



What a Lady Demands

Ashlyn Macnamara

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Readers of Julia Quinn, Eloisa James, and Sabrina Jeffries will love Ashlyn Macnamara's novel about a smoldering new love that is threatened by past betrayals.

Viscount Lindenhurst cannot seem to find a governess who meets his impossible standards—until Cecelia Sanford becomes the first woman to interrupt the widower's brooding in years. Lind had returned home from the Napoleonic wars, broken in body and soul and longing for his wife's embrace, only to find her changed. Before they could reconcile, an accident struck their son and claimed her life. Now enter Cecelia, with her soft curves and sharp tongue—a tempting distraction, it is true, but not a welcome one.

Past the usual marrying age and haunted by a scandal of her own, Cecelia soon finds herself caring for both the child and the man. The viscount is brittle and even abrupt at times, yet she cannot deny the attraction that stirs her body in his presence. Moved by the deep sense of abandonment that tortures his soul, Cecelia aches to fully awaken Lind's heart from its rancorous slumber—if she can just keep their pasts from destroying a second chance at love.

Includes a special message from the editor, as well as an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

What a Lady Demands Details

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From Reader Review What a Lady Demands for online ebook

Farrah says

My Rating: 3.5/5

What a Lady Demands was a lovely historical romance that I enjoyed. It was sweet read and I quite liked it.

Cecilia was a good heroine. Strong enough to know her own mind and very determined when she set her mind to something. My only issue with her that, after finding out about her past, I thought it was strange that it didn't have a bigger effect on her. She seemed oddly casual about it. Other than that, though, I thought she was great.

Lind was likable as well. He was preoccupied with revenge after what happened with his wife but, beneath that, he was a kinder man than he thought himself to be. I just wish I had gotten more about his relationship to his son, seen him become closer to the little boy. It just would have been nice to see.

The romance was sweet. Cecilia was a good influence on Lind, encouraging him to be better and Lind would do anything for Cecilia, even give up on his plans for revenge. And they definitely had chemistry.

The plot moved quickly and kept me interested all the way through. I liked the story and the ending was great.

What a Lady Demands was an enjoyable historical romance. I thought it was a lovely read. Romance lovers, you might want to check this book out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Jen Davis says

It's always a refreshing surprise to stumble across an historical romance heroine who knows her own mind and is sexually empowered. Add a wounded hero and it's double bonus points for me. This story is book two in the Eton Boys Trilogy, but I didn't read book one and I thought this held up just fine as a standalone.

Cecelia is trying to build a new life for herself, free of her brother's censure and away from the looming scandal that could drop on her head at any moment. So she seeks refuge with a position as governess to the son of her brother's childhood best friend. She knows Lindhurst is a widower and badly damaged by the war, and she figures she can trade on his history with her family to get her foot in the door. It has absolutely nothing to do with the girlhood crush on him she nursed for years. No, really.

She finds out quickly that Lindhurst carries more than just physical scars. He was irrevocably damaged by the death of his wife. He's demanding and abrupt. And he doesn't seem to care even remotely for his young son. Cecelia, however, takes to the boy right away, determined to help him overcome his disabilities. She challenges Lind like no one else does. But can the promise of her affection help him put away his quest for vengeance against the man he blames for ruining his life?

It's a pretty good tale as the secrets of both Cecelia and Lind are slowly uncovered. I like that there was more to each of them than what we saw at face value. Cecelia's backstory surprised me more than Lind's. I won't spoil the details, but I really appreciated how she rose above it and set a path for herself to retake control of her life. I also really liked her as a character; how she spoke her mind and refused to be cowed; how she was willing to put herself out there and own her own desires.

Lind, I had a little bit tougher of a time with. It's hard to get 100% on board with a hero who was so unwilling to let go of his late wife's ghost. I sort of understand why, but when you add that to how he treated little Jeremy for much of the book, well, I didn't love him. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed watching him get together with Cecelia, but there were times I felt like he didn't deserve her. It kept me from totally connecting with the romance.

