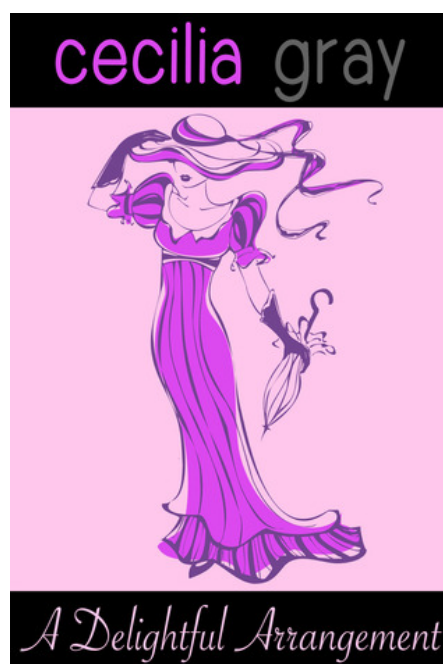




A Delightful Arrangement

Cecilia Gray

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A Delightful Arrangement Cecilia Gray

Phillip has a duty to marry Francesca. He has always protected his former neighbor and childhood companion, and now that she is of marriageable age, he will give her what she needs most - a real home where she is welcome and wanted.

Unfortunately for him....she is done with being dutiful.

After years of being an obedient daughter to a hateful father, Francesca jumps into her first Season. Francesca is ready to dance every dance, flirt with every bachelor and snatch what she wants most - a man she loves who will make her swoon.

Unfortunately for her...he now sees making her swoon as his duty, too.

And Phillip takes his duties very seriously.

* * *

Don't miss The Gentlemen Next Door series, because sometimes a lady in need of love need look no further than next door. The Gentlemen Next Door Series are historical regency romance novellas.

A Delightful Arrangement Details

Date : Published September 3rd 2011 by Gray Life, LLC

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Author : Cecilia Gray

Format : ebook 134 pages

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

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From Reader Review A Delightful Arrangement for online ebook

Kuroi says

A very cute novella about childhood friends becoming something more, set in Regency England.

It's nothing we haven't seen before but I guess what made it fun to read was Phillip, the hero. It certainly can't be Francesca, who had me rolling my eyeballs with her vehement denials. I get that Regency ladies were expected to be modest and un-scandalous but really, does she need to keep up the act in her internal monologue? No harm in drooling inside, Fran.

I empathised with Francesca's desire to experience a Season and find love, true love and all that. I just didn't understand why she was so insistent that Phillip not be a part of that equation. As the duchess rightly says:

"I suppose, my dear, I don't understand. Why wouldn't that opportunity to fall in love be with Phillip?"

Aside: This is one of the reasons I enjoyed Loretta Chase's books so much. Her heroines don't usually spend pages pretending they don't react to heroes like the stomach to chilli peppers. Real conflict should be something beyond "But I couldn't possibly love him..."

Phillip is charming and considerate, a rare combination of traits in heroes of the genre. He makes a few hilarious quips like these:

"Ah yes, the infamous ducal glower. It must be a day that ends in y."

"She blinked. "You're actually proposing?"

"Please, Franny." He reached for her hands, drew them to his lips and kissed them one by one.

"But we're already engaged," she protested.

"Yes. My father proposed to your father. It was very romantic, I'm sure. But now I am proposing to you."

Not that he doesn't have his own fair share of dancing around the bush, but he handles it better.

There's no major storyline to speak of since the book is so short. Quite a few scorching moments scattered here and there for the readers' benefit, though I have to wonder at these incidents happening in broad daylight in the middle of town. Warning: your toes might tingle.

It's the kind of feel-good story I can see someone reading on their commute after a long day. It won't take up much time or energy; kind of a glucose dose that gives you just what you need.

All quotes taken from an ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Ceri says

I found this as a freebie, and very much enjoyed it. Francesca's is informed by her father that her marriage has been arranged to her lifelong friend Phillip but she agrees with him that she can have a season in London and if she finds somebody who makes her swoon he'll release her from their engagement.

Phillip has always known that he would make the marriage to Francesca that their families expected but will she ever come to love him?

Main criticism of this is that it's too short! Could have done with a bit more.

Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

I received a copy of A Delightful Arrangement from Netgalley in exchange for my review.

Francesca Warrington has always dreamt of love, of a season and of swooning, but all that is dashed to pieces when it is revealed that she's already engaged to her neighbour, and her best friend; Philip. Philip has always known that he was going to marry Francesca, and has made sure he's never fallen in love with another woman, but when she discovers the arrangement she isn't happy, and he makes her a promise; if she falls in love with anyone else then he'll call off the wedding. But he's starting to see her in another light, and all he wants now is for her to love him as much as he loves her.

