



The Spinster Bride

Jane Goodger

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Mr. Charles Norris needs help finding a wife...

For he has the unfortunate habit of falling for each Season's loveliest debutante, only to have his heart broken when she weds another. Surely Lady Marjorie Penwhistle can help him. She's sensible, clever, knows the ton, and must marry a peer, which he is not. Since she's decidedly out of his reach, Charles is free to enjoy her refreshing honesty—and her unexpectedly enticing kisses...

Lady Marjorie Penwhistle doesn't want a husband...

At least not the titled-but-unbearable suitors her mother is determined she wed. She'd rather stay unmarried and look after her eccentric brother. Still, advising Mr. Norris is a most exciting secret diversion. After all, how hard will it be to match-make someone so forthright, honorable, and downright handsome? It's not as if she's in danger of finding Charles all-too-irresistible herself...

The Spinster Bride Details

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Author : Jane Goodger

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From Reader Review The Spinster Bride for online ebook

Barbara says

I've read a few books by Jane Goodger and enjoyed them all. Her tales are very sweet and romantic. It's been a while since I read one of her books, and I was excited to see she had a new release.

I will say that I found the plot of this story to be very original. I also found that I enjoyed all of the characters very much. It all had great potential, but in the the end the romance of it fell flat.

I began to feel as though the story was no longer about the hero and heroine's romance, but about everyone and everything else going on around them. Dont get me wrong, I enjoyed all the subplots, but Charles and Marjorie's story felt almost rushed. And, that normally climactic moment when the h/h finally realize their feelings was just...non-climactic. I just thought that Ms. Goodger could have done so much more with their romance.

Karen Laird says

The Spinster Bride

By

Jane Goodger

Nothing makes for a more fun historical romance novel than one set in the time period of the late 1800s, centered on the pomp and circumstance the most pompous English peerage of the times. During this said time, nothing was worse than to be twenty-two or three years old and a single female of title with no prospects in sight.

Enter one very ancient twenty-four year old beautiful single titled Lady with a younger brother “the Lord” of the household and a domineering mother who is on the hunt for “THE” titled husband for her daughter. Not to mince words, or waste time dancing around the ballroom, Ms. Goodger spins us off on one of the most fun, wild courtships I have read in a long time.

Instead of proposing marriage to the beauty at the ball, who accosts him in the darkened garden, the accosted handsome party goer, surprises the heroine with a proposal to a totally different tune. Her brother owes him an inordinate some of money for a gambling debt and in return for her assistance in helping him to acquire a bride by the end of The Season, he will forgive the brother’s debt, in full. The only problem is, things went awry along the way, and the best laid plans of this Gentleman and Lady took turns and found endings that neither dreamed would ever happen.

As with any good historical romance, The Spinster Bride is full of balls, beautiful gowns, handsome men, and lots of ton gossip and intrigue. There is also a second back story of the heroine’s mother and her maligned courtship sprinkled through the main story line. This adds some depth to the story and some depth to some characters that could otherwise have been considered rather shallow.

As indicated in the book’s title, yes, the spinster does get the groom. But the trip to the Alter is an entertaining one for the reader. The story is just enough different from the average historical romance peerage fare as to keep the reader turning the page to see what trouble the characters have fallen into next. A little mystery, a lot of humor, a good bit of bedroom time (in and out of the bedroom), and a lot of innuendo in between keeps the dialogue hot and steamy. So, yes, there is explicit between the pages.

A good weekend read, with an explicit warning for those who prefer the tamer fare. With this codicil, I give

this a good 4.5 Stars.

Susana says

3.5 Stars

Arc provided by Kensington Books through Netgalley

Release Date: February 3rd 2015

Another novel that kept me up all night. Good thing I don't need that much sleep :)

It is a truth universally acknowledged that if there's a girl in a Victorian or Regency novel, she is most likely desperate to get marry...

Well, more like their mothers, fathers, grandparents _and assorted family _ who are desperate to see them marry.

The guys usually play aloof : *yes I am the biggest fish in the sea...care to see my collection of hooks? They're shiny! ;)*

In this one, _much to my enjoyment _ our "desperate" candidate is Mr. Charles Norris.

