

LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

The exclusive magazine from Elizabeth Ellen Carter

HAVE A HEART!

A CHARITY FUNDRAISER WITH VICTORIA VANE

ARR24

A ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS IN BRISBANE

RACING AWAY WITH THEIR HEARTS

THE FOUR-TO-ONE FANCY BREAKS AWAY FROM THE FIELD

DINING OUT

A HISTORY OF PICNICS IN THE REGENCY AND VICTORIAN ERAS

LOVE SPRING BLOOMS

Interview

These girls are HARD TO MATCH

IT'S TROUBLE TIMES TWO WHEN TWIN SISTERS ARE LOOKING FOR LOVE

ALSO INSIDE:

- FUN & GAMES: A DAY AT THE RACES
- RESURRECTED: A SELECTION OF EASTER MOVIES

LOVE'S GREAT ADVENTURE

Issue 25 March 2024

AUTHOR'S DESK

STARTING THE YEAR WITH A BANG!

As you'll know if you follow me on social media, a tornado swept through our little part of the state of Queensland, Australia, at 9pm on Christmas night. In fact, it came off the hills, went right down the main street of the small housing estate we live on, and surged out to the coast before it blew out.

It wasn't especially strong, more of a violent derecho which was caught on video locally with a tornado briefly descending from it as it dropped down the hills towards us. For about 20 minutes, it was like being in a washing machine – rain lashing windows on every side of the house – then we went outside and helped for the next few hours clearing debris in the street and checking on neighbours.

Aside from tree and fence damage, we were unharmed. Others on the estate lost roof tiles, had windows blow out and trees fall into their homes. But people lost their lives in the hills behind us as the storm destroyed their homes completely, and elsewhere a nurse on her way home from working Christmas Day died when a tree struck her car.

So, we counted our blessings during the following week without electricity, with blocked roads and no cell phone coverage, and no air conditioning in the subsequent heatwave. Oh – and another storm, less violent, struck on New Year's Day. C'est la vie...

It's seemed as if the storms that ended last year and started this have stirred things up. It's been a devilishly hectic past few months. There's never seemed to be time to slow down. But I grasped the opportunity at the start of March to attend the Australian Romance Readers' annual awards night and book signing event, and dressed for the signing in my Regency ball gown which hadn't seen an outing since the Historical Romance Retreat in California in 2019.

The ARR event was heaps of fun. I had a fabulously raucous evening at a table with New York Times bestselling author Cathy Maxwell as well as Aussie bestseller Amy Rose Bennett and readers. And I chatted with so many great Aussie romance authors the next day. Photos of those events feature in this month's edition of Love's Great Adventure.

Elizabeth Ellen Carter



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The exclusive magazine
from Elizabeth Ellen Carter

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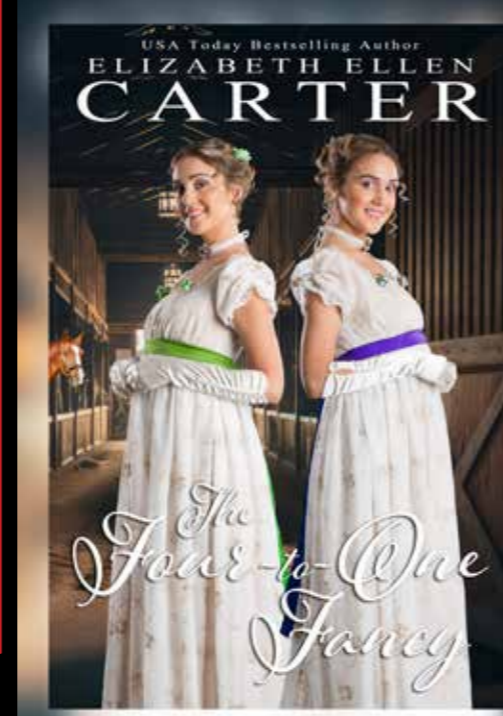
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A north of England matchmaker has her work cut out finding beaux for the Bigglesworth twins - the girls want matching brothers!

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INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

IT'S ONE THING MATCHING SEVERAL SISTERS, BUT DOUBLE TROUBLE WHEN TWO ARE TWINS

“ I'M TOLD THEY CAN'T
BEAR THE THOUGHT
OF BEING SEPARATED

by A Special Correspondent

The London Ladies Observer has sent your reporter north to the fair city of York to report on an event happening there. York is renowned for the Season. Yes, *Season* with a capital 'S'.

For many of us, there is only *one* Season, but for those young women who are not fortunate enough to make their debut and be selected to have their coming out attended by royalty, some of the regional cities of the Kingdom may yield eligible young men – especially if they happen to be short of a dowry.

Which is leads me today to sit in Lady Clune's northern salon to observe the young ladies of quality who have come to her notice.

"I take my role as hostess for the York season very seriously, indeed," said Lady Clune. "Before they receive vouchers for various events under my auspices, the young ladies are required to attend an at-home so I can judge their comportment.

"I wish to ensure that as many successful matches will be made as possible. What we lack in numbers, we make up for in enthusiasm!"

I look around and see a dozen young ladies at today's event. There are precious few young men.

Lady Clune sees the direction of my gaze and is keen to reassure me that there will be plenty of young men of quality from the towns outside York – *ah yes, the landed gentry*. I ask our hostess who she has the most hopes for

She discreetly points to a particular group of local beauties. My eye is caught by two young ladies in conversation in a small party who, I have to admit, wouldn't be out of place in the capital. They draw my attention because of how very alike they are, and not just in physical appearance, being willowy and graceful with auburn hair.

Their mannerisms mirror each other completely – the raise of a hand to take a cup of tea, the slight tilt to the right as they consider their part in the conversation. It is a most remarkable display.

I discreetly take a step closer as I would listen in on the conversation. One of the girls would begin a story or an anecdote and the other would take up the story seamlessly partway through, as though it was being told by one person.

Continued on page 7

TROUBLESOME

TWINS

AN EXCERPT FROM THE FOUR-TO-ONE FANCY

Iris watched her sister shift the heavily laden basket onto another arm.

"Here, let me take it for a while," she said.

Ivy shot her a grateful look and relinquished the basket.

After a moment Iris spoke. "Are you nervous?" she asked.

"What about?"

"I feel the weight of expectation—on you, me, Josefina—to find a husband this season."

Ivy nodded. "Patience has expended an enormous sum to give us this opportunity, that to go back to Starbrook without an offer..."

"It's only because our sisters gave up their portion of the dowry that we have an acceptable sum to offer," Iris added.

"We have our titles, but they mean little," said Ivy.

"We may not be pretty enough to attract the eye of a suitable gentleman." Iris let out a long, dispirited sigh.

Silence fell between them for good long minutes before Ivy asked. "What kind of gentleman would you like to marry?"

Iris considered the question a moment before shrugging a shoulder.

"He must be kind. I'd like him to be handsome. Most of all, he must love family because I would want you to visit me often."

"That worries me as much as not finding husbands," Ivy confessed. "What if we do? We would marry and be apart for the first time in our lives."

