



The Vintage Girl

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When Evie Nicholson is asked to visit Kettlesheer Castle in Scotland to archive the family heirlooms, she jumps at the chance. Evie's passion for antiques means that, for her, the castle is a treasure trove of mysteries just waiting to be uncovered.

But in each heirloom lies a story, and in the course of her investigations Evie stumbles upon some long-buried family secrets. Add handsome, gloomy heir Robert McAndrew and a traditional candlelit gala to the mix and Evie's heart is sent reeling with an enthusiasm that may just extend beyond the Kettlesheer silver...

The Vintage Girl Details

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From Reader Review The Vintage Girl for online ebook

Alyssa Goodnight says

I had high expectations for this book, having LOVED The Little Lady Agency series, and it did not disappoint. Ms. Browne had me smiling at page three, and I never stopped. She has such a lovely way with words and can have you feeling sentimental at the same time you're giggling over some hilarious character hijinks. I loved all the characters, but particularly Evie, with Robert running a close second. Evie had this charming little quirk of imagining herself in different periods of history depending on what sort of antique happened to turn up. Those bits always had me smiling.

A few favorite quotes:

"Antiques for me were all about the lives they'd once been part of. I loved the whispers of the past they carried, the proof that those period films had once been real."

"Try as I might, I couldn't make Robert's face go historical; it stayed sharp-cheekboned and wry. Too modern.

Helpfully, imaginary Fraser appeared behind him, resplendent in muttonchop whiskers. Fraser through the ages was much easier to conjure."

Cecilia says

True to its title, Swept Off Her Feet will sweep readers off their feet and transport them back to a time where Scottish reels had been used as a form of flirtation and courtship! Hester Browne has outdone herself with this latest release - and she has definitely left me breathless as if I myself danced the entire night away (instead of staying up to finish this book!).

Evie is a girl after my own heart, wrapped up in the beauty of years past, ballgowns and porcelain cups and dancing cards, although she lives in the here and now. With nightmares of childhood dance classes ending with broken legs and bruises, she is hardly the person to jump at the chance of dancing in a Scottish reel where the men spin the women around as fast as they are able. She was a romantic who had been tossed into a historical castle crumbling with history, and in her eyes it was bubbling with hidden romance and mystery!

Hester Browne had me laughing at the very start of Swept Off Her Feet with the opening page (see above), and I was literally reeled into the life of Evie with no hope of escaping. Her writing is charming and delightful, and the romance that unfolds is simply too fun for words! I couldn't help but sympathize with Evie about being born in the wrong time period and fall hopelessly in love with both Robert and Fraser.

If you are looking for a modern-day fairy tale where a magical night of dancing may lead to unexpected romance, then pick up a copy of Swept Off Her Feet, admire the plaid peep toe heels that the cover model is wearing, and prepare yourself for all-nighter with some rather lovable characters who may or may not be wearing kilts!

kari says

This was a fun quick read with great characters who think and change during the book, always a plus to me. I loved that Evie was always dreaming of how a man would look in breeches or a top hat or with mutton chop whiskers or driving a carriage. She somewhat lives in a fantasy world and only gets crushes on men who are unattainable for whatever reason. I guess you'd say she has an overactive imagination, but it's fun reading her thoughts. I never felt like telling her to knock it off and I could see where her habits had developed from her upbringing.

Interestingly, her sister, Alice, is her opposite. She's an organizer and very structured as her reaction to their childhood. I could feel Evie's frustration with her sister's behavior and vice versa and I was also really angry when Alice wants to simply brush her aside after she's worked so hard at something that she's come to enjoy. I have to say that the reels, the dances, are so well described that you'll feel like you're there. I understood what was going on and how it looked and describing a dance isn't easy to do, like trying to use words to describe how music feels. What could have been boring or slowed the book down instead adding to the overall enjoyment. I felt breathless when Evie was finished dancing. Not an easy accomplishment for any author.

All the dialogue in Hester Browne's books works for me, feels very natural and it moves the story along well. Many would simply put this down as chick-lit but there really is more depth to the story than that and I was very caught up with the characters, shedding a few tears with events along the way.

I've read Hester Browne's books before and I'd definitely read anything new she writes. They are always a good time with some surprises along the way.

Kim says

I fell in love with this book. Evie works for an antiques dealer - but she falls in love with the history of each item that comes under auction. Her sister finds an estate in Scotland that needs to sell some of their precious items to keep the house in the family.

She sets off to catalogue the items- but again finds personal journals and falls in love with the love story surrounding the house. She stays for a Scottish reel and I loved the parts where she rehearses the dances.

I will definitely look for more books by this author.

