



A Wicked Pursuit

Isabella Bradford

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In Isabella Bradford's enthralling new trilogy, three noble brothers—London's most scandalous rakes—are about to do the unthinkable: settle down. Harry Fitzroy, Earl of Hargreave, is the first to meet his match and lose his heart . . . to a lady who's not all what he expected.

As the eldest son of the Duke of Breconridge, Harry Fitzroy is duty-bound to marry—and marry well. Giving up his rakish ways for the pleasures of a bride's bed becomes a delightful prospect when Harry chooses beautiful Lady Julia Barclay, the catch of the season. But a fall from his horse puts a serious crimp in his plans. Abandoned by Julia before he can propose, the unlucky bachelor finds himself trapped in the country in the care of Julia's younger sister.

Harry has never met a woman like Lady Augusta. Utterly without artifice, Gus is clever and capable, and seems to care not a fig for society. After a taboo kiss awakens passion that takes them both by surprise, Harry realizes he'd almost given his heart to the wrong sister. While London tongues wag, he'll use his most seductive powers of persuasion to convince the reluctant Gus that she belongs with him—as his equal, his love, his wife.

A Wicked Pursuit Details

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Author : Isabella Bradford

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From Reader Review A Wicked Pursuit for online ebook

Sharon L says

For more reviews, visit my blog The Accidental Reader

3.5 stars

This book came to me at just the right moment. You see, I felt in desperate need to read more historical romance books after finishing *The Luckiest Lady in London* .

Historically wise, this book is very accurate and there is lots to learn from it. It is quite obvious the author, Isabella Bradford, paid great attention as well as research.

The whole story of Harry's recovery was very realistic and I appreciated that, as well as the way Harry and Goose fell in love. Even if, at times, I felt like he didn't deserve her.

This is a good brain candy to pass the afternoon. However, I'd like to point out that this book's forte point is also its weakest. You see, Harry's recovery is the hardest thing that happens there, the longest one. I dare say the conflict is all about Harry's recovery and his feelings toward the fact that his leg will never be the same.

Even though that is all nice and good. I'm sad to admit that, well, this book lacks in any other conflict.

Yes, Goose's and Harry's relationship has some ups and downs. But each one of them is solved within a few paragraphs...5 pages top!

On the one hand, one might say their relationship is so solid it's good. And it is the little challenges in life that are the real test.

On the other hand, one might claim that many times you read romance book to see a relationship evolving. Including some uncertainty.

It is a good book, but it lacked in drama and scandal so very much so that I felt a little disappointed. Had it been funnier, or more witty I probably wouldn't care. But it wasn't.

I would recommend it for rainy days, I think, when you want a stress free brain candy that will make you lips curve into a smile and forget you had a bad day. :D

In case you were wondering, I think the next book will have more scandal and conflict to it. I sure do hope so.

A review copy was kindly provided by the publisher through NteGalley. Thank you!

Lover of Romance says

Harry Fitzroy, has finally decided that it is high time he marry, so he picks the belle of the Ton, a beauty like none other, with grace and poise. So he heads to her country home, where he plans on proposing. But while on a wet morning ride, his finds that he is injured, and his leg broken and his fiancee has fled being "upset" over the situation, and her sister Gus, takes responsibility for him. Gus is appalled by her sisters actions, but not surprised. So Gus starts to tend to Harry's injuries, and finds herself very protective of him and fights for his survival. When Harry finally breaks his fever, and starts to come back to his normal self, Harry and Gus end up spending more time together. At first they become close friends, but when a passionate kiss is shared, everything changes between them. A intimacy strengthens the bond between them, will Harry and Gus be able to accept the love that is right in front of them? Or are they even in for a bigger battle?

