



One Wild Winter's Eve

Anne Barton

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Anne Barton

One Wild Winter's Eve Anne Barton ONCE YOU'VE HAD A TASTE OF SCANDAL...

As the Duke of Huntford's sister, Lady Rose Sherbourne follows the rules of well-bred society. Always chaperoned. Never engaging in unseemly behavior. Well, except for that one summer, years ago. And yet she's never been able to forget that handsome stable master or the stolen moments they shared. She's always wondered what might have happened if he hadn't disappeared without a word... Now she's about to find out.

YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK

Charles Holland never expected to see Lady Rose again. And yet the years haven't lessened his devotion—or his desire—in any way. Despite their differences in class, Charles cannot stop himself from wanting to possess her. But as they uncover one intimate secret after another about her family, they realize that, this time, their love may come at a very dear price...

One Wild Winter's Eve Details

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Author : Anne Barton

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From Reader Review One Wild Winter's Eve for online ebook

Becca says

This is one of those stories that actually suffered from being too long (and would have been better as a novella).

I absolutely loved the beginning of this story. The writing was beautiful and the angst and sexual tension between the characters was heady. Rose is the sister of a duke who suffered a traumatic experience when she was younger and was mute for a period of her life. During this time, she drew very close to the stable master, Charles, a young man who always made her feel normal, safe, and happy. Then, he suddenly leaves and they don't see each other for years.

The flashbacks to Rose and Charles' young lives were beautifully done and they provided depth to the feelings that Rose and Charles experience when they unexpectedly encounter each other in Bath some years later. During this time, Rose, no longer mute, is a guest and Charles is a steward. It may have been six years since they have seen each other but all of the feelings come rushing back. I could see the pull between the characters and I enjoyed all of their private meetings as their relationship developed away from the eyes of others.

But then, the story became overly dramatic. I won't give too much away, but there is a run-in with the law that then drags on for the second half of the story. It was a bit unexpected and while Barton tied everything together, I just didn't like it. The excess drama took away from the power of Rose and Charles' relationship and made me drop a star rating because I went from loving the story and savoring every word to reading quickly to see how it ended.

Each character is driven by different motivations in this story. Charles is desperate to make something of himself, even at the expense of a life with Rose. In some ways, I understand why he wanted to leave to become a landowner in America--the class system in England during this time is extremely rigid--but it surprised me that he never considered other options since he loved Rose so deeply. It was the only thing that made me doubt him. Rose was an excellent heroine. She was shy and reserved, but had a deep well of love and loyalty for her family and for Charles. She was willing to make sacrifices and consider all options in order to be with Charles. She was also exploring the mystery of her mother's disappearance. I think this may be a link in previous books and was resolved here. Rose's traumatic experience involved a scene she saw with her mother, and then her mother left all of her children behind. Rose travels to Bath to talk to her mother's old friends to learn what happened to her and things play out in an unexpected way. Since I haven't read the other books in this series, I wasn't as invested in this mystery, but it seemed to be very important to Rose.

Overall, this was a nice introduction to Barton's writing and I will be trying her work again. There was a little too much angst injected into this story (the angst of a separate-class romance is enough without all of the other drama), so if all her stories are like this, I may change my tune. However, I thought Barton's prose was lovely and the way she built up the relationship between Charles and Rose was wonderful. The sex scenes were also nice and not too over the top (usually with new authors, the sex is gratuitous, but not here). 5 stars for the first half of the story, 3 stars for the second half, for an average of 4 stars overall.

Cynthia says

3.5 star ish at some points. Cute overall though.

.....

A sweet and cute read, this is the another lovely collection to the Honeycote series. Rose has always been the quiet one, but book allows her to shine! *One Wild Winter's Eve* is a bit of a second chance romance. After years apart, Rose unexpected sees Charles (her childhood crush) again, especially not in Bath, were she's trying to find information about her mother. No longer the stable boy, but a land steward, Charles is trying to make something of himself, though he still doesn't think he's good enough for Rose (not that that matters to her). They're really cute together.

