



# My Fair Gentleman

*Nancy Campbell Allen*

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In this Regency twist of *My Fair Lady*, Jack would rather be at sea than fixing the mistakes of his grandfather, the late Earl of Stansworth. Instead, he finds that inheriting his grandfather's wealth and title—and securing the welfare of his sister and mother—means joining the ranks of high society and living with the aristocracy. Luckily, Ivy Carlisle, the granddaughter of a dear friend of Jack's late grandmother, is willing to teach him etiquette and properly introduce him into society. Jack soon learns that his challenge isn't surviving his new lifestyle but surviving the conspiracies against him—as well as keeping himself from falling madly in love with his new tutor.

## My Fair Gentleman Details

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Author : Nancy Campbell Allen

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Genre : Romance, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, Clean Romance, Fiction, Regency Romance

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# From Reader Review My Fair Gentleman for online ebook

## Mela says

Nice reading, nice time.

First part (it deserved four stars) was better than the second. I am not sure why it worsened.

I liked Ivy and Jack. Their conversations were very charming and witty. I liked also Pug, Sophia, Blake and Nana of course.

But then there were the plot lines (that occurred in the second part) which were interesting but not fully thought through, not used like it could have been used: a school for former prostitutes, attempts to kill Jack, the character of Lord Anthony Blake, his relationship with Sophia, even Mary's growing self-confidence.

As QNPoohBear wrote although language wasn't so accurate like e.g. in Heyer's books: *the writing style is modern enough to be accessible to newcomers to the genre but doesn't sound terrible modern.*

And like QNPoohBear I would love to read the story of Sophia and Blake ;-)

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## Laura says

Great characters and an enjoyable story.

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## Mindy says

I absolutely adored this book. It was a joy from start to finish. I loved all of it. Nancy did an incredible job with writing her characters. All them stood out to me and I longed for each of them to be in the story more. I especially enjoyed how the story started and ended with the same character. (He was a very pleasant surprise.) It took me a chapter or two to appreciate Jack's character and how rough around the edges he was, but he was great to get to know. Jack's love for his mother and sister, and those who were most important to him, showed in his actions. He is a very devoted person. Ivy, though, was my favorite. Her enjoyable demeanor and countenance leapt off the page and I loved it when she and Jack would have their battles of words. The story takes an interesting turn in regards to Jack and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I can't give anything away, but he is a great, great guy. Sophia, too, was a delight. I honestly can't say enough about the awesome book. The pages wouldn't turn fast enough. When I reached the end, I was wanting more. I received a paperback copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## Alisa says

I loved this one! Jack Elliot is the first mate on a merchant ship dreaming of the day when he will own his own ship so he can take better care of his mother and sister. He receives word that his grandfather (who

disinherited his father and ruined his family) has chosen him to be his heir. Jack doesn't want to inherit anything from the grandfather he hates, but his grandfather intends to ruin Jack's mother and sister if he doesn't accept.

Ivy Carlisle is a duke's daughter; she is friendless and suffering for the scandalous actions of her older sister. But the one person who loves her is her grandmother (who she calls "Nana"). Wanting to help her grandmother, and not one to back down from a challenge, Ivy agrees to tutor Jack on how to be a gentleman. She refuses to fall in love with him because she knows that his first love is the sea, and she could never handle having him leave her.

This was a fun set of characters... I loved Jack and Ivy, Nana, and Jack's younger sister Sophia.

Content: Clean

Source: Amazon.com

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### **Tiffany says**

What a clever book! I love my Fair Lady and I loved the concept of flipping it. It was well-written, engaging, the characters were fantastic. I'd recommend this book to anyone who loves a clean regency romance.

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### **Angie says**

4.5 stars...

