



## How I Married a Marquess

*Anna Harrington*

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**How I Married a Marquess** Anna Harrington

**A SHOCKING DECEPTION . . .**

Josephine Carlisle, adopted daughter of a baron, is officially on the shelf. But the silly, marriage-minded misses in the ton can have their frilly dresses and their seasons in London, for all she cares. Josie has her freedom and her family . . . until an encounter with a dark, devilishly handsome stranger leaves her utterly breathless at a house party. His wicked charm intrigues her, but that's where it ends. For Josie has a little secret . . .

**... LEADS TO AN EXQUISITE SEDUCTION**

Espionage was Thomas Matteson, Marquess of Chesney's game-until a tragic accident cost him his career. Now to salvage his reputation and return to the life he loves, the marquess must find the criminal who's been robbing London's rich and powerful. He's no fool-he knows Josie, with her wild chestnut hair and rapier-sharp wit, is hiding something and he won't rest until he unravels her mysteries, one by one. But he never expected to be the one under arrest-body and soul . . .

## How I Married a Marquess Details

Date : Published April 26th 2016 by Forever

ISBN : 9781455534074

Author : Anna Harrington

Format : Mass Market Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Regency Romance, Adult



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## From Reader Review How I Married a Marquess for online ebook

### Kusanagi says

Alors c'est plus 3 pour le héros, mais j'accorde 4 pour les frères de l'héroïne.

Sinon dans l'ensemble c'était sympa, mais j'avais raison, le héros mérite des claques. J'aime bien Thomas ....mais il m'a fait penser à Griffin Reading dans Maiden Lane (mode "je sais pas ce que je veux mais j'ai grave envie de me faire l'héroïne....").

J'ai aimé Joséphine l'héroïne, son caractère, sa famille, sa façon réaliste de se débattre avec son passé et l'insécurité lié à son statut d'enfant adopté (malgré une famille clairement aimante et protective ^^)

Et je veux une série sur les frères Carlisle ❤

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### Sha says

DNF

I've been trying to read this book for a while now, and once I figured out I wasn't anywhere near interested enough to read it properly I spent a lot of time dithering around before I read through enough of it to leave a reasonably articulate review. I have a TBR list that can span the equator, goddamit I do not have the time for this.

And yet, here we are. Because if I don't do this review at some time in the future I'm possibly end up with this book again and will have to live through the same experience. Again.

The prose in this book is not bad as much as occasionally ill-judged and badly edited. While I realize that a deep and profound loathing for the adjectives "masculine" and "feminine" is merely a pet peeve of mine, there were other instances of word usage I found both jarring and easily corrected. There are, however, a few genuinely hilarious moments (that last holdup was beautiful- the guy just HATES playing the Highwayman), which leave me with an uncomfortable longing for what could have been.

What IS, however, is a story that honestly makes no sense and pats itself on the back for having such beautiful and speshul characters. I saw equivalents of the phrase "not like other girls" enough times that I got tired of rolling my eyes. And the hero, of course is so perfect that the heroine can tell at first glance that he's oh so charismatic because two girls are paying attention to him talking. This book suffers from a bad case of telling rather than showing.

What else? Ah, yes. The Sherlock Scan. I'm very much in the Sir Samuel Vimes school of thought when it comes to the Art of Deduction, which means that I get really fucking irritated when the Sherlock Expy in question confidently and accurately latches on to the one true explanation when there could be so many other equally valid reasons. A woman's hair being slightly badly dressed does not necessarily mean that her maid is sick. Her maid could have been careless, trying out a new style which did not quite work, or a different person could have dressed her hair. In addition, it could have been messy because she was moving too much, or because hairpins tend to fall out, or because the last time her saw her it was the evening towards the midpoint or so of a dance. Sherlock Scans are great, but people who use them really need to note that Arthur Conan Doyle also mentioned something about eliminating whatever else was possible first.

One last point before I close up. I find it hard to see how Josie can be a successful Highwayman, competent enough to warrant someone sending a detective after her. There is embezzlement happening at the Orphanage? CLEARLY the one true solution is highway robbery, nevermind that you are not comfortable with the whole concept at all and do not enjoy it one bit. Don't get me wrong- I LOVE crusading women with all my heart, and that was the main reason I gave this book a try in the first place. But it has to be a reasonable and rational course of action, not a gimmick by the author to show yet again how special and different her MC is.

