



The Spring Bride

Anne Gracie

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A dog in need of rescue brings together a young debutante and a mysterious stranger in this regency charmer from the beloved Anne Gracie. For fans of Mary Balogh and Madeline Hunter.

On the eve of the London Season, Jane Chance is about to make her entrance into high society. And after a childhood riddled with poverty and hardship, Jane intends to make a good, safe, sensible marriage. All goes according to plan until a dark, dangerous vagabond helps her rescue a dog.

Zachary Black is all kinds of unsuitable—a former spy, now in disguise, he’s wanted for murder. His instructions: to lie low until his name is cleared. But Zach has never followed the rules, and he wants Jane Chance for his own.

If that means blazing his way into London society, in whatever guise suits him, that’s what he’ll do. Jane knows she shouldn’t fall in love with this unreliable, if devastatingly attractive, rogue. But Zach is determined—and he’s a man accustomed to getting what he wants.

The Spring Bride Details

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From Reader Review The Spring Bride for online ebook

Kathleen says

Audiobook. Decent post-war romance, set in London 1817. One sex scene, no violence, minimal swearing. It was good to see Aunt Beatrice and the four Chance sisters again, with plenty of Max and Freddie. The mutt described in the synopsis played a starring role for a while but then he faded into the background. The murder charge somehow never felt like an honest theat.

This book was the weakest of the series, so far. It was pleasant but predictable, and emotionally I felt little connection. Yet still I'm planning to read book 4 when it's published — Daisy's story. I liked the first two books in the series.

I loved Gracie's other series, especially The Perfect Rake and The Perfect Waltz. These two series are similar in many ways, with orphaned or abused youth, animals, "great dame" adoptive aunts, and cast-off servants.

Narrator Allison Larkin was great, but she needs to learn how to say "laudanum" if she plans to read historic novels. Also, the quotes at the beginning of each chapter are annoying. They interrupt the flow of the story, in audio format. I skip quotes when reading.

Lu says

Jane's parents were from the gentry, but eloped and married against their parent's will. As a result, both were estranged from their respective families and had a very hard time making a living. Young Jane and her sister Abigail had a simple and hard infancy turned even worse once their parents died and their grandparents refused to acknowledge them.

As told in the previous books of the series, the two sisters and two other friends were destituted in the streets and ended up rescuing and, simultaneously, being rescued by an old lady (Lady Beatrice) and moving in with her.

Due to the hardships she encountered in her life, Jane was determined to make a convenient marriage to a peer of the realm, with means to provide for her and her offspring. She is scared of love and passion because she saw what good those kind of feelings did to her parents.

I loved Jane very much. She is not a silly girl, she has her priorities straight and she doesn't loose time pitying herself.

When a not so good looking but honorable and rich Viscount proposes marriage, she accepts and hopes that, with time, regard and affection will grow between them.

What she was not counting was on a gipsy God to come and save her from some rufians, rescue the dog she was trying to save and capture her heart.

But Zack is a gipsy, he has no home, no money or prospects and she just cannot have him.

Zack is not really a gipsy, his life is a mess at the moment, but he has to have her...

Lovely story...

Mei says

I love the previous books and I was waiting for Jane's book and now that I've read it I'm a little bit disappointed...

This is not a bad book, but it is not an excellent one.

Mostly because the heroine was too stubborn and the hero was too insistent...

Jane was trying to convince herself too hard that she was not in love, meanwhile Zach fell in love too quickly.

Still I enjoyed Ms. Gracie's writing style and Aunt Bea's character was excellent as usual. What I wanted Aunt Bea to do was to slap Jane and Zach and tell them to stop being stupid each one in their own way!

Joanna Loves Reading says

4.5 stars rounded up. Listened to audiobook

I did not expect to like this one so much. Jane had been my least favorite sister so far, the most immature it seemed. Both MCs start out rather immature, meeting by accident. Jane accepts the proposal of a rich gentleman early on in the book for the security, even though her first season has not started yet and her family advises waiting. Instead she decides to side with her younger self, who would not make the mistake her mother's mistake. She is just an immature young woman who thinks she needs to know all the answers and really wants to be independent, a very relatable perspective, in my opinion.