I was lucky enough to spot this on the new shelf at the library last week, and I'm so glad! It is a regency romance (clean) written as a spin on My Fair Lady. I was drawn in almost as soon as I started reading and really liked the main characters of Jack (the Duke) and Lady Ivy. She attempts to school him out of his Sailor mind-set and into the ways of a Gentleman of the ton. In my opinion, this book is as much about friendship as it is about romance. Both deepen during the book, and it made my heart swell. The sideline characters also were well-penned and fleshed out and helped make this a successful storyline.

Anyone who enjoys a sweet, heart-warming romance will want to read this book! I will definitely be recommending it:)

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### **Melanie says**

Jack Elliot is a seaman months away from captaining his own merchant vessel. His grandfather, the Earl of Stansworth, is on his deathbed and has requested to meet with Jack. When Jack's father married his mother, his grandfather disinherited him. Jack's family was left penniless with mounds of debt when his father passed away. His grandfather wants Jack to become his heir rather than have his nephew inherit everything. Jack isn't interested until it's brought to his attention that this will help his mother and sister.

Ivy Carlisle is the granddaughter of Olivia Carlisle, the best friend of Jack's late grandmother. Olivia encourages Ivy to take Jack on as a client of sorts to teach him proper behavior so he will be accepted in

society. Ivy agrees to it and has no idea what's in store.

There are some great characters in this story! I loved Olivia, or Nana. She's full of life and doesn't mind shaking things up a bit. Ivy is proper but her family has recently endured a scandal involving her older sister so she doesn't feel that she's worthy to find a love match for herself. Jack is rough but has a soft heart when it comes to his mother, Mary, and sister, Sophia. Mary and Sophia have had many hardships in their lives and are adjusting to high society. There are lots of other characters that helped shape the story and were fun to get to know.

I loved this book! I loved how it was *My Fair Lady* in reverse, the chemistry between Jack and Ivy, the characters, the story, the writing, and that it's clean! I wasn't ready for it to end and would love more of Sophia's story. I have loved all the books in the Proper Romance line and this one was no exception. I'm looking forward to reading the next one!

I received a copy of this book from the publisher for an honest review. My opinion is 100% my own.

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### **Julie says**

Wow. There is a lot of love on goodreads for this book that sounded so fun (regency twist on *My Fair Lady*!!), but I struggled to finish it. I couldn't get past the whole premise. How anyone would send a young, unchaperoned girl who hadn't been presented at court to teach manners to a sailor-turned-earl and introduce him to society, when she wasn't out yet, but had apparently attended balls and danced with every other man in the book...??? The tension was off throughout the book too, so the second half just had me rolling my eyes. I was looking for a good escapist book, but this wasn't it. Bummer.

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### **Melissa says**

I am so happy I finally got the time to listen to *My Fair Gentleman* by Nancy Campbell Allen. I've had it on my To Read list for what seems like forever so I finally decided to try and listen to it on Audio. Audio is dicey for me because if I don't like the narrator, it's over. I liked this narrator and was able to just get lost in the story. Sweet bliss! I have recently found that I can do work around the house while listening to books. (Which soothes the pain of doing chores a tad.)

While listening to *My Fair Gentleman*, I found that I was doing extra work around the house so I wouldn't have to stop listening. Even if you don't like "Proper English Romances", who doesn't like listening to someone politely give a snob from The Ton a good set-down? Me, that's who! This is a great book to remind us of our manners, and then remind us why it's occasionally okay to break with tradition once in a while. 4 ½ Stars. Clean.

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### **Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says**

**\*\*4.5 stars\*\***

This book is part of "A Proper Romance" line of books from Shadow Mountain Publishing. The writing and stories are excellent. This is a line of books that I will not pass on reading. I have loved all of them.

This book is a take of "My Fair Lady". The difference is that the gender is reversed. Ivy Carlisle helps a sailor, who came into a recent inheritance, become a gentleman. It is pretty obvious from the start that Ivy and Jack will fall in love, it is the journey to the end that is entertaining.

