


## **With This Kiss: Part One**

*Eloisa James*

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## **With This Kiss: Part One** Eloisa James

Lady Grace Ryburn, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, has fallen wildly in love with Colin Barry, a dashing young lieutenant serving his country in the Royal Navy. When he returns home to exuberant celebrations, will he even notice the quiet wallflower he grew up with ... or will he fall for Grace's sparkling, gorgeous sister?

*Author's Note: Lady Grace is the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, from The Ugly Duchess, and Colin is the eldest adopted son of Sir Griffin Barry, from Seduced by a Pirate.*

## **With This Kiss: Part One Details**

Date : Published March 12th 2013 by Avon Impulse

ISBN : 9780062276933

Author : Eloisa James

Format : ebook 65 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Novella, Regency

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## From Reader Review With This Kiss: Part One for online ebook

### Lizzy says

I realize I have rated Eloisa James's *With This Kiss: Part One* well below other reviewers, not that I didn't like it. Who would not enjoy EJ's skillfully written story of Grace and Colin, but by the end I felt let down.

Colin was miserable with his life, Grace ended also unhappy with his rejection. Maybe I was not on a good day, I have those as imagine does everyone, and I needed it to have ended in a more upward tone.

Maybe the problem, for me, was that it was only the beginning. If it had continued on beyond this book, with the rest of the story as one, I wouldn't have felt disheartened. My problem, you will say, and you are probably right.

One of these days I will read the other two volumes. Then I could probably decide to reevaluate my opinion. Let's wait and see.

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### Gaele says

In a perfectly engaging romance in the early 1800's, we are introduced to Lady Grace Ryburn, the 'good and dutiful' daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook from the author's title *The Ugly Duchess*. Shy and watchful, Grace feels herself plain and unnoticed, especially in the company of her devilish and beautiful younger sister Lily. For all of her life, her family has spent August in the relative freedom of the Barry's estate; their fathers are friends of long-standing, former privateers, now respectable members of the realm. The Barry's eldest son, Colin is the focus of Grace's attention and girlish crush, that fast turns to love.

But the course of young love and infatuation never runs smoothly, especially when your younger and more vivacious sister is the delight of everyone you encounter. A delightful introduction to an ongoing story full of beautiful descriptions intermingled with slices of history and the memorable characters that live within its pages.

Told in a series of 3 shorts, these stories neatly fit together to make a satisfying novella and will be especially pleasing for those readers familiar with these families from earlier works by Eloisa James.

I received an eBook copy from the publisher via Eidelweiss for purpose of honest review for the Jeep Diva. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

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### UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

*With This Kiss: Part One* is...well... *part one* of Eloisa James' three part story, and it's. So. GOOD! I was up until wayyyyyy too early this morning reading this installment, but I couldn't put it down!

*From the cover:*

Lady Grace Ryburn, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, has fallen wildly in love with Colin Barry, a dashing young lieutenant serving his country in the Royal Navy. When he returns home to exuberant celebrations, will he even notice the quiet wallflower he grew up with ... or will he fall for Grace's sparkling, gorgeous sister?

Author's Note: Lady Grace is the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, from *The Ugly Duchess*, and Colin is the eldest adopted son of Sir Griffin Barry, from *Seduced by a Pirate*.

So you probably get that I loved this, but you have to know, there were times it tore me up! I leaked more than a few sad tears, but I also spent a lot of time smiling. I LOVED revisiting the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook and their children, and Sir Griffin and Lady Barry and their brood. It was great to learn that the families stayed close, and the glimpses we get as the years pass and the kids grow up was a delight. Such a delight... when I wasn't crying, that is. ;)

Those who know me know I'm *not* a fan of this new trend in installment series, but these three parts are being released just a week a part, so you won't have a torturously long wait between books.

*My thanks to Avon Books for providing me with a copy of With This Kiss: Part One, Two, and Three, in return for an honest review.*

Ms. James created some lovely greeting cards to go along with the books, and here they are:

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## **Kimberly says**

As a girl, Lady Grace Ryburn fell in love with Colin Barry. Since their families have always been extremely close, Grace was able to write Colin once he joined the Royal Navy. The connection forged by her letters only served to make her fall more deeply in love with him. Now that she's out in society (however much a wallflower), Grace hopes that Colin will notice her when he comes to London on leave. But will her dreams of romance be dashed when it's not Grace, but her beautiful sister who catches Colin's eye?

