



## His Forbidden Lady

*Nicola Davidson*

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*Tudor England, 1542*

When beautiful widow Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes is ordered to court, she is terrified. Henry VIII desires a sixth queen for his bloodstained throne, and her scheming family cares not for her wishes. Annabelle yearns for love, but there is no escaping her fate: escorting her is Rafe de Vere, the man who abandoned her to become England's most loyal and brutally successful soldier. Rafe is utterly weary of war and its impossible demands. Thankfully, his final task is the easiest: accompany a wellborn lady to London for Henry's perusal. Until he discovers she is Annabelle, the woman who swore to wait for him but married another. Rafe isn't permitted to care, yet time hasn't dulled their sizzling attraction and his orders are increasingly difficult to obey. To love her, he would have to risk all and cross his king to secure the ultimate prize - Annabelle's heart. *A Scandalous Novella*

*Librarian's note: See alternate cover edition with this ASIN here.*

## His Forbidden Lady Details

Date : Published August 11th 2014 by Entangled: Scandalous

ISBN :

Author : Nicola Davidson

Format : Kindle Edition 63 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Novella, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review His Forbidden Lady for online ebook

### Kadia Hufford says

I really like this author's style. This was another enjoyable read. A short read , but sensual with an engaging story. I will be reading more of her work.

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### Fizza says

I liked the story as well as the characters. It is written in an engaging way and kept me intrigued. I wanted to see how they will over come obstacles in their way. I think it portrays a very realistic picture of Tudor England. It was a good romantic short story.

When Lady Annabelle is ordered to court she is very unhappy. She did not want to marry yet another man who would not love her for herself. She wanted courtship and romance but her family had other plans. and there was nothing she could do about it. Rafe is ordered to escort her to the court. A hardened soldier, he should not care about the lady in question but she was the only woman who ever touched his heart. Both were unable to resist the pull towards each other. They knew it was treason, they knew Henry can very well kill them both but they did not give it a second thought before running away together. Because any life where they were together was better than the life they would be forced to live. Now the question is whether they would be able to cross their king and live to tell the tale or not?

It is an engaging tale of love. Although a short novel, it is still able to reflect the feelings and actions of all the characters in a way which will make it a worthwhile read. I'll recommend it to all readers, whether you like historical romance or not, I am sure you'll like this one. ;)

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### GraceMyBookSnack says

I really liked this historical-romance novella a lot. I have a fascination with this time and place, which is England in 1542. Henry VIII had lost his beloved queen, Jane Seymour, and he is now entertaining options for another wife. He summons the Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes to court. Sweet tension quickly arises when Rafe de Vere, the soldier sent to take her to His Majesty, also happens to be the very man she loved before he went away to war.

This is a short tale of the forbidden kind of love. It's established right away what had happened with Annabelle and Rafe while they were away from each other's presence and what they long for in their lives. I adored them so much that it made me cheer them on for their second chance from the very beginning; however, because of the situation, the possibility of them together may never be.

I think Nicola Davidson captured Henry VIII's mercurial temperament perfectly! His mood is so hot and cold, but she even made me feel a little sorry for the guy. I loved the character of Gerda and her unexpected candor. This story is short, sweet, and steamy with heart-pounding twists. I'll definitely check out Ms. Davidson's future stories!

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## **Nancy says**

### **Castle Life**

Creating bonds while committing treason is a heady affair. But Annabelle and Race do just that. This tale is a quick look into 16th century life where women are often treated as chattel. It's an enjoyable read as love conquers all.

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## **Farrah says**

A quick, light, and sweet read, His Forbidden Lady was a lovely historical romance. While not particularly amazing, it was a nice read that I enjoyed.

Annabelle and Rafe were both fine. Their characters were shallow, even for a novella, but not to the point that I wasn't interested in what happened to them. Annabelle, after being forced to do her father's bidding for so long, wanted to make her own decisions and find her own happiness. Rafe, having longed for the woman he loved for so long, was determined not to let her go for a second time. They were both good characters.

The romance was sweet. Annabelle and Rafe were determined to be together and were willing to fight for their future. And, they had some heat between them.

The plot went by quickly and I was kept interested the entire way through. I enjoyed the story and the ending was lovely.