The first half of the book is your pretty typical historical romance. Charles and Rose meet again, they do a little dance of *will they, won't they*, as they try to figure out their feelings, or rather how they're going act on their feelings.

He pressed his lips to hers, lifting her off her feet and robbing her of breath. He kissed her like he wished she were his. That was the iron of the whole thing. She was his. And always would be.

But then action comes rolling in the second half when Charles gets frame for a crime he didn't commit and Rose is determined to save him. There's some jail breaking! Being on the run! And lies and secrets abound.

An older, stooped man banged his tin cup on the iron bars of his cell. "Let me out while you're at it."

"Shut yer toothless mouth, Higgins," called another prisoner. "The princes didn't come to save ye."

Overall, it was quite the adventure. Rose got to be the brave and bound girl she never thought she was and Charles got to prove that he's worthy of Rose. With quite the showdown to the fiasco and a happily ever after ending, *One Wild Winter's Eve* lives up to its name.

{Thanks to Forever & Netgalley for the advance copy in exchange for an honest review. Original review at Book Munchies ...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Oct 19, 2015 Blodeuedd Finland rated it liked it · review of another edition

Shelves: historical-romance

Yes it was different, I do not see this very often. Rose is the sister of a duke. Charles works in the stables. See!

Rose was sweet, a tad bit too naive.

Charles was hardworking and wanted something more from his life.

They are so wrong for each other, and so right.

What I did not like is what I was never clear why her mother did some things...

Oh I am rambling. Rose and Charles meet again. She is no longer mute from shock, and he is now a steward. But she is still out of his reach. She is looking fo

...more

flag 1 like · Like · see review

Jul 18, 2017 Victoria rated it it was ok · review of another edition

3/10 maybe I need to read the other books. But maybe I won't. Meh.

flag Like · see review

Feb 03, 2018 Kim rated it liked it

Shelves: romance

I liked a lot about this but but overall I wasn't crazy about it.

flag Like · see review

Oct 18, 2015 Adria (Musings and Reviews) rated it really liked it

Shelves: read-and-reviewed

Originally posted on Adria's Romance Reviews

* A copy of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the purpose of an honest review.

I can't quite put my finger on just what it was about One Wild Winter's Eve that made it such a magical reading experience, all I know is that it was a rare experience. The gorgeous cover didn't hurt but maybe it was that Charles and Lady Rose were just so wholly likable as individuals and that likability just increased when they were together. Or mayb

...more

flag Like · see review

Jul 05, 2018 Meg rated it liked it

Shelves: m-borrowed-library

This review has been hidden because it contains spoilers. To view it, click here.

flag Like · see review

Sep 05, 2015 Literati Literature Lovers rated it it was amazing · review of another edition

4.5 Stars

I adored Anne Barton's latest novel One Wild Winter's Eve, from the first Honeycote story by Anne Barton I wanted Rose and Charles story. But then in I thought that ship has sailed and Rose was destined for another love as the two had become solid friends and nothing more. With this new Honeycote story the world of Rose and Charles has been upended once more! From the beautiful prologue until the last page this was a beautiful romantic love story. Charles and Rose's relationship was fir

...more

flag Like · see review

Nov 17, 2015 Marsha Spohn rated it really liked it

Shelves: historical-or-regency-romance, series

Reviewed at Keeper Bookshelf

After a traumatic event, Rose was left unable or unwilling to speak. During that summer the friendship of Charles, the stable master at the estate kept her sane. Yes, the attraction was strong between them each realizing that much separated them from anything beyond a friendship – even if their hearts told a different tale. When Charles leaves without a word of goodbye or his whereabouts life moved on for Rose. She recovered her voice and eventually decided she need m

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flag Like · see review

Feb 28, 2015 Connie Fischer rated it really liked it

Lady Rose Sherbourne is the sister of the Duke of Huntford and lives with him at Huntford Manor. Her mother left her husband, Rose, her sister, Olivia, and her brother, Owen, many years ago. Her father has since passed away and no one knows where her mother is. Since then, Rose has not spoken.

