



How to Marry a Rake in Ten Days: A Victorian Christmas Story

Samantha Holt

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Dear Miss Manners,

I have been following your column for some time since I made my debut into society some five years ago. As a young woman, I took your advice to become a well-mannered, polite young lady who would surely find herself a husband during her first season. However, it soon became clear to me that your teachings no longer have a place in this century. England is a modern place now with modern gentlemen. They do not expect us to be coy and polite. In fact, such behaviour only has the effect of turning one into a wallflower. I would wager that the eligible gentlemen of today value a woman who can hold a strong conversation and show intelligence instead of submissiveness. After all, how are we English ladies meant to hold our own against these American heiresses and French beauties?

Now, it is likely too late for me but there are many other young women out there following your advice, many of whom are to be consigned to spinsterhood. As an unmarried woman yourself, how are we to trust your advice?

I challenge, you Miss Manners, to prove the worth of your advice. Show myself and your readers that etiquette can win the heart of a fine prospect. Christmas is approaching and it is a time to reflect is it not? I am sure many a man is considering the worth of a wife. I highly anticipate, and look forward to, the announcement of your own engagement by the start of the New Year.

Your once loyal reader,

Miss Disbelieving

How to Marry a Rake in Ten Days: A Victorian Christmas Story Details

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From Reader Review How to Marry a Rake in Ten Days: A Victorian Christmas Story for online ebook

Annette says

Angelina Ashdown had been engaged to Benedict Britton's best friend. Benedict could not allow that to happen, so he stepped in and convinced Robert to drop Angelina.

Now it is years later, and Angelina (Miss Manners) has been told that she must be engaged before New Years or she will lose her job writing the Miss Manners column. The column is very important, it is the only thing that keeps Angelina alive. She works hard and supports herself with her column.

Angie is going to a house party. She believes that she can get Oliver, an old friend, to propose by New Years. He has proposed in the past and if she behaves correctly, she may be able to get another proposal.

She is surprised to find that Benedict, the man who hated her enough to ruin her with Robert, is also at the house party.

This is a story about correct manners of the period. But most of all it is a story of two people who for 10 years have misunderstood the feelings and intentions of the other.

Benedict is an intelligent man with a well developed sense of humor. He has loved Angie since he first set eyes on her. He is at the house party to try to find support for his invention of a new idea of efficient central heating.

Angie is a bright woman who has made her own way for 10 years. She has found a way to be an independent woman and she has enjoyed it. She believes that because of her personal history, she will never marry. She was attracted to Benedict when she first saw him, but his glaring looks and the fact he got Robert to turn his back on her makes her certain that he has always hated her.

Misunderstanding and longing. Ambition and strong hope. Those are the qualities which bring the two of them together.

This is a short read which entertains and provides a satisfying happily ever after for the reader.

Avid says

Glad this is a novella because it is exactly like the movie How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days. There is nothing new here - no surprises, no twists, nothing except slight tweaks to the story to fit the setting - and so I wished I had not wasted time reading it. A journalist, Miss Manners, is given a challenge to wed, thus proving her advice regarding what to do/ not to do in society. She goes to a Christmas houseparty where she runs into the guy who sabotaged her engagement years ago, and guess what?

He sabotaged her engagement because he loved her. Awww, how sweet. Certainly the way to a woman's heart. Ugh. The rest of the story is obvious. The characters weren't intriguing. The pace was steady. There were some obvious editing/grammatical errors/typos that were distracting.

Kebby Shropshire says

Quite lovely

Very romantic without being overly sweet. Loved both main characters and rooted for them. But my personal preference was for a little more steam -- but that's just me.

The heroine was jilted by her fiancé eight years ago, and it was done at the urging of the fiancé's friend - the hero of this book. The heroine went on to make a life for herself by writing a column in a newspaper under the name Miss Manners. The person she pretended to be was very little like the young girl she had been -- one who danced, flirted and spoke her mind. But a reader challenges her to find a husband by Christmas and the heroine's brother has landed the family in financial straits. She needs to find a husband and sets her sights on a man who previously seemed interested in her. Arriving at a gathering at a mansion she runs into the man who caused her fiancé to jilt her.

