



Christmas in the Duke's Arms

Grace Burrowes , Shana Galen , Miranda Neville , Carolyn Jewel

Download now

Read Online →

Christmas in the Duke's Arms

Grace Burrowes , Shana Galen , Miranda Neville , Carolyn Jewel

Christmas in the Duke's Arms Grace Burrowes , Shana Galen , Miranda Neville , Carolyn Jewel
The Duke's Arms is an undistinguished little inn in the tiny village of Hopewell-on-Lyft. But one Christmas season sees both inn and village seething with adventure, intrigue, rabbits, and, above all, love as four couples find Yuletide happiness. An anthology of Regency novellas by Grace Burrowes, Shana Galen, Carolyn Jewel and Miranda Neville.

***A Knight Before Christmas* by Grace Burrowes**

With her year of mourning at an end, Penelope Carrington must remarry in haste, or her portion of her late husband's estate won't be enough to dower her younger sisters.

Shy, handsome man of business Sir Leviticus Sparrow longs to give Penelope a marriage proposal for Christmas—and his heart—but Sir Levi must first foil the other bachelors scheming to meet Penelope under the mistletoe in his place.

***In The Duke's Arms* by Carolyn Jewel**

What's a Duke to do when he's made an awful impression on the love of his life?

The Duke of Oxthorpe lost his intensely guarded heart to Miss Edith Clay when Edith's rich cousin sought to attach the duke's marital interest. So smitten is Oxthorpe with the former poor relation that he's gone through intermediaries to sell Edith a property adjoining the ducal seat.

Edith doesn't much care for the haughty duke, but as Christmas approaches, Oxthorpe reveals himself to be reserved rather than arrogant, considerate, and—blame the mistletoe!—an accomplished kisser. Will Edith hold Oxthorpe's earlier behavior against him, or will she learn that the best holiday gifts can be the most unexpected?

***Licensed To Wed* by Miranda Neville**

If Lord Carbury could learn to take no for an answer, his marriage proposal might earn him a yes!

Wyatt, Viscount Carbury is much too busy to court a bride, but when his childhood neighbor, Robina Weston, is left orphaned and penniless, Wyatt dutifully adds marrying Robina to his list of responsibilities. Wyatt is dismayed to learn that for Robina, poverty and pride are preferable to sharing life with an arrogant, infuriating man who always thinks he knows best.

When Wyatt and Robina must endure Christmas in the country together, antipathy turns to interest, and then to unexpected attraction. Will they fight their feelings, or yield to the surprising gifts the holidays offer?

***The Spy Beneath The Mistletoe* by Shana Galen**

Fledgling spy Pierce Moneyponce seeks a highwayman and the key to Eliza's heart...

When weapons designer Eliza Qwillen (Q) and clerk to the mysterious M, Pierce Moneypence, arrive in the English countryside, they're unprepared for the dangers that await. The operatives are intent upon capturing the highwayman styling himself as the New Sheriff of Nottingham.

Secret rendezvous, mistaken identities, and cat-and-mouse games challenge these fledgling agents, but rediscovering their passion for each other is the most rewarding mission of all.

Christmas in the Duke's Arms Details

Date : Published October 8th 2014 by CreateSpace

ISBN : 9781502772268

Author : Grace Burrowes , Shana Galen , Miranda Neville , Carolyn Jewel

Format : Paperback 338 pages

Genre : Anthologies, Holiday, Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

 [Download Christmas in the Duke's Arms ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Christmas in the Duke's Arms ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Christmas in the Duke's Arms Grace Burrowes , Shana Galen ,
Miranda Neville , Carolyn Jewel**

From Reader Review Christmas in the Duke's Arms for online ebook

Shabby Girl ~ aka Lady Victoria says

I bought this book primarily for the Carolyn Jewel story. I'm a real fan of hers, and her book, Scandal, years after I read it is still in my top 5 books ever. I also loved another short story she put out a while ago called Moonlight which is one of the most loveliest stories and I gave it five stars so, yes, I'm a bit of a fan. I really loved her story in this book, and even though it was a short story, it had a real depth to it he others just didn't. It also had a lovely first joining scene that was quite tingly and hot. I liked the other stories and the three stars is for those, but Carolyn's story was a four.

Susan Gorman says

Tis the season for holiday-themed stories!

Christmas in the Duke's Arms is a anthology written by best selling authors Grace Burrowes, Shana Galen, Miranda Neville and Carolyn Jewel. The book is set in the English countryside during the holiday season.

I loved that these stories are connected. Characters travel from one story to another providing continuity to the book. Each author features individual characters and crafts a specific story for these characters in her short story while keeping to a common story line and holiday theme.

