



## Waiting Game

*Sheri Cobb South*

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John Pickett and Lady Fieldhurst have reached an impasse as they wait for the annulment of their accidental marriage to come before the ecclesiastical court. Meanwhile, Pickett is summoned to investigate a theft at a linen-draper's shop. Suspecting an inside job—and with a hostile hound named Brutus impeding his progress—Pickett must resort to the tricks of his former trade in order to catch a thief. Regency Mystery Novella by Sheri Cobb South; originally published by the author and Belgrave House/Regency Reads

## **Waiting Game Details**

Date : Published February 25th 2016 by Belgrave House/Regency Reads

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Author : Sheri Cobb South

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## From Reader Review Waiting Game for online ebook

### **Leslie says**

a brief interlude between the books 4 and 5.

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### **Nicole Thompson says**

I was given a free copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

From the publisher's summary: "Bow Street Runner John Pickett and Julia, Lady Fieldhurst, seem to have reached an impasse as they wait for the annulment of their accidental marriage to come before the ecclesiastical court.

In the meantime, Pickett is summoned to investigate the theft of almost 200 pounds from a linen-draper's shop - but finds no sign that either the shop or the safe where the money was kept had been forced open. Given the lack of evidence, he can only assume the money was taken by someone inside.

With a host of suspects and a hostile hound named Brutus impeding his progress, Pickett must resort to the tricks of his former trade in order to catch a thief in the act."

I really liked this book, and it helped that I listened to it as an audiobook in December, as it was supposed to be a Christmas story. However, I agree with another reviewer that this book struck me as really sad. It did seem to be a reflection of people thinking about all of the things that they wanted from life but did not seem to be able to achieve. I can only hope things turn out more positively in the coming books for John and Lady Fieldhurst!

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### **Joan says**

This novella, "Waiting Game", restored my enthusiasm for this series. There is still the tension present surrounding the unrequited feelings between Bow Street Runner, John Pickett and the Viscountess, Julia Fieldhurst. However, their relationship build and progress as they are constantly thrown together with each new mystery. In this story it's Christmas and John is in no celebratory mood as he agonizes of the pending annulment of the accidental marriage between him and his lady love, Julia.

However, what made this story so awesome was when John is investigating a theft at the shop of a prominent draper, John meets and interview witness a younger albeit wonderful Ethan Brundy! It was such a striking contrast between these two working class men who fall in love with women from the peerage who are seemingly above the interest of a bow street runner and a future mill owner.

This story takes place eight years prior to the events in "The Weaver Takes a Wife" and Ethan works for the mill and he is already thinking of future modernizations for the business. The banter between commoners John and Ethan, regarding who was worst off in the paterfamilias lottery, and the parallel between their romantic situations was both humorous and sobering. It was wonderful to see the weaver take a bow and

knowing how his pursuit of love turned out. With both John and Ethan, I love rooting for the underdog and I hope that John wins his lady Julia's love and respect.

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### **Sally says**

I'm going to consolidate (repeat myself) reviews of this series, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 4.5 and 5 because I had to get through all of those to resolve the romantic story begun in the the first book. I supposed most women like a touch of romance and these have it, albeit full of angst that is drawn out over a time period of about 10 months. I got impatient with the progress of the romance taking so long. I would characterize these stories as Romance with only a touch of Mystery rather than the other way around. At least there were mysteries to be solved by the Bow Street Runner, John Pickett and he was good enough to figure it out. I figured them out pretty easily myself.

I very much liked John Pickett. In my mind I pictured Colin Firth (as seen in Pride and Prejudice, except with longer hair). I could not quite get a visual image of the Lady Fieldhurst in my mind. I felt a little jolted every time it referred to her as a golden-haired blonde, so I suppose I thought she ought to be a dark-haired beauty.

The audiobook narrator, Joel Froomkin was pretty amazing. You'd swear it was another reader doing the female voices, as they sounded so naturally female. I did have a little problem, as a listener, with the heavy Scottish accents he used in Book 3, Family Plot, but felt that he probably did those fairly true to dialect and my ear was just not tuned in for the accents. (I was a bit curious to know if the print version had the dialect written out or if Mr. Froomkin just knew how to do them.)

There is a Book 6, but I might be satisfied to imagine that the romantic couple will live happily every after.

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### **Pamela Shropshire says**

Another charming novella starring John Pickett. On the strength of the heartwarming Christmas dinner party at the Colquhoun residence, I'll give this one 4 stars; otherwise the mystery would be worth 3 stars.

