



A Lady for Lord Randall

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Mary Endacott has no intention of ever surrendering to a man, especially when she meets stubborn yet infuriatingly handsome Lord Randall! But with a major battle fast approaching, normal rules dissolve, and Mary gives herself to him.

...can true love survive?

Justin is renowned for his authority on the battlefield, but Mary is a challenge of a whole new kind! He's determined to seize every moment of happiness while he can, but when the fighting commences, will the promise of Mary's kiss be enough to keep him safe?

A Lady for Lord Randall Details

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Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: Brides of Waterloo

Steelwhisper says

Seriously, this wasn't half bad. No, not at all. There were a couple of anachronisms, but I was quite willing to overlook those for the delightful fact that for once we don't get the typical Regency romance of the ton. Instead this here centres on the early feminist and artist groups which started cropping up at around the same time that the Napoleonic wars occurred and industrialisation took place, and leads up to Waterloo itself.

Very refreshing and not the old ruts of Regency romance.

And the cover is simply gorgeous.

GONZA says

I read this book because Netgalley sent me the second one to review and it was really a nice surprise. I like both Randall and Mary a lot and they have a not conventional love story which is something I appreciate in the world of the regency romance.

Ho letto questo libro perché Netgalley mi aveva mandato il secondo da recensire ed è stata una bella sorpresa. Mi sono piaciuti molto i personaggi di Mary e di Randall e soprattutto ho apprezzato il fatto che la loro storia fosse davvero non convenzionale, specialmente nel mondo tutto piuttosto simile del regency romance.

Gail says

The English heroine is a rather radical schoolteacher / headmistress, with her school in Brussels because her father was an early supporter of the French Revolution, before it went violent. She's in England on business and visiting relatives when she meets the hero. He is an earl and an artillery officer (which I find highly unlikely and unhistorical) with rather conservative ideas. They become acquainted, are dragooned into traveling back to Brussels together, because, you know, this is right before Waterloo. It's a good story, but I got a few chuckles about the love scenes written in Heyer-esque language. The formality didn't go well with the "sexytime." But it's a good read. I liked it.

Elaine says

This story combines two of my favourite topics: Regency romance and the Battle of Waterloo. It's a lovely HEA that's not all plain-sailing.

Its very well written, as with all Sarah Mallory books - her knowledge of this subject is excellent!

Wollstonecrafthomegirl says

Gosh, I'm cross.

This was sort of fine for about 65% of the book. An interesting concept - upstanding, frosty soldier Earl meets liberal, enlightened, socialist (sort of) schoolteacher. This is a book I want to read. But, the execution was not so successful.

The hero was what was promised and was, at times, very nicely characterised. But our liberal heroine seemed very standard, woefully mischaracterises Mary Wollstonecraft's work (a bit jarring considering she's supposedly an acolyte) and she never seems to be teaching. There are a lot of heaving heated bosoms and fiery riotous looks and much burning desire. Sex was alright, more juicy than I expected.

It was all passable, I read, I was diverted. Nothing irritated me too much.

Then our couple are in love and the war is going to tear them apart and it's going to be a tough last 30%. I was intrigued, I wondered what would happen during the separation. Surely much opportunity for angst would ensue.

Apparently, Waterloo? Not enough of a barrier to the HEA for Mallory. Pfffft, any couple can get through a tiny little thing like that! The reader surely needs something more! Enter utterly absurd plot point about a stolen lucky sword which causes both H/h, especially the H, to act *wildly* out of character and basically left me wishing Napoleon had won at Waterloo so they can both just die for how stupid they are being.

So, there you have it: literally, this book caused me to root for the French.

1.5 stars because I did (skim) read right to the end.

Caz says

This is one of a trilogy of books written by three different authors to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Collectively, they are the ***Brides of Waterloo*** series, and the other two books, A Mistress for Major Bartlett (Mills & Boon Historical) and A Rose for Major Flint are by Annie Burrowes and Louise Allen.

The heroes are all officers belonging to a regiment known as "Randall's Rogues" – a unit comprised of the "raff and scoff the military gathered into one troop", but who, under the command of Colonel Lord Randall have become a force to be reckoned with.

Justin Latymor, Earl Randall is a career soldier, a darkly handsome but somewhat forbidding, taciturn man who has little time for or patience with pleasantries and the social graces. Although he's the head of his

family of three sisters and three brothers, he remains in the army, content to let his mother run his estates and take responsibility for his younger siblings.

