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Determined to clean up the mess his cousin Ossie has created, Tristan, Earl of Stanhope, finds himself taking an unscheduled trip to the country. His mission: Rescue a spinster from certain scandal as the object of a tasteless wager. But much to Tristan's surprise, Calista Ashton is more sharp-tongued free spirited than a raw country girl --- and more attractive than he ever imagined. Twenty-four and determinedly unwed, she's nobody's fool, and perfectly capable of taking care of herself, thank you very much. It's soon abundantly clear to Tristan that although rescuing a damsel in distress might actually have been an easier plan to carry out, sharing kisses --- and more --- with a strong, sensual woman is far more satisfying. Now all he has to do is convince Calista that she's fallen as hard as he has ...

Lord Stanhope's Proposal Details

Date : Published January 1st 2005 by Zebra (first published 2000)

ISBN : 9780821778012

Author : Jessica Benson

Format : Paperback 316 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Fiction, Historical Fiction, Regency
Romance, Category Romance, Traditional Regency

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Cherise says

Huh a bit speechless after reading this one. Most of the characters here are so irreverent and silly I felt I was reading a midsummer's night's dream more, yet set in a Jane Austenish setting, with tons of country squire and dances and neighbours and gossips abound. V odd and I guess I wasn't expecting this so wasn't really appreciating this one.

We have a typical bookish spinster h that has a decidedly feminist bend, again totally nothing wrong with this if it isn't done so over the top she seems to prefer living in a religious abbey instead with no vices indulged and all that. A bit much to me but otherwise pretty nice h, with her own mind, and goal to help the needy. Must say she also handles the multiple ow v well in that she keeps her politeness and all, in the same shoes, I would have run for the hills and honestly would take a lot more from our H than a few mere words to come around. Can totally get why she was hesitant and didn't trust our H much given his actions.

Our H is the perfect species of human being, which ended up being v annoying to me, a totally imperfect nobody. He is ever polite and always have nice things to say to everyone and doesn't do confrontations or nasty scenes, except with our h I guess, when he really lets down his guard and can be who he really is comfortably instead of a ken doll. The thing about this whole book is that his basic niceless makes the situation more and more horrid, yet despite seeing this, he doesn't really seem to be able to do much to change the tide, making it v hard to sympathise with his situation, when I would have preferred him to do something at least along the way before the grand finale, as by that time I honestly think he deserves not getting the girl as he seems to prize good manners above winning the girl over.

The whole story does have some scenes where we see how their relationship develop, yet most of the bulk is filled with other people that are shallow and silly, or ignorant and self centred. It really is amazing nearly the whole village is filled with such nonsensical people and due to their v incomprehensible logic, creates much havoc and misunderstanding between the couple. I feel I am reading the more old school regency classics with how some many characters are about doing tons of other stuffs while the couple could have not seen or talked to each other meaningfully for days. It gets a bit tedious halfway through with the really overly dramatic stupidity of the gang doing and saying the same things more or less over again, and it also doesn't help much in developing our characters except to create chaos. Ending up feeling a joke or being in a circus with all the goings on here, and H still acting the perfectly all proper and easy going fellow, when he sees this can only go no other way but down down down as we readers do. It becomes v frustrating to see the nonaction and the grand finale is a bit too late for me especially when initially he still was planning to be nice and proper *eye roll* honestly this must be my being spoiled by hemans in other books and this H's lie flat and step on me please attitude makes him weak and not really seem to love our h much.

All in all, quite horrid though and despite all that I kept pushing to finish like someone knowing disaster is about to unfold and yet cannot do anything else but morbidly watch it happen anyways, much like our H here, though I must say, I am more lenient with my failings as I didn't have the love of my live to win over.

Gena says

Re-read after quite a few years and won't re-read again. The author tries too hard to make it a comedy / farce

and it just ends up with too many tangled threads. Our hero is pretty consistent throughout, likeable, good character progression and makes it a 3*. Our heroine is the downside, supposed to be witty and a bluestocking she's all over the place, one minute puritanical, the next acting very selfish. If you're looking for something very light to read on a beach somewhere then this is it :)

Spazfungus says

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Stanhope hears his cousin Ossie had made a wager to woo and win a country mouse Calista Ashton. Furious, he goes to Deepdene to rescue her name, under the excuse of going to buy a horse from the young Elmo Lyttworth (Stanhope felt guilty that Elmo was tricked into purchasing the nag because someone else said Stanhope wanted it

Courtney says

A wonderful, rare gem of a book. It does consist of a trope that has since been done to death, flavored with a tinge of the absurd, but there is just enough charm in the writing and characterization that, if you're a fan of the Traditional Regency genre, this won't bother you overmuch.

D.K.S. says

I liked the characters a lot. Calista is an independent and level headed young woman who often sports witty jokes. The fact that she reads books on women's equality is frowned upon by many in her little town. Yet, the villagers hold her in great respect because she does a lot of charity work. Her character is very likeable because she is a feisty do-gooder who is stuck living with her terrible brother and his wife. I wasn't expecting to like Stanhope very much because of his reputation as a rake, but he is nonetheless a gentleman to whoever he meets and once he meets Calista, he becomes completely reformed. He carries himself very suavely and has a pleasing demeanor throughout the book.

