



An Unsuitable Duchess

Laurie Benson

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The scandal of the season!

For American Katrina Vandenberg, the rules of London society are stifling. So, when a rare moment of solitude at a particularly tedious ball is interrupted, she's disappointed...until she lays eyes on a very handsome stranger!

Julian Carlisle, Duke of Lyonsdale, is destined for a dull marriage of convenience, and Katrina couldn't be further from the docile, blue-blooded bride he needs. An affair would be scandalous, but could there be a way for this highly unsuitable woman to become Julian's perfect duchess after all?

Secret Lives of the Ton

What Society doesn't know...

An Unsuitable Duchess Details

Date : Published June 1st 2016 by Harlequin Historical (first published May 24th 2016)

ISBN :

Author : Laurie Benson

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency

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From Reader Review An Unsuitable Duchess for online ebook

Michelle says

This time period is interesting in the differences of opinion concerning English and American people being together. I loved the "green pointy eared children" line. In our society today we have overcome some of these issues and much more is accepted. Family life sure can be many different ways and it is accepted as normal. For dukes and earls still today things might be the same (trying to be with someone of a certain status), but for most of us it is who you fall in love with. For Julian and Katrina their attraction was there from first sight. I was amused at their interactions and trying to hide it, but in the end love won.

Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: Secret Lives of the Ton

Maria says

This was such a nice surprise. I thoroughly enjoyed everything about it. It was a fast entertaining read that left me feeling happy. I adored both characters and they felt very real. It was funny and had a lot of interesting side characters. I just loved it. This is a hidden treasure for regency romances.

Gwessie Tee says

Completely and utterly adored this wonderful book, so much I couldn't put it down until I finished it, I was completely captivated and moved by all aspects of the journey of our Hero and heroine and also driven nuts in the best possible way into shouting at the book due to certain peoples stubbornness

Treece says

An Unsuitable Duchess an exquisitely detailed historical featuring, Julian Carlisle, the Duke of Lyonsdale, and American heiress, Katrina Vandenberg, was romantic, sweet, humorous and insightful. The chemistry between Julian and Katrina is sensual and entrancing. The supporting characters are unique and interesting.

I marveled over the way in which Americans were viewed by the English after the war. And Katrina's views on marriage, British society and the nobility was refreshing and informative. Julian was a kind, thoughtful, family-oriented guy. He was likable even when he made mistakes and thought he was doing the right thing. I valued his loyalty and his torture over making the right decisions.

I enjoyed everything about this novel, especially in learning about certain ins-outs of what was expected of men and women. Fascinating tidbits, such as how popular satirical caricatures were the norm and a popular

fixture in society, was new to me. The life of ease wasn't always so easy when one had wealth and status. Particularly for women, where one mistake could cost a lady everything.

All in all, a delightful book that I would read again.

Julie says

An accomplished debut novel from an outstanding new writer of Regency romantic fiction, Laurie Benson's *An Unsuitable Duchess* is a sophisticated tale of intrigue, passion and desire that will keep readers riveted from beginning to end!

When Katrina Vandenberg had accompanied her writer father to London, the last thing the free-spirited American had been thinking about was marriage. Fiercely independent, intelligent and feisty, Katrina soon began to find the rules of society and the strictures of the Ton decidedly stifling. She yearned to go back home and not have to worry about the insignificant minutiae that the members of polite society were absolutely obsessed with. However, things quickly began to look up for Katrina when she clapped eyes on one of England's most eligible – and most dangerously attractive- bachelors, Julian Carlisle, the Duke of Lyonsdale.

Julian is a man who is well aware of what is expected of him. The burden of duty and responsibility lie heavily upon his shoulders and he knows that he is expected to make a suitable match and marry a woman fit to fill the august position of the new Duchess of Lyonsdale. With his mother practically throwing the highly suitable Lady Mary Morley his way, Julian knows that it's only a matter of time until he agrees to do his dear mama's sensible bidding. But that was before he came across the smart, erudite and beautiful Katrina Vandenberg!

Julian knows that Katrina is as far removed from society – and his mother's – idea of a suitable wife as it is possible to get. The next Duchess of Lyonsdale should be poised, biddable and more importantly English, and Katrina fulfills none of these criteria. Yet, Julian cannot seem to stop thinking about her – nor can he shake off this feeling that she is the only woman he can imagine spending the rest of his life with! He knows that he should give the pretty American a wide berth and concentrate on wooing Lady Mary, but that soon proves to be easier said than done!