This is the first chance I have had to read from this author. I was able to obtain a copy of this ARC in return of a honest review. A Wicked Pursuit is the most recent series from this author, and A Wicked Pursuit is the first installment. I didn't know what to expect from this book, especially when I haven't read from this author before and haven't read many ratings and reviews on her books, so I was heading into A Wicked Pursuit full throttle with no one man or machine stopping me. I found myself having a difficult time to put this down, which doesn't always happen with a new to me author. The authors writing style was enthralling and I couldn't help but find myself being fully entertained by this one. I definitely didn't realize how much I would enjoy Bradford until now. I do love it when a author surprises you and in such a delightful way too. There isn't a huge big conflict in the plot here, its more of a gentle and sweet romance that is very addicting to the reader. There are times when you just need a love story that warms your heart, and this one definitely won in that category. The romance at first isn't hot at all, its more of a steady progression. You see how much they are attracted to each other, but I do love it at times when its more slow and you can keep up with the pace in a very comfortable way.

The Characters were quite fun to get to know in this one. Harry, oh Harry, how do I explain sufficiently how much I adored him as the hero. He is sweet and playful, a rascal and the loving sort of man. You start to really admire him, even from the beginning of the book. Once Harry and Gus start to get to know each other, you gain a higher respect for him. Oh how I wish more men today were like him, less broken hearts there would be. He isn't afraid of his love he feels for Gus and doesn't hide from it, he gives in to it and doesn't act ashamed of it. Gus is a sweetheart but she does have a few vulnerabilities. I felt like I could relate to her in those vulnerabilities. She isn't a great beauty, and doesn't see how Harry could ever really love her except for gratitude. But you start to see how good Harry is for her, and she starts to gain more confidence in herself and in her abilities.

The story line was very enjoyable and romantic, and tender. It definitely would fit in the emotionally driven section. You might need a tissue or two especially if you fully get into the story. The bed scenes weren't too smexy, but I like that. I prefer more focus on the relationship. There are quite a few heated moments, which are very tender, but one of my favorite aspects of this story, was that the "Sex" didn't take control over the story. It was icing on the cake. You see quite a bit of substance to the plot and to the characters that is quite addictive. I loved seeing the quality of the story come through and it was very disarming. Overall a hypnotic love tale to overwhelm, excite, and endear you. A RARE TREASURE!!!

Beth says

A Wicked Pursuit is a fun, exciting, entertaining historical romance.

As the heir, Duke of Breconridge must marry. Harry, the Duke has his sights on Lady Julia Barclay...a fair beauty and pleasant company. When he goes to her family's estate to propose, he is gravely injured.

Lady Augusta Barclay, Julia's sister, takes up the reins of Harry's care when her sister can't afford his injuries. Harry quickly learns to depend on Augusta (Gus) for support and companionship during this long rehabilitation. He also sees just how shallow Julia truly is.

While society gossips about Harry, Julia and Harry's injuries, Harry is tucked away with the sister he'd like to know more. Now he just has to convince Gus.

A Wicked Pursuit is an utterly charming romance. Harry's character development is marvelous to watch, while Gus's inherit character strength was bloody brilliant. Although I had a hard time with the female lead being named Gus, it was quite fitting for a character that masterfully handles everything that comes her way. This delightful story is a sure fit for the historical romance lover in us all.

I received this ARC copy of *A Wicked Pursuit* from Random House Publishing Group - Ballantine in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication February 25, 2014.

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Chandra says

****Copy provided by NetGalley for an honest review****

****May Contain Spoilers****

Story Rating 3.5 Stars

Hero Rating 3 Stars

Heroine Rating 3.5 Stars

Romance Rating 3 Stars

Heat Level 2 Stars

Overall Rating 3 Stars

I had taken a break from reading Historical Romances for a while, but I was glad to jump back in to read this book. It had all the makings for a great Historical Romance – A rogue type hero, a strong-willed wallflower heroine, and no insta-love.

Unfortunately, it seemed to be missing a certain *something*. It wasn't the writing - the writing was great, and the story was decent...but I just can't quite put my finger on it, and because of that, I had to rate it a solid 3-stars.

First, what I *didn't* like...

Like I said, I can't quite put my finger on it, but something was missing from the story.

