



Courting Scandal

Jaima Fixsen

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Jasper Rushford doesn't want drama—when visiting a sister who's about to give birth, the more placid the event, the better. But when he recognizes the doctor's mousy sister as the darling of London's stage, theatrics are inevitable.

Laura Edwards took to the stage to support her brother's medical career. Now he's established he wants her to turn respectable, landing her in the country, hiding in plain sight from one of her biggest admirers. And her alter ego, celebrated actress Gemma Holyrood, would be having so much more fun...

Caught in the English countryside amidst Jasper's dazzling and dizzyingly complicated family, it's no place to let Laura's secret come out.

Courting Scandal Details

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From Reader Review Courting Scandal for online ebook

Shana says

To act or not to act

I am so glad the actress realized that life is a stage and there many roles to play even if you are out in the everyday. It starts out with sister, daughter and ends with Aunt, Wife, sister-in-law, Mother and Grandmother. Each a role to be played well.

Celeste says

Brava, Ms. Fixsen!

Did you ever read a book that was so wonderful, you were apprehensive about reading the next one in the series because you were anticipating disappointment? Just the thought of wondering if the next book might not be as moving, if the characters weren't as engaging, and didn't have your heart in your throat with their humanness? Well, this series put me through that apprehension not once, but twice - and both times, I am quite glad to report, I was not disappointed in the least. Jaima Fixsen writes beautiful and well-crafted stories about damaged characters who struggle in their lives with situations that are overwhelming, yet they persevere with no small amount of grace. I love her use of cleverness, humor, wit, tenderness, anger, and jealousy - making dialog devastatingly real.

Courting Scandal brings back all of the beloved Fairchild and Incognita characters/family members, much to my delight. Jasper, who plays brooding and moody vs. sweet and loyal, oh-so-well, finds his match with Laura Edwards, aka, well - it's complicated. At any rate, being an actress both on stage and in real life makes things difficult for Laura, her beloved brother Jack, and of course, poor Jasper. Throw in an evil relative bent on destroying any happiness Laura has found, the tug-of-war between intimates where heartfelt sincerities are left unsaid, plus the drama of everyday life, and you have an intricate and beautiful story.

I do hope there are more books in this series on the horizon, because after three fabulous stories, I know I do not have to worry that the next one(s) would not be up to snuff. Ms. Fixsen is a gifted writer, and we are fortunate to have her in our literary world.

I received a free advance copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review. Honestly!

Stacey says

How's this for sad? I loved this final installment in the Fairchild trilogy and, yet, I have to admit I ended confused over the show down at the uncle's theatre box. I don't get what happened there - even though I read and re-read it. And I am perfectly okay with ANYONE setting me straight...

Theresa says

A bit of a let down

This is the third and, I assume, last of the Fairchild series. I enjoyed the first book, 'Fairchild' and loved the second book, 'Incognita.' Unfortunately, 'Courting Scandal' left me disappointed.

Jasper who has made appearances in both previous novels, was an interesting, if at times, annoying character. It was never clear in those earlier books, why he held such antipathy for his parents, especially his mother. When the reason was finally brought to light in this book, it makes the 27 year old Jasper come off as a whiny child. Yes, I understood his feelings as a child, but his actions as an adult were, in my opinion, out of proportion to the events creating those feelings.

As for Laurie, I liked her well enough even though I found her solution to her serious circumstances a bit far-fetched given the time period. There were options more befitting her station that would have been a bit more believable. I also found the threat in the form of her aristocratic uncle to be contrived and fairly unbelievable. The big climactic rescue scene was almost laughable.

Overall, it's not a bad novel. I just found it a bit of a let down from the first two books in the series especially given the extent to which I looked forward to Jasper's story.

Mehrukh Nasim says

3.5*

Jamie says

Jasper's story. Picks up right where books 1 and 2 left off.
Jaima Fixsen does a great job at truly re-creating the Regency era.
Fun, clean romance.

Erin says

Another sweet, clean romance.

Yay! Jasper got his happily ever after too! I've really enjoyed this series. I want more. And this one just seemed perfect for Jasper. Fun-loving Jasper and his lovely, actress. Match-made in heaven!

This story could seem more scandalous than the other two books, but it is still clean. Just the usual things said before one gets married. Quite humorous I think. It's hard to wait. I'm sure some people would see this as realistic. The struggle before marriage to keep things pure.

And the whole family was involved in this story. I love when we get to revisit characters from other books in

the series and see what they are up to. And Fixsen still gives them some storyline in this book. They aren't forgotten as they can be in other series. I really like that.

I really want more books in this series...I'm definitely reading more books by Jaima Fixsen!

kathie says

4.25 Last in the Fairchild series (3 books) and I would suggest you read them in order. I read this series straight through since I happened to have all of them on my Kindle. I was really anxious for Jasper's story and, for the most part, Fixsen did not disappoint. I just love this entire family and it was great catching up with all of them. The only little quibble I had was around the 80% mark and involved Laura, our heroine, and her uncle when I thought the story veered a bit to the overly dramatic, bordering on cartoonish. Still, this is such a wonderful series and I will be checking out other Fixsen books for sure.