Rose contents herself by visiting the stables and watching Charles, the Stable Master, handle the horses. He has been very kind to her and they have become friends. There is an attraction growing between th

...more

flag Like · see review

Dec 15, 2016 Diem rated it liked it

Shelves: adult, romance, historical-romance

The heroines in Anne Barton's 'Honeycote' novels are all imbued with such agency, this I love.

Anne Barton's writing is, as always, lovely to read.

In spite of that, I was actually somewhat disappointed with 'One Wild Winter's Eve'. Rose goes searching for her mother who had abandoned her and her siblings many years ago. I would have liked this storyline to be further explored because this quest of Rose was moving the story forward in the first half of the story. But it was left to the wayside fo

...more

flag Like · see review

Oct 27, 2015 Kinsey rated it liked it

Shelves: first-reads

One Wild Winter's Eve by Anne Barton was quite a decent Regency Romance. The premise was really intriguing, Rose and Charles' differences in their upbringings and stations in life would make it seem that they are not a good match. However, despite the contrast in their upbringings, they are drawn to one another. A breath of fresh air! They both know that their attraction to one another is a complication and comes with challenges, but despite that, they want to be true to themselves. When they re

...more

flag Like · see review

Oct 25, 2015 booksanatomy rated it liked it

Shelves: arc, okay-read, historical-romance, netgalley

The third book from the Honeycote series, this is a man's fairy tale set on 1818.

This is a little refreshing from the usual historical romance because our hero came from a lower class and he fell in love with a duke's daughter. It's the basic forbidden love, but usually it's the Cinderella style. Guess this is same, but with an upside down twist. It's a timeless knowledge that the circumstance of a rich man who falls in love with a poor is completely different with a rich woman's. Which is why t

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flag Like · see review

Oct 12, 2015 Amy Alvis rated it it was amazing

This is book 4 in the Honeycote series.

Lady Rose Sherbour was rendered mute after seeing a traumatizing event as a young girl. But that didn't stop her from having a wonderful summer with the stable boy. They were able to communicate without words. Even though they were very young, she could sense the connection between them even then. But he just disappeared one day and Rose has no idea what had become of him. Now speaking again and moving about in society, Rose runs into her stable boy at a mo

...more

flag Like · see review

Sep 30, 2015 Haeja rated it really liked it

Shelves: regency, romance, adult, ebook, arc-from-netgalley

Review originally posted on My Book Musings. Click on the link to join the contest to win a copy!

I found it pretty funny that of all the Honeycote stories, Rose's ends up to be the most scandalous of all.

I really enjoy Anne Barton's Honeycote series so I didn't hesitate to sign up for the blog tour. I'm glad that Rose Sherbourne's reason for not speaking was finally revealed! This was given piece by piece throughout the story, and I love that her reason was so plausible. I can't imagine any chil

...more

flag Like · see review

Oct 25, 2015 Leone (She Reads too Much Romance) rated it liked it

Since this is not my first introduction to Barton as an author I was hoping for something a little more from the author than what this book delivered. The first thing that I did notice about the book was the vibrant cover as it is quite lovely. As for the story for the most part it was a charming tale that I liked overall and yet I feel like the romance could have been more present throughout the pages than it appeared.

Purely I think that this novel is strictly historical-fiction that possessed

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flag Like · see review

Sep 29, 2015 Lori rated it really liked it

I received a copy of this book from the publisher when I won it in a Goodreads Giveaway.

This is not the kind of book that will blow you away, but it is a good romance and a pleasant way to pass the time. It is basically your standard romance novel - just the right amount of chemistry between the hero and heroine, real feelings of love and connection beneath the physical attraction, and an obstacle that they must overcome along the way. The primary obstacle in this case is the difference in their

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flag Like · see review

Jan 30, 2016 Melanie rated it really liked it

For some odd reason I've had all of Anne Barton's books but I've never read them. They've gotten lost in my never-ending Kindle TBR, but this book had made me realize that I've missed on a slew of great characters, and that's just not right. I am now determined to read them all in order and my reviews will be coming up shortly.

