



Chasing Lady Amelia

Maya Rodale

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In the second novel of Maya Rodale's enchanting Keeping Up with the Cavendishes series, an American heiress finds her reputation—and heart—in danger when she travels to London and meets a wickedly tempting rake

Terribly Improper

Lady Amelia is fed up with being a proper lady and wishes to explore London, so one night she escapes...and finds herself in the company of one Alistair Finlay-Jones. He's been ordered by his uncle to wed one of the American girls. How lucky then, that one of them stumbles right into his arms!

Totally Scandalous

Alistair and Amelia have one perfect day to explore London, from Astley's Amphitheater to Vauxhall Gardens. Inevitably they end up falling in love and making love. If anyone finds out, she will be ruined, but he will win everything he's ever wanted.

Very Romantic

When Amelia finds out Alistair has been ordered to marry her, he must woo her and win back the angry American girl. But with the threat of scandals, plural, looming...will he ever catch up to the woman he loves?

Chasing Lady Amelia Details

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Author : Maya Rodale

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From Reader Review Chasing Lady Amelia for online ebook

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted on Got Fiction?

Original Review:

I know this author's style is more modern, but I just don't think it always works with her historicals. I had such a hard time with this story. I liked the idea, the plot, the hero, but I really didn't like Amelia. I enjoyed Bridget's book, but Amelia was so childish I just couldn't like her. I look forward to Clare's, hopefully she'll be less childish.

Full review:

This is the second book in the Keeping Up With the Cavendishes series, and while I liked Lady Bridget's Diary, I had a very hard time with this one from the get-go.

This book runs concurrently with Lady Bridget, and that's cool because we get to see what happened when Amelia went missing during Bridget's story. But then we find out more about her and boy I just didn't like her. I take that back, if I'd been reading about a teenager, maybe I would've liked her. But she's not. She's an adult.

Series premise: The Cavendishes' father was brother to the late duke. He married a commoner and ran off to America. The duke died, with no heirs, so their brother is next in line. The girls and their brother move to London. This is a fun series idea full of wild American girls who don't know the rules, are crazy wealthy, and need to get married to fully secure the dukedom (duchy?). But this one wasn't fun for me.

I get where Amelia is coming from. We've all had a moment in our lives where we are forced to conform or change in some way. It's natural to rebel against the change. But you adapt. You grow up. You move on.

I feel like with Amelia, the whole book I was reading a sullen teenager. She acted out. She threw tantrums. She flaunted the fact that she didn't care about following the rules. At no point did I feel as if I were reading about an adult.

At first she takes off her shoes at a ball because they pinch her feet. Okay fine, fairly innocent. But it just snowballs from there. And I think we're meant to find her funny, impulsive, and endearing. Personally I found her immature, reckless, and not just impulsive, but almost mean. Like she was being brash and careless on purpose. I know she's headstrong and angry she's had to up and leave her life. But I don't know, I guess I felt that at some point in the book we should have seen her realize how her actions affected her family. And there were several scenes where that looked like it would happen, but her behavior stayed the same.

I liked the hero just fine. Unfortunately what I'm sure the author meant as a thirst for adventure in her heroine, came off as impulsive and immature to me. So, I kind of wondered why he liked her.

I really am looking forward to Lady Claire's book, though, because I like this author, and I like this series. I will say that if you can look at Lady Amelia as being impulsive and adventurous rather than immature, I

think you'll like this.

***ARC courtesy of Avon Books

Andrea (Catsos Person) is a Compulsive eBook Hoarder says

Note to self: This is an American heiress HR, a trope I passionately hate.

Also, MC takes her shoes off at a ball and sticks her feet in a plant pot! --see Caz's review.

Bk 1, heroine is overweight.

Avoid this author--period! Not for me.

lauroooou says

Oh man. That book was soooo promising... But I just couldn't get attached to the characters. Stopped reading at 1/3 of the book.

The main male lead is just too deceiving. Also, his behaviour is not realistic with that of a gentleman in Regency England. I mean even rakes show some sort of regard to Society rules and how you're supposed to behave with a lady. I don't believe for one second that he could have gotten away with having her spend the night at his place (even though she had fainted) and then spend the day with her unchaperoned.

