



## **The Last First Time**

*Andrea Bramhall*

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When Gina Temple decides to go Christmas shopping for her girlfriend, Detective Sergeant Kate Brannon, in the Norfolk town of King's Lynn, it seems like an easy enough task.

If only life were that simple.

A split-second event, months in the planning, tips their safe world upside-down.

In this twisting lesbian thriller, Kate's subsequent investigation leads her down the rabbit hole, where innocent people are targets, and has repercussions that will reverberate for a long, long time.

Meanwhile, as the two women grow closer, things get even more complicated. Life seems determined to throw obstacles in their path.

Will things ever feel normal again?

## **The Last First Time Details**

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Author : Andrea Bramhall

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## **From Reader Review The Last First Time for online ebook**

### **Jasmine says**

There's an attack in King's Lynn, which has Kate and her team working fearlessly to find out who's behind it. Kate is working night and day, but still finds time for special moments with Gina and Sammy.

This is book three in the Norfolk Coast Investigation series, while I think you could pick it up in the 3rd book, I highly recommend reading the first two. The romance is slow paced, but happens in real time, only two months has passed from the beginning of the 1st book until the 3rd one. These books are truly excellent crime novels, well plotted, well paced, giving away just the right amount of details. This series is really solid. I love all the secondary characters too, rough around the edges sometimes, but I've come to care for for them as well throughout the books.

Once again, Andrea Bramhall reminds me why she's solidly on my list of favourite authors. This was tough to read because of the subject matter, because it was very realistic. Kudos to the author for excellent writing.

There was a side plot from Gina's that was frustrating in that it was really obvious, I spotted it a mile away. I didn't find that it added anything to the story, and more took away from it if anything.

I'll be looking forward to book 4!

I received an ARC from YLVA in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Liz says**

This is the 3rd book in a series. It can be read as a stand alone, in fact I have not read book one. But in hindsight better read in order as the stories do follow on.

I really enjoyed this and book 2. The romance is very slow burn, which I prefer to wham bang scenes of most romances. I really enjoyed the story, even more chilling as in UK (and other countries) the scenes described as becoming a frequent report on the news.

The writing is excellent, and for me this author excels in this type of genre rather than standard romance books. My only slight gripe is that the side storyline in book 2 was not resolved in book 3, but left a book 4. I hope book 4 is not too far away as I had series that end without resolution. I would prefer a complete story in a book.

Would recommend. Certainly lifted me out of lesfic reading slump.

Arc supplied by YLVA for honest review.

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### **Lex Kent says**

This is the 3rd book in the Norfolk Coast Investigations series, and it was just as good as the others. After 3 books I have become really attached to Kate and Gina, and I am always excited to see another book come out in this series. If you are new to this series, I highly recommend starting at book 1. There are storylines that continue throughout all the books that you would be missing out on if you didn't start from the beginning.

The blurb does not give away much, so I want to be very careful what I say. The beginning starts off shortly after book 2 ended. The normally close-knit town of King's Lynn is attacked, and it is up to Kate to figure out how who's behind it.

The beginning of the book starts with a bang that was well written and exciting. Kate really shines as she runs head first into the investigation. Kate has been growing in front of our eyes as a Sergeant, and it was fun watching her at her best. The investigation was exciting, but the ending was bittersweet.

One thing about this series is the romance is very slow going. In this book it was nice to see the romance actually take steps forward. It's still not to the level I wish, but there was definitely more attention to the romance than in previous books.

My only real complaint, one of Gina's new main storylines, wrapped up a bit unrealistic for me. It's just seemed a little "oh come on now." The chances of that happening must be as good as winning the lottery. So I honestly was not crazy about it. On the other hand there is one storyline, with Gina, from the last book that is still not resolved. If you read book 2, you will know what I mean. By Bramhall doing this it is clear a book 4 will be coming. I'm happy about that, but I hope this storyline is resolved in the next book. It does not need to be stretched out so long. I already am forgetting things from book to book, an ending to that storyline soon would be welcome.

If you are a fan of this series, don't hesitate to read this, you will enjoy this one. If you are new to the series, start with Collide-O-Scope. I hope we don't have to wait long for book 4.