Holly says

I thought this was a very charming book. Evie was a girl I could relate to, with her love of vintage and the stories behind them. The love story was cute, nothing grand or over the top but just sweet.

Molly says

This was a nice, light and fun read. I enjoyed all the chatter about antiques and dancing Scottish reels. Very enjoyable for anyone looking for something fluffy and sweet.

Julie says

Hester Browne is one of my favorite authors whose books I purchase without reading the synopsis. Her writing never disappoints.

Evie is a light-hearted, lovable character with a heart of gold. Her goofy mother (Carol) and sister (Alice) stereotypically try to put the effervescent Evie in her place. While Evie is the collector of anything old, her family are professional purgers. Evie is very definitely a Vintage Girl—both in terms of her love of antiques as well as her romantic notions of love.

The story is well-written and flows nicely. The character dialogue is witty. The characters are charming and the romantic chemistry is just right. I loved the snippets of humor throughout the book—especially Evie's tendency toward self-deprecation.

You will fall in love with Robert along with Evie, and you'll be rooting for serendipity to deliver a happily-ever-after ending. This is solid-gold chick-lit. An engrossing good read that I highly recommend.

Patti TheLoveJunkee says

Aaaahhhh! Prepare yourselves for a squee-fest! I could not put *Swept Off Her Feet* down...

Evie Nicholson is an antiques "finder", she actually works for the dealer. Her problem is that she when she sees an item, she sees not the potential buyer, but the past, imagining who used the item or places it's been. She's in trouble with her boss, Max, for buying a bunch of stuff that he doesn't think will sell. Evie's sister, Alice, and her mother are both minimalistic - they actually make a living doing a "clean sweep" type of thing where they de-clutter people's homes. They're always calling Evie out for getting lost in the past.

Evie's sister has a favor to ask - her boyfriend's family friend has inherited Castle Kettlesheer in Scotland and they are having financial trouble keeping it up. They'd like to sell off a few key pieces, quietly, and Alice told them Evie would be happy to do it. Max is thrilled, he's always wanted to get inside Castle Kettlesheer, but he's not invited. Evie must do it alone, and be discreet about it. She's in for a few days, then is supposed to leave before the annual ball, held in the castle on Valentine's Day. Traditionally, if the first dance (a Scottish Reel) is perfect, it's considered a lucky omen and many marriage proposals are made.

Evie meets Robert, son of the current owner, on her first night there. He wants to sell the castle but his father is completely against it. Robert is more realistic and doesn't want to be burdened with inheriting the castle (it must go to the next family member who is married, Robert is not married but is getting pressured to propose to his girlfriend at the ball).

As Evie goes through the home, looking for pieces to sell, she learns a lot about the ancestors of the current owners. Every piece of furniture has a story, and Evie wants to know them all. At Kettlesheer Castle, however, the furniture may have more of a story than she realized...

As Evie works, she also spends time with the owners' son, Robert. As the days go by and they get to know each other, Evie realizes she might be attracted to Robert - who she assumes is going to propose to his girlfriend at the ball. But he's not acting like he's interested in marrying his girlfriend, and Evie has mixed thoughts about that. When Evie's sister Alice calls and says she can't come to the ball, leaving Evie to fill in, Evie wonders if this is Robert's way to get out of proposing - if the first dance isn't perfect, he doesn't have to propose. But maybe, just maybe, that's not the reason he wants her to stay...

My thoughts: Oh wow - I loved this book. *Swept Off Her Feet* is going on the "keeper" shelf. I love Evie - I easily identified with her character, kind of quiet, unassuming, tender-hearted. She loves looking at old things and imagining the past - a beloved teddy bear, an antique china set, a stately old home. I must confess, that's one of the things I love about living in New Orleans, is the old homes and antiques - I too like to daydream about the people who lived/loved/used them. The relationship between Evie and Robert meanders along, friendly and then maybe more. I really, really liked Robert. His attentions to Evie were swoon-worthy, and that he was conflicted made for some seriously sexy tension.

The Scottish Reel dancing - Evie's lessons were hysterical. The way Ms. Browne wrote the story, the dancing, and the customs surrounding the dance, was riveting. I was so enamored with that part of the story I actually looked up some videos of Scottish Reel Dancing!

Swept Off Her Feet is old-time romance in a modern-day setting - between the romance of Robert's ancestors, continuing through time in family stories, tradition, and the pages of a long-forgotten journal, the romance of the dance, and Evie's romantic outlook on life in general, I sighed and swooned through every page.

Swept Off Her Feet is the kind of book that, when you finish, you don't want to pick up another book because you're not ready to leave the story behind; you just want to stay a little bit longer.

