



The Royal Mess

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Jeffrey Rodinov is descended from one of the oldest families in Alaska, and a Rodinov has been protecting a Baranov for generations. It's a job Jeffrey takes VERY seriously. Six feet four inches, 220 fatless lbs., black hair, and blue eyes; weapon of choice: the 9 mm Beretta. In a pinch? His fists. IQ: 157. (Yes, crossword puzzle, in ink, just after taking out the guy behind you. No thanks necessary.) No one ever sees Jeffrey Rodinov coming, and no one-not even a mouthy, illegitimate princess-is going to keep him from playing bodyguard when his king decrees it. Right. But no Rodinov ever had to protect Princess Nicole Krenski. Her credentials? Hunting guide in the Alaskan wilderness. Smart. Stubborn bordering on exasperating. Five-seven. Blue eyes. Very kissable mouth. Very kissable neck, back, legs, wrists, earlobes. The lady says she doesn't need a bodyguard, but that's where she's wrong. Someone needs to watch her and show her the royal ropes (and cuffs...and scarves...). Someone who can make her feel like a queen-in and out of bed. And that's a job Jeffrey Rodinov takes very seriously as well... In this deliciously sexy, wickedly funny companion to *The Royal Treatment* and *The Royal Pain*, a reluctant princess and a determined royal bodyguard are about to discover that when it comes to powerful love, there are no defenses...

The Royal Mess Details

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From Reader Review The Royal Mess for online ebook

The Flooze says

This is the MJD style I remember fondly. Cute, sweet, ridiculous stories that make me laugh. And make me want to punch someone.

MJD has two character templates: dry, droll, long-suffering figures balanced against loud, outrageous, good-hearted-yet-violent ones. It's a formula that deprives some characters of individuality. But when all you're seeking is **endearing popcorn fun**, that aspect doesn't really matter.

It also makes it much easier to dive back into a series - whether it's been a few months or, in this case, several years.

The last of the Alaskan Royal Family trilogy, *The Royal Mess* throws us into **pure chaos**. An illegitimate princess has come to light. There are punches thrown, guns drawn, and heart attacks narrowly avoided. Every bit of it was enjoyable.

No matter how much the Alaskan Royals bitch and moan and let projectiles fly, MJD makes it clear that they're really quite lovely. **They're the most appallingly blunt and down-to-earth royals one could ever imagine.** They treat their staff as family (gods help them). Jeffrey states that if anyone ever hurt him, his King would go after the culprit in a blaze of anger fuelled by devotion. And so Jeffrey feels comfortable doing the same. Another guard, Natalia, admits to herself, "They were a big, merry bunch of troublemakers, and they pulled everyone into their madness." She can't wait to see what they spring next; MJD makes the reader think the very same.

In the current drama, the royals completely skip the egocentric response. They opt instead for bombarding the bastard princess with enthusiasm. I was flipping fiercely from one amusing threat-filled scene to the next. Chapters consist of anything from one sentence to a few pages, keeping the action brisk. **The pared-down storytelling works well for this whirlwind family.** They're not the type to moon and moan, and though overbearing, their forceful personalities simply don't have the *time* to become grating.

The **romance happens on fast-forward** (popcorn book, remember). Yet MJD still fits in more than enough detail to round the couple out. **Well-timed, thoughtful observations give them more depth and showcase the surrounding characters' good intentions.** Sometimes they even inspire a snuffle or two. **The sex scenes are eager and all too brief, yet somehow more realistic because of it.**

As an aside, I'll admit that my over-thirty self found it comfortable and satisfying to read about mid-thirties Nicole. **It's nice to confirm that not all women of Romancelandia need be twenty-four and holding.**

There's a King AI side-story and it's hilarious. I only wish I remembered more of the history behind it; that might have bumped it up to side-splitting.

If you're seeking a light-hearted, ludicrous tale designed simply to make you smile, look no further. *The Royal Mess* is a marvelous way to lose yourself - and your worries - for a few breezy hours.

Erica Dauer says

Cute & quirky

Sue says

The Royal Mess is the third novel in Davidson's Alaskan Royal Family series. If you've read and enjoyed the first two, this one will also be a fun read. If you are familiar with the Betsy Vampire books, this story is similar in tone but without the supernatural angle. The story is fun, because it involves the "what if...out of the blue you find out you are royalty. And this really, really hot guy lives to protect you." The story is a fun read that is perfect for the beach or lawn chair. In it, Nicole Krenski finds out she is the "bastard princess" of Alaska, which is a big switch for a young woman who is currently employed as a hunting and fishing guide. Davidson does spend some time examining Nicole's conflicted feelings about abandoning the memory of her dead mother for life with her new family, but on the whole this is a light story. As other readers have remarked, there is a lot of swearing involved, most of it falling into the category of a character blustering. If you find swearing offensive, this story will not be for you. However, if you are comfortable with the language and like Davidson's other works you will like this one. As a side note, if you want to read something of Davidson's that is in her "style" but deals with a bit weightier subject you may want to try "Me, Myself and Why".

