general, but in this particular case, the low score stems more from what I personally wanted to get out of this novella and ultimately didn't. This was probably a perfectly lovely, albeit average, read in reality, but after being drawn in by Chloe and Dominic's story, I WANTED MORE. I wanted to FEEL more. Sadly this happens all too often with buildup couples, i.e. the couples you read about in other books only to read THEIR book and feel somewhat let down. Oh well.

Eva says

I got this from Netgalley for an honest review.

First of all its book 2.5 from the series "Renegade Royals" from Vanessa Kelly. Why do I mention it in the very beginning? Because I really had problems getting into this story without knowing the first two books which seldom happens.

Chloe is a woman in her very early 40s who has a complicated past. He's mother to an adult son, she just reconnected with. In her house in the country she offers unmarried pregnant woman a chance to live while they are pregnant and take care of her children before they are able to go back to their families or she helps them to establish a new life somewhere.

Dominic Hunter on the other side a magistrate, a well-known and liked man at the royal court. He made his way being originally a butcher's son. He knows Chloe for years, since they were children. Once they were pretty close, when they were younger, but then things changed.

A sudden attack of one of the girl's left behind betrothed brings them together again. Dominic wants Chloe but she knows that her (let's call it) 'profession' wouldn't fit into his lifestyle. Hunter doesn't care but wants to make her a respectable woman. But Chloe says no ...

+

I really dislike that fact that it took me long to get me into this novella which only has about 110 pages but seems endless in the beginning. You do now know a thing about the characters or their stories but the author doesn't tell you a lot. The moment you got into it, you seem to find bits and pieces of information here and there.

But I really liked the style of the writer and the idea of Dominic hunter searching for the illegitimate children of the royal family sounds interesting.

Maybe I will read one or the other of the series soon – in the correct order of course. There was something I really liked about the story I really liked especially about Dominic Hunter. Also the idea of having something like a battered woman's shelter but for unmarried pregnant girls in the 19th century is something I like to imagine to be real but probably isn't. As far as I know were the first shelters established in the 1960s. Anyway, a nice novella

Rating: 3 Stars***

at Romance Authors at Large Hot Reads says

no spoilers

My, oh my! This novella was absolutely fantastic. Full of intrigue, and the perfect amount of romance. This is my first book from Ms. Kelly, and while it's 2.5 books into the series, I'm eager to read the others now. Dominic Hunter is a hero definitely worth swooning over, and I absolutely adore the torch he held for Chloe Steele after all these years.

If you've read the previous installments, you will not be disappointed with this short interlude, which can be read in one day.

This book is worth every one of the 5 stars I'm giving it. Outstanding job, Ms. Kelly!

Jenni Schell says

I love this series. This is only the second book by Vanessa Kelly that I have read and I just loved it. It was a very quick read and the characters were great. I can't wait to see what happens with the next Renegade.

Linda says

Delightful, second chance at romance story.

.Dominic and Chloe grew up in the royal court together best freinds for what seemed like forever until one of the princes seduce Chloe at the young Agee of fourteen causing a forced separation when she is sent away by her father to have the baby of that seduction. Unfortunately , Chloe never comes back to court and in fact Dominic is told she passed away. Dominic has never married, he isa successful magistrate who di track down Chloe's son when he was a teenager and watched out for Griffen at which time he learned from Griffen that Chloe was still alive and the lie of her death was to protect griffen's reputation .

Chloe has lived in the shadows using her mothers maiden name and avoiding anyone who would remember Herron her time at court , she has made a life for herself , Chloe runs a home for young women who find themsvses in the Sam position she did when younger, but when danger comes to her door Griffen and Dominic step up to protect her.

This danger turns out to be what Dominic needs to position. Himself back in Chloe's life nd win her heart and body!

Dominic and Chloe were both likable characters that worked well together and I enjoyed her son Griffen and his wife Julia also! Well written and engrossing! This is the fourth book in the renegade Royals sereies , but never fear this can be read as a solo book!

Becca says

For those of you who have read the novella opener of Vanessa Kelly's Renegade Royal Series, *Lost in a Royal Kiss*, this installment, *Tall, Dark, and Royal*, would be of interest. Chloe and Dominic were only children in *Lost in a Royal Kiss*. Chloe was pregnant as a result of a terrible encounter when one of the royal offspring and is sent away as a result. On that day, Dominic lost his best friend and once he became old enough, he went in search of her.

Tall, Dark, and Royal picks up about 26 years later. Chloe has built a life for herself protecting young women in trouble as she had been. When she gets into trouble of her own, Dominic steps in to help. Dominic has been searching for Chloe for decades and now that he's found her, he is loath to ever let her out of his sight again. Thus, what started as a childhood friendship finally has the chance to blossom into adult, romantic love.

