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A Noble Masquerade (Hawthorne House Book #1)



Synopsis

Sparkling Regency Romance from a Captivating New Voice Lady Miranda Hawthorne acts every inch the lady, but inside she longs to be bold and carefree. Entering her fourth Season and approaching spinsterhood in the eyes of society, she pours her innermost feelings out not in a diary but in letters to her brother's old school friend, a duke--with no intention of ever sending these private thoughts to a man she's heard stories about but never met. Meanwhile, she also finds herself intrigued by Marlow, her brother's new valet, and although she may wish to break free of the strictures that bind her, falling in love with a servant is more of a rebellion than she planned. When Marlow accidentally discovers and mails one of the letters to her unwitting confidant, Miranda is beyond mortified. And even more shocked when the duke returns her note with one of his own that initiates a courtship-by-mail. Insecurity about her lack of suitors shifts into confusion at her growing feelings for two men--one she's never met but whose words deeply resonate with her heart, and one she has come to depend on but whose behavior is more and more suspicious. When it becomes apparent state secrets are at risk and Marlow is right in the thick of the conflict, one thing is certain: Miranda's heart is far from all that's at risk for the Hawthornes and those they love.

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Customer Reviews

I actually read book 3 in this series first, *An Uncommon Courtship* (which I will be reviewing next week). I got that one for review and decided to buy this one as well with the intention of reading the entire series. I almost decided to read *A Noble Masquerade* first so that I would be reading the series in order, but I wanted to make sure I could review *An Uncommon Courtship* before the publication date. All of that being said to say that you could easily read these books out of order or pick and choose which storylines sound interesting. The characters do crossover as we're essentially following the relationships of a single family, but there's not an overall story arc as far as I can tell that you would be messing up by reading them out of order. I noticed while reading *An Uncommon Courtship* some similarities to *Pride and Prejudice* (and *Downton Abbey*) mostly in the areas of the UK where this story takes place. However, that was even more noticeable in *A Noble Masquerade* as Hertfordshire, London, Kent, and Derbyshire were all locations where the story takes place or were at least mentioned. As the description says, Miranda uses these letters that she writes to the Duke of Marshington as a diary or journal of sorts. She's been doing so for about 12 years as an attempt to get out the struggles she has with feeling confined by the standards of lady-like conduct. I totally relate to her taking to a journal. I did the same in my early years. It started out as a way to get my anger out of my head, and I journaled for years until I realized that the things I was putting on paper could be detrimental if they should be found or read by anyone other than me. And that's exactly what happens to Miranda. I personally would have liked to have seen more of the letters back and forth between Miranda and Marshington. They exchange at least 8 letters but we only get to see the contents of the first couple. I felt like this was a missed opportunity. I personally find the cultural differences between this period of history and now to be so fascinating. On the one hand, acceptable lady and gentlemen interactions were set up as to avoid even the appearance of a physical relationship outside of the marriage relationship. Of course, that's not how things always went. No matter the confines or structure of society, there will always be those who do not go by the rules. However, I find that so often when I'm reading books set during this time period that the couples might often be able to solve their problems with a little bit of communication. As one who has always felt like just saying what needs to be said often accomplishes what so many skirt around, I know I would have struggled if living in this time period myself. Or maybe I wouldn't having been raised within the culture. Regardless, I liked seeing Miranda and Ryland navigate society while also crossing the lines many times. Ryland is a bit too complex of a character to discuss in detail

here as I don't want to give too much about him away. He's put in some situations that anyone would have difficulty navigating. I liked that even set inside this time period, Ryland has a job and circumstances that I could have never predicted. Favorite quotes: -It is never a happy day when an eight-year-old girl's cheesecake lands in the dirt... -She tried to behave. She really did. But how did one contain emotions when they felt happy or sad or scared? Didn't those feelings have to go somewhere? -...a lady never makes her family suffer because she is in a bad mood. -Amazing how such a little bit of light made the pathway so much easier to navigate. -"I'm not complaining. There's nothing wrong with what you've done. I'm sure that's not the best club you have in your hand, though. You presented something lower than your best in order to find something else. Well played." -Honor was all well and good, but good sense was valuable as well. I read *A Noble Masquerade* in one day. It was a quick and easy read that I've found I crave in this season of my life when I don't have as much time to read. The culture of this time period was a pleasant change from my normal reads as it ensures not much physical contact with the characters--which isn't always needed to tell a compelling story. I appreciated that the religious aspects didn't come off as "preachy" as can sometimes happen with Christian fiction. And perhaps the best recommendation that I can give is that I want more. I hope I'll be getting *An Elegant Facade* for Christmas. *A Noble Masquerade* gets 4 Stars from me. Have you read *A Noble Masquerade*? What did you think? Let me know!

The concept of this book was interesting, but I think it could have been so much better. The hero of this book is a completely arrogant aristocrat. I couldn't believe that the heroine fell for him (it was obvious that it would happen but the more arrogant this man was the more I hoped this book would take an unexpected twist and have her dumping his pompous self). Also this author tells the story instead of shows us the story. It got old reading the same things but never really seeing anything (for example Miranda supposedly has accomplished being a lady even tho it's not her true character to always be poised. We are told this over and over again, but I never actually see her acting very ladylike. I just see her breaking the "rules").

I ended up really enjoying this one. I thought it was a little wordy in parts, but overall an enjoyable story. It's my first book by Ms Hunter, but it left me wanting to read more from her. Lady Miranda Hawthorne was a fun heroine to read about. I liked that the story did not play out how I thought it would, had a few twists along the way that kept things interesting. My favorite parts were the scenes with Miranda and Ryland together. I thought it was a little slow when they were apart, but not

enough to lessen my enjoyment. And to be fair, I had a lot of other things going on while reading this so that may have affected my reading a bit. I thought it was a good addition to the Regency genre. I think fans of the genre will enjoy it. Content: Romance: Clean Language: None Violence: Mild Religious: Mild

This book was unexpectedly funny and entertaining in a way that made it impossible to put it down. The pace is perfect and the story is full of intrigue, mystery and enough romance to melt the heart. In "A Noble Masquerade" we follow Lady Miranda's journey from her estate to London, to a few other surprise whereabouts as she tries to build confidence in herself and discern her heart, which has been weirdly fascinated by her brother's valet and a duke to whom she has been writing since her childhood, but without sending the letters. Until recently one of those letters is accidentally mailed. And so a constant exchange with a mysterious man who has kept himself away from society starts. I loved Miranda's courage and faithfulness to those she loved. Ryland was a great hero, with his swoon worthy moments and faulty moments that make you want to punch him - something that actually did happen.

My sister was the one who told me about this book. When I read the summary (the one above), I was a little bit confused. So, I was hesitant to read it. After I thought about it for a little bit, I finally understood (kinda) what the story was about. Then, I started reading it and I guess what? I could not stop reading it! It was so good! Miranda was an absolutely awesome main character. Marlow was even cooler! So were all of the other side characters. The only one who I didn't like as much was Georgiana. (Even so, I am still excited to read the book about her, An Elegant Facade. Also, I am currently reading An Uncommon Courtship, the one about Trent.) I really liked Trent and Griffith. There was one scene with them that I just loved! It seemed like something my brothers would do! I laughed so hard! I love the cover! It is amazing! Everything about it is great! I am definitely giving it 5 stars! Also, you can guess what rating I am going to give the book! 5 stars to you, A Noble Masquerade! This is one of my favorite books, and I would recommend this book to anyone and everyone who likes an adventure and romance story!

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