Overall, though, I thought it was well done. I am interested to see how the author will redeem Battencliffe in book 3, because I really didn't like him here.

Rating: B

**ARC Provided by publisher for review*

Belinda says

First off this book was very entertaining and beautifully written. I have read this author's previous books because she is wonderful storyteller. I think the "hero" so to speak has a bit of high handedness in his demeanor. That's not saying that I didn't like him, but sometimes men can be so stubborn in their attitudes. You have a wounded man from the Napoleonic wars by the name of Lindenhurst. He is a viscount, a widower who likes being demanding. There is so much anguish that has happened to Lind in his life, he forgets to live a little.

Then comes a spunky and no nonsense woman who becomes his son's governess. She sees more than the average woman who isn't afraid to give as good as she gets. Cecelia Sanford has confronted Lind about his son's need to his father and tries to get them together. Also, Cecelia has come to love the sad little boy who constantly falls when walking because of an injury sustained at an earlier age. Though Lind has been lonely for a woman's touch, he finds himself enjoying the battle of wits with Cecelia. He breaks his cold shell around his heart for this woman who touches his soul. When Lind kisses Cecelia she gets overwhelmed with passion and can't wait until he does it again.

You will find out how one man can change for the better when one woman trusts him with all her secrets and lots of romance to make this a fantastic read.

I received this ARC title from Net Galley for an honest review.

Sophia says

I have a weakness for a wounded, broody, military/ex-military man and it doesn't matter if he's a Regency era lord who is now determined toward revenge, but gets sidetracked by the entrancing sister of his former

friend come to be his son's governess. I found this story engaging from cover to cover. The author knows how to delight with humor, heartache and passion during the course of the story.

This is the second book in a trio of stories about three men who were once close friends after having met at school. The tie between each book is loose enough to read them out of order with the earlier couple and the next hero appearing in a few scenes though there will be a few moments when things are a bit confusing because they reference back to something from before.

The story opens with Cecilia Sanford appearing on Viscount Lindenhurst's doorstep asking to be considered for the position of his son's governess. Lind is a hardened bitter man with a thing for regiment and order in his home that has made him a bit demanding on his staff making it so that he has gone through a long string of governesses. He's got a revenge plot in the works against the man, his former friend no less, whom he found with his wife when he returned from war. Lydia died and Lind bares the guilt of that so he won't hold her accountable for the betrayal, but the man she was with is fair game. He wonders if Cecilia is there to spy out details on that or if her secrets are something else. Either way, he knows that something about her story of why she isn't married yet or still living under the protection of her brother is a lie. Against his better judgment, he gives her a chance assuming she'll fail with the boy like all the others. He has no idea how she will sort things and turn his world upside down.

Cecilia has her reasons for desperately needing to find employment under Lind's roof. He is so austere now that she doesn't dare tell him the truth that she allowed herself to be seduced by a wicked man or that when in charge of her brother's daughters that they were kidnapped by foreigners though that worked out fine. She must also never let this new and colder, Lind suspect that she's had a crush on him, her older brother's friend, since she was a girl. She must be all business and prove to him and her brother that she can do just fine. An introduction to her new charge shows her that she may have a more difficult time than she thought. Jeremy survived the accident that killed his mother and left him permanently injured, but he also is slow to learn in ways. He is a lonely child who yearns for his father's attention and Lind hides him away like he hates the very sight of him. Well she would just see about that. Jeremy needed his father and Cecilia wouldn't succeed with Jeremy with all those rigid rules set up. Lind would just have to heed her demands.