Jack has enemies from the beginning. His grandfather named him as his heir on his deathbed. Jack does not want to be a member of the gentry, but capitulates for his mother and sister. His enemies add a bit of mystery to the story. It becomes important to find out who is trying to kill him before they actually succeed.

The book is a clean romance. I really liked the characters. I felt that Nancy Campbell Allen did a great job at their development and made them people with flaws, that gave a sense of realism to the story.

I anxiously anticipated reading this book, it did not disappoint. The book is clean with some non-graphic violence and kissing.

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### **Jennifer says**

I don't know why I keep doing this to myself. I browse the online library audiobooks and find one of these cheesy Proper Romance books and think, "This one might be good?....." No. They are mediocre at best, but if you need something to listen to while you do housework or run errands and it doesn't matter if you space out for a few chapters, then these are the books for you. Always far too contrived and extremely predictable, these books try to give me a taste of Jane Austen, but it never works. Why do these books keep referring to "the Ton?" Jane Austen used the term maybe once in passing. "The Ton" gets mentioned constantly. It borders on ridiculous. We get it. You did some research in Regency high society and here's some jargon to prove it!

I had some high hopes when Jack, our dashing hero, had multiple attempts on his life. I thought, "Hooray! A mystery to solve!" Nope, not much of a mystery and not much of a story. Oh well.

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### **Kathy says**

With a nod to My Fair Lady Nancy Allen has created a fun tale of a sailor transformed into a gentleman. This book was very well done with great characters. It's a quick read that left me smiling.

Reread June 2018 - Enjoyed it as much as the first time

Content: Clean

Source: Review copy

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### **QNPoohBear says**

Jack Elliot is soon to take command of his own ship when a messenger from his estranged grandfather, the Earl of Stansworth arrives with the news the old man is on his death bed and demands Jack's presence. Jack's first thought is to not go but he decides to go and thumb his nose in his grandfather's face. The old Earl names Jack as his heir and while Jack would love to refuse, the old Earl knows Jack's sister and mother are on the brink of ruin. Jack can hardly refuse what will make his mother well again and his sister the ability to

enter the world of the ladies whom she has been serving as a maid. Jack is bound and determined though to find a loophole in his grandfather's will and return to sea. Ivy Carlise's grandmother, the bosom friend of the late Countess of Stansworth, enlists the aid of her favorite granddaughter to help ease Jack into Society. Ivy is the best person for the job for she secretly writes an etiquette advice column for ladies and gets paid for it. Something about the big, raw Earl brings out the worst - and the best- in Ivy. Ivy must be careful though to keep her emotions in check and behave with the utmost propriety or her family, already under a cloud of scandal, will be socially ruined. Jack needs an occupation to keep him busy, other than needling Ivy. He thinks he can handle the ton on his own but it's so much fun to banter with Ivy instead. The one thing his tutor can't give him are lessons in love. What is a sailor turned Earl to do?

The author calls this a take on *My Fair Lady* but it's similar to Georgette Heyer's *The Unknown Ajax* and some other copycat plots. I really enjoyed the story for all it's a rehash of a plot I've read a few times before. The author did a great job studying up on etiquette of the period but she seems to have missed a few legal points. As far as I am aware, a peer can't pick and choose his heir. Usually the heir is the direct male descendant - either a son, grandson, nephew or cousin. If an Earl could choose his heir, *Downton Abbey* wouldn't have a plot. However, I believe the old Earl had every legal right to cut off financial support so the premise of the plot still works. Other than that, the writing style is modern enough to be accessible to newcomers to the genre but doesn't sound terrible modern. It sounds a little bit modern American to call one's grandmother "Nana" but mostly I didn't have a big problem with the language or story telling style.

I could do without the mystery, it doesn't sound plausible. It was actually a bit of a surprise to find out who the villain was. It wasn't who I thought it was or at least not entirely. Still the reveal isn't surprising. The action of catching the villain happens off page which is a let down. All that effort and poof the plot just wraps up nice and neatly.