*With This Kiss: Part One* is heartbreakingly beautiful. In this first installment of Colin and Grace's love story, author Eloisa James brought tears to my eyes even as she captivated me with this gorgeously woven tale.

Grace is the biggest reason I fell in love with *With This Kiss: Part One*. She's smart, kind, relatable, and she endeared herself to me immediately. What broke my heart is that Grace — an ordinary-looking wallflower — is almost always overshadowed by her vibrant, stunning younger sister, Lily. Everyone falls in love with Lily...including Colin. To her credit, Ms. James doesn't make Lily a vain or unlikeable character. It's actually easy to see why Colin, haunted by the battles he has to face at sea, is drawn to someone as convivial as Lily. In *With This Kiss: Part One*, it's Colin himself who is the biggest obstacle when it comes to his and

Grace's romance. While Colin is everything that's appealing in a hero, he's too blind to see that he's in love with Grace until it's almost too late. Yet even though I shook my head at him for his overlooking Grace, Ms. James made me understand Colin and why he makes the mistakes he does.

Ms. James packs a lot of action into *With This Kiss: Part One*. I can guarantee that you'll want to make enough time to read the story in one sitting, because it's impossible to put it down. While *With This Kiss: Part One* can easily be read as a standalone, fans of Ms. James's work are in for a treat. Grace is the eldest daughter of James and Theodora of *The Ugly Duchess*, and Colin is the eldest adopted son of Griffin and Phoebe of *Seduced by a Pirate*. The Ryburn and Barry families are as close as ever in *With This Kiss: Part One*, so if you enjoyed *The Ugly Duchess* and *Seduced by a Pirate* you'll surely be delighted to revisit some of your favorite characters.

*With This Kiss: Part One* is a fantastic story that I loved from beginning to end. I Joyfully Recommend it! Just be warned, the cliffhanger ending will have you on the edge of your seat for parts two and three of *With This Kiss*.

*Recommended Read. Reviewed for Joyfully Reviewed.*

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## Stephanie says

ORIGINAL POST:

**FANGS, WANDS and FAIRY DUST  
WITH THIS KISS Parts 1, 2, & 3  
A First-Class Trip to Happily Ever After from Eloisa James**

WITH THIS KISS Parts One, Two and Three

by Eloisa James  
Avon/Harper Collins March 2013

*With This Kiss: Part One* (3/12/2013)

Lady Grace Ryburn, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, has fallen wildly in love with Colin Barry, a dashing young lieutenant serving his country in the Royal Navy. When he returns home to exuberant celebrations, will he even notice the quiet wallflower he grew up with ... or will he fall for Grace's sparkling, gorgeous sister?

Author's Note: Lady Grace is the eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Ashbrook, from *The Ugly Duchess*, and Colin is the eldest adopted son of Sir Griffin Barry, from *Seduced by a Pirate*. In its entirety, *With This Kiss* is a 200-page double-length novella.

*With This Kiss: Part Two* (3/19/2013)

Lady Grace Ryburn has accepted another man's proposal after the love of her life, Lieutenant Colin Barry, asked for her own sister's hand in marriage.

But when Colin returns home from the wars, injured in body and spirit, will she be able to turn

her back and marry another? Or will she throw away every rule her mother taught her and try to seduce a man who has shown no interest in her kisses?

Author's Note: Be sure to read Part One first! You need to know the story of how Grace fell in love with Colin . . .

With This Kiss: Part Three (3/26/2013)

Lieutenant Colin Barry returns from the wars injured in body and spirit, knowing that he has no right to steal Grace from the arms of her fiancé. Yet the same warrior's spirit that won so many battles at sea is prompting him to throw propriety to the winds, imitate his pirate father, and simply take what he most desires!

Author's Note: Don't forget to read Parts One and Two! Reading this installment first would be like eating the icing before you even get it onto a cupcake.

[www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com)

## PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GUSH

I originally intended to read and review these one at a time but they were so short and each piece ended in such a way that I simply had to know immediately what would happen next. Like a box of the most addictive bob-bons, I read them all over a period of three hours and realized I really couldn't stretch out my post on the stories over three days.

This series of novellas is a riff off Eloisa's *THE UGLY DUCHESS* which was part of her fairy tale inspired series. It's a continuation of the story from *SEDUCED BY A PIRATE*. On Eloisa's website, this collection of shorts is called *AS YOU WISH*.