Jane Stewart says

Yuck! I hated it. I rushed the reading as much as possible to get it over with.

A reviewer for Romantic Times described the book as follows. "crude, quick language" and "Readers will delight in the everybody's-thinking-it style statements made by the characters." I did not enjoy the crude language at all. Two examples follow: Nicole's mother had died of cancer and Nicole took care of her before she died. Christina asked "you took care of her?" Nicole replied "No, I slammed her a__ in a nursing home." Another example: Nicole is eating dinner and says "sh__ I dropped one of my eight forks." I'm ok with foul language used in appropriate and/or stressful situations, but this author used it constantly within everyday conversation. It irritated and annoyed me. I don't respect or feel comfortable with these types of people, and I certainly don't find it humorous. I don't care to read a story about them. In addition, there was no interesting character development other than Nicole being rude to most people. Most of the book consisted of conversation with very little time spent on plot, and what plot there was was too simple. The plot for the first 76 pages of the book consisted of the family's attempts to get Nicole to submit to a DNA blood test. Not much time was spent on Jeffrey, the male protagonist. The description of him on the back cover almost told me more than the book did about him. I would have liked to have seen more of him and less of the rude, bratty, food throwing family members. I imagine there are some readers who would find this book funny, but not me.

DATA:

Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: two. Setting: 2007 Alaska. Genre: contemporary chick lit with a little bit of romance.

Amelia-Irene says

This is the last or next to last book in a series, I can't say for sure as I ran into this book by accident. I thought that I had all of MaryJanice's books, but after finding this one, I guess I don't. Nicole's mother has just died and her last request was for Nicole to write to her biological father of that fact. Up to this point Nicole has never known who he is. She writes the letter and then the "fun" begins. I really had to laugh on this one and think that Nicole really could really roll with the punches that life then throws at her. Her father is the King of Alaska, and she has half siblings to get to know and as the acknowledged OLDEST daughter of the King, Nicole now becomes the next in line for the throne - a role she definitely does not want. Go ahead & enjoy this book and be prepared to explain your laughter in the unexpected...

Shawna Mitchell says

Great times

Sherri Stephens says

The first book of the series is still my favourite. This one wasn't about any of the royal family members mentioned in the first two. I was a little disappointed. Nicole turns out to be King AL's first born although illegitimate daughter. Knocking Prince David out of the running as Crown Prince. I love the character Chris from the first book but in this one she was very cartoonish which I didn't like. Alex and Shel are only briefly mentioned. It was still funny, and sexy but didn't have the oomph the first one did.

Kathy says

Jeffrey and Nicole...

King Alexander, before he married Dara (and we never quite hear the full story - just the rumors and a few comments of the king), feeling under pressure to this arranged marriage, had a 2-week fling with an American bar maid - and they left amicably, and he married Dara... and 30 years later, when the bar maid died, she left in her will the information of Nicole's father, and asked her to contact him - which she did via a letter.

Nicole was drawn to Alaska, and her fun job was with a fishing group, taking out people wanting to learn to fish... but she made money by rewriting scripts for Hollywood.... and she is of the Baranov look - both in looks and in personality - tough, strong, funny, outspoken... she ignores Edmund's phone messages to come meet the king; and the king and his body guard Jeff show up on her doorstep... and she drives past them, and sneaks up on them, swiping Jeffrey's feet from under him and holding her gun on him... and she refuses to go to the palace with them... and then Jeff returns the next day, signed on for a fishing trip - and knows well how to fish... and there is attraction between them - but she still won't go back to the palace... and then they send Catherine - who gets in her face - and there's some swinging of fists... and the whole family shows up in

the 20 minutes it takes Nicole to wake up... and then the next morning the news are storming the camp, to meet the bastard princess, so she decides to go to the palace...

and it is the family - crazy times... when Jeffrey refuses to have sex with her, she flirts with the olympic skier who is honored at a lunch - and Jeff 'takes' him down... and gets a week vacation.. Nicole goes to him (with the help of Nicholas), sneaking away from the palace... and in his home, he can treat her as a Nicole, not a princess - and they have great sex... ahhhhh

and King Alexander has been in an uproar about Holly Bragon (sounds like Dragon) who is writing his biography - and after 3 years, and numerous firings decides to take the bull by the horn and kisses the king... and, yeah, the kids are threatening to throw up...

and Jeff proposes to Nicole - she accepts his proposal - she abdicates the throne to David (he's trained for it after all)... and she consoles the youngest and only blonde child Nicholas, when he arranges a blood test and confirms that Alexander is not his father - and Nicole assures him that King Al is fully his father and loves him no differently than any other of his children... ahhhhh

Judy (Geeky Reading) says

~3.5/5

[Also available on my blog.]

