



How to Manage a Marquess

Sally MacKenzie

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In *USA Today* bestselling author Sally MacKenzie's charming Spinster House series, love is always a welcome guest...

Two possible futures loom before Miss Anne Davenport. The first option: sharing an unhappy home with her father and soon-to-be stepmother. The second: a life of independence at the Spinster House--if only her friend, Cat, would vacate the premises and marry the Duke of Hart. A well-placed whisper about the pair's secret tryst might speed the course of true love. But the duke's stubborn cousin poses an obstacle. A ridiculously handsome, very persuasive obstacle...

Nate, Marquess of Haywood, has spent his life looking out for the duke, hoping to stave off a family curse. The only way to keep his cousin alive is to keep him single. That means convincing the intriguing Miss Davenport that her lovely lips could be put to far better use than gossiping. Kissing, for instance. In fact, Nate is beginning to hope that Miss Davenport's destiny lies not in the Spinster House at all, but with him ...

How to Manage a Marquess Details

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Author : Sally MacKenzie

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From Reader Review How to Manage a Marquess for online ebook

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

2.5 Stars

The saga with the Spinster House continues with Anne Davenport, another young lady who wants a chance to move in and leave the worries of her home behind her. Namely that her father is planning to marry a woman younger than she is. However, it doesn't quite pan out as expected, when one of her closest friends gets the house, the subsequently falls in love with the Duke of Hart. All she needs is a little push from her friend to commit and marry...and then move out of the Spinster House, leaving it vacant for Anne. Her plan falls in complete opposition to what the Duke's best friend and cousin, Nate, Marquess of Haywood has in mind and, as they battle it out their passion flares as well as their tempers.

I wasn't a massive fan of the first book in this series, but it left me curious enough to want to read the next book to see what happens. And, although I did like this book slightly more, it still left me unmoved. I wasn't sure if it was the romance, the characters or the idea itself, but I had a hard time keeping my mind focused on this book whilst I was reading.

Maybe part of the problem was that I wasn't a massive fan of the main characters, Anne was okay, but she was scheming behind her friends back so that she could get she wanted, which, fortunately did coincide with her friend's happiness. But it still felt underhanded. But, she was in a difficult position and on a more serious note, options were extremely limited for young women at that point in time. Then there was Nate, and it wasn't that I disliked anything about him, it's just that I didn't particularly like anything about him either, it was all just a bit lacklustre. Which, unfortunately extended to the romance as well.

I'm not going to say too much more, as you can see I wasn't a massive fan, but there was also nothing inherently wrong with this book, I just didn't connect with it. I'm not sure if I will read on with this series as I had the same problem with the first book, but I wouldn't rule it out if the blurb intrigued me enough. Oh well, you can't like them all right?

Didi says

1.75 Stars

I find this such a let down, little to like on both main characters. Out of the series so far, this book is my least like of all. The wee stepbrothers saved the story for me.

The timeline in this book happened concurrently with What to Do with a Duke, and it still evolved around the Duke of Hart's curse, Marquess of Haywood - the male character - being the cousin of the cursed Duke. As such the book lost quite some details; like how Nate and Anne first met, whether that sparked attractions between them. Instead the early chapters of this book were filled with chopped sequences of occurrences from Cat and Marcus's book. Personally, having read the prequel novella and first book of the series that I am, this choppy sequences and storyline hampered the reading enjoyment of this book!!

Not only that, I found almost all characters appeared here were annoying as hell. Which surprised me since I didn't feel that way when I read them in Cat and Marcus's story. Anne was churlish and selfish. For that era, she was also beyond rude to her father. HOWEVER, her father's treatment of her later on was also shockingly harsh. They constantly hurting each other, though I'd be hard-pressed to point who started it. It's like the case of chicken and egg. Between them, I don't know which I disliked most.

Nate wasn't any better. For I don't know what reasons, he found Anne both attractive and suspicious. He was forever agonising his contradicting feelings and acted stupid over it. His treatment of Marcus was not any better. All in all, I found it hard to sympathize with him.

The only uplifting moments for me was when Anne's wee stepbrothers were introduced to the scene. And that was not many. Plus, the closure was also hurriedly done, it was very anticlimactic.

I supposed the next book would evolve around Jane, the last spinster candidate. I'm going to take a wait and see step for that installment.