Eloisa is one of my go-to authors when I am feeling a little bored or jaded from the simple fact of reading as much as I do in one book genre. Her romance is like the finest dining in the all you can eat buffet of modern publishing. It always incites my interest and makes me hungry for more.

Eloisa combines often quirky, always different female characters with exciting male characters few straight women would kick out of bed. The secret is that they are rarely able to combine with ease; it seems there is always an obstacle of some sort. Such is the stuff of the romance genre.

But where the use of an an inspiration such as a fairy tale often feels trite or contrived, Eloisa manages to build a wonderful book each time. And, I think it is because she can fully create the entire world originally inspired by the fairy tale. The fairy tale is not the story, it's the skeleton of a more hybrid creation. A series within a series, *With This Kiss* comes full circle from *THE UGLY DUCHESS*. The characters from *THE UGLY DUCHESS*, Theodora and James, have two daughters, one of whom, Lily, is sparkly like champagne and the other, Grace, is rich like a delicious sauterne. The son of the characters in *SEDUCED BY A PIRATE* have sons the oldest of whom, Colin returns from sea as a war weary hero on leave and is instantly infatuated with the wrong daughter.

Of course, it's entirely possible he'll realize his stupidity far too late. It's not as simple to understand the complexity of a sauterne, but there are few who dislike champagne. Both have their strengths and neither is prettier than the other. But champagne is more universally and readily consumed.

Like most romance novels **WITH THIS KISS** is not unpredictable in its outcome, but Eloisa is such a great story teller that the ending is not what drives you through the story. Reading Eloisa's books is all about the journey and not the destination. And this trip is in first-class all the way! **HIGHLY RECOMMEND!** Stands alone, but even better with at least **SEDUCED BY A PIRATE** and at its best with **THE UGLY DUCHESS**.

This is really a serialized novella which has me wishing wholeheartedly that the book this is no doubt releasing to entice us to, **ONCE UPON A TOWER**, most cruelly not due out until the end of May (Argh)!

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### **Jojo92 says**

Bof d'une platitude et d'un commun. Mais le héros est atteint d'un handicapé qu'elle arrive bien à cerné

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### **Lisa Hutson says**

I am soooo anti serial. I have been disappointed nearly every time. They are too expensive. And usually not well written. Even a couple of favorite authors have disappointed me with novellas. But this is Eloisa James. I have read so many of hers. I wont say every single one is a blow out 5 star. But they are always wonderful. And now, having read part one of **With This Kiss**....I will say this....

1) Authors, take note. This is how to write part one of a 3 part serial. Perfect.

It is Eloisas style. She did not change her writing style to fit into the 60 something pages. She wrote the story to fit. It does not read like 60 something pages. It reads much longer. With detail and emotion. Had me crying at one point....

2) Whoever decides prices, take note. I believe this will end up being a little more than 200 pages. For less than \$3. Most any reader will love that and find it hard to resist.

3) The idea of a serial can be great fun for the readers. Breaking a story up into 3, 4, 5...parts. But speaking for myself as a reader, state clearly and up front, each one is part of a serial. How many pages minimum will be in each part and finally. How much each part will be. Even though, right now, I am kind of wish I would have waited for all 3 parts before reading because I WANT TO KNOW!! LOL But it really is fun. The suspense.

4) Eloisa has for years gone above and beyond for her readers. She often posts extra chapters to her books. For free. Just for fun for the readers. She sometimes adds a little something something at the end of her books. Just for the readers. With this serial, at the end, you will be able to buy all 3 parts of **With This Kiss** plus a novella for \$3.52.

I find all of this pricing, chapters, parts.....etc to be very reasonably priced and fair for all.

And of course, part one is fabulous.

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## **Aly is so frigging bored says**

Favorite quote:

And that was how Lady Grace Ryburn began writing to Colin Barry, Lieutenant. Her first letter was quite short, and included a frank truth: "I hate Lily. Last night she cut off the fingers of my favorite pair of gloves because she thought it was funny."

Colin wrote a note back, saying that he'd had a rotten week, and her letter about the gloves made him laugh. So Grace started trying to find stories that might make him laugh in the midst of the worst days.

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## **Cocktails and Books says**

Eloisa James gives us a delightful story of about the children of two pirate best friends and how history seems destined to repeat itself.

