



Awakened by a Kiss

Lila DiPasqua

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HISTORICAL ROMANCE

Three classic fairytales—“Sleeping Beauty,” “Puss in Boots,” and “Little Red Riding Hood”—cleverly retold with enough sensual twists to prove wickedly ever after does exist....

Sleeping Beau: Five years ago, the notorious rake, Adrien d’Aspe, Marquis de Beaulain, was awakened by a sensuous kiss—and experienced a night of raw ecstasy that was branded into his memory. Years later, he spots his mysterious seductress—and this time, he has no intention of letting her go...

Little Red Writing: Nicolas de Savignac, Comte de Lambelle, has been assigned by the King to uncover the secret identity of the author writing scandalous stories about powerful courtiers. He never expected his investigation would lead to his grandmother's house, or to a ravishing woman who would stir his deepest hunger...

Bewitching in Boots: Elisabeth de Roussel, daughter of the King, is accustomed to getting what she wants—and she wants Tristan de Tiersonnier, Comte de Saint-Marcel, an ex-commander of the King’s private Guard. A recent injury has forced Tristan to leave his distinguished position, but Elisabeth is determined to make him see he's every bit the man he once was—and more than man enough for her..

Awakened by a Kiss Details

Date : Published August 3rd 2010 by Berkley (first published July 23rd 2010)

ISBN : 9780425235560

Author : Lila DiPasqua

Format : Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Fantasy, Fairy Tales, Erotic Romance

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From Reader Review Awakened by a Kiss for online ebook

Carol *Young at Heart Oldie* says

Deliciously hot and spicy is how I would describe Lila DiPasqua's AWAKENED BY A KISS. It is a collection of three steamy love stories each inspired, although rather loosely, by a popular children's fairy tale.

Sleeping Beau

After an audience with his father, the King, Adrien d'Aspe, Marquis de Beaulain is not in the best of moods and anticipates enjoying a few days of drinking and debauchery at the Comtesse de Lamotte's house party. What he doesn't need is his half-sister, Charlotte, harassing him with an ill-conceived plan to win back her erstwhile lover, Philbert, Compte de Baillet. She wants Adrien to charm Philbert's fiancée, Catherine de Villancourt, and ultimately seduce her away from Philbert, leaving the way clear for Charlotte. Adrien is about to refuse when he catches sight of Catherine and recognises her as the woman who has haunted his dreams for the past five years!

Five years ago, he was awakened by a kiss from a naked, red-haired seductress with whom he spent one night of unforgettable bliss. By morning she had disappeared without trace, leaving only the remnants of an aphrodisiac in his burgundy glass, the scent of jasmine on his skin and her virgin blood on his sheets! Now he knows who she is and this time she isn't going to escape! He wants questions answered. Why did she do it? Why did she choose him?

Catherine is discussing her forthcoming marriage to Philbert de Baillet with her sister-in-law and hostess, Suzanne, when suddenly there is a buzz of excitement amongst the ladies. 'Le Beau' has arrived! Unable to contain her curiosity about the man described as the handsomest in the realm, she sneaks a peek at him but is horrified to discover he is the stranger with whom she shared one glorious night five years ago. Even worse, he is the King's bastard son! Fearing arrest and imprisonment for lacing his drink, she tries to evade him but, when this fails, she denies adamantly that she is his *midnight temptress*.

But Adrien is persistent and eventually Catherine confides to him the reason why she came to his bed that night. Unable to deny the passion that simmers between them, they agree to become lovers until Philbert arrives in five days' time. But when their time together comes to an end, can they simply walk away with their hearts intact or will they risk everything for love?

I enjoyed the cat and mouse game Adrien played with Catherine to force her to admit that she was his mysterious temptress and, for me, it helped to build up the sexual tension between them. It is satisfying to see Alex, who always prides himself on being in control, completely losing it when he's with Catherine. He definitely earned a little spot in my heart when he tells Catherine that her painting is wonderful, much to her surprise and joy.

Catherine has spirit and I was amused when Adrien sets down his conditions for their affair and then she counters with her own conditions! I like her honesty in admitting that she wants the affair because she desires Adrien. Five years ago, Adrien opened up the world of sexual pleasure for her and now she wants to explore it to the full.

I enjoyed the comic relief provided by Catherine's maid, Odette, particularly the scene where she finds

Adrien in Catherine's bed and covers her eyes in shock but then proceeds to peek at his naked chest through her fingers!

Little Red Writing

Ambition is what drives newly promoted Musketeer, Nicolas de Savignac, Compte de Lambelle, and his determination to complete this mission for the King is all consuming. However, he did not expect to find himself in the home of the Comtesse de Cottineau, his estranged grandmother. He has been charged with identifying and arresting Gilbert Leduc, an author who is writing defamatory stories about high-ranking men of the court. His inquiries have led him to the de Vignon sisters who live with his grandmother.

Having successfully lured his grandmother away, he hopes to persuade the sisters that he is here to get to know his grandmother better after being estranged for so long. Convinced that one of the sisters is Leduc, the way will then be clear for him to search the house for incriminating evidence. When he meets Anne de Vignon, he is instantly attracted to her. He was expecting a plain spinster, not a ravishing redhead! Anne feels a similar attraction towards Nicholas but is wary of him until she discovers that he is their patroness's grandson. The voice of oppressed women must be heard and Anne is determined to keep her identity as Leduc a secret.

Anne and Nicholas become lovers but what starts out as a need to simply satisfy their lust for each other soon develops into a love affair. But how will Anne react when she discovers Nicholas's duplicity? And will Nicholas be able to save the woman he loves from arrest?

