



A Lady of High Regard

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Born into affluence, Mia Stanley is a winsome socialite with a knack for matchmaking. She's also a writer for *Godey's Lady's Book* magazine, much to the disdain of her family--and their society friends. A proper young lady of her social standing isn't meant to labor in such a way, but Mia has always had a way with words...

When her writing draws her into the world of downtrodden seamen's wives on Philadelphia's docks, Mia uncovers a scheme that puts her in harm's way. But her heart ends up on the line as well.... Has her determination to always make a match driven away the one man whose esteem she covets?

A Lady of High Regard Details

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From Reader Review A Lady of High Regard for online ebook

Natalie says

I liked it ok. The romance was very Emma/Mr. Knightly-esque: girl and guy have known each other forever, he's 8 years older and friends with her father, he's super successful and acts as her moral soundboard, he's very handsome and is finally looking to take a wife, she's young and beautiful, adored by her family, loves playing matchmaker amongst her friends - I mean seriously, is any of this sounding familiar? Set in Philadelphia during the 1850s, it really was a nice setting for a novel. My only beef is that I found it far too preachy. Paragraphs upon paragraphs devoted to the discussion of God's will and why He allows suffering among innocent people and how can the rich help the downtrodden. It got real preachy, real fast. And while I'm not opposed to talk of God, I typically read it in a religious-type book. This is touted as fiction. It simply rubbed me the wrong way. I found myself skipping over pages at a time just to get to the "plot". I guess I'm more of a heathen than I thought!

Melissa B says

I can't stand Mia Stanley. She's compassionate, I'll give her that- but she's also stupid. Totally and completely stupid. It almost made the story unreadable to me. She took many unrealistic risks with her safety and if she referred to Garret as her "big brother" one more time I would have screamed. Another reviewer commented on how many times Garret was interrupted when he tried to proclaim his love for her- that was quite ridiculous. I liked the idea of this book, but it could have been much better. I don't think I'll be reading the rest of the series.

Deanne Patterson says

I really had trouble making a connection with the characters in this book. The story was stiff and the wording very formal. It was not the type of book you could relax and read. The premise of the story was good but I do wish it had been presented in a more relaxed atmosphere!

Samanta says

Oh Mia, Mia...such a big heart you have that it often defies common sense, but I can relate so I can't judge. :)

Mia Stanley is a member of Philadelphia's high society of 1850's. She is also an avid social activist who often discards her own safety in order to help those in need. Thank God (who is, by the way, mentioned a lot throughout the book) she has her long-time best friend (or maybe even something more) Garrett to think of her safety for her.

Mia and Garrett reminded me a lot of Emma and Mr. Knightley. She is a young and beautiful, but headstrong girl who often does foolish things (and is a self proclaimed matchmaker), and he is an older and wiser "brother" who keeps an eye on her and makes sure she doesn't fly too high. They, of course, figure out that

their brotherly/sisterly love is much more than that but the path to true love never runs smoothly. :)

Although I loved how their consciousness of their feelings for each other developed, at times I got exasperated with the quantity of misunderstandings and interruptions. The back story was also very interesting, with serious social problems that pained the people of that age, and unfortunately do to this day. It is obvious that the author did a thorough research of the matters she was writing about which I admire and respect.

Anyhow, this is a very good and light read with a lot of plot twists that will keep you well entertained.

Karin says

This was a good book. It was a typical story line where the hero and heroine love each other and don't realize it until it's almost too late. They are both trying to "protect" each other. During this read, I realized why I was so frustrated with dating as a single person. All of the "games" and conventions that were taught we "need" to observe as we "court". Blech. What it does is drive a wedge and you are destined to never understand each other. Tell your "other" what you feel. Be respectful, and be genuine. Talking in circles and never really talking just creates heartache.

Sydney Elaine says

[Garrett and Mia get interrupted about 5 or 6 times (possibly more) when trying to tell the other how they feel about each other. Literally about everytime Mia goes to wherever Garrett always is there to save her. It doesn't seem repetitive when reading these couple sentences, but when you have about 330 pages is a lot... Or at least enough to get me

Carrie says

A lady of High Regard takes place in 1852 Philadelphia, it deals with areas that a lady of higher standing shouldn't be sticking her nose into. Because after all it isn't proper for women to get involved in such matters of oppression and poverty. She is to be home having tea parties with her friends and gossiping about the latest fashions from Paris.

Mai lives a comfortable life, and hadn't realized that in her own town just a few blocks from her home down on the docks, people are living in poverty, barely getting by. Women are left alone to raise a handful of children while the husband has either passed on or are away working on the boats. They can not afford to pay the rent collector, feed their children and pay off their husbands debt. So they are forced to pay in other ways, the men force themselves and make them pay with their bodies or take away a child to sell in labor to pay it off.

Through her work with Godey's Lady's Book magazine, she finds about the seaman's wives and is determined to help them. She dresses below her station to find out more about what happens down on the docks, she wants to so desperately help these women and way she can, but in doing so is she is putting herself in many dangers.

"I'm sure with your help, poverty would not dare remain in Philadelphia"

Garrett, upon finding out what Mai has been up to wants to her to stop going down there and putting herself at risk, not because he doesn't care about what happens, but because he cares way to much about Mai to see her come into any danger.

They have been best friends and neighbors all their lives, everyone else can see that they love each other more then a brotherly/sisterly way. Will they ever see it and will they get the chance to express their feelings before it is too late?