The novel begins with A Knight Before Christmas by Grace Burrowes. Readers may remember the character of Penelope Carrington from Ms. Burrowes' novel Lady Lousia's Christmas Knight. Penelope meets with her man of business Sir Leviticus Sparrow to discuss her finances. Penelope needs to marry quickly to inherit a larger portion of her late husband's estate to support her family. Will Penelope's rabbit Franklin help her choose her white knight? And will Levi approve?

Christmas in The Duke's Arms is written by Carolyn Jewel. I loved this short story about the Duke of Oxthorpe and Miss Edith Clay. Earlier in the year, the Duke had courted Edith's cousin. Edith had chaperoned the visits and had was not too impressed by him. I so enjoyed reading this story. It's charming, has great characters and it is great fun to see what lengths the Duke will go to to win Edith's affections. Will the Duke arrive home in time to dance with Edith under the mistletoe at the local holiday assembly?

Miranda Neville is a new to me author. I loved Wyatt Carbury, the list making Duke and the strong -willed heroine, Robina, in Licensed to Wed. Carbury begins each day by writing a to do list; the list indicates how he prioritizes his day. Proposing marriage to his neighbor and friend Robina usually appears last on the daily task sheet. Robina declines Wyatt's less than heartfelt proposal and chooses to become a paid companion to an elderly woman. Carbury is insulted and confused. After all, the proposal was on his list and he was prepared with a special marriage license. Robina and Wyatt meet at the Dukes Arms Inn after her coach has been robbed and she has been left without funds. The couple is stranded together during a holiday snowstorm....will they be able to work through their differences in time to attend the holiday assembly?

Eliza Qwillen and Pierce Moneyponce are two of my favorite characters from Shana Galen's spies series.

Shana Galen's *A Spy Beneath the Mistletoe* is the final story in the anthology. Eliza and Pierce are tasked by different members of the Barbican group to track down and apprehend the mysterious New Sheriff of Nottingham who is robbing the coaches as they travel through the countryside. Pierce suggests to Eliza that they work together. Will Pierce use this assignment as an opportunity to win back Eliza's heart? And will the New Sheriff of Nottingham be brought to justice?

Reading *Christmas In The Duke's Arms* definitely got me in the holiday spirit. The cover is gorgeous with it's holiday colors, snowflakes and mistletoe. And each story is heartwarming and full of holiday cheer! I highly recommend *Christmas In The Duke's Arms* to everyone!!

<

Patti says

First let me start by saying that I loved all the novellas in this anthology. Grace Burrowes starts it off with Levi and Penelope's story and it was so cute I couldn't put it down. Carolyn Jewel's *In the Duke's Arms* was about Edith Clay and the Duke of Oxthorpe. Their story kept me turning the pages! Licensed to Wed by Miranda Neville was Wyatt and Robina's story. I liked watching Wyatt come to the realization that he really did love Robina. Shana Galen's story *The Spy Beneath the Mistletoe* wraps up the antho. with Eliza and Pierce's story. I loved the passion between the two spies and the steamy scenes kept me up late at night reading! Great job ladies!!!

Lisa Hutson says

Here is the review for Shana Galen's contribution to this anthology. I just did not have time to read the whole thing.

<http://ladycelestereadsromance.blogspot...>

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

A Great Kindle Christmas Anthology for just \$0.99! <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00O...>

Blurb

The Duke's Arms is an undistinguished little inn in the tiny village of Hopewell-on-Lyft. But one Christmas season sees both inn and village seething with adventure, intrigue, rabbits, and, above all, love as four couples find Yuletide happiness.

A Knight Before Christmas by Grace Burrowes

With her year of mourning at an end, Penelope Carrington must remarry in haste, or her portion of her late husband's estate won't be enough to dower her younger sisters. Shy, handsome man of business Sir Leviticus

Sparrow longs to give Penelope a marriage proposal for Christmas—and his heart—but Sir Levi must first foil the other bachelors scheming to meet Penelope under the mistletoe in his place.

In The Duke's Arms by Carolyn Jewel

What's a Duke to do when he's made an awful impression on the love of his life?

The Duke of Oxthorpe lost his intensely guarded heart to Miss Edith Clay when Edith's rich cousin sought to attach the duke's marital interest. So smitten is Oxthorpe with the former poor relation that he's gone through intermediaries to sell Edith a property adjoining the ducal seat.

Edith doesn't much care for the haughty duke, but as Christmas approaches, Oxthorpe reveals himself to be reserved rather than arrogant, considerate, and—blame the mistletoe!—an accomplished kisser. Will Edith hold Oxthorpe's earlier behavior against him, or will she learn that the best holiday gifts can be the most unexpected?

