



My Brown-Eyed Earl

Anna Bennett

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NEVER SEND A DEBUTANTE

William Ryder, Earl of Castleton, is at the end of his noble rope. Not only has he broken ties with his longtime mistress, his mother has publicly announced her wish for him to marry a suitable young lady?if only to help him raise the twins left in his care. Hiring a governess should solve some of Will's problems...but when he meets the candidate in question, he finds himself in an entirely new predicament.

TO DO A WALLFLOWER'S JOB

Miss Margaret Lacey is brainy, beautiful, and, once upon a time, Will's betrothed. But she bowed out of the engagement?and, since then, has never been the same. A tragic accident robbed her of everything, and now, at age twenty-three, her marital prospects are slim to none. Penniless but not without pride, Meg convinces the vexingly handsome Will to hire her for the job. What neither of them could have expected from this arrangement, however, is an attraction that burns stronger than ever. Are these two lost souls finally ready to be schooled in the art of love?

My Brown-Eyed Earl Details

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Author : Anna Bennett

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From Reader Review My Brown-Eyed Earl for online ebook

Barbara Rogers says

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review

William Ryder, Earl of Castleton is at his wits end. Recently he has lost his cousin who was as close to him as a brother, his mother has announced to everybody that she expects him to marry within the next year AND he's had his cousin's illegitimate twin daughters dropped off for him to care for. What more could possibly go wrong -- well -- hang on and see!

Miss Margaret Lacey is beautiful, smart, resourceful and very poor. She's also one of three unmarried sisters who have been labeled the Wilted Wallflowers because their gowns were of poor quality, ill fitting and frankly -- ugly. The sisters were taken in by an eccentric but very loving uncle after their parents were killed in a carriage accident. Meg decides that she has to earn some money in order to keep them fed and her eccentric uncle out of the poor house. Her friend, who is a governess, sets her up for an interview. When she arrives -- guess who she is to be interviewed by -- yep -- that's right -- William Ryder. Normally, that wouldn't be a big deal -- but -- she was supposed to have entered into a marriage contract with when they were young. She refused -- really, really badly. Oh that interview was going to be good . . .

While there isn't a lot of suspense in the book, there is a villain. I would have really preferred he end up with more punishment than he actually received.

This was my first Anna Bennett novel, but it definitely won't be the last. I'll be anxiously awaiting the next book in the series.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

'My Brown-Eyed Earl' by Anna Bennett is the first book in "The Wayward Wallflowers" series. This is the story of William Ryder, Earl of Castleton and Miss Margaret Lacey 'Meg'.

Meg is on of the three sister that are called 'Wayward Wallflowers'. They lost their parents when they were younger and now have been staying with an caring Uncle but he is eccentric. Meg thought to help their family out by find a job. Her friend set her up for an interview that lead her to Will. Will lost someone that was like a brother to him and then on top of that two little girls were dropped off on him that used to be his friend that he lost. Now his mom has went on a about marring and settling down. Next when he goes to hire a governess he finds Meg at the door asking for the job. Meg name was one that in a earlier time was to be his fiance but she turned it down. This was such a enjoyment to read! I can't think this is the first book by this author. I will surly be looking for more from Ms. Bennett along with more from this series!.

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

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Blodeuedd Finland says

A wilting wallflower meets an Earl and everyone lives happily ever after.

Meg lives with her uncle, they have no money, and he is believed to be mad. Therefore the wilting wallflower part. She is kind, looks after her sisters and wants to earn money for her family. And that is how one becomes a governess.

Will is an Earl who suddenly gets his cousin's twins to take care of. I liked how he started to fall for her fast. And how he cared nothing for his matchmaker mum who thought she knew better.

They do their dance. She takes care of the twins, she likes them, she even starts to like Will (there is history).

It was a nice romance, with some passion too. I do want to know what happens to her sisters too.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

2.5 stars

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Meg and her sisters are known as the "Wilting Wallflowers". An unsuccessful season, money dwindling, and an Uncle who was nice enough to take them in but leans heavily on the eccentric side, have their prospects dwindling even further. Deciding to become a governess, Meg finds herself in the unenviable position of asking for a job from someone she once refused to become betrothed.