The notion caused Iris to stop. She turned to her sister.

"I... I can't imagine not seeing you every day," she said.

They remained there on the pavement, each lost in their own thoughts.

"Do you think there may be brothers in attendance?"

"There might," said Iris, tilting her head. "We would need to see an invitation list to be sure. Why do you ask?"

Ivy raised her chin in firm resolve. "It is the only way forward. By marrying brothers, we would be sure to see each other more often than if we married anyone else. We have to marry brothers. It is the only way."

The twins found the stationers. They sought out the most colorful paper in stock and tallied it up. It was slightly more than they could afford.

While the clerk looked at them expectantly, Iris and Ivy exchanged a glance. Each knew



what the other was thinking—they had a few coppers they'd intended to spend on new paint brushes. If they reused the ones they brought with them, they could afford it.

Ivy pushed the paint brushes aside on the counter and handed over the coins for the paper.

Now the basket was exceedingly heavy. Each twin took the handle, carrying the load between them. It was awkward, but it was the only way it could be done.

Iris returned to her contemplation.

Brothers.

Yes! That was the only solution. She and Ivy would simply have to find brothers to marry. Surely it stood to reason male siblings of suitable standing would attend this season. After all, there was a clutch of Bigglesworth sisters in York, should there not be a goodly number of families with an equally large number of sons?

"You never told me what kind of husband you would like," Iris asked her sister.

Ivy cocked her head. "In truth, I've not given it much thought. Like your dream beau, he must be kind and must love you as much as I love you."

"How do you think you'll know him?"

"I think it will be in his eyes."

"I think it will be in his kiss," whispered Iris.

Ivy's mouth dropped open a moment before she giggled. "A kiss," she said. "Yes, I would certainly think that would do it."

LGA



“THE LATE EARL'S AFFAIRS WERE IN THE MOST DREADFUL SHAMBLES. HE SO EXPECTED A SON FROM EACH LADY HE MARRIED THAT HE NEVER GOT AROUND TO UPDATING HIS WILL.”

- LADY CLUNE



COVER STORY

THE YORK ASSEMBLY ROOMS

TROUBLESOME TWINS

Continued from page 5

"Ah, I see you have spotted Lady Ivy and Lady Iris Bigglesworth," says Lady Clune. An uncertainty in her voice piques my interest.

The good lady inclines her head and silently indicates that I should follow her a discreet distance away.

"There is something you should know about the girls," she begins.

I tell her I have already guessed that Lady Ivy and Lady Iris are twins.

"Yes, that is true, and of all nine sisters, they and their older sister, Josefina, have the best chances of making a successful match."

Nine? All from the same family? All hoping to find husbands?

"Oh! No, I should clarify, three of those girls are still in the school room, cared for by late Earl of Seahaven's fifth and youngest wife, Lady Patience Bigglesworth."

Then six young women – seven if you included the young widow from the same family – all in York for the same purpose. I murmur that the late Earl must have left a substantial dowry.

Lady Clune shakes her head sadly. "There is barely enough to make a decent dowry for one," she tells me. "I don't care to be quoted on this, but the new Earl of Seahaven has been most dreadful to the girls. They were living quite happily in the

family holding, and there was enough room for them to do so comfortably, but he refused to continue," she said.

"He tossed the girls out, and most of them have had to—" Lady Clune drops her voice to a whisper, "—work for a living."

"Mind you, the late Seahaven's affairs were in the most dreadful shambles. He so expected a son from each lady he married that he never got around to updating his will."

I turn my attention back to Lady Ivy and Lady Iris once more. They are dressed simply, but tastefully; the gowns are of the current cut, but not elaborately adorned. I hazard a guess on who was Ivy and who was Iris by the choice of ribbons they'd used to dress the bodice and to place in their hair. The one in green had to be Ivy and the other in lilac had to be Iris.

I told Lady Clune that I would like to interview the girls – but only on the matter of being twins. After some back and forth, I managed to convince her that I had no ill-intent toward them, and I was given permission to approach.

It was decided that the interview take place in private, and Lady Clune's study was deemed suitable.

Lady Clune made the introductions and informed the girls about what the interview was about.

They looked at one another as though having a silent conversation. Then Iris offered a slight nod, and Ivy spoke apparently for the both of them.

"We've never been interviewed before."

I promised that my readers in London would be fascinated by a tale of twins making their debut.

The girls looked to each other again before sitting in the tapestry covered chairs placed there for them, and we began.

What are you most enjoying about York?

"The history," they answered in unison.

"It's a very ancient city," said Ivy. "To walk where the Romans walked!"

"Not to mention York Minster. It's magnificent," added Iris.

Each girl, it should be pointed out nodded in agreement with the other's answer.

Are you looking forward to finding a husband this season?

Only now do the girls' expressions falter.

"Well yes," begins Iris. "But we shouldn't like to be separated by marriage," continues Ivy. "We're wondering what the chances would be—"

"—of twin daughters finding twin sons to marry," the girls say together.

I had to confess that I wasn't sure the chances were high, but nevertheless I wished them all the best, and took my leave.

LGA

OUT MAY 1. PRE-ORDER NOW. CLICK/TAP HERE.

A ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS

And the winners are...

Favourite Australian Romance Author 2023

Amy Andrews

(Runner-up: Rachael Johns)

Favourite Debut Romance Author 2023

Joanne Speirs with *Second Chance Love in Point Perry*

(Runner-up: Lucy Lever with *Mystic Ridge*)

Favourite Continuing Romance Series 2023

Black Dagger Brotherhood series by JR Ward

(Runners-up: *Hockey Guys* series by Sarina Bowen, and *With Love From Kurrajong Crossing* series by Dakota Harrison and Fiona Marsden)

Favourite Romantic Suspense 2023

The Lonely Hearts Detective Agency by Megan Mayfair

(Runner-up: *Need You Tonight* by Leisl Leighton)

Favourite Short or Category Romance 2023

Cinderella and the Outback Billionaire by Kelly Hunter

(Runner-up: *A Cattle Dog for Christmas* by Stella Quinn)

Favourite Contemporary Romance 2023

Breaking All the Rules by Amy Andrews

(Runner-up: *A Home Among the Snow Gums* by Stella Quinn)

Favourite Historical Romance 2023

The Homecoming by Alison Stuart

(Runners-up: *Her Worthy Rake* by Charlotte Anne, and *Snapshots from Home* by Sasha Wasley)

Favourite Sci Fi, Fantasy or Futuristic Romance 2023

Ring of Ruin by Keri Arthur

(Runner-up: *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros)

Favourite Paranormal Romance 2023

Resonance Surge by Nalini Singh

(Runner-up: *A Relic of Magic and Frankincense* by HM Hodgson)

Members' Choice Award for Favourite Romantic Comedy 2023

Breaking all the Rules by Amy Andrews

(Runner-up: *Confessions of a Canine Drama Queen* by Stefanie London)

Members' Choice Award for Best Banter in a Romance 2023

Playing it Tough by Amy Andrews

(Runner-up: *Waking Up Married to the Billionaire* by Michelle Douglas)

Members' Choice Award for Favourite Couple in a Romance 2023

Adeline and Holden in Talk to the Heart by Rachael Johns

(Runner-up: *Violet and Xaden in Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros)

The winners of the Australian Romance Readers' Awards for 2023 were announced in Brisbane, Australia, on March 8 with the annual ARRA author's book signing event the following day. Here are some pictures from the award dinner and the signing.