Just not buying the story.

Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says

This was quite possibly-nay, definitely, absolutely-the worst scrape she'd ever found herself in, and Amelia wasn't a stranger to terrible predicaments.

In which I am pleasantly surprised.

I had to control myself there I wanted to add an exclamation mark so badly! Chasing Lady Amelia, is the second book in the Keeping Up With the Cavendishes series by Maya Rodale. I really should have read Bridget's book first because I feel like it would have made my reading experience even better but with tight schedules and all, a bookworm has to make do. Subsequently I found that I didn't feel lost at all while reading this gem of a book.

In which I am overcome by fits of giggles.

*A country Jon in a village of late.
Courtied a young Dorothy, Bridget and Kate.
He went up to London to pick a lass.
To show what a wriggle he had in his as...*

The song that started it all.

This book was filled with in your face humor and all round cuteness. Our heroine, Amelia Cavendish is probably the more adventurous and unruly out of the 3 Cavendish sisters. Every effort the Duchess has made to mold her into a lady fit for English Society has failed. I loved Amelia with her modern outlook at life and her thirst for independence and freedom... see what I did there? She's American and from the "colonies". Now some may cry insta-love but somehow this book worked for me. Amelia and Alistair meet one night and spend an entire day together. They form an immediate connection, and while reading this book I found that I would forget that their interaction was all taking place in one day. Very well done.

Not that I'm an angst addict or anything but I do love it when the author doesn't make it easy for the characters to be together. I love self torture and our hero Alistair did not disappoint, while on the outside he shows the calm exterior of an English gentleman, inside he tries to deal with feelings of unworthiness, pain and guilt because of his dark past.

*It was because of that moment when he'd opened the door to his flat and found her there waiting. It was because of the way his heart beat faster with the appearance of her dimple when she smiled, because of the sparks of delight when she laughed, and the feeling of connection when her fingers were intertwined with his.
It might be something like love.*

In which I will be reading the rest of this series.

I wholeheartedly enjoyed this book, I loved the humor and Lady Amelia and Alistair's whirlwind relationship was the best part. Yes there were some terribly modern instances or phrases that might not have been authentic to the period but I found that I enjoyed the book even more because of them. On another note I read the exclusive sneak peak to the next book and **YES PLEASE!**

ARC kindly provided by publisher via Edelweiss in return for an honest review

Debbie Brown says

What we have here, my friends, is another crazy Regency romance by the very talented Maya Rodale. I read the first book in this series, Lady Bridget's Diary, which introduced me to the shockingly unconventional American Cavendish siblings- 3 sisters and 1 brother- who unexpectedly find themselves part of British nobility and must take their place among the Bon Ton.

I freely admit that I'm hooked. Each book follows one Cavendish in particular during the same period of time, so even though each is stand-alone, there is some overlap with hints dropped about what the other siblings are up to. Historical purists will point out numerous inaccuracies, which are surely present, and dialogue sometimes sounds a little too modern, but these books are obviously intended as tongue-in-cheek

entertainment and, goshdarnit, they're just plain fun to read!

This volume tells the youngest sister's story, which is heavily influenced by the classic 1950s film *Roman Holiday*. (It stars Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, and if you've never watched it, you're missing a gem.) After having grown up on a horse farm in Maryland, Amelia chafes at all the limitations imposed by the Duchess (her Aunt Josephine Cavendish) and the stuffy London society she and her siblings now inhabit. At age 19, Amelia is an impulsive, rebellious, stubborn ball of fire who doesn't understand why her brother and sisters are bothering to try to fit in among these snooty Brits with all their stupid rules of etiquette. Having caused a scene and created a minor scandal at a ball by removing her excruciatingly painful shoes and later pretending to faint, exposing her bare feet and ankles (*gasp*), she pitches a fit when she feels her own family's disapproval. Her aunt's response is to have a servant bring Amelia something to drink that is spiked with laudanum, hoping this will calm her, eventually make her fall asleep, and perhaps be more reasonable in the morning.