This is the longest and most compelling of the three stories. I was particularly drawn by the dilemma, which faces Nicholas and how this plays out. Initially, he regards the affair with Anne as a very pleasurable way of passing the time while searching for evidence to uncover Leduc's identity. As his feelings for Anne intensify, so does the guilt over his lies and, as if things can't get any worse, he then discovers that Anne is Leduc! He is put in an untenable position and there seems no way out without losing Anne.

I like the way in which Ms DiPasqua resolves Nicholas's dilemma and also brings about his reconciliation with his grandmother, but I did feel that the final resolution of Anne's predicament is a little too pat. I was also disappointed not to have been privy to Anne's conversation with the King as I think it would have been most entertaining.

Past experiences have caused Anne to hide behind a protective shell but when Nicholas reads her poems, they reveal someone spirited and fiery. That spirit finds an outlet in her writing, which brings attention to women's subjugation. I also think it shows real bravery because, if discovered, she risks possible imprisonment or worse. It is Nicholas who finally breaks through her emotional shell and re-discovers the passionate woman underneath.

Bewitching in Boots

Widowed Elisabeth de Roussel, the King's daughter, knows that it won't be long before her father chooses another husband for her. But there is only one man who has her heart, Tristan de Tiersonnier, Compte de Saint-Marcel. Former Captain of the King's private Guard, he suffered a leg injury saving the King's life. Considering him unable to perform his role, the King has replaced him and Tristan has returned to his estate. Elisabeth is determined to prove to her father that Tristan should be re-instated and that he is suitable to be her husband.

So she descends on his estate with her entourage under the pretext that the King wants Tristan to find her the best fencing master. Of course, as far as Elisabeth is concerned, he is the best fencing master. Elisabeth plans to seduce Tristan but he isn't prepared to play by her rules. He doesn't like her and wants her gone as soon as possible even though the sight of her dressed in tight fitting 'breeches, black boots and a white shirt' does things to his anatomy.

Tristan has had enough of her games and issues an ultimatum. Either she leaves or

There won't be any part of your body I won't avail myself of.

Finding Elisabeth gone the next morning, he thinks his ploy has worked but all too soon, he finds out how wrong he is. Let the battle begin because it will take more than Tristan's threats to make Elisabeth quake in her *Lucky Boots*!

This is my favourite story of the three with its sharp repartee and sizzling sexual tension. Despite his rudeness and brusque manner, I confess that I liked Tristan from the very beginning. I understand his initial attitude towards Elisabeth. He considers her spoiled and self-indulgent and dislikes being made the subject of the little game she is obviously playing. I enjoyed watching him gradually change into a doting lover as he discovers the real Elisabeth.

Elisabeth is a charming heroine who is not only beautiful but intelligent as well. After bowing to her father's wishes in the past, I admire her determination now to go after what she wants. Tristan's opinion of Elisabeth is influenced by her scheming at court to retain her position as the King's favourite daughter. However, we discover that her real motive is to protect her sister, Claire. She cares for Tristan and recognises him as a man of honour who deserves to be re-instated in his former job. She is not above using a little deception to achieve this!

Overall Thoughts

The stories are entertaining and the setting of the French court of Louis XIV with all its political manoeuvering and sexual intrigue is refreshingly different. As expected, there are plenty of steamy love scenes which will definitely leave you hot and bothered. What I particularly like is Ms DiPasqua's ability to combine the erotic and the romantic. Oh là là -- if the heroes of these stories are typical of Frenchmen, then it is no surprise that they have earned the reputation of being superb lovers!!

If you are looking for a super sexy and entertaining read, I can recommend AWAKENED BY A KISS and I'm certainly looking forward to reading the follow up, 'A Princess in His Bed'.

The book contains explicit sexual love scenes, which may not appeal to everyone.

<http://erotic.theromancereviews.com/v...>

This review was originally written for The Romance Reviews

Victoria Vane says

Book contains Erotic content

This book is comprised of 3 historical erotic romance novellas inspired by 17th century French fairy tales. The author did a fabulous job of bringing the luxurious and licentious reign of the Sun King, to life through her primary characters who are all bastard children of Louis XIV.

I was charmed and titillated by these highly sensual tales.

Ashley says

My Review:

Novella #1: SLEEPING BEAU

For five long tormented years, Adrien Christophe d'Aspe de Bourbon, Marquis de Beaulain has been assailed by haunting erotic dreams of the woman who once drugged him then went on to grant him the most memorable sexual escapade of his life. Leaving with the dawn, he never learned her identity and though he searched, she was never found. Now in the present, Adrien's emotional and heartbroken younger half-sister pleads with him to seduce the woman that has stolen her lover's heart. Exasperated by his sister's immature demands and foolish stubbornness to cling to a man that obviously no longer wants her, Adrien is inclined to say no until he glimpses the woman in question. It's her, his midnight temptress and this time he'll not allow her escape without giving him the answers to the questions that have haunted him for five endless years.

Catherine de Villecourt is weeks from securing a life that will finally grant her the contentment that has thus far succeeded to eluded her. Married off to her now late husband, a man who didn't love her, Catherine did all she could to prevent the nuptials even going to the extent of sullying her virginity, but to no avail. While her upcoming marriage is once again a loveless one, the chance for children and a family is all she requires. But Catherine may be looking at a life in prison when she's cornered by the man she drugged with an aphrodisiac all those years ago. The sweet memories of their love making have sustained her heart all this time but with his identity finally revealed as one of the illegitimate sons of the King, her actions, if learned, could very easily find Catherine incarcerated.

