



Springtime Pleasures

Sandra Schwab

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CAUGHT BETWEEN DUTY...

George Augustus Griffin, Viscount Chanderley has to marry - fast: His father has ordered him to find a suitable wife this very season. Alas, the only woman Griff has eyes for is the very unsuitable Miss Carlotta Stanton, who is not only unbecomingly tall, but also wears the ugliest spectacles in all of England. Still, Griff is utterly bewitched by her intense green eyes. Yet however much he feels drawn to her joie de vivre, duty and honour demand that he stay far away from Miss Stanton.

...AND DESIRE

Dubbed "the Giantess" because of her unfortunate height, Charlie Stanton finds the London Season far less glamorous than she had thought it would be - not the least because she is consigned a place among the wallflowers. But then she becomes acquainted with the very dashing Lord Chanderley, whose life is overshadowed by a terrible tragedy in his past. Ever ready to help others, Charlie is determined to rid him of his Sad Melancholia - even if it means taking on wild boars and highwaymen. However, the biggest challenge might be the elusive viscount himself and his belief that he is beyond all redemption.

Springtime Pleasures Details

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From Reader Review Springtime Pleasures for online ebook

Debbie Young says

(I was given a copy of this book by the author in exchange for this honest review.)

I looked forward to reading this book because of the attractive cover and blurb that led me to expect a cheerful, light and satisfying Regency romance, with a generous dose of humour. When I read the wry confessional intro, in which the author says she'd realised only after she'd written it that she'd made two key historical errors - the inclusion of wild boars and highwaymen - I recognised that this was no purist about historical accuracy, which didn't bother me too much, as my knowledge of the era is by no means expert. I'm at odds here with the historical book club that I belong to, of which members have been known to give up on a book as soon as they spot an anachronism. To my mind, the story's the thing.

I also read the author's note at the end before I read the book, and was glad I did, because it added further context in which to read the book: that she's been partly inspired by Ronald Searle's creation, St Trinian's, an anarchic private girls' school which will be well known to most British readers, though I suspect not to other nationalities - and also by the opening scenes of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, in which Becky Sharp leaves the shelter of her school and goes out into the big wide world. Having read that, the book made much more sense to me, and I think it would be a good idea to put this at the front in future editions.

The key premise of the book was promising: setting the product of St Trinian's loose on Regency London society. I love St Trinian's (both the old films and the new ones) so this sounded fun, and there were moments when it worked well. The notion would appeal to any 21st century reader who would have found the social norms of that society unbearably oppressive.

As the author had confessed that she wasn't prepared to adhere to historical accuracy if it meant changing her storyline, I'd expected her narrative to take more liberties than it did. She has clearly gone to a lot of trouble to learn the idiom of the day and has had fun writing some of the chapters in the form of letters, complete with the idiosyncracies of handwritten correspondence from that era (abbreviations, extra capital letters, etc) and the reminder of the very efficient postal service of the day. There's a fine balance between writing in keeping with the period and sounding affected, and most of the time this balance was maintained.

What I liked about this book was the spirited heroine, most of the time - although some of her activity really grated with me as unbelievable. I'm wording this carefully so as not to spoil the plot here, but it seemed highly unlikely to me that someone so naive and inexperienced with men would have behaved as she did.

I also liked Isabella, severely injured by a carriage accident, and not treated well by her society. I liked the heroine's kind heart in helping her, when most of society behaved very badly towards her. I also liked the way this reminds the modern reader of just how far society has come in the way it manages disability.

What I didn't like was the unlikely and sometimes abrupt transition from following the precise social mores of Regency society to explicit sex scenes. I was happy for the heroine to defy some social expectations - e.g. fighting off a highwayman rather than having a fit of the vapours - but her sexual activity outside of marriage as a girl just out of school jarred with me. It was just completely out of place here and not at all necessary. To my mind, it would have been more powerful and believable to depict the electrical attraction and passion between her and Griff without any sexual activity at all. (Yes, Mr Darcy and Miss Bennett, I'm thinking of you!)

