

# Elizabeth's Reviews

Honest Accounts You Can Trust!!!

## Christmas Special!

Hello Dear Readers and welcome to my Christmas Special, part 2! This reviewsletter rounds out the festive season and contains a couple more exclusive Christmas reviewsletter reviews. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to an equally fantastic New Year!

## On The Mend

I hope.

On the 12th of December I had my stitches out. For the second time. This time was even worse than the first, since the stitches had scabbed over and where the stitches went, the scabs followed—followed by blood. I made the nurse stop twice so I could re-collect myself. I was terrified about going in, worried that I'd wind up in hospital again. But this time they didn't even do any x-rays and the doctor (different to the last one) seemed completely unorganized. So all I can do is hope that everything is alright and I really am now on the mend.

I'll find out soon enough. My next clinic appointment is the 8th of January. I should know more about timeframes soon—and maybe I will be

### Special points of interest:

- New Reviews
- Touching base with Monica Burns
- Reviewsletter Review: Merry Christmas To Me
- Reviewsletter Review: A Bluestocking Christmas

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## Notes

- Links for FAR reviews have been provided.
  - Please note: To view JERR reviews you must be a member of the JERR newsletter. Join by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/justerotromancer-eviewsnewsletter> (newsletters can be found in the files section).
- ◆ **RR** - Recommended  
Read

## New Reviews

Just the one review over the Christmas period:)

Plus the 2 Christmas specials.

### FAR:

Supernatural Love—Jeanine Berry—Mundania Press—E-Book—5 Angels

<<http://www.fallenangelreviews.com/2007/December/Elizabeth-SupernaturalLove.htm>>



## Reviewsletter Review: Merry Christmas To Me

**TITLE:** Merry Christmas To Me  
**PUBLISHER:** Forbidden Publications  
**RATING:** 3.5 Phoenixes



**VISIT:** [http://www.forbiddenpublications.com/book\\_pages/merry\\_christmas\\_to\\_me.html](http://www.forbiddenpublications.com/book_pages/merry_christmas_to_me.html)

Having worked the past few Christmases, Jennifer had been looking forward to spending this festive season with her family. But now she is stuck on-site, as all flights out have been cancelled! But maybe all is not lost. Perhaps she'll receive a fabulous gift this year, in the form of Franko. He's hot, she's interested – and so is he!

Merry Christmas To Me is a fun, cute Christmas novella that will take little time to read but will induce much enjoyment. Jennifer is an intriguing character. She has been burnt in the past and is well known on-site for not sleeping around – to the extent that there is a running bet on who can get her into bed first! Franko is the only man she is interested in. He is fairly new to the site and as far as Jennifer knows, unaware of her existence. Except he is, and he is *very* interested in Jennifer. If only he can get close enough to let her know. Franko himself is a big man, in build and character. His protective instincts towards Jennifer were wonderful. Both characters have a part in the telling of the tale, which really helps the reader gain insight into their thoughts, actions and emotions. There is detailed intimacy between the characters, though not anything offensive. On a note of caution, there are spelling and grammatical errors, which did mar the enjoyment of the tale as they interrupted the story's flow, hence a drop on the rating the book receives. Still, Merry Christmas To Me is a good Christmas quickie, with likeable characters and a believable, festive plot.

# Interview



**Hi Monica! Welcome to the Christmas Special!**

I understand *A Bluestocking Christmas* was released last year in the anthology *Holly, Ivy And Me*. What can you tell us about the book's initial publication?

A: Thanks for having me. I'm delighted to be visiting with you and talking about *A Bluestocking Christmas*. This novella is story number two in the *Holly, Ivy and Me* anthology. The anthology contains a ghost character I wrote that runs through all three stories. Ivy's story, *A Bluestocking Christmas* was my primary contribution to the anthology.

Your story received a Silver Star Award from JERR. What was your reaction to the news?

A: I was blown away. Gold and Silver Stars from JERR are given out few and far between. To receive one is a real honour because it tells me I wrote a really wonderful book. It also had me bouncing around like a two-year old because I love this story and the word play between the two characters.

What do you think readers will enjoy about *A Bluestocking Christmas*?

A: I think they'll love hating Simon in the beginning and then falling in love with him as he grows and is redeemed in the story.

Can you give us a few titbits about the characters and the plot to whet our appetites?

A: Sure, I'd be happy to do so. Miss Ivy Beecham is a bluestocking who has sworn off love, and she's found the perfect place to hide from love. A library. Simon Carton, Viscount Wycombe, is an intellectual rogue who's convinced all women can be bought.

What neither of them counted on was finding love amid a stack of dusty books. Determined to win the reluctant bluestocking nymph, Simon seduces Ivy with words and other sinful pleasures. But despite the passion between them, Ivy refuses to risk her heart—at least not until the ghost of her ancestor visits her on Christmas Eve and helps Ivy see that her choices will affect the rest of her life. The question is will Ivy make the right choice.

Where did you gain inspiration to write this Christmas themed book?

