



Gentlemen Prefer Mischief

Emily Greenwood

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It's going to take a dash of mischief to bring these two together...

If it hadn't been for the haunted woods, Lily Teagarden would never have spoken to her neighbor, Viscount Roxham. Known to the fashionable world as Lord Perfect, to Lily he's a man she can never respect...and the careless rogue who broke her fledgling heart. But sightings of eerie lights among his trees are causing her trouble, and she needs his help.

Intrigued by this prim beauty who was once an ugly duckling, Roxham agrees to investigate, though hardly has he begun when she mysteriously undermines his efforts. The mischief she throws in his path awakens his sleeping heart, just as his touch stirs a passion she can't accept. But Roxham is the last man to whom Lily would surrender, and it's going to take everything he's got to win her love.

Gentlemen Prefer Mischief Details

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Author : Emily Greenwood

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From Reader Review Gentlemen Prefer Mischief for online ebook

Jayne dArcy says

The story was a good one but I found it difficult to empathize with Lily. She was very hard-headed to the point she almost lost Hal's affections.

Kristilyn (Reading In Winter) says

After my just-okay historical romance read of last week, which I reviewed on NetGalley and not the blog, followed by a historical romance that I ended up DNFing in a case of I'm-sure-it's-just-me-and-not-the-book, I was happy to dig into a book — do I need to say it was a historical romance? — that was enjoyable right from the start.

Gentlemen Prefer Mischief by Emily Greenwood was a lot of fun, mainly because I loved the two main characters, Hal and Lily. They had known each other from when they were young and now Hal was the viscount and lived a loose and carefree life, while Lily was trying to make something of herself, even if it made her look like a stuffy, uptight governess (which she wasn't). It was fun to see the two navigate not only their life, but each other, neither of them thinking they deserved the other, or that they were right for one another.

Of course, since they knew each other from the past, part of the fun came from how honest they were with one another. Not only did Hal come across as a giant ass in some parts of the story, but Lily wasn't a quiet mouse, either. They really had it at each other — in more than one way, wink wink — and while parts of their dialogue had me wondering where the romance was (seriously, it was there in spades, but just so much arguing!), it was refreshing to see a story where it wasn't ALL swooning.

Not only that, but there was another love story going on in the background with Hal's sister Eloise. THAT story was a lot of fun, especially since Eloise was an almost-shallow 16-year-old who wanted the prettiest boy in the room, despite the fact that he wanted nothing to do with her. It was great to see both Lily and Hal help her figure out how to woo the right man for her.

The only reason I didn't completely fall head over heels for this story is that there's this substory going on with a childhood friend of Lily's, Nate. He's trying to search the woods by Hal's house for a buried family treasure — but the light he casts in the woods spooks the sheep and the people of the town think that it's haunted. That story was just kind of in the background and while it was what initially intrigued me in the beginning (ooh, ghosts!) it kind of fell flat by the end. I was more interested in the story of Lily and Hal, or of Eloise than I was of the Woods Fiend.

This is my favourite kind of historical romance, full of humour and wonderful characters, as well as plenty of romance. Much better than the previous two I had tried. I think I liked it mostly because it didn't have the strong man character and the weakling female character — instead they were both strong characters with firm opinions, neither of them afraid to share them with one another. It was fun to watch them butt heads throughout the story!

This is the second book in a series, so I'm definitely intrigued to go back and read the first one now.

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Gentlemen Prefer Mischief by Emily Greenwood

Book Two of the Mischief series

Publisher: Sourcebooks Casablanca

Publication Date: December 3, 2013

Rating: 4 stars

Source: eARC from NetGalley

Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers

Summary (from Goodreads):

It's going to take a dash of mischief to bring these two together...

If it hadn't been for the haunted woods, Lily Teagarden would never have spoken to her neighbor, Viscount Roxham. Known to the fashionable world as Lord Perfect, to Lily he's a man she can never respect...and the careless rogue who broke her fledgling heart. But sightings of eerie lights among his trees are causing her trouble, and she needs his help.

