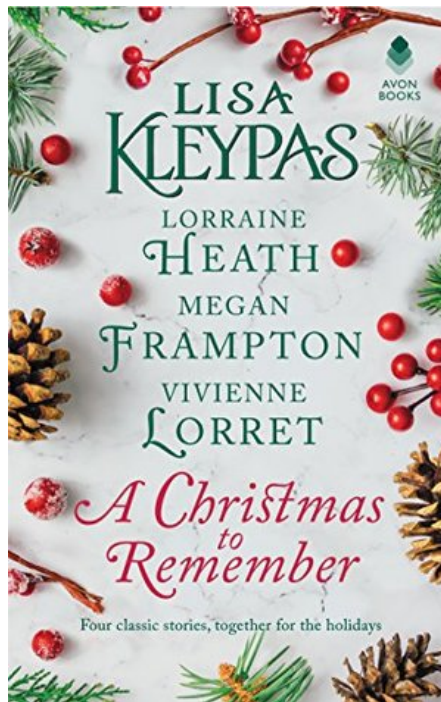




A Christmas to Remember

Lisa Kleypas , Lorraine Heath , Megan Frampton , Vivienne Lorret

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Romance stars Lisa Kleypas, Lorraine Heath, Megan Frampton, and Vivienne Lorret prove in this collection of stories that love is the most magical during Christmas...

"I Will" by Lisa Kleypas

To be reinstated into his father's will, Andrew, Lord Drake, must court a respectable woman-his friend's spinster sister, Miss Caroline Hargreaves. After he blackmails Caroline into helping him, the charade begins-but is it really a charade once love takes hold of their hearts...?

"Deck the Halls With Love" by Lorraine Heath

Alistair Wakefield, the Marquess of Chetwyn, devastated Lady Meredith Hargreaves when he proposed to another. But when he becomes free to pursue her, it's too late for she's on her way to the altar..... As Christmas approaches, Chetwyn vows to lure Lady Meredith back into his arms.

"No Groom at the Inn" by Megan Frampton

James Archer detests his mother's matchmaking ways. When ordered to attend a Christmastime house party filled with simpering maidens, he produces a fiancée-Lady Sophronia Bettesford. James and Sophronia pretend to be in love for one month. But their pact soon turns into love.

"The Duke's Christmas Wish" by Vivienne Lorret

To the Duke of Vale, science solves everything-even marriage. When the impulsive Ivy Sutherland makes him question all of his data, he realizes that he's overlooked a vital component in his search for the perfect match: love.

Four previously published stories together for the first time.

A Christmas to Remember Details

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From Reader Review A Christmas to Remember for online ebook

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Review to come

Caz says

I've given this a C+ at AAR, s0 3.5 stars. Each novella is rated C (Kleypas), B- (Heath), C+ (Frampton), D (Lorret).

Note: A Christmas to Remember is a collection of four Christmas-themed novellas that have been previously published elsewhere.

Anthologies are, by their very nature, a mixed bag, and I usually find they consist of perhaps one excellent story, one poor one and a couple in between. In the case of **A Christmas to Remember**, however, while there is one poor story (the last) the quality of the others is fairly consistent in that the grades all fall within the mid-range, but that does mean that the anthology as a whole lacks that one outstanding tale that makes the whole thing worth the price of admission.

I Will by Lisa Kleypas

Grade: C Sensuality: Warm

When I started reading **I Will**, I immediately thought – “*this is the one. This is going to be the best of the bunch*” – and that thought stayed with me for around the first half of the novella. It’s a classic bluestocking-meets-rake story in which our hero, Lord Andrew Drake (legitimate half-brother of Logan Scott from *Because You’re Mine*), an unrepentant rake, needs to convince his terminally ill father that he is a reformed character in order to inherit the family fortune and intends to do so by pretending to be betrothed to a thoroughly unobjectionable and respectable young woman. Andrew, whose relationship with his father has always been strained and who has no intention of reforming once he inherits, approaches Lady Caroline Hargreaves, the sister of one of his friends, and pretty much blackmails her into agreeing to become his fake fiancée.

Caroline has never liked Andrew and likes him even less now because he is leading her brother into bad company and habits; Andrew has never liked Caroline because she is opinionated and starchy and not at all his type. Yet as he starts to really look at her during their discussion, he starts to see things about her he’s never noticed before and to realise, to his shock, that he desires her.