I especially love the love story in this book. It develops slowly as first Jack and Ivy are wary of each other and must come to trust one another. Then they develop a friendship before falling in love. It does drag on a bit too long though. The love story features a few kisses but nothing at all more than a PG movie.

The characters in this story are great, for the most part. Jack is extremely proud and stubborn but not so proud that he would ruin his mother and sister. He cares for them very much and their bond is so sweet. He has a temper but never loses it at Ivy and restrains himself from killing his father's cousin because Jack thinks his cousin is a scoundrel. He also accepts friendship when given and knows who to trust once he gets to know someone. He is a great hero! Ivy is a character I think modern readers will like but also one that Jane Austen's readers would understand. Ivy has a cheerful character and a loving heart but that doesn't stop her from having a bit of a temper. She knows the rules though and knows she's on the brink of social ruin through no fault of her own. I especially love how her Nana encourages Ivy to be the best she can be and to be on the outside the woman she is on the inside. Though Ivy is young, she's very mature for her age. I liked her a lot.

I also liked Sophia. She's worldly wise but still young and innocent enough to dream of romance. It's nice to see a bond of female friendship form between Sophia and Ivy. I like how perceptive Sophia is and how she looks after her brother when he thinks he's looking after her. She has a lot of compassion and a beautiful heart to match her beautiful face. Nana is the most fun grandmother! She is progressive for the time, women of her day had more freedom, and she is the woman Ivy would be if she could. Nana is a big influence on Ivy because Nana is strong, strong willed and can get things done. Nana also knows how to catch more flies with honey than vinegar, though she can dish it out if needs be.

This story would appeal to Christian romance lovers. Though it is not specifically Christian, there does seem

to be some Christian themes woven into the story. Traditional Regency lovers will probably enjoy this too but it is mostly recommended for newcomers to the genre or those who can't get through Heyer because of her excessive use of slang.

I really would love a sequel featuring Sophia and Lord Anthony Blake or just Sophia and one with Anthony. I'm not ready to let the characters go just yet!

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### **Anne Osterlund says**

Jack Elliot is a sailor. He has too much pride to bemoan the inheritance he should have had. And he wants nothing to do with the man who disinherited his family. But upon his deathbed, the old Earl pronounces *Jack* his heir, and Jack has little choice—with his mother & sister's livelihoods held hostage—but to accept.

Enter Ivy Carlisle. Ivy's job is to help ease the new Earl into society. It shouldn't be a difficult calling. After all, Ivy even writes her own clandestine advice column on proper society manners. The problem is that Jack isn't really amenable to advice. Or fond of high society. Or easy to ignore. In fact, she finds herself spending pretty much every last waking moment trying *not* to think about him.

Which naturally doesn't work out very well.

I read *My Fair Gentleman* in less than two days, ALWAYS a good sign. Light historical romance with a death threat looming overhead. Plenty of fun. But it was the characters—Jack and Ivy—who pulled me through the book. Jack is brash and crass, with a real heart underneath. And Ivy is kind and splendidly patient, with just enough gumption to break all the rules in her advice column.

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### **Julie Carpenter says**

Fun regency romance and a great spin off of *My Fair Lady*. I enjoyed the characters a lot and the growth that they went through. I found myself smiling and cheering on the MCs throughout the book.

Content: clean

My own personal copy.

Happy Reading!!!

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### **Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says**

I'm so, so happy to be a part of reading and reviewing the Proper Romance line from Shadow Mountain this year! There are some fantastic books coming and well, it just makes me happy. Nancy Campbell Allen starts this year off perfectly with her regency twist on *My Fair Lady*.



In this story, the roles are reversed and Lady Ivy has embarked on a daring quest to help the new Earl of Stansworth adjust to his title and responsibilities. It is a daunting task because the new Earl (Jack) doesn't want any part of what lies ahead.

Ivy is a lively, kind and intelligent lady but suppressed by the ridiculous rules of society. Her new task in helping the Earl and his family gives her life and purpose. I love how kind Ivy is, how gently she deals with people. Her own experiences give her compassion.

