



Smuggler's Moon

Cynthia Wright

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A marriage begun in deception...

Feisty Julia Faircloth is used to managing the lives of her eccentric relatives, so when darkly dangerous Lord Sebastian Trevarre arrives in Bath and proposes to her shy sister Sarah, she switches places with the bride to save her from a shockingly carnal wedding night.

Against his better judgment, Sebastian consummates a marriage to the most provoking, appealing woman he's ever known, and then is forced to live with her in his neglected yet enchanting estate on the coast of Cornwall. Life there is turbulent, not least because Sebastian keeps many secrets. Will his reckless pursuits succeed in restoring his fortune...or cost him the lady who holds his heart?

Step back in time to magical 1798 Cornwall, England, with Julia and Sebastian - and reunite with Andre and Devon Raveneau, as Andre discovers that his life and Sebastian's are inextricably linked.

Smuggler's Moon Details

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From Reader Review Smuggler's Moon for online ebook

Aurora Harner says

Thoroughly entertaining

This is the 5th book I've read from this author, and I fully intend to read more. I love this author and have enjoyed every book I have read of hers so far. I love all the adventure, romance, and history this author adds to her novels. The characters are beautifully written and very entertaining. I find these books hard to put down. Thank you for writing these lovely stories for all to read!

Traci says

Well done

Very well written story. Adventures, strong characters. Love abounds, finally. A bogus marriage between two strong willed people, moves to a great love story.

Freda says

Book 2 of the Raveneau family is brilliant. The story of responsible Julia and secretive Sebastian leads to a story of love and intrigue in Cornwall, England. The descriptions of the place are amazing in that they clearly indicate how one place relates to another and you can picture it in your mind's eye as you read the words. The relationship between Julia and Sebastian begins with deceit but ends in collaboration, trust and love. Andre and Devon from Book 1 also make an appearance which provides the reader with a connection to her previous book. I love Cynthia's style of writing and look forward to her books. This one, like the last one, I couldn't put down until I was falling asleep and had no choice. Highly recommended.

Wanda says

I thought it couldn't get any better after "Silver Storm" but I was wrong. Smuggler's Moon was wonderfully entertaining with an excellent surprise. Sebastian Trevarre is looking for a nice quiet docile wife and he thinks Sarah Faircloth is the answer. What he gets is something totally different. It's a very exciting story and to say more would give away too much. You'll love it!

SM says

Not great. Couldn't connect with heroine.
Was too long.skimmed to finish.

Caz says

I've given this an A for narration and B for content at AudioGals, so I'm calling it 4.5 stars.

Smuggler's Moon is the first new book from Cynthia Wright in around twenty years, and is the first in a new series called **The Raveneaus in Cornwall**, set at the very end of the 18th century. Brother to a marquess, Lord Sebastian Trevarre has recently resigned his navy commission and returned to England with the intention of managing the horse-breeding business in Hampshire that he had helped his late mother to set up some years previously. But his brother has lost the bulk of the family fortune at the gaming tables, and Sebastian can think of only one way of amassing a suitably large amount of money quickly enough to enable him to achieve his goal. He repairs to Bath with the intention of gambling his way to solvency and meets with considerable success.

Not long after his arrival, he is unexpectedly confronted by Miss Julia Faircloth, who has discovered that her father owes Sebastian a great deal of money. Julia is one of life's organisers and has spent most of her life managing the household because her parents were never able to deal with the practicalities of family life. There is a strong undercurrent of attraction between the pair from the moment they meet, but Sebastian recognises immediately that Julia is not the sort of woman who would make for an easy life. Which is why, following the sudden death of Mr Faircloth after he has lost his home and what little money he had left to Sebastian, the latter proposes marriage not to Julia, but to her timid sister, Sarah, believing she will make him a comfortable, docile wife who will allow him to do exactly as he pleases without challenge or interference.

Sarah is in love with someone else, and Julia, knowing her sister could never cope with a man like Sebastian, decides it's down to her to find a way to keep a roof over her family's head and to prevent Sarah's marriage to a man who will make her miserable.

I admit, when I read in the synopsis that Julia tricks Sebastian into marrying her instead, I rolled my eyes at the idea. But Ms Wright actually manages to make it work fairly well, by setting up the scene in such a way as to make the possibility that Sebastian could mistake one sister for the other just vaguely plausible.

It's only when the newlyweds arrive at Trevarre House in London that Sebastian learns the full extent of his brother's recklessness. Not only has he gambled away the family fortune, he has sold off almost all his property and decamped to Italy.