1. The characters were likeable enough, but they lacked depth. Gus was both strong-willed and a wallflower, which should have made for a great character, but it just didn't work for some reason. She was too meek with her own family, yet extremely strong and verbal with issues towards Harry. There was just too much disconnect with how her character was supposed to be, and how she actually was. Harry, who was originally intending to marry Gus' sister, Julia, was kind of bland for a hero. He was ok, but again, there was no depth to his character. I can't even really say what the issues were with him, but he just didn't do it for me. I like my hero's a little darker and more cynical. He had the potential for all of that, but again, something was lost in translation.

2. The story had great potential, but it was a little *too* soft and fluffy, even when the author tried to make issues come up for the couple. First being, the fact that Harry had originally intended to marry Julia. Once he was injured (view spoiler), his intentions for her were basically forgotten about. Granted, he "fell in love" with Gus, but it should have been a bigger deal to Gus than it actually was. Gus just completely overlooked that fact, and went with it. Second, their return to London as husband and wife was very *meh*. They only encountered a handful of snobbery, when it was built up as if they'd come across loads of mean people and issues.

It was all just too soft, and easy. Historical Romances aren't generally filled with angst - but this one, I think, attempted it and failed.

What I *did* like...

The writing.

The author, Isabella Bradford, did a great job writing a book that was easy to get into, and made you want to see how things would work out for the couple in the end. Were there issues, IMO, with the story and the execution of the story, yes.

But, Ms. Bardford has a great writing voice and I didn't get lost in the story at all. Its not often I find an

author who has such a great writing voice, but I really enjoyed it and her style of writing.

So, with all that...I have to give the story a solid 3-stars.

Since this was the first in a series, I'm looking forward to the next book and can't wait to see where the author goes with it. This series, and author, have loads of potential.

Here's my casting for Harry...

Jenifer says

I do not read many romances (in fact, most of the romances that I do read tend to be advanced reader copies). For me to enjoy it, a romance novel needs to have an interesting plot, strong characters, and be well written. By "well written". I don't necessarily mean Pulitzer Prize or Man Booker well written, but just well enough written that I don't want to poke my eyes out or hit someone with my copy of the book. I've found that Isabella Bradford's romances consistently meet each of these qualities. Her plots pull me in and keep me reading, her characters tend to be strong (and sometimes funny), and her writing could be held up as an example to other romance authors.

Isabella Bradford is a pseudonym for Susan Holloway Scott, an historical fiction writer. Her first series as Bradford was The Wylder Sisters (I've books 1 and 3 in that series...still need to get around to #2). This new series, The Brecondridge Brothers, is a sort of followup with cameos from the Wylder Sisters (always fun to see a character that you recognize). In A Wicked Pursuit, we meet the first of the three Brecondridge brothers, Harry Fitzroy, a dashingly handsome future duke and his female counterpart, the humble Augusta. Augusta is the younger, less attractive sister of Harry's initial love interest, the beautiful Julia.

I found August to be a lovely character. She is plain looking but caring and intelligent. I liked that while Augusta became more beautiful in Harry's eyes, she continued to be viewed as plain by many members of the London ton. I've gotten so tired of the plain-jane-doesn't-know-she's-actually-supermodel-gorgeous characters found in many romance or YA novels. Augusta is not stunningly beautiful but she doesn't need to be in A Wicked Pursuit. Isabella Bradford shows that Augusta's beauty comes from her personality and her actions, which is probably a good lesson for each of us to remember.

As I've said, I have found that I consistently enjoy Isabella Bradford's historical romances and A Wicked Pursuit continues that trend. I think my only pet peeve from this book was the extensive use of the word "wicked". I know they were supposed to be clever tie-ins to the title and the first couple of times, I thought it was cute but when "wicked" continued to show up more and more, it got a bit tiresome. I probably would have rated this as a 4 rather than a 3.5 if it hadn't been for all of those darn "wicked". ;)

I highly recommend this series (and the Wylder Sisters) to any and all fans of historical romance.

*I did receive a free digital advanced readers copy (complete with pre-editing typos) in exchange for an

honest review.

JoJo says

"If he hadn't fallen from his horse, he would never have fallen in love with Gus" (318).

