



A Secret Scottish Christmas

Regan Walker

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“Seasonally enchanting and romantically perfect!”

– Chicks, Rogues & Scandals

Spies and Scots and Shipmasters, oh my!

Scotland 1819 - Twin brothers Nash and Robbie of Powell and Sons Shipping, London, sail with their fellow Agents of the Crown to Scotland for a secret celebration of Christmastide, a holiday long considered pagan by the Scottish Kirk. But more than Christmas is being kept secret. The two brothers have accepted an assignment from the Home Secretary Lord Sidmouth to ferret out a fugitive fomenting rebellion among the Scots.

Aileen Stephen, the only daughter of an Aberdeen shipbuilder, had to be clever, devious and determined to gain her place in the family business. She succeeded to become a designer of highly coveted ships. One night, a man's handsome face appears to her in a dream. When two men having that same face arrive on a ship full of Londoners, Ailie wonders what her second sight is telling her. Is the face she saw a portender of the future, a harbinger of danger, or both? And which of the two Englishmen is the one in her dream?

Older than Nash by a mere five minutes, Robbie has always been protective of his twin. When he realizes Nash is attracted to the sister of their Scottish host, he thinks to help matters along. But Nash wants no help from his brother, not where Ailie Stephen is concerned because Robbie is attracted to the girl himself!

Two brothers vie for the affection of the Scottish lass but only one stirs her passion. Which one will it be? And what will she do when she learns both are spies?

A Secret Scottish Christmas Details

Date : Published November 2017 by Regan Walker Publishing

ISBN : 9780997656725

Author : Regan Walker

Format : Paperback 326 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Historical

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From Reader Review A Secret Scottish Christmas for online ebook

Cyndith Hoelscher says

A SECRET SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS by Regan Walker is an enchanting novel that has whisked her readers into the romance and magic of an intriguing, but inspirational, family Christmas. As a sequel to her Agents of the Crown series, she has pulled readers into a story of a close family of spies with intrigue, shipping, dangerous secrets, historical significance and of course a true romance that reminds us that love cannot be denied.

Twin brothers, Robbie and Nash Powell of Powell & Sons Shipping of London embark on a holiday voyage from London to the quiet, wintery wonderland of Scotland, with her castles and inevitably a ghost or two who remind us of the hardships of the poor, including those who fought to make an oppressive life better. Aileen Stephen, aka Ailie, immediately gains the interest of the identical twins who have a wicked propensity for using their identical looks to deceive people. But, intuitive Ailie, is watching both of them, certain that the Powell brothers are much more than they seem. Walker balances well-researched history with the dangers of the political climate, seamlessly with a romantic story that has readers guessing until the end about the fate of the beloved characters.

As a fan of true historical fiction, I particularly enjoyed the contrasts between the Anglican Church and the Presbyterian in the celebration of Christmas. The mixed-belief families harmoniously share their faith and their traditions, complete with kissing boughs, which enriched the story. The traditions, the faith and the love set in a wintery, Scottish seaport has me longing for the holidays with my own family. It is truly an inspirational, loving story with a thrilling plot.

Vickie says

A Secret Scottish Christmas begins with a group of people traveling from England to Scotland to celebrate Christmastide, albeit a secret celebration, with friends. Once the group arrives in Scotland, it doesn't take long for the Powell twins, Nash and Robbie, to notice not only Aileen's beauty, but also her fiery spirit.

As the story progresses, the twins put their secret plan into motion, in hopes of making their mission a successful one. However, as the twins get to know Ailie, it becomes apparent that one is more enamored than the other when said twin starts questioning their mission altogether.

A Secret Scottish Christmas is a great addition to the Agents of the Crown series. Ailie is a wonderfully written character. She is intelligent and feisty, but also has a loving heart for those she holds dear. The Powell twins were wonderfully written as well. I love the fact that they love each other as you would expect, but what drew me in was their sense of independence. Regan Walker did a phenomenal job of making each one of them their own person with their own identities. I also loved that Ailie picked up on their nuances that were written so brilliantly. Walker has also, once again, woven actual historical events into her story seamlessly and built a world that you can vividly see in your mind. Whether it is the sound of a dog barking, feeling the wind in your face as you sail away or seeing a landscape covered in new snow, you will find yourself noticing all of the details she meticulously sets for us to truly feel as if we are a part of. Reading Regan Walker's books is, at least for me, like watching a movie. You are swept into her world from the very beginning and you truly do hate for it to end. Added to all of this the fact that we get to see so many couples

from previous books throughout the entire story makes it one of my favorites of everything she has written. If you're a fan of historical romance, you will most definitely love A Secret Scottish Christmas. There is a beautifully developed romance, political intrigue and such well developed characters that you'll swear this is your favorite as well....until the next one. Well done, Regan Walker! Very, very well done!