This story had one of my favorite plots. I love those ones where the father is a bit of a martinet and the child/children are in need of help so in swoops a strong, crusading woman to the rescue of both. Now naturally, this story has its own quirks so I wasn't reading a rehash. Cecilia is far from the usual retiring, virginal governess-type as one can get. She got into trouble because she's a lusty girl with strong appetites. She takes all the responsibility for that and sets out on her own so that her brother isn't stuck with her because no man will take a woman like her for a wife when the truth comes out. And Lind's issues that keep him from engaging in life are a bit convoluted to explain, but they are very real. He went through the trauma of war both on his mind and his body, he returns to difficulties with his marriage and then he loses his wife in an accident leaving him an injured son knowing he failed all around. He's got a bit of the Edmund Dantes thing going with his living for revenge attitude. He was ripe for a rescue by a very special sort of lady just as he finds that he can be her gallant knight too.

These two are pretty passionate types even though they both try to keep things strictly to the physical. Neither are shy and I found that an interesting thing since it's a bit different for the Lord of the manor and the governess trope. Normally, I struggle to get into HR stories where the connection is forged through the physical relationship first, but this one was different. I think it was necessary in this case. Lind had to be jolted back to life and Cecilia had to see that her past hadn't destroyed her for being with another man. Those who like things on the scorchy side will be well pleased with these two.

In the end, it was an enjoyable story. I want to go back for Cecilia's brother's story, but I'm curious to see if the author can make me see the final Eton friend as a hero type. He was a bit of a ne'er do well in this one even if he wasn't quite as bad as Lind thought him.

My thanks to Net Galley for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review.

Vikki Vaught says

I thoroughly enjoyed this moving story of triumph over adversity. I always enjoy a story with a tortured hero and a misunderstood heroine. Both Cecelia and Lind had dark secrets in the past. Cecelia lost her innocence as a young girl of sixteen to a scoundrel who continued to plague her for years. Lind returned after almost losing his life at the Battle of Quatre Bras, a broken and wounded man, betrayed by the only woman he had ever loved.

This wonderful story has plenty of romance, some mystery and lots of deep passion. As the story unfolds, several moments brought tears to my eyes, especially the tender way Cecelia works with Lind's troubled and confused child. My heart ached for Cecelia's lost innocence at such a young age and in such a cruel way. Even though Lind has a disability, he does not let it pull him down. He soldiers on, dealing with his pain, refusing to allow others to do for him what most men would accept in his situation. Ms. MacNamara knows how to wring emotions out of the reader. She has a smooth and flowing writing style that helped keep the pacing steady and even, keeping the reader engaged from the first page to the last.

Overall, an enjoyable read and I will be looking for more books by this talented author. If you enjoy a story that pulls at the heart strings, with well-developed character and an engaging storyline, then this is a book you will not want to miss.

Kiltsandswords says

What a Lady Demands by Ashlyn Macnamara

This is the second book in the Eton boys trilogy. I recently read What a Lady Craves, so it was easy to pick up with the characters and the story line, although this book can be read as a standalone. The story centres on Cecelia and Linenhurst, linked by Cecelia's brother Alexander. Linenhurst, Sandford and Battencliffe were best friends years ago at school, only to have the friendships strained and broken years later.

Cecelia arrives at Linenhurst's estate to take on the position of governess to his young son Jeremy. At first I really disliked Linenhurst. He seemed like the typical, arrogant British Lord. He doesn't treat his staff very well, is demanding and curt. He lacks common courtesy. It made me wonder how on earth the author was going to transform him into a believable love interest.

We learn that he is a bitter man, living in regret for the loss of his wife, the war, his wounded leg and the disabilities of his son. But somehow, even after learning all of this, I still didn't forgive him for his highhanded behaviour and self-righteousness. I only began to soften to him when he showed signs of changing. When he began to listen to Cecelia and take an interest in his son.

Cecelia has taken the position and clings to it for a variety of reasons. She is not interested in staying with

her brother and his family nearby, as he is newly married and she had a falling out with him (detailed in the previous book). She is also hiding from a villainous man who robbed her of her youth and abused her sexually. Eversham is tracking her, believing that she has an article of stolen jewellery he took from another man to hide his true sexual nature. It's all very sordid and the fact that Lindenhurst involves himself as her protector made me start to admire him.