Ann says

This book centers around Evie, a late-twenties single Londoner who has an affinity for anything old that has a story (especially old photograph frames - with the photographs, and worn and loved teddy bears). Good thing she works for an antique shop!

So, when Evie's clutter-free sister Alice asks Evie to help a friend of a friend who's drowning in debt in their newly inherited Scottish castle, by going up to the castle and assessing the Scottish antiques, Evie finds herself living a dream. Add to this preparations for a true Scottish ball, complete with kilts and reels and Evie easily daydreams as she wanders the old castle's halls.

(I love that Evie is nearly thirty and still pretending she's descending the stairs at an Austen ball as she walks through the castle!)

Hester Browne is quickly gaining a status of "go-to author-ness" on my book shelf! This is the third book I've read by her and the third that I've totally enjoyed! (The other two being "The Little Lady Agency" and "Finishing Touches"). I love her leading ladies, they are always strong and smart, but still real and warm. They have foibles, but they try to be good people and better people. I also thoroughly enjoy the leading men in her books, whether they are the best-friend or the boy-friend, I really like them and their relationships with the leading ladies. I love that Browne's books are quite clean and really about love and romance and falling in love.

There is so much more to this book and the characters therein, but half the delight is discovering it yourself.

Definitely Recommended!

Kirsten Brown says

Format: AudioBook

Genre: Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary

The Vintage Girl By Hester Browne was a bit of a whim purchase for me. I usually love Erotic Romance, but to be honest the 'Vintage' part of the title pulled me in. I love all things vintage, and I loved the look of the cover.

I decided to use my Audible credit to purchase this book and was not disappointed. I loved Cathleen McCarron's voice. She was perfect for the novel.

Evie Nicholson works in a antiques store, and is a bit obsessed with all things in the past. She is invited to Kettlesheer, a struggling family mansion to value some of their stuff, and they are skint! Evie meets Robert McAndrew, son and heir to the mansion, and sort of maybe falls for him.

To be honest, it was a good story, and I loved the detail of the house, the antiques, and the dancing., but I do think for me, she fell short of the romance. Other than some odd moon eyes and one kiss, there was none. That's not to say this wasn't a great book, but for me when it comes to romance, I love the works. Dates, mates, sex, attraction, lust.. it just didn't have this.

I have never read anything by Hester Browne before, and even though the Romance part wasn't really Romancy, I think I will read more especially The Runaway Princess this sounds like a great book I wanna read.

Onwards and upwards..

Pepper Basham says

This was a really cute story! I love reading all of the wonderful English lingo and turns-of-phrases. The heroine was quirky and likeable, the hero a true Darcy-like standoffish. Browne adds a cast of nearly-eccentric characters to make a fun read.

Heather says

The Vintage Girl is exactly what it says on the cover. Evie Nicholson works for an antiques dealer in London. Her talent is finding them. Is it for the value? No. It's for the story. And that's why you kind of love her.

In 2014, where *vintage* is almost synonymous with *hipster*, Evie is an old romantic. She's more taken with

old wedding photos and the stories of generations past than a table with some value. She's in trouble with her boss for impulse buys, and her minimalistic mother and sister keep urging her to clear out her overridden flat. She, of course, refuses.

Her sister's boyfriend's family friend (phew) has inherited Castle Kettlesheer in Scotland, but they're having some financial troubles and she is tasked with finding some key pieces to sell to keep them afloat. Really, it's her dream.

It's just such a cute book. Personally, Evie is such a wonderful and naive character. Her play acting walking down the stairs, as if she was in the 1800s, was pretty adorable. *The Vintage Girl* has a little bit of romance and surprises from the past, but it's got a hell of a lot of history.

Cute seems the word that keeps springing to mind, but that's wrong. *Charming* is probably more on point. It's hardly an action filled book, but it's simply *nice*. And I really enjoyed it.

Kathryn says

4.5 STARS. Evie loves old wedding photographs, tattered teddy bears, and dreaming of an old-fashioned life far beyond the hustle and bustle of modern-day London and the prosaic demands of her antique dealing boss. Through a connection of her sister's, Evie is swept off to Kettlesheer, a glorious but economically deprived estate in Scotland, to do some antique appraising. Best of all, Evie's sister's boyfriend is the one driving Evie up to Kettlesheer--and Evie has just the teensiest crush on him. After all, he is so full of gentlemanly good manners and pleasantness and he would look so good in muttonchops and breeches. But when Evie arrives at Kettlesheer, she finds the family's begrudging heir Robert to the estate rather intriguing--and completely attractive. As Evie is swept into the beauty of the old estate and the sweet and fascinating romance between Violet and Ranald (Robert's great-grandparents) left behind in letters and photographs and family stories--not to mention the preparations for the upcoming Kettlesheer Ball she wishes desperately to attend--it is all too easy to be swept off her feet. But who will do the sweeping? And will she be able to convince Robert that Kettlesheer is worth saving?