A: Believe it or not, there's a small town called Ivy, Virginia that's just outside of Charlottesville. I loved the name and knew I wanted to write a story about a woman called Ivy. Then when I had the opportunity to do the Christmas anthology with Charlotte Featherstone, I knew Ivy was perfect for the story and the book's subsequent title.

Is *A Bluestocking Christmas* unique amongst your publications (i.e. genre, setting, theme etc)?

A: This story is unique in that it's my first real paranormal work. I've always loved paranormal, but up until Ivy's story I'd always done straight historical romances. This story gave me the opportunity to do a little bit of a Dickens' twist with the ghost character.

What would you say to convince those who haven't yet read the book to read it this coming holiday season?

A: This story is one of my best works to date, and I think it's the word play that makes this story so special. Simon woos Ivy with words. He challenges her intellect. It's a case of him being forced to acknowledge her intelligence first and her sexual charms second.

Where can readers catch up with you (and your latest releases, Christmas themed or not) on the net?

A: I'm all over the Internet. My website is at [www.monicaburns.com](http://www.monicaburns.com) for all the latest news and information.

I have an announcement only Yahoo loop with a monthly (or sometimes every other month) newsletter. To join the Yahoo loop visit <http://www.monicaburns.com/ContactSubscribe.htm> I'm also on MySpace at <http://www.myspace.com/monicaburns>.

Thanks for having me, and I'd like to wish everyone peace and love throughout the holiday season and into the New Year. Happy Holidays.

**Many thanks for participating! Have a Happy New Year!**

## Reviewsletter Review: A Bluestocking Christmas

**TITLE:** A Bluestocking Christmas (in Holly, Ivy And Me)

**AUTHOR:** Monica Burns

**PUBLISHER:** New Concepts Publishing

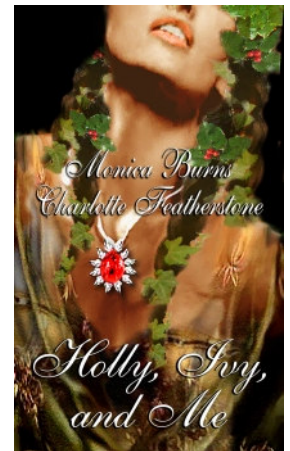
**RATING:** 4 Phoenixes

**VISIT:** <http://www.newconceptspublishing.com/hollyivyandme.htm>

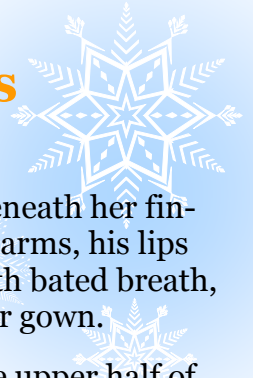
Ivy Beecham is a woman with freedom, freedom that few women have. Independently wealthy, Ivy's life is what she makes of it. Her love of books saw her gain a library position. Her distrust of love has seen her keep her distance from men. The two are soon to collide, for Ivy meets her match in Simon Carton, Viscount Wycombe – the first person whose knowledge of books challenges her own. At first, they are at odds, but Ivy soon finds this is one instance where her head is unable to override her heart. Yet Ivy cannot see how they could be together. Though the granddaughter of an Earl, her father was a tradesman. Ivy is thus a commoner, one with a huge dislike of the nobility of which Simon is a member.

But this Christmas, Ivy's family legend comes to life. The path to true love shall be explored and the happiness that could be is within Ivy's grasp – if only she latches on to her ancestor's lessons and reaches for it with everything she has. Her love, her trust, her heart.

Monica's Burns has put her own spin on an old Christmas classic with A Bluestocking Christmas. In this tale, Ivy is the character who needs to be shown the way to a more fulfilling life – by an ancestor who has done the same throughout their family tree, no less! Ivy is a headstrong character, in a unique position compared to other women of her time. Connected to both social spheres, yet a member of neither. Her attraction to Simon is unfathomable to her, considering her dislike of the titled class. Not to mention, Simon hardly endears himself to her at their first meeting. I know I took an instant dislike to him because of his initial attitude – but he soon found the tables turned on himself and I couldn't have been more pleased! Occasionally the tale lacked a bit of flow, where past and present interchanged, knocking me for one (not six). Yet my enjoyment remained high and fairly consistent, my mood festive and my feelings towards Simon increasingly friendly. The tale is largely told as a reflection of the past, so much in the story covers that which has already happened. There is a large quantity of intimacy between the characters, which occurs in numerous places and is described in detail. If you are in a festive frame of mind, like historical romances and are a fan of the Dickens classic, then A Bluestocking Christmas is surely a must read for you!



## Excerpt: A Bluestocking Christmas



As he faced her, she stretched out her hand to touch him. The hard flesh beneath her fingertips was hot and solid, intensely arousing. Although he didn't take her into his arms, his lips seared the tops of her breasts, branding her with an intense, unexpected heat. With bated breath, she watched as he unlaced her combination, which was discarded as quickly as her gown.