Here's the thing I loved most about this story. It's the social stations in life that were the obstacle these two needed to overcome and for the life of me I just didn't k

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flag Like · see review

Oct 26, 2015 Lissa rated it really liked it

Shelves: netgalley-books

Lady Rose Sherburne is a shy woman who has always done as her family decreed. With her father deceased and her mother gone after a horrific scandal, she begins to search for her mother in hopes of overcoming the traumatic episodes of her past. She becomes a companion to a grumpy older woman and goes with her to Bath to stay at the home of her mother's former friend. There, she runs into Charles Holland. Charles is the former stable master of her family's estate and now serves as steward to her m ...more

flag Like · see review

Nov 04, 2015 Tracy Emro added it · review of another edition

4.5 stars

I loved this installment of the Honeycote series.

Charles and Rose are clearly meant for each other. They formed a friendship years ago and haven't seen each

other in years.

When they meet again, all the old feelings come rushing back. And even though Charles is determined to make something of his life - Rose is not willing to let him go again.

This story has a fresh and unique feel. It is not the typical forbidden love story. I liked how Ms. Barton was able to make the story of their l

...more

flag Like · see review

Dec 18, 2016 Bailey rated it liked it

Unfortunately something about this book just couldn't keep my attention. I don't know if it was the chemistry or the idea that Rose was going to leave her family in England to run off with her love. Or the fact that it didn't have her family in it until the last couple of chapters. Whatever it was obviously I didn't get into this story as much as I did the previous ones which is why it took me just shy of 6 months to finally get to the end while I rushed through other stories 1 day at a time.

Ho

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flag Like · see review

Mar 16, 2015 Tracy Emro rated it it was amazing

I loved this installment of the Honeycote series.

Charles and Rose are clearly meant for each other. They formed a friendship years ago and haven't seen each other in years.

When they meet again, all the old feelings come rushing back. And even though Charles is determined to make something of his life - Rose is not willing to let him go again.

This story has a fresh and unique feel. It is not the typical forbidden love story. I liked how Ms. Barton was able to make the story of their love belie

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flag Like · see review

Oct 12, 2015 Kimberly rated it really liked it

Shelves: historical-romance, romance

In this fourth installment of the Honeycote series, Anne Barton once again proves herself to be a very gifted and talented storyteller of the Historical Romance genre! The only story better than forbidden love is a love story that crosses social standing and class which makes this a quite unique novel. Lady Rose is the sister of a Duke with expectations to marry within the upper echelons of the ton. But, her heart abides by no such rules; Lady Rose is in love with Charles, the handsome, hard-wor ...more

flag Like · see review

« previous 1 2 3 4 5 6 next »

Daniella says

I wish I could rate this higher, I really do. The writing is great, the prose, beautiful. Rose is a very strong heroine, especially with the way she deals with Charles' abandonment and his return to her life. I really, really like and respect her, and I just wish that Charles deserve even just a fragment of her affections.

But he does not.

No matter how I try to force myself to like him, I just can't bring myself to. I understand his reasons for leaving, for not replying to Rose's letters, and for leaving (again) in pursuit of a better life in America. **My brain understands that, but my heart does not.** I get that it's natural and rational for him to aspire better things, seeing as he comes from poverty, but I just wish, I dunno, that he even gave a thought about sacrificing that dream for Rose. Hey, even just considering it would be fine for me. I just can't help but feel like he's too selfish.

The pain is made worse because as I said, I really, really like Rose and want her to be happy. I'm not convinced that that man is Charles.