You can read the rest of this review at [AudioGals](#)

Wanda Liendro says

Wow. I love this series

I thought it couldn't get any better after "Silver Storm" but I was wrong. Smuggler's Moon was wonderfully entertaining with an excellent surprise. Sebastian Trevarre is looking for a nice quiet docile wife and he thinks Sarah Faircloth is the answer. What he gets is something totally different. It's a very exciting story and

to say more would give away too much. You'll love it!

Lilmissmolly says

Smuggler's Moon is an entertaining historical romance revolving around a mistaken identity marriage set primarily in 1798 Cornwall. This is the 2nd book about the Raveneau Family, which is part of the broader Rakes & Rebels series written by Cynthia Wright. Even though I did not listen to the first book in the series, I do not feel like I missed out on anything not knowing any of the Raveneau backstory.

This story begins in Bath where Lord Sebastian Trevarre is in desperate need of funds after his parent's death and his brother gambled away the family's fortune. Having served many years in the navy, he is very good at cards and is known for showing no mercy at the gambling tables. One afternoon he is visited by the headstrong and feisty Julia Faircloth after her father loses a substantial amount of money to him. She pleads with Sebastian not to gamble with her father any longer. However, Sebastian ignores her entreaties the following night and Julia's father loses everything – including the sole source of the family's income – a beloved bookstore. Feeling some remorse after Julia's father kills himself in shame after such a public loss, Sebastian offers to marry Julia's younger sister Sarah because she appears to be less of a handful than her sister. However, Sarah fancies herself in love with someone else, and under the guise of protecting Sarah's young sensibilities from the dreaded wedding night, Julia decides to marry the arrogant Lord in her stead (in disguise). Sebastian quickly sees through the ruse but plays along to see how far Julia will take the deception. Little did he suspect Julia would not balk at consummating their marriage; and, against his better judgment, he takes Julia to bed and quickly loses control over his life.

Like most books with hidden identity marriages, Sebastian takes Julia to the family's dilapidated estate off the coast of Cornwall and he ignores her while he plans how to make his village prosperous again. Julia quickly falls in love with Cornwall's countryside and its residents; the entire village can see what a wonderful woman the Lord married, even if he does not. The story really gets interesting after Sebastian realizes that holding back his plans for the village from Julia (let alone his feelings) will only get them both in trouble. Sebastian's plans go awry when an English tax collector (an old war nemesis) lays a trap for Sebastian and his merry men, and Julia is injured trying to save them. The scene on the beach is truly heartwarming. In short, I thoroughly enjoyed listening to this audiobook and recommend it to anyone who enjoys 18th Century historical romance.

Romanticamente Fantasy says

Julia è sempre stata ben cosciente del carattere fragile dei suoi genitori: ha dovuto occuparsi della sorella e del fratello quando la madre, di fronte a qualsiasi problema, si chiudeva nella propria stanza in preda a feroci mal di testa. Anche il padre, pur essendo amabile con i figli, ha sempre preferito chiudersi nella sua libreria, in compagnia dei libri che avrebbe dovuto vendere, piuttosto che occuparsi dell'andamento domestico. Ma le cose, da qualche tempo a questa parte, sono cambiate. La famiglia ha ereditato una grossa somma di denaro e una bella tenuta da un anziano cugino, e la famiglia si è trasferita a Bath, ma se inizialmente la giovane donna ha pensato di essere finalmente serena, dopo qualche mese si è resa conto che suo padre è sprofondato nel vizio del gioco. Nonostante lei tenti invano di parlargli, l'uomo si rifiuta di ammettere il problema. Trovato un pagherò di grande entità, Julia si vede costretta a rivolgersi a Lord Sebastian Trevarre

per indurlo a cancellare il debito del padre ed accusandolo di stare rovinando la sua famiglia. Quello che la giovane donna non sa però è che Sebastian si trova nelle sue stesse identiche condizioni: suo fratello, l'attuale Marchese, ha infatti venduto tutte le proprietà non legate al titolo ed è fuggito in Italia dopo aver perso tutto al gioco, anche i meravigliosi cavalli che Sebastian aveva allevato e che avrebbero dovuto essere suoi non appena si fosse congedato dalla marina. Ora Sebastian si trova a Bath, tentando di vincere al gioco abbastanza per poter riprendere possesso di alcuni dei suoi beni e l'incontro con la battaglia Julia, pur lasciandolo amareggiato, non può cambiare le sue necessità. Nonostante ciò, quando si trova di nuovo a giocare contro il padre di Julia, tenta di dissuaderlo dal puntare la proprietà di famiglia, ma l'uomo, intenzionato a rifarsi delle ingenti perdite, rifiuta, finendo per perdere tutto e per disperazione finisce anche per togliersi la vita.