It might have worked, too, but before she conks out she finds herself drawn outside when she hears a gentleman walking by singing. She's not thinking clearly and appears drunk to Alistair Finlay-Jones, the aforementioned singer, who's just a little tipsy himself. He's not able to make much sense out of what Amelia tells him before she passes out, and he has no idea of her name or where she lives. He has only recently returned to England after many years away and has no place appropriate to bring her, but they're not far from his flat so he takes her there to sleep it off.

By the time she awakens the next day, Alistair has figured out who she is on his own and has received orders from his uncle (to whom he feels he owes a great debt) to marry one of the Cavendish girls. Now he has the perfect opportunity to distinguish himself from every other fortune hunter lining up for her generous dowry. Meanwhile, Amelia wants to take full advantage of her escape from her ivory tower, and Alistair first watches over her and then "bumps" into her, pretending to believe the fictitious name and story she gives him and accommodating her wishes to see the town.

I love these characters, who are endearingly flawed. Amelia is spirited, funny, fearless, irreverent, and enthusiastic about living life to the fullest. She's also naive, selfish and a bit of a spoiled brat. Alistair is more complex, because he's dealing with several issues. One has to do with his parentage and his upbringing, and the other is a tragedy he feels responsible for, which is the reason he's been away from England for so long. He feels like a misfit now rather than a gentleman. Amelia reminds him of the way he used to be before he learned how serious the consequences of impulsive actions can be. He's also feeling guilty about manipulating her to fall in love with him.

The reader spends a wonderful day with these two characters as they share simple London tourist experiences while eluding the bobbies and Row Street runners looking for the missing Lady Amelia. Not surprisingly, Alistair and Amelia are in love before they are discovered and she returns home. The romantic scenes are very touching and sweet.

Naturally, her day out creates many repercussions. The story progresses with a few more twists (some more predictable than others) before bringing the couple together for good at the end. The HEA includes credible changes in the attitudes of both the main characters. Be warned that contents include premarital sex, which is a significant factor in driving the story.

The scenes where the Cavendishes interact always grab me, because they sound like a real family. James, Claire, Bridget and Amelia each has a distinct personality, and their teasing, banter and baiting one another come across as very natural, as does their affection for each other. Their formidable Aunt Josephine shows

more warmth here than in the previous book.

The last two books in this series are yet to be published. The next one features Claire, the eldest sister. Based on the excerpt included here, it looks like it will be loosely based on Pygmalion/My Fair Lady. I can't wait!

Hollis says

The first book in Rodale's *Keeping Up with the Cavendishes* was an unexpected delight, though it shouldn't have been so unexpected based on the subject matter to which the story gave tribute to; subject matter I love dearly.

However CHASING LADY AMELIA, though it held much of the same fun and cheeky delights, didn't wow me as much. I don't know if this is the plot of *Chasing Amy* or if the author just liked the parallel of the title, because I never did watch that movie, but I did wonder if that's why I wasn't **as** invested as I'd been for the P&P/Bridget retelling.

"Is this the moment where we, uh, say something, professing, uh fondness for one's friends?"

"God no, we're English gentlemen. We'll raise a glass instead."

That being said, I liked seeing what Amelia was getting up to during some of the events of book one, and while the issues and conflicts for this couple were a little up and down -- I had a few concerns about the beginning, adored the middle where the hero is trying to make up for his wrongs, and was mostly satisfied by the ending -- making it feel less solid and consistent than LADY BRIDGET'S DIARY, I did still enjoy it.

"I'm a simple man. I like horses. Women. A good whiskey. And yet I constantly find myself besieged by sisters. And female problems."

"My heart bleeds for you. But I came to discuss MY problems. My problems with men."

"When I look at you, I see a girl of eight who fell out a tree trying to rescue a kitten. That she had placed there in the first place." Ah, Mille. Turns out she was not a climber. "She is too young to have men problems.."

The writing is quippy and a little modern and I had many laugh out loud moments. I really do love the Cavendish family as a unit and am excited to see what's in store for Claire. The bluestocking spinster has often been my favourite romantic couple trope just because, hello, who doesn't love it when the smart, overlooked, girl finds love? So, yes, here's me.. excited for book three.