He never got over her. He urged his friend to abandon the engagement because he was in love with her. But if she knew what he had done could she forgive him?

Rebecca (everyday reader) says

A nice Christmas story

Old hurts, ruination, jealousy, new lives, and an old love that brings new life into two lives. Good Christmas read!!

Janet says

Angelina Ashdown has written under her pseudonym of Miss Manners for so long she sometimes wonders who the real her is when she's challenged by Miss Misbelieving to find a husband in ten days she has to rise to the challenge or her editor will terminate her contract. She goes to the Marquis of Fairfax's houseparty thinking to persuade an old friend to marry her but Benedict Britton Earl of Calderton her nemesis is also attending.

Another lovely novella of unrequited love, secrets, misunderstandings & skating accidents, the characters have depth & the pace is very good & I read it in a sitting. I was left with a warm feeling & satisfied with the outcome

Amber Daulton says

Angelina Ashdown withdrew from the eyes of high society after a scandal, and now she makes her living writing an etiquette column for a London newspaper. After a disgruntled reader writes to the paper and

challenges Angelina to live up to her proper advice and find a husband before New Years, Angelina has no choice but to attend a Christmas house party in an attempt to find a husband. If she doesn't secure a proposal, she could lose her job, her home, and her independence.

Benedict Britton attends the party to secure funding for his invention. Though he's quite intelligent, his reputation as a rake precedes him. He never expected Angelina, the only woman he's ever loved, to be at the party. The problem is, she hates him, and he doesn't blame her for it. Stuck together at the snowy estate, Benedict and Angelina soon realize not everything is as it seems, and that there's fine line between love and hate.

This is a really cute story. Both the H/h are very likable and have great chemistry. They've made mistakes and are willing to make amends, and that shows how they grew throughout the course of the novella.

4 Stars

Disclaimer – I downloaded this book from Amazon and volunteered to review it. I am not compensated in any way, shape, or form for this honest review. I will not change or alter this review for any reason unless at my discretion.

Amanda says

Clean romance novella

It was a fast read. It was good. A little vague in my opinion. But still worth the hour's time.

Marjorie Messerschmidt says

Quick read

I enjoyed knowing much about the characters emotions but it was otherwise just a sweet romance. I liked the woman being independent and working but unfortunately she had to be ruined with a scoundrel brother.

Lori D says

A second chance of two people coming together after years. Angelina was jilted by her fiance 8 yrs ago when his friend, Benedict, stepped in and convinced him to not marry her. To her credit, she became a writer for the column Miss Manners, giving advice. When a reader writes to challenge her to become engaged by New Years Day, her editor says she must respond and take up the challenge. What's a girl to do? She attends a holiday celebration at Fairfax Hall and who does she meet? None other than Benedict, the man who stopped her marriage! Rage filled her as her broken engagement had truly hurt her badly and made her lose her confidence. But the truth was Benedict had been jealous and about in love with her himself. Now that they are meeting again, can they find their way to a happy ending? Well written as all of Tammy Andresen's books, you will love this delightful story and be smiling at the end!

Evie says

How to Marry a Rake in Ten Days by Samantha Holt reminds me of How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days. Remember that movie? It's still one of my favorites.

Anyway, back to the book! I got this one as a freebie back in December and hadn't gotten around to it until now. It's a novella, so I read it in one sitting.

Read full review.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

How to Marry a Rake in Ten Days by Samantha Holt is the story of Angelina Ashdown and Benedict Britton, the Earl of Calderton.

Angelina writes and advise column for young women and after one young lady writes a letter stating that Angelina advise isn't working for young women to find husbands, the writer challenges Angelina to find a husband of her own to prove her advise. Angelina editors like the ideal and Angelina goes off to a house party to try and prove her advise. There she meets Benedict again... years earlier he had chased of her future husband by saying she would not make him a good husband. That broken engagement changed Angelina so the hurt is still there. Benedict now feels bad about what he did those years ago but can he make it right. Will Angelina see him for more than he was those years ago when he turned her future husband away from her? Loved this sweet quick read!