Intrigued by this prim beauty who was once an ugly duckling, Roxham agrees to investigate, though hardly has he begun when she mysteriously undermines his efforts. The mischief she throws in his path awakens his sleeping heart, just as his touch stirs a passion she can't accept. But Roxham is the last man to whom Lily would surrender, and it's going to take everything he's got to win her love.

What I Liked:

What a fun yet bittersweet historical romance novel! I had zero expectations for this book, when I started it, since I didn't really remember the synopsis at the time, and I haven't read the previous book in the series, or any others books by Greenwood. So, I suppose you could say that I was pleasantly surprised by this novel! For the most part, I like the historical romance novels I read. I pick and choose the ones that I want to read, because I have a feeling that the story will be great.

Well, this novel was no exception. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about Hal and Lily. There was something about this couple that was so different from the other historical romance novels that I have read. Maybe because it was not really all about the high society, the ton, and so on. Those aspects were a part of this novel, but they weren't what governed the novel.

Lily is a different type of heroine, and Hal is a different type of rake. Lily has had an infatuation with Hal since she was a young girl. Four years later, at twenty, she is more sensible and hardened to such things. She has taken on so much more and does not care for romance, at that point. She has a shawl business to run, and a school to fund and open. But she doesn't account for falling in love with Hal and his wicked charms. That wasn't part of the plan - loving someone unpredictable, not grounded, not genuinely pure and good.

This novel is set around Hal and Lily's budding relationship. They dance around each other, they collide mercilessly, they evade each other (well, that's mostly Lily avoiding Hal), and the dance continues. You might think, this would grow tiresome, right? No, not really. Greenwood has a way of setting up each scene that it isn't very repetitive. Each scene seems to reveal something new about Hal or Lily or someone.

I really like Lily. She is sensible and rational. She knows exactly what she wants, and while this makes her rigid, she has a mind of her own, and she doesn't let others govern her. She is fiery, but in a cool, calculating sense, not a spitfire sense.

Hal is playful and wicked, charming and sensitive. He isn't your typical rake - he has a good heart. He cares about his family, his position, Lily's feelings... under all of his naughty layers, he is truly a wonderful man. He is the stability Lily needs - a carefree type of reined-in stability. Lily is exactly what he needs - calm, collected grounding. They are so perfect for each other. Readers definitely get to see this when they interact, because they point out each other's weaknesses, dig deep, and cut right to the heart of what the other is feeling.

All in all, I really enjoyed this story. It is definitely a romance story first (though there is a subplot), and it is a great one. This will probably be one of my go-to historical romance recommendations.

What I Did Not Like:

There was one thing that bothered me. This book is about Hal and Lily. So, why did the author randomly start including scenes in the perspective of Eloise (Hal's sister) and Donwell (a suitor of Eloise)? Granted, Lily sort of played matchmaker with those two, pushing them together one time, under the guise of wanting a sketch of a lady and a gentleman, but still. It was so random. Like, all of a sudden, in the middle of the book, quite a few scenes are written in either Eloise's or Donwell's perspective. Weird. Totally unnecessary. I don't see how the firsthand account of Donwell and Eloise's courtship added to Hal and Lily's story.

Would I Recommend It:

I would definitely recommend this novel to historical romance lovers! Regular readers should try not to miss this one. You'll fall in love with Hal and Lily!

Rating:

4 stars. I might just go back and read the first book! I'll definitely be catching other books in this series.

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

This was an interesting read, to be sure. I really enjoy Lily's character - her focus and mission are all admirable, yet she meets her match in Hal, who seems determined to crack Lily's serious exterior. I did not quite like Hal's devil-may-care attitude at first, because he really seemed bent on tormenting (albeit not in a bad way) Lily with her earlier girlish infatuation for him, and wasn't very concerned for her reputation or her person. However, he slowly gained honor throughout the story, and a sense of self - to stop wallowing in self-pity for not being the perfect viscount that his deceased brother should have been, but to simply be himself and do the best he can as viscount. That was when he became truly deserving of Lily's affection and love.

Overall, this was a nice story though Hal's transformation still lacked something - a certain anguish in his character, or a reason, perhaps, for his previous scoundrel-like behavior.