3.5 "look at you with the devastatingly romantic line, shall I swoon now?" stars

nick says

2.5/5

I read Lady Bridget's Diary, the first book in this series and a loose P&P retelling, and was very charmed by Maya Rodale's characters and writing. As much as I adored Bridget, I was more intrigued by the wild and rebellious sister, Amelia, so I was thrilled to dive into Chasing Lady Amelia. Unfortunately, this book was

off for me and I ended up not liking it as much as I expected to.

As an American who grew up around horses and basically no rules, Amelia is struggling to fit into English society and she feels like she needs one chance to go wild and do her own thing. She leaves her house one night drunk on laudanum, and stumbles upon Alistair, who takes her back to his own place because he doesn't want to leave a drunk girl on the streets. What ensues is a day spent between Amelia and Alistair as they go around London, and by the end of the day, they've fallen in love. I liked that Amelia was so different from your typical historical romance heroine with her wildness, independence and ferociousness. At the same time though, she frustrated me in this book because she deliberately chose not to send words to her family, who were worried sick about her well-being. Still though, I liked that she went after what she wanted and wasn't afraid to be different.

I liked Alistair a lot though, maybe even better than Amelia. He's been on quite the adventure and has only now returned home to England because of a summon from his uncle. He was a genuinely sweet guy who has been tormented by an accident in his past that cost the life of his best friend. I felt for the guy, but I did wish his emotions and feelings when it came to his past were explored more - it came across as quite flimsy to me. I was a little wary when he set out on a path to seduce Amelia into marriage because he was being forced by his uncle, but he dealt with it with care and I liked watching him fall hopelessly for her.

But here's the thing though, the romance was so so rushed. Amelia and Alistair fall in love after that one day they spend together. Listen, I'm sure insta-love exists in some cases in real life, but I just don't like reading about it in my books. It's right up there with love triangles for me. It pains me because they had so much chemistry and banter together and had the romance been over a couple of weeks or more, I would have loved this book. Also, the one and only sexy times scene was kind of a disappointment. I wanted so much more! What I did like were the family dynamics in this book. Amelia and her siblings shared a great relationship, and I loved the scenes between them teasing each other.

Overall, Chasing Lady Amelia was a bit of a let-down for me and wasn't the book for me. I'm really hoping the next book will be stronger.

Sharon says

Sometimes I wish a historical and/or regency romance would be just that -- a historical and/or regency romance. I don't understand why authors insist on imposing modern day sensibilities on a historical era.

Suffice to say -- the anachronisms are strong with this one!

In fact...anachronisms might just be "a thing" with Maya Rodale. Sure, her books are entertaining and that's a good thing. But if it bothers you to read about modern women in historical eras then this book (and the other two of Rodale's books that I've read) may throw you out of the story.

And...I shudder to think of how many of her readers consume this book and others and think this is historical fact embedded within the historical fiction. I think this is one of the ways "alternate history" gets spread...be it intentional or unintentional.

Here's a VERY spoilery example (seriously -- super spoilery so don't open if you don't want to read about the big plot point): (view spoiler)

Did I enjoy the book? Yeah, I guess. I do like that Rodale puts an actual plot into her books as that element is sometimes hard to find. It's always hard to find good regency romances that aren't full of "Insta-Lust" and this author is definitely strong on the "Insta-Lust" (at least from what I've read so far). I am always on the search for authors that focus on the "love" rather than the "lust"...but that's getting fewer and farther between apparently.

Missy says

This book manages to be more anachronistic than its predecessor, Lady Bridget's Diary, and is one of the reasons why I did not enjoy this book. I was busy checking off a list of things that could or couldn't have occurred during the regency era to focus on much else.

Word Usage

Telling one's sibling to *shut up* - did they use that word back then?

Describing a debutante as *popular* - does the author mean "comparable" (however you spell that word)?

"Well, I'll be damned."

Proper Etiquette

A dowager duchess, schooling her nieces in proper etiquette, *throwing her hands in the air in frustration* - I doubt it

A valet being informal and sarcastic to his employer (no matter how long he's served the hero) - hmm...

The other reason I didn't enjoy the book: the heroine, Amelia (age 22), is too childish for me. Maya Rodale probably wanted to portray Amelia as an independent woman who refused to conform to English society's expectations of her, but all I saw was a whiny, self-centered adult, who did not even send home a note to let her worried family know that she was all right. I don't like that she keeps reading her older sister Bridget's diary, an invasion of privacy, (I have younger sisters, so, yeah) and why doesn't Bridget do anything to prevent her from reading it in the future?

