



# The Gingerbread House

*Nell Carson*

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## **The Gingerbread House** Nell Carson

After a tumultuous past, Greta Kendall has focused mainly on her bridal shop, located on the first floor of her beloved Queen Anne Victorian near Aspen. For two years she's fought to save her house from Stephanie Harwood of Harwood Development, who is intent on razing her home to build a new mall. But now Greta's running out of time. The town council is about to approve the final plans for the mall.

When Gray Daniels walks into her shop, Greta is immediately attracted to his rugged good looks and midnight blue eyes, until she learns he's Stephanie Harwood's fiancé. She's furious to find they've tricked her into a publicity stunt aimed at garnering support for the mall. So now her little war has a new front: Gray Daniels. If only she could also fight her growing attraction to him.

A knock on the door brings a return of old danger, and Greta must now put aside her anguish over the house to discover if she's at last capable of looking the past in the eye and overcoming it—and if she's finally free to love again.

## **The Gingerbread House Details**

Date : Published October 16th 2012 by Montlake Romance (first published April 6th 2012)

ISBN : 9781611097696

Author : Nell Carson

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Adult

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# From Reader Review The Gingerbread House for online ebook

## Rachel V. says

This was a very sweet book. It was a romance novel but has no sex and a little kissing.

The main character, Greta is a very well written character. Her strength in character shows through in every word and action. She believes in a fair fight and is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in. Gray Daniels was also a very well written addition to this story. He believes the best of people and was a little blind when it came to his fiancée but in the end it all works out for the best.

The romance was a slow build up. The attraction was there right away and slowly built from there. The town that is described in the story sounds very quaint and it sounds like a great place to visit. I would love to see this wedding dress in person.

The mystery that was also in this story is who is helping Greta to try and keep her home and shop with anonymous tips. When it is revealed I was surprised it was not who I expected. Then there is also the danger that Greta finds herself in towards the end of the book. It was well written addition to the story.

This book is a great read for you to read on breaks and lunches or just a rainy day. If you like a sweet romance I recommend this one for you.

\*I received a copy free from the author in exchange for an honest review.\*

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## Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://www.longandshortreviews.blogspot...>

This is Greta Kendall's last chance to save her home. She's been fighting for two years against a woman – Stephanie Harwood – who will do anything it takes to evict Greta and bulldoze her beautiful house. With time running out and her mother running her ragged, Greta's at her wit's end to save her home and her business before it's too late. Which will be the victor – her Queen Anne Victorian or the new shopping mall? Only time will tell.

I love a good, complex character. Greta Kendall has so much going on, both out in the open and under the surface that you can't help but want to get to know her better. The relationship she has with her aging mother only makes her even more likable. The twists and turns in both her life and her emotional state create an intensely emotional story that will really draw out your own feelings. She's representative of so many women in the real world, the ones that look like they have it all together, but are actually falling apart when no one's looking.

Gray Daniels is every woman's dream man in the flesh - intelligent, handsome and successful. It's just too bad he's sleeping with the enemy – Stephanie Harwood. But from the very beginning, you realize that Gray is everything he seems, even if it all seems too good to be true. He's considerate, understanding and an all-around good guy. The fact that he gets what she's going through only sweetens the deal, as far as I'm

concerned. Gray is definitely the perfect guy to help Greta work through the trauma of her past and get her to love again. I hated the fact that he kept being forced to take the blame for the things his fiancée was doing to Greta, although you can't blame Greta for feeling the way she does.

The Gingerbread House is a sweet, intense story about finding real love against the odds. Greta and Gray make a beautiful, fun couple who not only understand each other, but enjoy each other as well. The author's easy style helps the story flow, carrying you along with it as it develops. A wonderfully emotional journey that has a very happy and a bit surprising end.

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### **Jesse Kimmel-Freeman says**

This is a sweet romance. When I say that, I don't mean it in a bad way. I know that some of my hardcore romance readers might have some sort of scale to romance and sweet is low on it. But for me, when I say sweet, I mean that it made my heart go "awwwwww." Corny, huh? Well, I'm that kind of girl!

I love this story. It's a great read. Nell focuses on her characters and their stories rather than trying just to sell a book. Yes, there is sensuality to it, but this is one of those romances where you fall in love with the story and the people in it over the hot scenes.

The fact that the house is the thing that ties everything together was awesome for me. I want that house!

Greta and her mother warm my heart, and touch reality in a way that not all books are able to do. I feel for them and want everything to work out. Greta's past is one that SO many women can connect with (me being one of them, sadly to say), that it makes her character like any woman you might meet on the street. I love that she is so willing to fight for what she loves.

Oh, and let's not forget Grey! Yum! That is the kind of guy that we all hope will stumble into our lives at one point or another. I love that he has emotions! Who knew that males were capable of expressing them?! ;0) Just kidding! I love it! He is REAL! There is no super charged hero on steroids trying to rescue the damsel... no, not here. This is a real man, and he can see when a woman needs help and when she doesn't.

I recommend this book for all the romance lovers. If you like them spicier, I'd still say give it a shot. I want more!

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### **Chantelle says**

You can see the full joint review with Nara [here](#).