*ARC via the publisher for an honest review

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

Setting:Regency England

Steam Factor: Mild-"Hot"

Book 2 in the "Mischief Trilogy"

With strange lights flickering among the trees in Mayfield Woods and rumours that Lily Teagarden's sheep are possessed, her now meager income is disappearing fast. So now Lily will have to seek out Hal Waverly the new Viscount of Roxham to help her out. Hal..amused agrees to look into the mysterious lights, but he is also intent upon taking the starch out of Lily by showing her that pleasure can be fun and that passion as well is nothing to feel guilty about. Meanwhile though, she gives him pause to think about what it means to be Viscount Roxham. Both of them will have to come to a meeting of the minds and look toward a future filled with respect, trust, and love. A devilish charming ex-army Captain, and a righteous young lady, a mysterious haunted woods and a cast of delightful supporting characters made up for a nicely written and sensual emotional read. While I enjoyed the read it didn't give me the "Wow" factor but it was better than the first book. I must say...I'm looking forward to getting back to my "Oldie" historical romances once I get them unpacked. While I find some of the newer romances good, they don't really carry me away to another place like the Bodice-Ripper/Historical romances of the past do. But I still like cracking open a newer one once and a while for now just to see if it can do "almost" the same.:)

Blodeuedd Finland says

I have reached a conclusion that I really enjoy house parties in regency romances, there are just so many opportunities for the couple. And yes of course there is one here, why would I mention it otherwise ;)

Lily is really prim and proper. But she had to be the one who kept it all together. While Hal is carefree and reckless. He was never meant to be a viscount. She had a crush on him when younger, he crushed those feelings (well not crushed but teased it out of her). They are such an unlikely couple. But she needs someone who makes her let loose, and he needs someone that teaches him values.

The romance, oh tease tease, anger and banter. They have a long way to go and the more they argue the more they want each other.

There is also the hunt for some lights in the woods but mostly it's about these two arguing and making it very fun to read.

A light fun romance.

Brittany says

Reviewed for Book Soulmates

Lily Teagarden is a serious, orderly, and restrained young lady. She has always been the responsible and dependable one in her family out of necessity. Her neighbor, Viscount Roxham (Hal), is quite the opposite. Known as “Lord Perfect,” Hal is charming and carefree with a scandalous reputation. Lily hasn’t seen Hal in a very long time. She’s still embarrassed that he caught her sneaking around in his bushes years ago, drawing pictures of him and writing about him in her journal. In fact, he stole her journal and she desperately wants to get it back now. When he returns home, she visits him to inform him of what’s happening in Mayfield Woods. Strange lights have been seen and now rumors are circulating about a Wood Fiend. Lily can’t sell her knitted shawls because people believe the sheep have been possessed, and she needs the money in order to open up a school for girls in the village. She asks Hal to step in and clear up all this Wood Fiend nonsense.

Gentlemen Prefer Mischief is the second novel in Emily Greenwood’s Mischief series. I am actually somewhat new to reading historical romances set in Regency England, so I was excited to give this one a try. I was definitely not disappointed!

I really enjoyed the opposites-attract romance between two contrasting personalities. Hal was able to bring out Lily’s passionate side and get her to let loose a little. And once Lily got to know Hal a bit better, she realized that he wasn’t as shallow as she once thought. While their physical attraction was scorching hot, they also fell in love with each other more and more deeply, no matter how hard they tried to fight it. There were plenty of playful moments in which Hal and Lily stole the journal back and forth from one another. It was fun to read excerpts from the journal that Hal decoded.

My one minor complaint is that I think there was a little too much information included about the secondary characters and their relationships. I think it distracted a bit too much from the main plot. But overall, I enjoyed the novel and raced through it.

If you like sexy and enchanting historical romances, look no further than Emily Greenwood’s novels. Gentlemen Prefer Mischief is a fun read, and I agree with Greenwood that “romance is the chocolate of literature”!

Debbie Lester says

Emily Greenwood's second book in the Regency Mischief series, Gentlemen Prefer Mischief, is out of the ordinary for Regency romances. With a plot device like haunted sheep, how could it be otherwise? This novel also features a prim and proper heroine who could use a little mischief of her own in her life. Greenwood's knack for character development is showcased here, when Lily is forced to acknowledge that she may have feelings for the Viscount next door. A good sophomore effort by an up and coming author!