Karen Llanes says

A Secret Scottish Christmas was a wonderful book to read. The love among the family is beautiful. Of course the Powells are a wonderful family to like. I just loved all the characters and their talents. Regan is amazing in the research she puts in her books.

Write a review

April says

A SECRET SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS by Regan Walker has once again, created a story of family, secrets, spies, romance and the magic of Christmas in Scotland. I was pulled into this story from page one forward. I totally loved twins, Nash and Robbie Powell of Powell & Sons Shipping, London, as they set sail with their fellow Agents of the Crown from England to Scotland. Aileen Stephen, aka Ailie, the Scottish daughter of an Aberdeen shipbuilder. She is clever, devious and determined to gain her place as a designer of highly coveted ships for her family business. Nash and Robbie both vie for Ailie's attention, but only one will win her heart.

Fast paced, written with engaging and memorable characters. The plot is simply mesmerizing, captivating, and flows seamlessly and effortlessly. Ms. Walker brings Scotland, shipbuilders and spies to life on the pages of this outstanding holiday romance set mostly in Scotland.

A definite must read for any historical romance fan and any fans who enjoy holiday read with a HEA, some suspense, a few surprises, some mystery and the return of other beloved characters from the highly anticipated AGENTS OF THE CROWN series. While, book 4, it can be read as a stand alone. I absolutely love the characters and the storyline. Fantastic and mesmerizing romance.

Rating: 5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewer: AprilR

Amy says

A Secret Scottish Christmas is the fourth installment from the Agents of the Crown series by Regan Walker. I have not read the others in the series yet and did not feel like I was missing anything that had happened

previously. I will definitely have to go back read them though, because I loved this book! It is magical, sweet, and romantic.

Great read!

5 plus stars.

I received this book from the author, but was not required to write a review. This review is 100% my own honest opinion.

Janice Hougland says

This historical romance has definitely put me in the holiday mood and I'm so glad it was my first holiday story this year! Ms. Walker's lovely writing was so descriptive that I felt at times like I was right there in the story, enjoying sledge (sleigh) rides in the snow, collecting greens to decorate our home and eating delicious Scottish fare at the dinner table. I use photos of Scottish Castles as my desktop wallpaper and my favorite is one of Dunnottar Castle in Winter, where our hero and heroine (Aislie) pledge their troth and marry. I especially like that the hero is a part of the Powell family about whom we've heard much in this author's Agents of the Crown series of stories. A wonderful story to read at this time of year and not to be missed!

Barbara Mccarthy says

Wonderful Christmastime read ! It will put you in the mood for an old fashioned Christmas celebration with kith + kin for sure. Twins Robie + Nash are gorgeous, and smart and although they are identical physically, they have very different personalities. Use to being mistaken for each other they have honed that to a fine point in their undercover work as spies for the Crown. They are invited to spend Christmas with the wonderful Powell family at their country estate which is the perfect rouse for looking for a man wanted by the Crown in that very area. This draws them to town, taking turns posing as each other to gain information on his whereabouts and it won't be gotten without intrigue and danger. When they arrive at the Powell's they are stunned by the unexpected pleasure of meeting Ailene, the beautiful sister of their friend with fiery red hair and a bit of a sharp tongue, with a delightful Scottish brogue. They are each smitten and as they have often done in the past, the game is on, to compete for her attention in a horse drawn sleigh as they venture into the woods to look for Christmas tree and a yule log and get separated, but which twin is it that steals the kiss ? And which one will fall in love and wish to make her his wife? This is a well researched novel for the facts of the era, so well done that I felt as if I were there with them enjoying the merriment by the Yule log burning in the hearth waiting for the goose to be done cooking that filled the home with wonderful aromas. Oh yes, there is a Dowager Countess there who is a well known matchmaker sizing them all up to ply her talents on. There is much to love in this book and I'll not give any spoilers away. You will just have to read it and enjoy the adventure like I did. I was gifted a copy and am so happy I was.