Licensed to Wed by Miranda Neville

If Lord Carbury could learn to take no for an answer, his marriage proposal might earn him a yes!

Wyatt, Viscount Carbury is much too busy to court a bride, but when his childhood neighbor, Robina Weston, is left orphaned and penniless, Wyatt dutifully adds marrying Robina to his list of responsibilities. Wyatt is dismayed to learn that for Robina, poverty and pride are preferable to sharing life with an arrogant, infuriating man who always thinks he knows best.

When Wyatt and Robina must endure Christmas in the country together, antipathy turns to interest, and then to unexpected attraction. Will they fight their feelings, or yield to the surprising gifts the holidays offer?

The Spy Beneath the Mistletoe by Shana Galen

Fledgling spy Pierce Moneypence seeks a highwayman and the key to Eliza's heart.

When weapons designer Eliza Qwillen (Q) and clerk to the mysterious M, Pierce Moneypence, arrive in the English countryside, they're unprepared for the dangers that await. The operatives are intent upon capturing the highwayman styling himself as the New Sheriff of Nottingham. Secret rendezvous, mistaken identities, and cat-and-mouse games challenge these fledgling agents, but rediscovering their passion for each other is the most rewarding mission of all.

Tiffany Reisz says

So good! Loved every story in here. Can't recommend it highly enough for anyone looking for a nice variety of Christmas romances. There's comedy (a bunny on the loose), intrigue (spies), and so much love. Fanfreakingtastic.

Elisabeth Lane says

When I picked up Christmas in The Duke's Arms, I went into it with trepidation. I expected...well...Dukes.

And while I don't have a problem with Dukes per se, I do have a problem with the sameness of Dukes: powerful guy, lots of wealth and responsibility, inevitably rakish, rarely seen doing any government work or estate business despite that I can only imagine those things took at least some amount of their time? I need not have worried. In fact, only one of the heroes in these novellas is a Duke. And even that Duke bears very little resemblance to the stereotypical romance Duke described above. Rather, the title refers to "The Duke's Arms" a pub that serves as one of the loose ties that hold these four stories together. There are others and we'll get to that below when I explain what candy canes are doing in a Regency romance review.

Each of these stories has something to recommend them. The main thing I appreciated about each is that they didn't try too hard to force the cheer and sentimentality. The first story, *A Knight Before Christmas* by Grace Burrowes, does have a number of fluffy bunnies, but as breeding rabbits, they hardly fit the stereotypical mold of the puppy-cover Christmas romance. This novella features the unconventional courtship of a widow and her deceased husband's man of business, himself a widower. The heroine, by virtue of an odd stipulation in her deceased husband's will needs to marry rather quickly and while the two have an affinity, there is an evil other woman holding up the show. The EOW trope is not one I'm fond of in general, but the way the conflict was resolved was hilarious; a farce, but one I enjoyed.

The second story, *In The Duke's Arms* by Carolyn Jewel, who I've heard wonderful things about, but hadn't read, features the only actual Duke of the bunch, a busy, distinguished fellow who tends to scare everyone around him, including his heroine. My favorite aspect of this story would be a bit of a spoiler, but suffice to say that I very much appreciated that the Duke of Oxthorpe is pretty much the opposite of the stereotypical historical romance Duke. He was socially isolated as a child and doesn't engage easily with other people. Heroine Edith Clay is very much the opposite as everyone likes her, except perhaps for her relatives. Seeing her wake up to the truth of Oxthorpe's personality and regard for her is a joy. And all those other Jewel books I've got languishing on my TBR just got bumped up several notches.

Licensed To Wed by Miranda Neville features another man bound by duty and ambition with designs on his now penniless childhood neighbor. In contrast to Jewel, I've read all of Neville's books and for the most part enjoyed them all. I was not at all disappointed by this one in which the poor orphaned girl who may never receive another offer of marriage rejects her dutiful, determined suitor out-of-hand right at the beginning of the story. Wyatt Herbert, Viscount Carbury, is a bit of a stick in the mud and a touch OCD, making to do lists of items, big and small, which get progressively funnier. Robina Weston is delightfully independent, but not excruciatingly so, making this clash of wills most enjoyable.

The final story, *Spy Beneath the Misteltoe* by Shana Galen, was the odd one out in a number of ways, a send-up of 007 Bond spy lore recast as a romance between two competitive spy colleagues. It didn't work quite as well for me as the other three novellas, but still had its charms, including the resolution to another plot thread running through the other stories, that of a highwayman terrorizing the road through the neighborhood in which the stories are set.