Cecelia and Lindenhurst are both broken people. They have deep wounds that start to heal when they develop a relationship outside of employer and employee. They have great sexual chemistry. Things are very graphic and since Cecelia is an experienced woman, there are no maidenly senses to soothe. Their sexual relationship helps them to begin one of the heart. Cecelia's trust and calming presence gives Lindenhurst the strength to let go of the past and truly begin a future.

The story is complex as each character has a tragedy or past that they must overcome. From little Jeremy, who suffered brain damage, to the Eton men who can't let go of past behaviour to Cecelia who has a victim's mentality about the role she played in evil Eversham's games.

I enjoyed this book. I was really worried at first that I wouldn't be able to get past stuffy, rigid and mean Lindenhurst. But once he lets his guard down and embraces Cecelia, the pages got smoking hot. This is a story of new beginnings, but it takes the length of the novel for this to come to fruition.

The next story will be about Battencliffe. He has disgraced himself, is near bankrupt and his morals are hanging by a thread. I really look forward to seeing how he redeems himself and the lady that will steal his heart and his bed.

Reviewed for www.kiltsandswords.com I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Amy Alvis says

This is book 2 in the Eton Boys Trilogy.

Fleeing the disappointment of her brother, Cecelia Sanford has applied to Viscount Lindenhurst to allow her to be governess to his son. Since he's had to fire all the other governesses for one reason or another, he decided he might as well try his best friend's sister in the position.

Having not been raised in the serving class, Cecelia is not the obedient governess that she ought to be. She starts questioning Lind about why he won't call his son by his given name and other impertinent things that he doesn't want to answer.

Having not had a woman since his wife passed away four years ago, Lind finds it hard to resist his attraction for Cecelia. But she is hiding secrets of her own. Can they get over their past to find a new love?

I've been looking forward to Cecelia and Lind's story since I read *What a Lady Craves*. Cecelia and Lind were perfect for each other. I loved seeing Cecelia push Lind from his comfort zone and make him analyze his actions that were dubious. Lind made Cecelia realize that her past wasn't her fault and that she could move forward.

The next book in the series is *What a Lady Requires*, which stars Rowan Battencliffe. Can he redeem himself? We have to wait until February to find out!

Thanks go out to Random House Publishing Group via NetGalley for a copy of the book in exchange of an honest review.

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

This romance is all about revenge & how it rots your soul as you try to get PAYBACK, but as the wise Indian Satya says, "KARMA IS A BEOTCH!"

Richard Blackwell, Viscount Lindenhurst, is a deeply scarred man, inside & out, from the brutal war & from the not so loving hands of his wife, Lydia. When he was wounded & almost lost his leg, it took forever get home, but Lydia believed he was dead & completely betrayed him. After the birth of Jeremy, Lind tried to put it behind him, but always kept his heart sealed in concrete. During a frozen winter day, Lydia & Jeremy were in an accident were only Jeremy survived. Now Lind lives on his estate as a bitter hermit, holding his home as a Lydia's shrine, drowns his pain with alcohol, ignores Jeremy, hires & fires governesses & is craving a path of cold hard REVENGE against the only betrayer still alive, his old Eton pal, Rowe Battencliffe.

Cecilia Sanford is the sister of Lind's other Eton pal, Alexander, & she has always had a huge CRUSH on him, plus at 15 she saw him & all his wet, firm & tantalizing NEKKID glory. Now as an adult, she is a "scandal walking" with an evil nemesis wanting REVENGE, a betroth she walk away from, the aunt who allowed her nieces to be kidnapped & fleeing her pissed off brother's home, but where to go except to the governess job at Lind's estate. Cecilia hopes she is hired because she has no where else to hide from her scandal & her stalking nemesis.

