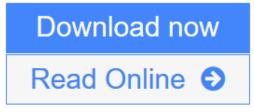


A Novella Collection

Courtney Milan



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Four Previously Published Novellas...available now at one low price.

The Governess Affair

Three months ago, governess Serena Barton was sacked. Now she's demanding compensation from the man responsible: a petty, selfish duke. But it's not the duke she fears. Hugo Marshall handles all the duke's dirty business, and he's been ordered to get rid of her by fair means or foul. If only he didn't find her so compelling...

A Kiss for Midwinter

Miss Lydia Charingford is always cheerful, and never more so than at Christmas time. Still, no matter how hard she smiles, she can't forget the dark secret that nearly ruined her life. But someone else knows the truth of those dark days: the sarcastic Doctor Jonas Grantham. She wants nothing to do with him...or the butterflies that take flight in her stomach every time he looks her way...

What Happened at Midnight

Fleeing the consequences of her father's embezzlement, Mary Chartley takes a position as a lady's companion, only to find herself a virtual prisoner at Doyle's Grange, her employer's house. And then the nightmare truly begins: the man she loves, who also happens to be the man from whom her father stole, shows up at her door seeking recompense. And she has no way to pay him...

The Lady Always Wins

Railway financier Simon Davenant has waited seven years for a second chance with Virginia Croswell, his childhood sweetheart and best friend. He's not about to let his impending financial ruin destroy the opportunity. This time, he'll do anything he can to secure her hand in marriage--even if it means losing her heart for good.

A Novella Collection Details

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From Reader Review A Novella Collection for online ebook

m_miriam says

Our culture is hesitant to accurately label sexual assault and rape in particular. This is no less true in the Romance genre and feminist Romance struggles with it as well. While Milan emphasizes consent between her protagonists, in this collection the sexual experiences of her heroines outside of their romance are coercive and/or non-consensual, although never properly named.

Aarya Marsden says

The Governess Affair: 5 stars

A Kiss for Midwinter: 3.5 stars

What Happened at Midnight: 4 stars

The Lady Always Wins: 3 stars

? Rhiannon * Mistwalker ? says

The Governess Affair

I adore this story!!!! I had read it before when I started the Brothers Sinister series, and re-reading it made me put all those books on my to-re-read shelf. Oh, so good. So so good. (4.5 stars)

A Kiss for Midwinter

Two of the most unique and likable characters I have ever come across in reading historical romance. I wish this was a full novel. I love this story sooo much. (5 stars)

What Happened at Midnight

Some great angst here, and expected unique characters and fascinating plot. I like the (perceived) pastbetrayal storyline generally, and Milan always gives new and interesting dimensions to common tropes. (3.5 stars)

The Lady Always Wins

Short and sweet. Never met a Milan character I didn't like. This was cute. (3 stars)

AerinLuvs says

Courtney Milan writes a lot of Novellas, I think she has many novellas as she has full length novels. I read

Christy says

LOVED the first three novellas and did not care for the last one at all.

Crysta says

Out of the five novellas in this collection, the two that aren't attached to any particular series are the weakest. With these being at the end of the book left me with less enjoyment as I got closer and closer to the finish. Definitely love The Governess Affair and would highly recommend it on its own.

Nau says

This was a good 'verse.

Hilly says

3.75 stars. 4 novellas, all poignant and well-told.

The Governess Affair. Serena Barton/Hugo Marshall. (Brothers Sinister book # 0.5) Quietly moving and memorable.

A Kiss for Midwinter. Lydia Charingford/Doctor Jonas Grantham. (Brothers Sinister book # 1.5) A 'second chance for love' story; we've already met these characters, but now we really learn their back stories: who they are and what they've been to one another.

What Happened at Midnight. Mary Chartley/John Mason. Another 'second chance for love' story; the abuse was frightening; *I* didn't need the epilogue.

The Lady Always Wins. Virginia Croswell/Simon Davenant. Yet another 'second chance for love' story; a great deal of angst for so tenuous a plot, yet the characters had dimension; perhaps the weakest of the four novellas in this anthology, yet still stronger than most other authors' works.

Maura says

The Governess Affair - 4/5 - I definitely enjoyed this story. Although a novella (and free on Amazon), it was a fully fleshed out story and I didn't feel like it was rushed at any point. The way Hugo dealt with Serena's

fears was very adorable and I really enjoyed this romance. I'm looking forward to the rest of the series.

A Kiss for Midwinter - 4/5 - I have to give Courtney Milan major credit for characterization. In this short little novella, she has created two very believable, very flawed but very likeable characters and despite their pain and/or guilt, they seem to move past these emotions and heal rather believably as well. This story did not feel rushed, which so often happens in novellas - this felt like a well paced, complete story. I am so very impressed here.

