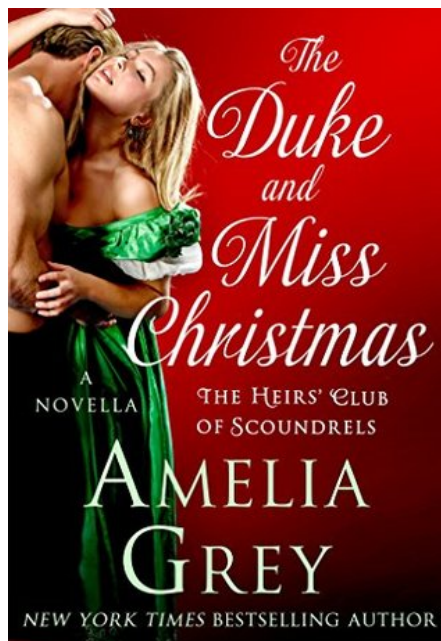




## The Duke and Miss Christmas

*Amelia Grey*

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# The Duke and Miss Christmas

*Amelia Grey*

## **The Duke and Miss Christmas** Amelia Grey

Crispin, the Duke of Hurst, has never met a woman he couldn't handle—until he's hit over the head with a basketful of mistletoe by a young lady who mistakes his intentions. When he gets into a tussle with her—and she can hold her own—Crispin knows he has finally met his match.

Miss Gwen Prim is mortified that she attacked a duke, but even more concerning is the way her resolve melts when she's near him. She's never felt this way about a London gentleman in her life. And with the magic of Christmas in the air, she may end up with a proposal she didn't expect...in this delightful Regency gem, *The Duke and Miss Christmas* by *New York Times* bestselling author Amelia Grey.

## **The Duke and Miss Christmas Details**

Date : Published October 13th 2015 by St. Martin's Paperbacks

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Author : Amelia Grey

Format : Kindle Edition 84 pages

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

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## From Reader Review The Duke and Miss Christmas for online ebook

### Toni FGMAMTC says

If you're looking for a short sensual Regency historical romance story, this may be the novella for you.

Crispin, the Duke of Hurst, has earned a bit of name for himself from seducing the young ladies. He's parting from his old ways and trying to clean up his reputation. He isn't expecting to meet a feisty young lady who will give him a run for his money. This is a tale of first meeting to marriage between the two.

I had trouble getting into it. Maybe if it would have been longer, I would have liked it more. It wasn't for me, but for many, it will be the perfect treat.

\*\*\*copy given in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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### Milica's Bookshelf says

Kratka, slatka i savršena romantična novela. Volim ljubavne priče obavijene Božićnom aromom, tako da je za mene, ova priča pun pogodak.

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### Linda says

"The Duke And Miss Christmas", was a fun and sweet romantic novella.

When The Duke of Hurst Crispin, is invited to Darkside by his uncle for the holidays he expects to attend a few parties, have a pleasant time, good food and perhaps meet few nice country ladies. But perhaps not quite the way he did; one never expects to be attacked while helping a child who has fallen and hurt herself. However that is just what happens.

Putting an injured Sybil Primm on his horse he jostles her injured ankle and knee, which sets her to crying and earns him from out of nowhere an attack with a wicker basket by a hellion determined to protect her little sister. Once Crispin finally wins the wrestling match that ensues, he finds himself staring into the face of a beautiful blonde, one he is finding himself attracted to.

Gwenn Primm is finding herself oddly attracted to this scoundrel, then when his intentions are revealed she gets to add embarrassed because who hits a Duke; apparently her.

Crispin finds himself invited to dinner as it turns out Gwenn's brother in law is a friend "Bray" another member of the Heirs Club. Gwenn had a unhappy experience during her first season and though she is attracted to Crispin she tries to fight it (especially since he has a bit of a reputation amongst the ton). Resisting this rake will be a challenge; But maybe this rake is ready to settle down.

Arc graciously provided by St Martin's press Via netgalley for an honest review.

