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The Seventh Viscount of Torring, Randall Blair is more than disgusted with unfaithful lovers. When his last lover announces his engagement to the current reigning belle, Randall decides to suppress his true nature and follow suit. He is determined, once and for all, to forget the dark sailor who slipped in and out of his life five years before.

Lady Prudence Wedgewood has, for a member of the fair sex, unquestioned beauty, and shows a surprising wit, which will entertain Randall, even if her well-proportioned body does not arouse his desires. The marriage should at least be, bearable.

Lieutenant David Wedgewood has always been beyond discreet with his unnatural attraction to men. An attraction, which years ago, nearly set Randall's bed aflame for a blissful, torrid week.

The Blair and Wedgewood wedding plans unfold flawlessly, until Lady Prudence's brother returns: Randall's long lost sailor.

David returned for only one reason: to save his beloved sister from a marriage destined to bring nothing but pain. Marriage to a sod! He will kill Randall if that's what it takes to stop the wedding. And he is willing to seduce Randall, to prove that this marriage can only end in disaster and heartbreak.

His Second Chance Details

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Author : Stephanie Lake

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From Reader Review His Second Chance for online ebook

K. says

This book was provided for free by the author in exchange for an honest review via the MMRG Don't Buy My Love Program.

I truly did enjoy reading His Second Chance. Of course I know that I have a soft spot for historical romances.

This is a story about the Seventh Viscount of Torring, Randall Blair and Lieutenant David Wedgewood. Set in a time where a man loving another man is something that can get them executed. Sometimes with historical m/m books that real threat gets ignored, maybe because it's not easy to find a way for the mc's to be together, while being realistic.

I thought David's past gave this book touch of realness. Like that you could see that he actually was in danger, because he was gay. Those brothers though....I most certainly hope they get what they deserve.

Basically the story is about the fact that Randall decides to marry Lady Prudence and her brother knows the truth about Randall. That's what the drama is about.

I have to say that I liked that twist with Lady Prudence. Really liked how this situation got solved.

Michelle says

**** I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review through the DBML program****

I would give this a solid 4 stars.

Oh boy, did I enjoy this book! It was just so cute, but had plenty of sexy elements to spice it up. There were so many plot points/ elements to the story and the way that it ended just felt *good* [probably wouldn't have worked out so well irl, but I chose to ignore that in favor of some HEA]. If you want a feel good read with *minor* amounts of angst *His Second Chance* would be a good bet. Also, the characters and the development of their relationship was wonderful - enemies to lovers with a torrid love affair from the past mixed in = A; and for such a short novel, there were quite a few layers that I hadn't expected, especially for its length.

The initial inner turmoil about being gay in a time where discovery could equal death was one point that I was actually happy to read. I had hoped that this wouldn't be a book that completely ignored the conventions of the time period in favor of having a m/m historical romance and *His Second Chance* didn't disappoint. And the ending to combat these social conventions was something that made enough sense. (view spoiler)

The only part that caused some confusion was David's back story. (view spoiler)

Overall, *His Second Chance* was a wonderfully quick read. It was the first book that I have read by Stephanie Lake and I will definitely be looking for more from her in the future. I would recommend this to anyone who likes(d) reading historical fiction that was more historically accurate with the language of the time period. It

reminded me slightly of The Folly by Vanessa Mulberry, but more with a more fleshed out story.

Final notes

- Quick read [a one-day read]
- Told in alternating perspectives [between David and Randall], third person
- False identities, hidden relationships, and [almost] star-crossed lovers
- Strong female supporting characters
- Severely homophobic family members (view spoiler)
- Set in a time period with anti-gay laws

UnusualChild{beppy} says

3 stars

Synopsis: Randall is tired of being alone after his last lover gets engaged, so he decides that he will do his duty to his lineage and gets engaged. David, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, won't have Randall marrying his sister, because he knows exactly where Randall's interests really lie. He comes home on leave with every intention of breaking up the engagement.

Randall and David had one sennight together several years ago, and while David promised that he would be back, he never returned. He tries to convince himself that all he feels for Randall is hatred, since they can never be together. This has been reinforced by the fact that his lover was strung up and hung until dead for perverted acts, and that David had to deny any close association with him in order to escape the same fate. However, the feelings that Randall and David have for each other are too strong to deny, so when they act on them, Randall tries to do the honourable thing and cry off the engagement.