What Happened at Midnight - 3/5 - Not my favorite of Milan's novellas, but still a quality story brought down to 100 pages. Once again the characters have flaws - especially the hero who realizes that he's been lying to the heroine all this time. Their realizations about their own relationship were accompanied by a subplot involving the heroine's mistress (who she's a companion for) and the abusive husband who also controls the heroine. A good read.

The Lady Always Wins - 3/5 - Another of Milan's novellas that is definitely a good quality story, but just wasn't to my tastes. I dislike the kind of stories that are uncomfortably angsty - particularly when two people who are in love are separated for many years because of some misunderstanding, issue or something. In this case, the two loved one another, but the heroine, having a dreadful fear of poverty and facing living in poverty with the one she loves, chooses to marry another. The hero felt betrayed and devastated, but still loving her decides to go after her once she's widowed and he's still rich...but he's only still rich for the next few days.

Ultimately this is a story about defining the line between love and obsession. If you really love someone would you confine them to a lifetime of the poverty that they fear beyond all reason? Or would you want them to find happiness with someone else, no matter how crazy it drove you? If you truly loved someone wouldn't you be willing to get past that fear just to be with them? This story asks those questions and for that reason is a fantastic story - it really makes you think. But it gave me that uncomfortable twist in my gut that I didn't like, especially thinking of the pain the characters endured and how much they hurt one another with their decisions and fears.

Wollstonecrafthomegirl says

Read all four of these novella this year and they were all brilliant. This is a great collection, every individual story holds up, which is rare for novella collections in my experience.

I reviewed each as I went along and the individual reviews appear as follows:

The Governess Affair - 5 stars

A Kiss For Midwinter - 4 stars

What Happened at Midnight, found in Midnight Scandals - 5 stars

The Lady Always Wins - 4 stars

Cora says

Short, sweet and satisfying!

skein says

The theme of many current romance novels seems to be "Jesus, but women get fucked over by patriarchy" -- and these four shorts are no exception. I love me some feminism, as you well know, but sometimes a lady just wants a bored heiress trying to find true & abiding lust in a Season.

Nevertheless, here we are.

Well-written, poorly plotted -- these are apparently half-written novels that didn't quite pan out. Well, that's fine. Milan writes the good parts first -- I do, too -- so the rest can be filled in by anyone's not-altogether-focused imagination.

This review brought to you by a very strong Gin & Sours on a very empty stomach.

David says

A collection of four novellas.

"The Governess Affair" - A prequel to the Brothers Sisters series. It has an interesting premise of a disgraced governess carrying on a silent protest before the home of the gentleman who done her wrong and his aide saddled with the job of dealing with her. It's a fun read, but short, single minded and more devoted to the romance angle than suits my tastes.

"A Kiss for Midwinter Dedication" - This falls between the first and second books of the Brothers Sisters series. The same criticisms as the prequel novella, but this is graced with the complexities of the main characters' first meeting that are both intriguing and well related. Makes for quite a good read.

"What Happened at Midnight" - Part of a multi-author collection of novellas all happening at the same house in different years. A very sweet story of a romance torn apart and rebuilt. Though the inevitable romantic resolution is getting a bit tiresome. But, then, what should I expect from a romance writer?

"The Lady Always Wins" - The shortest and weakest of the group - not connected to any series that I'm aware of. The hook is how the couple make a game of challenging each other with absurd arrogance. That element is actually rather engaging, but the story is especially weak as to believability. Undercuts the drama of it. Much suspension of disbelief required.

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

Four really wonderful novellas by one of my favourite historical writers that I've only discovered recently, Courtney Milan. Not only are her novellas deeply romantic and well written they are a real insight in the lives of the people of the Victorian Age as she skillfully weaves details of this era of immense social change with beautiful romance. The Governess Affair: ***** One of the best historical novellas I've ever read....Courtney Milan takes a common, plain and somewhat brutish man in Hugo Marshall (Known as the Wolf of Clermont) and through the power of her skillful touch turns him into a hero!!

A Kiss for Midwinter: ****

What Happened at Midnight: ****

The Lady Always Wins: ****

Amy says

The Governess Affair: Sweet redemption of the governess and the duke's man. And the dirty duke gets his. Serena and Hugo are a great couple.

A Kiss for Midwinter: A little less charming. Lydia is hard to like. Jonas is amazing - and one wonders why he puts up with her.

What Happened at Midnight: Romantic and lovely. Mary runs from her fate, and John follows her for a crazy-long time. Eventually, it becomes clear that he's not following her because he wants to do her harm.

The Lady Always Wins: Sexy, and strangely romantic. Simon and Ginny clearly love each other, but have to get all kinds of stuff out of the way first.