I started reading this story eager for some angst, pining goodness. Chloe and Dominic had a tragic story and I was ready for them to finally have their happily-ever-after. Unfortunately, this just didn't live up to my expectations. Neither character had strong emotions or was drawn to the other with an intensity that I would've expected. Dominic never married because he wanted Chloe, and yet, the only vibes I ever got were a need to protect just as he had done when they were children. I appreciated that Kelly was careful in how she treated their sexual relationship because of what Chloe endured when she was young, but I felt that the maturity in their love was missing was missing not only in the physical, but emotional realm as well.

I didn't have a good grasp of what either character looked like or how they felt about each other. Instead, Chloe was so determined to "prove herself" that she acted really stupid and put herself and others in a lot of danger. Dominic had his moments of sexiness, but was overall a pretty flat character. As a result, I missed the moments showing how these two fit together that explained how their love lasted through the decades. For a short read, *Lost in a Royal Kiss* was more potent and entertaining than this installment. In short, this was a quick read, but remained light even with the history of the characters and the drama within the plot.

Marilyn Rondeau says

Dominic Hunter is a relentless magistrate with a mission – a mission to track down the illegitimate children of England's Royal Princes and help them get their due. Unbeknownst to most though was the fact a portion of his search was also extremely personal for Dominic.

After fourteen years not much had changed about Chloe Steele. She was still the most beautiful and the most stubborn woman, Dominic had ever met, and he was still madly in love with the young girl who had been his constant childhood companion. Had Chloe not given in to her uncle who promised to protect her from scandal after finding herself pregnant at the age of 14, Dominic would have been the one to protect and give her a loving life. Now that he had re-discovered her, he couldn't let her slip away from him again.

*** *TALL, DARK AND ROYAL* is a short novella, a little over 100 pages. In spite of the short length, the author managed to explain a bit of the protagonists background so that even being read out of order, I knew

exactly what was going on. With a wonderful bit of a succinct explanation of Chloe and Hunter's background, the reader was brought right up to the moment 14 years later when this story takes place. With such an excellent overview of past history, I was completely invested in both the story and the moment.

Chloe had suffered much after the back-stabbing manipulations of her uncle who laid such a guilt trip on her back and then manipulated her life by cutting her off from anyone from her past. A lesser person would have given up, but as china-like as she appeared, she had a spine of steel. With the good luck of finding a position with a wealthy couple she assisted and took up their work of providing a safe haven for young girls like her who had gotten pregnant and had no where else to turn. Chloe's benefactors, left her their fortune and the pledge that she would continue their work.

Even though Hunter had finally located Chloe his most important mission now was to convince her that they belonged together. With the talented pen from author Vanessa Kelley Hunter was able to do just that and wrote some of the most emotional and sensual scenario's that were part of the ammunition that Hunter needed to convince one very stubborn lady to give in to the inevitable.

BOTTOM LINE: Beautifully written and tastefully sensual - what more could one ask for?

Marilyn Rondeau, for www.ck2skwipsandkritques.com

Farrah says

A lovely romance about a love that finally had the chance to bloom, *Tall, Dark, and Royal* was an enjoyable historical romance novella and I really liked it.

Chloe and Dominic were both great. Chloe was stuck in a bad habit of hiding from her problems but, as the story went on, she faced that issue and proved herself as a brave heroine. Dominic was definitely strong, clever, and extremely protective over those he cared about. I thought both were likable.

The romance was lovely. Chloe and Dominic had loved each other years ago and that never faded. It was obvious that they still loved each other and they just had to clear away a few long-standing issues in order to be together. I thought they were a great couple.

The plot moved quickly and kept me interested. I enjoyed the story and the ending was perfect.

Tall, Dark, and Royal was a sweet historical romance novella that I truly enjoyed. Romance lovers, this one is worth looking up.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Tall, Dark and Royal was one of those lovely little in-between reads when you just need an extra taste of a series while you wait for the next full length story. Fabulous characters, sweet romance, a tiny touch of danger...ups good times though one I think will be easier for those who have read the rest of the series.

The quick of it is that when they were children Chloe and Dominic were friends. But an unexpected pregnancy--Chloe was seduced by someone else--ripped their lives apart and family lies and scandal kept them apart for nearly 3 decades until recently when they found each other once again. And now that a little danger is encroaching on Chloe's charity for girls Dominic is determined to protect her and keep her safe where he failed her in that regard before.

"Why have you never married?"

"Because I couldn't imagine loving anyone else but you..."

