



## Magic in Vienna

*Betty Neels*

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**Magic in Vienna** Betty Neels

**"A rather dull girl...with no looks to speak of."**

Doctor Charles Trescombe's opinion of his niece's governess was far from complimentary. Cordelia knew she was plain. She also knew what good manners were, and the high-and-mighty doctor didn't have any!

But there was magic in Vienna that could transform even the most unlikely people. Much to her dismay, Cordelia fell in love with him anyway. And Charles soon discovered that quiet and unassuming ways had a knack for stealing a man's heart?without him even realizing it.

## Magic in Vienna Details

Date : Published April 16th 2012 by Harlequin Special Releases (first published 1985)

ISBN : 9781459239654

Author : Betty Neels

Format : ebook 192 pages

Genre : Romance, Category Romance, Harlequin, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Magic in Vienna for online ebook

### Mudpie says

4 solid \*!

Charles was a cute hero and Cordelia strong and resourceful! So many of his little expressions and actions betrayed his feelings.

So angsty especially after the RBD's useless sister let Cordelia go! Why do useless RDD/RBD/REW's sisters always have such indulgent husbands? Eileen had to be the most precocious 12 year old ever! And it's rather sexist, but did girls really only went to art and embroidery classes back in 1985?!

Anyway the setting of Vienna was so love! First the cruise down the Danube from Munich, then in Vienna itself. I think Betty must have done the grand tour herself! Eugenia and Gerard from Heidelberg Wedding paid them a visit in Vienna too!

Charles was not much to start off with; a veritable bookworm, scholar and eminent anaesthetist with his head in his books. He was wary Eileen his niece and her governess Cordelia would disrupt his bachelor workaholic existence but he was surprised how much he did NOT notice them there! Cordelia of course felt hurt to be so invisible and yet she's so desperately in love with him...It was so funny when she scolded him "bookworm " as if it's a bad word haha!

I love that he had his dawning realisation before she did; this is more credible than the love at first sight trope!

His jealousy was so unreasonable but it just proved how deeply he felt for Cordelia. He could not get her out of his mind right after she left, and it was before the playboy doctor told Charles Cordelia had snubbed him...I'd hate it if he only wanted to find Cordelia only because the cad explained things...

Cordelia was so pitiful after losing most of her money...I was counting her cash, she only had £40 in her overnight bag, so how could she afford £10 for the agency, £40 for her room, and still £25 left?

I was soooo glad Charles found her in time, poor dear. BEST reunion, love declaration and grovelling scene ever! His mad dash back from Vienna itself was awesome and the Thompsons were treasures! And it was so good he saw how nasty Cordelia's stepmother was! Hate clueless fathers who married terrible steps and did not make provisions for his own child/children...

Sal the sister had a lot to explain why she let Cordelia go so unceremoniously!

My library Overdrive version was terrible. The editor must have used some replace all function and did not do his or her job. All the modern terrible errors with it's and its, the Thompsons and Thompson's...this is the first time I've come across such errors in a Betty Neels.

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### Kobie says

so fun to read about Vienna!

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### **Patricia schmit says**

#### **Super Read**

While the very beginning of this tale is awfully like Cinderella, it soon settles into a very lovely story - most enjoyable!!!!!!

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### **Pamela Shropshire says**

4 1/4 stars. Cinderella, I mean, Cordelia has been relegated to caring for her younger step- and half-siblings without pay, as well as acting as housemaid and lady's maid. Her step-brother puts it succinctly: "You'll be stuck here with the twins for years because you've nowhere to go." Determined to prove him wrong and escape from Lady Tremaine, er, Mrs. Gibson, Cordelia searched The Times adverts for a suitable position. She finds an advert for a temporary position for a "patient, good tempered young woman, well-educated and with experience in the management of children" to accompany a lady and her granddaughter to Vienna to hand over said granddaughter to her uncle.

Cordelia manages to get to London for an interview (which takes some planning and scheming, in secret) and makes a good impression on Lady Trescombe (query: her son Charles is only referred to as "Doctor"; we don't know the source of Lady Trescombe's title, but in most instances, the eldest son of a Lady is a Lord. Just sayin'.). Lady Trescombe gets the full story of Cordelia's background and is sympathetic; she hires her at once and even volunteers to write her step-mother.

Cordelia meets the granddaughter, 12-year-old Eileen. Spoiled, precocious and delightful all describe her. Cordelia quickly wins her over (at one point, Eileen tells Cordelia that her children will be Eileen's bridal attendants someday and I TOTALLY see that happening!). Cordelia returns to her home, breaks the news to step-mother (who reacts predictably), packs up her few rags, bids farewell to the cook (whom she promises to hire someday in a happy-ever-after) and shakes the dust of her feet against her former home.