I guess the main reason why I rated this like this is because of the angst. There's just way to much angst that at some point I had to stop because I felt that I was being suffocated. The book feels unbalanced; there's way too much sadness and so very little happiness to counteract that. **Reading this is like slashing my arm and pouring alcohol over the wound. It's too good to be hated, but too painful to be loved.**

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/20yHNbW>

Lovely and unique. Barton never fails at delivering gorgeous romances between characters that are full of fire, life and the determination to be true to themselves. The ton be damned! (gah I love that!) One Wild Winter's Eve was quite the adventure as Rose goes searching for information about her long lost mama who

abandoned the family years ago and instead comes face to face with a man from her past.

The quick of it is that Rose and Charles met when he was a stable master for her family. They had a friendship that was turning into more (scandalous, yes?!) before their lives were sent in separate directions and much to her dismay they lost touch. And now years later they've stumbled upon one another once again--though chickie...not so pleased with him after not hearing from him in so long. Mm.hm--when Rose travels as a companion to visit a woman she's sure knows information about her long lost mama and Charles just so happens to be working for the household.

Charles and Rose were magnetic. I loved both of them. And their forbidden romance. The well behaved daughter of a Duke and the former stable master that set her heart racing. Two that had everything fighting against them but loved each other deeply and truly. That would sacrifice everything for one another. It was a bumpy ride full of secrets, a horse named Pandora, and narrow escapes as their search for the truth about her mother lands them in serious danger and sends them trekking across country before they lose everything that matters most to them.

I laughed out loud, I sighed, I fell completely in love once again with the world Barton created. One Wild Winter's Eve was a beautiful tale of love triumphing over all. It was just lovely and heartfelt from beginning to end.

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Woohoo! One of my favorite authors! AND I'm quoted in it. Can't wait!

Reviewing for herding cats & burning soup.

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### **Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says**

Sometimes young love is not meant to be, especially when the lady is of the ton and the one she loves is a groom in the family stables. But then again, even time does not assuage the feelings one has for the other and ONE WILD WINTER'S EVE by Anne Barton is a perfect example.

For as much as Lady Rose Sherbourne's family is loving and caring, they are also a very involved bunch. After the disappearance of her mother, Rose never lost hope that she would discover where her mother had gone, even though her family are still angry at their abandonment by their mother. Occasionally being around this family is too much. So when Rose needed time away, she did so in the form of a companion to the older and wise, Lady Bonneville. What Rose could never have fathomed, was seeing the very man who evoked such feeling all those years ago.

Catching Rose rifling through his employer's desk, the former groom now steward, Charles is shocked and surprised that the lady before him is the very one love from his past. No longer the silent waif of a girl, Rose has grown into a beautiful woman who still evokes emotion in Charles, who knows he has no business even looking her way. Rose needs help and she asks Charles to assist her in seeking information about her mother

from his employer, Lady Yardley, who was one of Rose's mother's best friends. He really shouldn't help, but his feelings for Rose overshadow anything else and after leaving her without a word all those years ago, he seeks to make up for it.

Rose's feelings for Charles only blossom when she is around the now confident and handsome man. She cares naught for their difference in station, but he can't let that difference out of his mind, even if he's fallen for her hook, line and sinker, all over again. Rose's determination to show Charles that his hesitation of being with her is a lost cause is an emotionally charged part of this story. Rose is also adamant about finding her mother, and while that journey is important, it is also a impassioned one. Seeing two people, so perfect for one another, kept apart by social class is hard enough to deal with, but when forces outside their relationship seek to push them apart, it's a wonder watching them try to overcome the trials put in their path.

ONE WILD WINTER'S EVE by Anne Barton is the fourth story in the HONEYCOTE series and it is a wonderful one. Rose never gave up on her search for her mother, and when she has the chance to solve the mystery of where she is, she goes full on ahead, even if in the end, heartbreak will be the resolution. She also never gave up on her love for Charles and that love for him is what gets her through her trials. Charles has always been a good man, but now he has the chance to be the right man for Rose, even if taking that leap causes upheaval. I loved this book. Anne Barton is so good at tugging at the reader's heartstrings, and with ONE WILD WINTER'S EVE, there is no exception.

