



# A Very Vintage Christmas

*Tilly Tennant*

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**The fairy lights are up and shoppers are flooding the snowy seaside promenade. It's going to be a busy month at Forget-Me-Not Vintage, a magical shop with a warm heart where every item has a story to be told.**

With bright red hair and an infectious smile, **Dodie** is a hopeless romantic and absolutely one of a kind, just like the pieces in her shop.

When Dodie finds a love letter in the pocket of an old woollen coat, she makes it her mission to deliver it to its rightful owner. Following the address, she manages to persuade the handsome but reluctant new tenant, **Edward**, to help her with her search.

As the story of the letter unfolds, Dodie is there, as always, to pick up the pieces and make things right. **But who will be there for her when her own love story needs a helping hand?**

**Is it too much to dream of a happy ending like the ones in the black and white movies she adores?**

**If you're looking for a sweep-you-off-your-feet romance that will warm you through and through then the door to Forget-Me-Not Vintage is always open. Perfect for fans of Jane Linfoot, Debbie Johnson and Jenny Colgan.**

**What readers are saying about Tilly Tennant:**

**'I adored this delightful story... I am already pining for more.** A lovely heart-warming tale of new beginnings, new friends, new love. 5/5 stars.' *Krafti Reader*

**'I was hooked!** Every chapter left me wanting to carry on reading. **My housework and family have pretty much been neglected whilst I have read this!**' *Goodreads*, 5 stars

'Tilly Tennant has **an amazing gift for story-telling** and I'm sure we're going to see great things from her in the future.' Holly Martin

'The book was a **5.5 star for me** with an awesome plot, fabulous characters, lovely and vivid description. **A perfect read for everyone who likes romance, chick-lit, woman's fiction or just fiction.** I loved it and would recommend it to everyone.' *Read Day and Night*, 5 stars

'What another absolute gem. A pleasure to read... **Thank you for writing such a lovely, heart-warming story Tilly Tennant.**' *StefLoz Book Reviews*

'**Wonderful characters which make you want to befriend them and a storyline which left me wanting more.**' *The Reading Shed*

'**Observant, insightful, humorous, and heart squeezing.** I adored her humor.' *Books and Bindings*

**'Would I recommend it? Absolutely!** I can't wait to read her next book. **If you love chick lit, you will**

**LOVE Tilly Tennant.** *For the love of Chick Lit*

## **A Very Vintage Christmas Details**

Date : Published September 28th 2017 by Bookouture

ISBN :

Author : Tilly Tennant

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance

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# From Reader Review A Very Vintage Christmas for online ebook

## Kelsey says

Oozing with Christmas charm, this is the perfect book to add to your holiday reads! Like Tilly Tennant's other books, this was a heartwarming read, that had you cheering on the heroine. Dodie owns a vintage clothing shop in a seaside town, and is a hopeless romantic (forget modern romance movies, give her classic movies with James Stewart any day!). While going through new stock one day, she comes across an old letter from a soldier to his sweetheart. So starts her mission to return the letter to its rightful owner. Along the way, she begins to question her own love life, and what she is truly looking for.

Filled with charm, snow, and Christmas, this is one book that you need to add to your list!

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## Rachel Gilbey says

What a simply delightful story, which surprised and pleased me in equal measure. It certainly is a book that encompasses the spirit of good will that is generally around in December, without being overtly Christmassy.

By which I mean, although its set in December, and Christmas does feature, its not the main focus. The focal point of the book is the letter that is found in a woolen coat that Dodie finds, while sorting out a new order of vintage clothes for her little shop.

She can't help but read it and is struck, as I am by just how romantic a story it tells, and Dodie becomes determined to reunite this letter with the family of either of the people involved. Only a few small things, she knows the address from 1944, only first names and the first letter of the lady's surname. Not an easy task!

Early in her search she meets Edward who against his better judgement ends up not only helping Dodie, but seems to keep bumping into her about town. Yet Dodie has a boyfriend, Ryan, although even early on I wasn't too convinced by their relationship.

There are three other characters of note for various reasons. Dodie's gran - every single time she was featured I was laughing, she is the sort of gran who continually has different classes on, seems to know everyone and yet feels slightly dotty at the same time!

Isla is Dodie's best friend, and is going through some big things herself. which I won't mention, as I am looking forward to getting to know her properly in Tilly Tennant's second Christmas book for this year.

Nick is the last character who is definitely worth mentioning, he pops up from time to time, but due to his situation, he gives a bit more of a serious / real tone to the book, reminding you that its not just Christmas decorations and presents at this time of year, but for others Christmas is a whole different ballgame.