So, I kind of love MaryJanice Davidson. I have, somewhat slowly, been getting through her books, and while I'm trying not to do it too fast, I just want to read them so badly, and I usually finish them too quickly. I have not read any in a while, and just got a couple more, so we'll see how fast those go by.

While I have finished her Mermaid series, and have not been able to find the next Vampire Betsy book, I have been pretty much picking up whichever book of hers I can find. And I found this series. Normally, I hate reading anything out of order, but you don't have to read these books in order, and I couldn't find the first one. So I ended up reading the series backwards (not on purpose, but still).

This is the final book in the Alaskan Royal Family series, and I rather enjoyed it. This one is about Nicole, a girl who found out she was a princess after her mother died, and ends up falling for Jeffrey, a bodyguard to the royal family she is now a part of.

The writing is just like Davidson's normal style, random and fun, fast to get through, with a heroine that doesn't want anything to do with royalty, who's stubborn and rough on the outside. My only biggest problem with Davidson's style, as I've said before, is that a majority of her heroines are pretty much carbon copies of each other, and the male love interest almost always falls first. This is bothersome, but I can deal with it, at least for the moment.

This story was fun, like her others. I wasn't expecting much else, and I enjoyed what I got. It's fun, fast, a little bit steamy (honestly, I would have preferred more explicit sexy stuff, but Davidson doesn't usually

write full on sex scenes, and she didn't here, just hinted at some kinky stuff). The romance was very nice, and I liked the couple together, as usual. There's some drama, but it's pretty lighthearted, not much suspense or anticipation, and I never had any doubt about how the book would end.

There's also some political stuff in these books, because it's set in Alaska as if we never bought it, and it has a royal family system, but I wasn't very bothered by it. Nor did I pay too much attention to it.

This story did get me interested in the other books in the series, but I hope to read all of the books by her that I can find.

FlibBityFLoob says

For some reason, I really disliked book 2 in this trilogy (The Royal Pain), but I enjoyed this one. Didn't laugh in book 2, but the humor returned for me with this portion of the story. I also liked the heroine better and appreciated more interaction with the royal family. In that respect, it was closer in feel to book 1, and I believe that is why I found the story to be funny again.

Chris says

This is the second book I read by MJ Davidson and it will be my last. I also read "Really Unusual Bad Boys" -- it was a really unusually bad book.

The characters in The Royal Mess were stupid, rude, nasty, over the top. I had no idea how anyone could love anyone. The relationship between Princess Nicole and body guard Jeffrey could have been good, but it was never really developed. All of a sudden they were in love... how? when? and most of all, why???

There was a lot of cursing in the book and although it did not offend me, it was not necessary, over the top, and unbelievable. Also the King's "relationship" with "The Dragon" was so stupid.

Please don't waste your time.

Kristen Coffin says

"Your life doesn't run you. You run your life."

Though I was hoping one of the Baranov boys would get their romance novel leading role, I was still happy with it being Jeffrey. Poor thing always taking care of everyone.

Quirky, cute, sexy, funny, and romantic - this is MJD at her best.

Juniper Shore says

[Holly Bragon's relationship with the king strikes me as more abusive than romantic, even when it's played for laughs (hide spoiler)]

Catherine says

Unlike most alternate history I've read, the Royal Mess is not meant to be a serious exploration of how one event, changed, can affect the world. It's just meant to be fun. The premise is that Alaska rebelled against Russia and became an independent nation. And this reimagined Alaska is ruled by a loud-mouthed, eccentric, brash, and good-hearted royal family, now rocked by the news that the king has a bastard daughter (also loud-mouthed, eccentric, brash, and good-hearted) who is first in line for the throne.

Don't pick this one up expecting realism, emotional complexity, and character development. The royal family adjusts surprisingly easily to having a new crown princess. The romance seems forced: Princess and bodyguard fall in love and decide to get married just a matter of days after meeting. And everybody in the story is incredibly good-looking. But those aren't really criticisms; this book is not attempting to be "literary." It aims to be a light, funny, and easy read, and it succeeds.

I probably would have gotten more out of this if I'd read the first two books in the trilogy first; still, I enjoyed my brief visit to the Kingdom of Alaska.

Torimac says

I didn't like the beginning, and I didn't like all the beauty of their "Baranov Blue" eyes, but I think I liked everything else. But. I've read three of this authors books in one week and I think I'll give her style a rest for a while. I do believe sudden relationships can happen successfully (mine is 28yrs old) but it seems to be her standard plot device.

Haz says

This series is too funny to end! I wish the author writes more books because these books made me laugh out loud and fall in love

Jill says

Madcap, completely implausible, with characters who change their minds willy-nilly, but still a lot of fun. My second time reading this, so it can't be all bad.

Bibek Thapa says

It's always a nice feeling to read a MaryJanice Davidson's book. God this woman can make me laugh!

Amal says

Very funny. I like the quirks

Marianthi says

At first the dialog of the family was funny, then it just became annoying. Imagine if the Osbournes became royalty.
