



The Ton's Most Notorious Rake

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She vowed to stay clear of men...

But can she resist the ton's most notorious rake?

Alone in the dirt, her ankle in agony, the last person Molly Morgan wants to come to her rescue is the handsome yet infuriating Beau Russington. Molly does her utmost to avoid scandalous rakes like Russ, but his dangerous allure shakes up her quiet country life. The sparks between them could be explosive, if Molly only dare surrender...

“Mallory pens a lovely, sweet second-chance romance” — *RT Book Reviews* on *The Duke's Secret Heir*

“Passionate, moving and a positive gem” — *RT Book Reviews* on *A Lady for Lord Randall*

The Ton's Most Notorious Rake Details

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From Reader Review The Ton's Most Notorious Rake for online ebook

Deirdre says

learning to trust is hard work Molly Morgan lives quietly with her brother in his vicarage, helping to run a house for "unfortunate" women when her life is disrupted by Sir Gerald Kilburn and his house party, particularly Beau Russington who is everything she thinks she should despise, but how come he attracts her so much. Beau Russington is a renowned rake, well able to talk to women except for Molly who keeps him on his toes.

They're the core romance but there are a few others and it's interesting to see the relationships build.

Entertaining and light.

Jo Barton says

There's nothing I like better than a good Regency Rake and Beau Russington is up there with the best of them. Swoon-worthy from the very start of the novel, Beau oozes charisma, sex appeal and more than a hint of danger, in fact, he is everything that Molly Morgan detests. So, when Beau and his equally rakish friends arrive in the small northern village of Compton Parva, Molly is determined to keep these profligate men away from Prospect House, the home she runs for 'fallen women'. That Molly is the main benefactor of this home harks back to a bad experience which happened some time ago in her own past and which has left her distrustful of all men.

I was quite entranced by the story, and found that I thoroughly enjoyed the sparring which goes on between Beau and Molly. Trying to resist the lure of attraction between them is what makes the book so delicious to read. Molly's steadfastness, particularly in her dealings with the women at Prospect House, is to her credit but, it is the intoxicating, and at times infuriating presence of Beau, which sets her heart a fluttering. The other delightful characters who flit into and out of the story add interesting depth, whilst the less than likeable characters add the necessary light and shade, to this well written Regency romp.

If you enjoy Regency romances with a touch of intrigue and more than a hint of 'will they or won't they' romance then this story will certainly appeal.

Em says

Review for RHR to come.

Michelle Cunliffe says

Normally in a review I would go into a lot of detail...but for this review if I did then they would be a lot of

spoilers and I try not to do that.

This was a great book and comes highly recommended, if you have read Sarah's other books, then you will know what a treat it is.

Beau Russington for me isn't your typical rake, he's a rake with a heart, and that shows more and more when he is with Molly. Unfortunately to start with Molly isn't that impressed with Beau. For you see Molly has had a bad experience with men and from that she opened Prospect House, with the help of some friends, while I was reading for me this is Molly's greatest achievement and she loves what she does at the house.

From the moment we meet Beau, I liked him and I was forever telling Molly that she was wrong about Beau. And I was also telling her to trust her heart, which for Molly to give her heart to another man is far more dangerous.

Caz says

I've given this a B at AAR.

Sarah Mallory is someone whose work I enjoy, so I was pleased to pick up **The Ton's Most Notorious Rake**, a charming, standalone historical romance that warns about the unfairness of judging people based on their reputations rather than by their actions. Our hero may be the most *notorious* rake, but notoriety and actuality are very different things, and it's a distinction that our heroine initially fails or refuses to recognise as she jumps to conclusions based on hearsay and her own fears and prejudice.

Mrs. Molly Morgan is only twenty-four years of age, but has been a widow for a number of years. Since the death of her husband, she has made her home with her brother, Edwin Frayne, who is the vicar of Compton Parva, and has used some of her widow's jointure to set up Prospect House, a place of refuge for young women in difficult situations. The place now houses ten inhabitants, some of them women who were ruined by unscrupulous men, some, women who ran away from unwanted marriages, some who were unfairly dismissed from their employment – whatever the reason, the women run the house and the farm, supporting themselves by growing their own produce and selling the excess at market, along with other sundry items produced by members of the household.

