



## The Chase

*Sara Portman*

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*In this thrilling romance from award-winning author Sara Portman, the illegitimate son of a nobleman and a woman on the run chase their fate on the London Road . . .* According to his father's terms, Michael Rosevear's duty is to be ignored--until such time as he is useful. Now that the earldom is in need of funds, Michael is to be sold off in marriage to the daughter of a crass but wealthy merchant willing to pay for any connection to nobility--even one from the wrong side of the blanket . . .

En route to his fate in London, Michael does not plan to board an extra passenger. Yet there is something in the young miss's desperate plea that tugs at his conscience--though he is certain her story is a fabrication . . .

Juliana Crawford has fled her father's cruel home. Using a false name to evade pursuit, she must find a private traveler with whom to complete her escape. Chance matches her with a dark and wounded young lord who guards his own secrets just as carefully. The unlikely pair embark on a journey filled with revelations and unexpected adventure--one that may lead them to question whether to part at their destination--or change course entirely. . .

## The Chase Details

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## From Reader Review The Chase for online ebook

### Michelle Cunliffe says

#### Blurb

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#### My Thoughts

This is the third and last book in The Brides of Beadwell. What a series this has been, we started with Emma, then Lucy and now finally Juliana. I cannot recommend this series highly enough, I adored it from beginning to end.

This is the type of series to read, on those cold winter nights. With a lovely fire and cup of hot chocolate and a lovely snuggle jumper.

#### My Review

As you will remember from book 1, Juliana Crawford made a fleeting appearance and as you may remember she lives with her father who has bullied her and beaten her, (as for calling him a father he is a poor excuse of one).

So in this book Juliana has escaped her father (yes I did shout hooray), and is wanting to get to London. Now this were Juliana has a problem she hasn't any money and so she is looking for someone who would help her get to London. So what does she do she asks a gentleman if he would help her get to London. I will give Juliana her due, she may come across as been nervous and frightened but is definitely brave enough to ask a complete stranger to help her to London.

Well I now come too the stranger in question his name is Michael Rosevear who is the illegitimate son of The Marquess of Rosevear, who has a complicated relationship with his father, even though his father has acknowledged Michael, he never gave Michael the family name which is Brinley. Michael lives in Yorkshire at Rose Hall one of his father's many homes that he doesn't use and Michael was sent by his father when he came back injured from the war.

Now from here I really don't want to give too much away, all I will say is Michael has a dog called Gelert a

Irish Wolfhound who slowly wins Juliana's heart. Also Emma and Lucy make a brief appearance. Now I hear you say does Juliana's father catch her, well you will just have to read the book and find out, because that would be spoiling the book.

As I've already mentioned I can highly recommend this book and I will give it 5/5 stars, I really want to give more.

This book is available to buy on 21st November on Amazon.

I received this book from Netgalley in return for a honest review.

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### **Carol Bisig says**

This is now my 17 out of 20 Top Reads for 2017! Loved the traumatized Julianna, who must flee her home, how to get to London? Michael, in pain, from his war wound, traveling in his father's, the Marquess's beautiful carriage, from York, to London. It's more pain than it's worth!

However, Julianna, waiting all day, for someone she can get a ride with, believes that she has finally found the right person, he is obviously old, he is stopped over, and has a walking cane! The problem is, he seems to be traveling with a horse, Gelert the brave, is actually a Wolfhound. Needs must, this is who works up, what courage she can, to ask for a ride to London.

Michael recognizes fear when he sees it! Thus, begins a journey, of fear, mystery, danger, and hope.

I highly recommend Today! Thanks! Enjoy!

Carolintallahassee ?

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### **Lux Lewis says**

This is Book 3, it's as thrilling as Books 1 and 2.

Juliana Crawford and Michael Rosevear are two intriguing characters who met on the road to London. Michael, the bastard son of a Marquess, is reluctantly heading towards his father's house to talk about his impending marriage to someone his father favours. Juliana is running as far away as she can from her cruel father, and plans to begin a new life in Boston.

Juliana and Michael grew up feeling unwanted by their respective fathers. Fate has been kind to them and brought them together but it was never an easy ride for either of them, literally and figuratively.

This is a monumental tale of a woman's personal struggle and survival against her violent father and a man's display of strength of character against all odds.