(As a sidenote; I'd like to direct all seekers of crusading women to Trial by Desire, which features the Regency version of Batman for battered women. I do love the Rich Idiot with No Day Job facade.)

Anyway, it's a disappointing book. I often find that I'm disappointed with books that advertise their heroines as badass. They almost never live up to the hype, and the women soon fall into tired and true roles of traditional femininity.

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### **Fangirl Musings says**

#### **DOWN AND DIRTY QUICKIE REVIEW!**

##### **One Sentence Summary:**

She's a child-support collecting Robin Hood & he's a fired spy with PTSD who's gotta catch her booty.

##### **What part made you fangirl squeal:**

OMG!!! When our gal used her boobs to save the day!? IF THAT AIN'T THE QUICKEST QUICK THINKING IN THE HISTORY OF BRAINS AND BOOBS!

##### **Favorite Character:**

Duh! Josie! Come on, a skilled-ass thief who steals so little kids can eat? Her wit, her spunk, her smart mouth? I CAN'T EVEN!

##### **How smexy was the smex?**

SOMEBODY GET ME A FIRE HORSE BECAUSE THESE OVARIES ARE ABLAZE! Seriously, that OTP carriage stable scene at the beginning? The swoonage was real.

##### **Name That Trope:**

Hidden Identity, Robin Hood Wears a Skirt, Physiologically Wounded Hero, At Odds

##### **Whose Line Is It Anyway:**

**Thomas:** Why rob only the men? Why not also collect from the women?

**Josie:** Because men control the money. A woman possesses only what a man allows her to have.

**Thomas:** You shouldn't tempt fate.

**Josie:** Fate shouldn't tempt me.

### **Got any bitching to do?**

Siiiiiiiiiiigh. Sadly, yeah. Our gal gets left out of the final big climax & it gave me stink face.

### **Visually Depict Yo Book Feels:**

### **Famous last words:**

THE BOOK HAS LITERALLY EVERYTHING! If you want a fiery, take-no-shit heroine paired with the most hero-in-pursuit hero that ever pursued? Get thee to a 1-click buy button!

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For a more in depth and LOL-fest discussion on romance novels and romance Asian dramas, [HERE BE MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6fO...>

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### **Samantha says**

How I Married a Marquess, the conclusion to Anna Harrington's The Secret Life of Scoundrels series, was by far the best of the trilogy. Josephine and Thomas's story was absolutely EVERYTHING, which is really saying something because Thomas was actually my least favorite of the three leading men in this series when he was first introduced, but he completely stole my heart in this book. But as much as I loved him the true star of this book was the heroine, Josephine. I have a legit girl crush on Josephine's character. She was the BEST and didn't sit back and take anyone's crap. She went out and got things done in order to do what she believed was right and help out the children at the orphanage. I loved her character too much and out of all the historical romances I've read she is definitely one of my top five favorite heroines. On top of the two amazing leading characters, I also really loved the secondary characters especially Josephine's brothers. They didn't show too much, but they made a lasting impression and I am really happy that this author's next series is about them. Anywho, back to this book, the romance in this book was by far my favorite. Out of the three couples in this book, Josephine and Thomas were the ones who I felt were the most on equal footing attitude wise and that made their romance explosively good. As well as the love story, I also really loved the plot surrounding the robberies and Josephine's part in them. It was all so much fun to read about and the resolution to everything at the end was hilarious. And talking about the end, the epilogue of this book was amazing and left me feeling all warm and fuzzy inside because it made me so happy.

Overall, this book was so great and it was the perfect ending to such a spectacular historical romance series. I highly recommend it as well as the first two books in this series!

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## **Amanda says**

With its ginger(ish) highwaywoman heroine, I thought *How I Married a Marquess* had catnip written all over it. Unfortunately, the premise did not live up to my high expectations. This book was a huge disappointment.