Sweet, cute and short would be the three words I'd use to describe *The Gingerbread House*.

The story revolves around Greta Kendall's fight to save her "Gingerbread house" from being demolished by the ambitious Stephanie Harwood as a development spot. In doing so, she catches the attention of Stephanie's handsome fiancée, Gray Daniels...

This was a very pleasant and quick contemporary romance, and quite different to my usual YA read since the

characters are aged in their thirties. Fortunately that didn't pose a problem, I found it easy to relate to Greta and Gray (both got POVs), and was cheering them on or getting scared on their behalf like a good little reader. From the blurb, Nell Carson promises a sweet romance, and she delivered. I was really intrigued by the blurb and happy to find that I wasn't disappointed. The plot is well paced, and full of action to keep the reader interested, it also touched on topics that I was very surprised at due to the depth and sensitivities of them. However, I think the story was a bit too short to do it full justice. At many points in the story, I felt like characters lacked development or scenes lacked exploration, things just moved a little too quickly for me. The story was so intriguing that I found myself mourning for what I felt were missing chapters. It also meant that I often found myself nit-picking at little plot holes or flows in conversation that I couldn't quite follow or that made the romance seem unfeasible because developments just happened so quickly, but it also reminded me to stop being so cynical and just sit back and enjoy the cutesy romance. It's been awhile since I've come across a truly girly, clean, wholesome romance so although it took a little adjusting, I'm very glad that I read it.

For more reviews, please visit my blog [Looking for the Panacea](#).

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### **Christy says**

This was such a sweet book. I received it directly from the author Nell Carson in exchange for an honest review. It was a quick read for me and kept me engaged throughout. I read it in about 2 hours while coloring my hair and relaxing afterward :)

Greta Kendall is the owner of a bridal shop in her family's old Victorian home. It has been her family since her mother's home burned as a child. It makes her feel safe. She lives with her mother who is in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. But they are living there on borrowed time.

Stephanie Harwood is determined to tear down the house to build a mall and impress her father with her savvy business skills. She and Greta meet several times in front of the town council. Greta believes she has information that will save her home, but each time she comes up with new evidence that the home is of historical significance, Stephanie finds evidence that it is not.

Enter Gray Daniels. He walks into Greta's life when he enters her shop to have his grandmother's wedding dress repaired for his fiancé. His fiancé Stephanie Harwood. And so it begins. Gray is representing Stephanie in her endeavor to build her mall. And Greta is intent on stopping both of them. But sparks fly and truth prevails.

What follows is a sweet romance filled with charm and heart warming scenes. Add a little danger, and you have the perfect book to read on a cold winter day or a warm summer night.

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

3.5 stars for this one.

This was another Avalon romance that I picked up at the library while walking by the shelf. It was very sweet, easy reading that I didn't have to think too hard about. I do love a good romantic story.

Content: some mild swearing

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## Ena says

### ENA'S REVIEW

My daughter "Janz" was given this book by the Author Nell Carson in exchange for an honest review.

The cover pictures an old fashioned sign post with the title on it, so though I think the cover is fairly plain, it depicts the book well. Would I pick it up in a bookstore for a closer look? I think I would yes.

So the plot is about Greta Kendall and her business which is a bridal shop. The book tells of Greta's fight to prevent Stephanie Harwood and her Development company from knocking down Greta's home, to make way for a new mall they wish to build.

Greta finds herself attracted to a handsome guy who calls into her bridal shop. The guy turns out to be none other than Stephanie Harwood's fiancé. Greta fights hard to try and stop herself falling for the guy.

So does Greta get to keep her home? And win over Stephanie Harwood's fiancé too?

I found the beginning of the book was at quite a slow pace for my taste, and I initially didn't think I would finish it let alone enjoy it. Then the pace began to pick up and the plot became much more interesting and I ended up really enjoying the book.

So did I enjoy the book? Yes. Would I recommend it? I would yes. Would I read more by Nell Carson? I already have done and enjoyed them too.

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## Nara says

For full review, please [click here](#)

*It was time.*

Are you kidding me?! What kinda crappy opening line is that?! I mean, seriously, "it was time" is just so cliched...thankfully, as you would probably have gotten from Chantelle's review, the quality of The Gingerbread House significantly improved once that first line was passed. One thing I have to say about it is that it was VERY cliched. However, because I went into the novel expecting the cliches (just look at that first line...), I found that they actually weren't overly annoying.

The Gingerbread House is very much one of those romance novels that somewhat older readers enjoy.

Although I am a young adult, I confess that I have partaken in some of those novels e.g. Nora Roberts' Bridal Quartet (which were actually kinda similar to this novel now that I think about it) and I suppose I similarly enjoyed The Gingerbread House as a very light, fun read. It was quite short, so there wasn't much character development, but I found that there was enough that the characters had some depth to them.

Some comments about the characters:

Gray- Oh man, this guy was so ridiculously sappy. He practically cried on every second page! GROW A PAIR, MATE! Seriously though, I'm just exaggerating, he wasn't THAT bad. He was somewhat well developed and an interesting character- and it was nice seeing certain scenes from his point of view.