Julia, così, all'apertura del testamento viene a sapere che non rimane nulla dell'eredità, nemmeno la sua casa, e nulla la dissuade dal credere Sebastian come unico colpevole della situazione. Quando il giovane Lord si presenta a casa per dare un'occhiata alla sua nuova proprietà, rimane colpito dalla giovane sorella di Julia, Sarah, che al contrario di lei è molto amabile, di carattere docile e sottomesso, e sentendosi colpevole per la situazione della famiglia le propone il matrimonio: lui sposerà Sarah e la famiglia potrà rimanere ad abitare nella proprietà. Sebbene la giovane donna sia innamorata di un altro, per il bene della madre e del fratello, accetta. Ma poi, disperata, si rivolge alla sorella su cui ha sempre contato per uscire da quella situazione e Julia, che non intende abbandonarla, decide di prendere il suo posto, ideando un folle piano.

Sebastian, che crede di aver ottenuto un matrimonio tranquillo in cui sua moglie ha un posto ben preciso e in cui i suoi sentimenti non verranno mai messi in gioco, si troverà invece sposato ad una donna che lo attrae moltissimo, ma che si rifiuta di essere messa da parte.

Il loro matrimonio non sembra essere nato sotto una buona stella anche se fra loro c'è una grande passione. Molti sono i segreti che Sebastian cela nel cuore e che il giovane nasconde alla moglie: la loro situazione finanziaria li costringe, infatti, ad andare in un'antica proprietà di famiglia in rovina che si trova in Cornovaglia, una terra che il giovane Lord odia con tutte le sue forze e che invece farà innamorare Julia con la sua asprezza.

Una nuova vita, non priva di pericoli, li aspetta e i due giovani dovranno imparare a fidarsi l'uno dell'altra prima di riuscire a vedere davvero dentro i propri cuori.

Affascinanti Lord, prodi contrabbandieri, dazieri del Re intenzionati a fermare il contrabbando e scene molto sensuali attendono il lettore nelle pagine di questo libro. Julia e Sebastian sono una coppia di personaggi forti e volitivi.

I loro dialoghi sono frizzanti, le scene passionali sono ardenti e molto belle, e anche i personaggi di contorno sono molto interessanti. Ritroviamo infatti la coppia di Tempesta d'argento, Devon e Andrè, sposati ormai da vent'anni e che hanno una parte di rilievo nella storia, come poi scopriremo. Un legame segreto con la famiglia di Sebastian.

Una trama corposa, piena di accadimenti in un libro molto piacevole, che solo in alcuni punti ha dei rallentamenti, ma del resto scusabile su quasi 400 pagine.

Qualche piccolo refuso e una o due frasi che sembrano mancare di una parola che le completi (o almeno questa è stata la mia impressione) sono gli unici piccoli difetti rilevati in una traduzione buona e curata.

L'unica domanda che mi viene spontanea è perché non sia stata seguita la sequenza dei libri data da Goodreads e dall'autrice stessa della serie Rakes & Rebel che vede questo secondo libro come il quinto, saltandone quindi tre. Dato che l'autrice si autopubblica mi sembra per lo meno strano, ma a parte questo, se amate il romanzo storico, è sicuramente un libro da tenere in considerazione.

Karen Darling says

The beginning was good, but it got dull after a while.

Tracy Emro says

I liked this book. I liked Julia and Sebastian I liked Ms. Wright's writing style. I even liked the story. But I didn't love it and I don't think I would read it again.

It starts out really good, but lost something about two-thirds into the book. All of a sudden everything changes - secrets, feelings etc. Sebastian for no apparent reason to me just changes. I felt a bit lost.

There were also some random things in the book that added nothing but words to the story. I was wondering where the author was going with these scenes and when I finished the book I realized - they were just filler. If you cut those scenes the book would have been exactly the same - just shorter.

And regarding Andre's revelation - not sure how I feel about that. Andre is not my ideal hero to start with...

I can say this was a good light read - nothing special, but it held my interest.

Trish R. says

Just OK..

A good story but I would have thought Sebastian would have been a LOT angrier about being tricked into marrying Julia instead of Sarah. He just seemed to kind of accept it. I can't see a man accepting that so nonchalantly. It looks like he would have been livid.

And, good grief! If Julia was going to find a wounded animal did it have to be a vicious animal like a badger. It wasn't like she could keep it. It seemed like it was just added to take up space in the book. It added nothing to the story. And then she went and found another one? Geeeez!

Anyway, it's another really long book that repeats itself and is so wordy, 368 pages, and almost 11 hours on Audible. Think I'll go back to 150 to 250 page books. They tell me a good story without all the claptrap of larger books.