Lord Castleton, Will, has just had two twin girls thrust upon him and he needs help. His past dealings with Meg haven't all been great but once she is back in his sights, he finds he isn't quite ready to lose her again.

"Once you accept that many things in life are beyond your control, you might let go of the guilt...and realize you deserve to be happy."

The first in a new series, *My Brown-Eyed Earl* stars Meg the oldest of the Wilting Wallflowers. I found her biggest personality trait to be martyrdom as she blames herself for her parents' death and feels she shouldn't have any happiness. She was a steady character, never throwing hysterics or committing any TSTL moments but in a story where not a lot happens, not a difficult feat. Will is the punished for a teenage transgression who inherited an impoverished earldom and managed to turn it around romance hero. He's somewhat perplexed by the twin girls who he doesn't really spend a lot of time with and finds himself inexplicably drawn to Meg.

The way in which Meg and Will get reunited, because of the past they shared, is a bit side-eye coincidence

but this is romancelandia, so I'm usually willing to roll with it. What I don't want to roll with though, is the inexplicably I mentioned. Where are the dialogue, passion, and emotion? I read romance to feel and experience the hero and heroine's relationship grow and build; that's missing here. The characters and story felt like just going through the motions, there was nothing special or parts of the story to differentiate this from the thousands of other regency romances; this honestly felt like paint-by-numbers regency.

The writing is good and if you were brand new to romance, this might work for you. The hero and heroine are vanilla pudding enjoyable, the twin girls adding a dash of adorableness, and the rest of the secondary characters add the minimum of villainy or support depending on their role. The story thread of the strange man looking for the twins worked in the beginning to add a touch of dangerous intrigue but it was pushed to the side too much and left to the very end with a bit of eye-rolling "that's what that was about?!".

There was a charming scene that involved a funeral for a dress that finally showed some inventiveness in the author's writing and some sweetness with the hero giving the heroine a choice about her future but mostly, this was missing a lot of spark. There were some sexy scenes, I thought they started a bit soon but missing the emotion between the couple could have been the problem I had with this. This story isn't bad, like I said, the writing is good but it's not memorable; a cake donut with no frosting and nary a sprinkle in sight.

Molly says

"My Brown-Eyed Earl" was my my first Anna Bennett book and I'm obsessed! Her writing is crisp and lively, her witty and emotional characters sparkle off the page and make you read the whole story in one afternoon. She smoothly transitions between characters points of view, never leaving you wondering what the other side is thinking or feeling. The plot unveils gradually and it's not over complicated, so it detracts from the romance. It also opens the door for an interesting world, which undoubtedly will entertain me for years to come with new stories of the Laicy family. Honestly, if you are looking for a perfect regency escape, filled with witty charm and steamy romance, this is the story for you. I enjoyed it tremendously.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/29Xaegw>

I'm just gonna need a minute or two to have a swoon over the Earl of Castleton! Oh. My. Word. What a hero! My Brown-Eyed Earl gave my heart a flutter, had me fighting back a grin more than once, and simply left me charmed.

Now. The quick of it is that Will has suddenly found himself the guardian of two six year old twin girls after their father died and their mother abandoned them. And they are a handful! He's in desperate need of a governess to help take care of them. The woman who comes to interview for the job? Well. Margaret may help with the problem of the little girls but she'll bring a whole new level of trouble into his life since the two have a past and, well, aren't all that fond of one another because of it.

I loved these two. Will is just. He is THE hero. I was in a total swoon over him. He's a bit cold at first and intimidating. Sometimes growly. But holy cow I fell hard for him and how he was with all his girls--the twins, Margaret and all the others. And Margaret was a lovely heroine as well. Her family's down on it's luck but she's ready to do what she has to do. She had spirit and heart and was easy to love. Them together? Well. I always love when there's a near enemies to lovers trope. They have great chemistry and fire for sure.

And then the twins. they were something else. They've got a lot of life in them and I enjoyed their adventures and sass and how they brought everyone together around them. Not just the hero and heroine but the staff as well.