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## Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

Delightfully charming and sweet read, too bad it ended up being so short.

When Crispin, the Duke of Hurst finds a young injured girl, the last thing he expected was to suddenly be attacked by her older sister with a basket. After striking him in the face and causing a cut under his eye, Gwen and Crispin ends up in the tussle. Unaware that Crispin is a duke who was only trying to help her younger sister Sibyl, she accidentally mistakes him for an attacker and boy can Gwen hold her own.

"Let me up, you foul beast!" She ground out a hiss as she struggled to break free.  
*Not a chance in hell*, he thought as his fingers tightened.

When the realization who she had attacked finally sinks in, Gwen cannot help but feel bad and a little ashamed for striking the duke and not giving him a chance to escape. Her past had made her wary of other gentleman but she cannot help the attraction between them.

Loved the banter, loved the plot-line, and characters full of wit and humor but unfortunately because this is a novella, it made me wish for so much more. I think I especially loved Sibyl, Gwen's cheeky young sister. She had to be my favorite part of the story. It is a shame that this is a trilogy because I do hope Miss Sibyl get's her own book.

She gave him a smoldering expression of defiance and crossed her hands over her chest. "I don't cry," she stated firmly. "Crying is for babies."

Thought I really did enjoy Grey's writing and humor, it was the reason this novella fell a little short for me. I really liked Crispin and wished this was a full length novel. I wanted to feel more of a connection between the two characters but it was quite quick and I guess because everything was so quick I just couldn't connect.

Another reason I gave it 3.5 stars is that I felt Gwen was a bit careless in the beginning. She could have really hurt her sister. Plus at the end, Gwen admitted in her rent that she loved Crispin but a little after she says to him, well you don't know that I love you, and he acts like she never said it. That was kind of a blooper it felt on that part.

Overall, it was enjoyable, though quick. I needed something like among all the thrillers I have been reading, and this definitely gave me that. Do I wish it was longer? Absolutely, especially since this was a Christmas romance and I love to get lost in those.

This review was originally posted on Night Owl Book Café

## Katie Michaels says

This short novella was just not for me. It features a hard-core case of insta-love, unlikely behavior, an annoying heroine, and absolutely no emotional realism whatsoever.

Crispin, Duke of Hurst, is on his way to the countryside for some Christmas parties, when he happens across a little girl who fell out of a tree. While trying to help her, he gets beamed over the head with a basket by the child's sister, Gwen, who thinks he is trying to snatch the little girl. From there, Crispin and Gwen get in a tussle. He wants to kiss her but doesn't. Her brother in law, another Duke, comes to the rescue and invites Crispin to dinner for his trouble.

Crispin and Gwen flirt over the table. They exchange a few notes. Then by THE SECOND DAY they see each other, they have sex and are in love. I have no words. Their first kiss morphs into sex. She is a virgin and a lady. And they do it outside in December and... what? How is this a romance?

I won't even get into the hissy fit Gwen throws over him being late to a party and the 180 degree turn she takes after that.

What baffles me is the number of positive reviews this story has on Goodreads. Maybe these readers found more substance to this story than I could. It was only 60 pages and I realize there is only so much you can do there, but this did absolutely nothing for me... except leave me slightly irritated.

Rating: D

*\*ARC provided by publisher*

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## Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Amanda's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

The Duke and Miss Christmas is a sweet novella that was delightful and charming. What made this story so charming is the Duke himself, Crispin. He's in the country to visit his uncle and celebrate the holiday, when he encounters a young girl on the ground during his early morning ride. Being the gentleman, he comes to Sybil's aid after a fall from the tree.

However, no good deed goes unpunished.

First impressions are always important but when Gwen Prim meets the Duke of Hurst for the first time, she jumps to the wrong conclusion and attacks him. Oops! He ultimately teases her and when things are made to right she finds out he's a duke. Can it get any worse than that? Crispin finds it refreshing that she stood up to him, even before she knew his name and title. He teases her and she teases right back. Will he forgive her for her mistake?

