



## And Then She Fell

*Stephanie Laurens*

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*New York Times* bestselling author Stephanie Laurens returns to another utterly irresistible branch on her beloved Cynster family tree in *And Then She Fell*.

Set in Regency England, London's Henrietta Cynster, known as "The Matchbreaker" has a special talent for making sure that bad marriages never happen. After breaking up one ill-suited couple, Henrietta is obligated to find the perfect bride for the debonair James Glossup.

The assignment proves to be a challenging one for the single-minded Henrietta, who believes that finding love isn't in her own stars. But Henrietta discovers—in spite of her personal denials of love—that both she and James are indisputably drawn to each other.

Fans of Stephanie Laurens's Cynster books and readers of smart and compelling historical romances will be transported and entertained by *And Then She Fell*.

## And Then She Fell Details

Date : Published March 26th 2013 by Avon Books

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Author : Stephanie Laurens

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## From Reader Review And Then She Fell for online ebook

### Huma Rashid says

This. Was. So. Boring.

I've had this problem with Laurens's books before. My first and only other of her novels was that one involving horse racing where the heroine was named Flick, short for Felicity. I made it about 50 pages in, maybe 75, and was so goddamn bored that I just dropped it, which is once in a blue moon rare for me. I NEVER abandon books. Ever.

But I decided to take a chance on her again and picked this title up. It was good for maybe the first half - and I use good to mean not terrible. If that had been the gist of the whole story, I'd have given it 2 of 5 stars, 3 if I was feeling generous. The characters were ho-hum and uninspiring and the writing felt too...try-hard. And the sex scenes are painfully uninspired.

But what killed it was the second half, which focused entirely on a murder mystery. I cannot even articulate how bored I was - and I like a good murder mystery. Note, I said good. I know I sound like I need a thesaurus, but seriously, no word other than FRIGGING BORING accurately describes this book.

The next time I decide to pick up a Stephanie Laurens book, someone slap me.

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### CoffeeTimeRomance andMore says

When ladies of the ton want to know if a man is interested in them or their fortune, they appeal to Henrietta Cynster. Her uncanny ability to strip a relationship down to its bones has earned her the title of Matchbreaker. Unfortunately, her gift for making others happy does not seem to include a happily ever after of her own.

James Glossup needs to marry if he is to fulfill the terms of his aunt's will and be able to care for the tenants on his land. When the infamous Matchbreaker cuts his marital aspirations short, he is furious. He confronts her, determined to put a stop to her meddling. He is shocked to discover she is willing to put aside her matchbreaking for a bout of matchmaking.

Henrietta attacks James's marital goal with all the aplomb of a general preparing for battle. The two of them attend events together with the hope of narrowing the field to one or two prospects. The more time James spends with Henrietta, the more he believes she is the one he has been seeking all along. When Henrietta becomes the target of a murderer trying to cover up his crimes, James knows he must act now or lose the only woman who can make his life complete.

Though this book is filled with the vibrant cast of Cynsters from Ms. Laurens' other novels, you need not read those to enjoy And Then She Fell. This story is actually a bit of a story within a story. Readers are treated to a lovely twist on the "friends as lovers" theme only to be swept into a murder mystery that ends in quite a spectacular climax. A must have for every fan of historical love stories.

Kaitlin

### **The Window Seat says**

Henrietta Cynster is as strong-willed and dynamic as any female member of her family, but she has never been the type to welcome the advances of the foolish men she sees in the ballrooms and parties she attends. Henrietta uses her social bearing and her intelligence to learn all about those men and in turn assists the women of the ton by sharing that knowledge to either foster or discourage a match. For the women she helps she is a godsend; to the men of the ton she is “The Matchbreaker.” After providing the information to break-up a friend’s eminent engagement, Henrietta is confronted by the jilted fiancé James Glossup, who informs her that sometimes her interference can have consequences outside of just breaking up a couple. Henrietta, having never looked past her own actions to see the after effects, makes the bold proposal to assist James in finding another woman to marry in her friend’s place, using all of her skills at gleaning the truth about people to become James’s ultimate Matchmaker.

For the full review, please go to <http://www.thewindowseat13.com/2013/0...>

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### **Kathleen J says**

Two and a half stars. Laurens has fallen into the trap of following the disappointing trends in historic romance writing.