A story about Harry, the eldest son of the Duke of Breconridge, who fell off a horse while trying to impress Lady Julia, the prettiest girl around that he hopes to make his bride. Gus, the responsible, sensible sister of Julia, takes care of Harry after the accident and assists in his medical care, while simultaneously take care of the house for her father and sister. Lady Julia cannot be bothered with a cripple for a mate and runs far away in search of another mate. Her father runs after her, and therefore leaving the responsible Gus to care for Harry only with the assistance of the doctor and Harry's servant, Tewkes. As Harry's leg recovers, he comes to his senses that Gus is the one he should have been pursuing all along.

I finished this book the other night and have been trying to figure out exactly *how* I felt about it. Although it was not a book that I simply couldn't put down, I also was not dreading to read it when I came around to it. All in all, for lack of a better description, it was just *okay*. My feelings vacillated between liking or disliking it, I liked the general plot, thought there was sufficient character development, and the author did a particularly impressive job with the medicine field at the time. However, there was a lot of repetition with Gus' low self-esteem, Harry's not wanting her to leave every time he regained consciousness during his leg situation, Harry's affection growing for her because "she was *his* Gus", and Gus' *constant* concern for what the house staff was doing/what they would think.

Furthermore, I did like that this was a story about how *his* life changed for the better when *she* entered it. There are so many romances out there about how the girl's life changes dramatically once a guy enters, that it was somewhat of a relief to see Gus being the one to take charge, stand up for Harry, and be the positive influence in Harry's life. However, I did not like the ending. I thought it might have been better if the book ended at the wedding, but it dragged on until far later. I did not like that Gus was walked all over with the wedding planning, the surprise guests, the rude guests, etc. Lastly, what I disliked most about the ending was the transfer of low self-esteem from Gus to Harry. A majority of the book, Gus is constantly undermining her physical looks. At the end, the big conflict is their post-marriage dilemma of Harry becoming reclusive due to his bum leg. **I absolutely HATED** that Gus ended up having to trick Harry out of his funk, at the advice of Harry's stepmother.

Basically, I didn't hate the book, but I did not overly enjoy it at all, hence the 3 stars.

Big thanks to Goodreads Firstreads for providing this free ARC.

Becca says

This was my first Isabella Bradford novel and I must say, the title and cover of the book is very misleading.

A Wicked Pursuit is not wicked or really even involves a pursuit. The book is sedate, angst-less, and longer

than it needed to be. To be honest, I think this probably could have been a novella with the same result.

Harry is a fashionable Earl, heir to a Dukedom. Augusta is a lady, but has rarely been to London, allowing her shallow older sister the spotlight. Harry is drawn to Augusta's home because of her sister, whom he intends to make his wife. After a tragic accident, he discovers that Augusta, or Gus, is the true owner of his heart when Gus shows compassion and the elder sister drops him like a hot potato because of his infirmity. That is the only thing that happens in this novel. I am not one to usually quibble about novels being a slower pace, but I found myself being a bit picky because the characters were not entirely engaging. I didn't really have a problem with efficient, quiet Gus, and by the end, Harry had grown up enough (he was rather childish and spoiled at the beginning), but they were both relatively flat characters who didn't hold my interest.

I don't like writing negative reviews, but this book was boring. There wasn't anything in it to cause me to rant and rave, and the writing was solid. It was just that NOTHING HAPPENED. Harry is injured, Gus nurses him back to health, they get married, go to London, the end. I felt that the emotion was missing. It didn't have to be angsty or supremely witty, but the characters just didn't feel human to me and thus the book lacked the sparkle and verve implied by its gorgeous cover.

2 stars because I finished it and the writing was clean and professional.

ARomanceLover says

When the Earl of Hargreave, or Harry to his familiars, pursues the woman he wants to marry, Julia Wetherby, to her country home he is unexpectedly thrown from his horse and must recuperate for months until the break in his leg heals. Tending him is not the lovely Julia but her plain half-sister Augusta, or Gus. As Harry heals Gus helps him every step of the way and they discover they are in love.