All in all, My Brown-Eyed Earl was a beautiful romance and a lovely start to a promising new series. If you love historical romance Bennett is one author you really must meet.

Valerie Bowman says

Humor, heart, and a hot hero! Everything I look for in a romance novel.

Bube says

Lately I have read a lot of historical romance books, and when I started to read My Brown-Eyed Earl, I was so excited, the first 80 pages were incredible, witty banter, great dialogue, amazing characters, but after the 80 pages, I do not know what happened, somewhere on the way I lost a little bit of my excitement, I think that mystery part wasn't necessary, but regardless of that, this is a very good story, author's writing style is great!

Looking forward to read I Dared the Duke :)

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Kimberly says

2.5 stars - My review cross-posted from Wit and Sin: <http://witandsin.blogspot.com/2016/10...>

My Brown-Eyed Earl is a cute historical romance with potential. Anna Bennett's debut, and the first in the Wayward Wallflowers series, has some sweet and humorous moments, but ultimately it's a story that I wanted to like a lot more than I actually did.

Will and Meg are both lovely characters with good dispositions and generally good hearts. They're not perfect and they make mistakes, but they're solidly likeable and endearingly vulnerable at times, as are Will's two charges. Will is a man who needs more purpose in life than rebuilding the family fortune and Meg is a heroine who is determined to save her family from the poorhouse by getting a job as a governess. It's easy to see right from the beginning that Will, Meg, and the two girls would make an adorable family, but pride, class difference, and social snobbery stand in their way. Still, Will is attracted to Meg from the

start. He likes her strong will and sees beyond the ugly dresses she wears, and I liked him all the more for appreciating Meg for her modern outlook. The romance moves at a quick clip, in part due to Meg and Will's history (though there is a continuity issue in the book that made me uncertain as to how much of a foundation their relationship had before the story began).

Ms. Bennett has a lively writing style that shows a lot of promise. However, I confess I had a hard time remembering either Meg, Will, or this story a couple of days after I finished the book because it felt like I'd seen everything in this story a hundred times before in other historical romances. I actually don't mind formulaic romances as a rule – so long as it's a good formula, which it is – but there needs to be something about the story that stands out. All that was unique and memorable to me was one funny (if unimportant) moment involving a ruined dress. What I did remember the most about *My Brown-Eyed Earl* was that I was routinely drawn out of the story by the numerous historical inaccuracies. I'm more than happy to suspend disbelief and ignore convention in historical romance, but if a story almost entirely ignores the social norms of the time and the consequences of flouting them for the sake of the plot, then it's going to lose me. There's also a dreadful villain and a Regency "mean girl" who were so two-dimensional it pained me. Yet even with all these issues, I liked Ms. Bennett's style and I was intrigued by both Meg's friend, Charlotte, and her sister Beth. So while *My Brown-Eyed Earl* wasn't quite my cup of tea, I am interested in reading the next Wayward Wallflowers book, *I Dared the Duke*.

FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Samantha says

4 sometimes the second time around is the charm stars. Both William and Margaret knew each other previously, know meaning they were betrothed until Margaret caused a scene saying she had no intentions of marrying William. Through twists in life, the two meet again and nothing is easy about the meeting. William needs Margaret and Margaret needs the money but at the cost of her dignity until William makes her an offer she can't refuse. If you're looking for a historical romance that's intriguing, heartfelt and passionate, this is the read for you.

Margaret needs the money and so opts to become a governess. After her parents lost their lives, she and her sisters went to live with her uncle. Her uncle is a good man but is a bit off and taking on the girls has hit his bank account. Margaret is well aware and wants the best for her family so she feels becoming a governess would work in her favor. She doesn't expect to become attached to the little girl or feel the constant draw to William.

William didn't ask to be dropped with his brother's bastard child and most certainly didn't ask to desire the governess he hired to take care of the girl. He remembers being rejected by Margaret but that doesn't stop him from lusting after her or feeling the pull. William is a good man in a situation he never conceived to be in, but as it all starts to work itself out, more curveballs are thrown his way.

Mei says

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

REVIEW!