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## **Kris - My Novelesque Life says**

ONE WILD WINTER'S EVE (HONEYCOTE:#4)

Written by Anne Barton

2015; Forever (400 Pages)

Genre: series, historical fiction, historical romance, regency, romance

RATING: 4 STARS

Finally, we get to Owen and Olivia's younger sister, Rose. Rose is a sweet, sensitive and follow the rules type of girl. She is also guilt-ridden and heartbroken over her mother's departure and her father's sudden death. Had she not walked in on her mother having relations with another man, her father would still be alive. Her siblings would be carefree and happy. She can finally speak again but she must find her mother and discover the truth. When Rose arrives at her mother's friend's estate, she runs into a man who she broke all the rules for, Charles Holland.

Charles was once the stable hand for Rose's father's estate. After a summer that was his best time with Rose, but could also be his undoing, he left the estate for bigger ambitions. Now when he sees Rose again he is not sure if he wants anything more than her love. Rose aims to uncover her mother's whereabouts but is distracted by Charles and wonders if they can ever be together.

Even though it has taken me some time to finish this series, I truly adore it. Rose, like the heroines before, is a bright sassy heroine that tugs at your heartstrings. She is also perfectly paired with Charles as a sensitive adoring hero. There is adventure and but also has real drama that keeps the novel moving quickly. All the Honeycote and Sherbourne girls are married so I am not sure if there will be any more novels in the series. I do hope Barton writes another series as great at this one!

\*\*\*I RECEIVED AN eARC FROM THE AUTHOR/PUBLISHER VIA NETGALLEY\*\*\*

My Novelesque Blog

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## Caz says

**One Wild Winter's Eve**, the fourth in Anne Barton's *Honeycote* series, is a pleasant enough way to pass a few hours, but is ultimately nothing special. The two protagonists are nice enough, but rather bland, and because they are in love from pretty much the start of the book, the story is about how they overcome the obstacles that lie in their path because of their difference in station; the hero is a land steward and was formerly the stable-master in the household of the Duke of Huntford, and the heroine is the duke's sister.

I haven't read the earlier books, but there is enough information given here to enable the new reader to figure out what has gone before. Lady Rose Sherbourne is the youngest of three siblings and has been most strongly affected by the abandonment of their mother some six years earlier. In fact, it was the sight of her mother in bed with her two lovers that traumatised her so much that she refused to speak for years. During that time, only Charles Holland, the gentle stable-master, took the time to truly understand her, and only when she was with him was Rose able to forget her sorrow and feel normal.

Three years later, Charles has moved on, dismissed when the duke discovered the innocent friendship between him and his sister, and Rose – who has now recovered her speech - is acting as a companion to Lady Bonneville, who is one of those intimidating-but-hiding-a-heart-of-gold types of dowagers so often found in historical romances. Lady Bonneville is travelling to Bath to visit Lady Yardley, who happens to be an old friend of Rose's mother's, and Rose hopes that perhaps she will be able to obtain some clue as to her mother's current whereabouts. Even though she behaved atrociously and then abandoned her family, Rose is determined to find her so that she can put the past behind her and move forward with her life.

It emerges that Lady Yardley is still in touch with the dowager duchess of Huntford and has only recently received a letter from her. Rose is desperate to know what it says, but her hostess is not at all forthcoming so later that night, Rose sneaks into the study to see if she can find the letter and read it. Her search is interrupted, however, by Lady Yardley's steward - who is none other than Charles Holland.

This unexpected meeting shakes both of them, and neither is sure exactly how to treat the other, especially as the forbidden attraction that had always been present between them roars back to life even stronger than before. When Rose is eventually able to explain her purpose to Charles, he agrees to help her to find the letter from her mother –which has since disappeared – and to see if he can find out anything else which might help her. Unfortunately, however, in helping Rose, Charles suddenly finds himself in a very tricky situation - one from which he is unlikely to emerge unscathed and which threatens to destroy the future he and Rose had been hoping to build for themselves.