But I'm sure there are other readers who will be delighted with that unusual blend - perhaps the author has invented a new genre here: 50 Shades of Regency! As this is billed as Book 1 of "A Love For Every Season", it sounds as if those readers can look forward to at least three more of the same!

Lanelle says

I loved the way the main character was written. She was bold and courageous, yet naive. There were many times I chuckled out loud at her antics. Too bad it turned risqué. Not a clean read at all.

Churin says

I know, many has ridiculed this book, and more than one of my friend disagree on how enjoyable I found this book!

But really, once you get to know the heroine you'll be hooked!

Charlie was a girl who just "graduated" from an unusual finishing school in Scotland. She was born and brought up in Italy and never understand how "proper London society" works.

But instead of the usual super tactical-brainy-sputtering-turn-brave heroines (admit it, there are just too many in historical novels), Charlie is a hilariously ridiculous person, so vibrant with life, and great with weapons.

Oh, and love gutting fish lol.

Summary, you need to read this if you're bored out of your mind with usual historical fiction.

Dee says

Somehow I was put slightly in mind of Terry Pratchett, the amusing letters scattered through the narrative particularly so. This was a nice humorous romance, the writer owns the historical inaccuracies and doesn't attempt to make out they're true, I love St. Cuthberts and was unsurprised to see it was inspired by the original 1950's St. Trinians movies. I look forward to reading the sequel when it comes out.

Lucy says

I loved this book! Now I might be a little biased because after discovering Sandra Schwab a little over a month ago I have become a tiny teeny weeny bit obsessed and may have brought her entire back catalogue on Amazon... you know it is a perfectly normal reaction when finding a new author. Having said that Springtime Pleasures is my new favourite romance by her: it had everything I was looking for in a regency romance. It was humorous, it was heartfelt and it had some truly horrible relations, I mean they are basically a requirement of any historical romance...

If you want to read more of this review visit my blog: www.forgettheclassicsireadromance.blog...

QNPoohBear says

This story was simply preposterous. First, the author acknowledges that there were no highwaymen or wild boards in England in 1817 so I assumed this was a parody of sorts, perhaps a female *Candide*, so I went along with it. I loved Charlie at first. She's awkward and funny and always putting her foot in her mouth. She's admirable because she's true to herself and doesn't let anyone change her. Halfway through I stopped liking her. She seemed to change from naive, innocent girl to worldly woman and then back to naive girl again. I didn't like the worldly Charlie. It didn't suit her character. I liked Chanderley at first because like Charlie, I felt bad for him. He didn't deserve all the censure heaped on him by his disapproving parents. His character is a bit underdeveloped though. Other than his tragic past, his kindness and his physical attributes I don't feel we know that much about him. By the end of the book, I felt Chanderley should have solved his problem himself and stood up for himself and the woman he loves. Charlie is attracted to him for first his physical attributes and then his kindness but she doesn't know any men other than her uncle and the few so-called gentlemen she has danced with. It seemed like a stronger connection on Chanderley's side than on Charlie's. There are some make-out scenes and one graphic love scene which I skipped. I hate that sort of thing when it doesn't make sense for the characters. Charlie doesn't know what a Courtesan is but she suddenly becomes all worldly three-quarters of the way through the novel. She chooses to give up her innocence when it was very risky to do so. Though I suppose we're to believe that it wouldn't matter if she had an illegitimate child because of her decision of what to do with her life. It didn't make sense for the characters. Chanderley is trying hard to live up to his parents' expectations and allowing a girl to seduce him isn't going to help.