Prospect House is Molly's pride and joy, and she is perturbed when Edwin tells her that Sir Gerald Kilburn has come to stay at the neighbouring property of Newlands with a large party of friends. Molly is immediately on the defensive and worried for the virtue of the ladies of Prospect House; Sir Gerald is reputed to run with a fast set and he and his friends have reputations that indicate they are everything Molly despises. Edwin assures her that everything is most proper; Sir Gerald's sister is one of the party, there is an older lady who acts as her chaperone and there are a number of other, respectable ladies there, too, suggesting it is "*not a party of rakish bucks intent upon setting the neighbourhood about by the ears.*" Molly is unconvinced however, especially given that Sir Gerald's oldest friend, Mr. Charles Russington, is also at Newlands, a man reputed to be so incredibly attractive that "*no lady in town is safe.*"

Edwin's laughing suggestion that perhaps, if he is so irresistible, Mr. Russington has fled to the country to escape the ladies isn't so far from the truth. A second son with an independent fortune of his own, Russ has become rather bored with the usual round of pleasures available to him. High-stakes gaming and heavy

drinking have never been his style, and almost all the women setting their caps at him are more interested in his money than in him. Watching his father marry a new young wife who bled him dry and then ran off with her Italian lover has made Russ determined to avoid a similar fate – yet he can't deny that the idea of finding someone with whom to share his life is one that has been occurring to him more and more often of late.

When he first meets Molly Morgan, he is taken with her sweet smile and laughing eyes – until, that is, she realises who he is and her regard changes to one of open dislike and disdain. Russ can't understand it – he's not personally vain, but he knows that those aren't the normal reactions his attentions provoke in women, and he at first wonders if her attitude is a ruse to pique his interest. But then his sense of humour kicks in, and he allows that some of her not-so-veiled insults were amusing – as well as quite cutting.

Molly is certainly guilty of making hasty judgements about their new neighbours, as her brother points out more than once. It's clear early on that while she is concerned for the reputation and safety of the residents of Prospect House – which can exist within their small community only as long as its respectability is unquestionable – she is also motivated by her own experiences and has formed very strong prejudices as a result. But as time passes and she sees more of Russ, the harder it is for Molly to continue to believe him to be the man rumour paints him. He's kind, honourable and genuine and they develop a friendship based on mutual interest and affinity; Molly enjoys conversing with Russ, and likes his quick mind and sense of humour, while Russ admires Molly's quiet efficiency and her dedication to protecting the women at Prospect House.

There's a strong undercurrent of attraction running between these two, and Ms. Mallory takes her time developing their relationship and bringing them together. This is a romance which concentrates fully on the love story with little extraneous action or filler (although there are actually a couple of secondary romances in the book, one of which has a part to play in the main storyline) and the conflict arises almost exclusively from Molly's prejudices and insecurities. There are a couple of times she veers dangerously close to being unlikeable, but fortunately, the author manages to pull her back from the brink, even when she makes a grave error that almost destroys her friendship with Russ. He's furious, but when he calms down, he realises there is more to Molly's distrust of men than mere hearsay, and his concern for her – even though she's hurt him – is wonderful to see.

The Ton's Most Notorious Rake is, to put it simply, a lovely read. Russ is a gorgeous hero; handsome and charming of course, but more than that, he's a decent, caring man who realises that he wants something else from life – and when he finds it, isn't about to let it slip away. Molly is generous and warm, but experience has taught her distrust and wariness, and the way Russ gradually breaks down her barriers and gets beneath her skin is extremely well done. Their romance develops over time, and there's a real sense of their discovering something new about one another with each subsequent meeting. The ending is just a tad contrived, with Russ jumping to unfortunate conclusions of his own, but that's a minor criticism of what is essentially a tender, emotionally satisfying love story that deserves a recommendation.

Frankie Reviews says

I like how Mallory has you engaged from the initial meeting between Russ and Molly and then she takes you on a slow meaningful voyage of discovery as these two move past their own personal challenges and find that life can be good to them. The budding romance is sweet and tender, Mallory has carefully built their story up in a way that you're learning something new about each of them as the story unfolds, and I really like that. It's a novel way of getting to know the characters and their personal histories – especially with Molly,

it's the perfect way of discovering her true personality.

Beau Russington has a wild and dark reputation, one that has society mama's scuttling their little debutant darling's away to safety his charming and rakish behaviour is legendary stories of just how bad he is has made to all drawing rooms across the country, so when the man himself turns up in Molly's sleepy little village she is instantly on edge he is the last thing that they want in their village. She knows that his kind could destroy all her hard work that she has done at Prospect House, but more than that once she meets the charming rake and she sees exactly what an alluring man he is, she knows that he could very well destroy her.