ARC is kindly provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the exchange of a fair and honest review.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I enjoyed this. The humor was good and I liked how both characters are set on their paths, but their paths keep intersecting. The Spinster House cat, Poppy is quite the matchmaker. Haywood was so protective of Anne, and I liked that. I wish he didn't think it was okay to go to prostitutes, although I understand his options were limited because of the vow he made to his mother. Looking forward to Lord Alex and Jane's story.

Reviewed for Affaire de Coeur Magazine. <http://affairedecoeur.com>.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

This is book two in the Spinster House series by Sally MacKenzie. I have read the previous book but I feel you would be okay with making this a standalone book...but I will say Ms. Mackenzie writing is so good that I would hate for you to miss out on any of her books.

There is a Spinster House that was set up by the previous owner to only have the house used for one Spinster until she married or died... then the house would go to another chosen Spinster and so forth. It is actually a type of curse that is set forth for the Hart Family.

Miss Anne Davenport has her eye on that house. At this time her good friend Cat is staying in the house but Anne knows that her friend is having feelings for the overseer of the house..Duke of Hart. So Anne makes a plan to set in motion some light gossip that might hurry their love affair on so that she can move in. Nate, Marquess of Haywood is best friends with the Duke of Hart and tries to look after him and this so called curse that will kill the Duke of Hart if he marries. So when Nate starts to learn that Ann is trying to move Cat and the Duke of Hart relationship toward marriage he knows he must stop her.

Amelia says

The clever premise of the Spinster House series continues with a story where the wishes of one woman and a man are constantly at odds, and growing sexual tension between them only adds more conflict when they are together. Sally MacKenzie is known for creating stories filled with lots of hilarity, and humorous scenes are scattered all throughout the latest Spinster House installment. *HOW TO MANAGE A MARQUESS* is entertaining with delightful characters and engaging moments.

For many years, it has been the duty of the Marquess of Haywood to keep his cousin from being harmed because of a curse. All of those who have become the Duke of Hart in the past two centuries have died before their heirs were born, just as the curse foretold. Now his cousin is the current duke, and Nate must discourage him from marrying now that he has fallen in love. Having traveled to Loves Bridge, he hopes to keep his family member from making a mistake which may cost his life. But it appears a good friend of the woman with whom his relative is in love is going to make things difficult for him.

Since Anne Davenport does not want to live with her father if he marries a much younger woman, she hopes to be the next person selected to live at Spinster House. It is a place where she could live life without being ruled by a man, and she thinks this would make the days ahead much happier. While two other women would also like to move into the home now that it is vacant, Anne is pushing her good friend toward marriage as it would make one less person trying to be chosen. Yet Nate seems equally determined to make sure his cousin does not marry her friend.

Though at first some of Anne's behavior was questionable, I quickly came to understand what motivated her when certain reasons became known. Times were much different for women in England during the early 1800's, and I could see why she might be worried about her future. Anne is rather strong-minded for someone of that era, and her desire for independence kept her pressing for something better in life. Nate is someone who follows the rules of society and is always respectful, yet he can only think about pushing certain forbidden boundaries when around Anne. I really enjoyed his stern talks with himself about staying disciplined when it concerned the woman who tempts him like no other. The relationship of Nate and Anne does have many ups and downs, where several incidents are comical, while other circumstances are surprisingly affecting because of all the emotional honesty.

Several secondary characters really touched me in quite a few ways, especially the two young boys in the story. They could act and speak just like a normal child at times, but then they could turn so serious and their actions often greatly affected me. There is also a very intelligent cat connected to the Spinster House, and her antics definitely caused many smiles. The two main books in the series are taking place at the same time, and though it would probably be best to read the first story before this one, Sally MacKenzie gives plenty of explanations to keep the reader informed of any simultaneous activities. There is laughter and an abundance of emotion in *HOW TO MANAGE A MARQUESS*.

Received copy from NetGalley

Leonella Navas says

excelente historia me rei muchisimo, llore y disfrute de esta historia me encantaria poder seguir leyendo mas de estas historias

Connie Fischer says

Haywood Castle - 1808

Nate, the Marquess of Haywood, is sitting by his mother's bedside as he sadly watches her die. She is begging him to keep his cousin, Marcus, the Duke of Hart, safe. As the heir, Marcus may be another victim of the family curse that says that a Duke of Hart must marry for love by the time he is 30 or he will die. In promising his mother that he will watch over Marcus, he realizes that he will be unable to wed until Marcus is safely wed.

Loves Bridge - Nine Years Later - 1817

Nate has learned that Miss Catherine Hutting, a vicar's daughter, wants to be the next Spinster House spinster. However, he fears she truly wants to marry Marcus and become the next Duchess of Hart. He's worried too because Marcus is now 30.

