



## Mary Fran and Matthew

*Grace Burrowes*

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## **Mary Fran and Matthew** Grace Burrowes

Fabulous Victorian romance novella by New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Grace Burrowes. In The Bridegroom Wore Plaid three of the MacGregor brothers found true love, while the story of how their sister Lady Mary Frances meets her match in Matthew Daniels needs a novella all its own.

Widowed Mary Frances MacGregor has vowed she'll never succumb to manipulation by another handsome Englishman, but falls hard for lonely, outcast Matthew Daniels. Matthew not only has a scandal in his past, but is forbidden by conscience from explaining to Mary Frances why she ought to marry him anyway.

## **Mary Fran and Matthew Details**

Date : Published July 2nd 2013 by Sourcebooks Casablanca

ISBN :

Author : Grace Burrowes

Format : Kindle Edition 100 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Novella, Historical Fiction



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## From Reader Review Mary Fran and Matthew for online ebook

### Cruth says

Mary Fran and Matthew - Grace Burrowes

**Author:** Grace Burrowes

**First published:** 2013

**Length:** 1157 locations (novella - 4 chapters)

**Setting:** Scotland, in the time of Queen Victoria

**Sex:** intimate

**Hero:** ex-soldier with a murky past.

**Heroine:** widow with child.

**Series:** Book 1.5 of 3 (for now)

Starts with Matthew meeting Mary Fran at beginning of Book 1, The Bridegroom Wore Plaid. And follows the story of Book 1, but from the pov of Mary Fran and Matthew's HEA.

As a light novella interlude, it works. It's a sweet idea and thoroughly enjoyable. But it helps to have read Book 1 first.

### The MacGregor Series:

Book 1 The Bridegroom Wore Plaid (December 2012) - Ian MacGregor and Augusta

Book 1.5 Mary Fran and Matthew (July 2013) - Matthew Daniels and Mary Frances MacGregor

Book 2 Once Upon a Tartan (August 2013) - Hester MacDaniel and Tiberius Flynn

Book 3 The MacGregor's Lady (February 2014) - Asher MacGregor and Hannah Cooper

### References:

Author's website: <http://graceburrowes.com/>

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### Karen Darling says

Very boring.

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### L.A. Miller says

As a writer I love Ms. Burrowes work and usually will rate a book five stars. The reason I only gave this book three stars is because I felt rushed. While I understand this book is a novella to bridge the gap between her first and third book in the series I was disappointed. Both Mary Fran and Matthew are wonderful characters that I believe would have been better served with a full novel. I felt like I was getting a readers digest version of an original novel and to many pieces were edited out. Still it was a quick read, gave you

insight into their lives but it left me feeling unsatisfied.

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### **Robin says**

Mary Frances MacGregor Flynn is not an easy character to cozy up to; therefore, it was hard to emotionally connect to laid back and not fully fleshed out as a character Matthew cozying up to her so quickly in a quick handful of scenes. Several parts of this novella were repetitive since the action in this novella is happening within *Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, but the parts with Matthew and Mary Fran are not developed enough. The story behind Matthew leaving the army seemed artificially melodramatic. I wish that Burrowes had left it at what we readers learned about Mary Fran and Matthew's burgeoning romance in *Plaid*.

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### **Sommertime says**

Meh.

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### **Lady Wesley says**

Colonel Matthew Daniels, heir to the baronies of Altsax and Gribbony, has accompanied his father, sisters, aunt and cousin to Castle Balfour in Aberdeenshire, where they are guests of the Earl of Balfour and his family. The purpose of the trip is to arrange a marriage between the cash-strapped earl and Matthew's heiress sister. That's the main plot in *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, the first installment of the MacGregor Trilogy. From that book, we already know that Matthew and Mary Fran fall in love and get married, but since they are secondary characters we don't get the whole story. This novella gives us the details.

