



The Last Debutante

Julia London

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Who is the captive and who is the captor? When a sexy laird holds a spirited English lady for ransom, she turns the tables and steals his heart.

The lush Scottish Highlands are a tempting setting for seduction in *New York Times* bestselling author Julia London's sparkling new novel.

The last person Daria Babcock expects to find in her grandmother's home is a brawny, naked Highlander. She doesn't buy Mamie's explanation about finding the poor man shot in the woods. Nor does she trust the gorgeous laird, who insists his own memory fails him. But Daria came to Scotland looking for adventure and romance, and after the intriguing stranger kidnaps her, she gets her wish, and so much more. . . .

The Last Debutante Details

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Author : Julia London

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From Reader Review The Last Debutante for online ebook

Susan says

Enjoyable story about a spinster with no prospects who stumbles upon a taciturn Scotsman living in a castle but with no family bonding to speak of. Slowly her generous personality touches all who live there and she brings closeness and love back within its walls.

Into this mix was a little bit of a mystery and family secret, which made for an interesting story.

I enjoyed this for the most part, but I found the heroine a little bit too naive for my taste. Also, the batty grandmother got on my nerves, but aside from these small quibbles, this was a pretty good story!

Patti says

This is the first book I have read from author Julia London. It was the picture on the front, the title, the summary, and all the positive reviews. In addition, the twist of my favorite English Regency genre takes place in Scotland, not England. I've been there twice and could see this setting as being just as fascinating for a story. Not disappointed - it was a fun PG-13 read!

Lovely Daria, embarrassed and unfortunate in her eyes, is the last unspoken for girl in the village of Hadley Green and her recluse parents will not take her to London for a season to find a husband. Therefore, poor 21yr. old Daria's life is pretty bleak and doomed.

Well, what the heck, why not escape to Scotland to see her beloved grandmother who needs some money delivered? Adventure awaits our heroine and boy, is she in for it! Daria travels there and finds dear granny in a tiny cottage with a handsome Scotsman, (our hero), lying nearly passed out from pain and totally naked, because dear old granny shot him. She's nursing him back to health, but in the meantime, his buds come get him and he takes darling Daria as ransom for money that granny took from Uncle Hamish Campbell. So off handsome hero, Laird Jamie, goes with Daria to Castle Dundavie where he oversees the whole Campbell clan.

Daria is allowed to go out and about as she wants, but she will be not released until the ransom is paid. In the meantime, Daria makes the best of her idle time and wins the hearts of some of the clansmen, including our hero, the Laird. And she with him, of course. Fun and touching moments happen during her "imprisoned" time at Dundavie. (I liked the dinner and waltz scenes!)

My only complaint is that the end seemed very rushed. I actually had to re-read the explanations of the details because some of them didn't make sense to me. There wasn't any hint of some details throughout the story which I thought odd. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the story. Apparently this is #4 of a series, but can stand-alone. Judging by reviews of #1-#3, I will stop with "The Last Debutant".

Bunnyk says

It pissed me off. Would like to think author knew what thy were writing about - but at one point they had a character being compared to a MOCKINGBIRD. Well, excuse me for being Miss Picky... but mockingbirds? In Scotland? In the early 19th Century?

And then there's my normal gripe with this genre. Current authors seem to feel they HAVE to have at least one gratuitous sex scene, for preference they make it a pre-marital one, to show that the Heroine is Brave and Doesn't Care for the Conventions of Her Class (or something... not entirely sure WHY they do this!). It doesn't work, for me. Your mileage may vary, of course. But now I don't really want to read anything by this author ever again. EVER.

Alba Turunen says

Llegué al final de la serie y debo admitir que me ha gustado, éste último libro, me ha gustado. La lástima es que ésta serie de Julia London es de lo más mediocre que he leído y sólo salvo el 2º libro y éste 4º. Normalmente la autora no me decepciona con el libro que cierra sus series, pero a pesar de que éste libro está bien, no le llega ni de lejos a "El amante secreto" o "Escándalo en Palacio".

En ésta conclusión sabemos qué ocurrió finalmente en Hadley Green en 1793, pero debo admitir que lo de las joyas no me ha quedado muy claro, o no se explica o ha pasado tan de pasada, que ni me he pispado. Sólo debo decir que ha sido un giro espectacular que realmente no esperaba, pero Julia London lo ha hilado muy bien.

La historia de amor me ha gustado mucho, es bonita y tierna, con las suficientes dosis de romanticismo y sensualidad. Son unos protas que se ven y se deseán, pero ese deseo no es loco ni precipitado, tiene el justo equilibrio. Al principio del libro me dejó totalmente descolocada la actitud y los actos de la abuela Mamie, y aunque al final lo acabas entendiendo, creo que no había que llegar a tales extremos.