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### **Linda says**

John Pickett is a Bow Street Runner, a policeman. He is also married to Julia Fieldhurst in name only, as theirs was an accidental marriage that now needs to be annulled. While waiting for this annulment he works to solve the robbery of a dress shop. Deciding that it must be an inside job he uses his skills as a former pickpocket and thief to solve the mystery.

This is my first outing with this author and this series. I can't wait to read more because I so enjoyed the characters.

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## **Jessica says**

Audiobook Review:

"Sweet Holiday Novella"

In this holiday short story John Pickett gets to investigate a burglary and celebrate the holidays with the family of his mentor, Mr. Colquhoun.

Seeing John amidst the family celebrations at the Colquhoun residence is sweet and a little sad as John yearns for more for himself than his solitary life.

The investigation wraps up a little quickly as this is a novella but is still well done and doesn't feel rushed. Joel Leslie Froomkin's performance was top notch and very enjoyable.

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## **Elizabeth Sirk says**

### **Ok read**

I love reading her books her mysteries are good but not so good nothing interesting keep reading she does write great books

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## **Norma says**

( Format : Audiobook )

"I don't doubt your sincerity, John, but .."

A sad and lonely Christmas awaited John Pickett before his kindly boss invited him to join his large family for dinner. And then a crime to solve - the safe of one Mr. Robinson, draper, had been opened and the large sum of money awaiting banking after the holiday period, had been stolen.

But even as he investigates, John is constantly reminded of Julia, Lady Fieldhurst, his wife in law only, as he miserably awaits the annulment.

An enjoyable, if a little sad, continuation of the tale of loves divided by the vast expanse of social expectations, again ably read by Joel Froomkin. Although not essential to the ongoing saga and lacking much of the humour inherent in the novels, this is not to be missed by the followers of this series.

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## **Barbara says**

Excellent for a novella.

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## **Lorraine says**

Even with all this mess relating to redecorating, I found one of my John Pickett's. Yes, it is a short one, but a goodie all the same. Sheri Cobb South's Waiting Game, (#4.5 John Pickett Mysteries) is a very quick read as it is a novella. As John and Julia, Lady Fieldhurst arrive at an impasse while waiting for their 'annulment', John is assigned to a case of theft at a linen-draper's shop, but the novella begins with John joining the

magistrate's family for 1808's Christmas dinner. I loved that part as John 'becomes' part of this family for the holiday, and he even realizes that he is sorry to see it end. Thus, it is back to work for this Bow Street runner. John visits this linen-draper store robbery. John has a bite-in with the family's pet, meets the owner's daughter, and even gets a chance to witness a delivery from Brundy & Son with their many ordered bolts of fabric. (Brundy & Son are characters from a very successful novel of Ms. Cobb South.) Suffice it to say, John solves the case using a few of the (illegal) tricks he learned at his Pappy's knee. Fun!

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### **Suzan says**

I am so enjoying this series. This novella was a very fun glimpse into another adventure with John Pickett. We get a little back story on John's mentor Mr. Colquhoun and his family. Joel Froomkin's narration is wonderful as it's been in all this series.

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### **Susan says**

#### **Bridge**

Much too short, but with all the excellent presentation of character and place of the longer novels. Apparently a bridge to the further adventures of John Pickett and Lady Julia.

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### **Patsyann says**

If not for the Christmas scenes this would have been a really sad story. The Christmas party only made John yearn for something he feels he cannot have.

John Pickett now sees both sides of rich and poor. The first book, The Pickpocket's Apprentice gave all the clues to why he makes the decisions he makes, and he is one of my favorite virgin heroes!!

The mystery was great and the suspect was not who I thought it would be, and how John caught the thief was great!!

In this book he is beginning to isolate himself from Julia, but the final scene of him standing outside her house - just so sad!!

BEST USE OF: Christmas

ALPHA MALE 10

SPUNKY HEROINE 10

SOME SEX 0

HEA(HAPPILY EVER AFTER) none

PROLOGUE/EPILOGUE none

Rating System

10 - Perfect

Heat Level

0- the only heat were fireplaces

COVER: Best Cover Ever!!

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**Alice says**

**The Weaver Takes a Bow**

Christmas time for John Pickett, yet criminals don't stop for holidays. A drapers shop (otherwise known as a fabric store in American) is mysteriously robbed and John Pickett is assigned the investigation. Interesting details about his past are dropped, but the best is a rather philosophical discussion between Pickett and Ethan Brundy a weaver. If the name is familiar, then you have read *The Weaver Takes A Wife*, if not then you are missing out on a unique and very humorous treat. The parallel between their romantic situations and their differences in views on a unequal marriage really show what you accept is what you get. Brilliant touch to a great historical mystery romance series.

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