I used to be a huge Laurens fan and I have read all of her books at least once and many multiple times. Her novels were always so strong: she’s a great wordsmith, can pull you into Regency life like no other, can elicit wonderful emotion and used to draw great characters. However, her last several books have lost their dramatic tension and her characters have devolved into the same old characters in every other romance novel.

One reason there is no dramatic tension in her latest novel is that there is no real conflict between the protagonists. In *Then She Fell*, the characters both want to marry; they find each other attractive and respect each other. Nothing to keep them apart except for their fear of admitting their feelings to each other. Junior high stuff. In fact, Laurens can’t stretch the “boy-chases-girl, boy-gets-girl” part longer than the first half of the novel.

The reason for the lack of tension in Laurens’ more recent novels is that she, like many popular authors, has followed the romance trend toward making the h so “everything,” strong, smart, brave, skilled, etc.; there is no room for her to grow over the course of the book. She doesn’t have to overcome weakness. She doesn’t have to come to terms with her own sexual longings: heck, even in bed, the virgin h in this novel tears off the hero’s clothes and goes down on him. The woman’s only “weakness” is being mildly and temporarily distressed when attempts are made on her life. Geesh!

Concomitantly, Laurens has followed the trend of making the H rather wishy-washy, not particularly strong or skilled or even very cocky, let alone Alpha. This H hasn’t a macho bone in his body. He is supposed to have been a rake but the only rake-like characteristic we are aware of is that he used to sleep around. So, he

was young and single. Big deal.

In the early Cynster novels, the H's were much more rake-like, engaging in numerous risky behaviors as well as bedding lots of women. The earlier H's were also very full of themselves, arrogant, rather Alpha. They would say, "I want this woman. And she WILL be mine." Then they would go after her with all stops out. God, have we lost something when we lost that. These new wishy-washy heroes do nothing for me.

Not that the Bar Cynster women were weak--in fact, emotionally, they were stronger than more contemporary heroines who emote a lot. The original Cynster h's were completely comfortable in their own skins, knew who they were, what they wanted and calmly did whatever needed to be done. I really, really liked them. These h's would say, "No way am I going to hook myself up with this arrogant, macho man who could then control my whole life. My life is very good just the way it is, thank you very much." And, with the control men had over their wives during that period, that decision was a really smart one, not just a ploy of the novelist. I really enjoyed their run-ins with the macho males. It produced all sorts of conflict and tension. And, in the end, the h's had the men eating out of their hands. Great reversal.

Laurens attempts to up the tension in the story by including a murder mystery cum attempted assassination attempts. This plot frankly made me yawn. I skipped over much of the last part of the book it was so boring. In the end, our Superwoman gets her friends to help her plan and carry out the rescue of the H, poor thing.

I must confess I don't understand this trend in historic romance. We are reading these kinds of novels in order to vicariously live as women from a different era. And, yet, Laurens has fallen into the trap of so many historic romance authors, that is, having basically contemporary protagonists in a historic setting. So we miss the drama and fun of conflict with macho men. Heck, the H's in most contemporary romantic suspense books make recent historic romance H's look downright girly. Blah! This means we also miss watching both protagonists grow and change as their relationship grows.

If you are new to Laurens and like a strong male lead, read Devil's Bride, the first novel in the series about a set of cousins known as the Bar Cynster. For a particularly hot novel in the series, try the fifth one, A Secret Love.

Oh, Stephanie Laurens, I sure am sorry we lost your wonderful characters. Won't you give us a strong male lead and a female who has some weaknesses? And, protagonists who grow and change over the course of the novel.

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### **Aurian Booklover says**

It has been 8 years since their cousin Anjelica handed the magical pendant to Henrietta, but Henriette has not worn it in years. She doesn't think she is meant to find a love match, and the pendant is supposed to help her find her one and only hero, the one man who can make her happy in marriage. But Mary is 22 now, and she wants to start her own life, which means Henrietta has to find her husband first, and then she will be able to give Mary the pendant on the evening of her engagement ball, as tradition wants it.