A Very Vintage Wedding is such a wonderful book, that had me smiling, laughing at times, but also almost had me feeling emotional too. It has a great premise, and with Tilly Tennant special kind of writing magic you have a charming book, and I can't wait for A Cosy Candlelit Christmas.

Thank you to Bookouture and Netgalley for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

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### **Kim says**

Dodie is a lovely individual character who owns a vintage shop. When she finds a letter written in the war years she wants to make sure that it gets back to its recipient as it must hold special memories. She makes her investigations and this leads her to finding a lovely new man. I loved the whole idea of tracing Margaret. I could imagine myself looking around the Vintage shop and chatting to Dodie. I love books that really make you feel a part of the whole story.

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### **Melissa Rose says**

Alas, with the arrival of onesie weather, the holiday reading begins, and there is no better way to kick off the festivities than with a new book from Tilly Tennant.

First off, I would like to say that Tilly Tennant is one of my favourite authors for when I need a cozy read; her books are an automatic purchase for me. So, when I saw the brand new series, "An Unforgettable Christmas," there was no doubt that I would be reading them as well.

In book one, A Very Vintage Christmas, readers are introduced to the local vintage shop owner, Dodie; who happens to find a letter from the past in the pocket of an old coat. Determined, Dodie sets out on a mission to locate the family of the letter's intended recipient. However, while she is busy connecting others, will her own life fall apart?

Honestly, how could I possibly dislike this book? Apart from the douchey boyfriend, Ryan, I fell in love with the story's characters immediately. In fact, Dodie reminded me a bit of myself in that she had been through hell with depression and anxiety; forcing her to drop formal education. A feeling that I know all too well.

Furthermore, Dodie's offbeat Grandmother resembled my own in a way; reminding me that growing old is hard, and beneath the quirkiness is loneliness.

As for the plot, I knew exactly how the story would end; which didn't ruin the enjoyment for me. Ultimately, when I finished the novel, I had a severe case of the Christmas feels (\*squeals\*).

Overall, A Very Vintage Christmas was another incredible book from Tilly Tennant, and a perfect introduction to Christmas reading 2017. I look forward to reading book two in the series.

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### **CMDH says**

Dodie Bright is a warm, thoughtful, slightly eccentric girl who owns a vintage shop in the seaside English town of Dorchester. She's the kind of person who sees the humanity in others regardless of any possible gain for herself. I was smitten with her immediately! Her story is a lovely holiday tale that will leave you in the mood for your favorite old movies, ready to sing carols, and string the lights. Get ready for the kind of

nostalgia you get from your warmest and fondest seasonal memories.

While unpacking some clothes for her vintage clothing shop Dodie finds a letter written in 1944 in the pocket of a coat from 'George' to 'Margaret'. She is so overwhelmed by the devotion and emotion expressed she decides she must return such a personal item to either Margaret or her family. With no other information, and a faded address, Dodie doesn't have much to go on and follows her only lead to the street address. Here she meets a rather curmudgeonly, but oddly willing to help, Ed Willoughby. Dodie finds a partner in her quest in Ed, and she can't quite explain the match, or his seemingly hot and cold reactions towards her. She has a boyfriend, Ryan, she's trying to navigate her own feelings towards, so she tries not to put a lot of thought into it. Ryan isn't a great match for Dodie, so we understand her motivation for not sharing this part of her life with him. Ryan's not a bad guy, they simply aren't a great fit. As the story progresses we are drawn into both a mystery and romance beautifully woven together.

Tilly Tennant does a wonderful job crafting this sweet holiday story. The characters have depth, no one is all good or all bad even if their actions are unlikable. There are some minor secondary storylines that are left hanging. Perhaps these are addressed in the next book (which I most certainly will be reading!). I definitely recommend A Very Vintage Christmas for anyone who enjoys holiday stories, contemporary fiction, or romance.

I received an advanced reader copy (eGalley) from Bookouture through NetGalley. This review reflects my honest and unbiased opinions.

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## Melindam says

Netgalley Arc received by the Publisher in exchange for an honest review.

**Overall verdict: a lovely, entertaining read and some really good characterisation that points beyond the chick-lit genre by author Tilly Tennant. A bit thin on the Christmas Tinsel, but warms you heart & soul nevertheless.**

## 3.5 stars

First of all, let me tell you that I am very much a Christmas-Crazy Person and proud of it.

So of course, come September I already start indulging in the Christmas's-just-around-the-corner-feeling and fall for books with lovely Christmas covers, just like this one.