Jack is angry and defiant to begin the story. He lashes out frequently but his storm cannot withstand Ivy's calm. His transformation is quite satisfying.

This book is romance but it has a bit of intrigue as well. Someone is out to kill Jack and so it lends another layer to the story. I am so hoping that Jack's sister has the next story. I sense some fun things happening for her!

I loved this book. It was all things happy to me.

Content: Clean!

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### **Tandie says**

3.5 stars. A fun, regency retelling of My Fair Lady. Miss Manners is roped into helping a sailor, suddenly become an earl, make a smooth transition into society. Our fair gentleman isn't happy about becoming a proper Earl, but submits for the sake of his family. His mother and sister have been elevated from poverty and he wants them accepted by polite society. Nana was my favorite character, I'd love to be just like her!

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

**This has been nominated for a 2016 Swoony Award. Share the love and vote for it here.**

When I found out one of my favorite authors was writing a new book in my favorite genre I may have done a little happy dance! I have really been looking forward to this one, and it did not disappoint.

Lady Ivy Carlisle is everything that is proper, she lives her life conforming to societies strict rules and pretends to be happy about it. Every since her sister shamed the family, she feels its her duty to be the perfect society miss. She takes her role so seriously that she even anonymously writes edicate guidelines and helps tutor young girls about to make their debut into society. Her world is turned upside down when her next pupil turns out to be an attracted sailor who has just inherited a title. To say he is not happy about giving up the sea and the possibility of captaining his own ship to be a Lord is an understatement. Jack Elliot was a likable hero, broody on the outside and kind on the inside. Always a good combination in my book. He gives Ivy a hard time and it was fun watching their sparks fly. I thought they had good chemistry and it was fun watching them together.

I thought this was a fun read, so glad Ms. Allen decided to write in the Regency era, she's a natural! I look forward to reading hopefully a lot more books from her! If you enjoy Regency's give this one a try!

#### Content

Romance: Clean

Language: None

Religious: None

Similar Read: The Scotsman And The Spinster

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### **Katie W says**

I love a good Regency novel and when a twist on a classic favorite is added, I'm in heaven! Jack is a sailor who has no interest in becoming a part of the ton, but finds it more important to take care of his mother and sister, so he does just that. Lady Ivy's job is to teach him how to properly behave in society--which is not an easy task. Add a dash of mystery and some swoony moments and this story is the perfect recipe for a satisfying read. I also love how each chapter is headed with a bit of advice from Mistress Manners' Tips for Every-day Etiquette and had to smile at many of the headings.

Ivy has her own issues to deal with a big secret to keep, but she's so delightful. I found her voice and personality to be so witty and fun. Jack seems bent on annoying her and bringing out the spitfire in her and those interactions are so sweet. Jack is a handsome man, one who wants to do things his way, but one who must conform for good reasons. He's charming, in his rough ways.

I can't imagine living in a time when there are certain gender roles that aren't considered acceptable and enjoyed seeing the way this issue was handled in this particular story. The sweet, stolen moments are so tender and I learning little snippets into the secondary characters lives. I would love to see a story about Sophie and even little Pug! This book is a great addition to the Proper Romance Line.

Content: mild romance; mild violence/moments of peril (accidents, non-graphic blood, etc). Clean!

\*I received a copy in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Tori says**

I'll be honest. I accidentally ordered this book. I had it in my cart on Amazon so I could decide if I wanted it or not. Then when my daughter's birthday gift arrived in the mail, much to my surprise, so did this book. I'm SO glad I bought it accidentally!!

Such a fun, sweet story. I loved the witty banter between Ivy and Jack. I loved how Ivy tried so hard to be proper, while Jack dared her to abandon what society expected. And I have a feeling there will be another book coming with characters from this one...

It was a fun twist on My Fair Lady with a little mystery, and I really, really enjoyed it!!!

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