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS!



LEFT: ELIZABETH, TRACEY AND LINDA



ABOVE: A TALE OF TWO AMYS - AMY ANDREWS AND AMY ROSE BENNETT



LEFT: SELFIE TIME WITH AMY ANDREWS AND ELIZABETH ELLEN CARTER



ORGANISERS AND SPEAKERS WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
CATHY MAXWELL AND KATE MEADER

Continued on next page

A ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS



ABOVE: AUTHOR TANYA BIRD WHOSE TITLES INCLUDE THE KINGDOM OF WALLS SERIES.



RIGHT: URBAN FANTASY AND ROMANCE AUTHOR ALLISON A ANDREWS

BELOW: RENAE BLACK, AUTHOR OF RED DIRT HOME, WAS ENJOYING HERSELF AT HER FIRST AUTHOR SIGNING EVENT



RIGHT: T.M. CLARK COMBINES HER PASSION FOR STORYTELLING WITH DIFFERENT CULTURES AND WILDLIFE, AND WRITES FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.



ABOVE: NO WONDER AMY ANDREWS LOOKED PLEASED AT THE SIGNING EVENT - THE PREVIOUS NIGHT SHE WON THE MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD FOR FAVOURITE ROMANTIC COMEDY 2023 WITH BREAKING ALL THE RULES AND THE MEMBERS' CHOICE AWARD FOR BEST BANTER IN A ROMANCE WITH PLAYING IT TOUGH, WHILE BREAKING ALL THE RULES WAS VOTED FAVOURITE CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE AND AMY HERSELF WAS NAMED THE ARRA FAVOURITE AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE AUTHOR OF 2023



ABOVE: I WAS DELIGHTED TO SHARE A TABLE WITH THE LOVELY CATHY MAXWELL AT THE AWARDS DINNER. THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR IS THE LIFE OF THE PARTY!

BELOW: ARR24 WAS A STOP FOR AUTHORS PENELOPE JANU AND STELLA QUINN ON A RURAL FICTION ROAD TRIP IN SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND THIS MONTH.



ABOVE: MEETING WITH A READER, AUTHOR JOANNE SPEIRS WHO WON ARR FAVOURITE DEBUT ROMANCE AUTHOR 2023 FOR HER NOVEL SECOND CHANCE LOVE IN POINT PERRY



RIGHT: AMY ROSE BENNETT CHATS WITH ONE OF HER MANY READERS



Continued on next page

A ROMANTIC RENDEZVOUS



LEFT: RACHEL ARMSTRONG ISN'T JUST AN ACCOMPLISHED CONTEMPORARY ROMANCES AUTHOR, SHE'S A WORLD TRAVELLER WHOSE LATEST MAJOR TRIP WAS LONDON LAST YEAR FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

BELOW: AUTHORS ELLA MCLAUGHLIN AND N.D. DEVEREAUX SHARED A TABLE, MIXING CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE IN EXOTIC LOCATIONS WITH DARK ROMANTIC FANTASY



ABOVE: CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE AUTHOR J.M. ADELE



ABOVE: T. MAREE PROMOTING HER THREE MAREE'S TITLES



LEFT: IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BOOK FOR NICOLE WALSH, AUTHOR OF THE STEAMY URBAN FANTASY NOVEL LUST AND SUBMISSION



LEFT: BERNADETTE ROWLEY (LEFT IN PIC) WAS AT ARR24 SHOWCASING HER EPIC ELEVEN BOOK FANTASY SERIES, THE QUEENMAKERS SAGA.

RIGHT: AUTHORS SAMANTHA L. VALENTINE AND ALI LEE



ABOVE: PROLIFIC SC-FI ROMANCE AUTHOR IMOGENE NIX WITH HER HUSBAND, MARK.



LEFT: AUTHOR FIONA MARSDEN.

DINING

A HISTORY OF PICNICS FROM THE REGENCY AND VICTORIAN ERAS TO THE PRESENT DAY

OUTDOORS

While the northern hemisphere emerges from the slumber of winter, here in Australia we're beginning to break the shackles of an oppressively hot and humid summer. But no matter if it is spring or autumn, if the sun is out and the weather is mild, then it is the right time for a picnic.

Who exactly had the bright idea of dining alfresco? And in the days before sealed food containers and bug sprays why did anyone think it was such a good idea?

While popular from the Regency era, its origins go back to 17th Century France and pique-nique. Pique comes from the verb piquer meaning to pick or peck at and 'nique' is unknown but believed to have been just a cutesy rhyme.

The first picnics were extravagant potluck affairs with every guest bringing a dish to share with everyone else.

How civil!

You might be surprised to know that these original first picnics were not held outdoors at all. In fact, it wasn't until the concept arrived in England with the French emigres fleeing the revolution that the English picnicked at all.

Much like the Diner en Blanc events today where people dress in crisp and elegant white clothes and dine alfresco, these events in London in the early 1800s were as popular for their drunken entertainments as for the quality of the food.

Impresario Richard Sheridan wasn't impressed. As the owner of Drury Lane Theatre, he wasn't impressed by rank amateurs taking custom from his professional company.

Sheridan used his influence in newspapers to mock these Pic Nic-ers, and satirical illustrator Gillray was happy to join in.

From that bit of sensationalist publicity, everyone finally had a name for what many of them were already doing on pleasant sunny afternoons, and at the races.

At one Epsom Derby, renowned author Charles Dickens is said to have exclaimed: 'Look where I will... I see Fortnum & Mason. All the hampers fly wide open and the green downs burst into a blossom of lobster salad!'

Wherever the British Empire spread, so too did the idea of picnics and, here in Australia where we have an abundance of fine weather, we took to the picnic with gusto.

Often they were family and friends groups, or sometimes organised by the local church, unions or businesses.

Over the years, technology changed the face of picnics with portable fridges, the ubiquitous barbecue and the capacious marquees but nothing beats a lovely day outdoors, in great company and, perhaps, a little riparian entertainment.