Mary Lou Hoffman says

Dear Miss Disbelieving,

I pray you will return as a loyal reader as my engagement to Benedict Britton, the Earl of Calderton has been announced in this paper and the banns have been posted. I dare say, he has admitted that his heart was stolen during my own first year and it is only after all of this time that we are able to complete our turn around the park.

Do not lose hope. Be yourself. Be polite. Be well-mannered.

Yours devotedly,
Miss Manners
Ashley Ashdown

As always, I consider it a good day when I find a Samantha Holt book that I have not yet read. I highly recommend this sweet, seasonal read - to be read at any time of the year.

Note: while I was given this book as a gifted ARC, my opinions are my own and are given freely.

Title: HOW TO MARRY A RAKE IN 10 DAYS

Series: N/A

Category /Genre: Victorian Romance

Grammar/editing: book received as an unedited ARC / errors excused

Received from: Amazon purchase

Connie Fischer says

Angelina Ashdown writes an advice column for young ladies for the London Chronicles under the name of Miss Manners. When a young lady who has been following the advice of Miss Manners for five years finds herself still a spinster, she sends a letter to Miss Manners at the newspaper challenging her to follow her own advice and would like to see her engaged by the New Year. While Angelina is insulted by the challenge and wishes to ignore it, her editor will not let her. He thinks it will be good publicity for the newspaper if she meets the challenge. Currently, Christmas is approaching and twelve days remain before that deadline. Since Angelina has been invited to a house party at Fairfax Hall, her editor insists that she attend and, hopefully, receive a marriage proposal.

Benedict Britton, the Earl of Calderton, whose home is in Buckinghamshire, is also attending the house party at Fairfax Hall. The Hall is located in Northumberland and owned by the Marquess of Fairfax. When Benedict sees Angelina there, he recalls the history that they share and his own guilt at her remaining unmarried. He remembers her as the outgoing young girl she once was compared to the reserved woman she is today.

Together, they renew their friendship during the party and their past attraction to one another sparks anew. What happened that broke them apart and is there a way that can allow them to have a new beginning? Could it be possible that Angelina will actually become engaged by the New Year?

I loved this novella. The author's creation of these characters is terrific. They are both flawed in some way and I was impressed how she managed to make the characters see their own faults and admit to them. Another thing that I really liked is that this is a clean story. Just kissing and no gratuitous sexual encounters which I find overdone in many novels. This is the first book I have read by Samantha Holt and I look forward to reading more.

Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

Angela says

Cute quick read

Cute quick read. Would've liked more character development. I wanted to know more about their past. It was just glossed over.

Rosemary K says

Angelina Ashdown is a newspaper columnist known as Miss Manners. She writes articles on proper deportment for young misses. She needs to support herself after a broken engagement tarnished her

reputation. Now one of her readers has called her out on her advise. Her editor has told Angelina that she must respond and prove that she can find a husband. He wants to print her engagement announcement on New Years Day. What is she to do? Why get a man to propose. When she arrives at a Fairfax Hall to celebrate the holiday. She comes face to face with Benedict, Lord Calderton. He's the man who convinced her fiancée that she would not be a suitable wife. Rage fills her. Can she survive their encounter? Angelina is a strong woman, but her broken engagement broke her. She lost her joy in life. She's a shell of the spirited woman that she was. I understood her pain. I wanted her to regain her confidence. Benedict is a handsome rakish Lord, but I was not impressed. He hurt Angelina because he was jealous. It took me some time to warm up to him. Watching them grow close and fall in love was so romantic, but I hated that Benedict was so nasty when the challenge was revealed. *How To Marry a Rake in Ten Days* is an enjoyable holiday treat. The characters are well written and the plot is charming. This story has it all - love, forgiveness and a second chance at a HEA. Samantha Holt never disappoints.