By the time it got right down to the smuggling, about 75%, I just knew Julia was going to take the holier-than-thou attitude and tell Sebastian he had to quit immediately. I really got tired of her thinking she knew what was best for everyone around her, it became very irritating.

This book was really best in the last 25%. And the secondary characters, Sarah, Freddy, Polly, Keswick, Tristan, and that creep, Adolphus, were all great. Even the creep you just loved to hate.

I can't see myself reading another book by this author unless she starts writing smaller ones. She can tell a

good story, and write good sex scenes, but it could have had a lot less pages, IMO.

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

Smuggler's Moon takes place after Spring Fires and before Surrender the Stars.. we see Devon and Andre as parents but to children not grown adults. I'm not sure why, I just think Cindy likes that era.. Ok, enough with the build up, here's the real review..

Julia Fairchild is the only rational adult in her family, maybe the only rational member at all, that remains to be seen.. She has been taking care of the basics from a very young age as her parents seem unable to handle basic day to day life. But then her father had a purpose and now that he's inherited a home and a nice annuity one would think life would get just a little better. But nope, now it seems he has a need to gamble it away.. honestly just when life had a chance of being interesting. When he is found dead Julia is mortified to discover that Lord "Satan" AKA Lord Sebastian Trevarre has managed to win everything. The family is stranded, desperate and willing to sell of a daughter to make things better. Sebastian thinks he wants sweet sister Sarah but Julia knows that will never work. So she sacrifices all and marries him herself.

Lord Sebastian Trevarre is trying to discover how his scapegrace of a brother has managed to lose everything. A game of cards or two hundred it seems. Just returned from six years in the Navy, Sebastian has nothing. No estate that was promised him, no money and worse all of his prized breeding stock has been sold off. To say he is furious would be putting it mildly. But he has a plan.. if only that Julia Fairchild would leave him alone and stay out of his mind. Is it his fault her father insisted on that last bet? That money could send Sebastian back to the world he was born in. But for some reason Sebastian feels for the Fairchild family and offers a proposition. Let him marry meek and mild Miss Sarah and the rest of the family can stay in their home, he'll even give them an allowance. Perfect! Right? *rolls eyes* men can be so dense. Fortunately for him Julia has a plan...

In typical Wright fashion the heroine has a plan.. and it's not as insane as some of the other "plans" that her heroines have come up with. All she has to do is marry Sebastian herself.. and of course get him to accept that marriage rather than annul it. The plan is a bit simplistic and makes Sebastian look a little dimwitted but.. she did manage to get him plenty drunk so it works. Of course once married that's not the end of things.. Nope it seems like they are not only totally without funds but brother dear also sold off the London Townhouse.. to the Raveneaus, old friends of his mother's. Now the only place they have left to live is in a drafty, run down estate in Cornwall. A Place Sebastian hates..

Yet together they manage to collect an assortment of friends and create a life worth living. Working separately but eventually finding their way to each other.. When reality slaps them both upside the head. A sweet story, lacking the darkness that is in, in today's regency romances. This book gives hope.. it is romance pure and simple.. and it doesn't hurt that we see dear friends in the process.

Another name that might be familiar is St Briac.. yeppers.. Thomas' descendants play a part and they have that Mardouet swagger that I fell in love with. I was worried about timing and how she was going to play this out. Worry not, Cindy gave them a perfect history.

So.. what did I really think of this book? For those Wright lovers out there Cindy has managed to grow into today's writing expectations without losing the thing that makes it a work by Wright. A grown up Cynthia Wright book! I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to many more books from her.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Smuggler's Moon, provided by Ms Wright for an honest opinion.

Mainer207 says

Hooray! A Cynthia Wright audiobook with a great narrator. Rosalyn Landor does a wonderful job with this story. She's fantastic. The book was good. It was interesting throughout except, in my opinion, for the ending. After the encounter at the cave it felt like the book just fell off the cliff. I was very disappointed by the Andre Raveneau part in this story. I look forward to more in this series and I hope Rosalyn Landor is chosen to read them. What a difference a good narrator makes. This is the best of Cynthia Wright!

Svalora says

I mostly listened to this book on Audible, but also read part of it — the narration of the book was enjoyable to listen to, which probably added to my enjoyment of the book.

There were, however, times that the descriptions were more drawn out than I thought needed to be, but as I stated in the last book I reviewed in this series, I might attest that to when this book was actually written, and how the times and styles of writing have changed. Neither good nor bad, just different and noticeable for me. This series HAS kept me interested though and I've enjoyed how characters from previous books have played parts in each! This is not my normal timeframe of Historical romance reading, but I'm enjoying it none the less!
