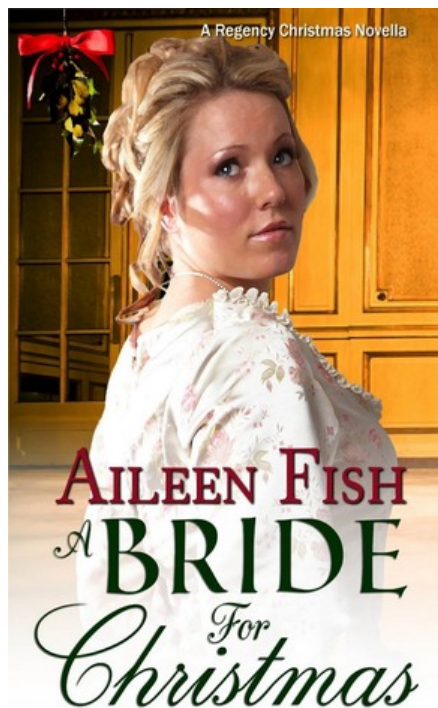




A Bride For Christmas

Aileen Fish

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A Bride For Christmas Aileen Fish

The Christmas season has always been important to Nash Sinclair. Home from the war and surrounded by his large, loving family, he realizes what is missing from his life: a wife. Not too surprisingly, he is looking at his sister-in-law's rather becoming (and unmarried) sister when he makes the decision.

Lady Julianna intends to remain unmarried, having no need for a husband to live the life of her dreams. Rather than explain her unusual choice, she insists only a man who slays dragons would suit her, and since dragons don't exist, neither does her ideal beau.

Not one to turn away from a challenge, Nash enlists the aid of his nieces and nephews in a scheme sure to win Lady Julianna's affection. But as he comes to know the lady better, he realizes he's risking his own heart. When did his silly idea become a crucial quest?

NOTE: This book was previously released as *The Christmas Wedding Scheme*.

A Bride For Christmas Details

Date : Published December 6th 2011 (first published January 1st 2011)

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Author : Aileen Fish

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Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Novella

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From Reader Review A Bride For Christmas for online ebook

QNPoohBear says

Nash Sinclair is home from war and home for the holidays. He adores his family and enjoys visiting with his nephews but he feels a bit lost, like something is missing. Perhaps it's time to find a wife. Doing so is easy but having a happy marriage such as his parents and siblings enjoy is not so easy. He begins by practicing his charm on his sister-in-law's sister Lady Julianna. Lady Julianna is immune to flattery though Nash claims he's just being friendly. She has no interest in men or marriage. She is happy living in the country caring for her ill aunt. When her aunt dies she'll travel and write about her adventures. There's no room for love in her life and so she tells Nash the only man she could ever love is one who will slay dragons for her. She thinks that will put him off but she doesn't count on Nash's stubbornness. He sets out to slay Julianna's dragons and convince her they truly belong together. For that he needs some help from his irrepressible young nephews and adorable young niece.

I just adored this story! I loved the characters so much! The Sinclairs are an awesome family. They remind me a lot of the Musgroves in Persuasion. They're so loving and caring and an all around NICE family. It makes a change to have a hero from a loving family. It makes the romance seem more genuine because he knows what a happy marriage looks like and actually wants what his siblings have instead of being blindsided. He also knows the heroine in advance because her sister is married to his brother, yet he's never properly appreciated her because he's been at war and not searching for a bride.

Nash is a great hero. He's handsome, caring, a wounded war veteran and very witty. I was completely charmed by his sense of humor and I loved his interactions with his family. It all felt so real and so familiar to me. Julianna is a heroine I can really really relate to. Like her, I have no desire to marry or have a family. I'd rather travel and write like her. She thinks she's selfish and I'm selfish that way too. Like Nash and Julianna, I crave solitude from my crazy, loud, loving family.