One of my favorite things about Kelly is her characters. They are such incredibly likable people. They've got flaws and can have their "moments" but they're just ones you can adore and want to know even better and thus was the case of Chloe and Dominic who are dancing around their life long love for one another despite the years that have kept them apart. *aws* I really loved these two from the very start of the series when their story began as children. Their journey wasn't easy but gah they're great together. She's a bit fiery and independent, he's a little alpha male but totally smitten. It was just sweet and a bit heartbreaking watching them try to figure out what each other's place was in their lives and seeing how much time they'd lost because of fear and others interference. But so good in the end. I also really liked that these two were both older--early 40s. They've lived their lives, become successful and independent in what they do and could come to each other more as equals.

Like I mentioned earlier though...I do think this one would be best read in order with the rest of the series. It's not impossible without them but I did feel like I was playing catch up and trying to remember or figure out all of the connections. My only other complaint was kind of little but to do with multiple story points having such similar names--Cumberland's, Camberwell and Campworths. Not exactly the same but it tripped me up a couple times reading and mistaking one for the other.

Overall though, even with some minor quibbles, Tall, Dark and Royal was a lovely second chance romance for an older couple that left me smiling as they finally...finally...against all odds found their happily ever after.

Kiltsandswords says

Tall, Dark and Royal by Vanessa Kelly

Overview by Amazon:

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Magnificent and stubborn. Fourteen years apart had not changed Chloe Steele, or Dominic Hunter's love for her. He'd been a street urchin, a boy raised at court, and finally a magistrate, yet he'd never belonged anywhere--except by her side. Now Chloe devoted herself to girls threatened by scandal--like she had been. But she was in danger, and Dominic was determined to help--and hopefully make up for lost time...

Even in childhood, Dominic had made Chloe feel safe. Now she also felt thrillingly flustered by the powerful man he'd become, and by the longing he inspired. Because Dominic meant not only to protect her, but to

untangle the lies that had separated them. Yet for Chloe, surrendering to temptation may be easier than risking a future that could ruin them both...

This was a great novella. It was interesting to read a story with mature main characters. Chloe and Dominic have been separated for years, due to scandal, lies and shame.

Chloe has spent her life taking in young, unwed mothers-to-be and caring for them. She is almost serving her penance for becoming pregnant at the age of 14 by a young prince. She has reunited with her grown son and his wife, but she has to reunite with Dominic. They have a long history of growing up together and loving each other. Fate has kept them apart and before the story starts, they have recently met up. The story picks up when they are gingerly assessing each other and figuring out what they mean to each other.

Chloe ends up in danger for taking in a girl with some rather nefarious underworld connections. She needs a champion and Dominic is more than willing to fill the role. He is concerned for her and wants to protect her. Chloe is used to being on her own and relying on her own acumen, but Dominic is hard to resist.

The time they spend together, leads to a more developed intimate relationship. They discover the romantic interest they had is not gone with the passing of time, it's still there, but mature. This story was really hot and steamy for a couple that were not in the first blush of life or love. There was something so rewarding watching them consummate their relationship. It was a great scene with two people who knew each other so well, that they only part they didn't know was carnal.

This was a short story that highlighted reunited lovers and friends. They are not idle aristocrats, but rather those who work to make the world they live in a better place. This was a good read and I am now intrigued to read the story of her son as I'm sure there is a lot more details about Dominic and Chloe to learn about.

Mojca says

After twenty-eight years, Dominic Hunter is finally reunited with Chloe Steele, the only woman he's ever loved. She's in trouble, and he's determined to do everything in his power to keep her safe...While also making up for lost time. If only the woman weren't so damned stubborn.

I must confess to be rather disappointed with Dominic and Chloe's story. I was looking forward to it since the start of the series, wanting to see Dominic brought down to his knees by a woman as retribution for all his matchmaking in the previous two books. But although I wanted him to finally be happy, I couldn't help but feel Chloe wasn't the heroine for him.

With all her guilt, and self-esteem and other issues, she really got on my nerves, because by punishing herself for her past sins (which were not of her doing, by the way), she ended up punishing the two men she loved, Dominic and her son Griffin. I know I should be supportive of a fellow female, but I found her actions and reasoning extremely selfish.

The story itself was good, if a little too short, which made it come through as crammed with information and rushed, and I liked that by the end all was well, but I cannot help but feel a little cheated.

Janga says

This is a story I have longed for since this series began with *Lost in a Royal Kiss* in which a fourteen-year-old Dominic served as a catalyst. He was a fascinating character even at that age, and his and Chloe's story

has grown more compelling as the series continued. If ever a couple earned their HEA, this one did. The delay gave us an older-than-average hero and heroine with rich histories and a reunion story that I will be adding to my favorites list. I'm also delighted that there are two more novels to look forward to in this excellent series from an author who has been on my auto-buy list since her first book.