What I liked:

Contrary to what some readers enjoy. I liked Lily and her closed up, buttoned up ways. Part of the charm of

this book, was Hal's teasing and bantering with her, to get her to come out of that proper lady shell. Greenwood let's Lily's character simmer under the surface, behind a lot of no-nonsense behavior and duty driven attitudes. But I had a feeling there was more to her than met the eye and Hal eventually finds it. Lily is a woman of contradictions and I enjoyed her a lot.

Hal, the Viscount Roxham was a true hero in my opinion. He may be a rake, but he's a rake with a conscience. He is a kind man, who understands his duty to his position and family, but he doesn't turn it inward like Lily has done. He is outspoken and boisterous and I understood how he was so enchanted with Lily, she was completely opposite of what the reader thought this kind of man would want. It was a great idea and for me it worked.

Who doesn't love some outrageousness, especially in a Regency romance? The ton is so full of rules and regulations and this must be that way and that must be this way's. I thought the haunted sheep and the reason behind them was a great idea. It brought the hero and the heroine together and it provided a back drop to their growing affection for each other. The fiend was certainly a very fun element to this story.

What I didn't like:

Having read Greenwood's first book, I was excited to read this one. There were definitely some things I liked, but there were a few things that bothered me with this one as well. The pacing was off a bit. I couldn't put my finger on what the issue was for awhile but then I realized that there was just too much going on. I loved the story surrounding Hal and Lily, but the diversion into the the romance of Hal's sister was a merely a distraction that wasn't needed. Perhaps this was set up for the next book, but it took away some of the originality from this novel.

i v a n a says

A cute romance novel with a solid plot and brilliant writing! Not at all trashy or dumb and I loved the progression and past/future of the romance bw Lily and Hal ❤️? honestly a great comfy read!

Tasha says

This is book #2 of Mischief series. Mr. Perfect, Hal's book. If you have been reading this series as I have you met him in book one trying for Felicity's hand (or rather bothering his friend, James). Hal is not wanting to be a viscount because he was only supposed to be the spare but his brother died so he had to take over. He goes home to Mayfield for a time with his sister, Eloise and his brother, John. While he was gone so long, people started making up stuff about a ghost in his woods and thinking that his neighbor, Lily's sheep are possessed. Lily marches over to his estate to set the record straight only to encounter a different type of trouble. You'll have to read it to find out what happened. I loved it!

Drea (LilyElement Reviews) says

Lily Teagarden's future is in jeopardy thanks to the Woods Fiend her absent neighbor hasn't bothered to deal with. So when Lord Roxham returns, Lily demands he ferret out the truth. Too late she discovers the fiend is

a friend in need. Now Lily must protect him against the very man she's set upon him. That means distraction and spirited games of one-upmanship. What neither Roxham nor Lily counted on was that two seemingly opposite people might be perfect for each other.

It's been a few months since I've been able to get lost in a Regency romance, and this was the perfect one for me to pick up. Lily is mostly relatable despite the period, and Hal is a sexy hero. Their sparring kept me turning the pages. And most importantly, the love scenes were steamy ;)

I give this 4*.

The middle dragged on a little long for my taste and there were some writing style things I disliked otherwise I'd have given it a 5*. (Re: writing style—so much was in this format “the sleeve of his coat” instead of “his coat’s sleeve”)

SOS Aloha says

There are but very few men clever enough to know all the mischief they do. - Francois de La Rochefoucauld

Viscount Roxham is clever enough to know the mischief he engages, particularly with his childhood neighbor, Lily Teagarden. Roxham is a psychiatrist's dream project – he reluctantly inherited the title when when his older brother, groomed for the position, unexpected dies (while Roxham, a disappointment to his father, survives the Peninsular War). He carries scars from combat, having witnessed a hungry soldier executed for stealing food. He flirts his way through the ton, but is intrigued by the now-grown-up-but-very-countrified Lily. When she approaches him with a dilemma, he taunts her in many ways. Roxham challenges her to face her demons while ignoring his own.