Marjorie the other leading character, needs to get married, but unlike Charles, she is not very happy with the prospect...the fact that her mother is more than ready to marry her off to the first smelly titled creep, that asks for her hand doesn't help.

Charles is witty _ a little loud _ handsome, from a good family _his father is a viscount _ not a bad dancer _although he does tend to say some inappropriate things _ has sufficient financial means to take care of a family...has all his teeth...

So, why is he still single?

The thing is, he really wants a wife, and his own children. To his consternation, all of his friends have gotten married _including the ones that apparently weren't interested in the whole deal _ except for him.

Blast it!

So, one day due to very unexpected circumstances _younger brothers are a real pain in the a** _ Charles finds himself with the opportunity _blackmail and light extortion may be involved _ of securing his own matchmaker.

He is finally smart enough to realize, that he's not the "sharpest tool in the shed" when it comes to women, and that his preferences have led him....firmly into bachelor land.

Okay, this had some elements that could lead into disaster, especially the whole, *you're in my debt, and you're going have to help me...**enter maniacal laughter*

(okay, there's no maniacal laughter involved)

Thankfully for Charles, Marjorie has such a dull life (wow, the blessing), that she actually finds herself having fun with the "wife hunting antics"!

Marjorie has a great sense of humour _ despite having a bully as a mother _ and surprisingly enough is able to take most of Charles dialogues in stride.

Soon enough they become friends, which is great, since nothing else can happen between them.*cough* Romantically, they're totally inappropriate for one another _*hear me laugh*_ since Marjorie's mother is adamant about a suitor with a title.

Also, she scares Charles _basically she scares everyone! _ and the guy has been in war, and has the scars to prove it.

She is a real lady dragon and not someone one would want as mother in law.

And thankfully for Charles who falls besotted with every belle of the season, he doesn't feel anything for....beautiful, dashing, funny, kind Marjorie... o_O *yeah, he's in denial*

I loved Charles and Marjorie story! Their banter, their chemistry...their chemistry! o_O They're really otp for one another.

The only reason I'm not giving it a higher rating, is because this story is mostly divided into two points of view: The romance between Charles and Majorie in the present...and in the past, we have Marjorie's mother story.

Which ends up being an important story, but, has the inconvenience of making this longer that I would have liked.

Marjorie's brother is also an important character in this story, for the diversity it brings.

I don't remember any other historical romance having a character with autism, as George seems to have.

All in all a great read, and I'll be sure to read more titles from this author.

Especially the book "When a Lord Needs a Lady" because there's a connection in the plots and characters.

Juliana Philippa says

Summary. *Spring 1874, London.* Sir Charles Norris (35/36-ish) has long wanted to be married and in love; unfortunately, he's had to stand by and watch many of his friends and peers, who previously disavowed marriage and love, end up finding it, while he is still waiting in the wings. His working theory is that he falls in love far too easily and he's always falling for the wrong woman, so he decides to ask for Lady Marjorie Summerfield's (23) help. She knows society, is in very good standing, and though beautiful, he thankfully doesn't find himself attracted to her, so no complications should arise.

Lady Marjorie has no plans to marry, and though she misses being the main focus and belle of the ball now

that she's been out for several years, she is gladly willing to forego it and give up the hope of marrying, in order to remain at home and take care of her brother, George, Earl of Summerfield. He's only a little younger than her, but has certain oddities and social awkwardness that many people don't understand, including their own mother; though he's extremely intelligent and kind, she fears what would happen to him or what her mother might do were she to make her home elsewhere, and she knows that most men of the *ton* would not suffer him gladly. When Charles proposes that she act as his matchmaker, she welcomes the diversion as a new adventure, and something to keep her busy.

