



Pistols for Two and Other Stories

Georgette Heyer

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Affairs of honour between bucks and blades, rakes and rascals; and affairs of the heart between heirs and orphans, beauties and bachelors; romance, intrigue, escapades and duels at dawn: all the gallantry, villainy and elegance of the age that Georgette Heyer has so triumphantly made her own are exquisitely revived in these eleven stories of the Regency.

Georgette Heyer's historical accuracy and eye for a wonderful story of romance is unequalled, and in *Pistols For Two* we can see the skills which won her a devoted audience that continues to this day.

Stories in the book:

Pistols for two
A Clandestine Affair
Bath Miss
Pink Domino
A Husband for Fanny
To Have the Honour
Night at the Inn
The Duel
Hazard
Snowdrift
Full Moon

Pistols for Two and Other Stories Details

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From Reader Review Pistols for Two and Other Stories for online ebook

Arlie says

Yes, two Georgette Heyers in a few days. What can I say? It was a stressful week. Such a lovely way to relax.

Ana Rînceanu says

My 33rd Georgette Heyer

"Pistols for Two" - while Tom and Jack's courtship of the same girl started out on friendly terms, the situation quickly deteriorates and enters dangerous territory. (3 stars)

"A Clandestine Affair" - Miss Tresillian is shocked to discover that her niece has fallen in love with the nephew of her jilted ex-fiance, , but when an elopement is about to happen, the two must unite forces. (3 stars)

"Bath Miss" - Sir Charles falls into a trap set up by his mother and aunt, so he must now pick up Miss Anne from boarding school. (3 stars)

"Pink Domino" - Giles is trying to prevent his sister from making a disadvantageous marriage while on a mission to find the girl who stole his heart. (3 stars)

"A Husband for Fanny" - Fanny has scrapped all her life in order to give her daughter a London season, but she finds herself falling in love with her daughter's suitor. (3 stars)

"To Have the Honour" - Alan has returned from war to find his family estate in ruins and his only salvation is to marry his cousin Hetty (3 stars)

"Night at the Inn" - on his way back from Lisbon, Mr Cranbrook meets Miss Gateshead in an inn where odd things are afoot. (2 stars)

"The Duel" - on the eve of his duel, Lord Rotherfield finds his adversary's sister in his house, trying to prevent disaster. (3 stars)

"Hazard" - Helen's brother has just lost her hand in marriage in a game of cards to the very drunk Lord Carlington, who wants to set off for Gretna Green as soon as possible (3 stars)

"Snowdrift" - on his way to Bath via the stage coach, Sir Julian meets Miss Trent who is on her way to win a fortune. (3 stars)

"Full Moon" - on his way to visit family friends, Lord Stavely meets a young man who is determined to elope with the fiance Lord Stavely was unaware he had. (3 stars)

Yue says

I know that LMM and GH are two different authors that barely have things in common: one was inspired in little towns set in Canada, the other in Regency era set in Great Britain. But this book is certainly a "Kindred Spirit", and has a resemblance to the short stories I enjoy reading so much, written by LMM. All stories are wonderfully narrated; it was like reading a whole book and not just a short story. The characters were all likeable, and, as expected from GH, her heroes are the word in fashion: the best cravat, the shiniest Hessian boots; an agreeable Corinthian, a true Nonpareil.

This book was a real gem, because I did not know GH also wrote short stories (just eleven). I wished there were more, they were so good.

1. **Pistols for two:** two friends have a duel over a girl. Very funny, and I love duels! (4/5)
2. **A clandestine affair:** a young girl and a boy want to get married but their guardians are against it, since both of them have a history that ended not well. Very sweet, with two proud and a bit resentful, ex-lovers. (4/5)
3. **Bath Miss:** a Corinthian is in charge to escort a lovely girl to Bath. In the way, they meet his fiancée. I loved this one, so typical GH. (4.5/5)
4. **Pink domino:** a brother who assists a Masquerade ball to protect his sister, only that there is a confusion and instead, he meets again the girl with the "sweetest face". Very cute too. (4/5)
5. **A husband for Fanny:** a young widow wants her daughter to marry the most charming bachelor, but said gentleman is more interested in the mother. One of my two least favorite, and the reason is that it turns a bit awkward that the suitor the mother is thinking is the best for her daughter ends marrying her instead. At least they are of the same age. (3/5)
6. **To have the honour:** a young man calls off his engagement to his cousin, for he does not want to burden her with his debts. Typical GH too, and the heroine is pretty sensible, which is always a plus. (4/5)
7. **Night at the inn:** a little adventure involving a couple of criminals and Bow Street. My 2nd least favorite. I did not see much appealing to this one. It needed more.. err, "ingredients". (3/5)
8. **The duel:** a lord returns home one night to find a girl, who tells him that she is trying to avoid a duel between her brother and the most despicable man. Another favorite. The Lord is typical GH hero, disagreeable in the eyes of the *ton*, but in reality, the nicest guy willing to help the heroine at any cost. (4.5/5)
9. **Hazard:** an engaged Marquis wins a girl over a bet. Next day, in an Inn, they meet his fiancée who is trying to elope. It has a sweet end. (4/5)
10. **Snowdrift:** a girl who races to Bath against her cousin, and in the way, meets a Nonpareil. Only that she does not know he is rich. (3.5/5)
11. **Full moon:** a Lord meets Tom, a young man, in an Inn, who tells him his cousin Annabella is trying to elope with him, to avoid a marriage with an old man, who turns out to be the Lord himself. (4/5)