How is it possible that she is out and about town with our hero, Alistair, without a chaperone and no one (but two or three servants) takes notice? (view spoiler)

Since Lady Bridget's Diary is inspired by Pride and Prejudice and Bridget Jones's Diary, this book is based on the movie Roman Holiday (but I saw the remake, Chasing Liberty with Mandy Moore and Matthew Goode). The third book in the series, Lady Claire Is All That, is obviously based on the movie She's All That with Rachel Leigh Cook and Freddie Prince, Jr. The last book It's Hard Out Here for a Duke in the series is based on Princess Diaries and Derek and Meredith's relationship from Grey's Anatomy. Hence, why the heroine is named Meredith Green.

On another note, Number of times the word "whilst" appeared: 14. Number of times this reader has seen this word in an HR: 2.

This book would have been better as a young adult or contemporary romance. I knew I wouldn't enjoy it, but I wanted to read this series in order since the events occur concurrently and didn't want to miss any

references to Claire's storyline. There were none, so I could have easily skipped this book in the series.

Leslie says

Lady Amelia Cavendish was first introduced in Lady Bridget's Diary (<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>). This book details what happened when following a disgrace at Almacks Lady Amelia runs away.

She spends the day exploring London with an attractive young gentleman Mr. Finlay-Jones; disguised as Miss Amy Dish finishing school student. The author does a splendid job of capturing the feeling of freedom and adventure I was almost jealous I couldn't experience this version of London. After she is thoroughly and satisfactorily compromised (Yes there's some adult content) Lord Darcy finds her at the theater returns her to her concerned family.

Now Mr. Finlay-Jones need to figure out how to 'meet' Lady Amelia and convince her to marry him. When the rumor of Lady amelia's day out begins to spread she is soon inundated with every poor eligible man in London insisting that he was the man who compromised her..

This is just a wonderful, enjoyable, romp of a regency romance.

Reread to remind myself of the plot before reading the 4th book

Bambi Unbridled says

I am new to Maya Rodale, having started with Lady Bridget's Diary earlier this year. I liked the premise of this series, with the first book being a light-hearted historical take on modern books/cinema a la Bridget Jones' Diary and Mean Girls. I didn't get the same modern cinema vibe with this story, but it was still good fun. This story is told concurrently with Bridget's, so you could probably read them out of order if you were so inclined.

If you haven't read Bridget's Diary, then you will want to know that series follows the Cavendish family, American horse farmers were thrust upon London when the James Cavendish inherited one of England's most-respected dukedoms. Only the bon ton looks upon Americans with disdain, seeing them as little better than the savages they share land with across the pond. Our heroine, Lady Amelia, may be the most hoydenish of them all.

As the youngest of the Cavendish siblings, Lady Amelia is the least mature and used to getting away with most of her scandalous behavior with indulgence and pats to the head. Now that she has arrived in London and is under the thumb of the Duchess of Durham, Amelia is feeling hemmed in by all the rules she must follow in polite society. One mustn't use crass language, one mustn't remove their uncomfortable shoes at a ball, and one definitely mustn't disappear to explore all of London with a scoundrel. Amelia is just so tired of seeing ballroom after ballroom every night with the same uppity women and leering men. I liked Lady Amelia, even though she was a tad immature, it was more fun than annoying. She displayed an honest joy and enthusiasm for life that was endearing, and I can see how that would have been infectious to those

around her.

Alistair Finlay-Jones sees himself as a half-breed, orphaned, fortune hunter, who is nearly alone in the world. The only family remaining to Alistair is a stodgy old uncle who treats him with disdain and drove him away from home after a tragic accident. Since that time, Alistair has been traveling in search of... something. He yearns for his uncle's approval to such an extent that he scurries home as fast as possible when his uncle summons him after six years with no word. When Alistair discovers that his uncle wants him to marry one of the scandalous Americans, Alistair agrees readily hoping that this will finally win his uncle's approval. I liked Alistair when he was with Amelia... she brought out the fun and flirty side of him. Their time together let me forget about how much of an omega male Alistair really was - he had no back bone whatsoever when dealing with his crass uncle. That drove me a little bit crazy.