When the Earl of Stanhope visits Deepdene, the usual quiet luscious country side transforms itself for its most esteemed guest with plenty of parties, balls, beautiful gowns, not to mention plenty of match-making schemes. Sofie Lytthworth, a pretty dull-headed girl and Amanda Prescott, a posh dark haired beauty have a competition between them of who will become Stanhope's countess, yet it's amusing how no one realizes that he is completely smitten with Calista the entire time they are fighting for his affection. Calista initially rejects Stanhope on multiple occasions because she thinks he is using her. However when Stanhope presents her with his signature ring asking to marry her, she becomes emotional and says the ring should be for his future son. Stanhope replies that his son will be her son as well. The story is romantic, but I wouldn't consider it as fluffy. The ending seemed a bit rushed when Stanhope confesses that he wants to marry Calista in front of everyone. Other than that, the story ended well with Calista rightfully becoming Stanhope's fiance and the future countess.

Julie says

4 stars for the dry, witty repartee. I appreciate intelligent dialogue and this imparted a lot of joy in that category. The reveal scene at the end was a little much, and the couple should have made plans to return to the hunting cottage, not the local inn, but that's just me. ;) Fun read.

Lady Salford says

It started out *so* well. I felt elated. I thought, maybe I found another Elizabeth Mansfield. I was sadly mistaken. The characters are enjoyable. I particularly liked the Foppish Trio: Ossie, Nev, and Squibby. The basic plot might have been better with a few improvements.

All the ingredients for a delightful read were **there**. Sadly, like all other regency romances written these days, it degenerated into the usual racy scenes. **WHY**. The dialogue was passably clever. There was some slight witty remarks. Why do these authors feel compelled to insert such nonsense into the plot.

Paula Bothwell says

Lord Stanhope's Proposal - PG/PG13

Violence: attempted assault

Language: a couple of swears

Sex: roaming hands, no big details

I was traveling and kicked it old school with a paperback. I'd read some recommended romance lists and found this gem by Jessica Benson. Loved it! I'm looking for more of her stuff. Someone needs to get this on Kindle asap!

D.K.S. says

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Fangirl Musings says

Pages Survived: 104

Crappy book. Really crappy book, actually.

I gave this book more than a fair shot, but I found it to be a painful read, even at just 104 pages. The writing was very distracting, with the author seemingly to go over board in trying to utilize the correct vernacular of Victorian England. I am not at all adverse to attention to detail, and am by no means a fan of Wallpaper historical romances. However, one extreme is just as bad as another, which was the case with this book. I found the constant expressions and phrasing to be distracting, which made reading this book feel bumpy and, in some cases, confusing.

The characters were painfully one dimensional, probably the result of Benson trying to carry too many characters inside her story. At twelve chapters in, I couldn't find a single scene that didn't feel rushed or choppy. This also made it very difficult to believe the plot. I so wanted to love this book, for it did have a lot of potential, but because of the aforementioned reasons and because the story relied far too heavily on dialogue, I couldn't give a second longer for this book.

In truth, I had planned on finishing it, and merely marking it as a 2, maybe even three star novel. However, such wasn't the case because the reading and story started to feel abrasive and boring which made the plot as a whole feel like it was going nowhere fast. Definitely a big waste of my time, I'm sad to say.

Note: It's pretty demonstrative of how bad this book is that I have spent just two or more hours reading the story, literally just closed the book and can't even remember the name of either the hero or heroine. My memory is bad, but that's very telling, especially since I can quickly remember that my previous read's characters were Jordan and Emily. Very, very telling indeed!

Sue says

I enjoyed it. Poor, poor Calista. Could things not just run smoothly for the poor girl? So many twists and turns in this little novel. I thought this book had some very funny dialog and the little breaks so that we could switch between characters thoughts was perfect. Lord Stanhope for a rake truly is very gentlemanly. 3 men are vying for Calista's attentions at least. Will the beautiful Sofie end up with a very eligible man? I started

getting the people a bit confused since there were so many Ladys and Lords but it does fall into place. No graphic sex. A bit of kissing, handholding & touching but nothing graphic.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

This had a bit of a slow start; you could probably skip the first 3-4 chapters and not miss much. Once Stanhope arrived in the country the story started to pick up. Even though I don't normally care for rakes, Stanhope won me over. I'm not sure why, but him falling for Calista was actually believable. I thought Calista was a likable character and her interactions with Stanhope were a lot of fun. There are some fun misunderstandings along the way, but somehow everything gets straightened out so that Calista and Stanhope could have their HEA. Overall, even though it had a slow start I soon got into the story. I liked the characters and plot, but it may be a bit forgettable down the road.

Content: Clean, one kissing scene gets a tad steamy, PG. A bit of swearing.

Annii says

Egh. I am singularly unimpressed with this book. The characters are flat, the reader feels very little emotional connection to them, and the story's dead dull. I found myself confusing almost all the characters and couldn't tell what was going on half the time. The love story feels forced, and there's about as much heat between Tristan and Callista as you'd find on a January day in Alaska. I wanted to like this book, I really did. The prologue was witty and fun, and it got my hopes up. Too bad they were so brutally let down.

Elise says

Good read for the regency period, although it perhaps had too much info on the aspect of keeping mistresses, but it was funny in how it showed how that can certainly cause problems! Beware, may have to skip some pages for content, but not very much of it. The book got my mind thinking about being a heroine myself. Kinda fun.

Roberta says

A cotton candy regency -- it's fun but there is no nutritional value.