So we have duels, elopements, confusions, nice male clothing.. Regency at it best condition, presented by the top of the top, GH.

Shel says

Nice light reading, though not as engaging as her novels.

Vicki says

This was the best book of short stories. Georgette Heyer has the best way of pulling you in right from the beginning and letting you unwrap the characters one at a time. Then you are allowed to see them as their story unfolds in a clear and usually funny well scripted manner.

This book was no different. It was a joy to read from the first page. I want more Georgette Heyer! She was just brilliant!

There are real people captured in her words and they are so full of life and witty. What a joy to read!

honestly mem says

So the thing about Georgette Heyer's romances is this: I like them, but I have to space the fuckers out. She's really only got like eight characters, and only two kinds of romantic heroes (the scandalous rake, usually lots older than the heroine, and the rarer dandy), and her stories all seem to follow the same beats, so if I go straight from one Heyer romance to another, it's impossible to ignore the creative recycling, which I can only bear if I can ignore it.

I had the same sort of problem with Pistols for Two, a collection of eleven short stories; rushing through the book in one go was probably the worst thing I could have done. Don't get me wrong: Heyer is consistently entertaining and frequently amusing, and I enjoyed nearly all the stories in this collection. But they're so very predictable, and so many of them are so very much alike - oh, my goodness, so many ill-tempered rakes in their mid-thirties falling desperately in love with teenage ingenues who have fallen into dire straits! Is it any surprise my favorite story is the one in which the middle-aged rake proposes to a middle-aged widow who is in no danger at all? - that they start to blend together by the end of it all.

Of course, being short stories and not, as you might suppose, novels, this collection is rather bereft of the improbable subplots, the cast of wacky supporting characters, and the complicated hijinks of a full-on Heyer novel, which is a bit of a shame. I like Heyer's romances, but I love her sense of humor, and you don't get much of that here. All the absurdities and the wit have been pared down or outright disposed of in order to streamline the plot, and without the comedy - without that enormous supporting cast to liven things up - it isn't really the same.

Favorite stories: A Husband for Fanny, in which the widow Wingham nearly gives up everything to see her daughter married well, To Have the Honour, in which the hero is a well-intentioned doofus and also not fifteen years older than the heroine (I don't have a problem with age differences and actually rather like them in fiction most of the time, but seriously, enough is enough, Heyer), and The Duel, in which there is a twist I genuinely did not see coming, though I think that's more to do with the fact that I'm an idiot than anything

else. I'm also rather fond of the title story, Pistols for Two, which is surprisingly and delightfully slasy.

*2.5 stars.

Amy says

A must read for any Georgette Heyer fan.

kris says

3.5 stars.

Heyer has a small pot from which she collects her characters. The humble, witty spinster with laughing eyes; the naive, big-eyed waif; the sporty, devil-take-it Corinthian (usually 'swarthy'); the handsome, hiding-hidden-depths Dandy, the young bucks; and the prone to spasms, overwrought mother.

Basically, *Pistols for Two* is a mix and match collection.

But what keeps Heyer from seeming too formulaic is her skill with a well-placed plot-twist. In "Hazard," a gentleman wakes up hungover in the middle of his own elopement, only to encounter the fiancée he *wasn't* eloping with--but there's more! In "The Duel," a young lady is attempting to appeal to the man who is to duel with her brother when she inadvertently ends up in the home of a handsome stranger--but that's not all!

Half the fun I had was trying to pick the hero and heroine out of the line-ups of characters (not difficult), and then attempting to figure out the twists (more difficult)--and then seeing if I was right.

Favorites of the lot: "The Duel", "A Husband for Fanny"; "Pink Domino", "To Have the Honour", "Hazard"

Andrea (Catsos Person) is a Compulsive eBook Hoarder says

Very Short Stories from Georgette Heyer

These stories were very short.

