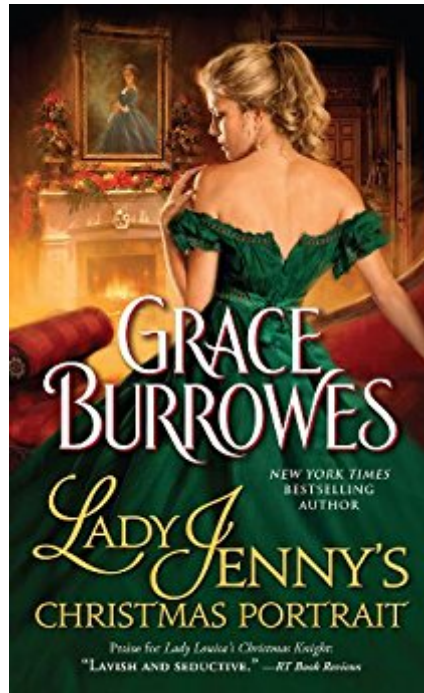




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Lady Jenny's Christmas Portrait (Windham Series Book 8)



Synopsis

A freshly wrapped Regency Christmas romance from New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Grace Burrowes. What Lady Jenny wants for Christmas... For Christmas, soft-spoken Lady Jenny Windham craves the freedom to pursue her artistic ambitions, though it will mean scandalizing her ducal parents and abandoning all hope of a family of her own. She confides her plans to successful artist Elijah Harrison when he's commissioned to paint a portrait of her small nephews, because assisting Elijah will bring Jenny that much closer to her heart's desire--won't it? ...Will break both their hearts Elijah Harrison finds in his unlikely assistant not only an inspiring muse and unappreciated talent, but also a lovely and passionate woman. If Elijah supports Jenny's career, his own professional interests will suffer, but more significantly, he will lose Jenny forever. Both Jenny and Elijah must choose between true love and a lifelong dream.

Windham series:

The Heir (Book 1) The Soldier (Book 2) The Virtuoso (Book 3) Lady Sophie's Christmas Wish (Book 4) Lady Maggie's Secret Scandal (Book 5) Lady Louisa's Christmas Knight (Book 6) Lady Eve's Indiscretion (Book 7) Lady Jenny's Christmas Portrait (Book 8)

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Customer Reviews

Grace Burrowes is most definitely back in favour with me after this book and *Once Upon a Tartan* (MacGregor Trilogy) last month. She's also back on auto-buy. It seems to me that she's taken some of the criticism meted out by readers to heart e.g. I saw that quite a lot of people didn't like the overt affection shown by her male characters in this series and there was definitely none of that in this book. I never had a problem with that but it did make this book very different to the others in this series. I truly loved this book and I loved the H and h and their artistic natures. Being artists both of the main characters had sensitivities and had been hurt in their lives along the way. Both were passionate but truly complemented each other. The story is set around Christmas time and how hard it was for both the H and h for different reasons to do with their families. The H hadn't been home for Christmas in 10 years because of an old argument with his father over his art career. The h hated being around all of her extended family and their children because she believed she'd never have her own family because of choices she'd made in the past. I did want to brain the h a time or two for seeming to prefer the idea of going off to Paris rather than be with the H but she redeemed herself and I loved the way the author showed the caring of her choices later on. It takes a really talented writer to write so many books about one family but make them all unique. I highly recommend this book and I'm relieved by the author's note that she hasn't finished writing about the Windham family.

Another Grace Burroughs Windham sister, Jenny is the last of the sisters (and I read out if order, now must read Eve's story). Jenny is an artist and not appreciated by her family when along comes Elijah, another artist. Will they end up together? What do you think? This story has a plot point that the others did not, they are both willing to sacrifice for the other's happiness, even though they will each be miserable. Bit fortunately, her parents, the Duke and Duchess are great manipulators, so no sacrifices needed. It has been a pleasure reading about this family, from the Courtship, to the stories of all the children. And now there are lots of grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews. The series could go on for ages.

This book marks the end of my Windham Family reading binge. Each story has paired a couple with a commonality: horses, secrets, domesticity. In the case of Jenny and Elijah, it is art-sketching and painting. Their story reads like a slow dance of Polite Society with visual art descriptions. Not my favorite of the stories but I wouldn't have left it out. Of Jenny: "She'd trapped him with those warm hands, cradled his jaw in a grip both gentle and unbreakable. Her kisses were like brushstrokes, creating the contours and shadows of a yearning not entirely sexual. Though sexual

enough."

I'm a big fan of Grace Burrowes and she does so many things right, from giving us a heroine who is smart, feisty, and with hidden internal issues, and a hot sexy hero who says and does (most of) the right things. Still, this book wasn't as compelling for me as her other works. Jenny seemed less in touch with herself than she needed to be; Elijah wasn't willing to fight for her, until he was prodded into it... The sex was nicely steamy, most of the other family characters are all brought nicely in (which may be confusing to readers who haven't read the other books in the series), there's plenty of weaving the Christmas theme in. The conflict keeping Jenny and Elijah apart felt too insubstantial and then too quickly resolved. The Duke and Duchess are always enjoyable, but it became a little hard to believe they could be so intuitive about their offspring in some ways, obtuse in others, but never really WRONG about them, or miscalculating in their attempts to nudge their daughter towards True Love. If you decide to read any of the Windham novels, don't start with this one; IMO it is the least satisfying, though it's still a good read.

Lady Jenny's Christmas Portrait is the last book in the Windham Series and one of my favorites to boot. Elijah and Jenny were made for each other, and it would go amiss if there wasn't lots of family plotting to help get these two together. A great book to read over the holidays.

Lady Jenny lives in a time when ladies are expected to marry well, take care of the home, have and raise children, and take care of their husbands. They are not supposed to work outside of the home unless it is a charity that they are helping to support. Lady Jenny, though, is an artist with great talent. Her family downplays this as a hobby, but she would like nothing more than to be able to study art and become an artist. Her family has hired Elijah Harrison, an artist, to paint the portrait of 2 of Jenny's nephews. Elijah is familiar with Jenny. He remembers her as a female student that used to disguise herself to attend classes that he modeled in. He remembers her art work as being superior to her classmates and her as being very shy. He has asked her family to allow her to assist him in painting the portraits. They go forward to develop a strong friendship and more. This is a wonderful romantic story of 2 artistic people and the love they share for their art and how their respect and love of each other grows and develops. The characters are both strong and compliment each other. The story is well written, with surprises, and the warmth of family ties that are so characteristic of Ms. Burrowes' books. Definitely another winner from this fine author.

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