Cecilia take believe this anger, bitter & cold man is the same yummy Lind, but she listens as he grills her about her life & why she wants to be a governess & lies thru her teeth. Lind is reluctant to hire tempting Cecilia, but he needs help keeping Jeremy away from him & he hires her, but demands 4 things, obedience, loyalty, sparkingly mortals & NEVER going anywhere near the pond. Cecilia doesn't do obedience, lost her mortals long ago & the path to the pond is overgrown, but she can be loyal to her charge Jeremy & try like HADES to stay out of Lind's bed or against his large desk or even a wall. Jeremy is a quiet lonely boy, who never connects to anyone because of his revolving governesses, but Cecilia does notice his love of things military & rolls with it, but during the servants weekly reports, while Lind dines on yummy looking food, & he forbids it!

Cecilia begins to learn all about Jeremy's physical limits, uses military teases & soon Jeremy strives to learn & does struggle, but with her loving encouragement he blossoms, as does Lind's relationship with "the child" with Cecilia DEMANDING an adorable pony & soon the boys shared common ground! Lind can't take this sassy seductress delectable bum wiggling this way & that, she pushes his enticing buttons, he gorges himself on her mouth, the wall & large desk are put to pleasurable usage & soon it's open flame MEET a puddle of kerosene, IGNITION! But a dark nemesis is stalking Cecilia, a brother DEMANDS marriage, Lydia's pedestal & shrine are C4ed, an armored heart cracks wide open, REVENGE on 2 fronts backfires, a life threatening kidnapping & soon KARMA COMES KKNOCKING! Will Lind realized that Jeremy is the child of his heart? Can Cecilia except 1/2 of Lind's heart? When will Lind realize all he needs is Cecilia & REVANGE be damned? How will Cecilia show Lind that he deserves her love? Does KARMA BEOOTH SLAP BACK?

This is the 2nd book of Ms. Macnamara Eton Boys Trilogy & so far this series is all about mysterious pasts, evil nemesis stalking, REVENGE, unexpected Fairy Godfolks & super pot holed ridden paths of true love, but I have LOVED IT! I love strong heroines & Cecilia is a complete LEAP than LOOK kinda girl, but love

rules her many good & bombed ideas & she always EXCEPTS the end result! Lind had scars over scars & allowed REVENGE to eat away his soul, had a level 10 forcefield around his heart & turns his away from any love. I personal don't think he hated his son, but was punishing himself by out embracing Jeremy. Ms. Macnamara added a 3rd scarred character in this tale, Jeremy & it would of been less of a tale without him. Jeremy wormed his way into my heart & I can totally relate to his whole tripping, falling over & having absolutely no balance with my disabling Meniere's Disease. Jeremy may of be challenged, but he was my Fairy Goddude-in-training sprinkling his PIXIE DUST & spinning & spreading love in his wake. Now my peeps let's chat about the sparks, Ms. Macnamara teases, tantalized & built all the tension up & when these 2 did get to making happy vajayjay moves & screaming happy endings, she gave me the full body quivers & the delicious shivers from my head to my curling toes! She also showed that open pleasure can healing when it's enriched with true love! Also just a quick note of the YUMMY HOTNESS of this (my recently named inner Cover HO) LOLA HAPPY DANCE WORTHY cover, completely ensnared my eyes & other girlie parts! There was an evil villain, a reluctant & UNEXPECTED hero, a wound Fairy Goddude, a hero with nothing to live for except REVENGE until in walks a wanton seductress extraordinaire, a woman who was the forgiving glue between a dad & his son & I can't forget the PULL THE FIRE ALARM sexiness! So it gives me my own shivers & quivers pleasure to give Ms. Macnamara my top score of 5 fingers up & 10 toes once again, but I have to WARN her that you have a lot of work cut out for her to make me LOVE Rowe Battencliffe!

NetGalley ARC given for my honest review.

Angie Elle says

Thank you to LOVESWEPT and Netgalley for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

2.5 stars

What a Lady Demands is the story of Cecelia and Lind who are both desperate to escape their pasts. Their worlds collide when Cecilia arrives on Lind's doorstep seeking the position of his son's governess. After reading and enjoying the first book in this series, **What a Lady Craves**, I was excited to read this installment of **The Eton Boys Trilogy**. Unfortunately, I didn't find the same magic with this story that I did with the previous. Look, I enjoy a good governess story as much as the next historical romance fan. I love the idea of a simple Miss capturing the heart of a Lord and him bucking common tradition to win her hand, but I just wasn't sold on the capturing part in this one.