[Link to Goodreads](#)

[Link to amazon](#)

A Delightful Arrangement is a short and sweet Regency Romance, there's no doubt how it will end and it doesn't take long to get there, and sometimes that is just what you need (and in this case it definitely was). What attracted me to this book at first was the cover (and the covers of the other books in the series, which I hope to be reading soon), there was just something about it that I liked, probably the fact that it isn't a Regency book with an undressing woman on the front!

Philip and Francesca had a preexisting relationship as friends, and I think that that helped due to the short nature of the book, and as such the love story was a very gradual thing, and not insta-love, though there was a bit of a sudden 'oh wait' moment when they realised they were attracted to each other. Basically its a Regency getting out of the friend zone story.

Normally I find that I connect more to the female character in the story, but in this case I actually felt far more of a connection to Philip, he felt like the more rounded character, and he was in fact very selfless in his actions towards Francesca. Maybe he wasn't all grand romantic gestures, but he was charming, protective and forward thinking.

As a short read I loved this, though if you're looking for a story that surprises you this isn't the way to go.

Phrynne says

A short but sweet little book in the vein of Georgette Heyer (although no one can do it quite as well as she did!). This is a charming little story with several very likeable characters who unfortunately never get the chance to develop fully. The book seems to gallop to a conclusion and I felt it could have actually been better if it had been longer. However it was still an enjoyable and entertaining read.

Crystal (Books Are Sanity!!!) says

I found A Delightful Arrangement to be very charming! I love regency romance books and this one was full of romance and fun as well! The characters were interesting and the story pulled me in right away! Francesca and her determination to find a swoon-worthy man made for a great story! I loved Phillip and his obvious care for Francesca! Too bad Francesca can't see or admit to what is right in front of her! Although this is a novella, I never once felt that I didn't know enough about the characters and their situation. Cecilia Gray has a way of drawing you into a new world with each book that she writes! If you don't have a lot of time and you like regency romances, then A Delightful Arrangement is the book for you! (This book contains adult content and is considered an adult romance book)

I received this book for free and this is my honest review.

✕Tabby✕ says

THE REVIEW

Why this book?

I wanted to read more from Cecilia Gray

What I thought

This was a Cute little story. Francesca got on nerves but I really liked Phillip. I loved the interactions between the two and I like the setting. Can't wait to start book two.

But seriously Francesca

Saewod Tice says

A Delightful Arrangement (The Gentlemen Nextdoor) by Cecilia Gray
(Review by Saewod Tice)

Phillip has a duty to marry Francesca. He has always protected his former neighbor and childhood companion, and now that she is of marriageable age, he will give her what she needs most - a real home where she is welcome and wanted.

Unfortunately for him....she is done with being dutiful.

After years of being an obedient daughter to a hateful father, Francesca jumps into her first Season. Francesca is ready to dance every dance, flirt with every bachelor and snatch what she wants most - a man she loves who will make her swoon.

Unfortunately for her...he now sees making her swoon as his duty, too.

And Phillip takes his duties very seriously.

A Delightful Arrangement by Cecilia Gray is more than delightful. It was a non-explicit steamy read. Beside the premise and the fun characters, what I loved most were the hot scenes without getting erotic. There are few novels/novellas that have been able to get my blood pumping without taking the scene over into an obvious erotic moment. Neck nuzzling and earlobe nibbling have never been hotter.

The only downfall in this novella is that it is a novella and not a longer novel. I really wished it would've been longer, even a bit longer. I feel like I'm missing an amazing ending to this tale which made me want Celia to continue- even if it were to just give me an epilogue.

Great Minds Thinking Aloud Rating (GMTA): 4.5/5 Ravens
Recommending reading age: 18+ for some situations

Bibliongirl says

I liked it a lot, but wish it was a little longer.

Jane says

I found *A Delightful Arrangement* when I was browsing through the free books in the Kobo store, and didn't realise that it was in fact a novella.

I don't read a lot of romance novels; I'm fine with a story that contains a romance, but out-and-out romance isn't really my cup of tea. I was pleasantly surprised with A Delightful Arrangement. Having read a lot of Austen, I was perfectly comfortable with the Regency setting, although Gray's main male character, Philip, was a bit racier than Mr Darcy or Mr Willoughby!

Philip is the best friend of Francesca, though what she doesn't realise is that their fathers have agreed that they will be married. Francesca's relationship with her father is strained, mainly due to the fact that he probably isn't her biological father. When Francesca learns of the arrangement to see her married off, she baulks, telling Philip that she wants to go to London and find a man who will make her swoon, and not be pressured into a marriage with someone she feels is agreeing to it out of duty.