The supporting characters in this novel are well developed. Isabella grows and becomes more self-confident. I really liked her and her story. I didn't believe her mother would allow her out with Charlie though, or even out without her companion. That didn't ring true to me. Apparently her mother isn't chaperoning her to social events either or paying attention which doesn't make sense for such a controlling family but I liked Isabella's subplot enough to attempt to overlook the inaccuracies. I also really liked Boo. I liked him better than Chaderley. He's sweet, kind and caring. He stands up for his family no matter what and tries to help his cousin work through his issues. I thought he needed more of a subplot. The "Crocodile" turned out to be an interesting character. There's not much about her when she first appears randomly on the scene and I would have liked more backstory like why they call her the Crocodile and why she's so formidable. When her backstory finally comes out it reveals a seedier side of Regency life not many people know about. It's quite shocking and possibly the most realistic thing about the novel. I enjoyed her character and wished she appeared in the story sooner.

Now, for why I really didn't like this story. In the author's note she acknowledges that she wrote the book first and then did research and discovered that wild boards had been hunted to extinction in the Middle Ages and the law had cracked down on highwaymen. I don't understand how one can write a novel that way and PUBLISH it! The author also seems to have a cursory knowledge of Regency Society and how it works. She knows the social rules well enough but not forms of address or language or she doesn't care. No one used the word "kid" to refer to a human in 1817 and hullo doesn't appear in usage until the telephone. Also, a blunderbuss is a huge old-fashioned weapon that can't be put in a reticule or even a small portmanteau! They were out of use by the Regency era. The average person wouldn't carry one around for protection. Charlie should try a pistol next time. I didn't understand why highwaymen were accosting people in public parks in broad daylight. That simply doesn't make any sense. I also noticed quite a lot of typos/word choice errors in the Kindle edition. All of that combined with the sensual and sexual content ruined the book for me. It had a promising beginning but ended up disappointing. I'm glad the book was free so I didn't waste my money. I will not be reading more by this author.

E.J. Lamprey says

Springtime Pleasures is a romp with, certainly at first, a style of Heyer's Grand Sophy in the competent and fun main character Miss Charlie Stanton. The author herself acknowledges her nod to Vanity Fair, but it is a much happier book with engaging friends and dastardly relatives. It also got decidedly erotic, but without getting intense and humourless in the process.

The author disarmingly warns you up front that there are anachronisms but for all that, her backdrop is nicely and unobtrusively detailed. There are a few scattered editing glitches but not enough to spoil enjoyment, I did hesitate between three and four stars but I really did overall enjoy my read, four stars it is.

I would recommend to Regency fans but also (perhaps oddly) to Joan Aiken (Wolves of Willoughby Chase) readers, it has the same sprightly feel of adventure and lively fun. Plus light-hearted erotica, which is a neat trick.

Heather says

A quirky regency. This was adorable, witty and fast paced. I don't know that I would want to read it again though - the attraction between the three lovers was too shallow and quick. Key words for this tale: wild boars, highway men, sewing kits, and blunderbuss guns in an oversized reticule - Oh my!

Also don't go by the cover on this one, it really doesn't match the story inside...

Melanie says

If I was given one word to describe 'Springtime Pleasures' I would choose 'cute', but I'm so glad not to have to choose only one word because this is one of those books that will have you smile long after you're done reading it.

You'll find many anachronisms [the author admits to them herself]; the plot is predictable and you'll need to suspend belief on more than one occasion, but none of those mattered as I kept reading and chuckling, from page to page.

Our heroine Charlie is everything that the 'ton' despises, but that doesn't deter our heroine much because she always took to heart what Miss Pinkerton's Academy for Young Ladies has thought her through the years. She always had faith that the spirit of St. Cuthbert would carry the day.

The hero of this story was a young man who took his station in life seriously and who had to live with a consequence of a family tragedy that touched him deeply.

The author wrote a sweet, lighthearted and very romantic tale. The low-key yet convincing sensual scenes were tasteful and very well done. Without being overly graphic, you could still see and feel the intense and complex emotions of our couple.

What I loved the most about this read were the letters of ...Thanks for popping over to b2b to finish my review...