She refuses to accept the pendant now, and Henrietta doesn't have much choice but to start wearing it again, as her little sister is relentless when she wants something. It is apparent that Mary already has her eyes set on a certain gentleman, but she does not want to reveal his name, she wants things done properly, and the pendants acknowledgement. Of course fate doesn't work that way, but Mary will find that out in her own

book.

That evening Henrietta has to tell her best friend Melinda Wentworth and her parents what she has found out about Melinda's latest suitor, James Glossup. Which is not easy, as James is one of her brother Simon's best friends. But Melissa wants to marry for love, and James is not in love with her. She knows he has to marry to get his great aunts fortune. Which means he is not a fortune hunter, as he has money enough of his own, but he is not after Melinda for love. Melinda is disappointed, as James is a fine figure, but she also did suspect those facts already, or she would not have asked Henrietta to look into things.

James though is furious when he finds out that Henrietta meddled in his affairs. He needs to be married before the end of next month, or he will loose his great aunts money, and he needs that to keep up the properties he has inherited from her. Which means he will have to fire all the staff and servants, and he really does not want to do that. He is rich, but not nearly rich enough to pay for everything that is necessary. Of course Henrietta did not know that, and when he explains it to her, she promises to help him find a suitable bride.

With Henrietta's guidance, he quickly gets access to the right kind of ladies, and he won't be shunned when it gets known that the Wentworths have rejected him.

Henrietta and James have known each other for many years, as he is her brother's best friend. But they never spend much time together, so they don't really know the other. And now that they are planning and plotting and going out together to find him a suitable bride, there is this unsuspected attraction between them. To his own surprise, James enjoys her company, Henrietta is a smart and elegant young lady, and with 29 used to going her own way. She doesn't need to be chaperoned by her family anymore, and goes out into society on her own.

Dangerous accidents are happening to Henrietta, but luckily James is there to safe her. And when they find out that a dangerous murderer is after Henrietta, as he thinks she might recognize him, they need the whole family to keep her safe and find this killer.

I really enjoyed this story. It read much easier than her previous books, as though she has changed her writing style a little. Less difficult words, and less time spend just thinking. I like this change a lot.

I liked Henrietta, she is very sensible and 29 years, which is firmly on the shelf in that time, but she enjoys her life. Finding a man to love was not on her to-do list at all. I like reading about older heroines in my books, although the sassy debutantes are fun as well. But Henrietta knows what she wants from life, and how to get it. She knows her place in society and uses that to help others find a love match. She is known as the Match Breaker, but she also approves a lot of matches.

James was never in a hurry to marry, which is why his great aunt put that stipulation in her last will. So now he has to hurry and find himself a bride, and one who will agree to be married really soon. He though Melissa would suit him, but he did not know she was after a love match. Nor did he tell her the truth about his own reasons. And while Henrietta is busy making a short list of suitable brides for him, he just wants to put her name on it. But he doesn't want to scare her away by being too hasty. He will just invent reasons why those women won't suit him at all.

But when Henrietta is in danger, all his protective instincts come to the fore, and he just knows she is his. Now he will have to convince Henrietta of this fact.

I loved seeing the whole family including Barnaby and Inspector Stokes rally around them, tying to catch the killer. And he really is a cold blooded psychopath, who managed to surprise me in his cunning ways.

I am looking forward to the next book.

9 stars.

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Full review on my blog, [www.boeklogboek.blogspot.com](http://www.boeklogboek.blogspot.com)

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## Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Posted on Buried Under Romance

It's fair to say that half of the book is a romance story between Henrietta and James, while the second half is involved entirely with the mysterious murderer who's attempting to get rid of Henrietta. The writing is more in tune with Stephanie Laurens's more traditional regencies (naturally, with a degree of "spice" that's prevalent in this genre) than her earlier Cynster novels, Devil's Bride, for example. What didn't hook me to the story wasn't the fact that James is a man exuding a quiet confidence unlike the other alpha heroes of the Cynster family, but that the romance was almost completely overshadowed by the murder, which isn't what one wants to see in a *romance novel*.

It is also unfortunate that the given blurb highly exaggerated the extent of Henrietta's *fall*. Yes, Henrietta was known amongst the ton as "The Matchbreaker," but that is merely a moniker given by the spurned males of those ladies she helped. She was more like a relationship investigator, fishing out details to help ladies determined if their intended is marrying them for love, or for some other purpose. That said, Henrietta was far from denying the institution of marriage, mainly waiting for the right man to sweep her off her feet, which, given her logical and relatively sangfroid nature, had frightened many off until James.