They quickly become friends, even though the circumstances that brought them together are a bit odd and unconventional, and an attraction begins to grow between them. Marjorie's mother is determined to have her daughter married off soon, and no one but a titled peer will do—the fact that Charles is the son of a viscount counts for nothing, as far as she's concerned. Charles wants dearly to get married and have children, but the woman he is falling in love with is off limits; meanwhile, Marjorie has to contend with her mother, who is all set to have her marry a man old enough to be her father. So, what will our hero and heroine do? Read the book to find out! ;-)

Thoughts. This is the first book I've read by Jane Goodger, so I wasn't really sure what to expect. I have by no means been turned off of her—she's able to create interesting and three-dimensional characters; for some reason though, I was unable to feel a connection to some of these characters, most specifically the hero. It is odd, because I cannot really put my finger on *why* exactly or *what* was wrong, which isn't very helpful, I know. And it was particularly annoying, because Charles was likable and an interesting and unusual romance hero, so I really wanted to be able to enjoy him and his romance with Marjorie. I liked his honesty, exchanges with Marjorie, respect for her and George, and his strong desire to marry and be in love was *SUCH* a refreshing change. I can't remember the last time I read a romance with a hero like that!

I also really liked our heroine, Marjorie, though there were some points where she acted SO out-of-character, and I don't know whether it's because the editor said "by x% there has to be some type of sex act" or what, but that's kind of what it seemed like. Normally I'm not a huge fan of the beautiful, society darling heroines, but Marjorie was supremely likable; she was intelligent, caring, and fun. I really appreciated the love and care she had for her brother, George, who was a great addition to the story. Her brother is on the autism spectrum, and I thought it was a wonderful inclusion by Goodger; authors normally will tackle the same "issues" or events over and over again, but this isn't one we see often.

The flashbacks to Marjorie's mother's story was interesting; at first, I didn't want to be pulled out of what was going on currently, but I found myself becoming very interested and invested in what was going to happen to Dorothea, even though she's such a flaming bitch in the present-day (most of it). She was bad to the extreme and I wish she hadn't been like that most of the book; she's actually quite interesting and complex given the flashbacks and how we see her later, but for most of the story, she's quite annoying and the reasoning behind her actions doesn't really make sense.

Lords and Ladies Series. This is book 4 in a series, but I was able to read and enjoy the book without having read the others, so don't think it's essential.

Book 1 — *When a Duke Says I Do*

Book 2 — *The Mad Lord's Daughter*

Book 3 — *When a Lord Needs a Lady*

Book 4 — *The Spinster Bride*

Bottom Line. It was worth a read, but I say that because I didn't have to pay for it; I would suggest borrowing it from a friend or getting it from the library.

Excerpt.

"For God's sake, get that ridiculous grin off your face," Graham said in mock anger. "If you didn't have a beard, I'd think you were a woman."

Charles poured a large splash into his glass. "Why, because I want to marry?"

"No, because you want to fall in love."

*This is an honest review of an ARC provided by NetGalley

Jaclyn says

The Spinster Bride was a cute historical romance featuring a young woman who would rather not marry (even though she must) and a man determined to find himself leg shackled as soon as he can be sure that the woman will make it to the alter. Throw these two together and romance was bound to happen.

Lady Marjorie Penwhistle is almost on the shelf and her mother is determined to find her a titled husband. What's so sad about this situation is how Marjorie's mother is essentially living vicariously through Marjorie. Marjorie is everything her mother is not: beautiful, popular. She wants Marjorie to be a success because she never was. Unfortunately, all this attention on Marjorie is at the expense of her brother who is a little bit different and those around him take advantage of him. To protect her brother from being disinherited, Marjorie agrees to finally put some effort into the marriage mart, unfortunately the only man that she is attracted to is not a peer.

Mr. Charles Norris desperately wants to be married. The problem is that he falls in love a little too often, and unfortunately those feelings are never returned. After meeting Marjorie he admits that he needs help, which means he really needs someone to rein in his impulsiveness. Marjorie agrees to help Charles find a suitable bride, and naturally, trouble ensues when they realize that they are each other's perfect match. Of course, Marjorie's mother will never agree to let her daughter marry an untitled gentleman; some compromising is in order here, what could possibly go wrong?

The Spinster Bride was a cute historical romance. I enjoyed reading this one, but it wasn't a read that I think is going to stay with me. There wasn't a lot of conflict between Charles and Marjorie when they realized that they loved each other, instead it was conflict of another sort that kept the momentum of the novel going. As a result, I did find the last chunk of the book to be a tad tedious. It was still cute, but I was less interested Marjorie's brother's disappearance than I was in the relationship between Marjorie and Charles. For me, the switch from romance to intrigue was a bit jarring.