While Catherine persists in denying she was the lady that seduced Adrien all those nights ago, he'll not give up. Hoping to strike a mutually beneficial agreement, Catherine propositions Adrien by granting him one week as his mistress in exchange for his silence. Foolishly both hope to purge the other from their lustful thoughts but as one sinful encounter after another leads them quickly towards week's end, their hearts soon prove to be in grave danger. But with Catherine betrothed to another and Adrien hesitant to make a commitment, their affair might end with heartache after all.

My Thoughts:

SLEEPING BEAU resonated strongly with my reader heart. The sinfully erotic content, sharp language, and forbidden passion reminded me greatly of Lisa Valdez and her debut release, PASSION. From beginning to end, I loved this novella.

Adrien is a delicious hero. His quick and befuddling possessiveness where Catherine's concerned is both entertaining and heart pounding to read. He wants her so badly and while he hopes to draw out every moment of their short affair, Catherine manages to push his control to the limit every time.

I enjoyed Catherine as well. She's so desperate for love yet she's managed to put a stranglehold on her

desires. Both of these characters have simply been moving with the waves of time until they're once again faced with each other. It's only in that moment that they finally awake and become the people they were meant to be.

A-

My Review:

Novella #2: LITTLE RED WRITING

Nicolas de Savignac, Comte de Lambell is consumed by a single driving goal to become Captain of the King's Guard and he'll use any means necessary to achieve it. Sent on a mission to locate and arrest Gilbert Leduc, author of illegal publishing's that paint the male French aristocracy in an unfavorable light, Nicolas tracks the notorious author to his estranged grandmother's residence. Arranging a tedious diversion for his grandmother that quickly takes her away, Nicolas promptly makes his acquaintance with the three sisters residing at the estate with the rouse that he wishes to learn more of the grandmother he's never met.

Everything is soon going to plan along with a surprising yet lovely diversion in the form Anne de Vignon and the mutual lust that ignites between them.

Anne is more than wary of Nicolas but he's the grandson of her patroness and to be rude would speak poorly of her high esteem for the Comtesse de Cottineau. Besides, Gilbert Leduc is more than safe for no one has been able to trace him much less believe that a couple of girls are in fact the popular author. Women need the outlet that Leduc provides them. In a world where men have complete and utter control, the grievances that women bear are too great. At least Leduc can provide them a moment to shine light on the oppressive behavior of their men. No, what Anne is more wary of is the uncontrollable desire within her soul that burns for Nicolas. Having only known neglect in a man's arms, Anne recognizes the pleasure that Nicolas could provide her. What's the harm in taking a lover especially when he's as sinfully beautiful as Nicolas?

Where Nicolas once thought that sleeping Anne, who very well may be involved with Gilbert Leduc, wouldn't ever be a problem, now guilt assails him. He's falling for Anne and as time whittles away and his avoidance of his investigation becomes a crushing burden that he must see through, Nicolas makes the decision to tell Anne of his love. While he must soon make his arrest whether it be Anne or one of her sisters, he knows that one of them is Leduc but he will do all that he can to keep Anne out of prison. He'll even risk his dream of becoming Captain of the Guard.

My Thoughts:

The most complex of the three novellas, LITTLE RED WRITING is a roller coaster of intensities. While of course you dislike Nicolas immensely at the beginning, his heart's turmoil soon puts you on the edge as you suffer along with him knowing that in the end, he's still bound by his royal obligations. There is also gratification in reading of a selfish man falling victim to his own arrogance. The brilliance is in the writing however in that you're soon rooting for Nicolas with the hopes that he'll reach his Happily Ever After.

Anne, conversely, is lovely from beginning to end. I loved her devotion to her sisters and the need she felt to help women. While perhaps it might not have been the best avenue to accomplish the latter with Gilbert Leduc, I enjoyed the light that was shown on the injustices towards women.

B+

My Review:

Novella #3: BEWITCHING IN BOOTS

Elisabeth de Roussel, the favored daughter of the King, is wholly enamored by the King's Captain of the Guard, Tristan de Tiersonnier. Ever since the moment she first clapped eyes on his stunningly strong physique and piercing gaze, she's wanted to be the sole recipient of his heated regard and lusty embrace. After his callous dismal for an injury obtained from doing his duty and protecting the King, Elisabeth knows that he's been dealt a grave injustice. But there's more to Elisabeth's desire then to just see Tristan righteously reinstated, she wants him for herself. Knowing that her father is once again planning to marry her off, this time she'll have more of a say as to whom. Planning the seduction of a life time, Elisabeth sets off for Tristan's chateau with every intention of claiming him for good or to at least purge her flaming desire once and for all.

The last person in the world that Tristan wishes to see is Elisabeth and her royal entourage. His dismissal as the Captain of the Guard has left him bitter and depressed as he haunts his chateau. Solitude is what he craves not the favored daughter of the King. But when the beauty alights from her carriage clad scandalously in gripping breeches and skin hugging boots, all of Tristan's thoughts head directly south. Determined to scare her from his premises, he threatens her with silken scarves and complete domination. (Uhhh yeah, like who would say no to that? Thankfully not our heroine)

Forever in control, Elisabeth is at first frightened to let down her guard in front of Tristan. Trained to always withhold emotion whilst at court, Elisabeth doesn't know how to express herself with words. Soon, however, she finds release in Tristan's hold. But when she gambles with her future in attempt to secure her marriage to Tristan, her scheming ways may finally succeed in dumping her on the loosing end.

My Thoughts:

BEWITCHING IN BOOTS is the most erotic of the three novellas, in my opinion, making it a delightful stellar of a finale.