Christmas in The Duke's Arms had a little drop in price over the weekend as well. It's now 99 cents at Amazon so if you were holding off, now is the time to snap it up. If you're an historical romance reader looking for a short and sweet but not saccharine holiday read, I definitely recommend it.

For a recipe inspired by *Christmas in The Duke's Arms*, visit *Cooking Up Romance*:
<http://www.cooking-up-romance.com/201...>

Katie says

Wow, this took me a billion years to read. I think I liked the first two. The third one felt disjointed and then the last one was just meh.

Kusanagi says

Ben j'ai beaucoup aimé. C'est 5 étoiles parce que dans l'esprit de la saison. On a envie de bouquets de houx et de gui et de neige...

La dernière nouvelle est très fun...entre deux aspirants espions XD.

J'ai beaucoup aimé aussi le fait que toutes les héroïnes étaient du genre indépendantes et les héros plutôt calmes (et ce sont eux qui sont amoureux dès le début)

Barbara says

I really enjoyed this holiday anthology, by four wonderful authors. All the stories were great, but Grace Burrowes' and Shana Galen's were especially delightful. They are all set in the same location and there are interconnecting characters, so that was an added bonus.

Grace Burrowes - A Knight Before Christmas

The main characters were so likable and determined to find their happiness. Widowed Penelope wanted to finally have a real husband after marrying an older man who was more like a father to her. Widower and man of business Levi wanted nothing more than to make Pen his, but just had to take care of one minor problem before he could do so. The finale at the annual Christmas assembly was outstanding, where everything was worked out just as it should be. I loved it.

Carolyn Jewel - In the Duke's Arms

I liked the humble Edith Clay who was so happy to get out from under her cousin's thumb and live on her own and the socially awkward, brusque Duke of Oxthorpe. It was fun to see the Duke try to overcome his awkwardness to win the heart of the woman he longed for, as she took the effort to look deeper and realize what the Duke was really like.

Miranda Neville - Licensed To Wed

This couple were interesting and made me want to see them work things out. Robina could use a husband, but when Simon proposes for all the wrong reasons, she turns him down. She's known him since childhood and he's so bossy and responsible, she doesn't want to be another obligation he takes on. I loved seeing them come to realize just how much they actually liked about each other, once they had a chance to see each other in a different light.

Shana Galen - The Spy Beneath the Mistletoe

I really love the Lord & Lady Spy series, and the two main characters in this story, Pierce Moneyponce and Eliza Qwillen, are on a mission to find the highwayman who has been terrorizing the countryside. It was quickly established that they had a history together, with some misunderstandings about what they wanted in a relationship. Seeing them work together to solve the case and resolve their differences was a treat. I was delighted that this couple was a bit older than the usual, I think they deserve to find love just as much as the

young debutantes and it was refreshing to see.

Jennifer says

A Knight Before Christmas (Grace Burrowes)- 2 stars. Decent character and plot development for a short. I would've preferred less of the H thinking about his past dalliances, but at least he wasn't a rake.

In the Duke's Arms (Carolyn Jewel)- 2 stars. Again, this had decent character and plot development for a short. It was more of a restrained story (minus the one intimate scene) and I like those more than any insta-love story I've read. I enjoyed this tale of a heroine who was not a ninny and tried to do right by others and herself. A restrained but not mean (yet simply misunderstood) hero was nice to read about. (view spoiler)

Licensed to Wed (Miranda Neville)- 1.5 stars. Characters were a little too wishy washy. Decent development but not my favourite.

The Spy Beneath the Mistletoe (Shana Galen)- 1.5 stars. Decent development but silly characters. The spy aspect of this entire series is too thin to be compelling. So this short is basically on par for the series.

Out of this anthology, In the Duke's Arms was my favourite. That's not saying much as the other stories were middling at best. At least the first three shorts were decently developed.

Janet says

This was an enjoyable anthology--the bunnies in Burrowes story were adorable, as was the endless list making of Viscount Carbury in Miranda Neville's contribution--but the story that was transcendently delicious was Carolyn Jewel's *In the Duke's Arms*. The description from Amazon:

What's a Duke to do when he's made an awful impression on the love of his life?

The Duke of Oxthorpe lost his intensely guarded heart to Miss Edith Clay when Edith's rich cousin sought to attach the duke's marital interest. So smitten is Oxthorpe with the former poor relation that he's gone through intermediaries to sell Edith a property adjoining the ducal seat.

Edith doesn't much care for the haughty duke, but as Christmas approaches, Oxthorpe reveals himself to be reserved rather than arrogant, considerate, and—blame the mistletoe!—an accomplished kisser. Will Edith hold Oxthorpe's earlier behavior against him, or will she learn that the best holiday gifts can be the most unexpected?