<http://bookworm2bookworm.wordpress.co...>

Melanie for b2b

*Book provided by the author.

Sara G says

I did not like this book. First of all, it starts with a preface advising of all sorts of historical inaccuracies. The writing style attempts to mimic the speech patterns of the Regency era, but comes off sounding affected and fake. I gave up on it halfway through when I realized I wasn't going to stop being annoyed any time soon. It's too bad - the cover is lovely and the plot summary sounded good.

Stacie (MagicOfBooks) says

I will also do a video review here at my channel: <http://www.youtube.com/magicofbooks>

Sandra Schwab's "Springtime Pleasures" takes place in 1817 England as it follows Carlotta (Charlie) Stanton and George Griffin. Charlie is not considered a typical women due to her unwomanly height and ugly glasses. George is a drunkard with an unhappy past and must marry quickly at his father's behest. Charlie and George, two people who seem like polar opposites, develop a liking with each other. "Springtime Pleasures" is a funny and charming story about duty and honor and the many forms of love.

Sandra Schwab kindly sent me this book for review. The novel is historical fiction, so I had a feeling I would enjoy it, which I did. The novel is incredibly short, coming in at a little over 200 pages. It's a fun, charming read with a lot of great humor and heart to it. As soon as I got past the first page it immediately reminded me of Lauren Willig's "Pink Carnation" series, which takes place at about the same time in England and features fun and quirky characters getting up to all sorts of mischief. Like the "Pink Carnation" series, "Springtime Pleasures" is almost a parody or satire of the Regency era (or even I dare say, a parody of "Pride & Prjudice"), poking fun at the customs and mannerisms of that society and people.

Carlotta, or Charlie, was a fun heroine. When you read these types novels, the heroines are always freakishly gorgeous without flaws. Charlie is tall, wears glasses, and speaks her whatever enters her mind. Because of this, many of the other characters take a dislike to her. It was refreshing to read about a normal, typical looking woman. George is everything you'd want in your leading man. He has a terrible tragedy about his past, he's a bit of a drunkard and womanizer, but he is absolutely devoted to Charlie. In some ways he's more of an anti-hero since he goes against the norms of his society and does his own thing. These two had wonderful chemistry and I always looked forward to their scenes together.

I only have a few complaints about the book. Sometimes the writing could be a bit cheesy, especially some of the lines of dialogue. But again, this is a comedic novel poking fun at that time period, so I guess some cheesy dialogue is bound to ensue. Charlie's whole motto dealing with the school she came from, St.

Cuthbert's, got a little annoying on occasion. Seriously, she would mention her school practically ever chapter. I got the point that the school raised it's girls in a particular manner and Charlie didn't need to constantly refer to it to justify her actions. The sex scenes...sex scenes have to be very specific for me. I like them hot and steamy. The sex scenes in this were hot and steamy...but again, here would come a bit of the cheesy dialogue which would have be laughing (this is an issue I take with Lauren Willig's "Pink Carnation" series during the sex scenes). I like when characters just...well...do it and the writer just lets the description take over.

Overall, I really liked this book. Sandra Schwab mentions that this is her second self-published book. Self-published, really? I think Sandra Schwab deserves to be published by a big publication company. The writing was wonderful and Sandra Schwab really made me think twice about self-published books (normally I dislike self-published books for a variety of reasons). The book did suffer from quite a few grammatical errors, but they didn't bother me too much. If you enjoy fun historical fiction I highly recommend this one.

Luli says

3.5 Stars.

Esta historia empezó muy bien: entretenida, refrescante y con mucho humor, pero al final se vino abajo, en mi opinión, claro, por eso sólo las 3.5 stars.

La protagonista es política y socialmente incorrecta, lo que la lleva a unas situaciones de lo más embarazosas y por consiguiente muy divertidas y ridículas; hasta pasada la mitad del libro me reí con ganas. No es el típico romance histórico, se toma algunas libertades que se le perdonan porque la historia gana con ellas.