The romance comes together in such an incredible way. I just adored the moment when they realize they're in love. It's a true LOVE scene, no physical contact, no racing hormones, just a deep emotional connection. The hero and heroine get each other completely. I also loved that she had doubts. She didn't doubt her love for Nash but she doubted whether she was cut out for marriage. I can see myself feeling exactly the same way in the same situation. I loved how Nash won her over. It's very sweet. Julianna's final decision happened a bit too quickly for me but this is a novella and not a novel so I guess the author ran out of space. A full length novel would have her reject Nash and then travel to Belgium and have him rejoin the army and be at Waterloo where Julianna realizes she can't live without him. I actually enjoyed the change from the usual plot and it's fine the way it is. The only other thing I would have liked was a few kissing boughs. There's actually not any real kissing in this story except on the hand but I think the story is stronger because of it.

I'm not usually a big fan of children in novels (or in real life) but they're used sparingly here and help to advance the story in a charming sort of way.

I can't gush enough about the aww factor of this book. If you're looking for something truly sweet and heartwarming you MUST read this story. It's secular too so that's a nice bonus.

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

Nash Sinclair is a great character. He has imagination, and perseverance. He needs it all in this sweet story.

Lady Julianna has decided that marriage is not for her. She appears to be sure of her decision but she is not as closed minded as she appears. it is fun to watch the two get together and to see how Nash slays the dragon in order to win her. Sweet Regency Novella is a good description for the story.

Arlena says

Title: A Bride For Christmas
Author: Aileen Fish
Published: A.F.
Age Recommended: New Adult - Adult
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean
Rating: 5
Review:

"A Bride For Christmas" by Aileen Fish was a beautiful told romantic historical short story. "A Bride For Christmas" was what you can call a 'sweet and clean read.' The two main characters Nash and Julianna were well delivered, developed and oh so colorful. I did enjoy how this author was able to bring out many all of the descriptive details in this good read. We find both Nash and Julianna are surrounded by 'happily wedded siblings, with their children and even their parents who loved each other'....could this happen to them? It seems like the heroine wasn't interested in marriage but how about this hero? This is where I say you must pick up this good read to see for yourself how this author will bring it all out to the reader. It will be a beautiful as well as a delightful twist that will leave a smile on your face. Would I recommend? Yes!

Lisa Montgomery says

Overall, I enjoyed this book, which brings two likable characters together at Christmastide. There are some tender moments; yet, it is a feel-good read.

Avoid split infinitives: to actively participate, to not hear, to not suspect, to not be begging, to not think, to not long, to not use, to fully understand, etc.

Megan says

Another Regency Christmas cozy that just hits the spot. I enjoyed the touch of background with the solidier Hero and a bit of philosophy about war. I also enjoyed the Heroine with her independent spirit. I liked that the story took place over Christmas/New Years/Twelfth Night because it was interesting to see the holidays depicted a little differently and possibly more true to the time period.

Luli says

3.5 stars.

Historia muy cortita y con cero drama.

Entretenida aunque tampoco muy memorable, con mucha interacción entre los protagonistas, con muchos personajes, con su puntito tierno, realista...original...
El final ha sido un poco rápido y plano, sin ese Gran Momento Especial.
Una lectura agradable y sin pretensiones.

Cyndi says

This was an adorable holiday story! Great characters!
Nash is home from the war and ready to settle down. But the woman he becomes interested in doesn't want to get married. She is waiting for her inheritance so she can travel and write. Can he convince her that marriage to him won't stand in the way of her dreams?
Very sweet story. ?

Milou Koenings says

I have to admit that I'd never read a Regency romance before Aileen Fish's novella. What a wonderful introduction to a lovely world!

Besides the historical details and atmosphere, which I found highly interesting, I loved the characters. No wimpy heroines here! Not only were the women strong, but the gentlemen were such ... well, gentlemen, who treated the women with the respect they deserved.

Thoroughly enjoyed this. I was sorry it was over. I'll be reading more of her books!

