



The Lady and Mr. Jones

Alyssa Alexander

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Born in the rookeries, the hard life is something Jones is all too familiar with. Saved as a young boy, he was trained to be a spy, one of the best--elite, in fact. He now spends his days serving His Majesty in espionage, hunting rogue spies. His latest assignment, though, has him tracking a fellow spy...

Cat Ashdown is a baroness. Nothing is more important than protecting five hundred years of heritage. She knows every detail of every estate that commands the largest income in Britain— yet her father placed her inheritance in trust to her uncle who is forcing her to marry a man she has no desire for. The baroness's battle against law and convention leads her to Jones and results that are surprising ... and possibly unwanted.

Each book in the Spy in the Ton series is STANDALONE.

- * A Dance with Seduction
- * The Lady and Mr. Jones

The Lady and Mr. Jones Details

Date : Published November 27th 2017 by Entangled: Amara

ISBN :

Author : Alyssa Alexander

Format : Kindle Edition 358 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Regency Romance, Historical, Spy Thriller, Espionage

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From Reader Review The Lady and Mr. Jones for online ebook

Tracy Emro says

Mary Elizabeth Francis Catherine Ashdown, Baroness Worthington aka Cat is in a bind, her father has died and though she has inherited the barony and the estates, her father put everything in trust naming her uncle Henri Wycomb (yes, the same one from the previous book) as her guardian and a trustee. Cat is stymied at every turn by her uncle and he is pushing her to marry - in fact he has selected her groom and signed the contracts. If she refuses, she will lose Ashdown Abbey.

But things seem to be going from bad to worse for Cat, she is attacked outside a shop and is saved by Jones. Jones is on a mission that involves her uncle, he had no desire to reveal himself to her, but when she catches him in her uncle's study later, he has no choice and they come to an agreement, that he will keep her informed and she will feed him information.

The more they meet, the deeper their bond becomes, but Wycomb is up to something and Cat is not safe. Jones is falling for her, but knows nothing can come of it, yet he can't seem to walk away from her.

Cat knows she loves Jones, loves him enough to walk away from her legacy - but he won't let her. When Cat is abducted and Wycomb's scheme is revealed, will it be too late for Jones to save the woman he loves? And is he finally ready to accept that Cat loves him enough to walk away from her inheritance?

The book is well written, but there are a couple of formal address mistakes and as in the last book it is still being referred to as "Carleton House" instead of Carlton House. The love scenes are on the warm side, but in no way graphic or steamy. Readers who were dismayed with Wycomb in the last book will be overjoyed to see him get his comeuppance in this book and to revisit The Flower, Shadow & Angel as well as their spouses and growing families. The book is action packed and has a bit of mystery that is very well done. The ending was not what I was expecting and personally, I think Cat was overly forgiving, but I was happy with the ending and enjoyed the epilogue.

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher

Jultri says

Extremely well-written book with lovely prose which elevated this book above average for me. The heroine is the Baroness Worthington, heir to one of the largest fortunes in England and practically royalty. Problem is that she can't touch her fortune until she marries or reaches the ripe old age of 35, and for now she remains under the very large and ruthless thumb of her uncle/guardian. The hero, 'just' Jones, on the other hand came from the rookeries, parentage unknown and the rough streets his source of education. He has been trained by the best in the field of espionage and his latest assignment is to spy on a fellow agent suspected to have gone rogue, the before-mentioned evil uncle. Their background couldn't be any different, but they found common purpose and a common enemy and so they joined forces, and soon they joined body parts and more!