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

A FAIRY GODDUDE gets his PIXIE DUST recalled & he gets reunited with his lost love, but 1 of his godkids gets such SWEET PAYBACK by causing him some much needed MAYHEM!

Poor Chloe Steele was seduced by a royal duke at 14 & gave birth at 15, but she was made by her vicar uncle to abandon her baby boy, Griffin. She was sent to all girls school to learn a trade & was soon hired as a companion to a wealth childless lady, but she was truly embraced & loved by her. When her employer died, she was left all her money & she set up a sanctuary for girls that are in the same situations as she was, alone, pregnant & unwanted. Chloe also find & keep her eyes on her son, Griffin, but she did it in the background because her lost love, Sir Dominic Hunter, also had his eye on Griffin.

Sir Dominic Hunter is England's head spymaster & he also has a side job as the FAIRY GODDUDE to his pack of royal illegitimate BAD BOYS! He has no problem finding his BOYS their perfect female mate, throwing them together in chaos & watching the fur & live fly. He has only 1 regret & that is Chloe Steele, who is his lost love from his childhood, but Dominic at least has her son in his life.

With Chloe back from the so-called dead, Dominic has want he most CRAVES at his fingertips, but Chloe has stubbornness on STERIODS! Soon she needs Dominic helps with a PISSED OFF crime lord's nephew causing a ruckus at her pregnant girls & babies sanctuary. Now her son gets to cause all kinds of payback mayhem on Dominic's head & he is so loving it! With all the craziness, Chloe & Dominic find themselves at a spy safe house, so Dominic wants to get down & dirty with Chloe ASAP & soon many mutual screaming orgasms are rocking the safe house! Chloe refuses his proposal because she doesn't want to be outed as alive to Griffin's royal father & screw up Dominic's career. Can Dominic gets his own Happily Ever After with Chloe? Will Chloe toss caution to the wind & grab ahold of her lost love & never let go? How much payback will Griffin get?

As I have read thru this Renegade Royals series, all I have wanted is to FINALLY read Chloe & Dominic's story & I have to say, "Ms. Kelly ROCKED IT!" Poor Chloe was weak & seduces by a mean royal duke & all she got out of the "less than minute deal" was exiled. Chloe did have Griffin, but she was made to abandon him, but all she did was make up or atone for her past mistakes by being 24/7 & 365 days MOM to her sanctuary girls & babies. Now Dominic has been putting his claimed clan of BAD BOYS thru living HADES & I was so glad that Ms. Kelly twisted up her tale with 1 of his happily ever after boys getting some SWEET PAYBACK & put Dominic's life into kooky MAYHEM! I also thought that his adopted clan was his way of atoning for not saving his own lost love, Chloe. I generally don't enjoy an 40 something couple, but Ms. Kelly made her h/h the YUMMIEST older couple romance I have read in a long time. Now this was a 2.5 book, Ms. Kelly didn't skip out on the NAUGHTINESS & had many toe curling moments & undies scorching scenes that made this tale SNAP, CRACKLE & KABOOM! I have awaited this tale for so long & I must say that Ms. Kelly made it was so worth the wait! Now 2015 has just started, but I can only give Ms. Kelly my 1st top score of 2015 of 5 fingers up & 10 toes for this tale of reunited lost loves!

NetGalley ARC given for my honest review.

Hannah says

And the story continues... What started in Lost in His Royal Kiss continues fourteen years later, YEAAAAA!!!! finally Dominic and Chloe are together. In the series prequel Lost in His Royal Kiss we meet teen-aged Dominic and Chloe already very close and already half in love with each other but Chloe's kind heart got her in to a bit of trouble when the youngest prince took advantage of her and forced himself on her and she ended up pregnant. Forced to leave and live with her uncle Dominic and Chloe are separated and don't see each other again until fourteen years later. I love this series Vanessa Kelly writes great romance that keeps you on your toes for what will happen next.

Chloe always regretted the decisions she was forced into making she tries her best to make it up and redeem herself by helping other girls that end up in situations like hers. But she still feels guilty so guilty that she isn't willing to let herself have her happy ending with Dominic. Dominic has other plans he is just waiting for a sign from her, after a couple months after being reunited and nothing he gets a note from her son saying she is in trouble. One of Chloe's girls attracted the attentions of the wrong man and now Chloe is caught in the middle and if Chloe is in trouble Dominic is right there with her. At first things between them are great until Dominic goes all domineering Alpha male and Chloe balks, determined she doesn't need help or Dominic protection.

I love Vanessa Kelly she has not written anything that I didn't like and I am very excited to read the next one coming out the beginning of January.