BACKGROUND: AN AUSTRALIAN PICNIC FROM THE LATE 1930S (SOURCE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA)

TOP RIGHT: BOOZY PICNIC REVELLERS OF THE EARLY 1800S

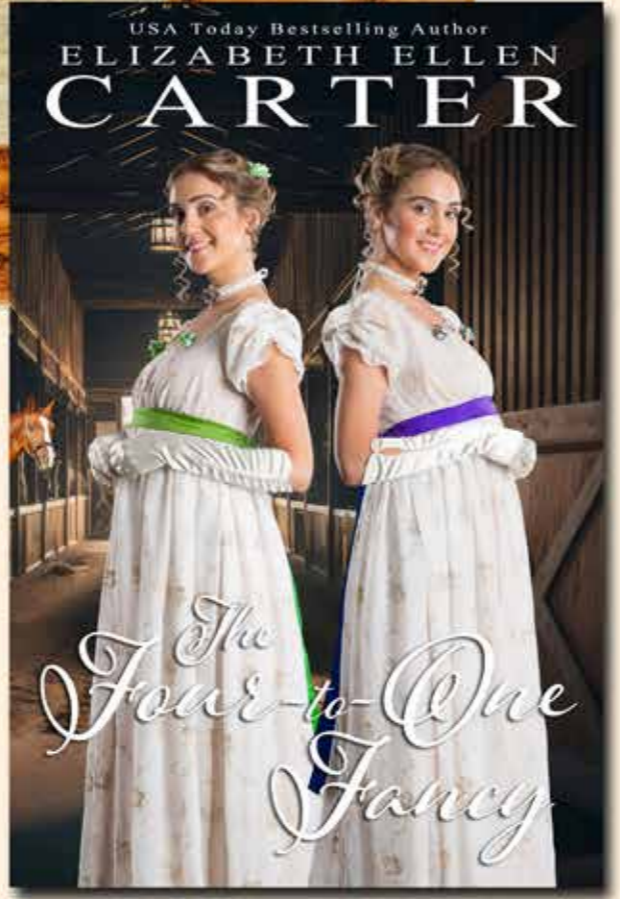
LEFT: THE RIPARIAN ENTERTAINMENT OF THE BRITISH TV COMEDY SERIES 'KEEPING UP APPEARANCES', AS COLLATED IN AN ONLINE MEME.

Fate has given twins Ivy and Iris Bigglesworth a season in York.



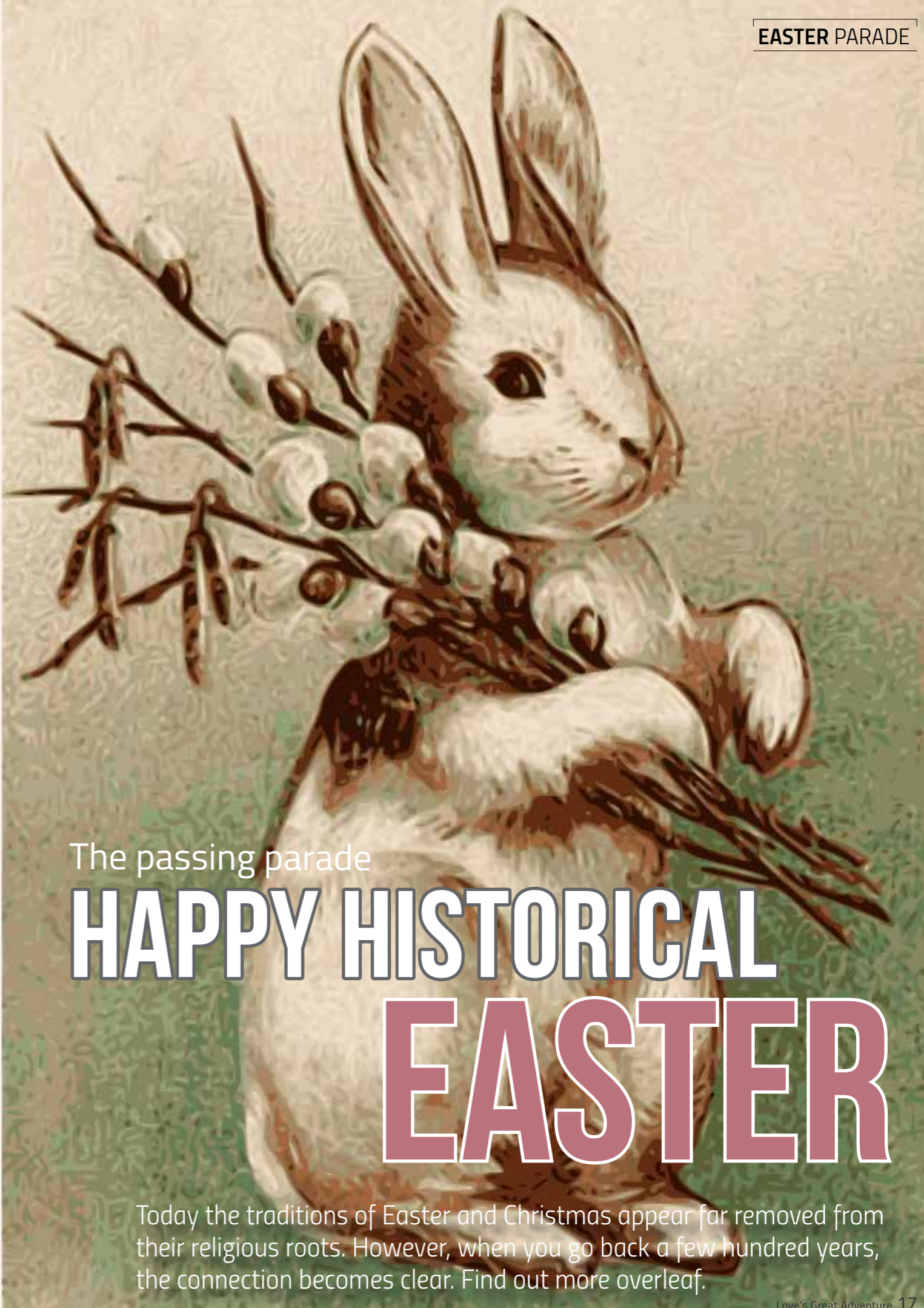
The Four-to-One Fancy

OUT MAY 1
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The sisters vow to marry only brothers so they will never be apart. But what are the odds of finding and falling in love with two such eligible young men?

Hearts race when they meet handsome cousins who are betting their future on a risky racing venture. Soon the twins learn there are more than fortunes to be lost on a four-to-one fancy...



The passing parade

HAPPY HISTORICAL EASTER

Today the traditions of Easter and Christmas appear far removed from their religious roots. However, when you go back a few hundred years, the connection becomes clear. Find out more overleaf.

EASTER

IN THE REGENCY & VICTORIAN ERAS



While Santa Claus of today is a mash-up of the Dutch Sinter Klass and the charity of the Greek bishop Saint Nicolas, the connection between eggs and the Easter bunny isn't immediately evident.

Up until the end of the Tudor era, Easter marked the end of the privations and repentance period of Lent. Resurrection Sunday was greeted with a celebratory feast including meat, which had been excluded for the prior 40 days.

For those poorer and for whom meat was an only occasional luxury, their feasts often included the giving of eggs which were far more plentiful and cheaper.

During the period of the Reformation and the austerity under the Puritan reign of Oliver Cromwell, religious observances were stripped of anything celebratory. In the centuries after the Restoration, however, decoration and colour was introduced to those religious services which coincided with the emergence of spring.

Churches were decorated with flowers, and, later, in the Victoria era, homes would be decorated with lace and beadwork pieces for their shelves and tables, including lilacs, lilies, pansies and tulips as well as blossom.