Highwaywoman persona aside, Josie was quite flat as a character and very foolish in her choices. I mean, I understood some of her motivations to an extent, but there were times when she made me want to slam my head into a wall. I did like Thomas and I thought the portrayal of his anxiety fueled panic attacks stemming from his near death experience was well handled for the most part. Except of course when Josie became the magical cure to all of his pain. I absolutely HATE that kind of wholly unrealistic plot device.

As much as I enjoy Anna Harrington's writing, I do find her couples lacking on the emotional level. Even with Thomas and Josie's easy rapport, I never felt that they made that leap from lustful attraction to genuine love, at least not to the point where it was believable. I encountered similar issues in the previous two books. So when the romance comes up short and the plot is either boring or OTT crazy as it was here, what's left to like?

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## **Melody May (What I'm Reading) says**

Posted on What I'm Reading

Talk about it being totally unproductive day. *How I Married A Marquess* sucked me into the story. I couldn't stop reading once I started. I kept telling myself one more chapter, and I need to do something else. However, I kept telling myself this lie, and by the time I was close to finishing it I said "What the heck, why stop now?" Basically it was crack for readers, I loved every moment of this story. Anna basically grabs your attention with the first chapter and she doesn't let go. Thomas is a cad at the beginning, and he's restless. After getting shot in the last book and almost dying he's trying to find his footing through *How I Married A Marquess*. He was once a spy, but can't do it cause he lost his edge. Of course, that's not a good thing in a spy. Yet, he was given an opportunity to possibly get his career back with the help of a family friend. Then he meets this spirited, beautiful, young woman who isn't what she seems to be.

Now Josephine is such a fun character. She's not your typical aristocrat daughter. No, she's spirited and fun, yet she doesn't believe she's good enough to marry. She lets her adoption loom over her head, and she believes that she's going to taint some families bloodlines cause she isn't a natural daughter of the baron. He has a hard time accepting that her family loves her no matter what, and she's fearful that one day her family is going to wake up and realize that they made a mistake. Granted her family loves her to pieces, but it's a normal fear.

I had a great time reading *How I Married A Marquess*. Honestly it was fun and lighthearted. You have Thomas chasing after Josephine and trying to save her from herself. There is this friction between the two, because she believes that Thomas's family friend is up to no good. Yet, he can come to terms that he could be evil, which is their argument through most of the book. I get why Thomas is loyal to the family friend, because why in the world would he do such terrible things. We also meet Josephine's brothers who I think need their own books, because they seem like trouble. If you are need of an adventure, you might consider *How I Married A Marquess*. Who knows you might not be able to put it down once you start.

### **Arshia says**

Ummmm where do I begin?! The book started off promising but then I just started hating Thomas. He was such an ass! So selfish and he really had no reason for it. I mean yeah there was a reason but it wasn't enough. So this douche bag keeps molesting the heroine but he knows he can't marry her for some bullshit reason.

Alright so he meets the heroine, Josephine, and immediately starts hitting on her, the next time he meets her he kisses her, so on and so forth... What irritated me is his selfishness. He didn't really care for her, everything was about him and his freaking pity party. My life was ruined, I was hurt, I will hurt others in the meantime to get everything I want... blah, blah, blah!

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### **Phoenix77 says**

From the book description of How I Married a Marquess I should have enjoyed this story much more than I did. All of the elements I expected were there; a strong heroine seeking justice for the unfortunate, a hero trying to reorder his life after a devastating injury and love bringing the two of them together against a common enemy. As a whole the book was good, with a fast pace that made it a quick read; however when I look closer at the story I can see the small flaws that kept me from rating it higher.

The story opens up a year after the events of the previous book Along Came a Rogue and Lord Thomas Matteson is still recovering from the gunshot wound that almost killed him. The injury and the long rehabilitation have taken Thomas away from the work he loves as a spy for the Home Office, and unfortunately his superiors feel that Thomas has lost his nerve and have quietly dismissed him from service. Grasping at any chance to get back in the game Thomas accepts a job from his father's close friend Lord Royston to investigate and capture a highwayman who's been plaguing the roads around his property. If Thomas can handle the job quickly and quietly, Lord Royston will use his clout to have Thomas reinstated as an agent.