For a debut novel this one is really good and I fully enjoyed it!

The story is fun, fast paced and the characters are interesting and lovely.

I like a little bit more Will, because once he realized that he's in love he didn't react like most of the romance heroes with incredulity, or rejection. No, he accepted it and looked for ways to show it to the heroine and convince her that he's the right man for her!

Margaret was not bad at all, but I was slightly annoyed with her guilt about everything! I could understand about her parents, but it was everywhere: with snapping to the girls, with ruining the dress... It was too much! (view spoiler)

The girls were great too! I liked their banter and their antics!

I'm looking forward to another book in the series!

Michelle says

This book has everything I could ever want in a romance book. For starters, it has two amazing main characters who are incredibly lovable who just happen to have amazing chemistry. Love scenes that are naughty and sensual but not at all vulgar. Love that is so sweet, adorable, flirtatious and utterly romantic. I was on board with their relationship pretty early on in the book.

See William Ryder, Lord Castleton and Meg, a vicar's daughter have known each other since they were young as they were neighbors. They were engaged but Meg insulted Will and soon later the engagement broke off. Years later, Meg is desperate to find a job that will support her sisters and her eccentric uncle whom has taken them in after their parents' death. Her governess job is none other than with Lord Castleton himself who has taken in his late cousin's twin daughters, Valerie and Diana, who just happen to be incredibly adorable, but also very mischievous. Will and Meg's relationship blooms as they deal with their past errors, regrets, memories and new mysteries that affects them and the twins. There are some things they need to work through as they do throughout the story, but in a way that doesn't drag the story along in the slightest. If anything seeing each other vulnerable adds to their love for each other. It takes time, but Meg, especially, realizes just how perfect they are for each other in the end. I knew early on but whatever. ;)

With a lovely blend of a great characters, romance, mystery, action, and touching moments filled with love, this romance has securely made me a fan of Anna Bennett and I can't wait to see what is in store in her next book that releases in 2017.

I have received an ARC copy via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Book Gannet says

I'm an absolute sucker for song-pun-titled historicals. I can't help it – they grab my attention every time. This was no different, aided by a blurb that had me fully intrigued. Things started so well – then my historical manners meter went off, and well, after that it was hard to enjoy this all that much.

The idea that an unmarried young woman could move into a bachelor's house to take care of twin girls is fine if she is an actual governess, maybe one born into a gentile family but with no real social prospects. However, Meg is a known debutante and the niece of a viscount. Lowering herself to a servant position would have caused a measure of gossip – probably mean-spirited – but the idea of her moving into Will's house would have ruined her. It would have been scandalous. There is no way she would have been permitted back into polite society afterwards. The idea that she doesn't want to get caught in bed with Will because it will cause a scandal that might ruin her sisters' prospects is ridiculous. It doesn't matter if she's sleeping with Will or not, the fact that she's living with him without a chaperone means most people would assume so anyway. (I also severely doubt they could hide it from the other servants, they're not exactly discrete – especially Will with his lingerie buying and sending it directly to Meg by name.)

Then there are the girls. Lovely though they are, they're illegitimate. Some think they might even be Will's, so the way they're accepted so easily by everyone is rather peculiar. Children were often ignored anyway, let alone ones borne by mistresses. And what's with all the mistresses with rather grandiose expectations of marriage? These women tended to be more practically-minded than that.

There were also a few confusing continuity issues, mostly regarding Meg and Will as children. Did they actually know each other before Will proposed? Some comments seem to suggest they did, but they don't act like they knew each other at all. Then there's the bathing incident. I couldn't work out when that actually happened – just before the proposal, or earlier? Will was twenty when he proposed, but with the bathing thing he mentions not wanting to remember much of anything he did between 13 and 18. If he was 18 meant that Meg was 13, and, well... don't want to go there, thanks. As for why Meg turned him down – first it's because he didn't look like he wanted to be there, then it's because she has feminist principles and she hated that she had no power in that moment. The whole thing was a tangled mess.

Which is a shame, because the rest of the time this is a pleasant enough read. Meg and Will move into a physical relationship really quickly, which left the conflict feeling a bit contrived, but the twins were cute. I did expect the sinister plot to be a bit more interesting than it eventually was, but it worked well enough.