I absolutely recommend this book. Sara Portman writes about human emotions so well. Five stars.

I voluntarily read an eGalley arc from the publisher. This is my impartial review.

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## **AnnMarie says**

The Chase is the third book in the Brides of Beadwell series by Sara Portman. It can easily be read as a stand-alone story.

Juliana Crawford has left her home and her cruel, violent father with it. She is 25 and has come into a small inheritance which she plans to use to get far away from her father where he will never find her. He will chase after her, not out of love, but because he wants her money and to use her as a general dogsbody. Before she can get her inheritance though Juliana has to make her way to London. She takes the mail coach so far, but then knowing her father could trace her on the coach, she gets off much earlier and waits around an Inn with the hope that she can find a kindly person to let her share their carriage the rest of the way to London.

Michael Rosevear is the illegitimate son of The Marquess of Rosevear. He has been acknowledged by his father but is not in line to inherit anything from him, including his title. He has a younger half-brother whom that will all go to. After returning wounded from war Michael's father sent him to one of his distant estates in Yorkshire, Rose Hall. It was a run-down affair, but over the years Michael has got the place flourishing. Now he wants to take ownership of the place and he believes he has the perfect bargaining chip to make his father sign the place over to him. His father wants him to marry and has a woman already picked out for him. A woman with money whose father wants to buy their way into the aristocracy. Michael will agree to marry the woman only if his father gives up Rose Hall.

It's on the way to London that Michael stops at an Inn in order to stretch his injured leg. It's also there that he comes across Juliana who asks if she could share his coach with him to London. He normally wouldn't say yes, especially as the woman in question was young and her reputation could be ruined, but she assured him she had no intention of marriage anyway and convinced him how important it was for her to get to London.

There begins the relationship between the two mismatched people. Two people with problems of their own, problems that in all likelihood should keep them well apart. But best-laid plans and all that...

I loved this story. I loved how protective Michael was of Juliana despite knowing that she was telling him a lot of lies. I loved how she tried to be strong in the face of adversity, and I especially loved it when they realised that they were falling for each other when they definitely shouldn't. The suspense of poor Juliana being chased by her father was intense, especially when her life was in danger twice because of that. I couldn't read the book quickly enough to see if she stayed out of her wicked father's clutches and if there could be any way that Michael and Juliana could have a happy ever after. Do they have one, well you will have to read the book to find out!

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced readers' copy of this book.

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## **eyes.2c says**

Chance and circumstance!

'A wooden spoon for courage'. An uncommon choice. But then Juliana Crawford is not by any stretch of the

imagination ordinary. Juliana is running from a desperate situation. She is running to a possible future. Stranded at an inn, in a highly unorthodox move, she approaches an elderly gentleman to request a place in his coach.

Michael Roseyear (illegitimate son of an earl) is in pain from being confined to a carriage. His leg is hurting and he's bored. He needs distraction and it seems the wan, poorly clothed young woman seeking assistance will provide that. He and his wolfhound Gelert make room for their unusual guest.

Of course their journey is eventful, unavoidably delayed and downright dangerous. After all the drama they encounter their relationship might develop somewhat beyond the bounds of propriety, but their ways will part whether by choice, design, sacrifice or happenstance. To choose or not to choose, that is the question! The idea of choice permeates the story, both lead characters discuss it. Choosing to make your own destiny, to be at the mercy of others, and how to change that.

A romance with a difference that I found very enjoyable.

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A NetGalley ARC

### **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

The Chase by Sara Portman is book Three in the "Brides of Beadwell" series. This is the story of Michael Roseyear and Juliana Crawford. I have read the other books in this series but feel this can be a standalone book.

Juliana is running from her abusive father which leads her to meet Michael. Michael has been summoned by his father when he takes to helping Juliana. Michael is the illegitimate child of the Marquis of Roseyear. Michael was sent to live on his father property after he was hurt in the war. While staying there he has turned that property into a flourishing estate. But now his father wants to sell him off to a marriage to gain money. Juliana has trust issues but the more she gets to know Michael the closer they become.

I enjoyed watching their story come together.