Separately, I liked these characters. Cecelia, once upon a time taken advantage of because of her naiveté, learned from her mistakes. Unfortunately, her past was catching up with her, and she did the only thing she could do to get away from it—she ran. It may sound cowardly, but in this time period, her options were limited and her reputation depended upon discretion. But that doesn't mean she was willing to let anyone walk all over her, and she proved this with Viscount Lindenhurst. She was the only one in his household who stood up to him and advocated for his son. Lind was a complex character. It was often hard to tell where he was coming from. He was a conflicted man suffering from misplaced guilt and anger, and on top of all that, he was awkward. He didn't seem to know his place in society after returning from war, and he was having a hard time accepting the limitations from his injuries.

These characters and their histories are a fantastic foundation for a love story, but something about it just

didn't work for me. The pacing was a bit slow, and I couldn't feel the chemistry between Lind and Cecelia. It was disappointing, because I really felt like the story ended without establishing a connection outside of governess/employer/sexual partners. There was a lot of bitterness on Lind's part, and it was so deep I'm not convinced he was able to move on by the end of the book.

I also felt like Lind's relationship with his son ended with nothing resolved. He had never been a huge part of Jeremy's life; he just seemed to go through the motions because he was prompted by Cecelia to do so. Again, I felt no emotional connection established or repaired here, and it would have been nice to read more about this.

I am undecided on whether or not I'll be reading the last book in the trilogy. The hero appeared in this one, and it was not set up to make you like his character. However, I do love a good redemption story, and I did enjoy the first one in this series, so who knows? I may give it a go.

This story overall didn't impress me, but I am giving it two and a half stars for the heroine and Lind's son. I liked how headstrong Cecelia was and the butting of heads between her and the hero, and I loved Cecelia's relationship and tenacity with Jeremy. I just wish there had been more depth to the story.

This review was originally posted at Badass Book Reviews.

Janice Liedl says

Cecelia Sanford has a mission. Actually, many missions - from helping to educate a young boy, to surviving more than a few days or hours in a post that ought to come with revolving doors, to resisting the temptation embodied in the boy's father, Lind, her brother's longtime friend and those are only the opening issues.

I adored Cecelia's can-do attitude to nearly everything: a gentlewoman by birth but impoverished due to her family's reverses (see book #1 of the Eton trilogy, although you don't have to have read that to enjoy the book). She sets out to establish herself as governess in Viscount Lindenhurst's dour household, even if that involves a lot more work than she could have imagined. Gravely injured at Waterloo, Lind has recovered almost fully on a physical level but he still carries scars, not only from war but from what he found back home.

There are dark secrets in the dark halls of his home. If you don't like conflict and touches of emotional darkness, even tragedy, this book isn't for you, but you'll miss so much romance and revelation if you pass it by. Sometimes the book has an almost Gothic air as Cecelia uncovers the deeply hidden past that so troubles her employer who, did I forget to mention, has been the object of her fantasies since she was fifteen? But Cecelia has dark secrets of her own that are more than a match for Lind's. Seeing her stalwart and brave confrontation of those in this book was beautifully refreshing. Ashlyn Macnamara writes no wilting flowers of frail womanhood. Her heroines are strong where it counts: in matters of the spirit and matters of the heart. (I loved that we also saw Henrietta and Alexander, the leads from the first in the trilogy, at least briefly.)

Excitement, adventure and romance: you'll find all of these and more in Ashlyn Macnamara's latest outing. If you like your historical romances with a bit of spice, with characters who go past the timeworn tropes of the genre to show us real people confronting challenges and learning to love, not fear or hate? This is the book for you and you'd better make sure to clear your plates for the rest of her writing: it's all good!