Matthew is a true gentleman, unlike his vulgar father, and has until recently served in Her Majesty's cavalry in the Crimea (pre-war). Mary Fran, widow of an English officer, has a strong dislike of all things English. Matthew is immediately attracted to her and she, reluctantly, to him. But Matthew has shameful secrets, something having to do with his military service, and does not consider himself a worthy prospective husband for the daughter of an earl. Mary Fran is not really seeking a husband, however; she is content to enjoy herself in Matthew's arms as a distraction from the burdens of raising her precocious daughter, Fiona, and running the castle as a sort of hotel for wealthy visitors who want to bask in their proximity to Balmoral, which is the neighboring estate. As in the first book, Prince Albert has a cameo role, and Queen Victoria is an off-screen character.

I think that this book suffers from the problem that affects many novellas: there is very limited space to tell the story. Here, that situation is complicated by the large number of secondary characters who pop up and then disappear. Even though I had recently read the previous book, I found this one confusing. And even though Grace Burrowes has a wonderful talent for telling a story and creating memorable characters, I just didn't find that to be the case here. The details of Matthew's scandal and Mary Fran's first marriage left me with many unanswered questions, but to discuss them here would be too spoilerish.

If you liked *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, as I did, you'll probably enjoy reading this novella, but in my opinion it just isn't as good as the stories that Burrowes usually publishes. There is a nice set-up for the next novel, *Once Upon a Tartan*, where Matthew's younger sister is looking after Fiona when the girl's paternal

uncle arrives to take her back to her English family. Complications ensue.

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## MRB says

I'm not someone who automatically loves everything and anything written by Grace Burrowes---or by any author, in fact :) I really adored this novella beyond the telling of it, though, and felt it managed to highlight all of Burrowes' greatest strengths while eliminating the aspects of her full-length novels that elicit an impatient sigh or two ;)

While I understand that many don't like the novella format, I find the well-written ones ideal reading for me: They give us just enough characterization, stories and themes to reel us in, evoke emotion and stimulate our imaginations, but the authors of these shorter gems are forced to limit the tiresomely repetitive conversations, contrived conflicts, and dragged out, annoyingly similar, oh-wait-this AGAIN?! sex scenes.

I've become a huge fan of Grace Burrowes' smart dialogue, insightful prose and insanely engaging and emotionally evocative style and tone. I do, however, think that a lot of her work can be meandering, slowly or erratically paced, and annoyingly repetitious. Mary Fran and Matthew serves to give us everything I love about Burrowes' work and almost nothing that I don't. The plot is, by necessity, more focused and streamlined. We're given just enough to fall in love with the characters and their connection with each other without being subjected to an endless series of contrived conflicts that leads to that "ugh, just talk to each other and get on with it already before I start disliking both of you!" irritation with which we romance readers are all too familiar.

Mary Fran and especially Matthew are among my very favorites of GB's many characters, by the way...perhaps because we didn't see enough of them to get weary and impatient with their 395-page "issues"? ;) Mary Fran is understandably guarded and extremely strong without being "bitchy" (a surprisingly fine line for many authors to walk!), passionate and candid and clever without being presented as unrealistically perfect. Matthew, meanwhile, embodies a lot of what I love about GB's typical hero: he's a bit broken without wallowing in whiny self-pity, genuinely kind and gentle, smart and competent and loyal and quietly strong and determined. Those who like ultra-Alphas probably won't be too taken with Matthew (or most of GB's other leading men, for that matter!), but I found him that perfect "beta with an underlying streak of alpha-ish toughness" that makes GB's heroes among the only ones found in today's historical romances that I'd actually adore in real life.

As always when reading novellas, you might find yourself wanting even more---but, for me, that's the mark of a wonderfully written story, and far preferable to wishing there was LESS material, which is how far too many of today's 375-page-ish romance novels make me feel :) Interestingly, Mary Fran and Matthew will remain one of GB's most memorable and root-worthy couples for me despite---or perhaps because---spending 'only' 75 or so pages with them.

I heartily recommend this novella to both existing Grace Burrowes fans and prospective new ones, though reading Bridegroom Wore Plaid will give you a brief introduction to these characters and their struggles. Either way, though, I wouldn't hesitate to hit the "buy" button. There's so much joy for a relatively low price!

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### **Jen says**

Yes.. 61 page novella took me several days to read. I was not interested in this story. Oh well. On to the next book.

