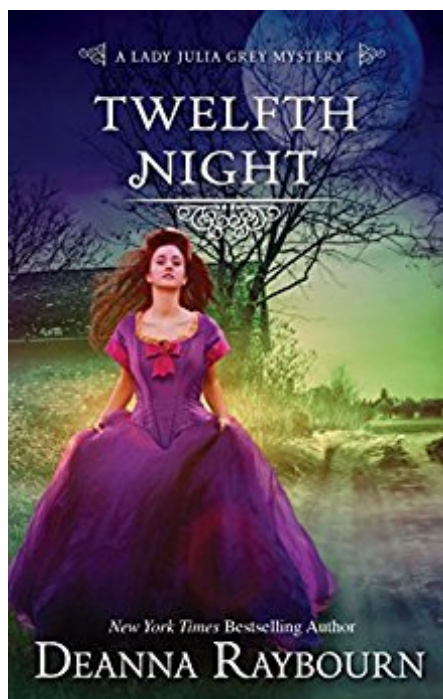




Twelfth Night

Deanna Raybourn

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Revisit the mysterious Victorian world of Lady Julia Grey in this novella by *New York Times* bestselling author Deanna Raybourn.

To mark the passing of another decade, the esteemed—and eccentric—March family have assembled at Belmont Abbey to perform the Twelfth Night Revels for their sleepy English village. But before Lady Julia and her handsome, sleuthing husband, Nicolas Brisbane, can take to the stage, a ruckus in the stable yard demands their attention. An abandoned infant is found nestled in the steel helm of St. George. What's more, their only lead is the local legend of a haunted cottage and its ghastly inhabitant—who seems to have returned.

Once again, Lady Julia and Nicholas take up the challenge to investigate, and when the source of the mystery is revealed, they'll be faced with an impossible choice—one that will alter the course of their lives...forever.

Originally published in 2014

Twelfth Night Details

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Author : Deanna Raybourn

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From Reader Review Twelfth Night for online ebook

Sonya Heaney says

Originally posted [HERE](#) .

This is apparently #5.6 (so, a bonus novella) in the Lady Julia Grey series. Needless to say, this is another review copy I picked up without knowing anything about it or the series it belongs to!

Reviews are all over the place for this series. Set in Victorian England, there's no denying it's incredibly anachronistic – on the first page our protagonist's sister walks into her bedroom and comments on her brother in law's nudity, like it's a joke. The women discuss family planning and not having children as if they're living in 2014, and the way they *swear*... If you're looking for the quintessential stuffiness of the Victorian era, well, it's not here.

And yet... This author has taken more care with the dialogue and correct terminology than any other American author of historical romance I've come across. I wasn't cringing at wrong (non-English) words the way I all too often am.

Despite the massive and frequent anachronisms, I think Deanna Raybourn has a real talent for writing strong characters. She even makes the servants actual people with their own thoughts and ideas. This novella was a perfect length for the plot, and while I was pretty lost with all the unfamiliar characters, I still enjoyed reading it.

I think I would give Raybourn's work another go. However I'd really appreciate it if someone in the editing process said a big **No Way** to some of the outlandishly modern behaviour!

Review copy provided by NetGalley.

Sophia says

I love husband and wife detective teams particularly those set in historical times. Quite addicted really! This short novella is from one of my all-time favorite series, Lady Jane Grey, in which married pair Brisbane and Julia work their way through many a dark, gritty story. This particular installment in the series however, is of the lighter variety. Like other books in the series, this one needs to be read in order as many aspects of the storyline and the characters are ongoing in their development. In fact, the novella refers back to four previous storylines and the reader would probably feel off kilter several times when references are made.

It is a short piece and it takes place at the tail end of the holiday season just as the title suggests. The events are a continuation of the previous novella, Silent Night. Julia and Brisbane have spent the holidays at the Abbey with her huge eccentric family gathering for the Twelfth Night Revels play and celebration that take place every decade at the family seat performed by the March family for the people from the surrounding area. Dropped into the preparations are two mysteries to tantalize the detecting couple. First, a newborn baby is found out in the stable and then a ghost is spotted near an old empty cottage on the edge of the cemetery. With the help of a precocious niece, the mysteries are solved, but the answers will lead to a profound change for Brisbane and Julia.