This was a bit of a whirlwind romance where our H/h meet and fall in love within a period of about 24 hours. Although it was instalove, I didn't feel like it unfolded too fast. Rodale did a good job to make you feel like you were racing the clock with them... they had to fit everything into one day before going back to the real world and facing the consequences of their actions.

I continue to like the Cavendish siblings and how close-knit and down-to-earth they are. I really hope they all end up thumbing their nose at the bon ton and quit giving a fig about what the society matrons think. I felt like the Duchess of Durham softened a bit in this installment, particularly toward the end of the story. I am now interested to see if the remaining books of the series take place concurrently or if all the siblings will be married off this season. Stay tuned for the review of *Lady Claire Is All That* later this month.

Caz says

I've given this a B- at AAR, so that's 3.5 stars rounded up.

Maya Rodale is one of the authors I turn to when I want brain candy; a well-written, frothy, light-hearted read that doesn't get too bogged down in angst, has a fair bit of humour and attractive characters. And she certainly delivers all that in **Chasing Lady Amelia** the second book in her *Keeping Up With the Cavendishes* series, featuring four American siblings who are thrust into the midst of English society when James Cavendish unexpectedly inherits a dukedom.

James has three sisters; bespectacled Claire, who is something of a bluestocking, Bridget, whose story is told in the previous book, *Lady Bridget's Diary*, and who is very, very keen to become a proper English Lady – and Amelia. Who isn't. In fact, Amelia has no patience whatsoever with the restrictive mores of English society or with the equally restrictive clothing she is forced to wear. I admit here to heaving a big sigh at the prospect of reading about yet another stereotypically “fresh” American heroine who is so much more lively and independent of mind and spirit than her stodgy, stuck-up English counterparts.

Fortunately, Ms. Rodale is a good enough writer to be able to make Amelia a more engaging character than she probably sounds from that description, but she still displays a degree of immaturity that is annoying rather than endearing. Such as when, in the middle of a ball, she decides her shoes are pinching her feet so much that she must, she absolutely **MUST** take them off right this minute. So she does. And sticks them in a plant pot. But that is just the start of her troubles, because the moment she's divested herself of her shoes, she is invited to dance. Of course a young lady with no shoes on is nothing short of scandalous, so to avoid revealing it, she fakes a faint, which ends up having a domino effect involving her prospective dance partner,

a buxom countess, a footman and a tray of champagne.

Shortly after this, enter our hero, one Alastair Finlay-Jones, despised nephew of and heir to Baron Wrotham. Alastair is Anglo-Indian, something which is mentioned but is never explored and seems to have no real purpose other than to show that, like Amelia, he can only ever exist on the fringes of good society – and has recently returned to England following an absence of almost six-and-a-half-years. Summoned by his uncle, he is told in no uncertain terms to marry one of the newly arrived American heiresses. Alastair, who has no other family and longs for his uncle's approval, finds it difficult to say no because of the guilt he still feels over the death of his cousin – so he doesn't, well, say no.

As luck would have it, one of those very heiresses has – almost literally – fallen into Alastair's lap. While wending his way home from an evening at his club the night before, he was accosted by a young lady who seemed to be somewhat the worse for wear. As she was unable to tell him where she lived, Alastair took her to his flat after she passed out, and it's only after he sees the scandal sheets the next morning that he realises who the lady is. Things could be worse; she's pretty, she's young and she's got a hefty dowry, but Alastair knows a man of little fortune or reputation such as he isn't going to stand a chance with her once he is just one of a crowd of men seeking her hand. But if he doesn't let on that he knows who she is, maybe he will have the chance to gain the advantage; if they can spend some time together then when she meets him again in a ballroom, she will recognise him and, hopefully, they will have some happy, shared memories that will single him out from everyone else.

The first half of the story takes place over roughly a twelve-hour period as Amelia and Alastair embark on a once-in-a-lifetime day out, which reminded me somewhat of the plot of *Roman Holiday* (even down to the scandalous hair cut!), in which Audrey Hepburn's princess spends a day out-of-time with handsome reporter, Gregory Peck. Ms. Rodale writes the evolving relationship between her protagonists very convincingly so that, in spite of the short time-frame, the romance doesn't feel rushed, although I did have to give a sideways glance to the fact that things turn physical shortly before they part. I know Amelia is supposed to be free-spirited and reckless, but one would have thought, given her brother is a horse-breeder and she's grown up around animals, she's have given a thought to possible consequences.