Zachary is a very charming and endearing hero. He's a bit of a rascal, very fun. He is back in England for the first time in years and is mixed up with several court-related issues. Terrible time to meet his true love, but he does and, just to complicate matters, she is betrothed. He must fight his legal battles and convince a girl who believes him entirely unsuitable and an irrational choice to choose him.

The attraction between MCs was believable, and the way they each matured is very well done. All in all, a very good read.

Jen says

*** 3.5 Stars!!! ***

This was the third instalment in this series! I did enjoy the story, but was disappointed with the fact that the main couple didn't get together until the very end. My biggest complaint with this series is the lack of "together time" for all of the main couples. The sex as well only comes at the very end, and it's a brief encounter!

I do enjoy the story line though, and I'm committed to seeing it through to the end! The fourth and final instalment is next and it includes the pirate, Flynn!!! I am super hopeful that this will make for a very

entertaining story!!! Away I go!!!

Ally says

Springtime for mmmmmm and Germany. Sorry, I can't see the word "spring" and not go right to the Producers. Old habits.

OK but seriously, this book is as far from the Producers as well, Springtime is from Hitler. This is a rather sweet story of a girl and a guy and their very own happy ending.

Series: Yes and apparently now I have to finish them all off.

Sexy times: Once. Not so descriptive.

Plan on reading more by the author: See above

Synopsis: If you're familiar with the series, that means you are familiar with the Chance sisters. If not, we have four sisters / not sisters all being taken care of by Aunt Beatrice, with quotes around that whole aunt business. In the first book in the series, they all five of 'em, save each other. Jane is the beautiful sister. The stunning sister. And everyone really does love her. She's pretty damned loveable. I mean, after all, she pretty much rescued a pit bull type mixed breed. That automatically makes her all that in my book.

She meets Zach who is not really Zach but some other lordy type but he has been off and about acting as a spy for the queen and in the interim is accused of murder. Course he knows not that he is a murdering SOB since he's been out of country.

They meet, they talk, he misleads her as to who he is, because why not? That whole murder rap. And then again, she's totally misleading him as she is no lady of the ton, but rather one who grew up poor and thanks to her relationship with Auntie B and Auntie B's need of rescuing in book 1, is now sorta tonnish.

During the whole getting to know bit, Jane hies off and engages herself to an idiot because he represents stability for her and her as of yet unborn children.

Ok, so at this point things happen and I am dangerously close to entering into spoiler territory which best be avoided lest I piss anyone off.

Why it did or didn't work for me:

It worked. It was sweet. It was interesting. It was everything a solid Regency HR is supposed to be. It won't blow you away, but it's a very happy book and I find myself invested in all of these characters. On to the next book.

Signed,
Craving a pit bull now

Angie Elle says

ARC provided by publisher.

The Spring Bride is the third installment in Anne Gracie's Chance Sisters series, and while this book can stand alone, the other books in this story are worth reading. I can't imagine why you'd want to miss out. The hilarity and graveness of these stories is balanced perfectly, and I'm enjoying every moment.

This book felt like an adventure from the beginning to the end. I love how Jane, who desperately wants to be so prim and proper, can't help but flirt with the lines of propriety as far as spending time with Zach goes. She's unable to resist him, but she's completely unaware of that fact. I adored their entire relationship from how they met to how Jane became the knight in shining armor she'd spent her life looking for. (Though for Jane, it was more like a knight with a healthy bank account.) There was a friendship that blossomed, and I adored watching it happen. Jane's insecurities were deep and came from a very real place, and I appreciated how authentically this was done. She knew she didn't have a lot of choices, but she was taking fate into her own hands (at least, she thought so,) by choosing what she felt she needed most in her life.

There was so much that made this book fun:

*Daisy being the voice of reason for Jane was so unexpected. But she was Jane's champion in this story, standing by her friend no matter what was going on.