What I liked: Randall's closeness with his cousin, and that, with her encouragement, Randall tries to do the right thing. I liked that Randall questioned his feelings for David, and whether they really were as strong as he thought they were, since he and David had only known each other such a short time. I liked David's desire to protect his sister, and his determination to get out from under his father's control.

What I didn't like: I read the short story prequel and was really impressed with the writing and how...ecumenical it was, and I was *really* looking forward to reading this. Longer story, more time to get to know the characters, this is fantastic! Unfortunately, for me, this fell short of the expectations that I had of it based on the short story. Things seemed to be more random and...almost wandering to me. Then there was the POV from David's sister, which felt unnecessary to the story. I was expecting sharper story telling than I got, with more interesting characters, since they seemed really strong. Instead, the characters seemed eminently bland, so I won't remember them in a couple of weeks' time.

Reflection says

*** 3.5 stars ***

Reading this short book reminded me of my culinary adventures in smoothie making. The story is fairly frothy and light - really quite sweet with a bit of a twang to it.

Embracing a new and healthy me, I have been chucking all kinds of goodies into my top of the range smoothie maker, and the results have been mostly delicious and nutritious (except for the time I added sprouts) ugh! '**His Second Chance**' is tasty too but a little on the light side to hold my full attention (I kept putting it down to read other stuff and coming back to the story for some light relief).

There's not too much depth in this novella. The story really is more about the love that dare not speak its name.

Two men in love or possibly lust, Randall and David's paths crossed briefly for an unforgotten and shared week of passion five years previously.

After a series of failed romances, Randall determines to put aside his sexual desires (at least temporarily) and to marry for companionship rather than continue to live alone. Unfortunately unbeknownst to him, Randall's lady of choice also happens to be the younger sister of his former lover David, who is less than pleased about the apocryphal engagement and sets out to save his sister from the sham, without being able to be too explicit about his objections.

You can see how this could get very interesting, however to reach the level of authenticity I would like, it would need to be much longer. Instead the story ramps along with an infectious rambunctiousness that is just a wee bit too light for my tastes.

The situation is messy and mostly conducted behind closed doors to avoid scandal.

A highlight for me is the sassy female secondary characters, Prudence, David's sister who is determined to marry Randall; and Liz, Randall's cousin and confidante who is equally determined that the marriage should not go ahead.

Like my smoothies, where sometimes the mix of ingredients can be a bit tricky and not always fully blended, the prose is light and generally ebullient, however there is some attention given to David's very real fear of prosecution if caught in a compromising position and his experiences of persecution, bigotry and PTSD. For Randall and David the hangman's noose is a dire possibility.

Since Stephanie Lake is a pen name for a collaborative writing couple, I wondered in my idle moments if one writer is drawn to darker elements whilst the other may have slightly more compunction for frippery and general *joie de vivre* (whom that might be, and what the story might have looked like if it had been a solo rather than combined effort). If my hypothesis is right, there's definitely an author that I would be first in the queue to read if they can unleash some more shade!

Anyhow that being said, I enjoyed David and Randall's tryst and will be looking out with interest for more in the series.

It is a quick and lively read. For me to have rated this more highly, I suspect I would have been much more gripped if the story was longer allowing the characters development, depth and nuance rather than arriving virtually fully formed on the page.

My preference is always for a little more dark and shade entwined with the light). '**His Second Chance**' is definitely in contrast, much more light with some dappled shade interwoven.

A charming story well worth a read.

** My thanks to Stephanie Lake and to the Male/Male Romance group's Don't Buy My Love event who kindly provided the book in exchange for an honest review. **

Nocturnalux says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

As a romantic m/m novel **His Second Chance** is fairly competent but it fails as an involving effort into the realm of historical fiction. Playing to its advantage is the downsizing of the action to fit into a shorter format that borders on the novella that sets the stage for future entries in the series.

The romance revolves around Randall, a playful and gallant noble and David, member of the Royal navy and suspect of practicing homosexual acts. These were lovers for a short period after which David left without a warning and are reunited as Randall becomes engaged to David's sister. This prompts David to try whatever he can to stop a union that he knows for a fact cannot possibly be nothing but a farce. This main thrust is when the historical background is at its sharpest. David's fear of exposure is perfectly understandable given that anything even remotely akin to sex between two men can, and did, lead to prompt execution. Randall's attitude of settling for a loveless marriage for the sake of gaining a home and a sense of security is also well in tune with the spirit of the age and given the lack of viable options is very understandable.