In Part One, we're introduced to Lady Grace Ryburn, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Ashbrook and Colin Barry, Sir Griffin Barry's eldest adopted son. They've grown up together and have always been friendly, but feelings start changing when Colin enters the Navy. Grace takes to writing to Colin while he's away, telling him what's happening with both of their families, what she's experiencing in her education and her debut and sometimes sending him paintings of his parents or siblings so he won't feel so lonely at sea. She understands Colin has a hard time dealing with the things he's seen and done and she hopes her letters bring him a bit of solace. But as she finds herself in love with Colin, she discovers that what she built up in her mind is much different than reality when Colin comes home.

Grace is a special lady. She has a tremendously big heart, but she often times feels like she's less important when compared to her younger sister, Lilly. Lilly demands attention, while Grace is left standing in the back watching. With Colin, she found someone who she could speak with without having to worry about being overshadowed by her sister.

Colin, as a man, was so different than the rambunctious five year old we met in *SEDUCED BY A PIRATE*. The navy changed him. He's haunted by the things he's seen and done. He's looking for something, anything, that will take away the pain of watching and listening to his men die. He makes a rash decision that alters not only his life, but that of Grace's.

I loved both of these characters. Grace is a perfect mix of her parents. She has James' romantic ideals with her Theo's stubbornness. I wasn't surprised at how Grace reacted to Colin's decision (she is her mother's daughter after all), but I'm hoping she has enough James in her that as we move onto Part 2 and 3, she can fight for what she really wants.

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## **Arshia says**

You know you are a book nerd when you delay your plans to read a book, especially on Valentines Day! So here and now I confess, I'm obsessed. It was such a pleasant surprise to see this short story available for



download today. Of course once I started I couldn't put it down. Ah Grace, she was such a special character! So sweet and giving, but she knew how to fight for herself. During the first third of the story I was very mad at Colin but he redeemed himself in the second and third part. Thank God because I didn't want to be sad today. I just feel sorry for the poor suckers that have to wait to read this entire story, I'm not sure I would have been able to wait. Also I think it's a bit devious that the publisher is asking a dollar for thirty pages each!

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### **FlibBityFLoob says**

The experiences of Grace, the heroine, in this portion of the story hit a little close to home when it came to when I was 19 years old. So, I have to confess that this portion of the story made me cry. I'm guessing most people wouldn't have that reaction, but it hit me personally...

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### **Jess the Romanceaholic says**

This is a Quickie Review. For the full review, please read *The Romanceaholic*.

Expected Release Date: March 12, 2013

Publisher: HarperCollins

Imprint: Avon

Author's Website: <http://eloisajames.com/>

My Source for This Book: Edelweiss

Part of a Series: Yes, Book 1, With This Kiss Serial, Spinoff of *The Ugly Duchess* & *Seduced By A Pirate*

Series Best Read In Order: N/A

Steam Level: Chaste

Pet Peeves: Love Triangle, No HEA

Favorite Tropes: Unrequited Love, Love Through Letters

I don't think I've ever seen a double-length novella split up into a digital serial before, so the entire concept of this story's publication intrigued me as much as the story itself when I first heard of it.

I was lucky enough to get my hands on all three parts at once, and though I was perhaps a bit spoiled by the fact that I didn't have to wait between finishing this installment and beginning the next, I can't help but think that the week-long wait would be just right to temper any frustration in having to wait with a bite of sweetness from being denied something you want for just a moment.

That said, I would recommend going ahead and pre-ordering all three if you're reading this review before they're all out, as none of them would work very well in my opinion as a self-contained story.

As for this installment individually, I was very pleasantly surprised by what an emotional punch it packed in such a relatively low word count. The characters were all well developed, and even though the span of many years are covered in this section of the story, it never felt rushed, or as though important events had been glossed over.

Instead, the focus is exactly where it belongs — on Colin and on Grace and their development both as

individuals and as possible romantic interests — and the other characters adding on when needed.

Overall, even with the cliff-hanger ending, it was fantastic.

Recommended for fans of childhood crushes that turn to unrequited love, of good men who are darkened by the realities of war, and of wanting what is best for someone you love, even when it hurts.

4.5/5 Stars

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**Annie says**

3.5

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**Dina says**

4 1/2 stars (rounded down to 4 stars, because I wanted to strangle Colin for his "blindness")

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**Holly says**

I cried my way through this story. Colin and Grace broke my heart. I was so disappointed when it ended.

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