First, I love a broken hero, especially a physically broken hero. Tristan embodies all that and more but what I loved above all else, is his ability to keep his pride from clouding his judgement. Too many times I've read of the prideful yet broken hero and his crushing ability to hurt his heroine and it was wholly refreshing to find that in this novella, that wasn't the case.

Normally, a managing female such as Elisabeth wouldn't necessarily be my favorite but what I discovered along with Tristan is that she was a much needed flame that re lit Tristan's dismal life. She was perfect for him.

A-

AWAKENED BY A KISS is a sinfully erotic collection of multi-layered plots and characters that's sure to please. One certainly doesn't need to be familiar with the fairy tales that inspire these romances in order to fall head-over-heels in love for its the collection of heroes and heroines that make this compilation so marvellously entertaining. Readers yearning for a lusciously romantic diversion will find all that in more with this first edition in Lila DiPasqua's Fiery Tales Collection.

Rane says

Once upon a time, about a few days ago.. a poor reviewer by the name of Rane...was BORED! The horrors! The shame! For upon her mountain of TBR did she not find a single book that drew her. Book upon book did she toss aside woe is poor Rane! The poor reviewer was at wits end when she spied a book by a new author, with fairy tales retold in an erotic feel, my blushes! With the hope that perhaps a short story may cure her reader's troubles Rane picked up the book and was quickly capture into each story, full of silliness, yumminess, sexiness and men who no doubt were part of Rane's indecent dreams...

Each short story has women whom were so sure of themselves and men whom desired them, with a fairy tale twist each story left a smile on Rane's face..(or it could be more indecent thoughts...)

Sleeping Beau- 4 Stars

One night while he slept Adrien Christophe d'Aspe de Bourbon, Marquis de Beaulain, was awoke by a woman whose seduction left him with her memory even after five years, until he meets her Catherine de Villecourt again. Catherine thought she seduce someone else, not the beautiful man she lost not only her virginity but herself that night so many years ago, now face to face again with him, she may lose more, she may lose her heart!

By mistake Catherine drugged Adrien in order to rid herself of her virginity before she was forced to marry another, of course in the way of fairy tales, nothing is as it seems, and Catherine and Adrien meet once again with the passion they once felt in each other going red-hot. The characters of Catherine and Adrien were enjoyable. Both embraced passion they felt for one another, and while it was a little tougher for Adrien to see the love he felt for Catherine was real, with the help of his three uncles, was able to ride to the rescue of Catherine!

Now that was all good and all, until up and to the end, where Adrien's sister goes bat-shit crazy and goes out to poison Catherine as she's to marry the man she loves, and Adrien is there to kiss her awake with an extra healing potion for good measure of course! And luvveee!

Still I enjoyed the story, so all was not lost, and the scenes between Catherine and Adrien were yummy, why the scene against the door...*coughcough* Moving on!

Little Red Writing- 5 Stars

Anne de Vignon and her sisters have a secret, one that could land them in jail. At day they write poems and stories, but Anne with the help of her sisters, and her sponsor Comtesse de Cottineau write under another name, to help women of the higher court of men get a sort of revenge on the pains they cause, that is until the big bad wolf, le Loup-

comes a-knocking in the form of Nicolas de Savignac the comtesse grandson, and a musketeer whom happens to be on a mission to uncover the face behind the pen. But when Red tames the Wolf, there's still trouble and secrets that must be uncovered or there will be no happy ever after for these two...

Anne and Nicolas have both had their shares of heartache and pain from those they loved and looked up to, and as Nicolas discovers more about Anne, he finds he doesn't want to accept she could be the face behind the nasty tell-all, and wants to protect her with all his heart. Anne hurt once by love is falling in love again, but can she trust a wolf in sheep's clothing? Great balance that makes a short story great, nice development of the characters and some yummy sex scenes, and thankfully no misunderstandings to add word count of the story!

Bewitching in Boots- 4 stars

Elisabeth de Roussel has been in love with King's private Guard of the Musketeers Tristan de Tiersonnier, Comte de Saint-Marcel for many years. And when Tristan is hurt and forced to leave the musketeers, Elisabeth comes up with a plan to get Tristan reinstated, and perhaps finally have her one night with him, with lucky and her lucky boots Elisabeth is going to need all the help she can get!

Elisabeth has had to fight a lot of backstabbing and trash talking in the royal court to not only rise up to become her father's favorite daughter, but to protect her younger sister from harm. When she learns of Tristan's dismissal, she sets out to win a night in his bed and finally get him out of her system, but get him back into the musketeers were he belongs. Tristan has been on the out and outs after his injury and when Elisabeth comes rolling into his home, he's taken back on what she wants. Always thinking she was cold, he's surprised to learn there's more to her than meets the eye.

Fun and sexy, Elisabeth's plans were a little out there, but let the story flow nicely in the end and for both Tristan and Elisabeth to gain their HEA after all!

Now Rane the reviewer was cured of her reader boredom and quickly picked up the second of the fairy tale series, but of course that's for another review....

The End Until next time!

Click on the "Mirror" to be transported to The Princess in His bed review...

Dawn says

This is a collection of three separate stories. I am writing a review of each for my own benefit since I tend to forget details once I've moved on to the next.

Sleeping Beau - Adrien is the bastard (though recognized) son of the King, Louis XIV. He is a well-known rake going from one conquest to the next without emotional ties of any kind. He finds himself at a house party where he spots a woman he had an encounter with five years ago. She captivated him, but left him with no clue as to her identity. He has never forgotten her. She is Catherine and five years ago used him to take her virginity in the hopes of spoiling an unwanted engagement. It didn't work. She had a miserable marriage, but is now a widow. Adrien can't resist the temptation to possess her again. Catherine, however, is engaged to his sister's lover although it is not a love match. His sister wants his help to spoil their engagement. He refuses to be a part of her scheme but he can't resist Catherine and the feelings she awakens in him. They have a very touching HEA. This story was short but quite moving and emotional.