Edit

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Karen says

Regan Walkers fourth installment of the Agents of the Crown Series is a delightful read. Ms. Walker masterfully merges meticulous detail, lovely characters, and a compelling plot. For those of us who've enjoyed the prior books we get to spend time with other much adored characters. All while being pulled forward in a story that has romance, intrigue, and Christmas spent in Scotland. This book can be read as a

stand-alone or part of the series. Either way this lighthearted story is yours to enjoy and I highly recommend you do.

Liz Redmond Lloyd says

A Secret Scottish Christmas by Regan Walker
4th book in the Agents of the Crown Series

Regan takes us to Arbroath, Forfarshire, Scotland in December of 1819. The Agents of the Crown are gathering for a secret celebration of Christmas and the New Year with their longtime friends; William Stephen, Lady Emily Stephen and family.

Unknown to all, the Powell twins are also there on a secret mission for the Crown. Nash and Robbie Powell never expected the attraction they would have to Aileen Stephen, unmarried sister of William Stephen. A tender love story begins. Who will win Ailie's affection?

We learn the history of the traditions of the Scottish and English celebrations of Christmas and New Year and of the current discord between the Crown and those "fomenting rebellion".

What a wonderful time these friends had celebrating the holidays together. At times I felt I was there with them enjoying it all.

I do recommend reading the entire Agents of the Crown series. For me it was enjoyable knowing all who shared in the celebration. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Be sure to go to Regan Walker's Pinterest page, she creates one for each of her books as she does her research.

Liette Bougie says

Once again, Ms. Walker delivers a wonderful story. While this one isn't as heavy on the action as some of her other books, there's still more than enough to please everyone. Of course, romance is at the rendezvous and not only for the two main characters but for the secondary ones as well – it makes for some fun repartee here and there. And speaking of her secondary characters, it's been very nice to revisit those who were once main characters in Agents of the Crown, The Donet Trilogy and her Holiday Stories, in particular Muriel, The Grand Countess (probably the best matchmaker around).

Of note, the care she brings in incorporating historical facts is to be commended. Ms. Walker obviously spent countless hours on research to get her facts as right as possible, but never did I feel as if I've been attending a history class – God knows those can be pretty dry at times.

All in all, A Secret Scottish Christmas is, indeed, perfect for the holiday season.

Aleen ~Lampshade Reader says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

A love triangle set during the Christmas season, *A Secret Scottish Christmas* by Regan Walker, provides a sweet romance with the Powell twins vying for the affection of a fair Scottish lass.

I'm not normally a fan of a love triangle, but there really wasn't any other way to describe the romance aspect. I kind of felt sorry for Aileen for the tough task of choosing which twin she was compatible with. Both twins had their charming aspects. Robbie, the rogue and Nash, the grounded one.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that both Robbie and Nash are spies. It would help to know that this series is set around characters who have all been spies at one time or another. With the pretense of a family holiday vacation in Scotland, the Powell twins set out to capture a wanted man. Aileen is the unexpected boon and both brothers start a little competition.

As with all of Regan Walker's stories, I always look forward to learning something. She always incorporates part of history that takes place around time frame of the story. The subplot being the aftermath of the Peterloo Massacre which ultimately leads the Powell brothers to Aileen and towards the end is the cause of the contention. Despite the serious undertones, the lighthearted family vacationing in the countryside was a nice glimpse into the holiday traditions of both the Scottish and English.

If you've not read the previous stories in this series, fear not, for this can be read as a standalone. While most of the past characters are in this story, there are no real series spoilers. One can easily enjoy the story, since it's really focused on the Aileen and her twin admirers. Reading this, I felt like I was a guest myself at the party. At times, the story seemed a bit slow and in want of some action, but I could totally appreciate it regardless. It was pretty obvious about who Aileen would end up with, but it was still fun to read about how she would come to her decision.

Especially looking forward to reading the next installment.