Lady Trescombe has given her an advance to buy some clothes and Eileen acts as fashion consultant. Then without further delay, on to Vienna. They fly to Munich then cruise on the Danube the rest of the way (I've seen adverts for this cruise and would LOVE to do this someday). Eileen is apprehensive about the uncle, whom she hasn't seen since she was an infant, and shares her fears with Cordelia. They conjure up a short, balding, middle-aged man, so it's quite a shock when they meet the real thing – "dark hair barely touched by gray, incredibly handsome in a craggy way, and very large." Too bad his character doesn't match up – at first glance he is self-absorbed and terse. Cordelia instantly gets her back up against him when she overhears him describe her as rather dull and with no looks to speak of. (Don't worry – she throws it up to him several times.)

The first part of Vienna is occupied with various outings to improve Eileen's mind with just enough fun to keep her from revolting. Uncle Charles and Cordelia are mostly coldly polite ships that pass with an occasional joint outing with Eileen. Until . . .

One evening, Eileen complains about not feeling well. Cordelia puts her to bed, but later finds her quite ill. She finds Uncle Charles, who rushes them off to hospital. Eileen is rushed to the OR and Cordelia is told by Uncle Charles to “wait here.” So she does. For hours. When he comes out of theatre and finds her still there (“What the devil are you doing here? Why haven’t you gone home?” “You told me to wait and I didn’t know how to get home, did I?”), he tells her about Eileen’s appendix, takes her home, gives her coffee, tells her she did everything correctly and sends her to bed.

Next day, he calls her sensible and tells her he is agreeably surprised. Um, wrong thing to say, doc! She unloads. “Should I be flattered? Well, I’m not. Dull young women, with no looks to speak of, don’t expect flattery, nor do they like it, let’s go.”

DR for the Dr.! “Well, well, not dull at all and quite an eyeful when she’s in a temper.”

“Let go of me, you – you bookworm. . .”

She’s rewarded with a gentle kiss. From this time on, Charles is in win-the-fair-damsel mode. Eileen throws up a roadblock when she sets Eileen up with one of the house doctors, Julius Salfinger (an Austrian Nick – Charles tells Cordelia she isn’t Julius’s cup of tea which doesn’t go over well. Charles is smitten with jealousy. Cordelia doesn’t like Julius at all and has had her own DR.)

Eileen returns home; Charles comforts both of them during a thunderstorm (TGB’s heroines are collectively astrapobics); Mum and Dad return from South America (where they have been for TWO years without their daughter – WHY? We never know. Seriously, who leaves their kid for two years?); Mum, Dad, Eileen and Cordelia return to London where Cordelia is unceremoniously dumped at Brown’s Hotel. Most of her hard-earned, scrupulously-saved money is stolen on a bus and she is in penury again. She finds a bedsit near an agency, is turned down for a dishwashing job at a greasy spoon because she is “too classy.” Her funds are quickly dwindling to her last pence, but going home is not an option.

Meanwhile, Charles has quickly wrapped up his business in Vienna and is ready to leave a week early because he must find Cordelia. He drives across Europe and ferries across the North Sea to find out his sister left Cordelia at Brown’s without a job or severance pay. He calls Lady Trescombe, gets the location of Cordelia’s home – “she’s going to be your daughter-in-law” - and finds out all about Cordelia’s backstory when he meets her step-mother. Back to London; a porter at Brown’s provides the final clue and Charles finds the agency and then Cordelia. ‘Who cares a damn how I found you or why you’re here – I’ve found you and I’m not letting you go again, my darling.’ More of the same – who knew a bookworm could be so romantic. Sleepy Charles and Hungry Cordelia are off to his flat for the Thompsons to take care of them and then a special license and HEA.

There is some really great snappy dialogue between these two. The Vienna part of the book reads like a travelogue – not a bad thing, since I love reading travelogues. Vienna - particularly Sacher’s - is on my bucket list. We also get to visit with Gerard and Eugenia from Heidelberg Wedding – Eugenia and Cordelia are destined to be BFFs.

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### **Caro Charmie says**

La magia de Viena de Betty Neels es de ahora en más otro de mis favoritos! Ella, la heroína elige leer Jane Eyre... ella cena solo un huevo, un pan y café? Lo supe desde las primeras líneas: la joven Cordelia Gibson

cual Cenicienta moderna es huérfana de padres,vistiéndo un suéter grande y desteñido por los lavados y pasado de moda,cuidando de sus hermanastros, tratada como una sirviente y bajo la tiranía de su madrastra???Hasta que logra un empleo como institutriz de una niña mimada de 12 años con la que debe viajar a Viena a la casa de su tío quien será él responsable de su sobrina por un par de semanas.Este viaje supondrá un cambio en la vida de la joven, modesta y sensata muchacha de 27 años porque conocerá al eminente doctor y anestesista Charles Trescombe quien no es otro que el tío de la niña. Un hombre de treinta tantos años, soltero y apuesto( con algunas canas,no sería Betty si el héroe y galán no tiene canas) pero muy apegado al trabajo y a la soltería. Hay momentos muy betty en este libro( el que ella apenas tenga ropa, que no tenga familia u hogar donde regresar fuera del trabajo, su necesidad de ahorrar en medio de la opulencia de la ciudad de Viena) pero todas es su dosis justa hacen de este relato uno perfecto ??