While decorated eggs for Easter is a tradition that goes back to the earliest days of Christianity in the Middle East, and which later spread with converts to Europe, the first chocolate Easter egg was a Victorian confection (pun intended) made by John Cadbury from 1842.

Easter egg hunts, egg rolling, and other celebrations were held on Easter Sunday and Monday, which marked the start of sporting games for the week.

With the arrival of 'the Uniform Penny Post' in 1840, postcards for every occasion became vastly popular throughout Victorian England. Here are some of our Easter favourites.



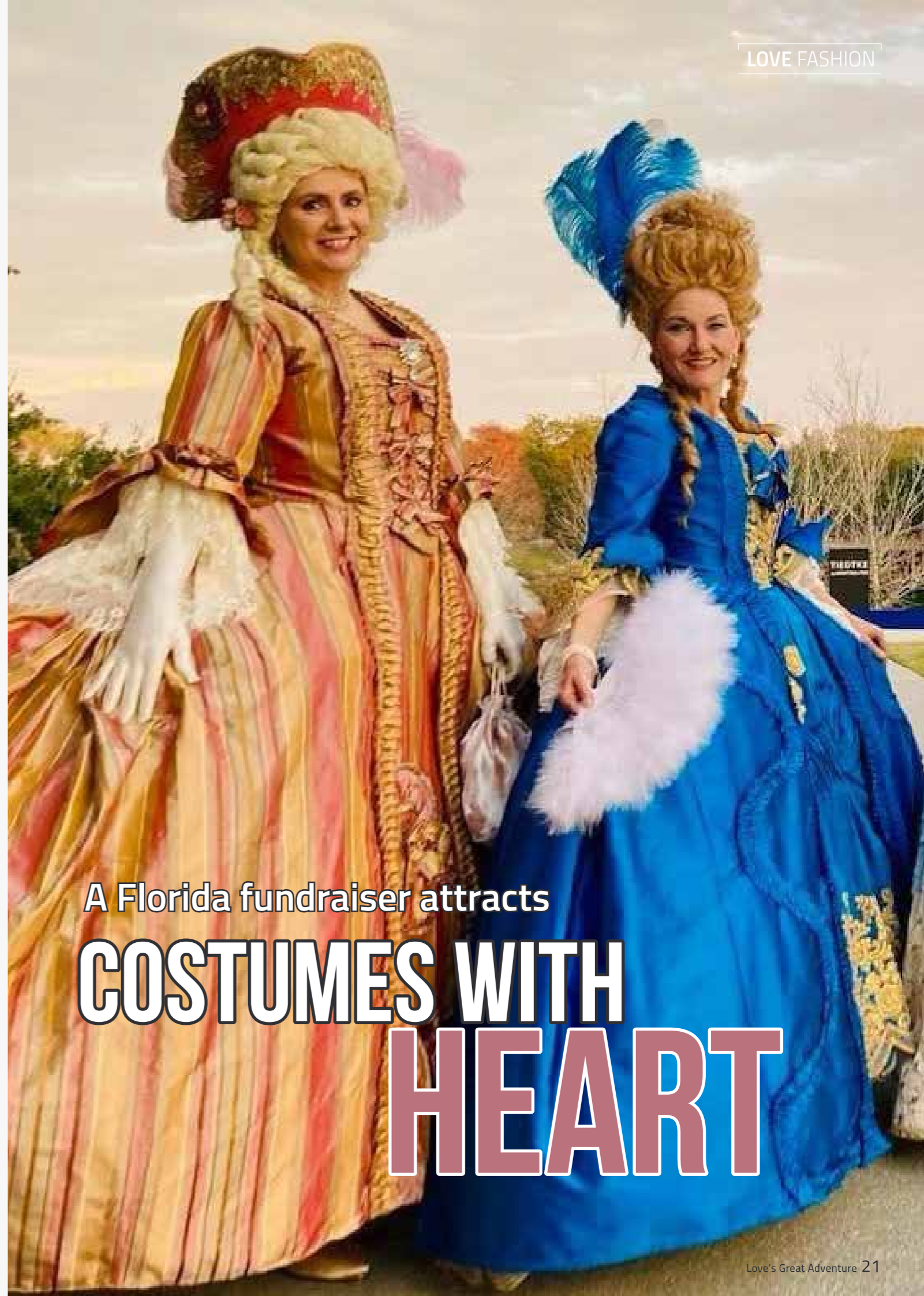


by Victoria Vane

Specializing in 18th century court gowns and wigs

FOR COSTUMED EVENTS AND PLAY

SEWVANECOUTURE.COM



A Florida fundraiser attracts

COSTUMES WITH HEART

COSTUMES WITH HEART

by Fashion Correspondent
VICTORIA VANE



Those who follow my costuming adventures might recall my magical trip to Fetes Galantes at Versailles last spring. It was a memorable event that I was delighted to relive recently when some friends that I met at Versailles hosted a costumed fundraiser for the American Heart Association in their hometown of Winter Park, Florida.

As fortune would have it, this event also coincided with a soft launch of my new brand, Rococo Redux, specializing in elaborate 18th century court gowns and wigs.

The event was well-attended at a venue in downtown Winter Park and included a cocktail hour with heavy hors d'oeuvres, live music performed by a talented soprano accompanied by a lovely string quartet which was followed by a Baroque dancing demonstration. In sum, the evening afforded the guests a brief taste of the sumptuous life at a royal court.



LGA



The novelette *The Four-to-One Fancy* is set against the backdrop of a risky horse racing venture. But what was horse racing like in the Regency era?

A SHORT HISTORY OF HORSE RACING

Most of us – even those who don't follow or have any interest in the sport – are familiar with horse racing in modern times. But what was it like in earlier days?

The answer is 'pretty much the same.' Pitting two riders and two horses (or more) against one another over a prescribed distance has remained substantially unchanged since the Eighth Century BC. So it goes back a long way on every continent on Earth.

Today, there's a wide variety of race formats and different traditions around the world – distances, track types, obstacles to name a few. But in earlier times, there were other set-ups, many of which have evolved into types of racing we see today.

Chariot racing was popular in ancient Greece and Rome, and throughout the Byzantine Empire. Chariots and mounted horses were raced in the ancient Greek Olympics. But chariots often maimed and killed both horses and riders. The chariot race in the 1959 movie *Ben Hur* might feature a degree of overdramatized mayhem, but it's a not completely inaccurate depiction of what such events could be like. Fortunately, chariot racing became the modern harness racing – very popular in Australia – which is much safer for man and beast.

Rome was also the setting for riderless horse races. From the fifth century BC, an annual spring carnival ended with fifteen to twenty riderless animals set loose to run the length of the *Via del Corso*, which was long and straight. The road closure didn't last long though – the race only took two-and-a-half minutes.

In Britain, horse racing was well-established in the 18th century. King Charles II was an avid enthusiast and fostered the races at Newmarket in Suffolk. The Jockey Club was formed in 1750 to

manage the events there, set the rules, and prevent cheating. By 1814, there were five annual races at Newmarket, but they were vastly outnumbered by the numerous local events taking place around the Kingdom.