Por otro lado admito que soy fácilmente susceptible a los libros de los tíos con faldas, así que no es extraño que el libro me haya gustado habiendo un escocés de por medio. Y también me ha gustado que el libro haya salido de Hadley Green y no se desarrolle allí, si no en Escocia.

En resumen, la serie es entretenida, pero ni de lejos la mejor de Julia London. Sólo la recomendaría si eres fan de la autora y tienes ganas.

Pamela says

Loved Laird Jamie, Daria was extremely likable, supporting characters were great...but, the "mystery?" was a bit much as were Daria's parents and grandma. I would have preferred the ending/epilogue to be more fully flushed out, it seemed to be too neatly tied up for me.

Betty says

Another wonderful historical romance by Julia London! Daria Babcock, an English lady, is surprised to find a naked man recovering from a gunshot wound in her grandmother's cottage in Scotland. Her grandmother tells her that he found the man in the woods and brought him to her cottage to heal. However, Daria doesn't believe that she is getting the whole story or the truth of it. It is also confusing that her grandmother keeps him drugged and unconscious. When he finally regains consciousness he kidnaps Daria and takes her to his castle and demands money for her safe return. The characterization is very good as is the plot with a bit of mystery and action. There are several sub-plots that keep the story moving quickly and the reader very interested. I loved the book and look forward to more historicals from this author.

[Aengell] says

I loved this novel!

This was a truly perfect Historical Romance, where I can't find any fault.

Julia London is a real talented author, especially with her Historicals. The Last Debutante is no exception, every HR-lover will be satisfied with it.

The story begins with Jamie Campbell being shot at by the grandmother of the heroine, Daria. Her Grandmother, Mamie, is trying to finish him off while he is bedridden, when Daria arrives to visit with her Grandmother for some time.

A funny and quirky beginning, which caught my interest from the very start. I especially liked how innocent Daria was and wanted to help Jamie find his health, while her Grandmother tried to kill him without making it too obvious to Daria. Yes, it gets a bit complicated and it comes to the point where Jamie kidnaps Daria, to get the Ransom from her Grandmother.

The story continues to be quite unique and comical, and not just were Jamie and Daria adorable as the H/h, but all the other characters, just wow! One was funnier and more likable than the other, the round-up picture Julia London created was not just very enjoyable, but something different from your usual HR.

The relationship between Daria and Jamie was cute and tender on the one hand, and on the other hand Daria's temper and Jamie's laid back, Alpha attitude clashed more than enough in their various conversations. But even in other regards, it wasn't shallow or light, there were so many issues and deep-going aspects about all characters, which turned this into a perfect blend of, well, *everything*

Strongly recommended!

Amanda says

I might have given this a higher rating if it wasn't a complete rip-off of "Outlander." I understand that there might be similar stories floating around, but all the elements were the same: kidnapped English brown haired heroine gets brought to the laird's home (who has been shot). The names are even the same: Jamie, Hamish, Dougal, etc. The laird wants to marry the "Sassenach" (and calls her such), but cannot turn away from the

responsibility of his clan, was meant to be laird, etc., etc. Likeable characters, but read this book when it was called "Outlander" and was way better!

Pepa says

En realidad sería 3.5 pero me da rabia que no se puedan poner.

No me esperaba este tipo de argumento en esta saga...y lo cierto es que estoy muy saturada de la trama de las novelas en las que aparecen los fornidos hombres con faldas a cuadros... pese a todo, resulta una lectura muy dulce, porque la relación entre ellos es "normal", ella es un encanto, todo positivismo y a él, le resulta imposible luchar contra eso.

Muchos (demasiados) de los tópicos de estas novelas aparecen en la trama. Pero bueno, en resumen, me ha resultado muy entretenida y, en verdad, me ha gustado.

Por fin se confirma el tema de las joyas del primer libro, eso sí, la autora pasa de puntillas.

Ashley Schuster says

Their relationship doesn't seem to take off until the end. I did enjoy the way the book was completed (disregarding the epilogue) more than most, even if it was rushed a bit. Daria and Mamie were irritating. Mamie was OBVIOUSLY hiding something and Daria didn't pursue it enough at the get-go. Daria was whiney and spoiled but she still managed to befriend the unbefriendable with relative ease it seemed. I thought Jamie was smoking and I loved everything he was in. I'd like to read about Jamie's brother.

Inshirah Kamal says

"Leap, lass.
You'll either fall or fly,
but if you donna leap,
you will waste your time on this earth.
Be brave, Daria. Be courageous."

CoffeeTimeRomance and More says

Daria Babcock is tired of being the last debutante left in Hadley Green. All of her friends are not only married, but also having babies and enjoying their deliriously happy lives. When her family receives a plea for help from her Grandmama in Scotland, Daria leaps at the chance to go and visit her beloved Mamie. Finally, she has a chance to get out of Hadley Green and have a little adventure of her own.