James is the best friend to Henrietta's brother Simon, and due his grandmother's will decreeing he must marry by a certain date or forfeit his inheritance, in which case he would have to no way to support his lands and people, he has increasingly found Henrietta the object of his affections. The more time they spend together convinces him of this fact, and so the first half of the book is involved with James's trying to woo Henrietta and her trying to ascertain her own feelings for James.

My other disappointment lies in that the characters seem too generic, too flat to be of real substance. There really was no spark flying off the pages between them (the "consuming passion" seemed to pop out of nowhere); they both seemed to accept that they liked each other enough, and after a time, convinced that it's love. Well it's acceptable to certain standards, I certainly expected more out of a Stephanie Laurens novel. In fact, the villain of the story seemed more interesting character-wise than either James or Henrietta, and he's a cold-blooded murderer!

My final verdict on this is unfortunately, disappointment. Even without the alpha traits of the Cynsters males that have captivated fans for ages, the story could still have progressed better, more of a "capturing" of Henrietta (she was unwed by age 29, after all), anything but having the last half of the book turn into a murder mystery that did nothing to further the romance, as James and Henrietta had already gotten together

before that.

I am waiting to read Mary's book, though it may or may not be the last Cynster novel I read. I am waiting to read Mary's book, though it may or may not be the last Cynster novel I read, seeing as the allure of feisty, intelligent heroines paired with protective, alpha males is gone.

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## Olga Godim says

I received my review copy of this book – Kindle edition – from Edelweiss, as part of an online book tour. The novel tells a story of Henrietta, a twenty-nine-year-old ton lady and the society Matchbreaker. For years, she's been investigating her female friends' prospective grooms for the possibility of a love match. When she finds out that James, who is wooing her friend Melinda, doesn't love her, Henrietta delivers the sad news to Melinda, and the match is broken.

James is furious. He has a reason to marry (quite honorable, as it's revealed later) and a deadline, and Henrietta's meddling destroyed his hopes of the timely match. When he confronts her with his accusations, she feels sorry for him and promises to find him another bride, and do it swiftly to adhere to his deadline. Thus the story starts, and of course, the hero and the heroine fall in love with each other.

My impressions of this book were two-fold. I'll start with what I didn't like and then proceed to what I did like.

I didn't like the POV jumping from head to head without a pause, occasionally inside the same paragraph. It was jarring and disorienting.

I didn't like any of the secondary characters – there are plenty of them, and they're all flat, interchangeable. I didn't like the over-long explanations of the heroes' feelings and the extended, convoluted sentences that stretch indefinitely throughout the tale. Sometimes, such sentences appear in dialog, and by the time the closing quotes arrived, I wondered what it was the person was really saying.

To counteract the above failings, the story was charming, divided into two clear parts. The first part deals with Henrietta and James falling in love, dancing around each other in tentative confusion, asking themselves the same ages-old questions: Does she love me? Does he love me?

James's reaction to Henrietta is original and utterly gratifying to female readers:

*“...her perfume, a subtle blend of citrus and rose, wreathed his brain and trapped his wits.”*

By the middle of the book, the lovers' doubts are resolved. They decide to get married, but a new, much more sinister problem arises. Someone is trying to kill Henrietta. Strange incidents keep happening to her, and only James's courageous interventions save her life again and again. The protagonists must deal with the dire situation before they can savor their well-deserved happily-ever-after.

This second half of the book, the part of mystery and danger, reads much faster, the tension mounts on every page, and the pacing picks up considerably. The only moments when the action stops dead are the torrid sex scenes. In my opinion, there are too many of them and they are too long, but that is a subject to taste. When each of their brush with death leads our heroes to unrestrained bouts in the bedroom, I can't really hold it against them.

Another aspect of the novel I enjoyed is its heroine, Henrietta. A smart, no nonsense young woman, she is at times compassionate and kind, sensual and brave. She loves James deeply and is ready to sacrifice her life for him... within reason and with the help and support of her relatives and friends. I found her realistic approach refreshing and practically unique in the romance genre. .

