



The Accidental Countess

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CAN A SCANDALOUS CHARADE

For seven long years, Lady Cassandra Monroe has waited for the man of her dreams to return from the war. Unfortunately, he happens to be engaged to her flighty cousin. What Cass wouldn't give to take her cousin's place! When he mistakes Cass for Patience Bunbury, a fictitious friend her cousin has invented to escape social obligations...even with her future husband, Cass thinks this is her chance.

LEAD TO TRUE AND LASTING LOVE?

After defeating Napoleon at Waterloo, Captain Julian Swift is not quite ready to settle down and enter into his unwanted arranged marriage—especially when the *real* object of his affection turns out to be a beguiling beauty he meets at a party. Patience Bunbury is witty, independent, passionate...and, unbeknownst to him, the cousin of his current fiancée. When the truth about Cass comes out—and Julian discovers that their courtship is anything but accidental—will he surrender his heart to a woman who really is too good to be true?

The Accidental Countess Details

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From Reader Review The Accidental Countess for online ebook

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

As much as I enjoyed the first book in the series, The Unexpected Duchess, I loved this one even more. The author's take on Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and the engaging comedy of manners humor, along with a sighworthy romance, really won me over. I'm looking forward to Jane and Garrett's story next. They really strike sparks off each other. Definitely recommend this series!

Overall rating: **4.5/5.0 stars**.

Reviewed for Affaire De Coeur Magazine in the November 2014 issue. <http://affairedecœur.com>.

Gerrie says

3.5 out of 5 stars. I loved the first book of this trilogy The Unexpected Duchess, and I was looking forward to reading this, the second book in the series. Ms. Bowman is a very fine writer. She's a good story teller with delightful characters, and sparkling witty dialogue. And, even though there's a lot of humor and amusing situations, there's also a serious dimension that provides a good balance and gives her characters depth. All of these qualities are present in this book as well. However, here I felt there was too much general silliness that went a little too far. I admit that I'm not a fan of mistaken identities and misunderstandings, which is what this book is all about. However, I can enjoy them when they're cleared up early on. Here, they just went on for too long. So, for me, the first half of the book was more farce than romance. Also, although I liked Cass, the heroine, I got frustrated with her because while she wanted to stop the charade, she never did. The last third or so of the book was better after the charade was uncovered. This is when it began to feel like a real romance, and I would give the last third a full 4 stars.

I'm looking forward to reading the final book of the trilogy. Ms. Bowman's secondary characters are wonderful, and we will finally get Jane and Garret's story.

Elaine says

I love this series so far. A lovely Regency romp, full of lies, plots and misunderstandings.

Valerie Bowman says

The Importance of Being Earnest, Regency-style!

Crystal says

Witty, funny, and a fantastic story. I could not put this book down.

Lady Cassandra Monroe has dreamed about what her life would be like with the man of her dreams if he wasn't engaged to her cousin. When her cousin hides from her betrothed and Cassie finds herself being identified as her cousin's fictitious friend Patience she plays along to spend just a few more days with the man she loves before he marries her cousin.

Captain Julian Swift has just returned from war after nearly losing his life. His first stop after he returns is to Penelope Monroe's house where he not only doesn't recognize his good friend Lady Cassandra, but he is told she is his betrothed's friend and invited to a house party where Penelope is allegedly already headed. He agrees to go, determined to speak with Penelope, and finds himself a guest at a fictitious house party with a woman he is attracted to and the object of his affection.

This is a story you don't want to miss with one fib that quickly becomes a tangled web of lies. Emotions run high when Captain Swift discovers the truth and Lady Cassandra realizes how quickly one little lie can become a complete mess. Great characters and a delicious plot!

***ARC copy

Sammy Loves Books says

Captain Julian Swift

Captain Julian Swift is a second son. He's craved his father's approval but his father made it clear that his love and approval were only attainable in death.

"You said you intend to make me proud....Dammit Julian! Must I spell it out for you? You're meant to die in battle. Honorably of course. The more honorably the better. That's why I purchased the commission for you. I expect you to make both me and your country proud."

Julian is now back from war and all he can think about is the woman that wrote him lovely letters for the past seven years.

