



The Governess Club: Bonnie

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Miss Bonnie Hodges, governess to the Darrow family, is desperately trying to hold it together. Tragedy has struck, and she is the sole person left to be strong for the two little boys in her care. When the new guardian arrives, she hopes that things will get better. She wasn't expecting her new employer to be the most frustrating, overbearing, and...handsome man she's ever seen.

Sir Stephen Montgomery is utterly distracted. He should be trying to figure out how his two best friends were killed in a suspicious accident and why the new young viscount seems destined to be the next victim. But he can't concentrate on anything but his growing infatuation with the beautiful, mysterious, and utterly captivating governess.

Together they're doing their best to save the two boys, but will Stephen's feelings for Bonnie get in the way of their search for a killer?

The Governess Club: Bonnie Details

Date : Published September 17th 2013 by Avon Impulse
ISBN : 9780062292247
Author : Ellie Macdonald
Format : ebook 192 pages
Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency

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From Reader Review The Governess Club: Bonnie for online ebook

Megan says

This title can be read as a stand alone. All the governess' are introduced in book one and each subsequent story is about a different governess.

Bonnie was raised to be a governess by her mother. She enjoys her job but when the Governess Club comes up with the plan to get their independence by offering private lessons, she agrees. Being their own boss and taking only the charges they want make the governess' lives similar. Bonnie's one problem right now is the recent death of her employers in a carriage accident. Since their guardian, Sir Stephen Montgomery, has yet to arrive she finds herself thrust into a mothering role for her young charges. When Sir Stephen arrives all he wants to do is get to the bottom of how his best friend was murdered. Not knowing who to trust he watches everyone but finds himself drawn to the quiet governess. Trusting her becomes necessary and together they endeavor to keep the boys safe and find the perpetrator.

Like the first book in the series, we are treated to characters that aren't part of the haut ton. Stephen is a baron but he is landless so, while he does outrank Bonnie, it doesn't take him long to overlook the fact that she is 'just the governess.' I enjoyed watching Stephen and Bonnie slowly come together. There wasn't any instant love or even lust. As they get to know each other, they start to develop feelings that they eventually act on. There is a murder plot in the story and while it is pretty significant, I had the bad guy figured out almost from the start.

We get to see a little of what happens to the characters from book one. We get to see letters that Bonnie writes to Claire, the heroine from book one. They show us what Claire is up to and how things are going with the Governess Club. I am looking forward to reading more in this series as they come out.

Chris, the Dalek King says

These MCs are TSTL. What kind of idiot takes food from a known poisoner? One that deserves exactly what they got.

This story felt incredibly rushed. And the fact that the bad guy was so bloody obvious from the get-go means you spend most of the story convinced of the MCs idiocy.

1.5 stars

Lexie says

The second novella in MacDonald's "Governess Club" series features Bonnie, who as the beginning letters to Claire (the heroine of the first novella) explain, has remained with her charges after their parents' untimely deaths a couple months previously. She's worked with the two boys for almost three years and after witnessing their parents' deaths decides to stay on until their Guardian arrives and hopefully is able to help the boys in their grief.

Whereas Claire's novella set up an unlikely scenario, Bonnie's is more realistic in its portrayal. With the eldest now the Viscount at merely 8 years old, the youngest all but mute and both unwilling to leave Bonnie's side for more than a few minutes at a time, it made sense for Bonnie to stay on until they grew accustomed to their guardian (a friend of their parents').

I liked that Bonnie didn't let their guardian, Sir Stephen (a landless baron), push her around in regards to what the boys needed. While he may have had his heart in the right place, he doesn't understand what they needed to feel comfortable with him or their new circumstances.

The underlying mystery of who killed the children's parents is a good one, though MacDonald played her hand too quickly with who it could be. Stephen and Bonnie work through the possibilities and attack the question intelligently, relying on evidence and a bit of history digging.

As for the romance its a slow build, like Claire's was. I did get a bit annoyed with Bonnie's constant 'Sir Sir Sir'ing. It started to sound less than respectful at one point in fact.

Oh! And it was a rather amusing conversation Stephen had with the young viscount. In child like innocence all the kid wants is to keep Bonnie with them forever, but he understands she can't stay on. So his solution would be to marry her, but he feels he might be a bit young for that so wouldn't Stephen please marry Bonnie just to keep her around? Out of the mouths of babes and all that.

Farrah says

A lovely continuation of The Governess Club series. Bonnie was a wonderful historical romance novella.