Anyway, following that magical day, things start to fall apart. Realising that Alastair had known who she was all along, Amelia feels hurt and betrayed and wants nothing to do with him. Thus, it's down to our hero to do a bit of grovelling and to prove to Amelia that in spite of the lie, he's true of heart and that he has no intention of compromising her into marriage. And then his brain thinks dumb things in a last minute attempt to inject some unnecessary angst and I could have smacked him.

Apart from that, Alastair is the best thing about the book. He's funny, charming and self-deprecating; his guilt at having caused his cousin's death (which he didn't, really) is perhaps rather overdone though, and his last minute volte-face really is a switch too far. He's said to be a reprobate, although I saw nothing in him that one doesn't find in all of the young gentleman heroes in historical romances; he's not averse to the odd wager or card game, likes women and enjoys a drink with his mates – all things which usually earn back-slaps, not censure!

Amelia becomes more likeable as the book progresses, but although I did understand her desire to get out from under the weight of expectation, she never really rises above your stock-in-trade rebellious heroine. Perhaps "it's not you, it's me"; she's not an unattractive character, but she never really took on a life of her own in my imagination and wasn't someone I found myself wanting to know more about or spend time with.

Chasing Lady Amelia is, as I said at the outset, exactly the sort of book I expect from this author, and it's

the type of thing she does very, very well. I'm sure it will prove too insubstantial for some tastes and there's no doubt that she once again plays fast and loose with historical accuracy and social convention; but fans of hers are sure to enjoy it and it's certainly worth consideration by anyone who is in the mood for an angst-free (mostly) piece of well-written fluff.

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Chasing Lady Amelia by Maya Rodale
Book Two of the Keeping Up with the Cavendishes series
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Source: eARC from Edelweiss

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

Summary (from Goodreads):

Terribly Improper

Lady Amelia is fed up with being a proper lady and wishes to explore London, so one night she escapes...and finds herself in the company of one Alistair Finlay-Jones. He's been ordered by his uncle to wed one of the American girls. How lucky then, that one of them stumbles right into his arms!

Totally Scandalous

Alistair and Amelia have one perfect day to explore London, from Astley's Amphitheater to Vauxhall Gardens. Inevitably they end up falling in love and making love. If anyone finds out, she will be ruined, but he will win everything he's ever wanted.

Very Romantic

When Amelia finds out Alistair has been ordered to marry her, he must woo her and win back the angry American girl. But with the threat of scandals, plural, looming...will he ever catch up to the woman he loves?

What I Liked:

My true rating is 3.5 stars. I liked this one enough to want to round up to 4 stars, but it wasn't quite a 4-star read. I LOVED Lady Bridget's Diary (it got a rare 5 stars from me), but I didn't love this second book quite as much. You can read these books in the series as standalone novels, so if I had to skip one in the series (so far), it might be this one. Still, it was good!

This story is told concurrently with Lady Bridget's Diary - meaning, we start this story with the same ball in which Amelia takes her shoes off (if you read book one, you know the scene). Basically, this story does NOT follow after the end of book one. Rather, it is told simultaneously! Which makes a lot of sense, if you have read book one and was wondering what Amelia had gotten up to, for those couple of days when she disappeared. Well, this book goes into those few days, in detail.

Amelia doesn't want to fit in to London's polite society. She loves horses and horse-riding, not stuffy balls and flouncy dresses. After a disastrous night at a ball, her family spikes her water with laudanum so that she'll calm down. Except that the laudanum has addled her brain, and she goes out in the middle of the night like a drunk. And runs into Alistair Finlay-Jones. Alistair isn't going to leave a helpless (and possibly drunk) noblewoman outside in the middle of the night, so he takes her to his residence. The next morning, he sees the paper (with Amelia's shoe scandal at the ball that previous night), and realizes that the woman is Lady Amelia. And thus begins the pair's adventures together. But all good things must come to an end - right? Amelia can't go gallivanting around London unchaperoned forever, and Alistair was called back to London for a reason: marry an heiress.