In order to spend some time with his sister Harriett while on a short leave, the earl attends a party hosted by some of her closest friends, a cheerful, free-thinking couple who like to surround themselves with “interesting people” - scholars, radical intellectuals and artists. Randall, a man who is not an especially social animal at the best of times, finds the whole thing confusing and uncomfortable. He is further disconcerted when a young woman – Mary Endacott – introduces herself and strikes up a conversation with him. It is not the done thing for ladies and gentlemen to converse before they have been formally introduced, but he finds himself grateful for her company and enjoying her conversation, even going so far as to seek her out later in the evening.

When the party is over, he is sorry to say goodbye to Mary, but his sister has already determined that this will not be their last meeting. Over the next few days, Justin and Mary enjoy the time they spend in each other’s company, but both know that nothing can come of it. For one thing, Randall’s life is in the army, and for another, he’s an earl and will be expected to marry a young woman of quality, not a schoolmistress. And the radical principles instilled in Mary by her late parents are not easily overcome; she believes in a meritocracy and wants to live an independent life.

When Harriett discovers that Mary is to return to the school she runs in Brussels at the same time as her brother is making the same journey, she immediately suggests that they travel together. By now, Justin and Mary are very attracted to each other and are forming a bond that surpasses more than mere friendship. Both have decided, individually, that they are getting in too deep and that a break sooner rather than later is best – but it would be ungentlemanly for Randall to refuse to accompany Mary, and churlish for her to turn down his escort.

All the time, Mary and Randall are drawing closer, and despite their best intentions to part once they reach their destination, they can’t keep away from each other. Rumour has it that Napoleon will soon be marching on Brussels, so Randall’s military duties keep him well occupied, but he spends every spare moment he can with Mary, and she, knowing these will be their final days together, decides to enjoy them, rather than to worry about what the future will bring.

Until around the 60% mark on my Kindle, I was reading a perfect romance. The protagonists are attractive and well-matched, and the intensity of the emotion between them leaps off the page. Ms Mallory imbues almost every line with the most incredible, deeply felt longing, and there are a couple of real lump-in-the-throat moments along the way.

But suddenly, she throws in a completely contrived and, to my mind, unnecessary roadblock to the romance (the prospect of encroaching war isn’t enough of a downer?!), which leads Justin to act like a complete arsehole, saying some truly horrible things to Mary on what could be the last time he sees her. Even though he soon realises his error, by then he’s in the thick of the fighting and may never have the chance to set things right. And if by chance he should return to her, Mary isn’t sure she can forgive him for his lack of trust.

In spite of the heavy-handedness of the aforementioned road-block, I enjoyed *A Lady for Lord Randall* very much. The author has clearly done her research, as the historical and military detail is excellent, and she has created two very attractive and well-rounded characters in Randall and Mary. I enjoyed watching him loosen up a little under Mary’s influence – he’ll never be the life and soul of the party, but he’s more relaxed and inclined to humour around her while remaining, in essence, the same serious-minded, dedicated man. Had it

not been for that one issue I've noted – which took me completely out of the story – I'd be awarding **A Lady for Lord Randall** DIK status. I'm still going to give it a B, because the romance at its heart is so beautifully written. It's a lovely, emotionally satisfying read and one I can still recommend, despite that one flaw.

Katherina says

The book had a classic vibe, it reminded me of the first regency novels I have read many many years ago. A grumpy hero who falls in love with the strong minded heroine despite all their differences, a well rounded story, an interesting location equals a few hours of pleasant reading time.

For more romance reviews, check out my website:<https://katherinasbooks.wordpress.com>

Gerrie says

3.5 out of 5 stars.

Nightwitch says

As others have said, this was a very pleasant category romance, taking place almost entirely far from the ballrooms that typically pepper a regency romance novel, with plenty of gory war detail and (a favorite of mine in regencies) a period-realistic Wollestonecraft-following "marriage is a trap for women" heroine. There were indeed artists chatting about (and living) free love back then! The hero is a strait-laced earl-slash-military commander; the heroine is a free-thinking, independent schoolteacher. He assumes that her "career" looking after "ladies" means she's a prostitute but thankfully this is dealt with relatively quickly and with a minimum of drama. All in all, a nice read.

Melissa says

After completing the series, I am bumping the star rating up to 4.5 stars (rounded up by GR to 5 stars).