Lady Cassandra Monroe

Lady Cassandra has been in love with Julian since she was a young girl. Even though he is betrothed to her cousin, she faithfully wrote him letters while he was away at war for seven years.

When Julian returns home and doesn't immediately recognize Cassandra, he becomes the victim of Lucy's matchmaking schemes. Lucy is Cassandra's best friend, and she is not above lies, deception, and stupid schemes. She will do anything and tell all sorts of lies in order to set Cassandra and Julian up.

I believe this was meant to be a comedy...however...the schemes and lies were over the top and absolutely ridiculous!! Lucy and Cassandra pretend to be two fictitious characters. They then convince a few friends to

go along with their scheme and host a house party for 2 weeks. Even the servants are in on the shenanigans. It was just too much!!!

Limau Nipis says

After years of procrastinating on Valerie Bowman books, I have decided I didn't mind to read mindless romance.

As usual, the author has its own style - I find this book, about unrequited love is quite funny, at the same time it did had its moments of ups and downs. I might aptly compared it to another book by Lisa Kelypas entitled Love in the Afternoon because I find Lady Cass and Captain Julian's story quite similar to Beatrix and Captain Christopher. But, I would say the Lisa Kleypas novel is well developed.

This is due to the letter writings between Beatrix and Christopher. I got to read the letters exchanged between them, as in this novel, I know that Cass writes to Julian and vice versa, but the snippets of letters were never shown. Somehow, I feel my emotional connection with these characters are not strong enough due to this part.

At the same time, I am not liking that Cass need to pretend to be someone else. Even had a dubious house tea party and invented a fake name. Beatrix from the other book really took the identity of the supposed intended of the hero.

Oh well, to sum it up, I am quite natural towards the book. But I know, that the author writes some pretty good stuff.

Jessica Robbins says

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...>

eyes.2c says

A tangled treat!

Second in the Playful Brides series. Once again Lucy Hunt, the newly minted Duchess of Claringdon hatches a hare brained scheme and all fall into line. Really, I am struck by the fact that these friends and acquaintances lead themselves to the charade so readily. Such is the power that Lucy wields that others follow her mad capped, pried piper's tune. This time it is Cassandra, Lady Munroe and Lucy's best friend who is swept deeper and deeper into a tangled web of tortured love as her cousin Pen's betrothed, Captain Julian Swift, returns from the Napoleonic wars.

Cass and Swift have kept up an amazing correspondence throughout this time. Swift, determined to break off his arranged marriage and seek Cassandra searches for his fiancé, Cassandra's cousin Penelope. Pen is supposed to be away with her friend, the very non existent Miss Patience Bunbury.

Cass, at Lucy's insistence, takes on the mantle of the mythical Miss Bunberry at a hastily flung together house party held by Lucy posing as Lady Worthington. I know, I know, Lucy's grand plan just keeps on

developing! Swift of course attends.

Swift is struck by the beauty and sensitivity of Cass as Patience. Cass is in disarray...and in love. Lucy has tied them all up in knots and it's anyone's guess at how the plot will unfold.

A madcap romp with all the features of a farce worthy of Oscar Wilde.

A NetGalley ARC

Vera Neves (Sinfonia dos Livros) says

(...)Onde quer que Lady Lucy está metida, é certo que haverá muita confusão e situações hilariantes. Cassandra é uma das mais antigas amigas de Lucy e, desde muito jovem, apaixonou-se por Julian, o soldado prometido a Penelope, sua prima. No entanto, muitos anos passaram desde a última vez que se viram e, após tantas cartas trocadas entre os dois enquanto ele esteve na guerra, a verdade é que Julian não reconhece a pequena e apaixonada Cassandra, agora adulta, quando a vê pela primeira vez desde o seu regresso da batalha.(...)

Opinião completa no Sinfonia dos Livros

<https://sinfoniodoslivros.blogspot.co...>

Shannon Gallagher says

Early on our heroine (Cass) dupes our hero (Julian) into thinking she's some imaginary person. The crazy scheme dreamed up by a friend to lure Cass's true love, was quite convoluted by the time he figured it out. This is where the story really picked up.