Book one took place over weeks. But the majority of this book took place over two days. These two days were the ones in which Amelia disappeared (causing another Cavendish scandal, if you recall in book one). When Amelia wakes up in Alistair's house, he gives her money and sends her on her way... but Amelia has no plans of going back home, not yet. She and Alistair go to the market, the theater, back to his house... anywhere but Durham House.

So the time period was short, which was weird at first. Amelia and Alistair have this instant connection that begins as friendly camaraderie and whatnot, but develops into hardcore lust, all in one day. They know each other for two days, but it would seem that they fell for each other, in lust and in love. But as improbably as this sounds, Rodale definitely sells the romance. You can feel how much these two want to stay together.

Amelia is so wild and uncouth, totally not fit for polite society, in my opinion. She is the youngest Cavendish sibling, and she tries the least. For the most part, I like her. She has relapses and judgment every now and then, but I like her sense of adventure.

Alistair has been touring the world for six years, and he's been called back by his uncle, who wants him to marry an heiress. Alistair isn't a fortune hunter, but his uncle is, and because Alistair is his uncle's heir, Alistair will do as his uncle bids. Tragedy struck the family years ago, and Alistair and his uncle do not get along anymore. I feel for Alistair! He feels like he is not good enough to be in society, for several reasons. He is quite a nice gentleman, and very sweet and patient. I like him! So different from Lord Darcy (from book one) - sweeter and less uptight. I do prefer Darcy (sorry, Alistair!), but I like Alistair a lot.

Their romance was fast, and not slowly progressing like I'm used to experience in historical romance. But the chemistry was there, as was the development of feelings and such. There was a little angst associated with their relationship - both hid things from each other. But I liked how things worked out!

The ending surprised me a little, but somehow, subconsciously, I totally saw it coming. A great HEA for sure! Just a bit surprising. I think it works for Amelia and Alistair very well! I think this book was a good addition to the series, and I am definitely interested in reading Claire's book next.

What I Did Not Like:

I thought the fact MOST of this book takes place over two days was a little too fast for me. Meaning, Alistair and Amelia get to know each other and feelings of love and lust develop in those two days. Rodale spends a ton of page-time fleshing out these two days, so that the two days takes like, 50% of the book. But logically, it felt too short.

And then the proposal and the scandal and the surprise - it just seemed very fast to me. This book took place over a shorter time than book one for the most part; the last, hmmm, one fourth of this book takes place over

a few weeks. But the majority of Alistair and Amelia's interactions come from two days of interactions.

More steamy scenes, please! At this point, after reading many Rodale books, I've come to expect less steamy scenes than usual. But that doesn't stop me from wanting more.

Would I Recommend It:

So if you liked book one in this series, this book is worth the read. At the same time, book one was a lot better and more enjoyable. You could skip this one (and in general). It's not entirely necessary to read in the series. While it clears up a lot about what Amelia had been doing over the days she disappeared, and we learn all about Alistair's tragic past, I wouldn't necessarily fall over myself trying to read or recommend this book to someone.

Rating:

3.5 stars -> rounded up to 4 stars. I think this series is hilarious! Rodale has such a distinctive and creative writing style, in the series. I much preferred Lady Bridget's Diary, but this book was satisfying in the series. I can't wait to read Claire's book next!

Molly says

I wholeheartedly enjoyed the first book in this series and was looking forward to Chasing Lady Amelia as a fun and light continuation. Although the style of Maya Rodale is entertaining and frothy, the plot was riddled with silliness and the characters lacked depth and failed to enchant. I'll get the next one, because I would like to see Clair, Darcy, Josie and Bridget again, but this offering was a little disappointing.

Amanda says

If you want to escape from the present world and forget your worries then CHASING LADY AMELIA by Maya Rodale is the perfect adventurous book to help you do so. Fast-paced writing, an engaging plot and a well-rounded cast of characters will vie for your attention. Spectacularly vivid and beautifully crafted, this historical romance will take you on a spellbinding ride. So strap on your seatbelts and prepare to be swept away!

Highly Recommended
5 Stars