*An ARC was given to me by YLVA, for a honest review.*

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## **Gaby LezReviewBooks says**

This is book number three of the Norfolk Coast Investigation Story's series which I suggest to read in chronological order as some of the plots develop throughout the series. There is a cliffhanger in this one so be warned. The books follow Detective Sergeant Kate Brannon and her girlfriend Gina Temple as Kate solves different crimes and Gina manages to get into trouble along the way. This is a very, very slow-burn romance that advances through the series but each book deals and closes a specific crime.

In the previous books Ms. Bramhall dealt with difficult issues such as drug trafficking and euthanasia. In this book she touches the problem of terrorism and goes beyond its obvious result of life loss and destruction. The author presents some paradoxical consequences of counter terrorism investigations that make the reader wonder about what is ethically acceptable in the fight against terrorism. Can anything be tolerated in the name of justice? Is there any justification for life loss even in the name of a greater good?

I would have given this book a 5+ star rating except for the twist at the end that is hard to believe. Hence, I dropped half a star. However, don't let this deter you from reading it and the whole series as all the books are seriously good.

A thought provoking mystery with a bit of romance at the side. 4.5 stars.

ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at  
[www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com](http://www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com)

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### **Jane Shambler says**

This is the third book in the ongoing Norfolk Investigation series. One which I may add I really enjoy for two reasons. One it has excellent writing and two it's set in Norfolk. I actually know the places being written about. Hey, it makes me happy. It gives me a better picture in my head. Bramhall had really developed both the characters and the story line and part of me should be mad but I love the suspense and tension she has built into the series.

I do believe that this book should come with a warning. Why? Because you can't put it down. Seriously it is that good. All the characters are there and Bramhall takes you to new heights of deception, disbelief and terror. But I love the way she is able to maintain the quality of good amongst her characters despite the evil going around.

Well I definitely assume that there will be a forth book because something that happened at the end of book two is still ongoing. I'm sorry if you want to know you're gonna have to give this series ago. I promise you, you won't regret it. It is really good. Enjoy!

\*ARC provided by publisher via Ylva Publishing\*

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### **Lexxi Kitty says**

*Book received from Ylva Publishing for an honest review*

The Last First Time is the third book in the Norfolk Coast Investigation series.

#### **POV**

Both Gina and Kate have point of views on this book, and there's a third point of view in the prologue.

#### **Characters**

In a book like this characters both matter more and matter less than in a pure romance. There is a romance-plot-line here, but it's subservient to the thriller/mystery plot-line.

On the Romance side of things, the main characters of importance are Gina Temple and Kate Brannon.

On the Mystery/Thriller side of things, the main characters are Kate Brannon, Stella, Clare, Jimmy, Tom, Timmons, Gareth and the rest of the police force. Plus the victims and near victims, like Gina & Stella, Pat O'Shea, and others, like the baby in the baby carriage, in the first explosion; police and innocent bystanders

in the second explosion.

On the family side of things we include the growing closer to being a single whole family of Gina, Kate, and Sammy (Gina's kid); plus Gina's mum Alison.

### **Setting**

King's Lynn, Norfolk, England. 98 miles north of London, 36 miles north-east of Peterborough, 44 miles north north-east of Cambridge and 44 miles west of Norwich.

The story takes place around Christmas time.

### **Story**

Gina and Stella are in a sex shop buying a present for Kate. Stella's there to help Gina, though Stella isn't really sure *why*. While in that shop, two teenagers wearing explosives explode.

The story proceeds from there, following several plot-lines:

Plot-line 1: Police investigate terrorists.

Plot-line 2: Gina and Kate's relationship advances.

Plot-line 3: Gina meets a woman in that sex shop and makes a specific promise, to track down a lost love of that woman.

Plot-line 4: Two police officers from Kate's past turn up – one an older mentor type, someone Kate thought of in a 'sister' type way; other ex-girlfriend of Kate's. Both betrayed Kate.

Plot-Line 5: Someone is stalking Gina – sending her flowers, cards, letters, indicating that Gina is theirs and that Gina just doesn't see them.