Jones is as decent as they come, honourable, loyal to both country and his unfailing sense of right and wrong. Never forgetting where he came from, he does not dare to dream that he can reach for more than what he already has been blessed with - a roof over his head, a few friends, the trust and respect of others. Cat is a

marvellous heroine, born to entitlement, power and responsibility, she has been raised her whole life to one day take charge of the family fortune and barony title. This all came crashing down on her upon her father's death, when she realised that he did not trust her enough to allow her to inherit straight from him but added the above restrictive clauses to force her dependency on first her uncle, then her future husband. Credit to Cat, she isn't going to take this lying down without a fight, not for herself, but for the protection of those many people depending on her. She is exceptionally strong when it counts, fiercely intelligent and confident and with a mean right hook which comes in handy a few times. Moreover, she also realises her limitations and is not afraid to recruit help when she needs to, especially help in the form of the solid, reliability of Jones. Their struggle to resist the inevitable attraction between them is realistic, both too aware of the class difference and their differing responsibilities pulling them apart. The writing as mentioned previously is really quite exceptional, from a newish author not previously known to me. I shall look forward to more pf her books in the future - maybe a straight historical romance instead of spy sub-genre.

This is an ARC provided by Netgalley for an honest review.

Norah Gibbons says

I read a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review. This is the 4th book in The A Spy in the Ton series by Alyssa Alexander and I have thoroughly enjoyed all of them. I think you could read this as a stand alone but it's a great series so I would recommend reading them all. Abandoned as a child Jones grew up in the rookeries and managed to find a way out by becoming a spy. When he is charged with investigating another spy he rescues Mary Elizabeth Frances Catherine Ashdown 13th Baroness of Worthington (Cat) from being abducted by people who are not happy with her Uncle, the spy he happens to be investigating. A chance meeting under a desk cements their friendship. This story is one you will resent having to put down as it has it all ... an Evil Guardian Uncle, a forced engagement to a nasty suitor, a trio of young spies in training, kidnappings, rescues, spies, a lovely heroine, a daring hero who don't fit into each other's world. How they find their way to Happy Ever After will most likely keep you up reading past your bedtime.

Caz says

The Lady and Mr. Jones, the fourth and final (I think?) book in Alyssa Alexander's *A Spy in the Ton* series turns the spotlight on the eponymous Jones, a secondary character in previous books and a member of the elite spy ring that includes Shadow, Angel and the Flower. Picking up some of the threads laid out in the previous book, *A Dance with Seduction*, Ms. Alexander has crafted a tender cross-class romance which plays out alongside an engaging suspense plot which sets spy against spy in a perilous, high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse. I enjoyed the book and the characters, although the ending is a little weak and brought my final grade down a notch.

Jones – who doesn't appear to have any other names – is a lad from the streets; an orphan from the rookeries who was plucked from poverty and trained by the best of the best in the art of spycraft. Deeply loyal and honourable to a fault, Jones is so discreet, skilful and efficient that he is the man his superiors turn to when they need to keep an eye on one of their own. In **A Dance with Seduction**, we met the Flower and her handler, Henry, Lord Wycombe, another member of Britain's intricate network of spies and informants. As

the story progressed, it became clear that Wycombe was involved with something underhand and that his position had become compromised in some way – and now, Jones is assigned to keep watch on him and discover the truth about his activities and allegiances.

Lady Mary Elizabeth Frances Catherine Ashdown, the Baroness Worthington, is one of the richest women in England – or she would be if her late father hadn't tied up her money in such a way that she is dependent on her guardian – her uncle, Viscount Wycombe – until she marries or reaches her thirty-fifth birthday. Cat is one of the few women in England to bear a title in her own right (the barony is over five hundred years old, and as is the case with some of the oldest titles, can be held by a female) and she takes her responsibilities to her title and those who depend on her very seriously. But her requests for funds to make improvements and repairs to the estate at Ashdown Abbey are continually blocked by her uncle and trustees and she is increasingly suspicious of Wycombe's motives. She's also furious, but her uncle is a dangerous and unpleasant man and she knows better than to reveal her feelings; instead she decides to pay for the repairs to her tenants' cottages using her allowance. Well aware that not all the servants at Worthington House are loyal to her, Cat slips from the house in order to post her letter of instruction to her steward – but on the way back, is accosted by a ruffian who tries to abduct her.