What a great start to the trilogy! I read this from start to finish in a day, growling at people who dared to interrupt my reading. Mary Endacott is a layered, wonderful heroine and Justin (Earl Randall) was a loveable grump. Their story is rich in emotion, a bit of angst, and suspense. It was nice having a smart heroine who also had social graces and could work a room without playing a dim-bulb. Justin's military leadership was put to the test and his scene with Gideon after the battle of Quatre Bras was a tear jerker. I think he could have put a little more effort into his grovel at the end, but I really rooted for this couple to get their HEA.

One of the reasons I wanted to read this series is that, unlike most Regencies, this one dealt with the war with Napoleon in a real sense, so the inane frippery that is found in parlors or ballrooms isn't here. So if you are looking for a something different in Regency romance, I would recommend this book.

Susan says

Good book. This is the first in a trilogy centered around the Battle of Waterloo, but can easily be read as a stand alone. I read the series out of order and had no trouble following the story. Each book takes place during the same time period, the days just before and after the battle with a little bit of shared events.

Mary and Justin meet at a dinner party in England. Justin is visiting his sister and accompanies her to a dinner where the attendees are an eclectic group of artists, writers, scholar and free thinkers. As a nobleman and a career soldier, he feels quite out of place, and as a man who admits to being low in social graces he is rather awkward. Mary notices him and makes an effort to talk to him and ease his discomfort. Mary is a woman who was raised by free thinking parents, and has an independent spirit and a mind of her own. She runs a girls' school in Brussels and has no plans to marry.

There are sparks between Mary and Justin from the beginning, but they are so different in background and attitude that they realize there is no future in a relationship. Justin's sister has other ideas, and maneuvers Justin into escorting Mary back to Belgium with him. During the trip their interest and attraction to each other grow, but are determined to part ways when they reach their destination. However, they can't seem to stay away from each other and decide to pursue a friendship in the time leading up to the battle they know is coming.

I really enjoyed seeing how well they got along in spite of their perceived differences. Justin has been careful in the past to avoid romantic entanglements. His father was a notorious womanizer, leaving an untold number of illegitimate children behind, and Justin believes that he is like his father. He refuses to allow himself to love a woman and put her through the kind of hell his mother suffered. But the more time he spends with her, the more he likes her, and finds his resolve to remain a bachelor wavering. I enjoyed the way that his previous attitude toward her background changed as he got to know her. Mary finds herself just as drawn to Justin, in spite of the fact he represents everything she dislikes. He is a nobleman and she believes that people should be judged on what they do, not who they are. He is also a soldier, and she hates the violence of war. As she gets to know him, she sees that he is not an arrogant aristocrat but actually a good man. As the time of battle grows closer, they choose to reach for some happiness.

At this point things are looking very promising in their romance. Justin begins to believe in the possibility of marriage, and Mary is ready to take a chance on them also. Then Justin jumps to an illogical conclusion and says some really cruel things to Mary because of it. By the time he realizes he's wrong, it's too late. He's in the midst of battle and Mary is justifiably hurt and angry.

Now Justin has to survive the battle and find a way to make amends with Mary if he wants what he had before. As hurt as she is, Mary can't bring herself to leave Brussels while the battle is happening because she is worried about Justin. When she discovers he's missing, I loved seeing the way she takes charge. She worked hard to care for him while at the same time trying to protect her heart. Justin is determined to find a way to gain her forgiveness, but Mary doesn't make it easy. There are some tense moments, but in the end, it does work out.

Sabrina (Soter) Sally says

"Un ricciolo lucido giaceva sulla spalla di Mary, e lui lo sollevò. La ciocca si arrotolò attorno al suo dito,

ricordandogli il modo in cui lei si era avvinta attorno al suo cuore. Una sciocca analogia. Per Giove, stava diventando sentimentale, ma per una volta non gli importava. Si portò il ciuffo alle labbra. "