Ultimately, *The Spinster Bride* was a predictable, comfortable read. It didn't break new ground in the genre, but it was a solid book and I think historical romance fans that enjoy a sweeter story will appreciate this one.

Originally reviewed for The Book Adventures.

*Review copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley.

Ellen Klock says

Everyone has their problems. Take Marjorie Penwhistle, at twenty three she's destined to be a spinster. She's beautiful enough to attract suitors, but she has some baggage. First there's her meddlesome mother, Lady Dorothea Summerfield, but even with her presence Marjorie has received several marriage proposals over the years, some even from men with titles. Of course they were all refused, a mere Earl was not good enough to please her mom. Yet, Marjorie might have said yes to at least one, if not for her brother, George Penwhistle, Earl of Summerville. Any sign of mockery of her beloved sibling tended to be a deal breaker. You see, George is a little different from most people and he needs her protection. Brilliant as he may be with his uncanny ability to remember minute details, so suited for his job as a solicitor, this doesn't negate the fact that his oddities lead to an awkwardness in social situations. He just doesn't get it. And his lack of social graces gets him into trouble. Like the time he inadvertently lost twenty five thousand pounds to Charles Norris, the second son to a Viscount. It's not that her family doesn't have the funds to pay the large debt. It's more that her mother already maintains a disdain for her autistic son, and the consequences of her wrath would not be in anyone's favor, except perhaps her cousin Jeffrey who would like to take over the title of Earl. In the meantime, Marjorie has to deal with Charles who is holding the note. All will be forgiven if only she'll help him with his little problem - finding a wife, and if along the way she can find a husband, then she won't have to marry any of the abhorrent men her mother prefers. Of course, this solution sets the stage for the developing attraction between the two main characters who must overcome numerous obstacles before they finally give in to the inevitable love they share.

The Spinster Bride by Jane Goodger is a different type of story with some interesting elements: such as an autistic brother, a wounded hero (from the Ashanti War in Ghana) with a bad leg which interferes with his walking and dancing abilities, a tall servant from India dressed in his native clothing, a conniving cousin, and a mother who behaves more like a General in the army than a loving matriarch. I especially liked the flashback sequences describing Lady Dorothea's own dating past which explains her current behaviors including why she lives vicariously through Margaret's numerous London seasons. This Victorian Romance, set in 1874, is the last of the four books in the Lords and Ladies series.

Unfortunately, the story tended to drag, although it did pick up after George's disappearance which added some intrigue into the plot. The characters were inconsistent and their behaviors didn't always match their words. Charles was not very likable at times, even though he was kind to George. He was clueless on too many occasions and didn't always treat Marjorie with the respect she deserved. Marjorie tended to be self centered, despite her protectiveness towards both her brother and mother. These were characters you had to strive to admire. There was also too much repetition as the protagonists struggled with their feelings.

After reading Book One of this series, as well as the synopsis for Books Two and Three, I find that Jane Goodger likes to explore characters with unusual problems, such as elective mutes, abused childhoods, evil parents, imprisonments, illegitimacy, incest, autism, tragic deaths (of siblings and/or parents), marriages to escape poverty, rejection, and general unhappiness. There is so much potential which isn't being realized due to inconsistent characterizations, repetitive dialogue, and plot deficiencies. I hope that future endeavors take these factors into account so as to create more enjoyable romances for her fan base. I really want to love these books. Three stars for Lady Dorothea Summerfield, the vignettes of her romantic tragedy were the best part of this novel.

I would like to thank Lyrical Press and Netgalley for providing this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

mirada says

Me ha gustado leer esta novela porque me supone una alegría volver a la romántica histórica. Eso sí, el capítulo 8 está fuera de época y no es creíble, y hace que las "actividades" amorosas de los protagonistas a partir de ese momento sean totalmente contemporáneas *roll eyes*

Eva says

mo

Kiltsandwords says

The Spinster Bride by Jane Goodger

This was a fun book to read! I really enjoyed the characters and the plot was fresh and original. Charles Norris needs a bride. He resorts to extortion to get Lady Marjorie to find him one. But that is not all the book is about. There are amazing secondary characters and a devious plot that keeps the story moving along. Charles Norris is the second son of a Viscount. He has been away for years fighting for England, but now that he has returned he has turned his attentions to finding a bride. However it is much harder than he anticipated. After a fortuitous in with Lady Marjorie, he pleads his case for her to help him with his quest. Charles is described as a large, gregarious man who laughs a little too loud, enjoys life a little too much and is too handsome for his own good. He runs an unusual household and has a badly scarred leg from his time in service. Its things like this that make him seem like a normal man to the reader, not just the main character in a romance novel. At times he reminded me of an eager puppy, chasing after his next potential suitor. I found that endearing about him. He also has a strong sense of humanity and I deeply enjoyed the role of avenging angel he played when looking after Marjorie's interests.