He would have been successful but for the intervention of a man Cat recognises as the one she'd accidentally bumped into in Park Lane on her way out. The stranger hauls the would-be kidnapper away from her and forces him to admit that he was sent to grab Cat by people who want leverage over Wycombe. Cat doesn't understand what's going on, but she's no simpering miss and is determined to find out why someone would want a hold over her uncle and why they'd use her as a means to that end.

Jones is captivated by Cat from the moment he sets eyes on her, even though he knows it's stupid and quite possibly dangerous; spies and personal relationships don't mix. In any case, she's the wealthiest woman in the country and he's a rookery brat with nothing, and that's a gap that no amount of wishing or wanting can ever bridge. But that doesn't mean he won't do everything in his power to keep her safe. Together, he and Cat gradually uncover the truth about Wycombe's activities, and work out exactly why he is so eager to marry her off to a charming marquess whose outward congeniality masks a man every bit as cruel and ruthless as her uncle. With the wedding date set and Cat unable to refuse to go through with it owing to a forfeiture clause written into the marriage contracts, Jones is running out of time to expose the truth about Wycombe and free the woman he loves – from her marriage contract and from the threat to her life.

The suspense plotline is absorbing and well put-together; and even though I had my suspicions as to where things might be headed, Ms. Alexander kept me guessing until the reveal. Both protagonists are engaging and I was especially impressed with Cat, an intelligent, independent woman who is nonetheless a woman of her time who thinks for herself and (for the most part) before she acts. She admits when she's scared, knows when she's out of her depth and isn't afraid to ask for help – and she knows what she wants, too: "a man who will stand by me. One who loves me. A man with shoulders strong enough to bear any responsibility and a nobility that would put any gentleman I know to shame."

Jones is an attractive hero who never forgets where he came from and who has never really thought beyond having somewhere decent to live, and the trust and respect of a few friends. He is a thoroughly decent man with a strong sense of honour and loyalty, but he's perhaps less well-defined than Cat; we know little about him other than that he's an orphan, he's deadly and has a serious case of 'I am not worthy' when it comes to his lady-love. To be fair, though, the difficulties of entering into a relationship with a woman so far above him in station were not inconsiderable at this point in time, and I was pleased that Ms. Alexander didn't just sweep them under the carpet.

One thing that really stands out in this story is the characterisation of the villain. So often authors go over the top in the attempt to create someone capable of the dastardly deeds their plot demands, but here, Wycombe is revealed to be a thoroughly nasty piece of work without venturing into cape-flipping, moustache-twirling territory. He's quietly menacing in his scenes with Cat and her fear of him is palpable; he's the sort that rarely loses his temper, but lashes out without warning or when he's cornered. He is certainly not an adversary it's wise to underestimate, which makes him more believable and also serves to heighten the sense of peril faced by our heroes.

If I have a complaint, it's that the romance between Jones and Cat is pretty much of the insta-love variety. The connection is there, the chemistry is there and the intense longing they feel for each other simply jumps off the page, but it's love-at-first-sight (more or less) for both of them, and their relationship doesn't really change very much throughout the course of the story.

Even with that said, however, **The Lady and Mr. Jones** is well worth a few hours of your time if you enjoy historical romance mixed in with a sizeable helping of espionage and suspense. The plot is intriguing, the characters are likeable and their HEA is hard won; the book earns a solid recommendation.

Maria Rose says

I thoroughly enjoyed this sexy historical romance! The hero, Jones, is smart, resourceful and utterly respectful of the heroine at all times, even while the two of them are finding ways to deal with their attraction to each other as he investigates a fellow spy, who happens to be the heroine's uncle. A romance that crosses the social boundaries of the times, Baroness Cat Ashdown is fighting an arranged marriage and trying to keep her holdings, and more importantly the people who rely on her, safe. I loved how the story progressed, both the romance and the suspense that kept me turning the pages. Having not read this author before, she's definitely on my to-read list now, as are the earlier books in the series.