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### **Faith says**

I was expecting something a bit more intelligent than your average romance novel, and this expectation was not quite met, but I enjoyed it nonetheless. It's a cute, old-fashioned story about a governess, her cheerful but spoiled charge and the gruff uncle. It really could have had a lot more going for it but I forgave it this flaw. It was also sadly predictable and there was a lot of missing punctuation, but it makes for a light read when you are otherwise stressed and unhappy.

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### **F says**

Overall I thought the book had a very slow moving, mundane storyline. I did enjoy the various tourist attractions mentioned in Vienna, particularly the Schonbrunn Palace and its gardens, and the Gloriette. I also never heard the term "down-at-heel" until I read this book.

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### **Leona says**

Betty just loved those Cinderella themes.

Poor Cordelia (though it doesn't rhyme with Cinderella, it's pretty close) suffers from wicked step-siblings, dastardly step-mom, no money, tattered clothes, worked to the bones sweeping chimneys, scrubbing the floors, etc. etc. Only Cordelia (unlike Cinderella) decides to shuck it all and take matters into her own hands. She applies for a job and leaves all that nasty garbage behind in hopes for a better life.

She ends up as a governess to a young girl who will be staying with her uncle in Vienna. Expecting to find a frumpy old uncle, our heroine is surprised to find the uncle young, dashing, rich, though sadly not Dutch. It's a shame that Uncle has the personality of a corpse...but he does warm up as the story progresses and I actually started to like him a lot. We get glimpses into his feelings and he keeps poor Cordelia so confused, she just can't figure out which way is up.

The nasty OW turns out to be his own selfish sister who decides to let Cordelia go without severance pay leaving her destitute in London. Lucky for Cordelia the good Doctor is hot on her trail ready to ride in on his white charger for the rescue. I thought this one packed a powerful ending (sigh). My only disappointment was Betty went a little too heavy on the travelogue and it distracted from an otherwise good storyline. Thus

only three stars.

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### **Allison says**

Nice to have a different location, Vienna is a good change from London and Amsterdam, but otherwise it's very much the regular Betty Neels read.

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### **Pat says**

Not the best of Betty Neels as promised on the cover. Maybe if the doctor isn't a surgeon, there's no excitement about writing about him.

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### **Barb in Maryland says**

Well, Our Betty proves to be a really good tour guide for the attractions of Vienna. Oh wait--this is supposed to be a Romance, not a guide book. But it really is 'two books in one'!!

Our heroine, Cordelia, is a true Cinderella--father dead (sniff), nasty step-mom, two nasty step-sibs, and (a bonus)nasty twin half-sibs. Our Cordelia is supposed to keep them in line, do the laundry, wash the dishes, etc, etc.

But she escapes (yay!!)thanks to fairy godmother Lady Trescombe, who hires her to escort her granddaughter Eileen to Vienna, where Eileen will stay with her Uncle Charles until her parents return from South America.

And once in Vienna, we are firmly ensconced in Neels-land. Cordelia the governess and Eileen the 12 year-old niece do their best to Not Disturb Uncle Charles (who is--wait for it--a doctor!!).

Typical Neels motifs abound--slimy toad other guy--check; perky child who tried to match-make---check; but it falls down totally on other woman. The selfish woman who throws a spanner in the works is none other than Eileen's mom! Oh, another interesting twist--our heroine is very short of funds because she is a victim of a street crime (Betty visits the real world).

I quite enjoyed this--enough to overlook the writing quirks. Not a bad way to spend an hour or so.

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### **Janice says**

Read this before reading book 67 so will read that one now

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### **Lisa says**

Betty Neels, easy reading at it's best ,no erotica,no violence,no bad language .If you're looking for an easy old-fashioned Dr/Nurse type read then Betty Neels is the author for you.She excels at storytelling and the

story flows with ease .A lovely ,nice,easy read .....

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**Noemail says**

might have 2 copies

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**Sandra says**

Plain Cordelia, unhappy with her life at home, accepts a job as governess to twelve-year-old Eileen. They travel to Vienna to stay with the child's uncle, handsome Dr. Charles Trescombe, for a few months while waiting for Eileen's parents to return from South America. While in Vienna romance blooms between Cordelia and Charles. This was a very sweet, slow moving, old-fashioned romance. The hero was a bit stuffy at the beginning but he grew on me as the book went on. I really liked the very detailed descriptions of the places they visited in Vienna. (Prater Park, Schonbrunn Palace, etc.)

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