Food poisoning, scandalous guests, mysterious newborn baby, a ghost, unique pets, hints at future twists, and just the fun of the holidays when the March family gathers are enough to leave me very pleased with this short piece. I am always eager for scenes with Brisbane and Julia together and I was not disappointed. Married life has not altered their need for each other or to track down the answers to a mystery and for this I am glad. Julia's family gathering was another huge plus and I was particularly happy to get to know her niece and nephew who have a penchant toward mysteries too.

The length of the story pushes it to set up the mystery and solve it quickly, but I was pleased that it never felt rushed. As I noted above, there were many other events and characters developed further and deeper. It was an all around satisfying read that fans of the series will definitely enjoy, but also gather some great tidbits about the future direction of the story for Brisbane and Julia.

My thanks to Net Galley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review thoughts.

Josie Jaffrey says

This was a fun story, but I have to admit that I'm sick to death of cousin Lucy. She's such an irritating character and I wasn't excited to see her turn up in this short story.

This story also left me wondering whether Julia and Brisbane are ever going to make it to Italy. The fifth book in the series ended with them getting a letter calling them to their next mystery in Italy, which was then put on hold for two short stories. As only one short story remains in this series, and as the plot seems to have veered in a way that wouldn't allow an excursion to the continent, I wonder whether that letter is just being brushed quietly under the carpet.

I'm reading the final short story next, so I suppose I shall see...

Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says

I never realize just how much I miss the eloquence and beauty of Raybourn's writing until I start one of her novels and it all comes back to me. How much I adore her writing and most of all, her characters.

I adore Julia and Brisbane and the whole March household, including their servants. They are just too lovable and quirky not to love.

The Lady Julia series happens to be one of my most, if not my, most favorite historical (with a slight edge of paranormal) romance series. It really does have it all. Fun characters, twists and turns, danger, mystery, romance and most of all, a whole heck of a lot of fun. Whether that fun be in the mishaps Julia gets herself into, her crazy over the top family, or even the strange pets, this is just one series that is so much fun to read that I gobble them up. I love them all and can't help but mourn them when I finish because I just know the wait until the next one comes out will be killer.

I think about the characters long after I have put the book down and wonder what adventures and shenanigans they will get themselves in next time and I can't help but have a smile on my face while doing so.

This was such a great addition to the series and really showed once again why I adore Brisbane and Julia so much. I love their dynamic and oh my, their little niece who is so much like Julia melted my heart. I loved watching Brisbane interact with her.

I am so excited with how this one ended. There are so many new adventures out there for this fantastic couple. I really hope there are many more books to come.

Rebecca says

"God help us, there are two of you."

This novella was such a delight. If you are a fan of the series, this is a must read! I love this cast of characters immensely. I laughed countless times and was left feeling completely satisfied. I hope Raybourn is not done with this series, but this would be a perfect ending if she is.

Wendy says

Twelfth Night, by Deanna Raybourn, gives us a tidbit of what is now happening in the lives of Lady Julia and her husband, Brisbane.

To celebrate the passing of another decade, the admired (and often eccentric) March family have gathered together to perform the Twelfth Night Revels for their rather dull English village. Before Lady Julia and Brisbane can perform their attention is drawn elsewhere when a newborn baby is found abandoned in the stable and a ghost shows itself near an old cottage on the edge of the cemetery.

The best part of this novella was being able to, once again, visit with all of the characters I have become quite attached to.

The mysteries are solved and this was a wonderful addition to the Lady Julia Grey series.

Holly says

I like that these novellas never seem rushed and that we're getting some conclusion to Julia & Brisbane's life.

Caz says

Because this appeared in the summer, I decided to put it temporarily on the back-burner to read at a more wintry time of the year.