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### **Kat says**

Since we already knew what happens with Mary Fran and Matthew from *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, I figured this would be a boring rehash. Nope. It was short, sweet and simply beautiful. Grace Burrowes is just amazing.

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### **Madenna U says**

Short and sweet story about a sister, Mary Fran, who takes care of everything for her Scottish family. She was tricked into marrying her now deceased husband leaving a large "chip" on her shoulder. Matthew takes the time to see through her false smiles and expresses a real interest in her. As they spent more time together they both have to look past gossip to find the truth and true love.

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### **Angie says**

Sadly, *Mary Fran and Matthew* was one of those novellas that I feel was a bit of a waste. It read more like a collection of deleted scenes rather than as its own short story. It spans the entire time frame of *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, but shoved into a quarter of the pages. I did want to see how Matthew and Mary Frances ended up together, since they were one of the "extra" couples in the first book, and this does show all of that, but it didn't flow well. It just jumped from scene to scene of them together, and that was it. It was actually quite boring, and I felt no connection to either of them. The one thing I did really liked was how it showed that Matthew and Eugenia's father was even more of a scumbag than I thought! He certainly got what was coming to him!

Read more of my reviews at [Pinkindle Reads & Reviews](#).

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

MARY FRAN AND MATTHEW by Grace Burrowes is a delightful Scottish Victorian Historical Romance. A Novella. #1.5 in the "MacGregor" Trilogy. And features the MacGregor's sister, Lady Mary Frances MacGregor Flinn, a Scottish widow who hates the English military and Matthew Daniels, an English Colonel who is reported to left the military in disgrace, and who is also part Scottish. A quick read! Faced paced and ties up some lose ends from "The Bridegroom Wore Plaid". A very intense but sweet story filled with secrets, passion and love. Secrets revealed, passion ignites and love burns turn and hot. It is only 75 pages, but a lot is packed into those 75 pages! A must read! Another hit for author Grace Burrowes. She is a constant storyteller, her stories are passionate, charming, engaging, and her characters realistic. I am looking forward to

more of the MacGregor Brothers. Personal buy.

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: MILD

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Review courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

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### **Emanuellen Trizi says**

A cute little book! Lovely to know how Mary Fran and Matthew got together. Fiona is lovely, and the development of the couple is great even if is fast, because we already know a lot about the background story from the first book. What I like most is that we have new perspective on scenes and new scenes too. This makes the book more interesting to read.

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### **Caz says**

**I gave this a B for content and A- for narration at AudioGals, so I'm calling it 4.5 stars.**

This audio novella is quite short, coming in at around the two-and-a-half hour mark, but even so, the story is replete with the emotional punch I've come to expect from author Grace Burrowes.

The events of Mary Fran and Matthew run concurrently with those in *The Bridegroom Wore Plaid*, the first of Ms. Burrowes' novels set in Victorian Scotland which features the MacGregors of Balfour. Lady Mary Frances MacGregor is a widow and the younger sister of four handsome, strapping Scotsmen, the eldest of whom, Asher, is missing, presumed dead, leaving the next brother, Ian, to take over the reins of the impoverished Earldom of Balfour.

In **Bridegroom**, Ian is seeking a wife rich enough to enable him to restore and adequately support his family, dependents, and estate, and it seems as though he has found her in the person of Eugenia Daniels, the eldest daughter of the English Baron Altsax. Altsax brings his two daughters and his son, Matthew, a former army officer, to Balfour for the summer, in order to finalise the details of Genie's betrothal to Ian.

Mary Fran is a secondary character in that novel; she is both housekeeper and hostess, and spends a lot of her time rushing from place to place and being generally frazzled trying to keep everything running smoothly, as well as being a mother to her precocious seven-year-old daughter, Fiona. It's quite obvious from the title of the novella as to the direction the story will take (and anyone who has read or listened to **Bridegroom** will know how things work out), so it's not too much of a spoiler to say that the novella charts the development of Mary Fran's relationship with Matthew Daniels.

You can read the rest of this review at AudioGals.

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### **Kathy says**

This is the shortest story of this author that I have read and it did not give time to ease into the plot. Mary Fran and Matthew are attracted to each other.

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