*Zach's persistence – while Jane was betrothed to another man, Zach was appalled that she was relying on her pretty face, and angry on her behalf that she'd been made to make a match based on that alone.

*The masquerade ball – I love a masquerade ball. No matter how improbable it is that you wouldn't recognize the person behind the mask (though that wasn't the case here,) masquerade balls are so thrilling to read about, especially when it coincides with a couple's first kiss!

*Of course, Zach's introduction to Lady Beatrice. Lady B is so much fun. You always think you know her motives, but she surprises you in the end and leaves you chuckling, wondering how she was able to pull the wool over your eyes. I couldn't wait for them to meet. You just knew it was going to be hilarious.

*Zach's friend, Gil. Zach was moved to do things he'd never even considered before, and Gil spent the entire book being entertained by Zach's predicaments, and he was very outspoken about it.

*How open Zach was to his feelings for Jane. There's no tug of war here. From the beginning, Zach is able to recognize how special Jane is, and he never runs from his feelings. I just love a decisive hero, and Zach was a man who knew exactly what he wanted.

*Abby and Jane finally get some closure with their family. I won't say more than that for fear of spoiling, but I like that the girls are finally able to move on from that.

The Spring Bride was more than a love story – this was a story about Jane discovering that sometimes what you want isn't what you need, and what you need isn't what you want, and Zach realizing you can come home again. As this series has progressed, I've enjoyed each book more and more. I am so excited to read the final installment with Daisy and Flynn's story in **The Summer Bride!**

Narration: Like the previous books in the series, I listened to some of this one. (I went back and forth between audio and print,) and I adore the narrator for this series. Alison Larkin does a wonderful job, and I'm glad she's narrating the entire series!

This review was originally posted on Books & Beauty Are My Bag.

Jennifer says

I didn't really like this one so I'll just give a quick rundown of what I did and didn't enjoy.

I really didn't understand why the MCs loved each other. They hardly knew one another. It seemed like lust more than anything else. And the fact that the h was betrothed to someone else but still kissed the H anyway? Not cool, Jane. Not cool. Also, I could have done without all the references to the H's past. The author makes a point of saying that he was really choosy when it came to his bed partners, but then she'd drop mentions of a widow, and "the women he'd lain with", etc. and then I was confused. Was he a rake or not? Because rakes are boring and gross.

Also, the plot of this book felt underdeveloped. The spy angle, the murder mystery, the "growing up" as it were, and the romance all needed more fleshing out. There have been books that have skillfully handled more than one plot line, but I think I would have enjoyed this more had there be more focus on one aspect instead of on multiple.

I liked the engaging writing, the dual povs, and the fact that there was only one intimate scene, but the substance of this story left me feeling underwhelmed. This is probably my least favorite of the series...well, tied with the second book.

Caz says

This is the third in the quartet of books about the Chance sisters, two of whom are actually sisters (Abby and Jane), the other two being young women to whom they are not related but with whom they share a strong bond forged by hardship and tragedy.

The heroine of **The Spring Bride** is Jane Chance, the younger of the two sisters. She is eighteen, beautiful and on the verge of her come out into society, something to which she has been very much looking forward. But even though she is likely to have her pick of suitors once the season begins, Jane accepts an offer from Lord Cambury, a rather dull and unprepossessing young man who is enthralled by her extraordinary beauty and talks of "adding her to his collection" of beautiful things. Her sisters are surprised by her decision, and try to dissuade her, but Jane won't be deterred. She never again wants to endure the fear and deprivation she experienced as a child after she and Abby lost their parents, and to her, marriage is all about safety and security. She is quite happy to make a marriage of convenience and trust that, with luck, love will follow. Her sisters Abby and Damaris, who have both recently married and are blissfully happy, are sceptical, but Jane's mind is made up.

Until, that is, she is assisted in her rescue of a mangy dog by a tall, dark, handsome gypsy, whose remarkable grey-green eyes she is unable to forget.