Dee says

I so enjoy the 19th century! There was a way with romance that did not carry through to the 21st century. Men always seemed so gallant and romantic. Nash and Julianne had no intention of falling in love but it just sort of reached out and hit them on the head. Nash knew before she did and set out to show her that he was the man for her. This was a very well done romantic story line that showed lots of effort in the research and the vivid descriptions used to build the place and the individual characters. The flow was easy and yet pulled on the energy that the author built. It's easy to stay with a story if the author has taken the time too make the reader comfortable with the characters. Nash and Julianne are like family now. Excellent read.

Tia says

Captain Sinclair returns home to celebrate Christmas with his very large family and meets his sister in laws sister, Lady Juliana. Lady Juliana is 24 and almost past marriageable age, and that's the way she wants it. She dreams of traveling and one day writing a novel. Nash Sinclair can't imagine why an intelligent beautiful woman like her wouldn't already be married. They find that they both are trying to dodge the marriage thing, and in turn Nash becomes intrigued. Is it possible that he's thinking of marriage afterall? Will they decide to

take a chance on each other?

"A Bride for Christmas" is a regency romance, and it was a nice change from the contemporary romances I've been reading lately. Clean story and no sex scenes.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

[Nash doesn't propose to Julianna until New Years... (hide spoiler)]

Elizabeth Bennet says

This is nothing unexpected but still a sweet read. The h, Julianna, swears she is on the shelf with wild fantasies of being a spinster and Nash feels the sparks from his first glance at her. I liked the read it was fast minimal angst and believe it or not a little would have been interesting. A possible rival or some such drama definitely was needed. It is a clean book and once again Christmas was just a back drop. Enjoy!

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Kindle freebie: a short, sweet Regency novella (novelette? Whatever.) I think this will appeal mostly to readers who love Regencies. Nothing offensive. Hero decides he must wed a lady who has decided for various reasons that she's fated to remain a spinster. Dragons appear in every form except the real one. Cute.

Cherie says

Lovely characters in a festive, Christmas, setting. Julianna has insisted she will not marry and prefers living with her maiden aunt. Nash is recently returned from the continent, wounded at Toulouse. He hasn't felt a need to marry either but when the two meet - she is his brother's sister by marriage - he is intrigued and they engage in a wager. The wager is for him to find a man she would be interested in marrying. If he wins the wager he wants a kiss.

There's no adversity, no arguing. He asks to get to know her so he can find the right man for him and so their courtship begins. No great passion but a slow simmer in which both find themselves in anticipation of a happy future.

Betty says

This is a wonderful romantic short story about an English military man who has returned to his family and to civilian life after fighting Napoleon. He was wounded in the last battle which actually occurred the day after Napoleon surrendered. He is enjoying the family at his family home. All his brothers and sisters and their spouses are there along with all the children of those marriages. He has just about decided that it is time for him to marry and start a family of his own, when he meets his sister-in-law's sister. She is a bit younger than

he is, but well past the age where most women of his era marry. She, however, is planning on never marrying and living an independent life of travel and becoming an author.

The author has an easy reading style and I found myself caught up in the quick read and the wonderful characters. It ended to soon but left me with a wonderful warm feeling. I will be reading more from this author.

Katrina Epperson says

Aileen Fish brings us an unexpected romance set in the 1800's in England. It's the Christmas season and the family of the Earl or Renford descend on Renford Abbey to celebrate the holidays and to welcome back home Nash, who's recently returned from war.

Nash Sinclair, late of the 13th Light Dragoons, has recently returned from years at war. Nash attended a few socials when first arriving in town, but soon becoming bored with all the young ladies and their mommas, he retires to his townhouse for solitude. It is expected that, since the war is over, he take a wife, but if these frivolous women are the only ones to choose from then he will just stay single. He's no the type of man to marry just for the sake of being married, but would want to have deep feelings for his wife.

Lady Juilanna Dowsett is a lovely, young woman who lives with her spinster aunt in a cottage in Lyminster. At the age of 24, she is considered an old maid and destined to end up a spinster. This has been fine with her, for she has had no plans to marry. She longs to travel and write a book detailing her adventures. Oh she's been courted and had proposals, but none of her suitors had instilled enough feelings to change her mind about marriage. Her sister, Clemmie, has recently given birth to an adorable little boy and suddenly she is questioning her decision to not marry or have children.