Little Red Writing - Another emotion-packed story. My heart just breaks for them sometimes. This time it is Nicolas, one of the King's guard, on a mission for the crown to determine the identity of an author secretly and illegally publishing thinly veiled stories detrimental to men of the aristocracy. Anne, one of three sisters

who are suspects, live with their benefactress who turns out to be Nicolas's estranged grandmother. Nicolas takes notice of Anne and decides to seduce her to gain information for his case. Of course, it turns out to be much more than just sex between them. And, of course, they have their HEA and Nicolas is even reunited with his grandmother. Very nice story.

Bewitching in Boots - This tantalizing tale is about Elisabeth, the King's favorite daughter, and Tristan, former captain of the King's private Guard. He was injured saving the life of the King and Elizabeth's sister three months previous and was sent to his chateau to recuperate. He was replaced of course which made him withdrawn and despondent. Elisabeth had always been enamored of him and decided that she would show up at his house on the pretense of needing a fencing instructor. Tristan found her captivating in her men's garb and her unique boots. She had to do some convincing to get him to agree to the lessons, but what she also wanted was to bed him thinking that would get him out of her system. Yeah, right. They both fall in love and have a wonderful HEA.

Lila DiPasqua is a new author to me and I thoroughly enjoyed all 3 stories. Her style is a bit more raw than what I am generally used to reading. But it was still enjoyable. I am going to look for the other 2 books in this series.

Mandi Schreiner says

Reviewed by Mandi

Awakened by a Kiss is the debut book by author Lila DiPasqua. It features three short stories, each an erotic twist on a fairy tale.

Sleeping Beau

Adrien d'Aspe, bastard son of Louis XIV has had his way with many, many women, but the one that stands out the most is a one night affair he had five years ago. Catherine de Villecourt enchanted him one evening and he has never forgot her. He has also never forgot the realization that after she fled the next morning, he had taken her virginity. But as fate has its hand in his affairs, Catherine has shown up at the very chateau he is at.

Catherine is shocked to learn her lover those five years ago is the son of the King. Her maid drugged Adrien that night, to ensure a successful romp in the bedroom, and now Catherine is frightened he will want revenge. But the moment they are alone, he wants nothing more than to seduce her again. With Catherine's fiancé set to come into town at week's end, Catherine must decide if this man from the past is worthy of her love.

Sleeping Beau is a very steamy story about two people who have such a great attraction toward each other, but five years of messy history between their one night of passion. They are both feeling pressure from their families on how to live their lives but now that they have reunited, and learned the other's identity, they both want nothing more than to learn about the other in the bedroom.

Adrien is a very sexy hero who is not shy with the ladies, but his eyes are only set on Catherine. Catherine is passionate, and...horny, and wants Adrien back in her bed. Her maid Odette has some very cute lines and the romance in this story is very hot. I think at the end Adrien's sister overreacts to events and what she ends up

doing is a little over the top and dramatic and took away from the story.

Rating: 3/5

Little Red Writing

Nicholas de Savignac has earned the nickname le loup, or the Wolf because of his never ending quests and hard work to hunt those he seeks. Currently, his majesty has asked Nicholas to find the writer of illegal short stories. Pen portraits were nothing new, usually telling the tale of the upper class with names changed. But the anonymous author Nicholas seeks is mocking very powerful men, and these men want these stories to be stopped. Nicholas' investigation has led him to Anne, her two sisters and The Saturday Salon, hosted by Comtesse de Cottineau. Having taken in these three sisters, the Comtesse has given them a means to write and be published.

Nicholas is such a confident hero that he thinks he will saunter into the Salon and solve this mystery. His conscience starts to talk to him as he is attracted to Anne, and feels just a bit guilty he is seducing her all the while sneaking behind her back to go through her things to discover if she is behind these stories. I really enjoyed this one, the cocky hero is always a favorite of mine and there are some nice twists at the end.

Rating: 3.5/5

Bewitching in Boots

Elisabeth de Roussel wants Tristan de Tiersonnier, and being daughter of the King, she is used to getting what she wants. Tristan was recently injured and replaces as Captain of the Guard, which has hurt his spirit. Elisabeth is scared that her father is ready to select a new husband for her, and it will be someone she doesn't want. She puts her breeches on, slaps on her very fab boots, and rides up to Tristan's place with a plan in place to seduce this very sexy man. She not only has to seduce him into her bed, but also into marriage.

I really loved this story. Tristan is tired of people pitying him, yet does nothing to really improve his life. Elisabeth swooshes in and demands fencing lessons and other, er – vigorous activity. The cold hearted hero meets his match in the very vivacious and lively Elisabeth and it is fun to read their journey. And the smex – oh the smex in this one definitely deserves the smutty title.

Rating: 4/5

Awakened by a Kiss contains three short stories that fans of erotic romance will enjoy. I really think taking fairy tales that we all know and love and giving them an adult twist is a fun idea and Lila DiPasqua does a nice job in giving us three unique stories. Each one contains scenes that will have the smutty hearts out there beating in overtime. I could have done without the high drama at the end of some of them, but I definitely look forward to more.

Rating: 3.5/5

Heather says

I wasn't sure what to expect with these stories based on Perrault's fairy tales, and categorized as erotic

romance. I'm not sure this will be an author I revisit, but I will say what I appreciated. (1) The time period. There aren't many romances based during this time in France, and it gave the society a different vibe. (2) The women weren't naïve, but neither were they whores. They respected their places in society, but they did what they wanted, quietly. Worth reading if you like stories based on old tales.