Bonnie was a lovely heroine. I really liked how dedicated she was to her charges (and those two little boys were adorable). Her loyalty to them and her determination to take care of and protect them made her a likable character. She was great. I really liked her.

Stephen was also wonderful. He was really sweet. Like Bonnie, he's very loyal. He was a great hero and I really liked him.

The plot was well paced. I was kept interested the entire way through. The only reason this novella isn't getting full stars is because I just wasn't totally hooked. It wasn't really a problem, though, just a minor issue. I really enjoyed the story and the mystery of who was after the Darrows was thrilling. I never suspected who it turned out to be. The story was great and the ending was lovely.

Bonnie was a wonderful historical romance. I really enjoyed reading this novella. Lovers of romance, this is a book you'll want to read.

*I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Lover of Romance says

This is the second book of the series, and I have enjoyed this series...its has been jolly good fun. I adore governess romances, and this one was quite entertaining and had a aspect of mystery mixed in with the story

that added a sense of intrigue and suspense. The story is about a governess, who is over two little boys, whose parents have died in a horrible accident, and their guardian is Sir Stephen Montgomery. Stephen was the father's best friend, and is now guardian over two boys and learning about the death of his two closest friends. When certain events lead him to think that his friends death was no accident, and that there is foul play around them, involving poison and cut saddles, he has no choice but to use every knowledge he has to find the culprit, and meanwhile he is drawn to the governess: Bonnie. A woman of poise and a sweet nature.

One thing that I really liked about this installment, was the connection that we see between Bonnie and Stephen...they definitely have some sparks flying around them, but I also enjoyed the aspect of her connection to the two little boys, the romance was steady and slow and we see quite a deep development on the emotional with a balance of the physical portion of their relationship. It was quite a ride, seeing Bonnie's spunky nature and Stephen's rakish behavior clash and merge together. I also felt like that the way that this author builds this story up, with the development of characters and the story line, we have a love story that is bound to pull at your heartstrings. ENDEARING!!

Stevie Carroll says

Previously reviewed on The Good, The Bad, & The Unread:

I was a little unsure what I was going to get with this book. The first book in the series had a cute premise, but far too many anachronisms and errors (especially with regard to titles and their inheritance) for me to be entirely happy with it. This book, I'm pleased to report, does far better on the latter score other than one brief dip into 20th/21st Century pop-psychology and a few situations where I couldn't quite believe the hero and heroine would really have got away with being alone together. But such is the nature of a lot of romances.

From the very start we know this is going to be a somewhat darker story than the previous one. Bonnie's employers have been killed in an accident – in front of the children and their governess – and since their deaths there seems to be a problem with payment of the servants' wages. Enter Sir Stephen Montgomery, appointed guardian to the two little boys and in charge of the estate until the elder reaches his majority. Stephen, however, knows none of this, but has arrived in response to a summons from his friend, the boys' father, written five days before the accident, hinting that all was not right in his household.

Stephen and Bonnie join forces to try to uncover who might have wanted to kill his friends and whether that same person is responsible for money being lost from the estate due to dubious investments. Then 'accidents' start occurring again, mostly directed at the older of the boys, but with others getting caught up in them too. I like the mystery; it is fairly obvious who the villain is, but it takes a while before we learn the motive. On the other hand, the initial showdown with Stephen happens off-screen, as it were, and I'd have preferred to have seen that instead of the rather unlikely sex scene and even less likely morning-after scene.

The final showdown is effective enough though, and most, if not all, loose ends get tied up afterwards. I do wonder rather at Sir Stephen's phonetically rendered Scottish accent; I'd have thought that any deviation from correct English would have been beaten out of him at school, but on the whole this book gives me more hope for the rest of the series than its predecessor. I'll be interested to see how this pair (and the two boys) are assimilated into the group at the school belonging to the Governess Club – or not, as the case may be.

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Originally Posted on: Buried Under Romance

The second novella in Ellie Macdonald's The Governess Club series features Bonnie, a beautiful and kind-hearted heroine who is in ways like the Beauty to Sir Stephen Montgomery's Beast.