Greenwood delivers an enjoyable Regency romance set in the country, including a house party, likable characters, and even a night viewing of the twinkling stars. The Wood Fiend, the focus of the book blurb, somewhat sits in the background until the very end with a surprising twist. Meanwhile, the action seemed to in different directions and I did not care for the budding romance between secondary characters. Yet Greenwood excelled with the tit-for-tat exchange between Lily and Roxham as they battle for possession of Lily's diary. Kudos, Ms. Greenwood, for an entertaining read.

I received an ARC from Sourcebooks for an honest review.

Farrah says

My Rating: 2.5/5

An okay read. Gentlemen Prefer Mischief was a sweet historical romance with an interesting mystery. I didn't love it, but I did enjoy it.

Roxham was super sweet. He was wonderful and adorable and just perfect. He's very lighthearted and a fun character. He could be as sweet as sugar. But, don't underestimate him. He was incredibly clever, which he needed to be in the situation he was in. He was the saving grace of the book. I thought he was great and I

adored him.

But, Lily, I didn't like. At all. She was mean and judgmental and she really needed to get off her high horse. She acted like she was so perfect and she had to spend all her time on others. And, not in a good way. In a sanctimonious way that made her see all the fun in life as frivolity and everyone who had fun in their life as frivolous. And, the way she treated Roxham. She was so mean to him. And, I couldn't understand why. I couldn't figure out what made her hate him in the first place. Just because she had a youthful crush on him that he didn't return? She never even said anything to him, so it's not like he broke her heart. I just couldn't understand her issue with him. She was very unfair to him. Roxham was a gentleman at heart, sweet and kind. But, she was determined to think the worst of him. And, because of that, she hurt him several times. The only bright spot is that, near the end, she finally realized how wrong she had been and knew that she had to be the one to make amends. That made me soften up to her a bit. But, I still didn't like her.

The romance was sweet and steamy. Even though I didn't like Lily, I still thought she and Roxham were sweet together. Mostly because Roxham was so adorable with how he was determined to win Lily over. And, the chemistry between them was hot.

The plot was well paced, but a little slow in some parts. I was kept interested the entire way through. And, I thought the ending was very sweet.

I had my issues with Gentlemen Prefer Mischief, but I still did enjoy it. It was a nice read, but I definitely didn't love it. I don't know if I would recommend it. I suppose, if what bothered me wouldn't bother you, then go for it.

*I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

N.W. Moors says

I've had this book on my reader for a while and just 'rediscovered' it. It's a little hard to get into as I found the plot a bit hokey, but about halfway in I started to enjoy the story.

Hal is the playful boy-next-door that Lily had a crush on when she was sixteen. Four years have passed and Hal is now the Viscount and a veteran of the Peninsular wars while Lily is running a secret knitting business to start a school for the girls in her village. She's very serious, especially when confronted by Hal's lighthearted teasing, but she fascinates Hal. I found Lily kind of prickly and not that likable, but Hal was definitely worth reading this book for. They do make a good couple once they both grow up some.

This is a quick read and I enjoyed the second half a lot. I was surprised by a subplot with Hal's sister and her romance. I expected that might be the next book in the series, but it seems to have been resolved here - I just wasn't sure why it got thrown in.

Shannon The Romance Addict! says

True Love at it's finest!!! LOVED IT! LOVED HAL!

h: Lily Teagarden serious , responsible.

H: Viscount Roxham "Lord Perfect" carefree, lives for the next excitement.

Lily and Hal have lived closed as long as forever. Lily was in love with hal at 16 and used to sneak around writing about her love for him and drawing pictures of him in her private journal. So one night he caught her in his bushes and takes her private journal and won't give it back. Cut to 4 years later Lily is a different person then the free loving carefree youth of 16. So when the Mystery of the eerie lights start to interfere with her shawls she goes and gets "Lord Perfect" to do his duty and take care of the problem. When Hal see who Lily has turned into he can't believe his eyes, but Lily wants nothing to do with him she just wants him to solve the mystery of the lights. This is a great book I really liked it. I loved Hal so sweet and so bad at the same time. I was so happy that Lily could let go and let some of Hals carefree life in to her's. Loved it! I also love Hal's and Lily's little sisters they were just too much. I wish I could read their story also.