The novella comes in at just under a hundred pages, but the events within span a few weeks during which Andrew eschews his normal rounds of drinking and depravity so as to make his performance as a reformed character more convincing. I really liked the way that Caroline comes to see the real Andrew beneath the rakish façade and how the strength of her belief touches Andrew and gives him the confidence he needs to be

able to reform in truth, but unfortunately, it's not long after this that things take a very different direction and the whole thing falls apart. There's an extremely awkward sex-scene (which comes very close to being non-consensual – on his part, not hers) and a hurried and somewhat silly blackmail plot which I could have done without. **I Will** stars very promisingly, but ends up as a bit of a mess.

Deck the Halls with Love by Lorraine Heath

Grade: B- Sensuality: Warm

This novella is book 2.5 in the **Lost Lords of Pembrook** series and tells the story of Alastair, the Marquess of Chetwyn, who was betrothed to Lady Anne, heroine of **Lord of Temptation**. Upon realising his betrothed was in love with someone else, Chetwyn released her from their engagement, and now, he is intent on pursuing the woman he has always loved. The problem is that she is due to marry another man just after Christmas, so Chetwyn is facing an uphill struggle if he is to convince her that he is – they are – worthy of a second chance.

A year or so earlier, Lady Meredith Hargreaves (no relation to Caroline, above!) had been on the verge of falling in love with Alastair Wakefield when he turned his attention to another lady. Meredith told herself – or tried to – that she had had a lucky escape and that it was as well his defection had happened before she could fall for him completely. She is now happily engaged to be married, although she can't deny that her intended has never made her pulse race or her stomach flutter. Still, it's a good match, and no matter that seeing Chetwyn again has churned up all her emotions, she can't afford to be charmed by him all over again.

Chetwyn is in deadly earnest over his pursuit of Meredith, but he's not pushy or possessive; in fact what he wants is for her to be able to follow her heart and choose freely. There's a nice frisson of sexual tension between the pair and the fact that they share a romantic history means that their rekindled relationship doesn't feel quite so rushed as it could have done. **Deck the Halls with Love** is a charming story, and while it's the shortest in the collection, it's the one I enjoyed the most.

No Groom at the Inn by Megan Frampton

Grade: C+ Sensuality: Warm

Here we have another fake-betrothal story, this time between an earl's daughter and a gentleman desperate to avoid his mother's matchmaking schemes. Lady Sophronia Bettlesford has been left almost destitute by her late father, who cared far more for his books and his studies than for anything remotely practical such as making sure his daughter was provided for after his death. No longer able to support herself, all she has to look forward to is a life of drudgery living with a distant cousin – which is why, when a strikingly handsome stranger asks her to marry him – or at least, to pretend to be engaged to him – she doesn't immediately dismiss him as some sort of madman. When he offers to buy her a cottage –an attractive alternative to living with her cousins, their children and their chickens – Sophronia agrees to a month-long pretend engagement.

James Archer sounds to me like he has a serious case of ADHD! He can hardly sit still and dislikes remaining in one place for any length of time, spending most of his life travelling and collecting, buying and selling the artefacts (or "arty facts" as his mother calls them) he finds on his travels. His mother loves him dearly and he loves her; he doesn't want to settle down but can't face telling her so, hence his need for a fake

fiancée who can accompany him to an upcoming house party he has learned will be comprised mostly of young, eligible females. I have to say that I wasn't wild about the deception being practiced upon James' mother, who really didn't deserve it, and his initial exit-strategy is just plain dumb.

The attraction between James and Sophronia is built well considering the limits imposed by the page-count, and I liked the way their characters are shown to balance each other. James yearns to get away – which makes sense given his family history – while Sophronia wants to settle somewhere quiet and peaceful, yet both of them start to wonder if, perhaps, there is something to the other's lifestyle. James wonders if perhaps, with someone like Sophy at his side, he could be content to wander less, while she thinks that perhaps mouldering away in a remote cottage for the rest of her life without love isn't perhaps all it's cracked up to be.

No Groom at the Inn is a light-hearted, easy read, although I found it difficult to connect with the characters. Ms. Frampton is an accomplished writer and I've read and enjoyed a number of her other books, but the humour in this often felt forced and at times, the heroine's internal monologues waffled on too long.

