



The Kissing Bough

Madelynne Ellis

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Viola Marsh has been forced to live an austere life, locked away under the watchful eye of her spinster aunt. Only on Christmas Eve is she allowed her freedom, to take part in the tradition of wassailing.

Cousins, Percy Gilling and Lord William Ricborough share a close and special relationship, and they require a very particular woman to satisfy their needs. What they're not expecting is to find her poised beneath the mistletoe on a wintry hilltop.

The Kissing Bough Details

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From Reader Review The Kissing Bough for online ebook

Clare O'Beara says

This quite sweetly written story shows how some men with illegal male lovers during Regency times may have dealt with the situation.

A girl whose reputation is less than spotless can hardly hope for advantageous marriage or kind treatment from her family, even if it wasn't her fault. Our heroine is kept closeted except for a village Christmas ritual when she is escorted by her brother to stand in the snow under a tree and mistletoe bough. Two gentlemen see her and wonder if she is the answer to their discreet dilemma.

I enjoyed the descriptive writing and tackling of this topic in what is yet a nice romance. This is an adult tale.

Bobbi says

The kissing Bough by Madelynne Ellis. I really liked this short ménage story. The characters got int my head and stayed a while. In my dreams I added so much more to this story. Would love to read more about these characters.

Tammy says

A sexy short holiday historical read. Viola is hidden away in the country after a scandal has ruined any prospects of marriage. Yet each year she stands under the kissing bough hoping to be kissed and find love. After three long years she finds it, will her secrets ruin any chance she may have with these sexy men, who love each other and are looking for the right woman? Sweet story with plenty of hot sex.

Rosemary says

A short historical ménage romance that was a delight to read. Viola's first season ended in scandal when she accidentally stumbled on two male lovers hidden in a closet. No one believed her lack of involvement and all hope of a match seems dashed. Three years later she still hopes to be kissed by a man under the mistletoe and to find love. A kiss (or more accurately two kisses) finally comes thanks to Will and Percy. They are lovers and Will is looking for a wife who will love both men and be ok with their relationship with each other. She is intrigued, but worries they will no longer be interested once she find out the rumors of her experience are simply that - rumors. Will the three take a chance on each other? I really enjoyed Viola and both Will and Percy. My only complaint is that I wished their story was longer!

Diane K. Peterson says

Can a menage story be cute? Or even silly? Apparently it can. Unusual for an erotic book, but OK.

Arec Rain says

What an utterly delightful short romance. This is one of the few shorts I have read where I wanted so much more, not because I found the story lacking but because I enjoyed it so much. It was something different from what I usually find. First off, it was a historical ménage a trios and I loved every second of it. I wanted so much for the leads to have their happy ending. Not to mention the author wrote the erotic scenes perfect. A big problem I have with ménage a trios stories is that the author will write the men taking the woman at the same time (you know what I mean, don't ask me to elaborate!) However, it doesn't work like that. If you are going to write a ménage a trios, at least make it believable. Madelyne Ellis accomplished that with ease while also writing an enjoyable story. I hope to read more stories from her that are equally as good if not better.

Julie Barrett says

The Kissing Bough is an absolutely charming book that succeeded in putting a big smile on my face. I'm a big fan of MMF ménage stories, and this one was a delight to read. It is set in Regency England at Christmas time which makes it even more magical. I just wish it was a bit longer as I loved this trio and wanted to hear more from them.

Viola has been living in disgrace after she was ruined at a party. Even though she was totally innocent no one in her family would believe her, so she has been living with her spinster aunt away from society. She is only allowed out on Christmas Eve to take part in the traditional wassailing ceremony. While she is there she is spotted by lovers Percy and Lord William. Could she be the special woman that they've been looking for.

All three of the main characters are likable, although my personal favourite was Percy - he's adorable. The interaction between the characters manages to be both sweet and steamy, with some very hot moments. I liked the regency setting, the author portrayed it beautifully. Can we have a sequel please? I'd love to revisit this trio to see how their relationship progresses. Four stars.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for a honest review.