And then, there is the antagonist – the bad guy of the novel. Exceptionally smart and absolutely ruthless, he

is almost impossible to defeat, a worthy opponent for Henrietta and James. The entire clan of Henrietta's family mobilizes to topple the blackguard. The musings of the family's head, the duke, are worthy of a special notice:

*“...how we can identify the gentleman who, quite aside from already being a double-murderer, apparently thinks it’s wise to take aim at a Cynster.”*

The arrogance of this statement took my breath away. Would it be OK, I wondered, if the murderer didn't target a Cynster? Aside from this one twitch of my low-classed sense of equality, misplaced in this case, I believe, I relished watching Henrietta and James bringing down their enemy. The protagonists' victory was so much sweeter because the villain was so magnificently scary.

Overall, a good story. Recommended for fans of historical romance.

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### **Mary Gramlich says**

Everyone heroine needs a hero to stand by her side

Every Cynster family member had a specific role to play and did so with grace. Henrietta was known for her ability to unmake the wrong match as love was in the air and needed to be in a marriage as well. When Henrietta thought a match for James Glossup was a mistake she stated her case and the young woman walked. However, James needs a timely match and Henrietta is going to make not break this man's heart.

However, the match that is made surprises everyone but Henrietta and James who may have freely spoken to others but held their affection for each other silently. The only problem now is Henrietta has to stay alive long enough to make both their dreams come true. Henrietta is not sure whom she saw one foggy night but that person is convinced she can identify them and whatever it takes to stop her will be done. Love is a rocky and bumpy road but it is not usually connected with actual rocks being hurled at you!

Stephanie Laurens fills the pages of her books with charming characters and fabulous love stories that bring a sigh to your lips.

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### **Debra says**

If you can ignore Ms. Laurens' propensity to say the same thing in ten different ways in the span of a paragraph, especially during her love scenes, then this book is a fine addition to her Cynster series. Harriett Cynster, nicknamed the Matchbreaker for helping other women of her station sniff out their beaus' ulterior motives, finds herself falling in love with James Glossup, one of her victims. When she's made to feel guilty over her interference, James enlists her in helping him compile a list of likely mates from the tons' assortment of debutantes. With the help of a special necklace that's been handed down to Harriet from older Cynster cousins, both she and he realize that what he's looking for is pretty close at hand.

The standard Laurens format is present here. What is so good about her books is how quickly you come to love her characters. So despite the ridiculousness of some of her writing (honestly, her books would be much better if she would just tone down her repetitiveness), this one is a must read if you are a fan of the Cynsters.

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## **Victoria says**

I received a review copy of this book from Edelweiss.

Stephanie Laurens is usually hit and miss for me. I either love her books, or are just eh. This was an unexpected big hit.

Henrietta is firmly on the shelf at 29 and is something of a 'Matchbreaker' as other young ladies seek her advice on their marriage prospects. Henrietta uses her extensive connections to find out whether a particular young man has any ulterior motives for offering for a particular young lady since 'love matches' are all the rage. When she thwarts a potential match, she finds some young men have better reasons than others to marry for practical reasons. Enter James. In a somewhat surprising moment of conscience, Henrietta offers to help him find a bride in a short period of time. Instead, the two realize they want no one but each other. This all happens by the middle of the book, as the rest of the book turns toward the mystery of who is trying to kill Henrietta, which turns into an exceedingly interesting plot device. I was pleasantly surprised at the turn of events that led the reader through the mystery.

If you like Stephanie Laurens, definitely read this latest installment in the Cynster family series!

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## **Farrah says**

This review also appears on my blog at <http://www.thegoldenruleof666.blogspot.com>...

A wonderful romance! *And Then She Fell* was a sweet, lovely historical romance that I really enjoyed.

Henrietta was a brilliant heroine. She's a little different in the world of historical romance. Her reputation of "The Matchbreaker" makes her a go-to for any bride that wants to know if her fiance is being honest. Obviously, Henrietta is very clever. But, not only that, she was also a very strong heroine when she got caught in the middle of a murder mystery. I especially liked that she wasn't one of the heroines that was in denial about being in love for most of the book. Once she realized that she loved James, she knew and she did everything she could to win him over. I really liked her-she was lovely.