Greta- She was probably the most well developed as a character (as she should be, seeing as though she's the

main character). Initially, she seemed rather superficial, but as you read on, more facets of her character are revealed- ending up with quite a complex character.

I must say, there were some events in the novel that I found downright strange, like the ending (which clearly I can't tell you about because of spoilers) but I'll just say that it was a bit unrealistic. It was fun and happy and heartwarming and great.....just unrealistic. And I suppose as it was a romance novel, you have to take these sappy endings with a grain of salt, because of course, as readers, we all want to see the happily ever after.

Have a look at more reviews at my blog: [Looking for the Panacea](#)

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## **Sarika Patkotwar says**

Actual rating- 3.5

\*NOTE: We (The Readdicts) received a copy of The Gingerbread House from author Nell Carson in exchange for an honest review. We thank Nell for the book!

Author Nell Carson's The Gingerbread House is a very sweet and heartwarming read.

Greta Kendall and her mom Adele run their family's traditional bridal wear boutique. Greta is fighting to save the only home they've known, popularly known as The Gingerbread House by locals which Stephanie Harwood is keen on demolishing and in it's place, Stephanie wants to construct a mall just to prove herself to her businessman father.

When Gray Daniels and Great Kendall meet in her shop, sparks immediately fly but it really seems worthless since Gray is there with a single purpose- to fix the wedding gown passed down by the beautiful ladies of his family for his fiancée, Stephanie Harwood.

Greta was a good woman who stood up for what she believed in and did her best to protect The Gingerbread House. Her past was really terrible and it was so good to see her try to overcome her fears with the help of those close to her. Her relationship with her mother Adele was wonderful. Their moments together were emotional and simply cute.

Gray was a kind man who realised he was foolishly in love only with the girl he knew and not the woman she had become. It was so good to see him get out of it and finally find his peace and solace.

Greta and Gray shared a wonderful relationship full of sparks, ups, downs, ons, offs and everything that basically goes into making a relationship steady and sweet. I did have a little problem getting into the story. I found myself rereading a few lines to know what was going on.

Nonetheless, author Nell Carson's neat and simple writing, a groovy plot, an unforgivable past, a not so stable present, a bright future, a tender romance and an ample amount of humour make The Gingerbread House a lighthearted and awesome read that's short and sweet with a honeyed ending that left me smiling.

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## **Dana says**

This was a cute book. I enjoyed it for the most part- there were a few events that felt forced, and for some reason I was expecting it to be Christmas-y (based on the title), but overall it was a good read. Romantic without being crass.

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### **Aymee says**

This was a very well-written, emotional story. The author's style makes it an easy read and the characters just flow on the pages. Made me cry happy tears at the end. :)

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### **Robin says**

Such a cozy read! I really enjoyed how the author told this tale, keeping it sweet but also leaving enough room for questions about what would happen next. My favorite character is probably the business tycoon that shows up later in the tale. Of the MC's, I suppose my favorite character is Greta. I thought Jack could've been fleshed out a bit more. And in my opinion, Gray was overly emotional. I like a guy who can be honest and open with his emotions but he seemed over the top to me. I did enjoy the story, though, and I do love tales that end the way this one did.

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### **Linda Rogers says**

A fun, easy, clean book but what would you expect with a title like "The Gingerbread House". Readers from teenage girls to very mature women (like me) will enjoy this cute story and the people involved in it.

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### **Tash says**

Reviewed for Booked Up . Stay tuned for the review to be posted on Booked Up's goodreads account and the Blog

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### **Tina "IRead2Escape" says**

The Gingerbread House is the first book I've read by Nell Carson and it definitely will not be the last.

Greta Kendall is tired of fighting. It seems that everything is changing around her and no matter how hard she holds on she can't stop it. The town has voted and her business and home is being demolished to build a shopping mall. Just the sound of it makes her want to weep. Her beautiful wedding shop that's been in her family for generations gone for a shopping mall. To make matters worse, she finds herself attracted and drawn to the fiance' of the woman that has destroyed her life. He is so nice to her and her mother who is in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's. She's not even sure that she can trust her own judgement anymore.

Gray Daniels is not liking himself very much these days. He doesn't like that his fiance' has tricked him into helping her destroy the life of Greta Kendall. He isn't sure about a lot of things when it comes to his fiance'. He's known and loved her since they were children, but he's starting to wonder if he is in love with the child she once was because the woman she is now sure doesn't do much for him. He finds himself enchanted with



Greta and her mother. When in their company he's happier than he's ever been. Now, if he can just find a way to keep that happiness.

I have to admit the whole cheating or flirting on the edge of cheating isn't my favorite story line, but at least it wasn't too unseemly. Ms. Carson did a fabulous job dealing with this sensitive topic. This is such a great story of self discovery. My heart hurt for Gray as he came to terms with his memories not exactly meshing with his reality. Greta was amazing in her unyielding strength and fight for her home and life as it is.

A special thank you to Nell Carson for the loan of this book in exchange for my honest review.

You can find this review and others at <http://tinar1121.blogspot.com> and <http://riverinaromantics.blogspot.com>

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