Please read the full review at **Romantic Historical Reviews**

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### **Adria (Musings and Reviews) says**

Originally posted on Adria's Romance Reviews

\* A copy of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the purpose of an honest review.

As the adopted daughter of a baron, Josephine Carlisle has everything a woman could need yet she still feels out of place and unwelcome in her family's world. Now that she's considered "On the Shelf" Josie feels more relaxed and free until one night at a house party she meets the Marquess of Chesney.

As a former spy Thomas Matteson is used to finding out people's secrets and he's sure Josie is hiding

something. He's at the house party to find out who has been robbing the rich but Josie is proving to be more distracting than he originally thought.

Almost since the beginning Thomas Matteson, the Marquess of Chesney had been a bit of a ghost character. In the first book he appeared briefly but in the second he was laid up with an injury. However that incident was the catalyst for his sister to find her happy ending. Now it's Thomas' turn and I was delighted with him as a hero. He had a lot of internal conflict that centered on his desperate need to return to his life as a spy and his battle with PTSD. I was surprised at how vulnerable Anna Harrington made this character given that he's a man and a former spy but with his PTSD looming over him like a dark cloud it was very clear why it was rumored that he had lost his edge. That fed into his doubts of not being the man he once was and needing a purpose in life. Thomas' enemy wasn't really his feelings for Josie, it was his feelings about himself and that made him stand out to me.

Josie was delightful. She was fun and energetic and unafraid of life. She had unique circumstances as the adopted daughter of a titled man, she was a titled lady on paper but of course in that time period it was all about the bloodlines and Josie didn't even know who her real parents were. I liked that she was similar to Thomas in that her internal conflicts were the true obstacles to her happiness. Josie never felt like she belonged in her family because she was adopted and that led her to make dangerous decisions but they were made for the right reasons most of the time. I loved that she didn't expect or even want Thomas to save her and that she took steps to solve her own problems but she did have this bad habit of not realizing when she was in over her head and needed help. Several times her unyielding stubbornness annoyed me simply because she was being irrational when it was clear Thomas was better suited for certain tasks and her insistence on being included in situations where it was best she didn't draw attention was sometimes too much.

I personally love combatative couples because it spices things up and adds a great layer of tension when it's done right. Thomas and Josie had sparks from the moment Josie initiated contact (Another reason to like her) and it didn't stop there. Whatever Thomas threw out at her, Josie was ready to hit back at him and it really made their relationship interesting to me. The verbal back and forth was seductive in its own way and definitely didn't go unnoticed by either character.

Hands down Josie's brothers were the comedic relief in *How I Married a Marquess*. I just loved them! They just seemed larger than life to me. Sebastian, Robert and Quinton were as different as three men could be but put them together and they were loud, brash, and about as subtle as wrecking balls. They loved Josie and protected her no matter what. These three were a lot of fun and I would love to see more of them.

*How I Married a Marquess* was definitely well written but that seems to be par for the course with Anna Harrington. The scenes flowed into one another with ease and the dialogue was brisk and entertaining and there wasn't an overdone amount of drama involved. Just a bit of sleuthing, seducing and saving the day. The pacing was moderate, not too slow and not too fast and while it is the third book in the *Secret Life of Scoundrels* series, each book can be read and enjoyed as a standalone.

Final Verdict: What a fitting end to a series about three friends who suffered through war and personal strife and then found happiness with three very special women. Thomas and Josie made *How I Married a Marquess* quite the reading experience and while I'm sad to say goodbye, I can't wait to see what Anna Harrington has up her sleeve. After this, she's just been moved to my "Auto-Buy" list.

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## **Connie Fischer says**

Chatham House, Mayfair London - 1817

Thomas Matteson, Lord Chesney, Marquess of Chesney, has been staying at Chatham House while his parents are at their other home. Thomas sustained a bullet wound to his hip a year ago which took a long time to heal. Even with his background as an operative for the War Office, his injury has left him with panic attacks and the inability to sleep well. But when he receives a missive from Earl Bathurst, the Secretary of State for War and the Colonies, saying that Thomas is unfit for service, he is devastated.