Zachary Black is not, in fact a gypsy, but he's rather a shady character nonetheless. Having left his home and his abusive father over a decade ago, he has worked as an agent for the British government for the last eight years, travelling all around Europe and living a nomadic existence. The death of his father – the Earl of Wainfleet – has prompted his return to England, because Zach's cousin has instigated legal proceedings to have him declared dead. Confident that his re-appearance will quickly dispense with his cousin's lawsuit, Zach fully expects to be on his way back to Europe in a matter of weeks, but he isn't prepared for the news that his resurrection could lead to his actual demise – because he is wanted for the murder of his young stepmother.

Even so, he decides to remain in England until both situations are resolved... and so that he can pursue his acquaintance with the lovely Jane Chance.

I enjoyed the story very much, although my favourite book of the series so far is the previous one, *The Winter Bride*. But this one has much to recommend it, not least of which is the way Ms Gracie develops the central romance. So many historical romances these days rely of a surfeit of completely unlikely and anachronistic sex scenes, using those in lieu of the evolution of an actual relationship between the protagonists. But in ***The Spring Bride***, the author writes a real *romance* which is tender, but by no means lacking in heat, yet which takes place in a realistic manner given the period at which the book is set. It was very difficult for young, unmarried men and women to meet in private, and here, the majority of the meetings between Jane and Zach take place in public situations, when all they are really able to do is TALK to each other. And talking to each other is, of course, the best way for them to get to know one another, and for the reader to get to know them and follow the progress of their romance.

Both characters have to make serious re-adjustments to their outlooks on life; Jane has to realise that perhaps a life devoid of love or, at the very least, genuine affection, is not for her, and Zach must admit that perhaps it's time to leave behind his life full of disguise and subterfuge and grow up and into his responsibilities.

The Spring Bride is an enjoyable, easy read that's very well-written and suffused with humour and affection. I did find it a little "lightweight" when compared to the other two books, but that didn't spoil my enjoyment, and I'm eagerly looking forward to tough-as-nails Daisy's book, which will be the final one in the set.

Sonya Heaney says

Anne Gracie writes the sort of historical romance I think "wallpaper romance" writers try to achieve – and rarely do. She is a favourite of mine even though her books are much more light-hearted than I usually like, and this is largely because she works dark themes and emotion into her more humorous stories.

What she does best – and what next to no historical romance authors do these days – is write an actual **romance**. And there's an actual plot. And both hero and heroine have their own story arcs. And nobody is having sex in a friend's spare room. And there are real friendships and family relationships. And she basically does everything right that so many authors (because their publishers are demanding it) are doing wrong.

I really enjoy this series, and this is the third of four books. They work as standalones, but are much better read in order.

I love books with beautiful heroines. The Plain Jane book has been done to death and is starting to seem really hypocritical when all of the heroes are dashing and gorgeous and perfect, and male beauty is made such a priority. I love that Jane's beauty brought her other issues.

I liked that our hero (who goes by a number of names!) actually took the time to fall in love, even though he wanted her from the outset. A relationship was established. The characters acted normal, instead of like sex maniacs with no thought for unwanted pregnancy. And Jane was uncertain when she got married. Unlike 99.9% of historical romance heroines these days, she didn't come to her marriage with anachronistic knowledge of everything to do with sex.

Jane does fall in love while promised to another man, so it will be up to the reader to decide if what she did was right or wrong. I thought Gracie did just enough for me to forgive her for it.

There is also a mystery here, and I liked the way all the little bits and pieces came together at the end.

The light-hearted tone of the story allows for a little bit of room to play with class rules and behaviours without making the story too anachronistic. I don't really notice when something is a little bit outlandish.

This is definitely one of the best historical romance series around at the moment.

Oh, and the US cover for this book is ALL WRONG! Is that tanned brunette seriously supposed to be the pale, blond beauty who is the heroine?! Here's the much better Australian cover:

Review copy provided by NetGalley.

Nadia says

I give up. 33% and I'm mad bored. So yeah.

