

Anne Webster. I enjoyed this novella. The pacing was quick and the characters were wonderful.

In "The Royal Kitten" by Kate Huntington, Arabella Comstock has returned to town. She has been away healing her spirits after her fiancé decided that to marry her would lower his station instead of improving it. Now she is back with her godmother and witnessing the arrival of the grand duchess of Russia. When the duchess' kitten tries to escape the carriage, Arabella catches it and comes to the kitten's defense.

One of the duchess's entourage is Cedric, Arabella's former betrothed. He promises to get the kitten back. The duchess agrees and sends her bodyguards to assist him. Konstantin Mikhailovich goes with the bodyguards, he wants to see this English pup stand up to the spirited woman he had seen earlier.

I really enjoyed this funny and touching novella. Kate Huntington's fans will be delighted.

In "The Naughty Kitten" by Debbie Raleigh, Hugo Langmead, the fifth earl of Chalford, has just been told that his grandmother intends to disinherit him if he doesn't marry by the end of the Season. If he doesn't comply, she will leave everything to his cousin Eddie Scowell. Hugo proceeds to his grandmother's house to call her bluff, but before he arrives he meets with an unfortunate accident. Abigail Stadford was in pursuit of her kitten Wellington when he ventured into the road directly into the path of a black stallion. She watches in amazement as the rider pulls his horse to a halt but careens forward and crashes into the tree. When he awakens the poor man cannot even remember his name, and the doctor

suggests that the man remain at the Stadford residence until his memory returns. I enjoyed this novella. The plot was lively and full of twists. Debbie Raleigh has delivered a charming love story.

Jeanine Birckbichler

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## A Stolen Heart

Candace Camp

Mira

☆☆☆☆½



American shipping owner Alexandra Ward, accompanied by her mother and aunt, travels to London to obtain an agreement with the Burchings Tea Company. Alexandra reaches a deal with Lyman Jones, the business agent of the tea company's owner Lord Sebastian Thorpe. Sebastian never attends any of the negotiation sessions. Alexandra forces Lyman into taking her to Sebastian's home where she meets the reclusive tycoon and gets to see his renowned India art collection.

Sebastian is intrigued by the

audacious American and asks Alexandra to attend a ball with him. At the party, Countess Exmoor faints when she is introduced to Alexandra, who is a dead ringer to the elderly woman's deceased daughter-in-law Simone. The next day Sebastian formally introduces Alexandra to the Countess, who apologizes but explains that she looks just like Simone, who was killed by the French mob in 1789. Also killed was Exmoor's son (Simone's spouse) and their three children. Soon little things appear that make Alexandra question her heritage including who her mother was. As she struggles to learn the truth, someone tries to kill her with only Lord Thorpe, whom she now loves, able to keep her safe.

Fans of Regency romance know that Candace Camp is as sure a shot to provide an entertaining novel as any writer on the scene is today. Her latest tale, *A Stolen Heart*, is a splendid Regency romance due to the beautiful relationship between the lead characters. The story line is fast-paced



## Summer Solstice

Julia Ann Charpentier

Dreams Unlimited

☆☆☆☆

Fantasy in blonde and denim with deep brown eyes. A ghost with long slender fingers in a uniform from a long-ago war. Apparition of past love, superimposed on the present. Romantic interludes with perfect, or not so perfect strangers. Love stories. Hate stories. Sex stories.

*Summer Solstice* is an eclectic mix of short stories by writer and reviewer Julia Ann Charpentier, with one common thread-- a fascinating command of language and emotion which imbues her characters with shimmering life. This short story collection is a treasure trove for the discriminating reader of paranormal and literary fiction. Spell-binding.

Rickey R. Mallory