The Duke's Christmas Wish by Vivienne Lorret

Grade: D Sensuality: Kisses

The weakest story in the anthology features a scientifically minded duke who has invented a formula for creating successful marriages (or so he thinks) and a young woman who thinks he should marry her best friend in order to help her to secure her inheritance. After having spent most of the first chapter reading about how the heroine (Ivy) was desperate to pee owing to having imbibed one too many cups of tea, and then spent the next two chapters watching the duke and Ivy desperately avoiding each other because of the confusing emotions they each evoked in the other, I was bored and probably wouldn't have continued reading had this not been the final novella and if I hadn't been reviewing it. Our hero is sweet if somewhat clueless, but ultimately both central characters are bland, there is no chemistry between them whatsoever and though the writing is decent, not having your principals interact for three chapters out of ten is a bad move.

I don't read a great many anthologies as I find that the majority of novellas I've read have tended to be fairly average, but they're useful for those times you're busy and want to read something that satisfies the appetite for an HEA when you don't have time to commit to a full-length novel. **A Christmas to Remember** is actually fairly un-memorable, but if you're in a forgiving mood, it delivers a quick romance-fix with a nice side order of Festive spirit thrown in for good measure.

OhWell says

I picked this up because of Lisa Kleypas but my favourite novella turned out to be Megan Frampton's.

Individual ratings:

- I Will (Lisa Kleypas): 2.5*
- Deck the Halls With Love (Lorraine Heath): 3*

- No Groom at the Inn (Megan Frampton): 4*
 - The Duke's Christmas Wish (Vivienne Lorret): 2*
-

Berls says

I really enjoyed all 4 stories - I kept thinking that the one I was reading was my favorite, until I'd get to the next one. Ultimately I think story #3 was my favorite... But I'd give each of them at least 4 stars. Full review to follow on blog.

Isha Coleman says

A Christmas to Remember Anthology by Lisa Kleypas, Lorraine Heath, Megan Frampton, Vivienne Lorret This is what dreams are made of. Escapism, great storytelling and the creme de la creme in historical romantic fiction. Alone Lisa Kleypas, Lorraine Heath, Megan Frampton, and Vivienne Lorret take up more shelves on my ereader than even I can fathom. When they come together it's like Christmas comes early for any historical romance addict. From marriage of convenience, second chance love and mischievous maidens, love is in the air all year long with these holiday treasures.

? Kimberly says

A good holiday anthology. RTC

Jessica Grogan says

This was a delightful read overall.

Lisa Kleypas and Megan Frampton's novellas were probably my favorites. Each novella contained a full story despite being a novella and therefore shorter. I didn't feel like there was much as far as the Christmas theme went beyond each story mentioning it was that time of year. Still, I enjoyed reading each story.

*i received an eARC from Edelweiss and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Cardyn Brooks says

Only faithful romance readers who are suffering from amnesia won't remember these stories because most of them are from 2015. "I Will" by Lisa Kleypas is from 2001.

These anthology-bait collections usually offer at least one first-time-in-print tale to introduce readers to an interesting newbie author.

~Anna**~ A Romance Reader says**

This is a review of I Will by Lisa Kleypas

I really liked it! Andrew and Caroline are so cute together! This was a fun Christmas read.

Jennifer says

[the h cheated on him with the H. :((hide spoiler

booksofallkinds says

A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER: AN ANTHOLOGY is a wonderful collection of four sizzlingly sexy regency tales that will warm you up on these chilly evenings.

From rakes of the highest order who need a convenient lady to pose as their intended, lords who are desperate for a second chance with the woman of their dreams, men who do not want to be shackled down by a wife, to those who believe science will give them the answers they seek, these short stories have something for everyone.

Now, I myself am not a huge lover of short stories as I usually feel that something is missing and the drama just ends too quickly, but I am delighted to say that with this collection, each story feels like it is a novel in its own right and I finished each story completely satisfied with how it all turned out.

I thoroughly enjoyed the characters and the settings, and I particularly enjoyed the female leads in this collection as they were strong, independent, and determined to make up their own minds about their future. If I had to pick a favourite it would have to be I Will by Lisa Kleypas, but the other three tales are fantastic too!

A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER: AN ANTHOLOGY will transport you back in time and shower you with romance and the Christmas spirit, and I highly recommend it to all historical romance fans.