Unfortunately, this general framework is the extent to which the novel will establish credible, albeit fictional, 18th century England. Characters speak and act in very modern ways that come across as horribly jarring. Their inner dialogue, in particular, is lexically off and full of expressions that introduce a degree of deviance from historical realism that this reviewer could not possibly get past. One almost wishes this could be alternate historical fiction so as to rescue it from its fatal flaws in this regard.

But not all is beyond redemption. The writing, for once, while not precisely impressive, has a certain inner coherence. For example, David tends to think in nautical terms as befits his background. This ties in with the fact that David, as a character, is better resolved than Randall. David has a personal history, a past that is explored in the narrative proper through analepsis and/or direct speech. (view spoiler). Randall, on the other hand, is more of a prototype since his past experience is reduced to a few lines.

This disconnect is not too problematic given that the interaction of the couple throughout the novel's present is well balanced. The tension between anger and potential jealousy on David's part matched Randall's dismay and faltering resolve. While the story revolves around these coordinates, it is interesting and even occasionally psychologically astute.

Yet the resolution is so forced that it almost does away with everything else.(view spoiler)

Overall, **His Second Chance** does not entirely live up to its potential. Falling prey to many of tropes of the genre, it loses track of historical coherence and never quite recovers. It is worth mentioning that it does bother to have female characters that stand on their own as fictional beings which is praise worthy even if they are almost entirely anachronical. As an aside, the title that doubles as the series', is clever: in a homosexual themed novel, the masculine possessive 'his' can apply to either and to both partners.

Serena Yates says

‘His Second Chance’ is not a book I planned on reading – despite the fact that I am a huge fan of second chances and reunions. It’s the historical setting that made me hesitate with this one set in the societally very restrictive London of 1784. But then I read the blurb. On one side there is Randall, a gay viscount who is so fed up with unfaithful lovers that he decides to get married to a woman to get the stability he craves. On the other side there is David, the brother of Randall’s intended, who knows Randall - intimately - and is determined to stop the wedding from happening to save his sister from being unhappy. This sets the stage for disaster along the way somewhere, and I was curious to find out what would happen.

Please find my full review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Tristan says

3/5

This remind me of another book I've read recently. Sadly, this one didn't work for me.

Lee Rene says

Gay erotic romances are gaining in popularity with a growing number of heterosexual women who love their sexual scenes unencumbered by too much angst and neuroses. As one lover of the subgenre noted, “My number one reason for loving gay erotica is the lack of deep, dark emotional angst. Now, don’t get me wrong. I don’t just want meaningless sex. But I also don’t want a storyline that drags me into the abyss with the heroine.”

Contemporary gay erotica is the beneficiary of decades of social change in western countries when the religion, social convention, and politics prevented gays and lesbians from fully realizing their lives. His Second Chance, a historical gay romantic novella written by a husband and wife writing team under the nom de plume, Stephanie Lake, is set in less progressive times, namely the late 18th century London. David Wedgewood, a youthful naval lieutenant torn about his sexuality in a time when engaging in homosexual acts could lead to his execution. Wedgewood’s self-loathing and inner confusion exacerbates when he discovers his spirited and beautiful sister, Prudence, is the betrothed of Randall Blair, the Seventh Viscount of Torring and Wedgewood’s great love. After a series of failed romances, Blair has decided to submerge his natural desires and marry a woman, something Wedgewood is convinced will ensure Prudence’s future unhappiness. David Wedgewood does everything in his power to prevent the catastrophic union between a sister he loves and a man he lusts after.

The path to true love is a slippery but sure one. His Second Chance moves at an engaging clip, the writing crisp and active, the characters full-blooded and passionate. The brevity of the work allows a reader to complete it in one sitting and it’s a perfect summer read. The erotic elements are in place, the prose rich with sexual detail. It’s my hope that the writers attempt an angst-free contemporary novel in the future. His Second Chance is a tale of passion, betrayal and ultimately, the healing power of love.

Kris says

Pro-tip: if you are going to set your book 230 years in the past, READ extant literature to get a feel for the language and words of the time period. Do not have your female character ask if someone "dumped" your male character in 1784 England.