I love it when propriety is so important in order to stay in good standings and avoid scandal with good society. Gwen knew she met an honorable man when he didn't blame her and was genuinely interested in her and her many sisters. Falling in love wasn't hard for Gwen when she decided to let herself to do so. Some might find it hard to believe that people can fall in love so fast in a short amount of time but part of it is anticipation and desire. These two have it in spades. Definitely a light and fast read for the holiday season.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

## Pamela says

What a charming little novella. I think I had a smile the whole time while reading it.

The opening scene was cute as well as the cast of Prim sisters. The heroine had spunk and the hero was unexpected. I wish the other "love interest" hadn't been quite so annoying, but I suppose that is his job, so that the hero can be such a contrast. A truly magical Christmas story.

I haven't read any books by Ms. Grey before, but I certainly will in the future.

\*\*Thank you to the publisher and Net Galley in exchange of an honest review.\*\*

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## Hannah says

### ARC REVIEW

The Duke and Miss Christmas  
by Amelia Grey

I really liked this one. An Heir's Club of Scoundrels christmas novella is a naughty historical romance. Crispin the Duke of Hurst has a reputation, one that he earned but regrets. On a crisp December morning Crispin's life changes for the better he gets hit on the head with a basket wielded by the beautiful young woman he dubs Miss Christmas. Gwen Prim knows that she should like a man with a reputation for stealing kisses from young ladies especially after her horrible experience at the end of her season, but what she knows about him differs greatly from what she has seen first hand. Crispin and Gwen quickly fall in love. But does Gwen get her hopes up too soon only to be broken hearted in the end?

I really liked this one it was so naughty and sweet at the same time, my only complaint is that it was so short. Crispin and Gwen deserved a full length story.

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## Jennifer says

### 3.5 Stars

It is almost the holiday season...at least in romance novella land! I have an odd sense of affection for holiday-themed stories so I had to check out Amelia Grey's *The Duke and Miss Christmas*. It also doesn't hurt that Ms. Grey is a new-to-me author and this seemed like a good chance to check out her writing. While this story did have the pacing issues that often plague novellas, I found it easy to get into and a decent way to spend a few hours.

The "meet cute" for Crispin and Gwen is one of the funniest I've seen in historical romance in awhile...she misunderstands a situation and starts beating him over the head with a basket. It is a good example of the rest of their love story which I would describe as adorable. He is a reformed rake who isn't opposed to love, but also isn't desperately looking for it. She feels overshadowed by her sisters at times and feels like she lost her

chance with Crispin after their initial meeting. They work really well as a couple and the author makes sure that they spend time talking and hanging out together which I appreciated.

The only problem I had was the pacing which, as I said, happens quite often in novellas. While I'm not sure how this particular romance would do as a full-length story due to the lack of external drama, I feel like it could have benefited from a few more pages of character development. I was able to get a good read on Crispin's character, but not as much with Gwen. The romance moved along at a pretty frenzied speed as a result of the page length too.

Overall, I thought that *The Duke and Miss Christmas* was a good introduction to Amelia Grey's writing and the Heirs' Club of Scoundrels trilogy. The style was something that I enjoyed and I am interested in Gwen's sister's story after meeting her here. Not the most original romance I've ever read, but I found it enjoyable and worth my time.

**I received a free eARC of this book from St. Martin's Press via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.**

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### **Carole (Carole's Random Life in Books) says**

This review can also be found at Carole's Random Life.

I thought that this was a decent short story. It didn't knock my socks off but it was entertaining enough. I have been trying to get myself in the mood for Christmas this year by doing a little bit of holiday reading. It was a given that I would need to fit a historical romance into my Christmas reading schedule. I hadn't read anything by Amelia Grey before so this story seemed like the perfect choice.

Everything that happened in this story seemed to happen fast. There was a bit of insta-love but in this case I am going to forgive that....mostly. I think that everything really had to move quickly due to the length of the story. I also tend to forgive insta-love in historical romances a little more quickly than I would in a contemporary romance. The difference is really the changes in how the world works. During this time period, decisions were made quickly and many times without the input of the individuals involved.