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from Edelweiss

Teri-K says

A Christmas to Remember:

First story, I Will by Lisa Kleypas - She can write excellent books but this isn't one of them. Totally predictable. The MCs know and hate each other but now he has to marry so he talks to her once and is desperately in lust for her. The same happens to her. Unbelievable and boring to boot. 1 star

Second story, Deck the Halls with Love by Lorraine Heath - A very short story with no surprises. But I really liked that our hero refused to trap her into marriage and insisted she get to choose if she wanted to marry him or not. 2.5 stars

Third story, No Groom at the Inn by Megan Frampton - Once you get past the unbelievable encounter at the coach house this is really cute. I giggled while reading it. 4 stars

Fourth Story, The Duke's Christmas Wish by Vivienne Lorret - A really cute idea not executed very well. Why have two smart MCs who for some unexplained reason become tongue-tied when ever the other one is within ten feet? Even if they can't see them, they "know they must be near" and can't speak. It means they never talk to each other, which makes for a dull story. I was very disappointed that the fun premise didn't go anywhere. 1 star

Short answer - save your money, pick this one up at the library and read the third story and maybe the second if you're in the mood. Otherwise, don't bother.

Lauren says

This anthology was a good way to sample authors you may not have read before. Loosely tied together with a Christmas theme. I already love Lisa Kleypas, but got to try samples of the others. A couple of them were a little slow moving at times but overall it was a worthwhile read and very enjoyable. 3.5 stars

AnnMarie says

A Christmas to Remember is a collection of Christmas stories written by Lisa Kleypas, Lorraine Heath, Megan Frampton and Vivienne Lorret.

I Will by Lisa Kleypas

After being cut from his dying father's will, Andrew, Lord Drake has to prove that he can be a responsible man in order for his father to reinstate him. One of the best ways to do that is to pretend that he wants to settle down with a very respectable woman. That woman is his friend's sister Caroline Hargreaves.

Caroline thinks he is insane to think she could pretend to be in love with him when in fact she despises him. She believes he is a bad influence on her brother. When he promises to stop her brother from gambling and drinking, she agrees to help him. Their time together shows each of them in a different light to the other which leaves them both shocked.

This story is a beautiful feel good one that highlights that first impressions don't necessarily show a person in their true light. I enjoyed seeing the characters begin to have feelings for each other. When they did give in to their new emotions their intimacy and passion knew no bounds.

Deck the Halls With Love by Lorraine Heath

Alistair Wakefield, the Marquess of Chetwyn, despite obligation having got in the way, has never stopped loving Lady Meredith Hargreaves. He couldn't explain why he had to stop their courtship and Meredith was devastated.

Time has moved on, Meredith is betrothed to another when Alistair is relieved of his obligation and is free to court her again, free to marry her. Is she in love with her betrothed, or does he have a chance to beg her forgiveness and win her back?

I loved this story, Alistair is such a wonderful man, not many would put obligation to somebody else before their own happiness. I am glad he got a second chance with Meredith.

No Groom at the Inn by Megan Frampton

James Archer is an adventurer, he hates to stay in one place for any length of time. He loves to travel and his job is to find and buy antiquities for other people. His mother misses him terribly because he is hardly home, and she is forever asking him when he is going to settle down and get married. It's something he believes he never wants to do. When his mother arranges for them to attend a house party he knows that it will be full of single women and comes up with the idea of stopping his mother in her tracks at matchmaking. He tells her he is already betrothed. detests his mother's matchmaking ways.

Lady Sophronia Bettesford is in a coaching Inn waiting for the mail coach to arrive to take her to a relative who will take her in now that her father has passed away and left her without the means to look after herself. James happens upon her in the Inn when he goes in search of a drink, he sees she is on her own and looks like a decent enough woman. He implores her to be his pretend fiance for a month. She agrees for a price, thankful that she doesn't have to go live with her relative after all. They both believe they have the perfect answer to their individual problems but neither count on falling in love with each other.

This was a nice paced, one that had me smiling a lot because of the really fun scenes including the games that the characters played at the party. There was a lovely collection of supporting characters in this story, not least James' mother, I thought she was a darling and I love how well she and Sophronia get on.