Nash has arrived at the family estate, Renford Abbey, for the celebration of the Christmas holidays with his family. The first thing he notices is how large his family has become since he's been away and second, how noisy their offspring is. Lady Julianna is visiting the Abbey along with her parents because her sister, Clemmie, is married to Nash's brother and this is her first excursion since the birth of her son. Lady Julianna intrigues Nash from the moment he lays eyes on her, but what fascinates him most is her desire to remain unmarried. She is the most perplexing woman he's met. He begins to wonder can he change her mind, but if he can, what then?

I really enjoyed this quick read. The author brings us strong, well developed characters. Nash has not only physical, but also emotional scars to deal with. War changes a person completely and Nash is just coming to terms with how much he has changed. Julianna is a lot like all young women and starts questioning her life choices. She is confused, but tries to weigh the pros and cons. The plot flows effortlessly.

I would recommend this to anyone who loves a good romance.

Jane says

2.45 stars - mild pg13 (secular "clean" traditional regency – possible use of: mild cursing/profanity, innuendo, mention of mistresses, gambling, drinking, etc. -- see below)

I'm not sure how to review this (or whether to give it 2 or 3 stars). I feel like I read a different book from all my friends. I suppose I was just in a too-critical mood when I read it. This story was cute and sweet and occasionally funny but, for me, it was lacking something to balance the sweetness. There was no spice or sizzle (and I don't mean of the r-rated variety). The whole thing – the story as well as all the characters – was just NICE. Almost too nice, bordering on blah. I don't need fireworks in my books, in fact I like sweet, gently-moving stories, but I prefer them to at least have a bit of sparkle or effervescence.

It was nice, but I found it somewhat unrealistic or unpolished, almost like a first attempt into the Regency genre? I'm sure that isn't the case, but it almost felt like the author went through a Georgette Heyer novel and pulled out every Regency era term/phrase she could find and then randomly plopped them into this sometimes-too-modern novella. Dialogue between the hero and heroine *sometimes* seemed a bit – I don't know?? – too modern, presumptuous, odd, too informal and too intimate for the era??

I did enjoy the Hero's large, warm and loving family, a nice change from some of the more austere depictions of families in other books. And there were funny bits such as this when the hero was discussing the prospect of marriage with his brother: *"It is past time I set up my nursery. I haven't a clue which young ladies of our acquaintance haven't trapped their prey already. And I haven't been able to summon enough interest to inquire."* <-- Hah – trapped their prey!!

(This would be considered a secular "clean" traditional regency. I did not note any instances of God's name being taken in vain. There was just one instance of an expletive, "damned well". There was a mention of the Hero longing to take the heroine in the garden shed so he could run his hands over her bare skin. And *"the desires he'd felt for the women he'd slept with in the past were merely shallow urges in comparison"* to the desire for the heroine. These last two examples were fairly tame, but why did they even need to be inserted into an otherwise quite clean book??)

For a much more positive review, from a friend I *usually* agree with, see PoohBear's review. She thoroughly enjoyed this sweet novella and chances are others will, as well!

shelia harman says

Slaying A Dragon

This book was a great read about families and their children. Loved the way the man got the lady he loved without having to much of a battle with her.

Kristin Holt says

A BRIDE FOR CHRISTMAS by Aileen Fish is a delightful Regency Romance. I was captivated by the depth of characters (quite an accomplishment in so few pages!), their tender and sweet romance as it developed.

This novella is labeled 'sweet' by the author, and I wholeheartedly agree. Highly recommended to fans of sweet historical romance.

Karen says

This novella was a cute, quick read. While this was a quick read, it still felt like a whole story. I really liked the characters of Nash and Julianna. I thought their relationship was developed well. One thing I didn't like about the book was a reference to mistresses with an attitude that having a mistress before marriage was okay. Other than that, it was a good read.

Content: clean – a swear word, brief mention of mistresses as a norm
See my review at <http://www.iamareader.com/2013/11/boo...>