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### **Lori D says**

What happens when a young lady is terrified to be found by her father? She runs of course and tries to make her way to London. Left with little money and even fewer personal effects, Juliana Crawford hides out at a posting inn to find a kind soul who will allow her to travel with them. When she sees an elderly man with a cane, she feels her prayers have been answered! What she finds out is the man is really Michael Roseyear, the bastard son of an earl who was wounded in the war and uses his cane to steady himself. He is quite the opposite of old and infirm and tries to find out why Juliana is running. Tight lipped and cautious, she spouts many a falsehood until she gives brief answers that she is running from her father. Michael has his own problems. Going to London to marry a rich woman who his father has picked out., all Michael wants is to get back to his small estate and be left in peace. This is such an engaging story that will make you smile and want to shake Juliana at times to go ahead and tell Michael the truth ( and let the reader know too!) Michael travels with his dog Gelert, who also has his place in the story as Juliana is at first terrified of him.

Throughout the journey the two become attracted to each other and reluctantly Michael leaves her at the solicitor's office which was Juliana's destination all along. They part ways, but all is not done yet!! Read this wonderful story to find out what happens. This is the third book in this series I have read by Sara Portman ( it can be read as a standalone book though) and have thoroughly enjoyed each one. Her stories are such that you will become engaged quickly with the characters and once the last page is turned, they will stay in your

heart for awhile!!

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### **Kari Lemor says**

Yet another great story by Sara Portman. I am sad to have read the last in this series but hope this author has more coming soon. She will be going on my auto-buy list. Her books give us great plots, interesting characters and a little something out of the typical historical romance. She pulls you right into the book and you don't want to leave. I had a few tired mornings in a row because I had stayed up too late with just 'one more chapter'! So hard to put these books down!

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### **SH says**

I have loved all of Sara Portman's series "Brides of Beadwell" and from the first chapter, I found myself reflecting on the previous books, trying to pick on the subtle links to the characters in "The Chase". Juliana Crawford is trying to escape her abusive father and convinces Michael Rosevear, to help her reach London. Michael is the illegitimate son of the Marquess of Rosevear, who has summoned him to London, to fulfil his duty to the family. However, the journey is destined to throw the couple together but not in the way either could imagine.

What sets this series apart from many is the slow unravelling of each character and their many complexities. Both characters are multifaceted and their insecurities are explored very subtly. It was also interesting to see the links between the earlier two novels which was well integrated without leaving the reader uncertain as to the characters and their connections.

I finished this book, hoping that another link to the story can be made or another series of similar calibre soon hits the shelves.

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Publication date: 21st November 2017 from Kensington Books

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### **Janet says**

Michael Rosevear's the illegitimate son of the Marquis of Rosevear. Michael has been living on his father's estate in Yorkshire since being injured in the Peninsular Wars & he's turned a neglected estate into a flourishing one & the place he calls. Now his father is in need of funds, Michael is to be sold off in marriage to the daughter of a crass but wealthy merchant willing to pay for any connection to nobility. En route to his fate in London, Michael does not plan to board an extra passenger. Yet there is something in the young miss's desperate plea that tugs at his conscience--though he is certain her story is a fabrication. Juliana Crawford has fled her father's cruel home. Using a false name Ana Crawley to evade pursuit, she must beg a lift to London. Chance matches her with a dark and wounded young lord who guards his own secrets just as carefully. The unlikely pair embark on a journey filled with revelations and unexpected adventure.

This is the third part of the series but could be read on its own. I've been blown away by the earlier books & this is a worthy finale. The characterisation is so very good the characters have plenty of depth, Michael & Juliana are very likeable but both are determined to keep some secrets. The villains are cringe worthy & horrid. Alex is delightful & Gelert is the star of the book, the way Juliana goes from fearing him to having to touch him is lovely. The plot is well paced, it doesn't lag but at times speeds up especially the accident & the

encounter at the docks when I found myself totally engrossed. I've found myself another must read author & I look forward to her next book.

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read

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### **Margaret Sholders says**

Sara is on my pile of favorite authors. I am looking for her books all the time. Her books are deep stories with her people. Juliana had a horrid father and she has to leave home for London to get her birthday money. She begs Michael to take her to lawyers in London. Oops, not! The carriage crashes on purpose. She runs away and Gelert, a wolfhound, and two men were to catch her and go back to her father! Gelert saved her and she gets to her lawyers. Michael is a backyard and his father is always making him to do the hard jobs. Now he is dying and wants Michael to marry a girl his father picked. He also wants him to teach his real heir to help Alexander to run the estates when age is older. Juliana loves Michael. He loves her. She looks for a friend and is also beat when Gelert saves her. Will the Marquess let them be happy? Does Juliana's father change? I really fell into this book. It was hard to walk away. Check out this story. You may have to use tissues. Don't let it get away!