Also when I buy a book with a Christmas cover, I want the content to match, so you cannot offer me too much of literary twinkling christmas lights, mulled wine, gingerbread, eggnog, logfires, winter wonderland, tinsel, present-wrapping, tree-dressing and what-not. So JUST BRING IT ON.

I just mention this, because much as I liked the story of A Very Vintage Christmas, I felt Christmas to be rather sidelined. It was there, like low, pleasant background music, but I would have preferred more volume.

Still, aside from this "complaint", this is a really nice book.

Dodie, a lovely, warm-hearted and quirky girl-next-door, runs a vintage clothes shop in Bournemouth. She is

struggling a bit to make ends meet, but is not willing to give up on her dreams. She has a boyfriend (sort of), but they seem to be a world-apart.

One day she finds a love-letter in the pocket of one a vintage coat purchased at an auction. The letter dates from 1944 and Dodie is so touched by it as well as the possible fates of the lovers that she decides to try and find the family whom it may belong.

During this "quest" she meets Ed, who agrees to help, and kinds as he seems, he has a past to deal with.

The only serious hitch of the story is Dodie's boyfriend Ryan, who is as obnoxious and uncaring as she is lovely & I just couldn't believe there were any stakes to their almost non-existent relationship. The ensuing "drama" about Dodie needing to choose between 2 men felt fake and out of proportions.

The character I really took a shine to was Dodie's best friend, Isla, and I am happy to see that she gets her own Christmas story in *A Cosy Candlelit Christmas*.

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## **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

Although this book has Christmas in the title, it is not so much about Christmas, it just takes place at that time of the year. Having said that, I really enjoyed this book. It was just what I wanted curled up in a chair on a crisp evening. Tilly Tennant kept me turning the pages to see what was going to happen in Dodie's life.

This book is about a young woman, Dodie, who runs her own vintage shop, after moving closer to her gran when her grandad dies. While unpacking a box she purchased by auction, she discovers a really old letter from George to the love of his life, Margaret V. in the pocket of a vintage coat. The story follows the impact of discovering this letter on Dodie and those around her. Will she find the letter writer or the intended recipient? How does one go about this search? How does this impact Dodie? This book answers these questions and more.

There were several things I liked about this book. First of all Dodie, the main character. She was a caring, fun, eccentric and alive character that I would love to be friends with. She was also a bit of a feminist in that she did not like being referred to as "babe" and wanted to be independent. It took her awhile to get a backbone in some situations, but she does do it. I also liked that this was not just a romance. It was a book about life, being yourself, helping others, being loyal, helpful and standing up for yourself. There is an underlying message about mental health and PTSD that is subtle but is a great message that needs to get out there without being preachy. Then there are the other characters that make this book both funny and serious. Dodie's gran is an eccentric older woman that wants to live life to the fullest. She made me laugh when I read about all the things she tried, as well as her interactions with her granddaughter. I loved Dodie's grandma. What a fun character she was. She did make me giggle. I also loved Nick, the homeless man too. There really were some great characters in this book. Isla, Dodie's best friend was so different from her, but they were there for each other when it was needed. I hope we read more about her in future books. Ed, the male character who was dealing with so many issues, helped Dodie to see how special she really was. All great characters that added to the story.

*A Very Vintage Christmas* pulled me along on a wonderful ride. I felt a gamut of emotions while reading this book. Again, this is a wonderful story that is more than just a romantic Christmas story. Pick it up, I am sure you will enjoy it. The publisher generously provided me with a copy of this book via Netgalley.

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## **Melisa says**

This is a sweet Christmas tale set in the beach town of Bournemouth.

The main character, Dodie, was someone I could completely relate to - I too am a vintage loving gal and my dream is to open a vintage shop one day. I enjoyed the description of her shop and the Christmas-y feel to the story, however I have a few issues that left me slightly unsatisfied.

First, poor Dodie, who has the kindest, most genuinely loving heart, seemed to be walked all over by everyone and took it in stride - her best friend doesn't speak very kindly to her, her boyfriend seems more interested in sex than sharing a life with her and understanding her, and everyone puts themselves before her. I felt sorry for her but at the same time wanted to say, wake up!

Also, I would have loved to have learned more about the history of the letter. I felt as if Dodie was constantly searching for answers to the mystery, but didn't get very far which was unsatisfactory for the reader. It was an abrupt finish to the storyline without learning a great deal of information. I think the author could have taken this aspect a bit deeper.

Indeed this is a sweet tale, it just wasn't particularly my cup of tea.