It was a lovely story with lots of humor and sweet love but something that bothered me was how Harry could so often and vigorously make love to Gus since his leg hurt him so badly every other second of the day. That sort of kept distracting me during the love scenes. Other than that it was a solid four stars and I look forward to meeting Harry's brothers in the upcoming books in this series.

Cora ? Tea Party Princess says

5 Words: Historical, passionate, pleasantly surprising, lovely.

At first I wasn't convinced. I thought it was another one of *those* stories.

Thank goodness it wasn't.

Gus is a rather different character from what you usually see in these romances. She has her sister for a start, her perfect, beautiful sister who everyone adores and who overshadows Augusta at every turn. And rather be upset about all of this Gus doesn't mind it so much - sure, she's not the prettiest and she's never asked to dance, but who cares?

She is a strong and capable young woman who was a pleasure to read.

This was a very passionate story, with a falling-in-love which felt so real. There was a slow burning fuse of passion, of building love, and it was wonderful to experience.

I liked the conflicts that built and how Harry felt unworthy. It was good that he had been knocked down a peg (or twenty) and it really added to his character. He was not at all who he appeared at first and it was good that he changed.

Overall this was a great read, and I really enjoyed it. I'd recommend it for a rainy day to cheer you up but keep you thinking. I will definitely seek out more of this author's work and read on in this series.

Kim says

Provided a copy by NetGalley for an honest review*

I was so pleasantly surprised by this book! I absolutely loved it. I have to say, Harry & Gus are my new favorite couple. Their story was so special and really touches my heart. The strength that both of the characters show is amazing. I loved that we got to meet both of the families as well since they were so important to both of the main characters. The supporting characters were very well written, they were whole but didn't take over the story. Julia and her drama were even put in the proper place and I was so glad to see how the relationship between Julia and Gus played out. I would recommend this book VERY highly to any fan of historical romances.

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

I got this ARC from Netgalley and this is my honest review of it.

Harry the eldest son and heir of the Duke of Breconbridge has pursued the beautiful Julia Wetherby into the country to ask her to marry him. This is only her latest ploy in their courtship but he's confident that once he manages to make his feelings known she will be his.

After all he is handsome, rich and one of his ancestors were a King (albeit this was out of wedlock)
After she suggests they take an early morning ride he happily agrees seeing it as the perfect moment to propose marriage without being disturbed.

But the horse which he is assigned is difficult to handle and when Julia thoughtlessly jumps out from behind a bush she scares his horse so much that it rears causing Harry to fall and hit his head and break his leg.

Julia not being the most solid rock to lean runs off and he loses consciousness. The next thing he knows is that a young woman who he first assumes is a servant is taking care to have him treated for his injuries and bring him back to the house.

Of course she is not a servant at all but Julia's younger sister Augusta, called Gus.

Despite Gus and their father telling her to take responsibility by attending to her almost fiancee instead of staying and taking care of him Julia goes back to London because she can't stand any sort of unpleasantness

and dont want to have to marry a cripple as Harry might end up to be.

Their father goes after her and leaves Gus to take care of Harry, who is between life and death for some time but recovers and starts creating more work for Gus by sending for his private musicians, his dogs. Leaving her to have to make room and board for them.

He also wants her to spend time with him since he gets bored.

Gus is equally charmed and exasperated at his behavior. But how could he ever want someone plain and ordinary like her when his preference seems to be for beautiful and women like her sister? Its best not to get her hopes up

She is also trying to keep him from learning that her sister has abandoned him and is partying in London.

. The nursing back to health plot while falling in love is hardly a new one in the world of historical romances. Its also not my favorite plotline but this had other things going for it like the fact that it is set in the 18th century, one of my favorite periods when it comes to historical romances and I had read another book by this author which I liked. Might as well give it a chance.

I thought Harry was a complete idiot at first and then he had his accident and changed. Wish this transition had been more gradually as Harry before his accident seemed for a lack of a better word weak in his personality and a bit too easily pushed around.

His character got better and more likeable as the book went on and he started to have to make compromises and face the reality that his life was a very different one now after his accident. That is not to say he doesn't get mopy but he snaps out of it when realizes he has to be there for Gus.

