



A Lady By Chance

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Driven by fierce patriotism to England, the Marquess of Haverstock will do anything to reclaim the money his best friend lost at cards, money that was to purchase battle plans from a French official.

The bewitchingly beautiful but illegitimate Anna De Mouchet agrees to give the marquess back the money she "won." On one condition: that he marry her.

From this forced marriage rises a love as powerful as the canons of the war which tears them apart

A Lady By Chance Details

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From Reader Review A Lady By Chance for online ebook

Nickie Kuhn says

This book was fun! A little frustrating at times what with the lack of communication between the hero and heroine, but I really enjoyed the story. Anna and Charles were great characters, as were Lydia and Morgie. The side stories were entertaining and well-resolved in the end. I truly enjoy Ms. Bolen's work and look forward to reading more!

Courtney says

I found this book because I won the 3rd book in the series from a Goodreads Giveaway. I prefer to start at the beginning of a series, so I found this ebook on Amazon. My local library didn't have a copy.

Overall, it was ok. The romantic scenes were a little frilly for my taste, the emphasis on how nice and sweet and beautiful the heroine was was a little over the top, and the hero's actions were a little hard to believe. The premise of how the hero and heroine met was far fetched, but fun. I realize this is a marriage of convenience series, so I rolled with that setup. But, there was a constant back and forth where they believed only the worst in each other, without actually talking to each other or asking questions to explain the other's lives or behavior. Apparently having a marriage where partners talk to each other had never occurred to either of them. The hero's actions in France, in particular, made me literally roll my eyes. You're going to go all that way only to behave like that? REALLY?

Overall, it was ok. My favorite part of the book were the interactions between the hero's sister and friend, Lydia and Morgan. And, I'm looking forward to reading the other books in the series

Ted says

Lady by Chance

A great romp and spy story. An innocent young miss is tricked into marriage. A spinster who is most unfeminine finally wins her childhood friend. A wily villain is caught.

Grace Perez says

Love this book. Read it in few days, that's how much i wanted to know more. Very romantic and sensual and loved the story line.

Opal says

This book started in a very interesting way. It was about Anna the bastard daughter of a French emigre and an English aristocrat. Her mother wants her to be brought up like other English misses. But Anna's father's family refuses and the mother-daughter stay as outcasts till the mother's death.

Anna is then offered a chance to take revenge on her father's family. This - by cheating at cards and getting married into the family because she believes the hero to be a traitor. What is the point of exposing someone's activities - when he is her husband? A wife is not allowed to testify in court and after everything she would remain his wife! Thus tainting herself AND her future children. No logic...

Next Anna forces her husband - the Marquis of Haverstock - to consummate the marriage so that it cannot be annulled at a later date.

After all this deception and inherent suspicion, both the hero or heroine keep admiring and appreciating one another! The heroine abandons all attempts to seduce the truth of her husband's traitorous activities and coolly sets off with his sisters to buy them new clothes. Such behavior really challenges your credulity.

The prose is really poor with a lot of clichéd phrases like "petal soft skin".

I marked this book as Read but I couldn't get beyond 50 pages or so and am not likely to continue.

Lynn says

Do you like romance novels? Kidnapping? Deceptive marriages? Secrets? Jealousy? Hidden love? London? Country manors? All those formula plot devices? Well I guess I do. This book satisfied. If that's not your cup of tea, don't even pick this up!

RoloPoloBookBlog says

A Lady by Chance by Cheryl Bolen

Book #1: House of Haverstock

Source: Purchase

My Rating: 4/5 stars

My Review:

The House of Haverstock series is my first experience with the writings of Cheryl Bolen and I firmly believe I started at the right place!

Anna de Mouchet is, according to the gossip, a wealthy whore just like her mother before her. If everyone knew the truth of the matter, Anna's reputation would be much, much better than it is and she wouldn't have spent her meager 18 years virtually alone and shunned by society. Though she knows her life will be a disappointment to her dearly departed mother, Anna is content to be alone with her charity work. Content is very different from happy but with her reputation, Anna really has no other option.