In the wake of Claire (The Governess Club: Claire)'s betrothal to Mr. Knightly, Bonnie writes of her plight: her employers, Viscount and Viscountess Darrow, have died in a carriage accident, leaving their two young sons orphaned and the elder in possession of the title. Sir Stephen Montgomery is named the boys' guardian, a task he takes to dislike for he neither had the patience nor special fondness for children, especially not when he is trying to solve a mystery: his friend's murder. Stephen knows his friend's death was no carriage accident, but a deliberate murder, so he is suspicious of the household, though his doubts of Bonnie quickly vanished:

"The boys are suffering from severe trauma. They know me and I care for them. Henry and Arthur need someone they can trust. There is nothing admirable about it." – Loc 189 of 2115

From the onset, Bonnie is far more likable than Stephen. Her character is that of a sweet yet resilient governess, who puts her charges first before herself, staying to care for them even when no wage is being paid. On the other hand, Stephen tests Bonnie's trustworthiness; he somewhat desires her, but mostly his thoughts turn to the mystery at hand. He initially comes off as a cold and unyielding man, knowing not how to care for young children.

"You misunderstand me, sir. It is the children who do not leave me, not the other way around."
"Ridiculous. They are children. Call a maid or footman." – Loc 161 of 2115

In the end, he still is. There are moments when Stephen seems to bond with the children through teaching Henry to ride and Bonnie, though those are short-lived as Stephen's suspicions ruin what bonhomie they had built.

"Well, I certainly fell assured that the man who has done nothing to gain out trust feels that I am worthy." – Loc 488 of 2115

In essence, Stephen exhibits behaviors typically attributed to a scarred hero; he is coarse in mannerisms, unrefined and unsophisticated, while Bonnie, despite being a lowly governess (in the eyes of Regency society), has beauty of character far beyond that of Stephen. With regards to Bonnie and Stephen's romance, it is very much instant love. That is, based on Stephen's own thoughts and his actions, he appreciates Bonnie and lusts after her, but until the end he did not behave toward her any differently than when they were first acquainted. It seemed as if the lack of pages post-resolving the murder case had left Stephen with little recourse to go on if he wanted to win Bonnie back, and even then, he did not show the signs of a man in love, mainly a hero who needs to be with his heroine at the end. On that point, Bonnie was too accepting of Stephen's mercurial thinking, one minute pushing her away, only to ask her hand in marriage on the last page. Naturally, given that this is a novella, it is understandable that the "love" between the characters must be rushed, but for the story's over focusing on the murder mystery, the romance element was rather hastily put together, and not as refined as in Claire's story.

*Review copy provided by the publisher via edelweiss

June says

The second book (novella?) from upcoming author Ellie Macdonald.

Bonnie Hodges is a governess to children of late Viscount Darrow. After the accident that killed both the Viscount and his Viscountess, Bonnie vow to not left the children, at least not until their guardian come. However, when the guardian finally come, it become apparent that caring of those two orphaned is not his number one priority. But why oh why, despite his arrogance, she find herself to be intrigued with him? Sir Stephen Montgomery, the guardian find himself to be thinking about the beautiful governess, a lot. But he got bigger problem in hand. He's suspicious that his friend, the late Viscount was actually murdered. And he fear that the new Viscount would be the next target. Together they try to keep the boys save and uncover the villain who intend to finish his job.

The book started really well. But after some pages, I feel that the narrative annoyed me for a bit. I find the writing to be inconsistent. The pace move too fast. The characters, while at first appear to be interesting become bland and boring. The heat and passion in their supposed romance almost non-existent. And the mystery is not much mystery either. I think everyone would guess correctly the villain right from the start. The book had a lot potential, unfortunately it failed to explore the possibilities. Maybe if it was full-length novel, instead of novella, the story would be much better.

However I think Ellie Macdonald is a promising author. I hope she'll be more patient in developing her plot and characters for next book.

Mrs Giggles says

Bonnie is a part of Ellie Macdonald's series The Governess Club, but it can stand alone very well. That's the good news. The bad news is that, while the author still shows that she can deliver some very competent writing, the story is not very interesting to read.

Bonnie Hodges is a governess. Her mother was a governess who became her employer's mistress, and that didn't turn out so hot. Bonnie, therefore, has some issues about fraternizing with the boss, so this means she takes... oh, 10 pages longer than usual before putting out to the boss. Maybe I can't be too hard on Ms Macdonald: this is a pretty short story, and therefore, the sex scene has to be in there... somewhere.

When this story opens, Bonnie's employer and his wife had died in a terrible carriage accident. It was very sad, and the two sons were traumatized. Bonnie couldn't desert her charges so she decides to stay, even if she isn't paid, until these kids' guardian shows up.