### **Review**

Before I jump to 'one specific problem' (which is what I actually wrote first), I insert this part here: I realized, suddenly, what type of book I got myself into when I started to read from the beginning – the pre-beginning. When the author started to list all the terror attacks that had happened in the UK in the preceding year. Then turned to a prologue that show-cased two women getting ready to explode themselves. This is the third book in the series, I didn't expect that this was what would pop-up, a terror plot-line. I don't know what the book's description says, as I said, this is the third in a series, of course I was going to read this book, no questions asked, no desire to look at the book description in that situation as it might reveal stuff I don't want to have revealed. It's like when you are about to watch a show, and three seconds before it starts there's a preview . . . for that show. Pfft, no want to watch that preview (or read book description)!

I've one specific problem right at the start of the book, something immediately let me know that this was not going to be a five star book (or, at least, not a 5+ star book). And that's the way the prologue and opening chapter merged – no no, not the prologue itself. It was neat that the prologue showed two young women outside a particular shop, showed them entering a shop . . . moved to chapter one, with Gina and Stella both noticing the young women right as the two older women enter the shop. That's neat and thrilling. It's the part where the reader knows that the two young women are wearing explosives, and that they are seconds away from detonating them. And that two people who have been in the series from the beginning are, seemingly, inches from them. And then . . . paragraph after paragraph, word after word . . . way too much in between that, forgive me the use of this phrase, that 'oh my god' moment and . . . the actual explosion. I, even though I really really didn't want to do so – found myself starting to skim. I *knew* an explosion was just about to happen, I couldn't read all that crap right then and there. I needed to know what happened next! Yes yes, it builds things up to have these two women acting all human like but . . . That happens more than I'd like in this book – not really padding, the 'stuff' had its use, but it wasn't 'stuff' I really wanted to read right then

and there. Elongated the book beyond what it could have been. But, bah. Choices and stuff.

Beyond that specific 'problematic' issue, the book was quite riveting, exciting, interesting to read. All aspects of the story. The horror of terrorism, of being in a blast; the bone-wearing investigations; the constant bumping up against 'need to know' issues that hamper investigations; the further joining together of two families; the further lives of three women (Kate, Gina, Sammy).

Rating: 4.68

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### **Aj Smith says**

Andrea Bramhall is a writer who frequently frustrates me; this book and the two previous instalments in the Norfolk Coast Investigation series (Collide-O-Scope & Under Parr), are truly excellent novels. All three are tight, well plotted crime novels without being overly technical, are realistic and deal with real life issues (drugs, terror threats) without being overly obvious and have a decent romantic sub-plot. Her other novels, however, well the less said the better.

Anyway, back to this book! Those of you who were slightly frustrated (just like poor Kate) by how things stalled in Under Parr will glad to hear that the opening scenes here see Gina out shopping for some racy underwear to wear on a big date with her lady love. She selects the ideal wisps of fabric only to have disaster strike before she can splash the cash and get on home to the still wonderfully entertaining Sammy. All of the usual bits are excellent; Kate investigates and through a combination of boring paperwork, heroism/foolishness and just being very clever discovers some useful things. Sammy is cheeky and entertains everyone but also shows some utterly adorable vulnerability and Gina does her best to glue everyone together. All brilliant and other stuff happens that I won't mention but it's really good and you'll love it!

Then there's the utterly stupid and unnecessary sub-plot...seriously...wt actual f? I saw it coming a mile off a spent a while thinking "No, it can't be. No, that's far too obvious, that would be silly." It really is that obvious and that's why an otherwise brilliant book that I read in one evening is only getting 4/5 stars.

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### **Susanne says**

This is a fantastic and very well written police procedural mystery ... the third book in the series featuring Kate Brannon and Gina Temple. Can't believe for the next book to come out.

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### **Amanda says**

For me this was the best in the series so far. I now have to wait for the next in the series. If you haven't read Bramhall's books before you are really missing out. They are all very good. My favorite is still Nightingale, but this series is close in line. I just love Kate and Gina and could read several more books with them as the lead. \*I hope I will in fact get to read several more\* The Last First Time is #3 in the Norfolk Coast Investigation series and you should really read them in order. If you haven't done so buy all 3 and assume

you will get very little sleep for the next few days.