Wendy says

Lila Di Pasqua takes three childhood fairy tales and makes them over into a tantalizing and luscious read. I will never look at Sleeping Beauty the same way again. The heroes in these tales are absolutely delectable!

Booklover1335 says

AWAKENED BY A KISS by Lila DiPasqua is a collection of three "cleverly retold" fairy tales containing elements of the classic stories, but with new, creative and steamy interpretations. Each story is approximately one hundred pages long which made them quick, yet seductively satisfying reads.

The first book "Sleeping Beau" was adapted from "Sleeping Beauty" and is a great beginning to this anthology. Adrien d'Aspe, the Marquis of Beaulain, is commonly known to the women of the French court as "le Beau" for obvious reasons. He's the bastard son of the King (who has an enormous brood of illegitimate, though acknowledged children) and was cursed at birth. He was given into the care of his three rakish bachelor godfathers to raise, and follows in their legendary footsteps until he is reunited with the one woman who awakened his passion and his heart to the possibility of love.

"Little Red Writing" was my absolute favorite of the three tales. Nicolas de Savignac, is one of the king's trusted musketeers and is known as "le loup" or "the wolf" to his peers because of his hunting skills, as well as for his relentless and cunning pursuit of threats to the crown. He finds himself faced with the dilemma of being true to his strict personal code and how he defines himself by his occupation, or to protect the woman he loves from uncertain danger by revealing her as the scandalous author who attempts to provide justice through her writing to women who have been wronged by the men in their lives.

"Bewitching in Boots" I think was the weakest of the three fiery tales and centers around Elizabeth (the favorite, though illegitimate daughter of the king) and Tristan (the former Captain of the Musketeers). She has loved him from afar and is determined to seduce him while at the same time proving to both him and his father that he is worthy of her love. This particular story didn't seem to hold the same magic that the other two did, and I found Elizabeth's machinations to be selfish, and Tristan's acceptance of her potentially deadly scheming to be too easy despite her altruistic yet self-serving motivations.

Despite my feelings about "Bewitching in Boots" many things about this collection of stories appealed to me. I loved that the stories weren't exactly what I expected. While the stories contained elements of the originals that were recognizable, they were not just rewritten with more explicit love elements. That for me would have been wearisome. Instead each variation on the original contained interesting and captivating twists that

were imaginative, fresh...and yes steamier.

I loved that this collection of historical romance short stories was set in France, and that French terms were used within the tales when appropriate. I have to admit I think it made it sexier.....especially since there was a handy glossary at the back of the book that explained the meanings and terms that were used. I also appreciated that an excerpt from the original fairy tale by Charles Perrault preceded each story. While I can't say that I learned a moral lesson from Lila's stories, one thing I did learn was that her next collection of "Fiery Tales", The Princess In His Bed due out November 2010 can't come soon enough.

Ratings:

Overall: 4.0 stars. I would give the individual stories the following star ratings:

- * Sleeping Beau= 4.0 stars
- * Little Red Writing= 4.5 stars
- * Puss in Boots=3.0 stars

Sensuality: 3.5 (a tad bit more explicit than a traditional historical romance, but nothing shocking)

Patti TheLoveJunkee says

The premise of this book sounded very interesting - erotic fairy tales? They were not exactly what I'd expected but I did find the book enjoyable.

In Sleeping Beau, Adrien is the newly legitimate son of the king. He's at a house party where all the ton is there, when he spies a stunning woman - a woman he'd had an unbelievable encounter with five years previously. She'd come to his bed, had amazingly erotic sex, and then left him without a backward glance. He'd not forgotten her since. Catherine has her reasons for the events of that evening, and when she arrives at her friend's home and sees Lord Adrien she is upset. He eventually corners her and she slowly reveals her reasons for their encounter. He convinces her to agree to a dalliance while they are staying on the estate, until her betrothed comes to claim her; he doesn't mention his sister is her betrothed's mistress...

This story was very erotic. Catherine had a history that made me want an HEA for her. Adrien was a good as hero, the reformed rake, smitten by the "mystery woman" who tamed his heart. The events at the end of the story came as a surprise, and tied neatly in with the original fairy tale.

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In Little Red Writing, Nicholas nickname The Wolf) is a Musketeer, searching his estranged grandmother's home for evidence of an author penning illegal books. He's narrowed it down to the three sisters living in his grandmother's home, but doesn't know which one it is. Anne and her sisters write the stories, aiding women who have no one else to turn to - airing their grievances while at the same time exposing the male aristocracy for the insults committed against those who are helpless in society (ie, women). As cold-hearted Nicholas begins his investigation, he is taken by the beauty of Anne, and after bedding her, begins to fall in love.

Anne's past had shaped her into a bitter woman, focusing only on the injustices in life, until Nicholas showed her passion. By the time Nicholas acknowledged his feelings for Anne, it was too late - the King demanded an audience. At first I wasn't too fond of Nicholas, but by the end of the story he surprised me and won me over! (And it wasn't just the desk sex!!)

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Bewitching in Boots has two of my favorite storylines: Enemies to Lovers, and Women in Historical Novels Who Wear Men's Clothing (I don't know why I like that but I do!). I think this was my favorite of the three stories - Elizabeth, favored daughter of the King, arrives at the home of Tristan, the King's former chief guard, planning to seduce him into her bed and into marriage, which will be difficult to do as he hates her. Elizabeth knows the king is planning to marry her off again and this time she wants to choose her husband. This was a nice story and I liked both the hero and heroine. There was some light bondage (yay!) and the ending made me happy.