James was just as marvelous. He has to marry to inherit land that his grandmother left him or all the people working the property would be out of jobs. He immediately comes off as a perfect love interest. For one, his motives for inheriting his property were entirely unselfish. And he continues to prove himself as a swoon-worthy hero. He is very sweet and very clever in dealing with the murderer. I really adored him.

Henrietta and James were very sweet together. They realize early on that they are in love with each other and it doesn't take long for them to admit it. They were mostly a sweet couple, just a sprinkle of spice but it was enough to keep things interesting.

The plot was okay. It moved quickly, for the most part. But, about halfway through, the plot stalled for a few chapters. It wasn't terrible, but it did keep me from being totally invested in the story the whole time. But, everything else was brilliant.

The issue of James looking for a wife and the two characters getting together was resolved about a third of the way through. The other two thirds was about the couple dealing with a murderer who is coming after Henrietta in a murder mystery that had me on the edge of my seat. That was brilliantly done. The culprit ended up being someone I never would have guessed.

The ending was lovely, nice and sweet.

And Then She Fell is a wonderful historical romance, one that I would recommend to any lover of the genre!

\*Thanks to Edelweiss and Avon for a copy!

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### **Jen Davis says**

#### **2.5 Stars**

I know there is much more to a book than the sex scenes. In fact, I have read some very good books that had no sex scenes in them at all. But just like bad sex can ruin a relationship, so too can it ruin a book. Especially when the book was just ok to start with.

OK. That sounds harsh. Let me back up a little.

And Then She Fell is the latest installment in Stephanie Laurens uber-huge Cynster series. It focuses on Henrietta Cynster, who has come to be known as "the Matchbreaker." She has made it her mission to help young ladies weed out the fortune seekers among potential suitors. At 29, she doesn't really believe marriage is in her own future. But when her younger sister asks her to don the Lady's crystal necklace and seek out her hero, she agrees to try.

It just so happens that she has recently ruined the marriage prospects of her brother's best friend, James, who desperately needs to wed to earn his inheritance and save the livelihood of the people who work his land. When Henrietta learns of the mess she made, she agrees to help him find a new bride. And of course, they end up falling for each other.

The romance wasn't bad. Both James and Henrietta were pretty likeable characters. It was easy enough to root for them to make a go of it, though neither was truly remarkable enough to thoroughly invest me. There was a little extra oomph worked in when someone starts trying to kill Henrietta and James must save her over and over again.

But then they get to the bedroom and it was all over the top figurative language and ... just... see for yourself:

Her maidenhead ruptured and she didn't even flinch; instead, the honeyed walls of her heated sheath tamped tight around his rigid member, the ultimate velvet vice...

Clinging, gasping and utterly in thrall, they reached for the peak, the thunder in their veins escalating, the thudding of their hearts a single beat that swept them on, whipped them higher.

Until they broke through the clouds and ecstasy beckoned, as hot as the sun and more brilliant than the stars...

That elemental tide of pure sensation wrecked them, wracked them, then, like flotsam, flung them high and far, out and into the void.

To where glory rolled in and filled them, healed them, sealed them, fused and remade them.

Then, with a gentle hand, set them floating free, bliss-filled on a golden sea.

In the second love scene, alliteration joined the party.

Reassuring, restating, revisiting, and reiterating, they dived in again, plunged in again, seized and surrendered and shared the scintillating delights once again.

I could not stop rolling my eyes. Which made it very difficult to keep reading. Yet I did. And the big villain reveal was a total fail, because he was nobody we had even met before in the course of the book. Can you spell anticlimactic?

(\*sigh\*) I know a lot of people love Laurens' early work, but this is my fourth try with her. The others were so-so. After this, I just don't see me reading her again.

Rating: C-

\*ARC Provided by Avon

*\*ARC Provided by Avon*

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### **Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says**

Super, super dull. There is no huge conflict in this novel at all, and the writing is on par with Stephanie Laurens' other works; good, enjoyable, but nothing exemplary that would evoke strong emotions like make me want to burst into laughter (Julia Quinn) or sob like a baby over a big pint of Ben & Jerry's (Lisa Kleypas). There are no big overwhelming conflict over the entire book, there's a minor plot of oh, danger, Will Robinson, but it's done rather...halfheartedly. I felt like the danger and intrigue are thrown in there to flesh out the nonexistent plot rather than as an integral part of the story itself.