(Disclaimer: I received and reviewed an advance copy in return for an honest review.)

Iza says

I enjoyed very much Cecelia and Lind's bickering. Cecelia was a very endearing character and never a bit afraid of Lind, who did his best to ground her but to little avail !

Ang says

Viscount Lindenhurst cannot seem to find a governess who meets his impossible standards—until Cecelia Sanford becomes the first woman to interrupt the widower's brooding in years. Lind had returned home from the Napoleonic wars, broken in body and soul and longing for his wife's embrace, only to find her changed. Before they could reconcile, an accident struck their son and claimed her life. Now enter Cecelia, with her soft curves and sharp tongue—a tempting distraction, it is true, but not a welcome one.

Past the usual marrying age and haunted by a scandal of her own, Cecelia soon finds herself caring for both the child and the man. The viscount is brittle and even abrupt at times, yet she cannot deny the attraction that stirs her body in his presence. Moved by the deep sense of abandonment that tortures his soul, Cecelia aches to fully awaken Lind's heart from its rancorous slumber—if she can just keep their pasts from destroying a second chance at love.

Well written and moving, this story captured me at the very beginning. The story focuses on the sister and former best friend of the hero in “What a Lady Craves”, although it is not necessary to read this first book to read this one. A scandal that caused Cecelia to run to the country was hinted at in the first book but not divulged. That she has to find a position as a governess is not good but it turns out she is not only running from scandal but trying to hide. She sees Lind as her salvation since he is her brother’s former school friend and one she has had a secret crush on since was younger.

There is so much baggage that the two main characters are hiding from others it’s amazing they can function at all. But function and survive they do and soon Lind is not able to keep his hands off of Cecelia. He gradually starts to thaw from his self-induced emotional freeze and it is adorable at times when Cecelia forces him to admit to his neediness. It is unusual and shocking to discover what Cecelia is hiding as it is the stuff of more erotic historicals. She seems surprisingly intact considering what she has been through. She could have been more jaded and wary and it would have been understandable.

The boy in the story is a little sad. He lost his mother and then multiple governesses and it is obvious that Lind blames the boy for his wife’s death. Clearly everyone is feeling rather abandoned. The attachment that Cecelia takes to him is almost her atonement for what happened in the first book with her brother’s children. I liked that the boy had a champion in Cecelia and I could stop feeling so sorry for him.

This is a great series so far with each book better than the last. Battencliffe’s role in this story set the stage for the third book in the series which should be good. It was disheartening to read what he had been reduced to so I hope to read about his redemption in the next book.

My thanks to Netgalley for the review copy.

Courtney says

Review for What a Lady Demands (The Eton Boys Trilogy #2) by Ashlyn Macnamara:

I'll start off by saying that I have never read this author before which, of course, means I have not read the first book in the series either. That being said I thoroughly enjoyed this endearing little historical romance.

On a bizarre and unusual note for me, I enjoyed the first half of the story more than the second half. I fully enjoyed the actual romance and family building while the confrontation with the antagonists toward the end left me a little wanting. I guess it wasn't meant to be an all out boss battle, due to several interactions with the antagonists that led up to the final confrontation, but it was like a blip then it was gone. *sigh* I'm a sucker for action though so I guess I am a little biased here. The beginning of the novel had me completely falling in love with our Heroine as well as our Hero's son, Jeremy. What a duo they made throughout the book!

Our Heroine, Cecelia Sanford, is a force to be reckoned with. Strong, independent, and not in the slightest bit a shrinking violet, she makes for quite the entertaining love story. Confrontational and defiant to her very core she is the last thing that our Hero would every dream of wanting for himself and his family. And doesn't it just always turn out that what you never thought you'd want is exactly what you need? *swoon* As I have said before, I love strong Heroines. Cecelia knows exactly when to push and when to back down while keeping her ward's best interest at heart at all times. As with about 70% of historical romances, our heroine is hiding a past that she would rather not confront but that she will need to in order to move forward in her life....enter our Hero.