I liked Gus personality shes not one of those aggressive and feisty heroines that makes you groan because they have to be right all the time and get their will. Shes tries to do her best and is confident in her abilities in running a household but a bit naive when it comes to her own feelings and dealing with men like Harry. She does call him out for his behavior once or twice and doesn't let him use her as a doormat.

I liked that the author didn't just have Harry's leg heal magically without repercussions of any kind. His frustration felt very real to me and knowing personally someone who has had leg surgery the recovery is long and takes a lot of work and yes even in this day and age some people will make fun of you.

It was also interesting to learn that exercise machines like the chamber horse existed in the 18th century.

I did wish that Julia had suffered some consequences from her actions. As a character she feels like a plot device and is very one-dimensional.

While this has a few uneven bits its a solid romance if you can manage to overlook the fact that for one , I don't think a man would ask a girl to marry him before he had talked with her father nor do I think a young lady would have been allowed to stay behind without as much a chaperone to keep up appearances , no matter if the man is invalided.

I mean his leg might be broken but his hands and mouth are still working ;)

I also noticed some grammatical errors in the book and a location name mysteriously changes from Mildenhall to Mendenhall in the course of the book. I expect they will be corrected in the final version of this book.

Atunah says

This is the first in a series of books about the three sons of a Duke. The first to get his story is Harry, the oldest and an Earl.

We meet Harry as he is pursuing a fluffy pretty Lady he decided would make the perfect Duchess for him. He is a privileged older son that is used to getting what he wants in life. In his prime, arrogant, handsome and tall, things are easy for him.

He follows his chosen one to her family's estate to propose. And that is when the world as he knew it, comes crashing down on him.

A very bad fall from a horse, caused by the childish chit brings him in contact with her practical and less sparkly sister, nicknamed Gus.

The majority of the novel is about the hero dealing with his very badly broken leg. He spends most of the book in bed with braces around the break.

This novel is set in 1768 and so medical care is still pretty primitive dealing with such injury.

And that is what I really liked about this book. The author doesn't shy away from having such a injury be a huge part of the plot and story all the way through. It doesn't just go away after a few pages and we get to see how the hero reacts to his sudden change of lifestyle. He is grouchy, surly, and especially in the beginning a really bad patient. The journey that he goes through, physically and mentally is very well done.

The sister of the initial intended, the eventual heroine is the one that not only finds him lying in on the ground after he fell, she is also the one that gets him through not only the horrible pain, but also the despair.

The charm though comes through when he feels a little better and I really loved the interactions between Harry and Gus. I loved seeing her bloom and starting to sparkle in her own way.

And often when novels are suppose to be set in Georgian times, they still feel like Regencies to me. Not so here. I finally felt the proper time, which is quite a feat considering most of the novel plays out at the heroines family estate and not in fashionable London.

I am really looking forward to the next in this series.

Thanks to Netgalley, Random House and Isabella Bradford for providing the eARC

Michelle says

This romance was so good. The relationship is probably one of my favorites out of the romance novels I have read. I wasn't so sure about this one when I started reading it but it grew on me fairly quickly.

Harry, the eldest son of the Duke of Breconridge, arrives at the country estate of his beau, Lady Julia, to propose to her. He is ready for this and nothing can go wrong as he has found the catch of the season. Unfortunately once he is thrown from his horse while riding out with Julia he is left crippled and Julia

basically abandons him. Luckily, Julia's half sister Augusta or better known as Gus aids Harry in his recovery from the brink of death. Their love is so sweet and lovely and they both deserve to be loved. The story focuses on Harry slowly putting his life together after the accident as he can't use his leg, so no dancing, riding, or even walking in the beginning. He went from dashing rake to a broken man very suddenly. Also being hard-headed, he doesn't want help and he wants to go back to the way things were before. Gus becomes his shining angel to help him through these hard times. Gus is usually in the background and no one pays attention to her so when she enters into society with Harry she is thrown in a new world for her to maneuver. She is the practical member of her family who runs the house and deals with things and people efficiently. Harry really takes her for a spin as she has no understanding as to how to deal with her long-term houseguest. She struggles but she warms up to him in time. They both have their problems and they support each other so wonderfully. I think more couples need to be like them.