Other than that the book is a quick, pleasant read with interesting characters and great sex scenes. The characters aren't terribly developed but they are engaging enough to keep the reader's interest and to cheer for them. The ending is a bit saccharine for my taste but not unduly.

Lelyana says

This is a light short kinda fun read. No over the top twist, just some secrets revealed.

A bit ridiculous, but for the era, the ending is what we're expected. It was a win-win solution for everyone who's 'involved' in the situation.

Everybody happy, including the footman :)

What's not to like?

I really enjoyed this one, especially when I'm sort of missed my historical romance. And put an MM to the plate, I'm game !

Milica says

This was cute, nothing more and nothing less...rather superficial and not too memorable, but I needed something light and this fit the bill perfectly.

Mike says

Slightly different (in a good way for me) male/male Regency romance

This was an entertaining and believable gay regency romance, a nice diversion that is served with a bit of heat.

I really appreciated the fact that this author doesn't force a specific, romantic template on the solution to the story's dilemma, but uses period-specific realities to flesh out a satisfactory and enjoyable ending. I found the plot and solutions to the era's bigotry to be a tad less "fairy tale" and a bit more realistic than many other m/m regency stories, a nice nod to some of the practices of pre-modern, "arranged marriage" couples.
(view spoiler)

It's relatively short, so the pair's emotions could have used a bit more depth than a brief relationship five years in the past, but overall it's a very entertaining and semi-sizzling read. I believe this is the first book by this author (in reality, a married couple), and I think there is great promise in the writing. I would love to read more!

Kay says

Very tentative 3 stars. This needed an extra 200 pages and a bit more gravitas... still, I will check out what this duo puts out in the future (as long as it is longer!)

SheReadsALot says

FOUR HEARTS--A good meaty historical romance with a captivating plot and fleshed out characters, who doesn't love to read about that. Am I right? Something about the restraint that had to be put on in public and the scandals performed behind closed doors that always grabs my attention.

In Georgian romance novella *His Second Chance* by first time author team, Stephanie Lake, the story isn't extremely plot heavy.

What it was is entertaining, I drank all the tomfoolery up.

Viscount Torring, Randall Blair is gay (not openly) and his lover is now ex thanks to a hasty marriage. Randall just wants a partner, someone to share his life with. He's prepared not go the route of his former lover by marrying a woman of quality to bear his babies. As his enchanting cousin who read more like a fun hoyden tries to console him, Randall somehow changes his mind and seeks a female companion...he's going to lie and suppress his sexuality since his cousin reminds of him of how alone he is.

He finds one Lady who doesn't irritate and seems to get him. there's only one problem, the Lady who he selected to be his fiancee? He's fucked her brother. In fact, her brother was a former lover who broke his heart five years ago after one passionate week.

With a who did whom, sexual tensions flying high and a secret from a surprising member in this sort of love triangle, the novella couldn't stop the entertaining train from pulling out of the station.

Fun times ahead. Choo-choo!

Don't expect much depth in novella. In fact, it might have ruined the erotic fun vibe to the story (minus the bigotry/ hangings/ PTSD, of course) It was more about two men in love who were a little messy and

scandalosity behind closed doors with the two families of nobility.

One word: messy.

I was all for it and had to read as fast as I could see what either man would do next.

Randall was one degree from being caught. David was super paranoid (for good reason) But their chemistry was solid and the authors did a great job of showing that. The story was probably closer to **3.75 Hearts** but it kept from heading in PWP territory with a couple of splashes of David's harsh Navy life and strong female characters (read: Randall's cousin, Liz who rescues the less fortunate and has a gypsy husband or Lady Prudence who was too smart for her own good--and knew it). Historically accurate?? Eh...it's good enough. Sometimes the characters would speak like modern day and while I'm sure the story could have went deeper, it works. There were a few of secrets that would be best read rather than spoil.

I am definitely interested in reading more from Stephanie Lake. Thankfully this is first of a series. I hope it'll be more from a new couple, I think this book's main couple ended at a great spot. There is a satisfying HEA, no need to rehash.

Though, if there is ever a book that needs to be written, it's one about Liz and her husband. They reminded me of a few of my fave historical romance couples were the couple come from different backgrounds but have enough passion to light a football field.

Quick read, easy tone and entertaining characters...recommended for those who like historical but don't want to be consumed by feels.

A copy provided for an honest review.

margaret4 says

DNF. Wallpaper writing.