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### **Eva says**

the third brides of beadwell novel, the chase, opens when julianna crawford begs michael rosevear for a ride to london. and he is intrigued enough to say yes. at the very least she'll provide a distraction from an old war injury that troubles him when he is forced to travel. he is on his way to london to meet the woman his father has picked out for him. an heiress who will line his father's coffers and a marriage that he hopes he can use to get his father to sign over the property he's rehabilitated to his name.

julianna is escaping her abusive father and seeking out the inheritance she is due to receive from her mother's family when she turns 25. she hopes to get to london and find passage on a ship to boston and settle there. however, she keeps her plans to herself. she's certain her father will do everything in his power to thwart her. and she's not sure she can trust any man, even michael, because though he is kind, he also has some pretty outdated ideas about women and their abilities to fend for themselves.

julianna and michael spend a large chunk of the book bickering. and that bickering masks the spark of attraction between them. but when they are forced to spend a night alone in a small cabin, there is no way that spark won't ignite into something more. the problem is that michael's future has already been prescribed by his father. and julianna's plans don't include marriage or a man in her life. unfortunately, julianna's plans aren't actually feasible, in large part due to the fact that regency society isn't going to make it easy for a young woman to make an independent life for herself.

finding their way out of the corner society has pushed them in will be their challenge. but as their paths continue to cross, it becomes clear that there is something between them that keeps them coming together. and that if they hold on to the love they feel for one another, the rest will sort itself out.

\*\*the chase will publish on november 21, 2017. i received an advance reader copy courtesy of netgalley/kensington books in exchange for my honest review.

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## Rachel- Goodbye Borders says

Juliana is on the run from her abusive father. She possesses a photographic memory. She found a letter when she was around 12 that mentioned an inheritance when she reached her majority (25). This is the main reason she runs when she does. She sees Michael and asks him (mainly because of her cane and limp) for help in getting to London.

Michael is on his way to London to answer his father's summons. His father has decided it is time for Michael to get married. His bride has been picked out.

I did like both Michael and Juliana. Michael comes across as a good person already; mainly because of the way he treats Gelert (his dog). Juliana is a little harder to like at first. I believe it's because of her background. She doesn't trust that once Michael finds out he won't return her to her father. (The whole property thing, what good girl leaves her father's protection- on purpose?)

I both liked and didn't like the resolution with Juliana's father. Yes, he got what he deserved, but it was too quick and the whole issue with Juliana's mother could have been more. Michael was pleasantly surprised with how his family viewed him (that was nice). I also liked that Juliana's inheritance seemed to be hers to do what she wanted with it (at least with how I interpreted the epilogue).

3.5\* rounded up since GR doesn't "do" 1/2 stars.

eARC courtesy of Kensington Books/Lyrical Press and NetGalley.

Publication date: Nov 21st

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## Caz says

### I've given this a D at AAR.

When one reads a lot of books, one learns to take book blurbs with a pinch of salt. Those that give a basic outline of the plot are fine, but those that proudly proclaim how 'exciting', or 'unforgettable' or 'unique' a story is always see me raising a sceptical eyebrow and thinking, 'yeah, right.' Or wrong. As is the case here. The cover copy of new-to-me author Sara Portman's **The Chase** promised a 'thrilling romance', but I think whoever wrote that must have lost their dictionary, or got hold of one in which the definition of 'thrilling' was '*the feeling one experiences when watching paint dry.*' Because there is nothing remotely thrilling about a story featuring quite possibly the wettest, wimpiest, weppiest heroine I've think I've ever read, who is completely dependent on the hero to get her out of every single difficulty she faces.