With fate – not to mention his friend, the rakish Earl of Hartwick- seeming intent on pushing the two of them together, will Julian have the courage to choose his heart's desire over duty? With so many obstacles standing in their way, does their relationship stand a chance of surviving? Or is their love just not meant to be?

Historical romance readers have got a wonderful treat in store for them with *An Unsuitable Duchess*. Written with confidence, sophistication and flair, *An Unsuitable Duchess* is a charming, passionate and highly intriguing Regency tale that plunges readers into a refined Regency world which they will never want to leave.

Packed with wonderful characters that leap off the pages, poignant romance, delightfully vivid descriptions of high society life and plenty of dramatic secrets and red-hot sensuality to keep readers glued to its pages, *An Unsuitable Duchess* is a fabulous debut novel from a wonderful new writer whose books are destined for keeper shelves everywhere: Laurie Benson!

Christine Woinich says

Mixing an American and a Duke led to some interesting places. Katrina was intriguing with her very proper behavior when required and her more colonial tendencies as time. I found her fun to read. Julian's desire to do what was expected of him made him a bit aloof at times, but when he realized life had more to offer than duty, I enjoyed him more. I loved this story and look forward to reading the rest of the series.

I received this book free through Harlequin, and this is my unsolicited review.

Quinn Fforde says

It's a debut novel, and it shows. The dialogue is awkward, and scenes break at odd places. However, there is some great stuff in here, like the reading together scene. I would read more from this author.

Jenn Green says

I adored this book! Following an American author's daughter, who has a refreshing take on the rules of the *ton*, and a rather staid Duke focused on his duties over happiness, the plot of this regency romance was different than most in this genre.

I loved the hero and heroine, and watching them struggle with not only keeping their reputations flawless, navigating the viper's nest that is the *ton*, and begrudgingly fall in love. There was a time when I thought they'd never get past their blindness of their feelings and reach their HEA!

There was minimal heat in this story, and almost no bedroom scenes, but the intensity was still evident in everything the hero and heroine did.

The side characters were just as wonderful as the main characters, and I hope future installments of this series focus on some of them. I highly recommend this to everyone who enjoys reading about the ballrooms of London and love conquering all!

Maxie says

Well, I just finished reading AN UNSUITABLE DUCHESS, by LAURIE BENSON. WOW!!!!!!! I literally could not put it down. This story is so captivating. I felt as if I was watching it and reading it simultaneously. The descriptions of the characters, the settings, and the story lines are so vivid. The characters are exciting with many aspects to their personalities, you can't predict what happens next. Laurie blends history, romance, humor, drama, intrigue and the range of human experience and feelings. They are so well interwoven and provide such depth. Laurie you are such a talented writer. I can't wait til your 2nd book comes out. Thanks for an amazing story.

Rachel Burton says

Having read Hart & Sarah's story, the third in this trilogy, I had to go back to the beginning and read them all.

I wasn't disappointed. Katrina is gorgeous and Julia is exactly the sort of proper, buttoned up hero I love the most, burdened by responsibility and always trying to do the right thing by everyone but himself.

And that library scene..... A brilliant will they/won't they romance!

Rose says

An excellent debut novel and first book in the "Secret Lives of the Ton Series" by author Laurie Benson. I adored the hero and heroin in this book and the secondary characters are excellent. The banter between all is fun and entertaining and the story is well written. I'm looking forward to reading the other books in this series. Laurie Benson has become an automatic buy for me!

Sarah Snowdon says

Witty, charming and touching with brilliant interplay between hero and heroine, this is a wonderful book and I highly recommend it. One of those books where you are drawn in and not let go till the very end.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

An exciting read!

Two different worlds collide when a Duke falls for a lovely American who he knows is perfect, just not perfect enough to be his Duchess. A great read! A sublime start for Laurie Benson

Jennifer says

I didn't find this book very enjoyable. The MCs were simplistic and not well developed. The historical details were a thin veneer, hiding the fact that this was in essence a modern tale. I did like that this book was relatively clean and that the H doesn't fall into bed with the H, but that's about it.

I didn't like the OW who played a large role in this book. She and the H were still conducting their liaison at the beginning of this book, and while I appreciate the author not dragging that out, I didn't enjoy having to see/read about the OW at regular intervals throughout this story. It also didn't help that the H felt the need to marry someone else, who was more duchess material, for 90% of this book. It got old after a while and I

wanted some super smart, wealthy, kind, and studly **American** to sweep the h off her feet and make her forget all about the H.

Overall, I can't recommend this book to anyone who truly enjoy historical romance. This wasn't very historical and the romance wasn't very romantic. The two star rating is really for the fact that it could've been much worse, filled with every single trope that I absolutely loathe. So there's that.