His Forbidden Lady was a good historical romance. It was a light, sweet read that was quite enjoyable. Romance lovers, if you want a quick romance to pass the time, you might want to look this book up.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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## **Amy Alvis says**

Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes has been ordered to court by the king and her scheming family doesn't give her any choice in the matter. Her escort is none other than her former sweetheart whom abandoned her.

Rafe de Vere has one final mission to complete for his king, collect a widow, before he can finally start his life away from all the fighting. He is surprised to find the woman that didn't wait for him before marrying another.

What will happen when they find that their attraction to each other is just as strong as ever?

This was a nice short story. Davidson did a good job of getting me invested in the story in such a short amount of time. The story moved along at a quick pace and had me on my toes guess as to what would come next.

I'll definitely be picking up future books by Nicola Davidson.

Thanks go to Entangled Publishing via NetGalley for a copy of the book in exchange of an honest review.

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### **Tammy says**

This is a wonderful lunch time read. Annabella has been summoned to the court of King Henry VIII. The King is on the hunt for another wife and Annabella may be next in line. She is being escorted there by Rafe de Vere who Annabella was in love with as a teenager but forced to marry another by her father. This was an excellent read. This read was fast paced and exciting and the romance between Rafe and Annabella is wonderful. Enjoyable read.

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### **Cassandra O'Leary says**

This is Nicola Davidson's debut novella and it's a rollicking read. Set in the Tudor era in and around the court of King Henry VIII, this is a fast-paced story of the reunion between a high born lady (now a 25 year old widow) and the tough soldier she once loved. Unfortunately she is related to the King's former wife, Jane Seymour, and her scheming family deliver her to court in the hope of marrying her to the slightly mad monarch. The lovers' attraction won't be denied though and they succumb to sizzling love making, which amounts to treason. I loved this story and hope for more from the author soon. Fans of Philippa Gregory and The Tudors TV series should love this too.

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### **Stacy Reid says**

I really enjoyed this book. Quick and fast pace, and man did I love how on the edge of my seat I was, wondering what would happen with our hero and heroine.

You see I have a thing for rough around the edges hero that have that sweet charming side to them, and Rafe was certainly such a hero. I did not get much back story on him, and I did want more. But the glimpses I got really had me enthralled. Broody, slightly tortured, wants a wife and family, lost a woman he had loved deeply and now to have her in his life again. Sweet....

Our heroine is not bad either. Really enjoyed the glimpses I got of her character. she displayed strength and gumption when needed to fight for what she most loved. Rafe and Annabelle intimate moments were both steamy and sweet. Loved how they both decided to defy what was expected of them, and faced the possibility of treason for Love.

I felt they could have both been developed more, but the unraveling of the plot and the excited edge I waited on more than made up for it.

Overall a lovely read and would recommend to historical romance lovers. 4.5 beautiful stars

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### **Jena Lang says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this debut novella. It's a well-written romance with a quick pace, likeable characters, and a heart-warming love story. The author included the perfect amount of historical details to bring the Tudor court and Henry VIII to life. Although short, this is a good read. Ms. Davidson is my new auto-buy author.

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### **Maria says**

This was very short, but was very, very good. I really enjoyed it. This novella was set around 1542 in Essex, England.

The main characters are Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes and Rafe de Vere, Hertford's Butcher. Lady Annabelle is a young widow who now lives with her father again. Her father and Uncle, the Earl of Hertford, have a plan to marry her off to King Henry because she has the striking resemblance to King Henry's third wife who died in childbirth, Queen Jane Seymour. She of course must do her duty even though she wanted to marry for love this time.

The Earl of Hertford summons his butcher, the infamous Rafe de Vere to escort a woman to the King. Rafe is content to do this because it will be his last mission. He is retiring and retreated to the coast to live a life devoid of battle, killing and war. What Rafe did not know was the lady he was to escort to his King would be the woman he was in love with prior to going to war, his Bella. The same woman who hurt him deeply by not waiting and marrying another.

This is where this story begins. It was very fast paced, but again it was very good. It was filled with great elements of cunning, intrigue and passion. I wish this author would write more books in this genre and they be full length books. I would definitely buy them. This is definitely an author to watch out for, I know I will!

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### **Amira says**

I liked this book. It had all the elements I like in a sweet and enjoyable romance. Annabelle and Rafe had loved each other, then they were separated. Years later, fate threw them together and the attraction and love is still there, but Annabelle is meant for another man, The King of England.