I think sometimes with short stories, the authors have to jump right into the "good stuff" so they can occasionally feel a bit abrupt. These stories were an entertaining take on traditional fairy tales, every now and then I'd catch something and think "yes, from the original fairy tale", which made it fun.

My rating: 3 1/2 stars

Katie(babs) says

Debut author, Lila DiPasqua has arrived on the scene with an anthology showcasing three erotic retellings of those fairy tales we loved to read as children. Each story is set during the reign of Louis XIV during the late 17th century. Seductive, tantalizing and hot are the three words that come to mind as I read these shorts. Lila DiPasqua writes great steamy sex without the overuse of purple prose.

Sleeping Beau is about the smutty rake, Adrien d'Aspe, Marquis of Beaulain. Adrien is one of King Louis' illegitimate children and enjoys embarrassing his father. Adrien's sister Charlotte wants Philbert de Baillet badly. Now that Philbert is to be married to the widowed Catherine de Villecourt, he has pushed aside Charlotte. She wants Adrien to seduce Catherine and ruin her in the eyes of her fiancé. Adrien wants to do nothing of the sort that is until he sees Catherine. He believes that Catherine was the woman who drugged him with an aphrodisiac five years ago and gave him the best sex of his life.

Adrien confronts Catherine, who acts as if she has no idea that he's talking about. Adrien has never forgiven the redhead temptress and will ravish her if he has to so she will admit that she is the mysterious woman that got away. Catherine had her own reasons for tricking Adrien the way she did and still wants him desperately. She allows him to seduce her and give her the all consuming lovemaking that was lacking in her marriage. They will enjoy the next few days together in the carnal sense until her fiancé comes for her.

Sleeping Beau is a perfect tale about a man who finally finds that one woman who completes him and will make him loyal and deserving. Adrien is very likable even with him being proud of his man ho ways. Lila gives us some insight on his nature and you really believe that Catherine can save him.

Little Red Writing is about Anne de Vignon, who publishes romantic poetry under her real name while using

the alias of Gilbert Leduc to ridicule and mock men who she believes have no morals. King Louis orders one of his Musketeers, Nicholas de Savignac to find Leduc's true identity. When he meets Anne and her two sisters, he knows one of them could possibly be Leduc. Known as le Loup- the Wolf, Nicholas will take down Leduc even if it means seducing Anne and learning all her secrets.

Anne has given up on love, but when she meets Nicolas her heart yearns for passion that her past lovers couldn't give her. She welcomes Nicholas into her bedroom, where she is open to the delights of his lovemaking, totally unaware of what he really has planned for her.

Little Red Writing is a bit more understated but still sexy. This story has some nice tension to it, including a nice connection between Anne and Nicolas. There is one great scene in the library that shows how much of a giver Nicolas is. The final outcome brings forth a few surprises I wasn't expected.

Bewitching in Boots is about the widow Elisabeth de Roussel and King Louis' favorite illegitimate daughter. Elisabeth is afraid her father will make her marry another man she finds lacking. Only one man will do and one she is near obsessed with- Tristan de Tieronnier, the ex-commander of the King's private guard. She goes to his chateau to seduce him and won't be denied.

Tristan feels like less than a man because of an accident that has caused him to go lame in one leg. When Elisabeth arrives and won't leave, he is frustrated in more ways than one. He thinks she is conniving and a flirt who uses men to her advantage. If Elisabeth stays, she will play by his rules and than means he will be in charge of her body and in the bedroom.

Bewitching in Boots is a delicious tale that has a very strong willed heroine who longs to be taken control by a man who makes her body weep. The sex between Tristan and Elisabeth is dirty, hot and too good for words. Lila makes a great case why Tristan and Elisabeth are perfect for one another.

Awakened by a Kiss has a great deal of sopping wet, soaking drawers and passionate kissing on beds, against walls and on desks. Not only does Lila write great sex scenes, but she gives her character depth and has created a great world during a time period I wasn't too knowledgeable about.

If you are looking for a few short and steamy erotic romances to tickle your fancy, do give Awakened by a Kiss a try. I look forward to more Lila DiPasqua releases and I can see her making a name for herself in the erotic romance world.

Brande Waldron says

Awakened By A Kiss by Lila DiPasqua you are served up three delicious and scandalous romances that are loosely based on some of our best loved fairy tales.

First you have Sleeping Beau, Adrien d'Aspe who five years ago had his world rocked to it's core when he slept with the woman who has since haunted his dreams, his every fantasy. But now he has her right where he wants her. They can't resist each other, but she is set to marry another. A marriage of convenience and safety, to a man that Adrien's sister is deeply in love with, a man that has dropped her as his mistress like hot coals.

Catherine despite her better judgement has never felt the way she has with another man than she did with Adrien. He lights something in her that can't be tamed.

Oh the tangled web we weave should be the title of Adrien and Catherine's love affair. And with the help of his three meddling uncles (think 3 fairy Godmothers) this story was a pure delight with sinfully decadent encounters that will leave you fanning yourself and wanting more.

In Little Red Writing Anne de Vignon is a woman in disguise. In a time when women were not accepted as writers, much less a writer of scandalous romantic poetry. This isn't going to fly with the King and now she a wanted woman, thing is they THINK it is a woman since she is writing under the pen name of Gilbert Leduc. One thing about Anne is I found her utterly adorable, especially with Nicholas de Savignac a.k.a. The Wolf, who just happens to be hot on her tail and needs to arrest her in the name of the King for her lewd literature!

But as cupid would have it love strikes the two and Nicholas is challenged, love for Anne or his duty to the King.