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### **Andrea says**

A great thrift novel in the series about Gina Temple and Kate Brannon. It is a well plotted crime novel with a tight mystery that seems hard to solve at the beginning but everything comes together at the end with a reasonable solution. All of the books in the series deal with real life issues like drugs, terror threats and family issues. I like that the crime plot is the main plot and the romance plot is a sub plot. For anybody who is looking for a romance novel - this is probably not it.

If I needed to rate all three books and which one I liked best I would rate them in the order they were published - the first as the least (even though I really liked it and it is great) then the second one and this one as my favorite.

The characters got more and more developed with each book and their relationship is what is the common part in the series. - the crime part is separated and each one is solved in the book. This makes it possible to read them out of order in my opinion.

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### **Carrie says**

This is the 3rd installment of the Norfolk Coast series.

There was SO much going on in this one, that my head was spinning.

From the very beginning, this was pretty intense. Very serious attack happens and descriptive in its brutality. Of course, as with all the books in this series, there are multiple suspects and interrogations that have you trying to solve the case right along with Kate.

Kate and Gina's relationship progresses further. Although at times, you wonder how the hell that is possible with all the extreme challenges they are faced with.

When I started reading the series. I thought it was a completed trilogy for some reason. But there is a storyline spanning the past two books that is yet to be resolved. So now I have to wait, I suppose?

I wanted to give this a 5 but settled on a 4 like the last one. Sometimes the author goes off on long tangents about the subject matter and morality of things. I think it made sense for the character to put thought to these things but I find it to be a little too lengthy when it happens. And distracted by not being able to prevent thinking I am reading an opinionated essay from the author's mind herself.

But these are seriously good stories, characters, plots, etc. I have enjoyed getting sucked into this.

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### **Jane Clements says**

[ who was sending Gina flowers and stalking her. (hide spoiler)]



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## **Della says**

This is the third novel in the Norfolk Coast series and I am so glad it has finally been published. I want to start with the title. Normally I run to the first sentence of a novel and skim right past the title. This title stopped me in my tracks. My imagination was going wild trying to decipher the meaning. I give one star alone to the title.

Andrea Bramhall has written another great novel. This one is not for the faint of heart though. The story brings world events into the lives of Gina and Kate and the world is not a pretty place at times.

Ms Bramhall's descriptions of life in the Norfolk area sweep you into the story. Her words and phrasing flow easily and keep you turning the pages. The characters have become old friends by this third novel. I await their return.

5 stars.

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## **Ted says**

So book 3 in the Norfolk coast series has a lot of bumps and bruises for Gina and Kate. Their relationship arc is done very well and is understandable in its progression. The criminal mystery arc is a bit frustrating but is well done.

Andrea really hits her stride when there's bullets flying, a bomb about to go off or a dead body that needs investigating. You can just imagine her cricking her neck, putting her hands together and working out the kinks as she looks down and realizes her tea's gone cold as she finishes writing a Kate interrogation scene.

Then there's several sub arcs, Gina's mom, the mystery woman at the first crime scene, and the origins of the roses given to Gina from book 2.

This is an intensely satisfying novel that really has so much going on, in typical Bramhall fashion, that many times you're asking yourself, what about that, or this, aaaargh... lol. But in a good way.

Zero question in my mind there *\*will\** be a book 4 :)

Loved it to bits.

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## **Agirlcandream says**

Loved it. This third book in the Norfolk investigation series packs a punch and showcases Andrea Bramhall's talent when she writes romantic intrigue/police procedurals.

In *The Last First Time*, Kate Brannon and Gina Temple are feeling their way through the early stages of their relationship. Gina's secret admirer is becoming bolder. A character introduced in *Under Parr*, Gina's mother

Alison begins a tentative relationship with her daughter.

Overriding the family drama are the harsh realities of modern terrorism and its impact on the small community of King's Lynn. What I love most about this author is her talent for tying plot lines together for that aha moment I enjoy in my police procedurals. I found the ending both revealing and satisfying. Conflicts around the world may evolve and threats originate from new locations but the impact on innocent bystanders and their loved ones remains the same. A solid addition to an excellent series.

ARC received with thanks from publisher for review.

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