This author wrote in a very engaging manner, and I was very involved in wondering how they would overcome the obstacles in their paths. I mean to love and be with each other was treasonous. Loved it!

I was left wanting though...I could not get a good feel on either character. I needed more dialogue and interactions between them, and I wanted a bit more history about their lives. I understood that it was a novella, but it needed a bit more for me at least to completely satisfied with Annabelle and Rafe story.

I did love though how the historical elements of the Tudor period was woven into the novel to make it so

realistic. kudos

I will be looking out for more work from this author.

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### **Rosemary K says**

Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes is going to Henry the Eighth's court as a political pawn. Will he claim her as his bride? She hopes not, but she is forced to by her family to attend him. Her travel escort is Rafe de Vere. They had been in love once long ago. Is the attraction still there? His Forbidden Lady is a short passionate story of love denied. Annabelle and Rafe are memorable characters. She is a feisty woman who is trapped by duty. Rafe is a war weary soldier who wants to find a new peaceful life. Their romance is very sensual and satisfying. I was drawn into their story. I wanted to know how they found their HEA against so many obstacles. Nicola Davidson did a great job writing this short love story.

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### **Katie\_la\_geek says**

#### **The publisher provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review**

The other day I went to the cinema to see a movie called A Little Chaos, the movie itself disappointed but left me with a longing for some historical romance. When I got home I trawled through the ARCS on my kindle and came across His Forbidden Lady. It was exactly what I was in the mood for so I settled down for the night and started reading.

Despite being English and having sat through what felt like a million history lessons on the Tudors I don't know that much about them so I don't really know how historically accurate this story is but I liked that the author tackled a historical figure as famous and iconic as Henry. She showed a different side to the man, a softer side of someone who is often seen as hard and mean. The rest of the book was fairly standard stuff. His Forbidden Lady was exactly what you would expect from an 80 pages historical novella, it was quick, passionate and fairly interesting.

The writing was good, the storyline sound and the characters likeable. Nicola Davidson seems comfortable in this time period and her writing reflects that. The storyline was more than just a romance which was a nice change from a lot of other novellas. Annabelle and Rafe are good characters that have some depth but despite liking them I would have liked a little more. There wasn't enough time in this short story for me to fall in love with them. The romance was believable and enjoyable but again it could have used a little more time.

His Forbidden Lady is a short and sweet novella that I enjoyed reading. I will definitely check out more from this series and more from this author in the future.

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## **Laura Greenwood says**

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

Title: His Forbidden Lady

Author: Nicola Davidson

From: Netgalley

Genre: Historical Romance

Release Date: 11th August 2014

Challenges: 2015 Netgalley & Edelweiss Challenge

Links: Goodreads - Amazon

Lady Annabelle Benton-Hayes has been summoned to court by Henry VIII, and encouraged to go by her kinsman, Lord Hertford due to her resemblance to the dead Queen Jane. Having left Annabelle with promises to return, Rafe must now perform one last duty as a soldier...to escort her to court. But the attraction and the connection between them is no weaker through time, can they over come their anger and upset at each feeling abandoned?

We'll start with the end...which I wasn't too sure about. The ending was largely based on Henry VIII's reaction to the romance between Rafe and Annabelle. I was basically undecided as to whether it fits with the 'normal' temperament of a post-Katherine Howard, pre-Catherine Parr Henry. Though what happened could fit, I think it would have been the exception not the rule.

On the other hand, Henry's (very brief) courtship of Annabelle I thought fit brilliantly with what is known of Henry VIII in his later years. Both because of her resemblance to Jane Seymour and as a woman. Hand in hand with this went the way that Edward Seymour (Hertford) was portrayed. Both of these characters fit well.

For a Tudor-era story I thought that His Forbidden Lady was light on the politics and heavy on the romance, though I did go into this book expecting that so it wasn't a problem. In fact I found that I enjoyed the romance elements and appreciated the era themes. This is only a novella though so the plot wasn't over complex and it was good having a quick Tudor read rather than a more complex one for a change.

The chemistry between Annabelle and Rafe was most definitely there, both physically and the way in which they were interacting with each other. I found that it was easily believable that they had known each other as children and that they would then look at their relationship in a more mature way, though it had already been romantic in nature.

His Forbidden Lady was an enjoyable Tudor read, and quite a light read at the same time.

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