They didn't make enough of an impression on me to be memorable or for me to wish to reread them as I do some of her novels that are my favorites.

March 2017 Georgette Heyer group BOTM

Nina {????s ??? ?????} says

Favourites (as I'm rereading 1st Nov 2015):

The Duel ~ loved it. I do find it funny how the girl implores a stranger to convince a man not to kill her brother in a duel! The best part is when the man gets hit!

Hazard ~ oh yes! haha humourous and adorable, a guy waking up hungover devilishly aware when he realises where he is that he's eloping when already engaged!

Karlyne Landrum says

I always forget that this is a book of short stories, and so I think as I start chapter 2, wow! what a lot of unrelated characters... But I enjoy them immensely, because they are so varied and fun and even unexpected. "Night at the Inn" is almost Sweeney Toddish -- not bad for a Regency Romance.

Samanta says

Great collection! :) Very funny.

A.M. says

A set of eleven short stories by Heyer. There are a lot of mentions of eloping to Gretna Green, forced engagements, duels, feisty young ladies with large eyes and curly hair. They seem to be the ones to watch out for.

Naturally all our heroes are Brummel-like well dressed men, Corinthians but not dandies, with multi-layered garrick coats - one with sixteen shoulder capes! Sixteen! Intricately tied cravats and well shined Hessian boots.

There is a fair sprinkle of insta-love; but there has to be in a short story format.

(view spoiler)

4 Corinthian stars

Susan in NC says

I really enjoyed reading this short story collection with the GR Heyer fans group; I've read many of her

books but hadn't gotten to this one yet. What a treat! Elopements galore, gambling, duels, pushy interfering relatives and fiances - even a creepy ghost story! And plenty of Heyer's sparkling, witty dialogue, tried-and-true plot lines, and dashing, handsome, too-bored-to-live aristocratic gentlemen - until they encounter these sweet, warm, beautiful and funny young ladies, and then it's instant true love!

A delightful collection of romantic and funny stories, ideal for reading all at once or one or two at a time to cleanse your reading palate while working on heavier books (literally and figuratively). I'll be returning to these stories again and again, and seeking out other short story collections in other genres.

Anneceleste says

Hazard, Full moon, A husband for Fanny, Bath miss and Snowdrift are my favourites.

Carol ?? says

There is a shiny new collection of Georgette Heyer's short stories Isn't that a gorgeous cover? But when I requested a review copy from Random House's NZ branch, the reply came back with unflattering speed (would barely have hit their in tray) that there were no review copies available for this book.

In a way, this is appropriate as Georgette Heyer hated the whole publicity machine. She did one interview in her whole life and ignored letters from her fans.

So I'm stuck with my Arrow with its Georgian cover picture for a collection of Regency short stories!

I will start with the three stories that only feature in the Snowdrift collection. In spite of being billed as "recently discovered" these three are easy to find on the internet.

Pursuit

I read this one last year. My review at the time.

I don't think GH's style of storytelling is suited to the short story format. GH's great strength was in her plotting & she needs time to bring all the strands in her tales together. This was an engaging tale but character development & motivation were sacrificed to brevity.

This short story was originally published as part of war time fundraiser, but I am just about certain that I read a similar tale in Heyer's short story collection Pistols For Two by Georgette Heyer

Enjoyable but forgettable.

I hadn't read the Pistols for Two collection in a long time when I wrote that. I would now say when you read [the original Pistols for Two collection](#) there are some fine examples of Georgette Heyer short stories - but this wasn't one of them. Feels very undercooked. Same rating though 3.5★ and frankly a masterpiece compared to the other two.

Runaway Match

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/art...>

Another member of the Georgette Heyer Fans group says this is her first Regency short story.

Even allowing for the format being a bit tricky to read in (although I loved some of the ads) I didn't care much for this one. It was just too silly and improbable. An extra half star for (view spoiler) 2.5★

Incident on the Bath Road

I thought I had read this one before but I was wrong (impossible! :D) I haven't read this one online before. A very slight tale, reminded me of The Corinthian. I was nearly as bored as Lord Revelry! 2.5★

●????????????● ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ●????????????●

Don't despair Georgette Heyer lovers - the stories from the original collection are far superior!

Pistols for Two

Didn't care for this story much when younger- it's not romantic at all! Love it now. Witty and fun, loved reading Tom's thought processes. 5★

A Clandestine Affair

Not really the right title for this story - Lucy & Arthur are open in their regard for each. Very skillfully done story - & I liked both couples - & the engaging Holloways. I wonder if GH reworked this into the Black Sheep? It's not an exact copy, but there is a traces of it. & a heroine over 30 - yay! Why I'm deducting a star is (view spoiler) 4★

Bath Miss

Sweet, silly, improbable - but I love it.