In all this is okay, as long as you're not looking for historical accuracy or sense, especially regarding social rules. The romance has a decent amount of heat and the characters are engaging, I just wish their joint history had been more coherent and I'd been able to focus on what was actually happening rather than figuring out what went on before. There's plenty of scope for more from her sisters for those who like it enough to want more – as well as Charlotte the governess, who apparently gets invited everywhere and obviously has something going on with her boss, without any impact on her reputation either... Sorry, I just can't turn my brain off. I don't think I'll be able to read any more from this series.

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

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

"I lack wealth, status, and beauty," she said matter-of-factly. "Pray tell, what power is it that I wield?" Slowly, he lifted his hand to cup her cheek and brushed a thumb over her satin-soft skin. "You have power over me."

This was such a sweet story, probably a lot flufflier than I'm used to but I had a stupid smile on my face the entire time I was reading it! The relationship Meg had with the twins was so endearing and although I ground my teeth a few times because of Valerie and Diana, having them in the story made this an absolutely heart-warming read.

When Will's late cousin's mistress (whew that was a mouthful) leaves two little girls on his doorstep his next step is to find them a governess. What he doesn't count on is hiring the woman who slighted him years ago when they were to be betrothed. Meg is in dire straights, her generous uncle took her and her two sisters in after the tragic death of their parents. But taking care of the girls and his failed attempt at introducing them to society has negatively affected his finances. Which is why Meg decides to look for employment as a governess, she's so desperate she even swallows her pride and accepts a position offered by the man she was meant to marry.

"I suppose I like having someone to share the view with."

Odd. He sounded almost lonely.

"And because," he continued, "while I do enjoy our little battles of wits, I also like to see you smile. Your smile is..." He rubbed the stubble on his chin as he searched for the words. "Bright, fleeting, rare. Like a comet shooting through the midnight sky."

Meg and Will's relationship was truly a pleasure to read about, their connection practically sizzled. There was also plenty of angst because although Meg could see that what she and Will had could be so much more, but her loyalty to her parents was a huge barrier when it came to her happiness. Her actions so many years ago, lead to a lot of guilt regarding her parents death. It was so refreshing reading about a hero who knew what he wanted, and just went after it. While I love a torn and tortured hero who thinks the heroine would be better off without him, reading about one who wants his woman without wavering is so much better.

There was a bit of mystery in the story which I really enjoyed, but *My Brown-Eyed Earl* is a true romance so it's perfect if you're looking for a historical romance with a touch of humour and plenty of heart.

"You and me Meg," he whispered seductively, "we are perfectly matched. No one else makes me feel like you do."

Shannon Gallagher says

Who doesn't like a saucy governess and an earl with a heart for children? I liked this book from page one! Miss Margaret Lacey shows up on the doorstep of her ex-neighbor and her ex-almost-fiance.

While herding two six year old orphaned girls, sparks fly between this new governess and Lord Castleton.

They share a past and a few difficult to manage secrets. When Miss Lacey's charmingly forgetful uncle decides to throw a ball all mayhem breaks loose and she must find a way to stop the embarrassing debacle. For one they have little money (which is why she's working as a governess) and two, her uncle as sweet as he is cannot be trusted to say the right thing to the right people at the right time. Miss Lacey is put in a position to protect her family--two sisters and her uncle Allistair.

The Earl has been left with the care of his recently deceased cousin's twin girls. They were born to Thomas' (earl's cousin) mistress who wants little to do with them. The little rambunctious girls take Will (earl) and Meg (Miss Lacey) on quite a twisted journey, one that will lead them through the dark streets of London. I fell in love with the way Lord Castleton took heart to these little girls and the way he made amends with Margaret Lacey his new governess and old friend.

I had a difficult time believing the girls were only six years old. The dialogue they used and their actions seemed better fit for older children, but it didn't take away from their charm or the way our H/h interacted with them. Overall, an enjoyable read.

"Well, if a gown must be ruined, I can think of no better way than chocolate." (a favorite line)