Really, this is probably only a four star story but I loved every minute of it! It's so delicious to float into Evie's world. Kettlesheer is wonderful, the ball is gorgeous, the men are equally pleasant, and as with all of Hester Browne's books, I deeply appreciate that the romance is sweet and sexy without bringing in anything more than a passionate kiss and a lot of good conversations. (And there are no F-bombs here to spoil the old-time decorum and warmth of Kettlesheer! Happy day!) My only complaint is that I wish there had been a little less pining for her sister's boyfriend, but it all ended in a satisfactory manner. And, well, it would be awfully nice if we could all go to the Kettlesheer ball, but I suppose some of us will just have to keep dreaming...! ;-)

Mandolin says

Evie Nicholson, an antiques dealers' assistant, just knows she was born in the wrong time and place. She belongs in an age where crinoline was the material of choice, gallantry was the rule of thumb and balls were commonplace occurrences. Disappointed with her own family's sad lack of history and romance, she populates her days with fantasies of knightly gentlemen who will sweep her off her feet and indulges her passion for history and romance by hoarding antique treasures that carry their own special stories which she uses to fuel her daydreams. Imagine her delight, then, when she's invited to a Scottish castle to do a valuation for its owners and has the once-in-a-lifetime chance to live for a week in the freezing but beautifully majestic home nestled at the base of the Cheviot Hills. When she arrives, Evie finds the inhabitants in the midst of preparations for the season's biggest ball - which carries heavy implications for the futures of its participants - and is drawn into the romance and beauty of it all, fueling her search for remnants of ages past. Will Evie find the priceless treasures its owner needs to save the castle from ruin...and maybe stumble upon her own Prince Charming in the process? Or will her penchant for fantasy get her into trouble when she begins seeing things that aren't there...in the home and in the heart of its heir?

I really enjoyed this author's Little Lady series as well as Finishing Touches, so I snapped this book up the moment I learned it was available. I wasn't nearly as enthralled with it as I was with the previous books, however. Evie, though lovable because of her addiction to history and other people's stories, seems just a bit too naive for belief and some of her internal dialogue is almost adolescent, despite the fact that she's in her thirties. I found myself struggling through the middle of the book (especially during the tedious passages on dancing the reel which were too detailed for my taste) and nearly gave up, but kept on and was glad that I had at the end. So, though it certainly isn't one of her best, I suppose it was still worth the entertainment value it provided. It just could have been so much better.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I had previously read and enjoyed Hester Browne's novels when I picked up her book The Runaway Princess last year. Knowing how I had enjoyed reading that, I was looking forward to reading The Vintage Girl. The cover is SO gorgeous, I just wanted to stare at it all day, but I had to cut that short in my eagerness to read it!

Evie Nicholson is a lover of antiques, and she has so much passion for them and for the stories behind them. So when she is asked to visit Kettlesheer Castle in Scotland to archive heirlooms for a family, she can't wait and jumps at the chance. But each heirloom uncovers a story, and soon Evie stumbles upon some long-buried family secrets. In a castle with heir Robert McAndrew, Evie's heart is sent reeling with enthusiasm that isn't all about the antiques...

I thoroughly enjoyed this. Once I picked it up, it was SUCH a lovely story that I didn't want to put it back down again!

I loved reading about all of the antiques, and even though I do not have much experience with antiques, I could feel Evie's enthusiasm and absolute love and care for antiques radiating from the pages. As a result I was so excited for her to be going to Kettlesheer Castle and I was intrigued about what she might find. I loved the descriptions of the treasures at the Castle, from furniture to very old letters, and I was truly swept up in a world of old treasures and the stories and memories that came with them. Evie so obviously cared about each and every item, and I feel she was the perfect character, her warmth and love for the objects shone out and I found myself smiling and thoroughly enjoying my time with her. I really liked Robert too, and I wanted to read on because I loved his interactions with Evie and I always looked forward to their parts together with a sense of hope and love in my heart!

I particularly liked the setting of Scotland and Kettlesheer Castle, the descriptions of the castle and the surrounding area was both beautiful and vivid – I could picture every scene clearly in my mind and it felt as though I was there at the castle with Evie.

The story is so easy to follow and before I knew it I had spent a wonderful afternoon in the company of Evie. The Vintage Girl is a delightful and romantic story full of warmth, so make sure you buy a copy and enjoy curling up and getting lost in this brilliant book.