Sarah says

Viola's first (and only) season ended in disaster when she was caught in a closet with two partially dressed men. Not even her family believe her protests that she was completely innocent and had just stumbled into the wrong place at the wrong time. Now she has spent the last three years in disgrace hidden away from the world in the care of her spinster aunt. The only time she is allowed to mix with society is for the family's Christmas Eve Ball and every year she dreams of finding a man who will finally share her first kiss.

William and Percy are lovers who long to find a woman who will accept their relationship and be willing to join them. William must marry and produce an heir but he refuses to give up Percy as part of the bargain.

When they hear of the scandal surrounding Viola they think they have found their ideal match, a woman who is open to sharing herself with two men. Viola is shocked by their offer but also intrigued. This could be her only chance at marriage but can she willingly accept two men into her bed and will they still want her when they realise that she isn't as experienced as they assume?

At 90 pages **The Kissing Bough** is a fairly short story but **Madelynne Ellis** did a great job of introducing her characters and making it easy to root for them. I loved all three characters and thought there was a great balance between sweet, emotional scenes and hot spicy ones. The Regency setting was great and I enjoyed the glimpse into Christmas traditions of the time. This really was a perfect holiday read and I'm now looking forward to picking up more books from this author.

~ Lei ~ Reading Is An Adventure ~ says

★★★?? ~ 3 Stars

Viola was disgraced even though it wasn't her fault and has been relegated to the children's nursery except for one night of the year. Luckily for her, cousins Lord Will and Percy have been looking for a woman for Will to marry that they can share and continue their own relationship in a permanent ménage. Hot number for 63 pages, although it could have used a bit more editing.

Beth C. says

Short, but very sexy historical ménage about a girl whose reputation was ruined by an innocent act. But of all things in the world she should end up with - a proposal of the exact same thing.

Cute story with a very happy ending! A very Merry Christmas for Viola! Enjoyed it!

Elaine says

I thought this a lovely little sexy story. Well worth the read. A very happy ending.

Heather says

4-1/2 Stars

What a delicious holiday treat! Fun, sexy, historical, a bit of romance, even a little drama mix into this Christmas ménage. All Viola wants is to find someone to love her for herself and not just because of the scandal, mistakenly out-of-proportion scandal I might add, attached to her name. When Will and Percy seek her out because of said scandal, it dampens the joy she feels at having been approached but will she risk it, will they once they find out the scandal was slanderous with very little truth behind it? Well, as usual, for that you'll have to read *The Kissing Bough* yourself but I will say that you'll enjoy the journey. Could this have been better with a few more pages and a little more character background? Maybe, but for this reader it was a lovely holiday gem just as it is and a great addition to my Christmas library.

Indie Editor Nancy says

This was a beautifully written historical short story, with a lovable heroine Viola Marsh. A misunderstood young lady, who everyone assumed had given herself to two men and had sullied the family name.

Christmas time arrives and she is finally let out of her room to experience the season and her chance to find a man to love her. While standing under the old oak tree with the garland hung from its branches:

"Warm breath buffeted her face, heating her skin and causing her heart to thud inside her chest. However, her suitor did not kiss her on the lips as she'd always supposed he would. Instead, he grazed one cheek with a caress, and then the other. Viola held her breath awaiting the final denouement, once done she would open her eyes and face her fate. Only for the impossible to occur-he kissed her on both cheeks at once."

I loved the old English terminology, the love and devotion pampered on Viola near the end of this touching story. Very much a Cinderella story with a ménage twist.

This book was a free find for me, and I have since found more of this author's book by signing up for her newsletters. <http://bit.ly/madelynnnews>.

Heidi says

beautiful book with outstanding characters i wish there was a 2nd part to this book so we could explore them some more.

Khenta says

Really liked it. Unfortunately, there were too many typos/misspellings (e.g. their/there, your/you're) in this short story to give more than 3 stars.