Flat racing (with riders!) is the most popular form of horse racing in the world today. Jump racing – known as steeplechasing or hunt racing in the UK – is also vastly popular but major races such as Britain's Grand National have been criticised in recent years for the threat the obstacles pose to the horses' safety.

Horse racing in the United States and on the North American continent dates back to 1665 when they were off and racing at another Newmarket course in Salisbury, New York. Today, the industry puts \$15 billion annual into the US economy. It's the second most popular spectator sport in the United States

On the matter of money, it's a fact that the gambling associated with horse racing is the biggest thing about it. In 2019, it generated around US\$115 billion worldwide market worth.

Just as measures over the years, and continuing today, seek to make safer horse racing for rider and animal alike, recent times have seen governments invest in programs to if not dissuade then at least urge 'punters' to avoid 'problem gambling'. But said governments still happily take their share of the stake. In the UK, betterers don't have to pay tax on their winnings, but gambling providers face three different types of taxes, known as 'duty' – General Betting Duty, Pool Betting Duty and Remote Gaming Duty. Similar laws apply at federal and state level in Australia. In the US, you have to fess up to the IRS if you win big amounts.

That's racing!

The editor of The Teatime Tattler, Mr S Clements, kindly shares a round-up of the latest whispers around the world of the Ton and below stairs.

HOT GOSSIP

A Leap Too Far?

Can a gentleman be too charming? The ladies of Upper Upton think so.

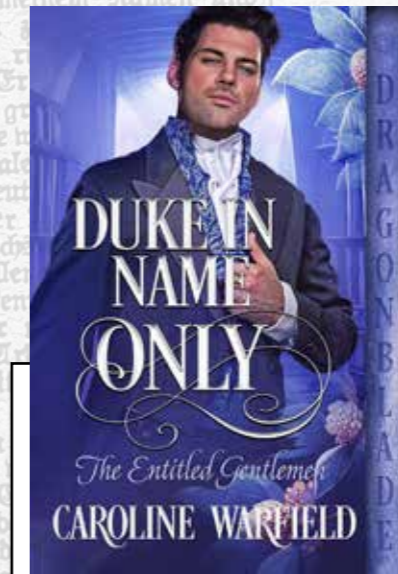
And it's almost Leap Day, when a man who refuses a lady's proposal of marriage must offer a forfeit.

When the single ladies of the village conspire to teach their charmer a lesson that might bankrupt him, the town's loveliest young widow steps up to warn him.

His secrets and hers make them a perfect match—and she's the lady he wants. But she won't accept his proposal, not even to rescue him.

As Leap Day approaches, the clock is ticking. Can he convince her in time to say yes to his offer and take a leap into love?

<https://bluestockingbelles.net/love-is-in-the-air/>



Not illegitimate after all

The Duke of Glenmoor found his long-lost older brother was alive and was overjoyed!

But the discovery that said brother may be legitimate and not a bastard after all, has left him confused. Does that leave him a duke in name only?

Knowing his title was bestowed on him fraudulently, he has embarked on a journey to the wilds of North America in an effort to succeed on his own. He has no idea what a fish out of water he will be, but he is determined to make something of himself. He's a man of worth – but he needs to learn that for himself, and misfortune is the best teacher.

<https://www.amazon.com/Duke-Name-Only-Entitled-Gentlemen-ebook/dp/BOC1L3L968>

Woman seeks to marry from an advert!

What do you say to a lady who sails all the way from London to the south shore of Wales, all to get a husband?

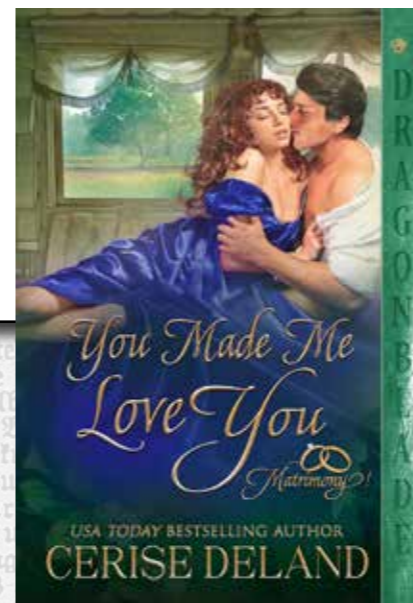
And to take one who has advertised to get you to come hither? Is that not a ridiculous venture?

Sight unseen to agree to travel hundreds of miles to a sordid little town and devilish house like the tumbledown Rambles of the barons of Rhouse and Gary?

This is a sprawling, ugly monstrosity built by Normans, kept by men who made their living stealing what bounty floated up from the shores.

A wicked house it is too. Filled with wicked men who take women for their money and their land. Hollow men who fill themselves up with the dowries of naive girls and who ravaged them...and any others they wish.

<https://www.amazon.com/You-Made-Love-Matrimony-Book-ebook/dp/BOCKY5R3HF>



Might Scottish History Repeat Itself?

The following tidbit of long ago doings in Scotland was recovered by an anonymous source. We read with interest the, ahem, musings of Lady Peigi about her sister. We are sure you will enjoy them too, especially given the antics of a certain Lord MacDonald at Almack's last evening.

The missive begins with the date: Yuletide. 1546, and is headed 'Lady Peigi Grant's account of her sister's marriage.'

"There's something in James MacDonald's eyes when he gazes at my wee sister, Aileana. He is one of our clan's greatest enemies, the Devil, we call him.

And his reputation is well-earned.

"He's demanding my brother marry one of us to him to compensate for her stealing food from his hunting camp, and yet, he doesn't want to marry me, Lady Peigi Grant.

"Nay... He wants Aileana. There's vengeance in his eyes. I can see it brimming there. Unhealed anger betwixt his folk and mine, too.

"She defied him. And challenged him. She dared to steal from him when he's stolen from us for years. And therefore, he has singled her out for his punishment."

<https://bluestockingbelles.net/7197-2/>

Goings-on at Lord C's Estate

My dear Clarissa,

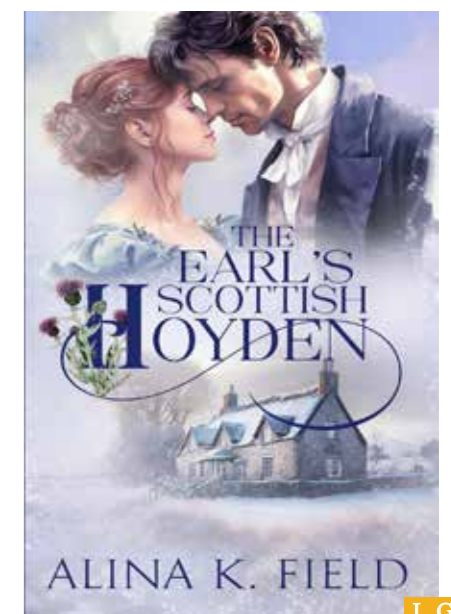
Such goings on we have had here in Kent with our new Lord C and his mother and their house party guests!