Then Thomas receives a request from Earl Royston of Blackwood Hall to use his special skills to investigate some highway robberies near his estate. If Thomas stops the robberies at Blackwood Hall, Earl Royston will put in a good word with Earl Bathurst for Thomas to which he agrees. Thus, Thomas leaves for a house party at Blackwood Hall to begin his investigations.

Josephine (Josie) Carlisle, age 23, is attending the house party at Blackwood Hall. The Carlisle family are neighbors to the Roystons. The daughter of a Baron, Josie is actually an adopted orphan. Adopted at age 6 by Richard and Elizabeth Carlisle, she has dedicated herself to do all she can to help the orphans at the Good Hope Orphanage. The older she gets, the more she realizes she is probably remain unwed as she is passed over because she was an adopted orphan.

The Carlisles have 3 sons of their own and as Elizabeth was unable to have more children, they decided to adopt a daughter. She has always been loved and treated as their true daughter.

When Josie glimpses Thomas at the house party, she is very intrigued by this handsome man. After a waltz, they are immediately attracted to one another.

As Josie helps out at the Orphanage she vows to do all she can to make life better for the orphans. She does not like Mrs. Potter who runs the Orphanage. The woman works for Lord Royston and does whatever he tells her to do. She also steals money and beats the children. When Thomas sees her with the orphans, he is quite intrigued by Josie and her ability to comfort people. Just being around her relaxes him.

When the highway robberies continue, Thomas lies in wait and follows the robber. What he finds leaves him shocked and confused whether to arrest the perpetrator or not.

The stubbornness of Thomas and Josie became grating at times but it only added to the angst of the characters.

I enjoyed this story and I know others will as well.

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

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## **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

'How I Married a Marquess' by Anna Harrington is book three in the "The Secret Life of Scoundrels" series. This is the story of Josephine Carlisle and Thomas Matteson, Marquess of Chesney.

Thomas had a series bullet injury that almost took his life. Thomas still hasn't really got over it emotionally yet and hasn't been able to go by to his career of spying/Espionage. Thomas seems to get panic attacks once in a while. When a chance comes up for him to go to a house party to try and find a highway man who has been robbing people Thomas goes for it. Thomas feels this will be his chance to prove and get back in to the spying career. But he had not counted on meeting Josephine.

Josephine was an orphan until about 7 or 8 when she was adopted by the Carlisle family. Josephine has never forgotten her fellow orphans at the orphanage and tries to help out the orphanage by getting them food, coal etc. But Thomas has arrived and thrown Josephine for a loop. Josephine is attracted to Thomas but knows that she is below his station and also she has secrets she doesn't want anyone to know...especially him. But Thomas has found that just being around Josephine has put a calming effect on him and his attacks. Can they find away to deal with everything to be together?

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## Caz says

### **I've given this a D+ at AAR.**

This is the third book in Anna Harrington's *Secret Life of Scoundrels* trilogy which follows three men who served together during the Napoleonic Wars as they find love and a happily ever after. I reviewed the previous book, *Along Came a Rogue*, and while I had some issues with the pacing and certain aspects of the plot, I enjoyed it overall and felt that the two leads shared a strong emotional connection. I was therefore eager to read the final book in the series, but oh, dear – what a disappointment.

I reckon that approximately seventy-five percent of *How I Married a Marquess* is comprised on the following: intense make-out sessions, sex scenes and mental-lusting by the bucket-load. Actually, I suspect that's a conservative estimate. The story, such as it is, is buried beneath the shed-load of "*how could he make her feel this way?*"s and "*no other woman had ever had this effect on him*"s (my paraphrases); the hero is a selfish git for much of the story and the heroine has way too many TSTL moments.

We met Thomas Matteson, Marquess of Chesney in the last book, when he was shot and critically injured. This story takes place around a year later, but while he has fully recovered physically, he is suffering from what I can only suppose is a form of PTSD, because he is plagued by recurring nightmares, jumps at loud noises and has panic attacks, which he generally wards off by shagging whichever of his current paramours is to hand.

What he wants, more than anything, is to get his old life back. Following his army service, he worked for the War Office as a spy, but since his injury it seems that intelligence work is not an option as word has spread that he has 'lost his nerve'. So when the Earl of Royston contacts him to ask for his help in apprehending a

highwayman who is robbing his houseguests and promises that he will pull some strings at the War Office in return, Thomas jumps at the chance to prove himself and heads off to Royston's country estate in Lincolnshire to join the house party.