I did like the characters. Miss Christmas, Gwen, was fiesty. She doesn't hesitate to protect her younger sister. The Duke, Crispin, isn't the stuffy man that one might think of when they hear he is a Duke. He takes things in stride with a bit of humor. I thought the chemistry between the pair was tame at best. It did seem like they were building a foundation to build upon. The secondary characters, including Gwen's younger sisters, were a lot of fun. The way that the Duke interacted with them really helped establish his character.

The major problem with the story that I had was the one and only sex scene. I am still a little confused about it. It didn't make sense. One minute the Duke and Gwen are taking her sisters on an outing and the next minute a few kisses move quickly to a roll in the hay....or the field to be more precise. I just don't buy it. It felt completely out of her character that she would so easily lose her virginity without a lot of thought. This probably would have been a 4 star read for me without this scene.

I would recommend this to readers looking for a short Christmas story. This was the first chance that I have had to read Amelia Grey's work and I am definitely interested in reading one of her full length books after this story. I liked her overall writing style and I would be very interested in seeing more character development that would be possible in a longer story.

*I received an advance reader edition of this book from St. Martin's Press via NetGalley for the purpose of providing an honest review.*

### **Initial Thoughts**

I thought that this was a decent short story. There was a bit of insta-love but with only a few pages there isn't a lot of time to do otherwise. I thought a few things seemed rushed and I would have loved to see the character's emotions instead of being told how they felt. I did enjoy the opening scene in the book quite a lot.

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### **Ursula says**

Another damp squib! Trying to read these Christmas stories for my Challenge and I am ready to be over Christmas- when we still have 4 weeks to go!

The Duke in this novella has a pretty unsavoury past that included a wager with a group of young men to see who could get the most girls to fall in love with them in one season. Yup. What a hero. Don't care that he regretted it, and stopped participating part of the way through. Maybe he could have stopped the others, too? Pretty mean, breaking all those hearts for a bet. So it was a struggle to see him as a genuine Mensch.

She then proceeds to (view spoiler). And way too many Americanisms and modernisms.

I was so looking forward to these holiday reads.....

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### **Julie says**

The Duke and Miss Christmas is a 2015 St. Martin's Press publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is a novella length Christmas story surrounding Gwen Prim and Crispin, the Duke of Hurst, who meet in a rather awkward fashion, but with a burst of chemistry that keeps Crispin looking for ways to see Gwen. However, his character has been called into questions after he was involved in a horrible scandal, and Gwen has had enough of scoundrels. Can Gwen trust him or will he live up to his bad reputation and break her heart?

Christmas themed novellas are always fun and I like to pick a variety of them for the holiday season. This one got off to a great start, but fizzled very quickly. There wasn't a lot going on here and the conflict was very tepid, but there were some humorous spots here and there that kept me from losing all interest, plus the courtship was sweet, a little bit steamy, and romantic.

Not great, but a nice, light romantic tale non the less. 3 stars

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### **AnnMarie says**

The Duke and Miss Christmas by Amelia Grey is a novella added to the Heirs' Club of Scoundrels Trilogy.

The story is about Gwen Prim. She attacks a man that she believes is trying to abduct her sister, only to find out after their scuffle that he is Crispin, The Duke of Hurst. During their tussle he asks her her name and she refuses to give it, so he names her Miss Christmas. He also refused to give her his name, and so she named him Sir Ogre. For me, that was a lovely light hearted way to start the book, and their relationship.

Gwen only finds out that Sir Ogre is a Duke, when her brother-in-law arrives after her sister has ridden off to get his help. He is actually a friend of Crispin's. Gwen is mortified that she actually hit a Duke, one that wasn't doing anything wrong, and is more mortified when she realises that she has actually cut his face during her attack with a basket. The Duke is very gracious though, he understands why she attacked him, and as he was highly aroused during their scuffle, he couldn't really be mad at her.