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher for review.

Ash says

3.5 stars

Nicole says

What a fun, quick read! Loved Cat and Jones - I thought they were really well-developed characters. This story has a great mix of action and love. It kept me up late and was hard to put down. I've read the first 2 books in this series, but not the third and didn't feel like I missed anything - it can definitely stand alone.

Received an ARC for a voluntary, honest review.

Carrie Sprys says

My heart is still pounding after reading this historical romance thriller by Alyssa Alexander. Although *The Lady and Mr. Jones* is the fourth book in the *Spy of the ton* series, it is perfectly understood as a stand alone read. The plot line has every characteristic a great book requires: power, hunger, danger, fear, passion, love. Altogether these make for a truly enjoyable and unforgettable story. Jones was born in the rookeries of London, became a spy and currently spends his nights tracking other spies' bad behavior. Baroness Cat Ashdown was raised on one of the largest estates in the country and couldn't be more out of Jones' world if she lived on another continent. But Cat's fortune is held in trust, controlled by her cruel uncle who seeks to marry her off to the highest bidder in ton as soon as possible. Fortunately, Jones and Cat's world's collide and the two begin working together to bring information about a fellow spy and protect Cat's barony from a forced marriage. Secret notes and meetings are followed by dangerous undertakings and cruel treatment, resulting in a fiery passion between Jones and the Baroness. But he must first come to terms with his own station in society and she must prevent her uncle from enforcing a matrimonial union with a man she cannot abide. In the end, this is a tale of espionage and dangerous missions which open the door for surprising passions and need between *The Lady and Mr Jones*.

I received this advanced copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Katrina Berry says

The Lady and Mr. Jones by Alyssa Alexander is Book 4 of the *Spy in the Ton Series*. While this is part of a series, it can be read as a standalone. This was the first book of the series that I've read and I didn't have any issues with following along with the story.

If you plan on reading this then make sure you are ready to read it from start-to-finish; this was a hard one to put down and I absolutely inhaled it...forget your worries, errands or any chores you may have because this book will take priority before anything else. An exciting and gripping read that has a perfect blend of romance and intrigue. A must-read!

An ARC was generously provided in exchange for an honest review of which this is both honest and completely voluntary.

Candy Briggs says

Jones works for England as a spy and he is a very good one. Elizabeth Frances Catherine Ashdown, Cat, Baroness Worthington's father died recently, all the property including that of her maternal side, was put into trust and a guardian was appointed.

I thought this was an excellent story. It has it all, murder, drugs, kidnapping, intrigue and danger. Her uncle is not a nice man and he wants to get as much of her money as he can. The characters are well rounded and the dialogue moves with the action. The descriptions fill in the background, helping you to join in on the action. The Plot is exciting and it keeps your attention. I love when Jones goes to the pub and the patrons start giving him the layout of Ashdown Abbey. One thousand six hundred four acres. And a half. Is what the barkeep told Jones. Jones had been left at a foundling hospital and he never forgot that. He was astounded by the size of it. It is an all around wonderful book and I am so glad I got the chance to read it.

I received this as an ARC free and voluntarily reviewed it.

eyes.2c says

Solid read. Intriguing and enjoyable!

A story that sparkles 'the whole night through' and beyond.

Spiced with two great lead characters, Jones a man of secrets and action, a spy extraordinaire from the harsh humble beginnings of the Rookeries and now in service to the Crown. A spy's spy who hunts traitorous agents. Jones has to in his sights Lord Wycomb, a coldly efficient master of the art. Which leads Jones straight to Baroness Cat Ashdown.

Cat has found herself 'wedged between the trustees, her uncle, the estate, and the husband she would soon [be forced to wed]. [It seemed] whatever happened she couldn't win.'