Miss Juliana Crawford has spent all of her adult life acting as her father's skivvy. Hers has been a very lonely life, but throughout it all, she has had one thing to look forward to; the small inheritance that will become hers on her twenty-fifth birthday. She knows her cruel, cold father will never allow her to receive it, so for years, she has hoarded every penny she can in order to buy herself a ticket that will take her away from her home village of Beadwell in Derbyshire. She can't afford to purchase a ticket to take her to London, (where she plans to visit the family solicitor to claim her inheritance) but hopes instead to be able to inspire the kindness of a random traveller to take her there. Juliana has lived a very sheltered life, but I'd have thought her father's example of bad-tempered selfishness would have been sufficient to tell her that relying on the kindness and good intentions of others is not really the way to go.

Anyway. Watching the various arrivals at the Bear & Boar coaching inn in Peckingham, Juliana surveys the available prospects (a large family, a mother and son) and in the end, approaches a well-to-do gentlemen who is travelling in a smart carriage with a coat of arms on the door, and asks if he will convey her to London. The man is very surprised at her making such a request of a stranger, and warns her that her reputation will be ruined if she is known to have travelled with a man without a chaperone; Juliana insists she is not worried about it, and the man allows her to enter his carriage.

Michael Rosevear is the bastard son of the Marquess of Rosevear (and yes, the names and titles in this story are all over the place) and is on his way from his Yorkshire home to his father's house in London. He's not best pleased at having to make the trip, but is determined this is the last time he will dance to his father's tune. All his life, the marquess has treated Michael as someone to be used when needed and shoved aside when not, and he has had enough of it. He knows he is expected to marry a wealthy tradesman's daughter in order to bring her money into the family, and he's prepared to do it in exchange for his father turning Rose Hall in Yorkshire over to him. He is frustrated and annoyed; and decides that if nothing else, the strange young woman who has asked him to take her to London will provide some diversion on the rest of the trip.

Alas, this is not to be. His companion is taciturn and evasive; even though she is clearly frightened of something or someone, she refuses to tell him what it is which frustrates him – and bugged the hell out of me – no end. Yet Michael's protective streak is roused full force; his companion is an odd mixture of timid and fearless (so he thinks; I never saw anything to suggest the fearless part) and he is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery surrounding her.

We all know where this is going; the problem is that the way it gets there is so unengaging. With the exception of Michael's precocious younger brother and his step-mother, the characters are bland, the writing is wooden and the deus-ex-machina employed towards the end made me roll my eyes so hard they hurt.

Michael's situation as the bastard son of a peer is an interesting one, and had that been more fully explored, I suspect it could have added some badly needed appeal to the story. By focusing on the wimpy Juliana, who is easily one of the dullest, least relatable heroines I've ever come across, we're dragged instead in to a vat of insipidity; the woman doesn't even know how to hail a cab, and is too stupid to understand how to do such a simple thing as raise her hand, because someone else has to show her how to do it!

There's no character development and no romantic development; the first kiss happens with almost no build up, and the book's two love scenes are uninspiring and devoid of any sexual tension. Not only am I disputing the word 'thrilling' in the blurb, I'm calling into question the word 'romance'. I read an advance copy in which I spotted a number of typos, incorrect word choices, inconsistencies and sudden PoV switches, which I hope may be fixed at the copy-editing stage. Quite honestly though, even if that happens, it's not going to turn this poor effort into something worth your time and money.

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### Cathy Geha says

The Chase by Sara Portman  
Brides of Beadwell #3

A man traveling in a coach to London at the bequest of his father...  
A woman traveling to London evading what she left behind and in need of a ride...  
A hound named Gelert along for the ride...

When Juliana Crawford requests the assistance of Michael Rosevear he knows she has not been fully forthcoming when making her request but for some reason he takes her into the coach he is traveling in and thus begins a journey that will change both of their lives. As the trip begins conversation is limited since both have secrets to hold tight. As they travel there are setbacks and delays that must be dealt with. With each mile closer to London the more aware of one another they become and slowly more and more admiration is found by each for the other. The facts that are revealed shed new light on past beliefs both have held and the future they thought lay ahead just might actually prove to be better than either had thought it could be.

I enjoyed this story. I found the childhoods of both Juliana and Michael to have been difficult and their parents wanting so was happy that they found one another and were able to eventually find their way to a HEA that would provide so much more for them both. I have read all three books in the series and look forward to reading what this author decides to write next.

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington Books-Lyrical Press for the ARC – This is my honest review.

5 Stars

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