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

3.5 Stars

The reason why it took me months after reading to write a review, despite my great excitement for the book (and my overall adoration for Anne Gracie's writing), is that it fell flat of my expectations. This is a love-at-first-sight story, and really the hero set out to slowly seduce the heroine the entire time because *he couldn't help it*. I just want there to be more to the attraction between Jane and Zach like in the previous books of the series...and there wasn't.

Jane is a lovely, wonderful girl, as she always was in the series, but I just wanted her to be with someone who truly appreciates her, enough that he would willingly let her be happy with marrying wealth for security and children, and have that self-sacrificing act convince her of his love. That didn't happen. What did occur

was a guy who can't let go of the beautiful girl he saved by chance, and doggedly tried to be with her every day afterwards, even when she is already betrothed to another. *sigh* I found his behavior more rakish and irresponsible than anyone else's, and moreover, he hasn't even settled his own affairs (weak mystery here) nor even *living* his true identity when he decides to take Jane for his own! My opinion is that Jane deserved better.

I still have high hopes for *The Summer Bride*, because I truly do adore everything Gracie has written (with varying degrees of affection), so perhaps Daisy and her love will prove to be something more than just basic human attraction.

kris says

Jane Chance *née* Chantry will not marry for love unless love comes with several zeroes and a castle. Adam George Zachery Aston-Black, Earl of Wainfleet, is only in town for a few days before he returns to spying and lying and ... stuff. They have a meetcute over a dog and SPARKS! MILD BONERS! FLIRTING IN PARKS! Eventually Jane realizes that love > millions of pounds / a castle (I'm not convinced), and Zach confesses he's not a sloppy clerk who lives in the park!!!

1. This was underwhelming. Jane's realization that she'd rather be with the man she loves rather than a man with money is uneven, and as Katie mentioned, the definition of "safety" can mean many things to many people. Having it so easily dissolve once the required page count had been met felt really lazy.
2. The premise of the murder plot was also ridiculous. I refuse to waste any words on it because I was required to already give so much of my time suspending my disbelief in the trees so bears didn't get to it.
3. Jane was—somewhat annoying. The book opens with her stubbornly refusing to discuss her reasons for choosing a marriage of convenience with the women who have proven their kinship again and again and again. This falsely constructed separation really goads my goat. So I was annoyed with her for refusing to talk to her sisters, and THEN, I got my most favorite of plot points with the LONG LOST GRANDMOTHER RETURNING TO EXPLAIN THEIR POVERTY AND DESTITUTION AS A CHILD WAS ALL A BIG MISTAKE.

My goat is now on fire.

4. I LIKED ZACH. Caveat: his decision to "grow up" was also underdeveloped like whoa, but I felt it came from a more organic place. I loved his goofy, flirty in-disguise persona, and I liked how he decided early and evenly that Jane was his long-term goal. It's just nice to have a hero that has his head screwed in the right direction.

His surrounding drama was ridiculous but then I can't have everything I want or I would be too smug.

5. Last minute sexings are not sexy. They're hurried and wasteful. Spend your page time fixing your messy plot instead of getting everyone naked if you're going to wait until the last 25 pages to do so. :\

6. DISAPPOINTING. This entire series seems to be about women who do not want to get married, but their reasons are not fully developed, nor do they actually hold any water when examined because they *can't* if you want us to believe in a HEA.

Sammy Loves Books says

3.0 "Weak Hero Stars"

My least favorite of the series so far. I didn't care for the hero at all. He was beautiful and sexy but not very savvy for a spy.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Summary

Jane Chance, is looking for security and a family. Unlike her sister, Jane isn't out looking for love, because love doesn't feed or clothe you or put a roof over your head. Jane is one of the Ton's most regal beauties, and at the beginning of the season she is made an offer from a man that is looking for a beautiful wife and he wants Jane and he has wealth. But all Jane can see, is a man that offers a safe harbor for herself and her children. While out on the town, giving children pennies so they can have food, she spies a dog being tortured and beaten and runs into a gypsy, a man that is handsome and charming with a wicked gleam in his eyes and she can't resist him. Zachary Black has returned back to England, after years of service to the crown. But he comes back learning, that he will need to clear his name before he can access any of his titled lands or wealth. But after his meetings with Jane in the park almost every day, he sees the kind of woman he would be honored to know more and even love. But his life is in turmoil, and when he learns that she is betrothed, he knows that his time is running out....and Jane will have to decide over security or the man of her heart?