Charlie (la protagonista) es una chica recién salida de una academia para señoritas, es ingenua hasta términos imposibles lo que le hace ver la vida desde otro punto de vista, más refrescante y es lo mejor de la historia.

El protagonista es otra cosa...al principio se nos cuenta su "problema" (en mi opinión muy flojo como para arrastrarlo hasta el final del libro), personalmente necesito algo con más base, y sobre todo, necesito que los personajes principales me gusten, y Chanderley no me gusta, es un pusilánime que se deja llevar por la corriente y no tiene opinión, si todo el mundo te dice que algo es blanco, no veo que sentido tiene que tú sigas diciendo que es negro...es un cubo de agua fría.

A partir del 77% es cuando (para mí) empieza la debacle. Hasta este momento la historia tiene sentido y es diferente, pero aquí se vuelve incoherente (view spoiler), predecible (view spoiler) y anticlimática (view spoiler)

Para no dejar un mal sabor de boca decir que, a excepción de los padres (que ya viene siendo un clásico en este género) y un primo muy lejano con un par de líneas que son para encerrarlos y tirar la llave, el resto de los personajes son encantadores, y la relación entre Charlie e Izzie y entre Charlie y su amiga de la escuela son entrañables.

Tina says

I love historical romances, the woman have a lot to overcome and it can be quite a story if written right. This book was fabulous and FUNNY!!! Charlie has a mind of her own and she has an internal compass that is freaking hilarious. (I would love to have gone to her school) The letters between her and her friend...oh my gosh. George didn't know what hit him, he tried so hard to resist Charlie's lure. You have to read this to grasp all the story, it has it all, family troubles, wiser than you friends and love, oh and not to forget bandits. I look

forward to hearing more from Sandra Schwab.

Carole Rae says

Like earlier stated I was given this book for my honest and unbiased opinion....

GAH! I couldn't help but hum 'Summertime Sadness' throughout my time with this book. I have no idea, but there was a connection. Maybe it had to that this love was not the most easiest of loves. It took a lot of work.

Anyways...this book was so....cute! I simply loved it! I really loved Charlie (aka Miss Stanton). She was adorable and completely out of her element in London. I also loved how the author made her very physically flawed (for that time period anyways). Glasses and being an Amazon - tall and tough. I felt bad though, because she did get teased by the ton. Asses the lot of them. Even a certain Lord Chanderley judged her at first....

Which brings us to the dumb, but honorable and charming Lord Chanderley. He was adorable as well, but many a times I wanted to punch him, because he was simply dumb. He blames himself for an accident that was not his fault at all, which this guilt his daft parents use against him. Even though it was made clear to him by his sister, Charlie, and his cousin that it wasn't his fault at all. Simply I just wanted to yell, "GET OVER YOURSELF!" Even though it was annoying, I still liked him and it made the book better, because you KNOW he will get over it and move on. I really loved the way this came about - I will not say for that is the big spoiler in this book.

Sandra Schwab is defiantly blooming and blossoming and I'm dying for more of her books. Especially the next one in this series. I really hope its about Miss Izzie, Chanderley's sister, who really deserves a HEA. Poor girl.

Overall, this was a cute and fun and simply adorable. I simply loved the added letters. It really added a special-ness to it. I'm also so glad that Sandra Schwab made the HEA between Charlie and Griff a little harder to obtain. I shall recommend this to those that love HRs and for those looking for a book that will make them smile. Out of five stars I will give this 5 stars.

Favorite Character(s): Charlie, Griff, Cousin Boo/Cole, Izzie, and Aunt Burnell (bahaha loved her).
Not-so Favorite Character(s): Griff's parents (>__>)

Sabrina Bradley says

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads. I really enjoyed this book...is a cute, humorous,

and lovely read that stays with you long after you finish the book....Want to say thank you to Sandra Schwab for the personal signature and card....hope to see more from this author.