We, of course were invited tonight to dinner and the ball that followed. Lord C's mother, Mrs. Y, puts on such airs, if you ask me, and was in a fair snit when the weather gods had the nerve to spoil her plans for a late night of dancing. It was a perilous and very wet walk home—yes, my beloved refused to take out the carriage—and though I was soaked and chilled to my bones, I could not rest tonight until I put pen to paper and write to you.

I tell you, Clarissa, there is something funny about that woman, Mrs. Y, and that household, with servants coming and going as if Lord C...

Well, anyone could see that his attention was on one guest in particular, a Scots lady, in a very fine gown though I couldn't work out whether she fancied him or not.

<https://alinakfield.com/book/the-earls-scottish-hoyden/>



AN EASTER MOVIE PARADE

by LGA Associate Editor
DUNCAN CARLING-RODGERS

For the kids

The Dog Who Saved Easter (2014)



A light family comedy featuring Dean Cain, you can find *The Dog Who Saved Easter* on Amazon Prime Video.

A canine named Zeus thinks he's going on a cruise with the family. But no - he's headed for a week in doggie day care and springs into action when three criminals, hired by a competing dog-sitting home, try to sabotage the day care for pooches.

There are half a dozen 'The Dog Who Saved...' movies, all produced by ABC Family.

View the trailer on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/SJUTF43RT1A>

The Easter Egg Adventure (2004)

Another one for the youngsters, an animated feature with the voices of Brooke Shields and James Woods, among others.

When the year's supply of Easter eggs is stolen, an unlikely group of characters band together and confront the dangers of taking back what is rightfully theirs.

Available on Hoopla and Freevee (via Prime Video) in the US. Check out the trailer on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHaLyOs1zqE>



For the grown-ups

Chocolat (2000)



JULIETTE BINOCHÉ

Lent is the penitential lead-up to Easter in the Christian church, when the devout fast and some refrain from specific pleasures, such as sweets and alcohol, or - in more modern times - television and social media. Abandoning these simple things is regarded as a way to foster self-control, the craving for them a reminder to focus instead on spiritual matters.

But what if temptation comes along? It does in *Chocolat*, when a woman and her daughter take over an abandoned chocolate shop in a small French village and open for business just in time for Lent. Their presence and the emotions they arouse agitate the rigid standards of the small community.

A romance starring Juliette Binoche as Vianne Rocher, Judi Dench, and Johnny Depp as Roux, Vianne's lover, *Chocolat* is based on a 1999 novel by English author Joanne Harris.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/32x3312sLe8>

Easter Parade (1948)

A critical and commercial success, *Easter Parade* was the highest-grossing musical film of 1948. Starring Judy Garland and Fred Astaire, the film featured several songs by Irving Berlin that became associated forever after with Astaire and Garland.

The movie is a light Broadway-based tale about a dancing star whose partner and crush deserts him for another show. He trains up a new girl as his stage partner and falls for her instead.

Gene Kelly was originally cast opposite Garland, then broke his ankle. The role was offered to Astaire, who'd 'retired' two years earlier. With his friend Kelly's blessing, he took the part.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/KKr9S2UNFAU>



JUDY GARLAND

Two for the kids, two for grown-ups, and two very definitely adults only...

Adults only

Risen (2016)

A hard-bitten modern biblical drama, *Risen* realistically depicts the brutality of Roman conquest and resistance to it against the backdrop of a detective story.

Clavius is a Roman Tribune who supervises the crucifixion of Yeshua (Jesus) and orders his men to guard the corpse. It disappears, and it seems Yeshua's followers stole it to make it appear that he rose from the dead. Pontius Pilate orders Clavius to find the body else the claimed miracle fuel an uprising in Jerusalem before the

Emperor visits. Clavius questions those who claim to have seen the resurrected Yeshua, their accounts difficult to believe. Then Clavius tracks down the disciples and walks into the room in which they've met - and the man he saw die on the cross is sitting there with them...

A superb cast led by Joseph Fiennes features in this American-Spanish co-production. It's a visually striking and emotionally powerful movie well worth seeing.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/OcTVLfn5i8g>



JOSEPH FIENNES



The Passion of the Christ (2004)

The Passion of the Christ is a difficult film to watch for reasons varying from the practical to the visceral.

The former is due to the dialogue being spoken entirely in Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin, and translated via subtitles. It aids in a portrayal of reality, but splits attention between reading the subtitles and viewing the action. The latter is a reason why sometimes you might like to not be looking at the action - it's brutal.

Mainly dealing with the final twelve hours

before Jesus Christ's death, known as the Passion, it follows the biblical gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and the 1833 book *The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ* which was based on the visions of Anne Catherine Emmerich, a German Roman Catholic mystic.

Produced, directed, and co-written by Mel Gibson, it stars Jim Caviezel as Jesus.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0335345/>

EXCELLENT EASTER EATS

Super ham and turkey club sandwiches



METHOD

For each sandwich, spoon a quarter of the avocado over 1 slice of toasted white bread. Top with ham and two slices of the cheese

Spread one side of the toasted rye bread with half of the aioli or mayonnaise. Then place on top of the cheese (aioli side down over the cheese)

Spread the top side of the rye toast with half of the cranberry sauce. Top with half the turkey breast, tomato and lettuce

Spread remaining white toast with another quarter of avocado. Place over lettuce

Cut sandwich into halves or quarters and secure with toothpicks. Repeat to make the second sandwich. Serve with French fries

INGREDIENTS

- 4 slices White Bread, toasted
- 2 slices Light Rye Bread, toasted
- 1 medium ripe avocado, halved lengthways and stone removed
- 4 slices Colby or tasty cheese
- 8 slices Shaved Honey Leg Ham
- 2 tablespoons aioli or mayonnaise
- 8 slices Thinly Sliced Turkey
- 2 tablespoons cranberry sauce
- 8 slices tomato
- 2 lettuce leaves

Banana bread with raspberries and coconut

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (260g) mashed banana
- 2/3 cup (160ml) light-flavoured extra virgin olive oil
- 4 eggs, lightly whisked
- 1 cup (220g) raw caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1½ cups (225g) self-raising (self-rising) flour
- ½ cup (40g) shredded coconut
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup (125g) frozen raspberries

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180°C. Lightly grease a 10cm x 20cm (2-litre-capacity) loaf tin and line with non-stick baking paper. Place the mashed banana in a large bowl. Add the oil, eggs, sugar and vanilla and mix to combine. Add the flour, coconut and baking powder and mix until just combined. Add the raspberries and fold through. Pour the banana mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 1 hour 10 minutes or until cooked when tested with a skewer+. Allow to cool in the tin for 5 minutes before placing onto a wire rack to cool completely. Slice to serve. Serves 8-10

Thai mango and prawn salad



INGREDIENTS

- 500 gram medium king prawns, peeled, deveined, tails intact
- 1 mango, peeled, seed removed, thinly sliced
- 1 cucumber, seeded, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch mint, leaves picked
- 1 bunch coriander, leaves picked (retain roots)
- 1/2 red onion, thinly sliced

Dressing

- 2 clove garlic, crushed
- coriander roots (retained from bunch), washed thoroughly
- 2 long red chillies, roughly chopped
- 8 cherry tomatoes, halved
- juice of 2 limes
- 1/4 cup palm sugar
- 1/4 cup fish sauce

METHOD

1. In a large bowl, combine prawns, mango, cucumber, herbs and onion. Toss to combine. Chill until required.

2. When ready to serve, toss salad with half the dressing. Accompany with the remaining dressing.

Dressing

3. Combine garlic, coriander and chilli in a mortar, pound with pestle until juice is released from chilli. Add tomatoes and pound until just softened.