The Duke's Christmas wish by Vivian Lorret

The Duke has to hold a ball and house party, which everybody believes is where he will be looking for a bride. In actual fact, he is using his guests in an experiment in which he is sure to prove his latest invention. That of the perfect formula for a perfect marriage. Enter Miss Ivy Sutherland, a woman who believes herself fully on the shelf. She is only attending the ball because she wants to help her friend find a husband. The Duke, of course, finds himself interested in Ivy but he fights the attraction tooth and nail because if he were to fall for her then it would prove his marriage formula a failure. Ivy is attracted to the Duke too, but she fights her feelings because, one, she is supposed to be matching him up with her friend, and two, she believes she isn't good enough for him.

The story that follows is about the relationship that forms between them despite the reasons it shouldn't.

I really enjoyed this story, apart from the romance and the obligatory tear-jerking scenes, there were some very funny light-hearted moments which had me laughing out loud.

This anthology of Christmas stories was a perfect mix of characters and situations to make the reader absolutely get into the Christmas spirit. It is only September as I write this, and I could quite happily get the Christmas decorations out now. Each story was just right in length, and each one held my attention from beginning to end.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced readers' copy of this book.

4 Stars

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

I Will

This novella almost didn't seem like a short story, it could have easily been made into a novel if Lisa Kleypas had the inclination to do so. It didn't feel super rushed like normal novella's tend to do more often than not. It's what I admire about Kleypas, every book she writes whether long or short, is a story you can become fully invested in and this is what happened with **I Will**. I truly adored this book. This story is about a fake engagement that turns out turning very real. Our heroine, is smart with glasses. And our hero, is a full on rake. Even though he seems on the outside to be a scoundrel, only interested in drinking and gambling, there is much more to him than that. And I liked peeling the layers off of him because he ended up being a hero to fall in love with. I truly adored the way that these two were together. Their interactions with one each other were engaging. A very easy book to flip pages through to see these two to their happy ending along with a twist or two along the way.

"And the way you dress reminds me of an unmade bed!"

"Does that mean you'd like to lie on top of me?"

Deck The Halls With Love

This is a second chance romance and what a sweet and lovely story. I swear Lorraine Heath can always deliver a wonderful romance and she does with this novella. As with Kleypas, Heath is one of those romance authors you can depend on to deliver a lovely story and she does with **Deck The Halls With Love**. This story is about two people who are able to have a second chance for their own happy ever after. Our hero, may have cared for Meredith, but went off intending to marry another. But when his fiancée fell in love with another man, he let her go. And the one woman he really wants is now engaged to another. A man who could never truly understand her. And now Alistair will have to prove to Meredith during a Christmas house party, how sincere his intentions towards her really are. Both characters are simply wonderful, and you just want them to win in the end of this one. I think what I enjoyed most was seeing how well Alistair really knows Meredith, and see who she really is, unlike her fiancée who doesn't really know her at all.

No Groom At The Inn

As with her normal style, Megan Frampton delivers a purely entertaining story that wins your heart and makes you smile all the way through. This novella is a part of her Dukes Behaving Badly series. Sophronia is looking for any reason to avoid taking care of six children and the numerous amounts of chickens. So when a stranger proposes to her, she accepts. She is looking for a way out of her current predicament. Christopher is trying to avoid his matchmaking mother, especially at her Christmas party. And is having Sophronia act as his fake fiancée to avoid his mothers creative ways to get him hitched. Even though this portrays a fake engagement trope, pretty quickly these two form a close attachment to each other and awaken a sizzling desire for each other that turns into more than they expected. I had a blast with this story, and it kept me entertained and wrapped up in this charming love story.

The Duke's Christmas Wish

Vivienne Lorret is a new author for me, but every time I read her I truly fall in love with her a little bit more and I had a wonderful time with this one. I do love a character is so smart. And our hero is that....science and experiments are everything. He has this formula for marriage that he just knows is the most "logical" approach to marriage. Until he meets his match and the one woman he never could have put in his formula unless he added in the element of "love" too. Ivy has come to see that her cousin finds the best match and never expected to be intrigued by the most peculiar and fascinating Duke. A man of intelligent and caring. Two combinations she never thought she would find stimulating. I just adored this book so much. Seeing a smart intelligent man be worn down by love, and seeing a heroine show him the power of desire and tender emotion. Definitely a story you want to keep in mind during the upcoming holiday season

Overall this anthology was simply magnificent and I had a blast reading all four of these stories by four of the best historical romance authors to write in this genre!! A must read for any romance lover!