2.5 stars

Thank you to Netgalley, Bookouture and Tilly Tennant for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Carlene Inspired says**

Dodie Bright has accepted that her friends see her weird, that she spends more time in clothing the same age as her gran, and that her boyfriend doesn't really fit in with her world. She focuses her time on making her vintage clothing business a success, the sentimental value of everything meaning so much to her. When she discovers a letter in a coat's pocket she finds herself caught up on a quest to discover the letter's owner. She instead finds Ed, the house's current owner, and together they get caught up in the love-letter. The romance of the letter seeps into everyone's lives, making Ryan more interested in Dodie and Ed newly interested in Dodie and Dodie confused and a bit lonely. The cold weather and joyous singing brings about a change though and she ends the holidays with the one she's meant to be with and an answer to the letter's mystery.

What a sweet story, the kind that's a great read for anytime of the year not just the holidays. I wanted to read Tilly Tennant's *A Very Vintage Christmas* after being attracted first by the cover, and then by the blurb. I love books about finding old letters, about past and present mixing together, and about anything vintage. Dodie Bright comes from a different era, better suited in vintage fashion amongst her store's treasures. I loved her outlook on life, her friendship with Isla and her gran, and more than that, I loved her slow recognition of wanting something more out of romance and in the person she doesn't expect. Ryan, her somewhat boyfriend, just didn't fit in, but that seemed to be the point. Ed, on the other hand, was fantastic. I wanted him to myself. Then there's the love letter, a story that tugs at your heart string, and really could have been fleshed out even further. It has all the romance readers could want from a sweet romance, with a bit of a



backbone from its vintage connected adventure.

A Very Vintage Christmas flows in a natural way, it's not too long, but does cover a lot of ground with its story about finding the family of a letter from the 1940's. Its a tale that's cozy and warm, more Women's Lit than holiday romance though. I really liked this charming story and can't wait for a chance to read Isla's story, A Cosy Candlelit Christmas.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Deanne Patterson says**

This is my first time reading author, Tilly Tennant. What a delightful read and since I am not British it was so fun seeing the way they speak in written word. It added such a delightful charm to it. Perfect for the fireplace with your hot cup of cocoa you will get lost in this story. It's a true delight from the fairy lights in Dodie's Vintage dress shop to the small town charming cafe's and friendly neighbors. Throw in Dodie's eccentric grandmother and Nick, the friendly town's homeless man, Ryan, Dodie's boyfriend and Ed. Dodie finds an old letter in a coat pocket that comes into her vintage clothing store and it starts her on a journey to find a relative of the letter's recipient to return the letter to. This journey consumes her and takes a lot of her time. The journey was fun to read about and the twists and turns were not what I was expecting. Great story plot! Can't wait to read more by this author!

Pub Date 28 Sep 2017

Thank you to NetGalley and Bookouture for a review copy in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Jules says**

My review is also available on my blog:  
<https://littlemissnosleep.wordpress.c...>

When I first saw *A Very Vintage Christmas* and read the blurb, I had a good feeling about this and I was in no way disappointed, other than by it having to end. I loved this story, and feel a little sad that I've already read it, as I think as far as Christmas stories go, this one is going to take some beating. Really hoping I'm not underwhelmed by other Christmas books I read this year now.

This book is about a young woman who runs her own vintage shop, and one day discovers a really old letter from a man to the love of his life in the pocket of a vintage coat. The story follows the impact discovering such a letter has on Dodie and those around her. Are a few words between loved ones many years ago enough to change the course of her own life as well as others? Read the book to find out.

What I loved about this book is that it wasn't just a romance. I adore Christmas books, but as the years go on, it seems increasingly difficult to find Christmas books that aren't just romances set in December. I read Christmas books for the magic, compassion, charity, hope, friendship, family, festive cheer, perhaps a little mulled wine, and I'm pleased to say this book had all of those things. Yes, this is a romance, but it is also so much more than that.

I loved Dodie, and would definitely have been friends with her. I've dyed my hair all sorts of colours over the years. My natural colour is a mix of mousy and ginger, but my own ginger has turned a shocking white these days, so now I'm quite boring and just dye it all ginger, to make up for mine having turned white and also so I don't have contrasting roots like I used to with the more vibrant reds, pinks and purples I used to dye it. I attempted turquoise about a decade ago, but it faded to pale green and I ended up looking like Orville. Not one of my finer moments, but one I think Dodie would have been amused by.

I also appreciated Dodie disliking the word 'babe'. I agree completely. The word makes me cringe and the husband is banned from calling me it under any circumstances. I'm feeling myself going the same way with 'darling', thanks to *The Hotel Inspector*.