The Duke of Oxthorpe was so thoroughly ducal. It is a wonderful portrayal of a reserved, intelligent man who is desperately in love with someone who is quite out of the ordinary. How I liked Edith--the winner of a lottery, she makes small, convincing, pleasurable decisions every day about how she is going to spend her money, her time, and the days of her life. She relishes her independence.

The Duke and Edith become acquainted and their conversations are delightful, like when the Duke discovers the "The green of my china is an almost exact match for you eyes." They're wonderful conversationalists:

"I think I may be the only person alive who knows you are amusing."

"And I hope, Miss Clay, that you keep my secret."

And I hope you search out this story--one of my top reads of 2014.

Aoi says

The good parts were sooo good, but the bad parts frustrated me so much more

A Knight Before Christmas: 1.5 stars

My first Grace Burrowes story. The writing style is not something I'd tried before, and I liked it. It doesn't sparkle with wit like Tessa Dare or Julia Quinn, but there's something there that makes you want to keep reading. The problems in this story were the characterization. The way the hero was written made me think about a sixty-something old man.

In The Duke's Arms:3 stars

I liked it! Some of the finer points weren't explained at all though, for instance, why did Oxthorpe court Louisa in the first place.

Licensed To Wed: 2.5 stars

Arghh! Insta-love.. Illogical, ridiculous instalove

The Spy Beneath The Mistletoe: 4 stars

Ms. Galen has perfected the art of writing a novella. Interestingly written- just enough intricacies to keep the plot going and the right touch of chemistry to satisfy my romance cravings

Ilze says

What a treat! I don't often come across romance anthologies with such a high, consistent level of quality. The stories are all connected, taking place in a village called Hopewell-on-Lyft in Nottinghamshire, England, and much of the action takes place in the local pub called "The Duke's Arms". There is also a subplot about a highwayman who calls himself the "New Sheriff of Nottingham" and who has been terrorizing the coaches that pass through Hopewell-on-Lyft.

Grace Burrowes' story is about a lady called Penelope Carrington (related to Joseph Carrington, the hero of "Lady Louisa's Christmas Knight") and her legal adviser Sir Leviticus Sparrow, or Levi for short. Besides being a widow with an urgent need to be married by Christmas, Penelope also raises Angora rabbits, a couple of whom almost steal the show from Penelope and Levi.

Carolyn Jewel's story is probably the most satisfying of the set, although Grace Burrowes' is very good too. The Duke of Oxthorpe, the highest-ranking person in the area, is hopelessly in love with Miss Edith Cray, who recently moved into a small property next to the Duke's. The story of how the shy but arrogant Duke

finally convinces the retiring (but not shy) Edith, who believes that the Duke is actually interested in her cousin, that she is the woman for him, is delightful and just about as good as a story of this length could be.

Miranda Neville's story is about the (relatively) poor Robina Weston, who refuses an offer of marriage from the extremely well-organized, wealthy and responsible Lord Carbury even though she loves him, because she feels that his offer is only out of a sense of duty towards her. They both end up in Hopewell-on-Lyft, staying at the home of a relatively youthful but extremely snobbish widow who is the mother of Carbury's wards. The widow has designs on Carbury and the story is about how Carbury comes to realize that his true love is Robina and how he gets himself out of the clutches of the widow. The story has several laugh-out-loud moments but not as much emotional involvement as the first 2 stories in the book.

Finally, Shana Galen's story is about a female "weapons designer" and a "clerk to spies" in the Foreign Office, who are both sent to capture the highwayman of Hopewell-on-Lyft. This is the weakest story, mainly because I could not suspend my disbelief about the 2 main characters and their interaction.

Grace Burrowes' and Carolyn Jewel's stories get 5 stars, Miranda Neville's gets 4 stars and Shana Galen's gets 3.

Sarah says

This amazing Christmas Anthology contains four wonderful stories that take place in the same little town at Christmastime and I absolutely loved them all.

Each of the four stories is written by a different historical romance author, two of whom are favorite authors of mine, while the other two were "new to me" authors that I now look forward to reading more from. The stories are connected by not only the town they take place in but also with secondary characters and secondary storylines, one of which isn't resolved until the last story.

These stories are all great reads and include a lot of funny moments as well as touching moments and they all definitely include some steamy moments to warm you this holiday season.

On a side note, if you are fans of Shana Galen's Lord and Lady Spy series, which you all should be, you won't want to miss her story in the anthology which features a couple we got to know in her latest book "Love and Let Spy".