I loved the H/h's devotion to one another's love.

Playful and fun and well written.

Farrah says

A charming, sweet, and delightful historical romance, The Accidental Countess was a lovely read. It was thoroughly enjoyable and I really liked it.

Cass was a lovely heroine. Quiet, thoughtful, and kindhearted, she was definitely likable. And, over the course of the book, she learned to become stronger and live for herself and not others' expectation. I thought she was great.

Julian was wonderful, as well. Sweet and the epitome of a gentleman, he was simply adorable. I thought he was a perfect hero.

The romance was very sweet. Both Cass and Julian already loved each other and it was simply a matter of them finding a way to each other. However, that was also a little frustrating. It took so long for them to

actually admit their feelings to each other (in the end, it wasn't even one of them taking the first step to say it). They fell trap to miscommunication and assumptions and it became frustrating. But, overall, I thought they were a good couple.

The plot moved quickly and I was kept interested the entire way through. I really liked the story and the ending was lovely.

The Accidental Countess was a witty, charming, wonderful romance that I really enjoyed. Romance lovers, this is a book you'll want to check out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

Cass had waited years for the man she loved from afar. She wrote to him everyday. More so than his very own betrothed. She fell in love with the man as a child. She watched him through the eyes of a woman. She finally gets to see him after him coming so close to death. She so close but so far. The role she has taken on has allowed her to be more than the prim and proper lady she was raised to be. She takes that chance at love and regrets very little.

Julian had come home from a war that almost took his life. He returns to a betrothed that wants nothing to do with him and an intriguing young lady before him. A house party was the last thing on his mind, but if it will get him the chance to do his deed and see more of the lovely young lady he will go.

This story had good solid characters and a fun, lighthearted house party to enjoy.

Alison Larkin does a good job with the accent, diction, pitch and tone of the various characters. There was no issue distinguishing the characters both male and female or the individuals.

Susana says

Could these two characters be more boring?

I am afraid not.

Review to come.

Okay....so...after having read Lucy's and Derek's book, comes the dreaded Cassandra and Julian book... And I am sorry to say, that I didn't like this. I was able to finish it, but, I really couldn't care less about these two boring, gorgeous _blond god and goddess _ people!

Cassandra continues to be her same boring self, and in this one she doesn't have the excuse of not being the main character. She is the main character, and Lucy still has to come up with one of her mad schemes because Cassandra is hopeless :/ in "coming up" with anything.

The thing is I couldn't see the romance between Julian and Cass as anything more than a simple infatuation between two gorgeous beings...

Cass fell in love with him when she was a young girl, and after that, there was it.

From Julian's part, the thing that he's constantly saying is how beautiful Cass is.

The plot, inspired in Oscar Wilde's, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, manages to be more insane than the original play, and suffice to say that I like witty things, not insane ones.

Oh, and Cassandra blaming Lucy for everything that had happened, didn't made me a happy reader.

Yes, she ends up coming to her senses for one phrase or two, but that, just accentuated all that I hated about Cass. Her inability to take charge of her life, and of her responsibilities.

Oh, and when she finally says something along the lines of, *"I've had it. I will take control of my life from this day forward!"*

And I was like: girl, it was about time!

And then she says something like this: ***I am going to join a Convent!***

yeah, Cass, that will teach *them*..

Oh, and how everything in the end gets presented with a nice red bow?(except for the bloke who dies, but we never knew him, so, no problem right? o_O)

I hated it.

Bottom Line: loved the first volume of this series...and I am sure that I am going to love the next one, because it is Gareth's and Jane's book! :)

I just hope Cassandra and her Julian don't appear all that much!

Tania Martins says

Que leitura incrível, dentro do romance histórico a autora é seguramente uma aposta. Inicialmente pensei que a história fosse estapafúrdia pela sinopse mas depois de engrenar com a Cassie e o Julian e as confusões todas provocadas pela identidade de Bunbury/Cassie e a ideia louca de Lucy! Foi ótimo rever algumas personagens do romance anterior e ver como estes dois se apaixonavam mesmo sem saber! Final foi muito fofo e lê-se numa questão de horas! Excelente leitura!