I also related to Dodie's anxiety and depression. Life is too short and precious, and it was actually the death of my grandma just under a year ago, that changed the course of my own future, as I realised I couldn't live down in Cornwall forever. I'm no longer truly happy down here, and need to be nearer family and friends, so now have plans to move back up to Yorkshire when the husband leaves the Navy in about five years. Of course, I will aim to make the most of the few years I have left down here, but the dream of moving back up north is what drives me and keeps me going.

I loved Dodie's grandma. What a fun character she was. She did make me giggle. I also loved Nick, the homeless man too. There really were some great characters in this book.

This book also brought back memories, as my dad had a Monkees album on LP, which I loved playing as a child. Such catchy tunes. Also, my mum won the Butlins leg competition too, but in Skegness when she was in her late thirties. I was very young at the time, and it was so funny in my eyes seeing complete strangers looking at my mum the next day, recognising her as the winner of the competition the previous night.

*A Very Vintage Christmas* made me laugh, cry, feel sad and also filled me with that happy warm fuzzy feeling inside. I do love a story that can put me through all the emotions and this was a delight to read. If you want a Christmas story with romance plus a whole lot more, then this is the book for you. If I could give this more than 5 stars I would.

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## **Tina says**

This was an endearing and sweet book. Just right for this time of year! Could easily be made into a Hallmark movie.

Dodie, is a kind hearted owner of a Vintage Clothing shop in the charming sea side town of Bournemouth. It's Christmas time and the town is all aglow. She receives some new inventory in her shop. As she is unpacking the merchandise a beautiful green coat catches her eye and she tries it on. As she admires it she puts her hands into the pocket and feels something. It's an old love letter written by a man named George (off fighting a war in France) to his sweetheart Margaret. Written in 1944. It touches her heart. She begins a quest to find the owner of the coat or her family. I loved that part of the story. It kept me wondering and yearning for answers. Perhaps my only disappointment is that some things did not quite come to light.

Still an engaging and heart-warming tale. I'd like to thank NetGalley, and Bookouture for allowing me the opportunity to read this advanced reader's copy.

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## **Terri Wino says**

I'm going to round this one up to 3 stars. I guess I expected a little more from this book and it felt a little short for me. The story wasn't all that exciting, which I could have overlooked if not for the fact most of the characters seemed rather wishy-washy for most of the book, and downright irritating a few times.

I don't really think there was much of a romance in this book either, other than a bit of rushed plot at the end of the book.

So this one was just "okay" for me.

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## **Amy says**

4.5/5

Tilly Tennant is quickly becoming one of my go to authors when I'm looking for a lighthearted read that I can really escape into. I loved her From Italy with Love series and was so excited when I found out she was releasing a Christmas book! I know many of you think I'm a bit insane for already being all Christmas crazy but though this is set during the holidays, it's not overwhelmingly Christmassy. It's sort of there in the background and does play a part, but it's not in your face, so any Grinches out there, don't ignore this one because it has Christmas in the title, grab it because it's such a fun, feel good book!

Sweet Dodie is the main character and I just adored her, she marches to the beat of a different drum but she was adorably charming and so kind. She's an enormously giving individual and her small acts of kindness warmed my heart. Her gran was an absolutely lovely addition to the story, she's flaky and flighty but has a heart of gold. Isla is Dodie's best friend and though her part was small, I really enjoyed their friendship and am so happy she's getting her own book as the next installment in this little gem of a series. There are also some delicious male characters to swoon over which is always a treat.

I loved the little bit of a historical vibe this book had between Dodie owning a vintage store and the letter she finds that was written during World War Two, there was a throwback to a different time even though this was set in the present day. This was a sparkly, festive magical read with wonderful characters and an engaging plot. Tennant always manages to sweep me away to a new place and I loved the charming town where this was set and could easily picture it all clearly thanks to her vivid descriptions and vibrant writing style. Add this one to your Christmas reading list and keep your eye out for book two next month!

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## **Liina says**

Dodie owns a vintage store and when she finds a letter in the pocket of an old coat, she decides to find the owner of the letter. The address on the envelope leads her to a man called Edward. Ed wants to help Dodie and together they'll try work out the solution to find the owner of the letter. Spending a lot of time together makes them get to know each other more and the feelings are slowly growing, even though Dodie has a boyfriend and Ed's past is still lingering in the present. Dodie has to figure out to whom her heart belongs

and also solve the letter mystery.

I very much enjoyed reading about Dodie's life, it was a beautifully written Christmas story with a little bit of the mystery in it. I loved how the plot slowly built up the background for the second book and I'm definitely looking forward to reading that one as well. I think the vintage store setting was unique and perfectly fitted with Dodie's personality and interests. A beautiful story that has a beautiful cover.

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