The characters are nicely written, and the sex scenes are steamy enough without veering into full blown erotica. There are a further three books in the series that follow the lives of other characters; the second one deals with Francesca's friend Chastity. I don't know if I will rush to read the subsequent books, as they are not a direct continuation of the story. But I'm pleased to have finished my first book of 2013!

Dana says

This was a middle of the road novella. It was a cute story but I wasn't really affected by it. I would recommend this as a sweet read for a rainy day.

Note: I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review.

Carrie says

Francesca's mourning period for the loss of her mother is over and now that she is of marriageable age she is ready for her first season and the balls. She wants to dance and flirt and meet the man of her dreams. When she's told that she's betrothed to her neighbor and friend Phillip she can't believe it. Phillip is her friend, not someone to make her swoon and fall in love with which she desperately wishes for.

A good love story but not really a stand out. Francesca could seem a little bratty which I suppose is why her father arranged her marriage and didn't have faith in her finding a suitor on her own but most would be thrilled that someone they are so close to would want to marry them. Kind of felt bad for Phillip the whole story as he really was bothered by her wanting to meet others.

victoria_tonks says

It was a fun read, but very short. Not enough time to really develop the relationship between the central characters.

Farrah says

An absolutely delightful historical romance novella, A Delightful Arrangement was a lovely read. I really liked this sweet romance. It was quick, light, and an truly enjoyable read.

Both characters were great. Francesca wanted a taste of freedom after spending 3 Seasons in mourning, but also knew to hold on tight when she realized that the man she loved was, in fact, her fiance. Philip was wonderful. A sweet, honorable man, he was determined to prove that he could make Francesca happy. They were both lovely characters and I liked them both.

The romance was very sweet. It was clear that Francesca and Philip had a deep connection stemming from their friendship, but they both had yet to realize that it had turned into something more. But, they eventually did and, along the way, they definitely proved that they had chemistry between them. I thought they were a lovely couple.

The plot was light and quick and I was engaged the whole way through. I really liked the story and the ending was perfect.

A Delightful Arrangement was a wonderful historical romance novella that I really liked. Romance lovers, if you want a quick, light read, then this is definitely a book you'll want to check out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Lady says

I received this book as an ARC.

Lady Francesca Warrington is coming out of a three year mourning of the her mother's death. She expects to have at least one season that was not granted her during her three years of mourning. As she is coming out of her mourning she finds out that is already engaged to the neighbor's son, her mother's best friend's son, and her best friend, Phillip. Franny is so upset cause no one told her this until the very last day of her mourning and she thought she was going to be free of her father and that life. But will she??

Lord Phillip March is the gentlemen next door. He grew up with Franny and know everything about her. He has known about the arrangement for awhile and just assume that she knew. When things come to ahead, how will he deal with it? Will the go through with the arrangement or there be an out clause?

I am enjoying reading this series by Cecilia. At first I didn't know what to think, but I couldn't not put the books down once I started reading them. I'm only into book two of the four part series but I can't wait to read the next one. That is how addicting this series it. I recommend this author, book, and series to others. I would re-read this book

AryaTheFangirl says

This was the first book I was accepted for on Netgalley and I was so excited to start this one!

I really like the covers on this whole series they are so simple and colorful and really draw your eyes to them.

When it comes to historical fiction books its usually hit or miss with me. I like to believe that I am a history buff and I expect my books that I read to be historically sound. With that being said this historical book has little to do with historical events which is great for me because I do prefer that the relationship between characters be the focus for a book.

I liked both of our leads they were solid likable people. I preferred our hero more than Francesca. Which is not really a surprise I almost always love the hero before the heroine. Phillip was such a loveable character he felt so aloof at first and then he was snarky and sassy and I love that! He also was driven in what he wanted and that is absolutely amazing I love characters having drive. He also fell in love first which I personally love it keeps him on his toes and its fun to watch him obsess over her.

Francesca was an OK character I liked her! I get why she wanted to have her own life, wanted to decide her life and who she married. Her mission to be swooned is awesome and hilarious.

The ending of the book felt a little bit rushed. I would of enjoyed it if the end scenes were drawn out a little bit more. A few history facts were a little bit off as well but understandable and them being different helped the story be the story it was meant to be.

Childhood friends into something more is a theme in books that I absolutely love. When characters realize that they have always had feelings for each other and never realized it is a really fun concept to me.

I really liked Chasity as well. She's Franny friend who basically knows that the two of them are meant for each other and she added a layer of depth. I believe that Chasity gets her own story in this series and I am really looking forward to reading her own story!

This is the first book I had read by Cecilia Gray and it will most likely not be my last I really liked her writing style and the characters she has written are really relate-able.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a nice light historical romance.