Cat 'had trained to be Mary Elizabeth Frances Catherine Ashdown, 13th Baroness of Worthington. Fought to prove she could carry on the legacy of the first Mary Elizabeth Frances Ashdown, who had been granted the barony five hundred years earlier. Fought and lost' it would appear. But Cat was not going down without a fight!

Cat though is determined to find someway to win, to regain charge of her inheritance and escape her uncle's plan to marry her off to a man not to her liking. Cat wants is to be able to govern her lands independently, her uncle wants something entirely different.

Hence Cat and Jones' first meeting in a darkened study under a desk that they are both trying to break into is both hilarious and suspenseful.

Cat is more than she seems--brave, loyal, feisty, strong and fearless. Jones is a complex character, honorable and true. Be still my beating heart. The sparks fly when these two engage in a joust royal that captured me right from the start. Not to mention the plot twists and turns.

A NetGalley ARC

Fizza says

4.5 stars

This book is really well-written and has interesting characters. I quite enjoyed reading it especially because I just love spy stories. Jones and Cat are just perfect characters, as well as, spies.

Cat has been brought up to care of her father's estates. Her father has never treated her like some helpless woman and yet for some reason he left her without much authority, she has to depend on her uncle until she marries. It seems so unfair to her. She wants to take care of her tenants and do things the right way but she can't. What more, it seems that her uncle is not the man she thought he was, he might very well be a dangerous man who is bent upon ruining her life.

Help comes in an unexpected way from an unlikely ally. Jones is working on a mission and he must do his job well. But Cat is a distraction which can lead him astray. She is fierce, independent and fearless woman and he finds himself falling for her... unfortunately they can never happen. He is not from her world and he feels that she deserves so much better... however, heart wants what it wants.

It's a beautiful love story. Jones and Cat are perfect for each other and the way they find their happily ever after is just too good. I'd definitely recommend this book if you like historical romance.

Maria Dariotis says

The Lady and Mr.Jones is book four in the series A Spy in the Ton by Alyssa Alexander

Mary Elizabeth Frances Catherine Ashdown 13th Baroness of Worthington Cat to her friends and family, is an heiress born into privilege she had everything while growing up, but upon her fathers death she's become a ward to her evil uncle Lord Wycomb. As her guardian he has complete control over her inheritance and her. She will not be able to take control of her inheritance until she's the ripe old age of thirty-five or marries. And that she can't accept, her uncles evil machinations leave her and everyone who depends on her in peril, it's time that she takes matters in her own hands. She definitely will not marry someone of her uncles choosing she'll marry a man who will love her and respect her a man of honour.

Mr.Jones an orphan with no heritage born in the rookeries was saved and trained to be a spy, and he became the best at what he did. His sense of honour is his shield and he never forgot from where he came from, a man that will fight for what's right. His assignment is to flush out a rogue fellow spy by the name of Lord Wycomb.

Cat and Jones become intertwined when he rushes to save Cat and his position is compromised.

Unbeknownst to Cat, Jones is investigating her uncle but as Jones keeps on appearing to save her the truth of his investigation is revealed they decide to work together to reveal her uncles evil duplicity. The more they work together the more their feelings deepen for each other. Jones has fallen for Cat but feels unworthy for a woman of Cats status. Their attraction is unavoidable although Jones tries to keep his distance their lives and hearts become even more intertwined with Cats life in peril and a traitorous spy to capture.

A well written story with an intelligent heroine not afraid to fight for what is right. The story flows well will keep you glued to the pages, you have intrigue, spies, a villainous plot for murder, kidnapping and dangerous situations. A hero who will do anything for the damsel in distress even though she's everything he's ever wanted but so out of his reach. So many twists and turns and passionate encounters between Cat and Jones makes this an exciting gripping must read story.

Perfectly written. Another hit by Alyssa Alexander.