The Hero

Zachary Black, is a spy and worked for the British Government in collecting information that helped save his country. For years he dedicated his life, risking it every day, for his country. But when he returns, he finds out that he has been accused of murder of his father's widow whom he helped escape and go into hiding. He knows that she is alive, and that its absurd that he could be hanged for a murder he never committed. With his father dead, Zachary is on the hunt for Cecily and all at the same time trying to court a woman that doesn't really want to be courted by a poor gypsy. Zachary is a hero I came to truly enjoy from beginning to end. Zachary is honorable and good, and loyal. He has a solid sense of humor, and respects those that protect and defend Jane even if its against him. I couldn't help but fall for his charisma, he is devilish in his charming nature and I just wanted more of him.

The Heroine

Jane Chance, is a woman that on the outside it may seem that she has had everything handed to her on a silver platter, but that is not the case. Jane and her sister grew up poor. Their parents fell in love, and went against the Ton and married for love. Their families disowned them, and refuses to help them. Jane and her sister lost their parents when they were kids, and had to fight to survive. Jane was rescued by a generous lady of the Ton, that adopted four women as her nieces and gave them a chance to make good matches for themselves. Jane takes the first offer given to her. Because the one thing she values above everything else, is a safe home but not just for herself. But for any future children she may have. She knows that love can develop over time. So she doesn't hold out for it. I loved that Jane holds onto her principles. She can be quite

stubborn though, but she has reasons that you admire in the end. And I love how she fights in the end for what really matters and there is a moment toward the end of the story where we see her strength and fortitude and I wanted to cheer for her!! A fabulous heroine I couldn't help but admire and respect.

Plot and Story Line

The Spring Bride is the third book in the series. There were many things that I love about this one. The first aspect I grew instantly in love with, is the writing. Anne Gracie has the capability of gaining my interest immediately, and I just couldn't put this one down, no matter how hard I tried. I loved that. I couldn't help but just gravitate toward this pair and all the stress and drama that tends to come with them.

In the beginning of their relationship, its mostly getting to know each other, making each other laugh and developing a platonic bond, but there is chemistry, just one that they don't act on immediately. Then we have some secrets become revealed, which only adds to a bit of conflict to them fully coming together. Zachary has to clear his name and get his lands returned to him. Jane is betrothed and needs to decide which man she would take a risk on more. Zachary ups his game when it comes to Jane, he knows that he is running out of time, and goes out of his way to prove himself to her. But when the worst happen, and Jane will have to find Cicily herself, we see a personal growth in Jane's character we didn't see before.

What is most fun was seeing two other couples....one having been married for years and seeing their love stronger than ever and how it gets tested in unique ways. Then we see a hint of Daisy's story as well (I have a feeling that one is going to be a riot). We have some great involvement from the supporting characters. We also see a sweet reunion between the sisters and their grandmother. It broke my heart about their parents, but we also see some good things come out of their rough childhood. We see how Zachary is strong and didn't have the easiest when he was a child either. He was beaten often by his father, and understands Jane in ways that her betrothed never will.

This proved to be a truly remarkable romance that spun its way into my good graces with flair, drama and good chemistry and some barrels of laughs and giggles. Excited to see what Gracie has up for us next.

The Cover

This cover is so gorgeous and I love the spring feel to it. I love the elegance and grace it portrays. I wish I could just jump into all that lavender goodness!!

Overall View

The Spring Bride is a tantalizing story of passion, fighting for love and honor, and living to the fullest moments in life!!! BREATH TAKING!!