4. In a saucepan, combine lime juice and palm sugar. Stir over a low heat until sugar dissolves. Add chilli mixture and fish sauce. Allow to cool.

LOVE EXPERIENCES



Love Experiences



GAME PLAY ▶

Jigsaw Time

Piece this picture together at Jigsaw Planet. Tap or click: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=0ddbe4de175f>



WORD SEARCH

THEY'RE OFF!

N	O	S	E	B	A	N	D	E	E	Y	D	S	H
O	E	S	C	O	L	O	U	R	S	E	B	X	O
S	S	E	K	E	L	D	A	S	K	L	I	R	
N	U	A	E	L	O	E	O	R	K	C	I	R	S
I	O	N	S	R	R	S	A	R	L	O	N	C	E
E	T	R	D	R	O	D	P	A	O	J	K	D	B
R	B	L	L	E	S	X	H	U	T	S	E	J	O
U	E	J	G	B	D	D	D	M	R	O	R	E	X
U	O	D	B	T	G	I	R	T	H	R	S	I	E
E	N	O	R	N	D	E	T	N	S	C	I	A	S
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- GIRTH
- TACK
- NOSEBAND
- STIRRUPS
- SADDLE
- BRIDLE
- BLINKERS
- MOUNT
- REINS
- COLOURS
- JOCKEY
- HORSEBOX

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6846276/>

March Crossword



DOWN 1. ANGEL 2. STOCKING 5. LIGHTS 6. GERMANY 8. SNOW GLOBE 9. MISTLETOE 14. GIFTS
ACROSS 3. NATIVITY 4. WREATH 7. PINECONE 10. POINSETTIA 11. LOG 12. HOLLY 13. BOUGH 15. TINSSEL

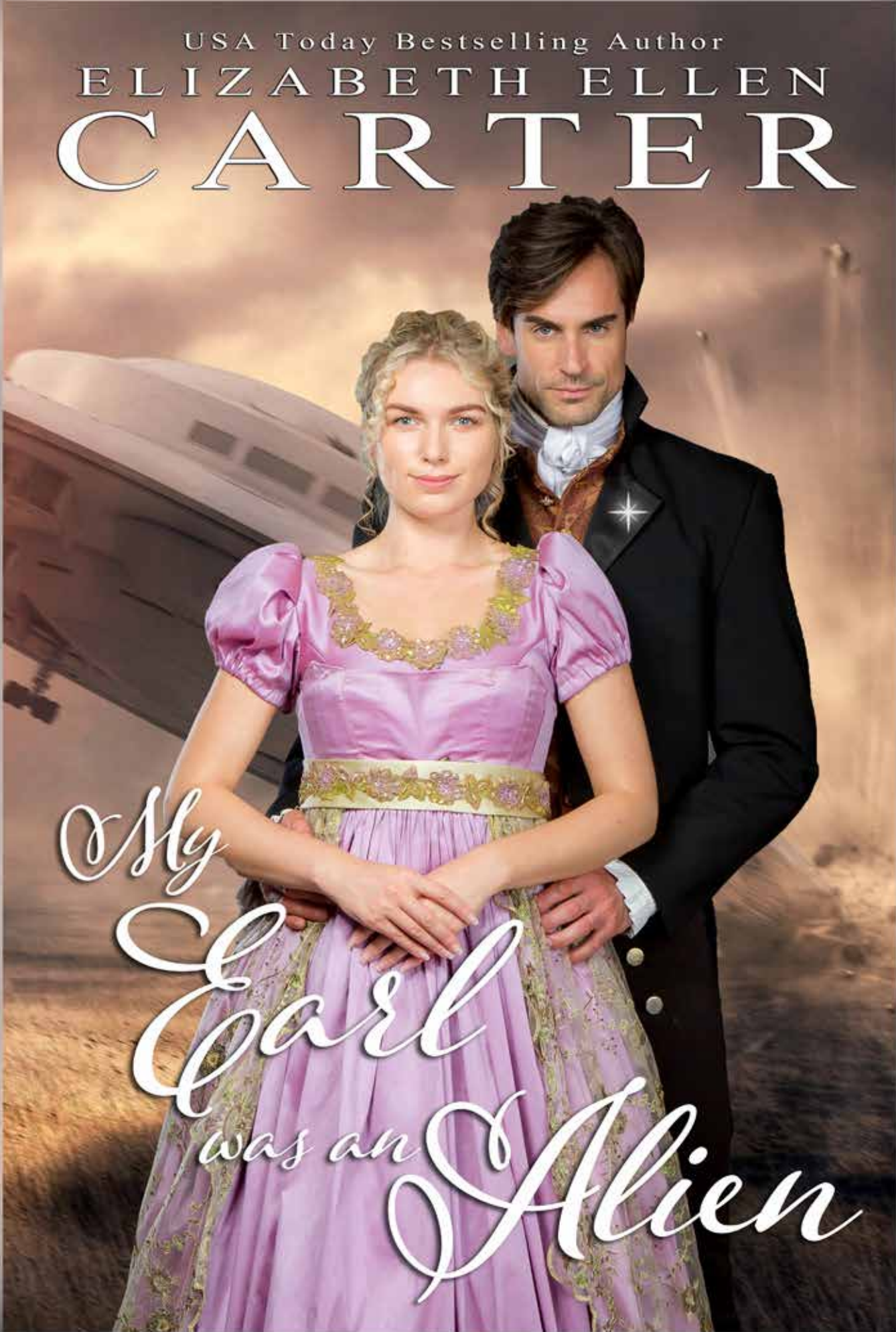
Picnic Time

- ACROSS
- 2. Green and grassy, it's an ideal location
 - 7. Popular place to have a picnic
 - 9. Language that gave us the word picnic
 - 10. You might end up dining here if traveling by car

- DOWN
- 1. Perfect picnic convenience food named for an earl
 - 3. Dining outside
 - 4. Spread out on it
 - 5. Bring a dish to share
 - 6. It doesn't hold you back, it holds your food!
 - 8. The sort of greenery you find on your plate
 - 11. The sort of weather you want

Out Now! Tap or Click Here

USA Today Bestselling Author
ELIZABETH ELLEN
CARTER



*My
Earl
was an
Alien*

a Regency Romance that's out of this world!