Frankie Reviews says

This is the next instalment of Walker's hugely enjoyable and highly acclaimed "Agents of the Crown" Series which tells the stories of a group of Governmental Agents as they risk their very lives, not just for their country but for love too. As always Walker stuns with her gift for story-telling, she magically entwines historic fact and fiction to create a thought-provoking sensual romance, one that will stay with you for a very long time. *A secret Scottish Christmas* brings together all our heroes and their spouses and takes them to Scotland for Christmas, this time we are introduced to the handsome as sin and charming Powell twins; Robbie and Nash.

This is wonderful! The characters are full-bodied and meticulously drawn up, and instantly captivating. Ailie is a real tomboy. She has this great mind and she is so very talented and resourceful. Walker has done a wonderful job at separating the twins', personalities. Nash being the younger and more serious twin, he is thoughtful and kind eager to learn and yet below that serious book-loving, designer you sense a volcano that is about to erupt. Whereas Robbie has already erupted, his is wilder than his brother, he is the stereotypical rake, charming, arrogant and playful but below all the bluster he has a heart of pure gold and highly protective of his twin brother.

The *Secret Scottish Christmas* is educational as well as romantic, the romance between Ailie and the twin she finally ends up with is endearing and loving, and proves that no matter the differences love of a good

person can triumph. If you like a bit of a love triangle, handsome spies and artistic heroines, secrets, traditions and romance all wrapped up with a big Christmas bow, then this is the book you need to read.

Full review over at Chicks Rogues and Scandals

<https://chicksroguesandscandals.wordp...>

Lesia Chambliss says

A beautiful addition to Agents of the Crown series. What I love about book series is revisiting favorite characters from previous books, and this series has given me many favorites. What I love about Regan Walker is her dedication to research and knowing how much detail to include in the story keeping it rich, passionate and never boring. Her use of real inns, taverns, churches, streets, newspapers and ships in this story and her other books are what sets her apart. Her characters are charming, witty, full of life, no wilting flowers here! This book is full of Scottish tradition, which I knew little of, and a side of English tradition thrown in, but in secret of course, since Christmas is outlawed in Scotland. Since this story takes place over Christmas and the new year there are lots of fun winter activities that take place with the families, and even a few adventures to keep things really interesting. This really is a fun, beautiful holiday Scottish romance to read and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I was gifted this copy to read.

Maria Dariotis says

The Powell brothers are travelling with their family to Scotland for Christmas. They're mixing a bit of spy business along with the Christmas holiday. The mission is to apprehend the fugitive that's riling the Scots. Aileen Stephan is the sister to William Stephan and the driving force behind the ship designs at the family ship building business. Things get interesting when both the brothers compete for Aileen's affection.

Once again Regan Walker has a richly detailed story with beautifully scenic landscapes, historical information intertwined with the story. I loved revisiting with the previous Agents and their wives. Lots of intrigue some spying a love triangle a matchmaking Countess will keep you entertained. A Secret Scottish Christmas is the perfect story you won't be disappointed!

I received a copy from the author for my unbiased opinion.

Donna says

August: Following in their family's tradition of doing jobs for the Home Office, twins Robbie and Nash Powell are in Manchester to monitor the peaceful crowd's reaction to a speech against high taxes on ordinary citizens without representation. They were surprised when the government troops attacked the commoners in attendance. Nash is injured trying to protect a woman and child.

December: Robbie, Nash, their brothers and sisters-in-law, along with some other friends sail to Scotland to spend the holiday season with William and Emily Stephen and Will's sister Aileen (Ailie). The Powell family has a shipping company and the Stephens family build ships. But are the twins on holiday or working for the government? The Scots are not pleased over the new laws.

Ailie works with her brother at the ship yard and designs ships. She recently dreamt of an unknown dark-haired man who sees into her soul. Her dreams often foretell events. Ailie is unsure about the English visitors, but has prepared for their more celebratory Christmas. She is looking forward to the Hogmanay celebrations at her grandfather's home.

As the guests arrive, Ailie notices the twins and their dark hair as in her dream. They both notice her and compete for her attention. But only one twin attracts her, and she is able, most of the time, to tell them apart. Falling in love with an Englishman was not in her plan and there are bumps along the way to a HEA.

This book is more complex than I've written as I hate to spoil a wonderful plot. You'll have to read it to find out if Ailie gets a HEA and with whom. Thanks to Regan Walker for giving me this ARC. No one influenced this review. I loved this book.