Marjorie is the only daughter of an Earl. Her father has passed, but she lives with her mother and younger brother, George. Her mother is as fierce as a dragon. She terrifies most members of the ton and has decreed that her daughter will ONLY be wed to a titled man. She can be vicious and mean and Marjorie loves her in spite of it. Marjorie readily agrees to Charles demands for two reasons. One she wants to keep her brother safe and two she thinks it is a grand adventure. Clearly she lacks excitement in her life. She has been out for six years and is not married. This season is her last one to make a match before she is firmly on the shelf. She never felt the pressure before and was actually pleased with her mother's decree about a titled gentleman, but after meeting Charles she is re-evaluating her situation. He makes her feel things she knows she shouldn't be and forces her to look within her heart for what she truly wants to be happy.

I really liked how the author also told the story of Marjorie's mother. She slowly shares the story of how Lady Penwhistle became the bitter and harsh woman she is. It was a very effective strategy as my opinions of the lady changed as I learned more about her life and all that she has endured.

Marjorie's brother George is not quite right, as she puts it. We recognize that it is autism. Marjorie protects her brother, who is an Earl, from society and mostly her mother. Her mother is so mean to George that it was hard to read the cruel things she would say to him. This loyalty that Marjorie feels for her brother is a true mark of her character. She has thrown away brilliant matches because she overheard negative and mean things being said about her brother. I adored how Charles accepted and liked George. That alone would have convinced me that Charles was the man for Marjorie.

The first time they were intimate with me was hot and steamy, but also had me laughing out loud at the bold

request that Marjorie made. It was one of those moments when you think "Did she really just say that?"

Thankfully the author has her repeat her request and I couldn't help but laugh myself silly!

The devious plot is an important part of bringing Charles and Marjorie together. It gives them time to sort out their feelings and relationship. I couldn't imagine the story without the mystery, even though the matchmaking was fully developed.

This book was an enjoyable read. I liked how the author wove together many different elements to create a story that had depth and sincerity. It comes out on February 3rd!

Reviewed for www.kiltsandswords.com:

<http://kiltsandswords.com/2014/12/16/...>

Aly is so frigging bored says

Loved it!!! You know those HRs where the H/h get compromised and have to get married? This isn't one of them! They keep trying to get caught alone together but have no luck :)) it was great!

Lady Day says

Searching for a GLEEFUL romance blended with JEALOUSY, ANGER, and a life full of DISAPPOINTMENTS? Jane Goodger's, *The Spinster Bride* is the perfect choice.

Like a culinary dish, it's a romance with just the right character and plot driven appreciation. It features a charming hero, Mr. Norris, who's in love with the idea of love; and his sweetly admirable heroine, Lady Marjorie who's loyal to family and duty. But. Don't be surprised because the story contains more than one spinster. The heroine's mother, Lady Dorothea Penwhistle also a spinster prior to marriage and is my primary focus. She adds a hint of bitterness to create a tale stewed with two opposing ingredients: contentment vs. dissatisfaction. Definitely a palate pleaser.

The 240 page fiction is complete with adventure, romantic scenes and lots of dialogue; not like a novella lacking details. I found myself smiling and grimacing. Although, the beginning is as cooking with a crockpot, a slow simmered matchmaking romance, seasoned with a backstory. Then around chapter fourteen a twist of suspense increase the heat of the narration to a captivating boil. However, Dorothea's climatic moment was a tearjerker. I was expecting a different happy ending for her.

I noticed the author utilizes a "compromised" theme often, which is my reason for a star rated reduction. On the other hand, it deserves a higher score because individuals or couples who devote years caring for others and people who are forgotten, shunned, or mistreated most likely will find the moral of the story relatable. Praise to the author.