Viscount Lindenherst. What can I say? A haunted and injured hero who is bearing the weight of a past that no one can clear him of guilt for...except, of course, our heroine. After fighting for his country in the Napoleonic Wars, and returning with an injury that almost killed him, he runs every single inch of his life with military precision. Unforgiving of even the smallest slight and burdened with constant guilt, anger, and loneliness, our hero could use a little help. Luckily, our heroine applies as a governess for his son and, after a plethora of arguments and steamy meetings in darkened corners, irrevocable cracks are made in his armor and it's all down hill from there.

A simple, sweet love story involving an entire family with substantial barriers to overcome, this is more of an emotional read than anything else. If you need to curl up on the couch with your ice cream and/or popcorn and have a good cry, this is the way to do it. Even with some drags toward the end, the surprises and shocking revelations will keep you on your toes while you fall head over heals for this wholly adorable family.

Hero: ★★★

Heroine: ★★★★

Plot: ★★★

Steam: ★★★★

OVERALL RATING: ★★★ 1/2

Favorite Scene: First time Cecelia meets Jeremy!

Favorite Quote: "Who are you to me?"

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

I couldn't resist another governess story once I was hooked on the first one. I really think it's a bit more refreshing change in this genre from the usual, since I have not ready many books with this theme nor have I come across them.

The characters themselves were refreshing. Viscount Lindenhurst is looking for a governess for his son and has a hard time finding one that will meet his unusually impossible demands.

Cecelia Sanford is the younger sister of Lindenhurst's once best friend. When she shows up on his doorsteps looking for a job, Lind is a bit taken back but agrees to offer her the chance. Too bad he did not know then that this woman would be just as impossible once she borrows her way into their lives. Witty, with a sharp tongue and an attitude that won't back down, Lind has a hard time dealing with the vixen who is adamant on not following his orders nor listening to him.

I loved Cecelia, I thought she was awesome and she had to be headstrong with a persistent attitude especially when it came to Lind, who was a temperamental brooding widow. I wanted to understand just as much as Cecelia about why Lind refused to deal with his son and pawned him off on others instead. What a Lady Demands had scenes that both melted and broke my heart as the same time. I couldn't help but feel bad for the boy who seemed so starved for his father's attention. What happened to the mother was terrible, but I did not think it was a reason to completely alienate the child in his life. It wasn't until almost halfway into the book did things start to click into place and I finally started to figure out why Lind was so distant from the boy. The twist was a bit shocking and predictable but at the same time made better sense.

It was hard to love Lind at first, which I thought Macnamara did a wonderful job doing with her writing. It took a while to warm up to him, but that was what Cecelia was there for. Their bickering was fun, I loved how she can stand up to him despite the risk of losing her job. I did enjoy the chemistry, it took a while to build up and I loved that. I thought the plot was really well done with the twist thrown in making it oh so much better!

I got a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange of an honest review.

Lesia Chambliss says

WOW! This book is hot, hot! A steamy, love story about a man broken in body and soul, and a lady from his past who is running from her own troubles and ruination. Lind is a commanding man who runs his household like he did his troops. Everything in its place and only anyone of the highest morals shall work in his household. Feisty Cecelia turns up on his doorstep intending to be the next governess for his young son. She has her own way of doing things, and they always clash with his strict rules. There are many secrets being kept by everyone, and mysterious characters showing up on the scene that make this an adventurous, sometimes thrilling story. Through it all a slow burn takes over Lind, he tries to fight it, so does Cecelia, at first. There are some wonderful secondary characters in this story, but the depth of the two main characters is like no other I've read before. Lind and Cecelia are each one of a kind and their story is powerful indeed.

This is the first book in the series I've read, and I'm glad I read this one first. I didn't know what to expect when I began reading, but what a wonderful surprise. No way will I miss reading What A Lady Craves, bk 1, or What A Lady Requires, bk 3 out early 2015. I highly recommend this to anyone who likes a little steam and slow burn in their romance reads.