I like the way in this one the happy ending is foreshadowed, but there is going to be a courtship.

If I ever meet anyone named Almeria I'm going to expect her to look like a Georgette Heyer character! :D 5★

Pink Domino

This was sweet, romantic & instalove - then that wonderful final scene was so Heyer! I was laughing out loud! 5★

A Husband for Fanny

On previous reads the was my equal favourite & it holds up very well - not the least because it pulls off The Big Misunderstanding so well! It is so clever, so well crafted.

GH's oldest heroine at 36. & bonus points for a brown eyed heroine. GH had grey eyes herself (probably from her Russian forebears) and there's an army of grey eyed heroes and heroines in her books! If I could give 6★ I would, but 5 it will have to be.

To Have the Honour

I have a new joint favourite! A very romantic story, great secondary characters & a ton of humour. What Heyer does best! I do wonder if this was worked into the more realistic A Civil Contract. 5★

Night at the Inn

Showing Heyer could have written Victorian horror if she chose! Wow, she did this well. Deducting half a

star for a slightly clumsy beginning & an extreme case of insta-love. 4.5★

The Duel

I'm going to overlook the insta-love, arrogant hero & yet another idiot brother in this story as it is just so romantic. ♥ GH tells it at a breakneck pace, so we ignore the improbabilities. I loved Mama's miraculous return to good health at the end. 4.5★

Hazard

Now this was my joint favourite as a young thing. & I still like it a lot as I allow for the fact that Sir Ralph is pond scum & Carleton is very drunk. & when it is starting to look too much like high tragedy, in waltz Fanny the Drama Queen & the fiance she wants to marry. I do have a quibble about whether such a wild young man could have been pressured into marriage like this.

I was going to mark it down slightly, read it it again & I can't help myself - just love it! 5★

Snowdrift

Echoes of Cotillion.

Fast paced & charming. Lovely fairytale 5★

Full Moon

It's very amusing but it is my least favourite out of the original Pistols for Two collection. This may be partly because of it's position in the book (last) but also another proposed elopement and this instalove is on the slightest of grounds. But the scene between Lord Staveley and Annabella's father in the rose garden is very funny, so I'm still going to give it 4★

So there you have it. If I included "The Snowdrift Three" my rating would be lower(3.5-4★) but I'm going to rate the Pistols for Two collection only so 5★

Lynne Tull says

Heads Up-These are short stories. Lately I am really enjoying short stories. Especially, those written by Ms. Heyer. She is a master at developing her characters. After a few pages you have a sense of who they really are. At the fast 'happily ever after' you are cheering for the hero/heroine and sometimes the jilted fiance/friend. Recommend

Tweety says

I think maybe a 4 1/2

All the stories are fun frolics but some are better than others. The best were A Clandestine Affair, Bath Miss, To Have the Honor, Hazard and Full Moon. Hazard was very good and Full Moon has become a Favorite of mine.

Swears are few and far between, (D's) . On a plus there is no violence, other than some talk of fisticuffs and nothing detailed. And unlike most Georgette Heyer books there is no talk of mistresses. All of the stories were clean. If you have a problem with mentioning/talking about gambling you wouldn't like Hazard. (it begins in a gaming house but it is not viewed as good). Full Moon was the perfect one to end on! the

characters lived and breathed. Amazingly, even in the stories I didn't care for the characters were well put together.

I read this every night before bed and can see myself borrowing it from the library again. The only reason I didn't give it five stars is because I didn't like Pistols for Two and Pink Domino.

If you have never read Georgette Heyer's books before I wouldn't start with this. I'd start with Arabella or A Convenient Marriage as those are a two of her best. In my opinion, that is. I would love to say more but as they are short stories I would probably wreck them for you if I summarized them.

Mela says

Great Heyer in short stories. There are essential elements of her books in here. Ideal when you look for a short entertained. Elopements, duels, misunderstandings, quarrels and all end (of course) with a happy ending. Although you must be prepared you will not find here witty descriptions of people and so on.

I wish there are more such short stories written by Heyer.

Trine says

Whenever I need a Georgette Heyer fix but don't have time for a full novel, I grab this delightful collection of short stories. Of course GH is at her best when there is time to develop her characters and all the wonderful side plots, so a short story will never show her at her best. But it is fun to see her toying with ideas and characters she has either abandoned in earlier books or want to explore before reusing in later books. It is amazing how many plans for Gretna Green there can be in one book. A lot of the stories are on the road, which makes it a perfect read for travelling. It is hard for me to choose a favourite but the ones I most often return to is A Husband for Fanny, The Duel and Hazard
