



Sweet Masquerade

Marion Chesney

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The tenth earl of Berham did not know what to do. An attractive thirty-two-year-old bachelor, he was appointed guardian of one Freddie Armstrong, the eighteen-year-old grandson of his late father's dear friend. That was bad enough. Then he discovered the boy was really a girl! It simply would not do to keep an unchaperoned young lady in his home. The earl's frequent visitor, Lady Clarissa Rennenord, heartily agreed—but for less noble reasons. Hoping to snare the earl in marriage, her ladyship did not want any competition. She recommended that Freddie be sent to a seminary. No one but Lady Rennenord knew what a horrid place it was. No one, including Lady Rennenord, expected Freddie to escape. Now Freddie was back. And the earl found her presence disturbing in more ways than one. . . .

Sweet Masquerade Details

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Author : Marion Chesney

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From Reader Review Sweet Masquerade for online ebook

heidi says

Holy infodump, Lord Batman!

On the one hand, I was not really engaged in the story and kept comparing it to the cross-dressing redhead story I actually like. On the other hand, no one had ever given me a really good description of cockfighting before. Of course, it was two pages of transcribed research paper, but still, it was new.

Also, I object to the amount of fainting. And the weird gender issues. I mean, weirder than I would expect in a crossdressing book. Freddie's costume appears to dictate who she is, even to herself. Ick. I am me whether I am in skirts or pants. And the point where the hero realizes she's a girl because he's attracted to her... isn't it possible that he could be attracted to a boy? Like, doesn't it cross his mind and weird him out?

I think my favorite part was the earnest and impoverished former schoolteacher. She was the most interesting character in the whole thing.

"Like most shy people, her world was filled with hanging judges, all ready to condemn her for her sins, and so she never said a word."

Read if: You are sick in bed and not smart enough for anything thoughtful or challenging.

Skip if: You are in it for characterization, drama, depth, or sparkling repartee.

Read instead: These Old Shades, the authoritative spunky redhead/satanic-looking older man/crossdressing book.

Karen Darling says

Not bad, but I hate reading books where women dress like men. It did have a few funny spots.

Di Schlenk says

Five stars for this period piece.

Deals with Freddie who masquerades as a youth and is sent to a friend of her fathers as his ward until reaching the age of 21.

The Earl discovers the gender of his ward, but his paramour convinces him to send her to a 'convent' for education.

No spoilers.... great read.

Jane says

A mildly diverting Regency romance full of silly cowards and clueless idiots (like most books by Marion Chesney aka MC Beaton). The bad guys get what's coming to them and the good guys live happily ever after.

Leslie says

These books are like potato chips you can't read just one. The start of this book is so predictable it is almost waste of time. When the 10th Earl's ward (nudge nudge wink wink) a delicate pale red haired boy (WINK WINK) arrives he has no idea what to do with Him. Luckily his attractive neighbor knows just what to do and soon our Boy (Wink) is fighting a duel at a Cock Fight (Roosters). After the 'secret' is revealed the Earl realizes the girl is compromised unless he can protect her. He sends her off to a distant finishing school which has misrepresented itself. But true love will out..

AJ says

Review to come

Lynne Tull says

This is one of the few books/series I would read again. These stories of Marion Chesney started me on my adventure...reading Regency Romance/Novels/History! There is not a set of books that will teach you more about the basics about life in Regency England. There are six series with six books each. I love them all. It must be a "past life" thing:)

Bettye McKee says

This was a re-read for me, but I again enjoyed the story of Freddie and her guardian, the Earl of Berham. Frederica has been wearing boy's clothes for years. She was raised by her grandfather who did not like girls and treated her as a grandson, teaching her boxing and fencing and other masculine sports.

When the masquerade is revealed, the Earl doesn't know what to do with Freddie. She must begin to wear dresses. She must have a chaperone. She must have a Season. So many complications the Earl did not expect.

Ms. Chesney's Regency romances are sweet and gentle with no steamy bedroom scenes. Most of her heroes are strictly gentlemen and her heroines are mostly naïve young misses. If that's what you're looking for, you should enjoy her books.

Susan says

The tenth earl of Berham did not know what to do. An attractive thirty-two-year-old bachelor, he was appointed guardian of one Freddie Armstrong, the eighteen-year-old grandson of his late father's dear friend. That was bad enough. Then he discovered the boy was really a girl! It simply would not do to keep an unchaperoned young lady in his home. The earl's frequent visitor, Lady Clarissa Rennenord, heartily agreed—but for less noble reasons. Hoping to snare the earl in marriage, her ladyship did not want any competition. She recommended that Freddie be sent to a seminary. No one but Lady Rennenord knew what a horrid place it was. No one, including Lady Rennenord, expected Freddie to escape. Now Freddie was back. And the earl found her presence disturbing in more ways than one. . .

Typical fluffy romance and though the story premise was interesting and the bad, grasping wanna-be fun, Chesney can't seem to change her descriptions of characters enough to make them more real from book to book.

QNPoohBear says

The Earl of Berham is 33, unwed and bored. His life turns upside down when he becomes guardian of 18 year old Freddie Armstrong, the grandson of his father's old friend. Freddie seems very weak and feminine and not at all someone the Earl wants in his life. The situation becomes tense when Freddie is introduced to the lady the Earl is courting and the lady and Freddie take an instant dislike to each other. When it is discovered that Freddie is actually Frederica, a girl who has been raised as a boy, the Earl packs Freddie off to a seminary recommended by his girlfriend. Unbeknownst to the Earl, the seminary is actually a sort of prison for wayward girls where the proprietors extort money from the wealthy while abusing their children. No one counted on Freddie's wayward upbringing to help her escape from the dastardly seminary, let alone the Earl who was beginning to suspect his intended bride knew more than she let on. Freddie must learn to control her feelings and accept her future as a woman. The plot of this book isn't very interesting. The characters aren't likeable, not even Freddie, who I was expecting to be a tomboyish girl masquerading as a boy. Freddie had moments of spunkiness which I admired but she was very young and acted very immature for a heroine of a romantic novel. I disliked this book and felt it was one of Chesney's worst.

Tracy says

If you have read a Marion Chesney book before, you'll know exactly what to expect here. If you haven't read Marion Chesney before, I hesitate to recommend her. Her writing style is tell rather than show, her characters are caricatures, the farcical situations are on par with an episode of *Three's Company*. Yet, for me, there is still a laugh-out-loud quality to the idiotic absurdness of it all. Freddie pitching a book out a window at Lady Rennenord to interrupt the earl's marriage proposal is certainly silly and not very creative, yet I find it amusing enough to enjoy it. You either like this stuff or you don't!! (I'll take it in limited quantities, please.)

Tara says

These books are hilarious. I love them and am never disappointed.

Kendra says

It's a good thing I've read some of Chesney's other Regencies, or I might never read her again. Frederica was the absolute worst heroine! Spoiled, immature, ugh. I was so disgusted with her that I was actually hoping that something terrible would really happen to her. She would deserve it!

Karen Darling says

At the beginning I didn't like the hero. He was in love with a conniving heifer who he allowed to treat the heroine badly. I also am not a fan of books in which the heroine dresses like a man/boy. I did like that the heroine had spunk and there were some funny moments and all the villains got what was coming to them.

McKinley says

Didn't like this series so much. See her Poor Relations and The Traveling Matchmaker for fun romances.