The romance between the two principals is tender and sweet, although their being in love at the beginning of the book means that it doesn't really develop – it just **is**. The conflict in the novel really comes from the fact that for years, Charles has dreamed of owning land of his own and knowing this was unlikely to happen in England has been planning to travel to America as soon as he could afford to buy his passage - but now Rose is back in his life, how can he bear to leave her? Yet how can he ask her, a gently bred young woman with a close-knit, loving family, to leave them to undertake a hazardous journey and settle in a rough, dangerous land?

**One Wild Winter's Eve** is a well-written book, the storyline moves swiftly and all reaches a satisfying

conclusion. Ultimately, though, it's one of those middling books that is neither good nor bad – it's enjoyable enough but not particularly memorable and isn't a book I'm likely to re-read.

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## Jen Davis says

### 4.5 Stars

I love a good forbidden romance, especially one where the hero is far beneath the heroine in social standing. And this *is* a good... forbidden... romance. Lady Rose is sister to the Duke of Huntford. Charles is the stable master. Their relationship started as an innocent friendship, but their feelings grew to something more. They never acted on their attraction, but it was, no doubt, the reason Charles left suddenly one day, without saying a word.

Three years later, they never expected to see each other again. Imagine their surprise when their paths cross and all the old feelings come rushing back. Rose is serving as a companion to an older lady, visiting Lady Yardley, a woman who used to be a friend of her mother's. Charles is the steward on the property. Rose is there hoping to get more information on the mother who abandoned her all those years ago. She quickly discovers that Lady Yardley knows more than she is willing to share. Rose and Charles end up working together to uncover the secrets she is working to keep.

Oh, but in the meantime, there is so much delicious sexual tension. I love how deeply and truly these two care for one another. Rose doesn't look at Charles and see his class or his abilities. She sees a good man. A smart man. A beautiful man. She is not so naive as to be blind to the roadblocks between them, but recognizes that what's between them is something very special. Charles sees it too, but he is trying so hard to be noble. He doesn't want to take anything from Rose. He doesn't want to ruin her. But he wants her so much. He loves her so much.

I could just swoon all over the place.

Of course, there are forces working against them. And in most books, this would have led to an insipid misunderstanding that would have sent the heroine running for the hills. But not here. These two actually communicate. They're also willing to sacrifice for one another when necessary --and to believe in each other and their love when push comes to shove.

I also liked the story thread involving Rose's mother. It speaks a lot to Rose's character how she responds to the circumstances. But it's the relationship between Rose and Charles that makes this story sing.

The pacing is good. The romance is easy to root for. The sex is hot. And the ending totally satisfies. I would recommend this one.

Rating: B+

*\*ARC provided by publisher*

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## Mojca says

Lady Rose Sherbourne is quiet, proper and following the rules of the *ton*. No one would suspect there's

anything remotely similar to passion under her placid exterior, but as she embarks on a quest to find out what happened to her mother, she discovers there's nothing more liberating than following one's heart...

I must confess, I much preferred the Honeycote portion of this series than the Sherbourne one. I simply felt there were things missing in the last two installments. Like spunk, spark, humor and passion.

Unlike her sister Rose was much more sedate and proper, but she was too placid, downright vapid at the beginning of the story. She captured my interest once she went rogue and sprung her boyfriend out of jail, but then almost immediately went back to huddling in on herself, fretting and feeling sorry for herself. She didn't appear to have much agency, most of her decisions were based on Charles, the hero.

Who was rather bland himself. I never got to really know him, beside in context of his puppy-like devotion to Rose and he also failed to have anything to do that would make him an individual instead of part of the couple with Rose.

The story only came alive once they were in the company either of Lady Boneville or Rose's family who at least brought some spark to the proceedings.

I liked the suspense sub-plot and would've appreciated it if it was developed a little further and more fully instead of only serving as catalyst to bring Charles and Rose together.

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