On his first evening there, he encounters Josephine, daughter of Lord and Lady Carlisle, and is immediately and strongly attracted to her. He likes her intelligence and her spirit and wants her with a ferocity he's never before felt for any woman; but he is intent on getting his life back and has no interest in any permanent attachment, which is, of course, the only type of attachment possible when the lady in question is, well, a lady.

But Josephine has secrets, and her first conversation with Thomas spooks her badly when she realises he is the sort of man who will be able to discover them. How she knows this when she's known him for less than five minutes, I have no idea, but there it is. She tries to avoid him, but the pull of his heated sapphire gaze and overall gorgeousness is too much for her to resist, their first kiss takes place the next morning and after that, they're snogging each other silly at almost every opportunity. I counted four make-out sessions by the 40% mark, and my Goodreads update says: "Some authors need to learn that sometimes, less is more and that there is more to creating sexual tension than having your H/h sucking face every ten pages."

Although Josephine has been brought up by the Carlisles, she is actually an orphan, adopted by them when she was six. Not surprisingly, she is committed to helping the orphans that remain at the Good Hope Orphanage and has discovered that Royston, who is the patron, has some sort of scheme going on whereby he arranges for the by blows of the nobility to be placed there in return for political favours. Having no proof, she can't expose him, so instead she does what she can for the place financially... and I don't think it will come as any surprise when Jo's Big Secret is revealed.

That is pretty much the extent of the plot. Thomas wants Jo to give up her dangerous hobby, she refuses. Even when she is almost caught, she still refuses, and then ignores his clear instructions to lay low – which are, admittedly, a bit heavy-handed, but nonetheless expressed in terms of concern for her safety. That's an excursion way too far into TSTL territory in my book. Mind you, Thomas isn't any more likeable. He's quite sexy in a dark, brooding "I must have you NOW!" kind of way, and on the few occasions he gets to show his Sooper Spy Skillz, it's obvious he was good at his job. But his focus is so firmly on returning to his life as a spy that for most of the book, Jo runs a poor second to that ambition, even though her sexual healing miraculously cures his PTSD.

It's clear from the previous novel in the series that Anna Harrington can write, knows how to tell a story and can create attractive characters. Towards the end of this book, Thomas' plan to thwart Royston, keep Jo out of danger and rescue a wrongly-imprisoned man is well-written and fun to read, but it's too little too late. Otherwise, *How I Married a Marquess* has little plot to speak of, the central characters are unappealing and practically the entire book revolves around sex. If Thomas and Josephine aren't doing it, then they're thinking about it, and my eyes started to glaze over every time they started an internal monologue about how attractive the other person was and how much they wanted to roger them stupid. I like a bit of steam as much as the next person, but there needs to be an appropriate build up, and that just isn't present. There is hardly any sexual tension between the couple because they get into the sexual situations so quickly, and there is no sense of any deeper emotional connection between them.

At this point in a review, I might normally sum up by saying something like "if you enjoyed the author's other books, then you might like this one", but given that I've enjoyed other books by Ms. Harrington and didn't enjoy this one, I'm not going to. In fact, I think that anyone who enjoyed her other books is likely to be disappointed.

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## **WTF Are You Reading? says**

How I Married A Marquess offers Historical Romance fans so much more than the "marriage market" scheming and seductions, beddings, and weddings that are hallmarks of its genre.

Here, readers are presented in the character of Miss Josephine Carlisle, a woman who, by no fault of her own has been excluded from the one thing that her beauty, intelligence, grace, charm, and societal position as the daughter of a Baron, should have guaranteed her.

A marriage to a peer of the realm.

Her crime?

Having been born an orphan.

This book allows readers to take a very close look at what life for an adopted female child of the ton may have been.

We are there to bear witness to Josephine's realizations of what the questions surrounding her true parentage and bloodline come to mean in a world where one's entire life is based on just that.

What we come to know about young Miss Carlisle, is that though her blood may not run blue, her heart is pure gold.