There is absolutely nothing to prevent the two h/h getting together. Hell, Henrietta even has a magical-heirloom-necklace that is pretty much a compass that would point her to the right man. Shockingly, her sister Mary digs it up and gives it to Henrietta to wear just before she meets James. And when she meets him, it warms up! Shocking! Gasp! James even admits his attraction and growing love for Henrietta right after their second or so encounter. She's a spinster, but those are a dime a dozen in romance novels, he's a bit of a rake, but nothing compared to others I've read in Regency books. He sleeps around a little bit. Horrors! But he's all ready to settle down and is actively looking for a bride to fulfill his filial responsibility and all, so his rakish ways are in the past. Way, way in the past. Like almost nonexistent. As in he is as boring as they come. Which is not necessarily a bad thing, but if he's so nice and she's so nice, what's stopping them from coming together? Fah. No conflict at all.

I guess I'm used to the usual Stephanie Laurens formula of rakish men like Devil, Lucifer, etc., the reformed rakes, so that when a character like James comes along, he becomes unfairly dull in comparison. I don't really like rakish men; sleeping around, gambling? Pff, give me a nice guy any day, but I have to admit that they do add a little spice when it comes to a good romance novel. This book is so boring that it needs a little

bit of heat.

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### **Tracy says**

Oh my goodness. It has been some time since I read a Cynster book, and after reading this one all I want to do is to go find all the stories of the older cousins the Bar Cynsters. I had faithfully read all the Cynster books till the Cynsters Sisters Trilogy, when for what ever reason I just dropped the ball and missed those- so now I'm off to find and read those book.

This book like the others takes you back to the 1800s London, and you get transported to that time period with this book. I have always loved that about these book its to easy to get lost in that time period. With Simons younger sister Henrietta, who has made a name for herself as the Matchbreaker. She has the uncanny ability to find out truths that others want to be hidden. So her peers have turned to her to find out if that particular someone who is courting then is really the one for them. Since most want a love match, they usually want to know if the gentleman really loves them or is only after their money or something else. So Henrietta has become a great friend to the ladies but someone that the gentlemen don't always like because she has thwarted many marriage plans due to her knowledge. But Henrietta is also quick to point out that she has helped many couples to the alter too by her information gathering.

In this case though Henrietta is helping out a close friend Melinda learn why James Glossup is really courting her, its not the love match that Melinda really wants. But what Henrietta later learns is that James really does need to marry, or else those people who depend on him for their lively hood might just find themselves in deep trouble do to James an inheritance from his grandaunt. So Henrietta decides to find James a wife that will really work for him, because she sees that James is really trying his best to take care of those who he is ultimately responsible for.

So Henrietta and James spend a lot of time together combing the eligible ladies who might be right for James. During this time they both start to fall for each other, but due to their relationship it takes a lot for them to really admit it to themselves and then to the other person. Add into the mix the 'accidents' that are happening to Henrietta where James is forced to come to her rescue.

This is a really good story, the characters, both the new ones and our old favorites are as likable and as interesting as ever. There is plenty of mystery, intrigue, suspense, romance and even murder to keep you turning the page.

This book was provided to me by the publisher via Edelweiss. The rating, review, and all opinions are my own

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### **Chitra \*CJ\* says**

Henrietta Cynster, Simon's sister is the 29 year old, known in the society as the "matchbreaker"- as mama's and prospective brides rush for her opinion due to her strong connections regarding their husbands' intentions for marrying them.

When one such match leads her breaking James Glossup's engagement, he confronts her about his reasons and she decides to help him find a bride.

Soon they realize they are actually attracted to one another and heavily give into their passions. While their marriage is fixed, a murderer tries to harm Henrietta which forms the rest of the story. Pretty classic Cynster novel. Same plot, different couple. Few but heavy in lust love scenes. It was a good read overall.

Coming to the epilogue- Mary and Ryder do sound interesting.. but I hope its not the same wolf in different sheep's clothing.

Safe

3.25/5

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