The garment left her naked except for the thin, fragile chemise covering the upper half of her body. The feathery touch of his hand left a blaze behind as he dragged his fingers down to glide over the top of her chemise. The tips of her breasts were hard and achy. Oh God, she wanted his mouth on her—on her breasts. Sucking on her to ease the sensation of longing that was sweeping across her skin with the ferocity of a wild wind. A smile curved his mouth slightly as his eyes locked with hers.

"You remind me of Corinna in Marlowe's translation of Ovid's *Elegia 5*," he murmured.

With measured movements, he slowly removed the pins in her hair. "Do you know the poem, Ivy?"

The question made her mouth go dry as she nodded. "Yes."

"Then came Corinna in a long loose gown, her white neck hid with tresses hanging down." The seductive note in his voice teased its way through her blood until her heartbeat spiraled completely out of control. "Tell me the next line, sweetheart."

"Resembling fair *Semiramis* going to bed, or *Layis* of a thousand lovers sped," she replied in a husky voice.

"Ah." The weight of her hair tumbled down onto her shoulders. "I snatched her gown, being thin, the harm was small, yet strived she to be covered therewithall."

Steel gray eyes bored into hers as his hand reached out and gently, but firmly, tore the thin, delicate chemise she wore from her body. Gasping, she instinctively tried to cover herself, but he shook his head.

"*Don't*," he growled. "I want to look at you."

Facing him, completely naked, she trembled at the blazing desire in his eyes. It was as if he wanted to devour her. It was in his gaze, the way his erection jutted stiffly out of the dark hair at his thighs. But it was in his voice as well. The raspy sound of it seduced her as he continued to entice her with the sensual words of Marlowe's poetry.

"And striving thus as one that would be cast, betrayed herself, and yielded at the last. Starke naked as she stood before mine eye, not one blemish in her body could I spy." His hand reached out to her, his caress moving in rhythm with the poetry. "What arms and shoulders did I touch and see, how apt her breasts were to be pressed by me."

The rough pad of his thumb grazed her nipple, the touch unleashed a coil of desire inside her, and it whipped through her body with an intensity that was both agonizing and pleasurable in the same instant.

# Contests!

## Important!

- ◆ Please read the contest terms and conditions at the end of this reviewsletter, under 'Bits & Bobs'.
- ◆ Failure to follow the T&C may result in your contest entry being VOIDED.
- ◆ DON'T FORGET THE YAHOO ID!!!

## **Contest 1: Win an E-Book of choice**

Let me know what book you want, the author, publisher, price and format.

Send your entries to [elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk) with 'Contest 1' in the subject line. The deadline is the 30th of January.

## **Contest 2: Win a \$5 GC To Fictionwise.**

All you need to do is email me at [elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk) with 'Contest 2' in the subject line by 30th of January and tell me which option you prefer in the notification. That's it!

# Winners!

Winner of Sandy Blair's package: **mizztcwoods**

Winner of \$5 GC: **debby236us**

Winner of Holly, Ivy & Me: **srwil1**

**PLEASE CONTACT ME WITHIN 14 DAYS TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE.**

I'M ON THE WEB!

# Elizabeth's Reviews

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**Yahoo Group:** <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/elizabethsreviews>

**E-mail:** [elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk)

Looking for lists of previous reviews? Find them all at my blog. I have handy lists set up with reviews organized by author surname, by review site the review was written for. Most even have hyperlinks direct to the review! All this plus easy navigation using the links section to the left of the page. You are bound to find some great info to help you with your purchasing decisions. Have a look see! Who knows? If you are an author you might discover a fabulous review you were unaware of!

## Bits & Bobs

- ♥ Complete review lists (for past and present review sites) can be found at [www.elizabethsreviews.blogspot.com](http://www.elizabethsreviews.blogspot.com).
- ♥ Feel free to pass this newsletter on UNALTERED.
- ♥ I do not guarantee a minimum of reviews per month, nor that there will be new reviews up at each site I review for.
- ♥ I apologize for any mistakes in this re-viewsletter. If you would like to report something please send an email to [elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elizabethsreviews@yahoo.co.uk) with 'errors' in the subject line.
- ♥ **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FEATURING IN THIS NEWSLETTER PLEASE SEE THE FREE PROMO NOTICE IN THE FILES SECTION OF THE GROUP.**

### CONTEST TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Contests close WHEN SPECIFIED. Entries received after this date will NOT be included in the draw.

Use the provided subject lines. Entries with the wrong subject line may be voided, particularly if the contest has a high number of entries. I use these subject lines to keep track of your entries. PLEASE HELP ME TO HELP YOU!

Winners must contact me to claim their prize within 14 days.

Unless otherwise stated, winners will be drawn randomly from correct entries (i.e.. If there are questions, these must ALL be answered in FULL, details asked for MUST be provided etc).

**YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR YAHOO ID WITH EVERY CONTEST ENTRY.** This is so that I can perform checks that the winner IS a member of the group. Only group members are eligible for contests. By all means tell your friends, but they must join to win! Entries without yahoo ids or entries where the yahoo id is unclear will be void. NO EXCEPTIONS!

***Thank you for your support! Happy New Year!!!***