I really enjoyed this book and I look forward to reading more books by Tracie Peterson. I leave you now with Bruce Springsteen - Streets Of Philadelphia

Dani says

At the time that I listened to this audio book, the only other Christian romance author I knew was Lori Wick. Even though this book was based in the same time period, there was definitely a different tone as Peterson's characters are based in a city and high society rather than on the prairie. This meant that the characters had more to do than just eat and go to church :-). If you don't like the in-your-face devotional nature of a Wick book, then you may want to try Peterson. The characters in this book obviously considered God's will when they had to make a decision, but Peterson did not write long passages about the Bible study meetings and such.

The reader, Judith West, was pretty good. She isn't distracting when she switches voices for the characters. I could definitely listen to her again.

Rachel says

My first thought when it was done was "thank goodness." This was just boring, cardboard.

Stereotypical headstrong young woman who fights against the constraints of society. But then, she's not even relateable because I got so sick and tired of her reckless, stupid decisions. There's fighting against society and then there's just being impetuous and foolish. Despite the fact that Mia is told that other people are helping her and that it is unsafe to hand things herself (what does she intend to do to a villainous rapist? scold him into morality?), she recklessly ignores such offers and intentionally throws herself into danger. Which leaves who but her knight in shining armor to rescue her? And how many times can we run through that routine? Danger - sudden rescue - danger - sudden rescue - and on and on. That plot mimics the romantic plot between Garret & Mia, which becomes farcical. I cannot even count how many times they have a moment where they come *thisclose* to revealing their feelings...only to be interrupted. It was absolutely a joke.

I expect certain things from a romance novel, so I don't have too much problem with predictability. But when the characters are cardboard, farcical stereotypes, it's not worth my time.

Cathy Daniel says

I'm so torn on this book. While I was annoyed more than once over Mia's idiotic tendencies and ninny ways, I do see that she meant well and had a good heart. I liked the ending. The writing is wonderful as always but I agree with some of the other reviews. Garrett being interrupted from confessing his love multiple times got old. Once or twice, ok. But six times or more?! Just annoying. Overall, I enjoyed this book though I was tempted to put it down more than once .

Raye says

I listened to the audiobook of this Christian romance and I was infuriated by both the writing, and to a lesser degree, the audiobook reader. The book itself starred a heroine who repeatedly made stupid choices and had to be rescued by the men in her life, which made me feel this book must have been written decades ago, but, no, it was published in 2007. Next, the men in her life (her father and the love interest) continually patronized her and talked down to her in the name of "looking out for her". There's even a hideous scene where the men talk to each other and agree that someone needs to get her well in hand. Basically, this book was a lot of me driving and yelling at my CD player. It got so bad that I almost didn't listen to the last CD.

Plus the storyline is filled with noblesse oblige, as Mia works to help "those poor women at the docks." Sigh.

Finally, the narrator of the audiobook delineated her characters well, but her voice for the hero made him sound so old and stodgy that his value as a love interest was lost. Not recommended.

Marie says

Very predictable. The most interesting story line followed the poor sea men's wives, but unfortunately the book focused on Miss Prim and Proper Mia Stanley. Very boring. Too much time was spent detailing her lavish life of society. It would have been much more interesting had it focused on those actually suffering. The life of a woman trying to survive a low-paying dangerous factory job while caring for her many children and having to deal with horrifying corruption sounds far more intriguing than tea parties and shopping trips.

Additionally, I listened to the audio version of this book and would not recommend it. The narrator is so boring that she only adds to the often monotonous tone of the book.

Jtreed06 says

I loved how clean this book was. Its always a risk to check a book out from the library without a recommendation from someone you trust. This one caught my attention so I gave it a try. I really enjoyed it. The author is obviously religious and talks about the importance of prayer. There were no language issues or questionable scenes. It was set in Philadelphia during the 1800's. The story reminded me of a Jane Austen plot but was not near the caliber as Jane Austen novels. Still I enjoyed it and I want to read some more of her books now.

Nancy says

This was a good book, the plot was gripping and the descriptions of life among high society were a delight to read about. The main focus was Mia Stanley, the headstrong, intelligent, and courageous daughter of a wealthy family. I identified easily with Mia, and the other characters were convincingly portrayed as authentic individuals.

The plot, based on historical fact, kept me very interested. As Mia got more concerned with and involved in helping alleviate the plight of the seamen's wives and children of Philadelphia's seaports, the whole story drew me into the world of contrasts between the impoverished and the elite, the ensnared and the free.

I think what most readers who criticized this book were missing was the historical significance of the story! Mia worked as a writer for Godey's Lady's Book, which was one of the most widely read, sought after and popular magazines of the decade! (Don't people know about history any more?) Sarah Josepha Hale was Mia's boss, and in real life she was an influential writer and the editor of Godey's Lady's Book. She advocated education for women, and helped to establish Vassar College, among other accomplishments, not to mention she was the individual most responsible for making Thanksgiving a national holiday in the United States. The plight of the families of the dockworkers and seamen's wives and children was very real in history at that time, too. Alcoholism, infanticide, child slavery, prostitution, gangs, and a host of other crimes was rampant in Philadelphia's seaports in the mid-1800s.

Again, most readers who criticized this book missed the main stories of this book, and that is the depiction of a small part of the REAL history of Philadelphia in the 1800s.

I was also thrilled to see how skillfully Mrs. Peterson wove the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Christian principles into the story. This was a first-rate historical fiction novel.

Cara says

I get that it's historical/period piece, but the dialog was just so... unnatural and overly formal (like awkward, not necessarily the proper-formal required for a historical piece) - and I found myself getting frustrated with the characters. ugh. Yet I had to finish it. Some of it felt like God was randomly thrown in there, or the faith questions & prayers not really genuine -- though there was one particular scene that was well done, faith-wise, I felt. But just one.