As time and time again she proves that she is willing to risk life and limb in the effort to make life better for those that she holds dear.

Enter Thomas Matteson, Marquess of Chesney...

A man besieged by the demons of his past. But determined to do whatever it takes to put the past behind him and get back to the work he loves.

The work of a spy.

In order to do that however, he must first solve the mystery of highwaymen that have been plaguing the countryside surrounding that estate of his longtime friend, the Earl Royston.

Little does he ever suspect that his covert endeavors will put him face to face with a puzzle that he will want to solve more than any other.

Miss Josephine Carlisle.

With flashing eyes, a biting wit, and a beauty to rival Aphrodite. It is clear from the start that this privileged Miss is no pampered ballroom beauty. Although who and what she is, and the secrets that hide behind her smiles speak of a pain that seems to twin that of our dashing Mr.

Drawn to Josie in a way that he can neither understand, nor resist. Thomas soon comes to find that the secrets that his lady love holds, are a lot closer to the more sinister ones of his friend than he ever could have imagined.

Secrets that, if not solved in time could mean tragedy for all.

This third installment of the Secret Life Of Scoundrels series, offers readers a fully fleshed story.

A story, as was stated earlier, that is very far removed from the ballrooms and bedrooms business that usually wins the day in Regency reads.

In this story we find mystery, intrigue, social commentary, fiery passion, as well as the romance that we expect.

What we do not expect however, is the power reversal that goes on between leading lady, Josie, and leading

man, Thomas.

A long time sufferer of PTSD, Thomas's frailty makes him a character that readers can bond with and feel for from the beginning. The fact that his leading lady acts as a silent but sympathetic balm to his pain, allows for the great strength, intelligence, and fortitude that she shows as the read progresses.

in fact, it is that self same strength, intelligence, and fortitude, that makes Josie as a character, and the book so readable.

Whether taking the bull by the horns in the bedroom, or in life; you know that whatever Josie does is going to be done with a flare and thoroughness that only she can achieve.

Thomas, on the other hand, presents readers with the trail that must be followed. He acts as a guide to mystery, adventure, romance, passion, and a happily ever after that readers will never forget.

**Reviewer's Note:** How I Married A Marquess is the third volume of an interrelated companion series. Though it is suggested that the series be read in its intended order, it is not necessary to do so.

**Reviewer's Note:** The review found here has not been influenced in any way by Grand Central Publishing or its agents. The opinions expressed herein are those of the reviewer alone.

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### **Al \*the semi serial series skipper\* says**

I just can't say i enjoyed the content of this book. It was self-pity and insta-lust contained in one long story, there was nothing of substance in this book. Yet they fell in love after a couple of days. Not her best work.

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### **1-Click Addict Support Group says**

This book had so many elements to love!

First, Thomas was a spy, forced into retirement by an injury that left him with rather severe PTSD. He finds himself investigating a highwayman, which takes him into close proximity with the ever intriguing Josie. I love a good historical that has a little flirtation in the beginning, and a little bit of, 'Oh, it won't work between the characters'. I find myself skimming pages when it drags on too long however, and this one knew just when to stop.

The entire premise of Josie being adopted, and then being raised with very wild and overprotective older brothers was really amusing. Her ability to hold her own, the respect she didn't know she commanded, and the skills she learned from being thrust into that band of hellions made for fun reading. Thomas, having been a spy, was constantly popping out with clever observations. Noticing small things about a person, noticing his environment, and then playing into his environment so as to not stand out.

The underlying story of the orphans, and the corruption they faced was heartbreak. Seeing Josie struggle to care for them made me sympathize with every decision she made. Even when she was being a little too stubborn for my liking. Her secrets were a surprise to me, as was her frankness about her relationship with Thomas. No bashful virgin here, she was not afraid to accept that she had desires and would act on them.

Her stubborn trait proved to be useful for a delightful ending, which led to laughs and sighs and a lovely outcome. Some aspects were wrapped up a little too smoothly and quickly for my liking, with no real explanation of how things would be solved. It is mostly just assumed they are. With two such determined main characters, however, it isn't too difficult to assume they will be taken care of. Overall, a most satisfying read. ~ George, 4 stars

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