Sir Stephen Montgomery shows up to catch up with his friend, only to learn that the friend is dead and he is now guardian to the dead man's kids. Naturally, he wants to look into the deaths, but he also has to look into the affairs of the estate. Bonnie is a distraction that he doesn't want, or so he thinks.

The romance in this story is very muted. The main characters spend a lot of time being concerned about the kids, especially when "accidents" start happening around them. This is understandable, but this also means that the romance isn't very happening. I'm told that Bonnie and Stephen are attracted to one another, but these two don't even seem to like each other when they are together. They seem more like, well, an employer and his employee. The chemistry is non-existent.

This won't be so bad if the mystery is interesting, but it isn't. The cast is small, so it's very easy to guess who the villain is. For someone bent on investigating the deaths of his best friend and the friend's wife, Stephen

seems pretty clueless. Let me put it this way: he doesn't even check to see who would inherit everything when the eldest boy dies, and I'd think that's the first thing even a novice investigator would think of checking.

The story also suffers from some glaring inconsistencies. For example, the kids are too traumatized to sit in a carriage, I'm told, but then they'd ask for a carriage later in the story. These kids stick to Bonnie when it's convenient, but when she and Stephen want to play, they abruptly have no problems sleeping in their own rooms. My favorite inconsistency is how Bonnie would write an anguished letter to her friend, lamenting that she's being tempted like her mother to put out to the boss, so oh, life is so complicated but she will never give in... only to do just that a few pages later.

With neither an interesting romance nor mystery, Bonnie is just a competently written bore of a read.

Rane says

In the second of the Governess Club, we meet up with Bonnie who's stuck in between a rock and a hard place. She's the only thing her students who are in her care Henry and Arthur have after the sudden death of their parents.

Something evil is looming over the estate and things seem to come to a head when the boys' guardian finally arrive - Sir Stephen Montgomery. Stephen and Bonnie may butt heads but it's up to these two to keep the boys out of danger that seems to be drawing closer.

There were a few conflicting details that didn't take away from the story but the characters themselves didn't feel as fleshed out as in Claire. Sir Stephen while acting like a hero who's been through a lot, but never seems to truly thaw and his sudden love for Bonnie seems just to happen.

Bonnie was a wonderful character who protected her wards and goes through some things while keeping her wits about her. I felt it was more believable that she fell in love with Stephen than he with her.

Unlike Claire, the romance lacked a bit. There was a great mystery to who's out to get rid of the whole Darrow family but it was pretty easy to figure out who the real villain was. I think the mystery overwhelmed the whole of the book not giving room for much of anything else.

While a nice addition to the series just not a very strong one.

Melanie says

I'm not sure why both the first and second story in this series were presented to us as short novellas. I think if they were combined, it would have been a better presentation.

In any case, the second story was good, but it lacked focus on the main characters, yet I still found it interesting and entertaining. I also thought the plot intriguing, and the fast pace contributed to my overall enjoyment.

Since this author is new to me and so far I've only experienced her voice in only short stories, I'm looking forward to reading the next two books in this series as both of those stories will be full books and not novellas.

Melanie for b2b

Complimentary copy provided by the publisher

Tin says

Disclosure: I received this book from the tour organizer (via Edelweiss) as part of the book tour. Thank you to Tasty Book Tours, to Ellie MacDonald and to Avon Impulse for the opportunity. Yes, this is an honest review.

* * *

Bonnie Hodges serves as governess to Henry and Arthur, the young sons of Viscount Darrow. After she and the boys witness the horrifying accident that kills the Viscount and his wife, Bonnie has no choice but to delay her planned resignation from Darrowgate, waiting for the boys' guardian to arrive.

Sir Stephen Montgomery hadn't expected the welcome he receives at Darrowgate. His closest childhood friend is dead only a week after sending him an ominous note. Sir Stephen had come to help his friend investigate the strange accidents -- he had not expected to investigate his own friend's tragic death.

There is something afoot here, Stephen, and I cannot put my finger on it. My worry increases daily, not for myself, but for my family. Small accidents are becoming larger and harder to explain away and no longer involve only me. You must come, I beg of you. You have always had a knack for ferreting things out. The safety and well-being of my family depends on it. There is no one I trust more.

- loc 202

There is more to the mystery than what the late viscount had written about: not only was there a trail of mysterious accidents but also a trail of bad business investments -- and it takes all of Sir Stephen's time and energy to untangle the knot of lies, questions and decisions that lay before him.