When Sir Henry Vinson approaches Anna with a proposition of the gravest nature, she agrees to his scheme. No matter what her heritage says, Anna is a true Englishwoman and no one could ever doubt her loyalty. According to Sir Henry, there is a traitor among his colleagues at the Foreign Office and with Anna's help

they can trap the man and bring justice to the Crown. As a true and loyal patriot, Anna is willing to help in any way she can and so she agrees to trick Charles, the Marquess of Haverstock into marrying her. With some sleight of hand, a lot of liquor and some careful negotiation, Anna quickly finds herself bound to the Marquess and the Marchioness of Haverstock.

Charles Upton, Marquess of Haverstock never saw himself a married man. At 32, he is devoted to his work, his family and, the occasional mistress. Without doubt, Anna de Mouchet manipulated him into marrying her but for what reason, Charles is unsure. What he knows about his wife he can fit into a thimble but he quickly realizes, Anna is far more than she appears to be and damn if he doesn't want to know more about her. It takes Anna very little time to fit in with his sisters (not so much his mother!) and his best friend, Morgie Morgan but Charles is wary by nature and treads lightly where Anna is concerned. He wants to trust his wife and the more he gets to know her, the more enraptured he is by her.

For Anna's part, she just can't figure out how Sir Henry thinks Charles is a spy as his every action speaks to true patriotism. Anna is torn between her mission with Sir Henry and her growing affection for Charles. As the days move forward, Anna's loyalties become divided and she does everything possible to do the right thing by both her husband and her country. As fate would have it, Anna has unwittingly become involved in a terrible situation that will eventually involve murder, true espionage and kidnapping. Through every horrible moment and event, Charles and Anna are led to believe that the other is a traitor and not to be trusted. Given the circumstances of their marriage, each makes one blunder after the other creating an even greater mess that has national as well as personal implications.

The Bottom Line: I rather enjoyed *A Lady by Chance* with its historical setting, its interesting characters and, plot that is not all that complicated but intriguing and fun nonetheless. Anna is a pure delight with a heart of gold and only the best of intentions. Unfortunately, Anna gets sucked into a devious man's plot and no matter how hard she tries to extricate herself from the situation, it only gets worse. At every turn, Anna enlists the help of Morgie and her sister-in-law, Lydia (both incredibly interesting characters!) and between the three, they scheme and plot to salvage a miserable situation. Charles, the Marquess of Haverstock is such a stodgy old man for being only 32 years old. His work is vitally important to him and before Anna, he never thought anything would be more important than his work. He makes mistakes with Anna at every turn but in the end, he proves himself to be a true and loyal husband and no traitor to either his wife or his country. The plot of *A Lady by Chance* is not at all hard to follow or overly complicated but it did keep me interested from start to finish. You can see very early on who the true traitor is but it doesn't really matter. Bolen creates a whole series of obstacles and issues for her characters that keep the plot moving along and gaining speed as the end grows ever nearer. The plot is further enhanced with the help of a large, easily distinguishable and, generally enjoyable cast of characters. In all, *A Lady by Chance* is a fine regency romance and I am already on to book two, *Duchess by Mistake*!

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Anna Was a Traitor to the British Crown!!!

I felt like Anna was a traitor to the Crown and should have been take to the Tower of London. How could any one be that dumb? She makes this loving caring Marquess Lord Haverstock marry her to get revenge on his deceased father. Because of her hatred for Charles Lord Haverstocks father. She believes Sir Henry that Charles is a spy for the French. So she made him marry her by cheating at cards and causing Charles best friend Morgie who is a wonderful character in the story to lose the moneythey need to pay a real French Spy

to help them win the war against Napoleon. Anna gives vital information to Sir Henry the real French Spy traitor to England that cause a very important French Operative and friend of England and the Crown get killed. Sir Henry murders the poor man after Anna tells where he lives and what he looks like. Anna Spies on her husband to get information to help Sir Henry/ Anna never displays any real remorse of Pierre Chassney's murder. It does cause the dumb girl to wonder if maybe she is wrong about her husband being a Spy for the French. She later tries to redeem herself by trying to stop her relationship with Sir Henry. and tells him to leave England I still think she should have been taken to The Tower and Hanged.