ARC provided by the publisher through NetGalley for an honest review. All opinions are voluntary and my own

Maggie Hesseling says

Cat Ashdown is a baroness, one of the few who can carry the title on her own without a husband, and she is in trouble. Her uncle and her trustees wont let her touch her inheritance to help the people who live on her estates and she'll do anything in order to help them, even be abused and sold off by her uncle. Help is on the way, though. Jones, a spy in service to the crown, is doing what he does best: going after spies who seem to have taken a turn for the worse, and Cat's uncle is one of the worst. Jones needs to find out what the secret agenda is and what is going on in order to stop the spy master as well as save Cat, even if he can't have her.

I really enjoyed this novel and had a hard time putting it down. I really liked Cat's intelligence and resourcefulness, as well as her big heart. She's a tough and fair woman and in way over her head. So much so that any sign of Jones being pulled towards her, she'll take. He's perfect for her and she instinctively knows it. Jones is a great spy, but he's also insecure about his position in life and society. Born in seven dials he knows that he isn't good enough for cat, but that doesn't stop him from secretly hoping and wishing he could be. There are some wonderful scenes with him and his butterfly book where my heart almost broke for him. It's a great cat-and-mouse story and though at times violent, it really puts the plight of women in perspective, especially rich ones.

There was only one unclear thing for me: (view spoiler)

But all in all, a great read. I haven't read the rest of this series, which I now realize means this is the first novel by Alyssa Alexander that I've read. But I can promise, this definitely wont be the last!

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

No man is more Cat Ashdown's opposite than Jones, the man she's just met and the man that has declared himself her shadow in order to keep her safe. However, when Jones latest assignment brings him in constant contact with Cat, he decides it's better that she's on his side than trying to find information about her uncle's dealings on her own. Yet, the closer they come to discovering the truth, the more danger Jones and Cat find themselves in. Will Jones be able to keep Cat safe, or will he lose the woman he's falling in love with, even if he believes there's no chance of a future between them?

There is something really exciting about the opposites attract trope in a Historical Romance, especially when the hero is a spy and the heroine a lady of the Ton that is determined to discover the truth about what's going on with her uncle with or without the hero's help. Really, this book was highly entertaining, fast-paced and I loved everything the hero and heroine overcame to be together including the hero believing he isn't good enough for the heroine. Will Cat and Jones being together cause a scandal because of his past and the fact that she's a prominent member of the Ton?

The way this story started had me immediately hooked, because of what Jones is doing and whether he'd have to go through with what needs to be done to protect his mentor. However, it was from the moment the hero and heroine come face-to-face for the first time that had me reading quickly, determined to discover more about this pair and their back stories; what direction their growing relationship would take and whether the hero would be able to protect the heroine.

With the dialogue, it was well-written, captivating and I loved how intense it was because of what the heroine's uncle puts Cat through and the hero's investigation into whether her uncle is doing anything illegal. What will Jones discover? Moreover, the heroine is strong and brave by doing everything she can to help Jones and I loved the way they communicated, so no one would be able to uncover what they're really talking about. I also liked how determined the heroine was to fight for a future with Jones. Can she prove to him that he means more to her than the worry a scandal could create for her? While the hero, he's had a rough life growing up and I liked how he's turned it around. He's also confident when it comes to his abilities as a spy and determined to always do the right thing. Yet, what I liked most about the hero was his determination to keep the heroine safe and allow her to help him to get the answers she needs to protect herself from her uncle.

Overall, Ms. Alexander has delivered an incredible read in this book where the chemistry between this couple was heady and convincing; and the ending had me loving the efforts the hero goes to protect the heroine and make sure she doesn't suffer for her uncle's wrongs. However, it was the lengths the heroine went to for the hero to realize they're meant to be together that had me loving the way this story ended for this couple and their relationship. Will the hero realize that Cat is his Ms. Right before it's too late? I would recommend *The Lady and Mr. Jones* by Alyssa Alexander, if you enjoy Historical Romance; the opposites attract trope; stories encompassing espionage and spies; or books by authors Stacy Reid, Christi Caldwell, Vanessa Kelly and Darcy Burke.