Add to his added burden is Bonnie's insistence that he act as guardian to the boys. It grates at Sir Stephen to be told of his responsibilities -- he has no choice but to continue to work and live with Bonnie, whom the boys are attached to and who continue to irritate (and fascinate) him with each passing day.

Two people put in an unusual situation brought about by unusual circumstances -- And drawn to one another by an inexplicable attraction. Try as he might, Stephen cannot help but see Bonnie as a mere governess -- Bonnie who courageously stands up to him and speaks up for her charges' well-being. And Bonnie knows of the dangers of falling in love with her employer -- but Stephen and his dreams of a family prove irresistible.

He felt so deep in the hole he had dug, Stephen thought he would take a risk. "For instance, if

we were married, I wouldn't be standing here."

She looked at him in question. "You wouldn't?"

He shook his head. "I would be sitting beside you, like this."

He put his actions to words and settled on the sofa beside her, not close enough to touch, but he could feel her heat. "I might even sit like this." He stretched his arm along the back of the sofa, his sleeve brushing her shoulders.

Bonnie cleared her throat. He was so close she could smell the sandalwood cologne he wore and tingles radiated along her shoulders where his sleeve brushed them. "Might you?"

"Aye. I imagine many evenings spent like this with my wife, just the two of us."

- loc 1273 - 1288

Ellie MacDonald continues to build on the compelling world of governesses in her latest installment of *The Governess Club*. In Bonnie's story, MacDonald showcases her skillful hand at painting a murder mystery: who wanted the Viscount killed and why? The mystery deepens when more accidents happen: this time to Bonnie and the two boys.

I really enjoyed reading about Sir Stephen's methods of investigation -- his deductive skills reminded me of Sherlock Holmes. He's observant and logical and able to think on his feet -- but what is most amazing about Sir Stephen is that he does not disengage from the people around him. All of his actions, his decisions always takes into consideration the welfare of the two boys and of Darrowgate.

Bonnie has such a nurturing spirit. Ellie MacDonald hints at some emotional baggage for Bonnie: her mother was also a governess who became her employer's mistress and Bonnie was the result of that arrangement, so there is a weariness to Bonnie and she also struck me as a bit bleak and a bit too serious. I thought this aspect of her character was under-utilized in the story, but MacDonald succeeds in painting a picture of Bonnie that is so very distinct from Claire (and also Sara and Louisa.)

What really shines through in this story is the growing bond between Sir Stephen, the two boys and Bonnie - like it or not, each interaction was a string that eventually tied them all together as a hodge-podge sort of family. The irony was not lost on me: Sir Stephen's own childhood wasn't a happy or idyllic experience but it is a testament to his own personal character that he learned from the mistakes of his own parents and is applying the lessons to how he is raising Arthur and Henry. And it's interesting that, the position that caused her mother's ruin is the same position that restores Bonnie.

The Governess Club: Bonnie is a very compelling book with nail-biting/exciting and heartwarming moments. It is the second installment in Ellie MacDonald's *The Governess Club* series. Definitely looking forward to reading the next one!

Jesica says

BLOG: www.adictaxictoxico.blogspot.com.co

Mi calificación es 3.5

Me gusto el libro pero le falto algo. ademas el culpable de esos asesinatos fue muy fácil de descubrir---!

Lady Wesley says

This novella was short and sweet but not terribly engaging. Bonnie's mother had been a governess who became a rich man's mistress; she raised her daughter to be a governess. Thus, I found it incredible that Bonnie would so easily fall into bed with Sir Stephen. There was a mystery, but it wasn't much of one. Sir Stephen is no Sherlock; he doesn't even ask who would inherit the title if the new young viscount dies. Ellie Macdonald is a competent writer, but the plot had inconsistencies. For example, after witnessing their parents' deaths in a carriage accident, the little boys refuse to ride in a carriage. Later, they are complaining about having to walk to the village, noting that the carriage would have been warmer. They refuse to leave Bonnie's side, so she sleeps on a trundle bed in their room, but later they have their own separate rooms. Sir Stephen is said to have inherited a barony, in which case he would be Lord Something and not Sir Stephen. I would not recommend this book.

Ana Ionite says

Very touching love story & salt&pepper: an atrocious murder case to solve. Bonnie and her aristocratic "Clyde" became detectives. A lot of emotions to feel and action to chill ...My only minus to this book: not as sexy as Maiden Lane or Pennyroyal Green. I look forward to read the next 2 stories.