As this is only a novella you can't expect a very in-depth story but suffice to say that it goes on long enough to allow feelings to develop between the couple. There is a lovely outing where they both go with her younger sisters to pick holly and mistletoe to decorate the house for a Christmas ball, one which Crispin is invited to. There are some lovely light hearted, fun moments during the outing, and a lovely passionate moment between the couple too.

At the ball there is heartbreak, but is it another misunderstanding between the couple, or has the Duke really let down both Gwen, and her little sisters who thought so much about him.

I would love for this novella to have been a proper length book, I think it could easily have been done. I guess though that the author wouldn't then be able to call her trilogy just that, a trilogy. And sometimes a novella is just right when it comes to wanting a nice addition to a series. But, it had a lot of scope to be a much longer, in-depth story which I am sure I would have loved as much, if not more than this short story.

I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Becca says**

The Duke and Miss Christmas is my first sample of Amelia Grey's work and it may be my last. Unfortunately, this didn't work for me, for a number of reasons:

1. The heroine is a shrew. She is a shrew at the beginning and she is a shrew at the end. There is no character growth. I know she had a suitor try to assault her at some point earlier in the series, but here, she makes her own decisions and then blames the hero. At one point towards the end, she rails at the hero because he saw his own family at Christmas and due to his horse throwing a shoe, was late to her family's party. What?!
2. The sex scene in here was entirely unnecessary and came out of nowhere. The characters barely knew each other. In fact, they'd exchanged a few bland letters and had seen each other all of TWICE. Even though the heroine is supposed to be skittish of men using her, she will agree to sleep with the hero with no offer of marriage or any sort of understanding? In the snow no less? NO WAY. This story should have had no sex scene and would have done better as a clean story with more focus on relationship development.
3. The writing style was a bit choppy for me and there were random descriptions of setting that didn't fit with the rest of the narration.

Now, there were elements I did like, which is what got me through the story. The depictions of Gwen's younger sisters were fun and I enjoyed the scenes they were in. Also, I liked the hero. He was larger than life and dominated all of the scenes he was present in. Despite these two positive elements, I still can't rate this

higher than 1.5 stars. I finished this book unhappy with the romance and disbelieving about the sex scene. I cannot recommend this one.

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### **Connie Fischer says**

Crispin, the seventh Duke of Hurst, has been invited to a Christmas Ball by his friend, Bray, the Duke of Drakestone. The oldest of six younger siblings, Crispin has decided to forego Christmas Day with his family to attend this Ball. As he is riding his horse to Drakestone, he comes upon a young girl named Sybil sitting in the snow surrounded by a basket of greenery cuttings. She has hurt her ankle after falling from a tree attempting to pick mistletoe so he offers to put her on his horse and take her home. As he is lifting her onto the horse, he is attacked behind by a young woman who thinks he is trying to steal Sybil away! Sybil is a good rider and takes off on the horse. Crispin struggles with the young woman who had attacked him and scrapes his face with the basket. He tries to calm her down and explain to her that he was only trying to help young Sybil. She refuses to tell him her name so he calls her Miss Christmas.

Gwen Prim is the sister-in-law of the Duke of Drakestone. Having returned from her season she is heartbroken from her experiences. However, she is shocked to find that Crispin is a Duke and will be staying at Drakestone. She is horribly embarrassed that she struck him and he now sports a scratch on his face.

Crispin is a member of the Heir's Club which is a group of wealthy young men who tend to become involved in scandal. That is exactly what happened with Crispin, so he chose to join his mother and siblings in America for awhile until the gossip died down.

Crispin and Gwen are immediately attracted to one another and even after the Ball, they continue to correspond with one another. They are both quite fond of their many siblings. Gwen needs to be sure that the previous gossip about Crispin is not true before she can allow herself to fall in love with him.

This is a sweet novella with lots of humor. Once again, Amelia Grey has given readers a fun story.

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley

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