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Dressed To Kiss



Synopsis

True love never goes out of style. Once renowned for creating the most envied gowns in London, Madame Follette's dressmaking shop has fallen far out of fashion. The approaching coronation of King George IV offers a chance to reclaim former glory by supplying stunning new wardrobes to the most glittering society in Regency England. In the face of long-held secrets, looming scandals, and the potential ruin of their shop, the dressmakers of Follette's are undaunted, not even by the most unexpected complication of all: true love.

The Duke's Dressmaker by Madeline Hunter
When the Duke of Barrowmore walks into the dress shop, Selina Fontaine assumes her secret identity will be compromised. Four years ago this man's brother seduced her and abandoned her to scandal, and she holds the duke responsible. To her amazement the duke is more interested in pursuing her than exposing her, however, and that pursuit soon becomes seductively pleasurable.

The Colors of Love by Myretta Robens
Delyth Owen's exuberant passion for her new job as a dressmaker at Madame Follette's is matched only by her love of diverse, vibrant, and frequently unfortunate color combinations. Simon Merrithew, the pseudonymous author of a well-regarded fashion column, is horrified by the gown Delyth creates for a friend, and suspects her motives. He sets out to uncover her duplicity, but instead, he uncovers genuine joy and discovers the colors of love.

No Accounting for Love by Megan Frampton
Miss Katherine Grant is a lady's companion, one whose number of dishonorable offers (six) greatly outweigh her honorable ones (zero). Now tasked with making certain her charge, Lady Euphemia, does not contract herself to someone inappropriate, she finds herself inexplicably drawn to Mr. Henry Dawkins, the inappropriate gentleman Lady Euphemia wants to charm, who keeps the books at Madame Follette's. But it seems that Henry only has eyes for Miss Katherine Grant.

A Fashionable Affair by Caroline Linden
Madame Follette's is Felicity Dawkins's birthright; her mother founded it, and now she runs it. She's fiercely committed to making it the most exclusive modiste in London. The Earl of Carmarthen also has big plans for the shop—he wants to buy it and tear it down, to make way for a grand new boulevard of shops. One way or another, he's determined to persuade Felicity not only to sell her shop, but to explore the passion that sparks between them every time they meet.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a collection of four novellas tied together by characters connection to a dressmaker's shop. Madame Follette's dressmaking shop has been declining for years due to changing fashions and the stubbornness of its owner. Her children convince her to turn over operations to her daughter who struggles to revitalize the business in the shadow of the king's coronation.

THE DUKE'S DRESSMAKER by Madeline Hunter: Selina Fontaine is working at Madame Follette's when Randall, Duke of Barrowmore comes back into her life. Four years ago, Randall's brother seduced and left her at Randall's urging. Selina knows that the Duke disapproves of her. She now fears that he will expose her true identity and ruin her again. By the description of this story, I expected more drama and angst. Things are neatly explained in this story which was sweeter than I expected. These two quickly manage to find out the truth about the past. I liked the characters which is important in a short novella. Rating: 4 stars.

THREADS OF LOVE by Myretta Robens: Delyth Owen is a new dressmaker in the shop. She loves vibrant and sometimes unfortunate color choices. Simon Merrithew is the author of a fashion column. He comes to ruin Delyth after she creates a too colorful dress for a friend that Simon believes was intentional. When he meets her, however, Simon realizes that the bright colors are just a reflection of the joyful woman Delyth is. This story was good, but I really didn't feel drawn to Delyth at all. She remained too insubstantial for me to root for her. I did enjoy the story and having a man interested in fashion was a novel experience. Rating: 3 stars.

NO ACCOUNTING FOR LOVE by Megan Frampton: This is the story of the son of Madame Follette, Mr. Henry Dawkins.

Dressed to Kiss Using the seamstresses of a dressmaking shop as the back drop, four novellas bring a story of a different seamstress from the shop. In each tale, true love conquers all. Madeline Hunter's novella, *The Duke's Dressmaker*, is the first *Dressed to Kiss* romance. The novella follows Hunter's usual writing style. The lead characters are strongly developed and the storyline keeps you keenly interested in the outcome. Wrongs of the past collide with the present but love prevails. However, a little more detail could have been provided about the outcome of the secondary characters, i.e. the Duke's brother and sister-in-law. A very good read. *The Colors of Love* by Myretta Robens is novella number 2. Seemingly, the novella centers on a seamstress with a fascination for bright but poorly connected color combinations. The interested male continues the writing of a fashion column began by his mother and under his mother's pseudonym. He thinks the seamstress has malevolent intentions toward ladies of society. The author's description of the seamstress at the beginning of the novella plus the storyline do not give one a desire to finish the tale. I spent 6 days trying to read it but decided I really needed to let this one go. Skip it. *No Accounting for Love* by Megan Frampton had one ingredient for a great novella – "likeable lead characters" – but the telling of the story was a slow go. The shop's accountant (son of the shop's owner) and a lady's companion dominate the story. The characters spent 80% of the story either thinking and/or talking to themselves about their relationship. I flipped through several pages and felt as though I had missed nothing when I reached the end. A fair read.

Dressed to Kiss had everything I love about anthologies: sweet stories, an original idea that links the stories together, and quick reading. Aside from one story I had trouble connecting with fully, I really enjoyed this installment and highly recommend it (rounded up my rating to 5 stars). I have each of my reviews for the stories included below: Madeline Hunter, *The Duke's Dressmaker*, Rating- 4.5 stars, Steam-hot (explicit sex scenes). I have found that I am not usually a fan of Hunter's longer novels, but both novellas I have read of hers have been delightful. The hero does not make a good first impression in this book, but the short format enabled me to get through to the good stuff faster and ultimately enjoy the story immensely. In this story, the Duke of Barrowmore is escorting his wayward brother's new, naive, and selfish wife to acquire new clothes because his brother is currently out of town, hiding from creditors. Upon entering the shop, he recognizes that the assigned dressmaker is none other than the woman his brother ruined years ago and he wanted all to himself. The Duke is at first a bit of a high-handed, misogynistic, sex addict but this (fortunately!) quickly dissipates as he starts to see Selina Fontaine as the poised, beautiful woman that she

is. The pace of the story is rapid and the jump to marriage and the resolution of past hurts is a bit rushed, but I loved the writing and the vivid depictions of clothes and elegant wooing that ensues. The relationship was earthy and the attraction was expertly built. If you love Madeline Hunter, you will enjoy this offering.

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