In **Twelfth Night**, the entire March family is gathered for the annual Revels at Bellemont Abbey. Having imbibed copious amounts of Plum's punch the night before, Julia is nursing a hangover and is less than pleased at being woken by her sister, Portia, and practically dragged out of bed in order to convene with her father and the rest of the family about the upcoming theatricals.

With any other family, it might be difficult to swallow the idea of the heroine's sister in law commenting so

casually:

“Julia, this is the first time I’ve seen your husband entirely unclothed. May I offer my congratulations?”

But this is Portia, after all, and I’d put nothing past her! :P

As an afterthought, she tells them that a baby has been found in the stables.

Ostensibly the story is about finding whose baby it is, but more interesting are all the other little tid-bits that are dotted throughout, such as the introduction of Perdita, whom readers of the recent *Night of a Thousand Stars* will recognise as a formidable child destined to become an equally formidable woman.

There’s mention of Brisbane’s desire to undertake more covert work for the government because of the rumblings throughout Europe and talk the founding of the organisation we’ll come to know as *The Vespiary*.

The March family is as bonkers as ever. There are very quick snapshots of the various family members, and because both readers and authors are so familiar with them by now, that’s all it takes to convey something about the complexity of the relationships between the March siblings. And I have to hand it to Ms Raybourn for the way she packs so much – a bit of mystery, despair, comedy and deep family connections - into a story that can be read in half an hour.

One note of caution – this probably won’t make a lot of sense to anyone who hasn’t read at least some of the preceding novels. It’s a quick and well-put together story, but familiarity with the other books and the characters is pretty essential for it to make much sense.

Mary says

An anachronistic, but charming little novella. Not much meat for mystery readers and overall, fairly predictable, but I still liked it. I’m pleased that the author took her characters in a different direction than she’d led us to believe at the close of *The Dark Enquiry*. It appears that the author plans to continue the series, so it will be fun to see what she does next.

Lady Wesley says

All members of the eccentric family of Earl March have gathered at Bellmont Abbey to perform the *Twelfth Night Revels* for their sleepy English village. Julia and Brisbane are busy, however, tracking down the origins of an abandoned infant found on the premises.

I was surprised and delighted by this well-plotted installment in the *Lady Julia* series. I suspect, though, that it helps a great deal to have read the preceding five full-length novels.

Ruth says

This is an absolutely charming little novella from the *Lady Julia* historical mystery series, and provided by

the publisher through netgalley, with all the wonderful little touches that make the full-length novels so enjoyable to read. All the characters I love are there: the eccentric and yet sensible Lady Julia, her disparate and pleasantly odd family and her charming, clever and enigmatic husband. Even her rather silly cousin, Lucy makes an appearance.

The plot is similar to others in that it is an accessible mixture of the everyday and the tragic, but it is the witty, dry and sometimes saucy writing which just draws you in as a reader and keeps you reading on.

Loved it, and it just reminded me how much I have enjoyed this series.

4 stars. I really liked it.

✧ **Jennifer says**

4.5 stars

This short novella got an extra half-star because it takes place amidst all of Lady Julia Grey's family, and I absolutely love them in all their wacky eccentricity.

Slightly wordier review: <http://jenn.booklikes.com/post/128327...>

Andrea Guy says

Twelfth Night is an in between Julia Gray novels short story/novella. It keeps the story moving while we wait for the next full length novel to arrive, and really they can't get here fast enough.

I love Lady Julia. She's always been a strong heroine, however this story isn't really about Lady Julia being strong. Its a holiday-ish novel, with her family doing the Twelfth Night Revels. But there is a baby that's found, and the possibility of some ghosts and witches, this short story moves along at a rather fast pace.

I loved the kids in this story, especially Perditia, who even Brisbane noted, was much like a young Julia.

The mystery of the baby and witch will leave you with a few tears, though nothing is totally certain about the mother's whereabouts when the story ends.

It definitely keeps the storyline going and brings new changes for this sleuthing couple.

It was a light, fun read with some of my favorite characters.

Snooty1 says

I'm so happy I could cry!!!!

Melanie says

This is a fun novella that brings together all the quirky members of the March family - with a little mystery on the side.