Warning! There are characters from the *Lords and Ladys* series. Although written to stand alone, the newly wedded Graham and Katherine Spencer have cameo roles. I suggest reading 'When a Lord needs a Lady', first.

The Spinster Bride is like being served a satisfying meal. It is pleasing to the senses. Reading while commuting on the bus/train or during a lunch break will allow time to savour the experience.

Happy Reading or Bon appetit!

Torn between a 4 or 5 stars: I held up my hand to the waiter, "a second serving/read, please."

Claudia says

This was quite a funny and sweet, romantic read. I really enjoyed it - and enjoyed their way how they got together.

It was everything one could want from a fluffy HR read.

Disclaimer: an ARC was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Jenny says

Though there were moments in which both the hero and heroine were bordering on Too Stupid to Live, it was, overall, an enjoyable book. I normally don't care for fictional accounts of intellectual/developmental/mental disabilities, but I appreciated how George's personality was handled, and how, while somewhat of a plot point, was not used as a point of pity.

Marta says

Such a lovely book... Fantastic characters, great story. A novel that leaves you addicted. I love Marjorie's irreverence, and I like Mr. Norris as well. But George and Dorothea are deep characters as well. You can know Dorothea's story and understand why she has become such a bitter soul, such an annoying old woman. The love story is well written and is funny and romantic at the same time. Loved the book and I give it 5 stars.

Luli says

Ni fu ni fa.

Por una vez, y eso es precisamente lo que más me llamó la atención, el protagonista quiere casarse. No recuerdo otra historia en la que haya leído esto así que me pareció de lo más original y no pude resistirme. La historia en sí no está mal, pero al final no tiene nada original, es más de lo mismo y tampoco ha conseguido engancharme. Me ha parecido aburrida a ratos y repetitiva. Tampoco me ha parecido creíble o realista, la autora se toma demasiadas libertades, por ejemplo, la primera escena en la que los protagonistas tienen un momento íntimo, me cogió de sorpresa. Salió de la nada y me chocó lo absurda que fue. Eso de pintar a las vírgenes del s. XVII como tontas es cansino y ridículo.

Tampoco he conseguido entender a la madre de ella, que ocupa un papel fundamental en la historia. Es la mala malísima que de repente puf! ya no es tan mala...muy flojo después de aguantar varias escenas desde su punto de vista. Ya que nos tenemos que tragar la historia de la *buena* señora, al menos esperaba que

sirviese para algo, que nos diese alguna información, lo único que saco es que la mujer es realmente despreciable y no sabe lo que quiere salvo amargar la vida de todo el que tiene al lado. (view spoiler) Después de todo esto no he leído un epílogo más irrealista en mi vida. Esa mujer no tenía posibilidades de redención.

Los protagonistas son agradables. Los secundarios son agradables. Los malos son muy malos y la trama a ratos absurda. Todo me ha parecido un poco superficial, no he conseguido involucrarme en la historia.

So, so.

For once, and that is precisely what catch my eye, the hero wants to get married. I don't remember another story with that premise so I thought it was so original I could not resist.

The story itself isn't that bad, but in the end, there's nothing original, is more of the same and it has not managed to hook me. It has seemed boring and repetitive at times but not credible or realistic; the author takes too many liberties, for example, the first scene in which the main characters have an intimate moment, caught me by surprise. It came out of nowhere and shocked me because it was absurd. To show the XVII century's virgins as dumb women is tiresome and ridiculous.

I neither have managed to understand her mother, which occupies a fundamental role in the story. She is the (oh so) bad guy that suddenly... pouf! Is not so bad... It is very weak after we have to endure several scenes from her point of view. Since we have to put up with the *good* lady's story, I, at least, expected that it was useful for something, to give us some information, all I get is that the woman is actually despicable and does not know what she wants except embitter the life of everyone around her. (view spoiler)

After all this I have not read a more unrealistic epilogue in my life. That woman had no chance of redemption.

The MC's are pleasant. The secondary ones are pleasant. The bad guys are very bad and the plot at times absurd. Everything has seemed a little shallow, I have not managed to get involved in the story.