Laird Jamie Campbell cannot figure out what the crazy Englishwoman is up to. First, the old woman steals clan money from Jamie's ailing Uncle Hamish, then she up and shoots Jamie in the back and tries to hold him hostage. When Jamie awakes and finds himself face to face with the crazy woman's beautiful granddaughter, he decides there is only one option, if he ever wants answers, so he takes Daria hostage and holds her in the Campbell family stronghold for ransom.

Daria is nothing that Jamie expects her to be. Plucky and full of life, she inserts herself into Campbell Clan life despite their determination to hate the English interloper. Soon, Jamie begins to realize that, even if her family pays the ransom, he would rather not part with his precious prize. Sometimes, it takes the hand of fate to put the pieces exactly where they need to be.

Ms. London writes a cast of unforgettable characters that readers will fall instantly in love with. As both Daria and Jamie grapple with the importance of familial duty and honor, their battles will resonate strongly with modern audiences. Sprinkled with poignant details of life in the Highlands, this is definitely one to add to your shelf.

Kaitlin
Reviewer for Coffee Time Romance & More

WTF Are You Reading? says

"The Last Debutante" is the fourth book in the The Secrets of Hadley Green series. Starring Daria Babcock, a spirited albeit sheltered English Rose, who at 21 finds herself still unmarried and without prospect. When her beloved grandmother writes home from Scotland, requesting that someone send her much needed funds; Daria jumps at the chance for adventure.

This is a wonderful book that though part of a series, has a story that has no trouble standing alone. Daria is a leading lady who manages to be both fresh and unpretentious while maintaining her intelligence and wit.

Action and a bit of comedy are present from the opening chapters, in which readers are introduced to Daria's feisty and resourceful grandmother and a certain Scottish laird.

Though there is romance in this read, it takes a backseat for most of the read to the secrets, intrigue, and power plays that surround both Daria and the young laird.

Romance between the two does bloom sweetly and slowly, despite both strange beginnings and less than hospitable surroundings.

There are secrets that will change Daria's life, as scandal from her father's past comes back to haunt the family and possibly bar Daria from true love forever.

This multifaceted romance is not one to be missed. A perfectly balanced combination of romance, mystery, and drama sure to keep pages turning and hearts skipping a beat.

I was provided with an ARC of this book in exchange for the honest review provided.

To see this review as it appears on my blog: <http://www.wtfareyoureading.com/2013/...>

Elis Madison says

[image error]

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

What a delightful addition to the Secrets of Hadley Green series!

Daria Bobcock is the last debutante of Hadley Green. Her day begins and ends like most English ladies, with teas and parties, but as she sees all of her friends enjoying their martial lives and babies, she grows restless and thirsts for a meaning to her life, a purpose that will fulfill and define her. Having no wanted martial prospects in the vicinity, and with her parents' refusal to grant her a Season in London, she is eager to go help her grandmother in Scotland when her grandmother's letter came to request financial assistance. Of course, she never expected to encounter a naked, unconscious man in her grandmother's cottage.

Jamie Campbell, Laird of the Dundavie Campbells, was unexpectedly shot by an old woman when he tried to make her admit her thievery to his clan, that she had duped his mentally ill uncle for a much-needed thousand pounds. He woke to find the old woman's beautiful granddaughter, Daria, and after some confusion, decided to take her ransom in his clan's castle until the thousand pounds is paid.

What I enjoy most about this book are the main characters and the gradual love that is built between them throughout the novel. Daria may be a young English miss, but she is nothing if not cheerful and determined, with a sincere heart to want to help others. She makes the best of her captivity and tries to befriend the Campbells, all the while falling in love with their intelligent and kind Laird. Jamie may not like the English, but he cannot resist Daria's sunny smiles and the warmth she infuses her surroundings. Their relationship develops from admiration of each other's character to a gentle camaraderie and love. Jamie perceives the missing component in Daria's life - bravery to pursue her own happiness, and she in turn teaches him that love is more important than clan alliances and heritage.

The first 3/4 of the book moves pleasantly, mostly with the developing relationship between Daria and Jamie. There is an underlying mystery and intrigue aspect to the novel that is fully explained near the end when the secret of Hadley Green is finally revealed, along with some skeletons of Daria's family. The ending feels a little rushed, and not enough has been expanded on how the characters will eventually deal with these emerging problems, but the book's end message is a timeless one of love conquers all.

I have thoroughly enjoyed The Last Debutante. This novel is like a refreshing walk through the meadows, full of sweetness and poignancy. The cast of characters is interesting and dynamic, and the lush settings of the wilds of Scotland only serves to enhance the reading experience. It's time to add Julia London to your auto-buy list if you haven't already done so!