Bewitching In Boots is about Elisabeth de Roussel is a widowed and taking control of her love life. If she has her way she will have the handsome Tristan de Tiersonnier who just happens to be but wounded inside and out. But Elisabeth is feisty and I have to say one of my favorite characters, she must act quickly before her father, the King decides to choose another man for her. No other will do but the sexy Tristan. Thing is Tristen doesn't want the strong willed and determined Elisabeth in his life. He feels less than a man and his ego has taken a huge hit, thinking she is only here to tease him. She knows what she wants and she isn't backing down. I thought their love scenes were the hottest of the three, although they all were pretty incredible!

Problem, he can't resist the seductive beauty and Elisabeth knows that this is his one chance to capture Tristan's heart

Three fantastic stories that will take you away into a world of fairy tale romance, capturing your heart as well as your emotions. Lila has created each character in such a manor that they weave a tantalizing web of drama, romance and good old fashioned naughty love scenes that will light the pages on fire. Simply delicious.

Bookaholics says

Awakened by a Kiss (Fiery Tales, Book 1) by Lila DiPasqua
Erotic Historical-Aug. 3, 2010
4 stars

Awakened by A Kiss is an anthology full of highly erotic and decadent stories based very loosely on 3 fairy tales. (If I hadn't been told they have been based on fairy tales I would not have realized it!) In these 3 stories, 3 couples find passion and love in the luxurious background of rich Versailles during the reign of the Sun King XIV.

Sleeping Beau

In the first story the handsome rake Adrien d'Aspe is awakened by the kiss of a mysterious woman. They shared a night of unforgettable passion. Years later he believes he has found her but she denies knowing him. He knows she was his lover and is determined to get to acknowledge him even if he has to seduce her...

Little Red Writing

In the 2nd story, Nicolas de Savignac is on an assignment by his king to find a suspicious writer. But is surprised when his lead suspects are located at his grandmother house where he finds 3 lovely ladies. All of them sisters. One attracts his attention and his desire. He knows he must find the culprit but what will his new love do when she finds out he suspects them and must turn one of them in? How can he protect his love and her sisters and still remain loyal to his king?

Bewitching in Boots

In the last story the illegitimate and highly sought after daughter of the King wants one thing. Tristan de Tiersonnier. The problem is that he has never seemed to like her. Under the pretext of hiring him to teach her fencing skills she wears her lucky boots and sets after seducing him into her arms.

I was surprised and pleased at how much I enjoyed and was titillated by these delicious stories of sensuality and romance. This book is definitely erotic and packs a ton of scorching reads. However, the author does not stint on the story. I found all the characters likeable and did feel they actually cared for each other unlike many just erotic books which are filled with purely sex scenes. The blazing scenes were very tasteful and only included the main 2 characters.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who loves HOT romance filled with sumptuous fantasy and is looking for an easy and light read.

Reviewed by Steph from Bookaholics Romance Book Club

Elizabeth says

Lila DiPasqua's lushly erotic writing is sophisticated, sensuous, and deeply romantic. If you love historical romance, this is an author to watch!

Nely says

Awakened by a Kiss is the first book in Lila DiPasqua's Fiery Tales Series. In it you'll find three well-known fairytales with an erotic twist.

Sleeping Beau: Adrien d'Aspe, bastard son of Louis XIV, cannot forgot the one night affair he had years ago with Catherine de Villecourt. He remembers it almost like a dream, it was so long ago. But luck is on his side, since the lovely Catherine will be a guest at the same chateau and he will finally find the opportunity to confront her.

Catherine can't believe that Adrien is the King's son. And even worse, she knows he will want revenge after her maid drugged him in order for Catherine to have her way with him those five years ago. She needed a quick tumble in order to rid herself of her virginity - instead she found a handsome stranger who has starred in all her dreams since.

Little Red Writing: Nicholas de Savignac is one of infamous Musketeers but is more commonly known as

"le loup" or "the wolf" since he will stop at nothing to catch the bad guy. His current mission is to find the author of illegal publishing's that depict some of France's male aristocracy in an unfavorable light. His investigation has led him to the Comtesse de Cottineau's doorstep. There he meets Anne and her two sisters and he is quite certain one of the women residing in this household is the authoress he is searching for.

While Nicholas sneaks around searching for clues his feelings for Anne evolve from attraction to what may possibly be love. But could he forgive himself for sleeping with the enemy or will he turn the girls in?

Bewitching in Boots: Elisabeth de Roussel wants Tristan de Tieronnier. And as the king's favorite daughter she is used to getting exactly what she wants. After Tristan suffers injury while on duty protecting the king he is callously dismissed as the Captain of the Guard and sent to heal in solitude at his chateau. Elisabeth knows her father is getting ready to marry her off so she takes matters into her own hands - she marches right on over to Tristan's. The last person Tristan wants to see is Elisabeth and her royal entourage. And although he threatens her and does one thing after another to scare her off, the lady stands her ground. When he finally threatens her with silk scarves and total domination and the lady still does not back down, Tristan knows he's met his match.

These were such deliciously fun and naughty stories. The fact that they were historical and set in France made them even more sensual. I loved how Ms. DiPasqua interwove little French sayings into each story... whether it be caleçons, justacorps, or Pour l'amour de Dieu! I found the time frame to be unique since you really don't find a lot of French historicals set in a time where it was okay for women to have sexual relationships with men without being considered loose as long as it was done quietly. I really enjoyed Ms. DiPasqua's writing style, her rich historic backgrounds and the fun and quirky characters that star in these stories.

All in all, Awakened by a Kiss is full of desire, true love, and sensual encounters that will have you blushing if not contemplating a cold shower. I found it charming and tasteful. I'll definitely be on the lookout for more by this author.