So why 2 stars instead of 1? I really liked all the other wonderful characters in the story. Even Anna was very kind an generous to everyone, BUT!!! A Traitor is a Traitor!! Had not Charles loved her so much, he would have had her hanged.

Zena says

Anna de Mouchet is an illegitimate young lady born to a French mother and an Englishman. Both parent have died and she has been left a considerable fortune but she is shunned because of her birth status. Along comes the Marquess of Haverstock and she cunningly tricks him into marrying her. He falls willingly under this temptress' spell but denies that he love her.

There is definitely a major lack of communication and a lot of foolish behaviour on both their behalves and life between them just roller coasters chaotically until they come clean with each other.

This book is a cleverly written adventurous love story set during the Napoleonic era.

I just love the way Cheryl Bolen grabs your attention from the very first sentence and keeps you turning the pages and thirsting for more.

Judy Tolley says

I did not realize this was a Regency romance book. Ugh. I used to read these when I was younger and believed in all these fantasies. Our story is about an 18 year old who was born on the wrong ide of the blanket. Her mother was a gambler and whore and had a bad reputation but a lot of money. She raised Anna to be a "lady". Through manipulation and chance,Anna marries a man she just met and becomes a Marchioness. The story is so predictable and there's some steamy sex but what makes this book sad is the fact it's just like all the other hundreds of romance books I read years ago. Nothing new and too much fantasy ring true.

dakotapie says

Anna was an idiot.

Also, the scene where they consummated their sham marriage? So confusing.

Connie says

A true love story

Cheryl Bolen creates yet another classic romance. She is the Queen of Recency. Her characters are well developed and the plot is intricate yet moves along at a good pace.

Anna is the bastard daughter of a duke. He dies when she was young. Her mother, a Frenchwoman, wants nothing more than her daughter be part of the ton. By the time she is 13, she is an orphan. A very rich one.

Charles is the Marquess of Haverstock. His father was cruel and gambled away most of the family money.

Anna tricks Charles into marriage. Each thinks the other is a traitor to Britain for France.

Can love truly grow in these circumstances?

What a lovely ride to find out.

Charles is Marquess of Haverford. His father was cruel and gambled away most of the family money.

Kat says

I've read the third book of this series first but, back then, didn't feel compelled to read the other books. This one came about a different way and I had already started reading when I realized this belonged to that same series.

And aren't I ever so glad that I happened upon this after all!

Great writing style, great story-telling. This was much more than a little romance between two people that didn't seem to fit at first (from an outside perspective). I was particularly fond of the development of secrets and secret-telling, as I am so often annoyed at this in other books. This one here was much more to my liking.

So, I couldn't put this book down until I had finished and was almost late for work because of it. So worth it.

kate says

I'm not sure if our h Anna is to stupid to live or just very young. She is eighteen and has no social life at all. No siblings or friends. Her mother has been dead for several years. How a fabulously wealthy eighteen year old has been allowed to live on her own for the past five years without a guardian is never explained. Anyway she has still developed the skill of an advanced card shark and is duped into forcing a dimwit Marquess or whatever he was into marrying her. Then she does one stupid thing after another. But she was nice to poor people and only eighteen so I was willing to cut her some slack.

The H Charles is 32 and described as having a double chin and a receding hairline. Be still my heart. He is a big wig at the foreign office and is in charge of the whole french spy thing. Incredibly the English still eventually won the war. He is the king of misunderstanding. He constantly is in a sulk or pout or refusing to speak to her because he has misread the situation. Most issues could have been cleared up with an honest

question. For example "So what did you do this afternoon" ? Instead when he sees his wife returning from doing charity work he assumes she is off having an affair. Seriously only an extremely lonely 18 year old would put up with this guy.

Charles does always stand up for her to his mother though I'll give him that. His mother hates Anna because her father was married to her (the mothers') sister and broke her heart by having the big affair with Anna's mother. The epilogue goes on to tell how she is really starting to like Anna after all. Not in this life time. If eye rolling gives you a headache you may want to skip this one

Lady Wesley says

Very nice run-of-the-mill marriage of convenience story with touches of espionage thrown in.