Come mi ero ripromessa, dopo aver letto il secondo della serie (mannaggia a me ç_ç) che mi aveva conquistata, ho recuperato il primo di volata e mi è piaciuto quasi altrettanto (e soprattutto ha colmato ogni buco e lacuna, soprattutto nella seconda parte dove le storie si svolgono in contemporanea XD)! *ç* Mary è il tipo di protagonista che piace a me, non è una lady anche se proviene da una famiglia rispettabile si è rimboccata le maniche e si è trovata il suo posto nel mondo e un lavoro che le dà sicurezza e soprattutto la libertà che per una donna a quei tempi era quasi utopia XD Ha una vena ribelle ma è anche pratica, molto dolce ed empatica e quando i suoi occhi incontrano quelli del conte nel bel mezzo di una riunione di radicali si può dire che le scintille volino fin da subito! XD Il primo incontro tra i due non è dei migliori e genera anche un faintendimento alquanto umiliante per la povera Mary ma è indubbio che fin da subito tra i due scatta qualcosa che travolgerà la loro vita e scioglierà apparentemente gelido conte *ç* Nonostante entrambi sappiano che la loro storia d'amore sia senza speranza non riescono a stare lontani l'uno dall'altra, che siano amici, amanti o compagni sentono la necessità di rimanere sempre vicini e diciamolo...chi potrebbe resistere ad un uomo come Randall?? Appassionato, romantico, gentile ma determinato, un soldato tutto di un pezzo solo apparentemente gelido e inflessibile XD Sullo sfondo di questa storia d'amore la guerra in tutta la sua gloria ma soprattutto in tutto il suo orrore, con la morte straziante di un personaggio molto amato dal nostro conte ç_ç Non vedo l'ora di leggere l'ultimo della serie!

Janice Liedl says

[beginning with Justin's misapprehension that Mary, his sister's BFF, is some sort of brothel-keeper right and proceeding right through to blaming her for the loss of his lucky sword - (hide spo

Julie says

Sarah Mallory writes the kind of books you just cannot stop reading and she continues to raise the bar and push the envelope in historical romance with her exquisite, captivating and wholly mesmerizing Regency set during the Battle of Waterloo, *A Lady for Lord Randall*, the first installment in an enthralling new trilogy that is not to be missed.

Mary Endacott is no ordinary Regency miss. Having been raised by her liberal parents to shun convention, cherish her independence and be the mistress of her own destiny, Mary – unlike her peers – is not looking to make a match. With her Academy for Young Ladies in Brussels to keep her busy, Mary has got neither the time nor the inclination for husband-hunting. Surrendering her independence for the shackles of matrimony is not an option for her, and despite having had her fair share of admirers, she is adamant that she will remain single and dedicate her time and energy to her school. When she meets the devastatingly handsome Justin, Lord Randall, at a party, Mary is immediately attracted to the dashing aristocrat – even if he is the most infuriating man she has ever clapped eyes on!

Randall is immediately intrigued by Mary. His sister's friend is nothing like the vacuous and empty-headed debutantes who throw themselves at him at balls and society parties. She is smart, intelligent, sensitive and witty and Randall finds himself unable to stop thinking about the spirited Miss Endacott. But Randall had learnt at a very early age to keep his emotions at bay and his heart firmly under lock and key. Handsome,

rich and titled, Randall can have any woman he wants, but although he has had his fair share of affairs, he refuses to even contemplate the thought of falling in love. Randall might have built a wall around his heart, but the more he sees of Miss Endacott, the more he finds his resolve never to marry for love wavering. But Randall is also a soldier who is fully aware of the dangers of war, and with a perilous battle fast approaching, he decides to seize the day and act upon his attraction for Mary. However, he soon realises that one passionate kiss is not nearly enough....

Mary had never imagined that she would ever fall so madly in love – and with a man who represents everything she thought she despised. Yet, Randall had showed her that he was not a heartless aristocrat, but a man capable of making her happier than she ever thought possible. But with a bloody conflict raging on, the uncertainty of war and their own fears and insecurities, will Mary and Randall manage to triumph over all the obstacles that are standing in their way and have the future that they always dreamed about? Or will they be denied the happiness that they've been searching for all their lives?

Award-winning author Sarah Mallory has long been an exceptional writer of highly enjoyable historical romances, but she has truly outdone herself with *A Lady for Lord Randall*. Superbly told, meticulously researched, wonderfully evocative and a joy from start to finish, *A Lady for Lord Randall* is a first-class historical romance that stands head and shoulders above other titles published in this genre.

Mary and Randall are fully-rounded, believable and well-rounded characters that leap off the pages and their tender and passionate love story will touch your heart and make you shed a tear or two. The battle scenes in the book are exquisitely rendered and assiduously detailed and they add tension and veracity to the book, without ever slowing down the romance or coming across as being didactic.

A phenomenal historical romance that is truly remarkable, *A Lady for Lord Randall* cements Sarah Mallory's standing as one of the genre's most talented and gifted writers!

This review was originally published on Cataromance.