I will definitely be reading the other two books and I was very satisfied with this amazing romance read. Strongly recommended to romance lovers.

Jonetta says

The setup

Harry Fitzroy, Earl of Hagreave, was ready for marriage and had set his sights on the beautiful but fickle Lady Julia Wetherby. He left London with the purpose of proposing to her at her family's home in Norfolk but was seriously injured after being thrown from a horse just before he was to ask for her hand. If not for her sister, Lady Augustus (Gus), Harry wouldn't have survived the accident.

The issues

Harry is extremely handsome and considered quite the catch given he's the heir to his father's dukedom. However, Julia believes he's going to end up crippled so she goes after greener pastures, leaving him to the care of her sister. Over time, Gus and Harry develop a friendship that blossoms into a romance.

What I enjoyed about the story

Gus is the plain sister but there's nothing bland about her heart and capabilities. I liked that she wasn't a shrinking violet when it mattered and knew how to handle the arrogant and often prickly Harry. I eventually came to like him, primarily because he recognized the beauty within Gus and evolved from the shallow man who would once deserved someone like Julia. Their romance was lovely, developing slowly as they got to know each other beyond a nurse/patient relationship. It was also in keeping with the norms of the era.

I loved that the characters followed a unique path in the story...none of that angst over the returning sister, etc. They had different challenges mostly due to Harry's personality changes and his altered physical condition.

The bottom line

It was a welcome change of pace to not be contending with London society for 90% of the book! The setting is in the countryside with a more relaxed atmosphere and different issues. I'm a fan of the related series (the Wylder Sisters) and am now hooked on this one. While there are references to some of the characters from those stories, this one stands completely on its own. This was a very good start to what promises to be an

interesting series.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley)

Janga says

Bradford introduces her new Breconridge Brothers series with a story of two likeable characters who grow into love. Gus has lived her life in Julia's shadow, but she has been content to do so, relishing the country life and her role in the household. A quiet heroine who is far removed from the "kickass heroines" beloved by many readers, Gus is nevertheless no self-abnegating pushover. She stands up for herself when she needs to do so, and she definitely has a temper. She also has an innate goodness and a loving heart. I found these qualities both credible and immensely appealing, and I'm no fan of Griselda types.

The cover copy describes Harry and his brothers as "London's most scandalous rakes," but the Harry readers meet early in the novel seems a rather typical male of his class and time—a bit arrogant and accustomed to the privileges of rank and wealth but basically a decent man who cares for his family and sees himself following in his father's footsteps as a faithful husband and good parent. He rather foolishly imagines that Julia's beauty and social status ensure that she possesses all the qualities he desires in a wife, but even his beguilement is typical. It is the accident that changes him both because it is the first time he has encountered circumstances that do not conform to how he sees himself and his place in the world and because falling in love with Gus awakens him to the qualities he truly values in a person. He certainly grows in more obvious ways than does Gus during the course of the story, but even at the beginning, his faults can be attributed to his youth rather than to his fundamental character.

Although *A Wicked Pursuit* is the first book in a new series, it is loosely linked to Bradford's previous *Wylder Sisters* series. Like the earlier series, this one is set in the Georgian Era. (It takes place eight years later.) The Duke of Breconridge is a secondary character in the *Wylder Sisters* series, and the Duke of Sheffield, Harry's cousin and close friend and a secondary character in *A Wicked Pursuit*, is the hero of *When the Duke Found Love* (*Wylder Sisters* 3). I enjoy this kind of continuity; I was particularly pleased that Sheffield was accompanied by his dog.

This is not a book filled with high adventure. But if you appreciate quieter, character-driven romances, I recommend *A Wicked Pursuit*. The second book in the series, *A Sinful Deception*, featuring Breconridge's second son, Geoff and a heroine with a secret, will be released August 26.

See full review at Just Janga:
<http://justjanga.blogspot.com/2014/02...>