Tina says

I enjoyed this series. It was a balm after a crappy trilogy that I read before it! Narrator was great, too.

Donna J says

Adored all 3 books in this series!

I loved the Fairchild Romance Series (Book 1-3) it was a beautiful love story between so many different couples who all were related somehow to 'The Fairchild's'

I read, and I listened, it was a typical British Romance Series and I loved everything about each book.

I highly recommend that you all start out by reading 'Fairchild' Book 1..it will help with the history of where this family started and ended up. Excellent reading, very British but it's not the 20th century..it takes place in the beginning of the 19th century...they will take you to a place where gentlemen where that, and also idiots too. ?

It was a pleasure and with 'Courting Scandal' our wonderful author ties it up in one bundle. Perfect 5 ?

RF says

Funny, romantic, laughed and cried.

I enjoyed the main characters of this story. It was nice having the characters from the previous two books surrounding the main two characters with love, and help to find their way to love in the end. A very nice romp. Couldn't put it down.

Lyuda says

Terrific read! The author is getting better and better with each of her books. This one is my favorite so far.

Jasper Rushford, Lord Fairchild's heir, is known to the readers of the two previous books in the series as handsome, amicable, somewhat immature gentleman. It takes an amazing woman to change Jasper, to bring out his best, to make him a truly admirable man.

This woman is Laura Edwards. She was born as Laure Seraphine Edouard Lecroy-Duplessis. Her father, French count, and her oldest brother were murdered during the French revolution. The rest of the family, Laura, her mother, and her brother Jack, escaped to England. Scared, starved and grieving, they went to their relative, Duke of Saltash, to seek help but were turned down. Nine years past since then and the little family struggles to make ends meet, barely getting by. Laura and her mother work as seamstresses for a theater and Jack as an apothecary's assistant. Jack has dreams of becoming a doctor. This dream could be a reality if they had thirty pounds. The money would equip Jack so he could "go to sea and be a surgeon's mate-a real apprenticeship with prospects." The money is impossible sum but Laura has a daring plan. She always liked acting. When she was little, she participated in the plays her father staged in his private theatre to audiences of family and houseguests. And now the only glimpses of the theater she gets is when she delivers costumes. Her daring plan involves getting on stage to show her talent. When it succeeded, the star is born!

Now, eight years later, Laura Edwards is a thought after, mysterious and admired for her beauty and wit actress Gemma Holyrood. Jasper Rushford is one of her many admirers. He courts her in the green room with many others with no success. No man succeeds.

Meanwhile, brother Jack is back from his training as a doctor and is offered a practice by no other than his friend Tom Bagshot from Fairchild. The practice is close by to both Tom and Sophy's house and the Fairchild's estate. Jack wants to take Laura away from London, from a "disrespectful" life as an actress and have her living with him in a quite village in Suffolk. Not persuaded (she loves acting and there was one more reason), Laura agreed to at least a short stay to help her brother initially. She is pretty sure nobody would know or recognize her there. But she is for a big surprise. Jasper is visiting his half-sister Sophy at the same time and it didn't take him long to recognize Laura/Gemma. What follows reminds me of the Shakespeare's phrase:

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;*

The story is a fast moving, engaging. Seeing characters from the previous books is a real treat. It's like visiting favorite family members. There is a chase, evil relative, beautiful interaction of the characters, a very competent writing, witty bunter, fabulous dialog, and I can go on and on... Thank you Ms. Fixsen for creating such a terrific book!

Melissa says

I wish I had know this was a 3rd book before I started it. I would have read the others first. There is a lot of the other two stories in this. Even switching to the other two sisters points of view a couple times. So it would be better to read this series in order. This was like no other regency book I have read. The cover is so sweet and innocence but the book has a gritty edge that is going to turn some proper regency fans off. This was a different side of regency England behind the actors on stage and in less privileged people. I love how the leading lady took her life in her own hands and fought for a better life. It is sad she had to delve into a world of prostitution, barley keeping her head above water. I enjoyed this and I didn't think I would. It had some fun elements and a good story line that is really different. There is sexual innuendo throughout, this is not your normal proper romance, they talk about sex a lot. There is no sex scenes. This is more a world like the Phantom of the Opera movie.

Leah Feltner says

I enjoyed this book. It was fun to see the theater world during the regency era. Jasper and Laura were entertaining and it was nice to catch up on all the other family members from the first two books in the series. I would recommend reading the first two books first, though. :)

Adrianna says

This was a great little series! I wonder if there will be more...

This particular storyline was just a tad improbable for the time period. I don't want to spoil it, but I highly doubt the resolution would have been acceptable to the family or, most especially, society at large. It is what it is, though, and that is a highly satisfactory reading escape.