Miss Anne Davenport also wants to be the next Spinster House spinster. A lovely young woman, Nate cannot help but be attracted to her. But Nate knows that he cannot become involved with any woman because he must keep Marcus safe as he had promised his mother.

Anne wants the Spinster House because her widowed father plans to marry a woman even younger than Anne. She is a widow with two young sons. Anne fears that if she continues to live at Davenport Hall, she will not be welcome to stay and/or may simply become a governess to the children. She also has no wish to marry, has never met a man she cares for, and is quite innocent about marriage as well.

Three women vie to become the next spinster. To select the winner, they draw lots. When Anne loses, she is devastated. However, she soon gets to know Nate and an attraction between them grows. But Nate cannot wed until Marcus does and Anne needs to get away from Davenport Hall. What will happen for them? Is there a future for them to be together?

This is the third book in the Spinster House series that I have read. While I like the author, I found this book to merge with "What To Do With a Duke" so it was a bit confusing. Quite frankly, I think it's also time to end this particular series as it's becoming a bit stale.

Copy provided by the publisher via NetGalley

Heather andrews says

Good lord the patience Nate has when it comes to Anne should earn him an award especially when she's tipsy, "be that as it may, you will sit on the stone." Hell, he didn't want to hurt her, but he was not about to

have her plant her feminine hindquarters on his hard and getting harder . . . lap." The situations Anne and Nate find themselves in, "you can't be very naked. It's something you either are or you aren't." He was very aroused was what he was. Surely she noticed his ***k trying to impale her." I'm an animal lover so the cat scene was my favorite of the book:

"You're not going to let me go back to the inn, are you?"

The cat licked its paws. Nate took a cautious step to the side to go round the animal. The animal hissed.

"I can get past you if I want to, you know. I can certainly outrun you."

It showed its teeth.

"Oh, very well . I suppose I should say good-bye to Miss Davenport."

I really enjoyed this book I loved Nate.

Isa says

Muchos comportamientos absurdos en una novela sin pizca de emoción.

Giselle Bradley says

Our hero has so many sexist thoughts. (Women needing to be subservient and other bullshit like that.) Oh, and did I mention that he has conversation with his dick? Yup! You heard me right. Plural. As in at least 10. It was uncomfortable. He always telling it to shut up and behave. ? And the pacing was not good at all. It would be really slow and then bam! Something would happen that if practically miss. There were several scenes that were not very long and then when the characters were thinking or talking about it in retrospect they describe them as at least 2 or 3 times longer than they actually were. It completely threw me out of the story. I've never had this problem with MacKenzie's writing before so I dunno what was up with that. ??? It definitely needed some work though. It's only the 2nd book that has ever driven me to turning my audiobook up to 3x speed and it was mostly from the wacky pacing. Also, her dad is a major dickwad. There is this big deal made about him being such a selfish jackass to his daughter but Ann never faces him about it and he just gets away with it! Both him and his bride to be. Shame on them for being selfish cowards and not having the guts to talk to Ann. And I'm so disappointed that it's not brought up again. Ann just decided to be a complacent and spineless person and it made it feel so unsatisfying. She's all like "YEAH! I'll let them walk all over me. No problemo. Here, let me lie down to make it easier for you." (Maybe a slight exaggeration...) Also, the children. Children are the literal worst in adult books. 99/100 times it's done badly. The children are either wise beyond their years or act far too young. Somehow this author manages both in one book... how does that even happen? The 5 year old in particular really grated on my nerves. Which definitely wasn't helped by the high pitched and fast speech that the narrator gave him but I do believe he would have been really abnoxious either way.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

The saga with the Spinster House continues with Anne Davenport, another young lady who wants a chance to move in and leave the worries of her home behind her. Namely that her father is planning to marry a woman younger than she is. However, it doesn't quite pan out as expected, when one of her closest friends gets the house, the subsequently falls in love with the Duke of Hart. All she needs is a little push from her

friend to commit and marry...and then move out of the Spinster House, leaving it vacant for Anne. Her plan falls in complete opposition to what the Duke's best friend and cousin, Nate, Marquess of Haywood has in mind and, as they battle it out their passion flares as well as their tempers.

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*ARC provided by publisher
Reviewed by Suzanne

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Heidi says

Sally Mackenzie is a great writer she knows how to draw her readers in and she sure did with this book, what with a dynamic story line and lots of adventure and true love what more can you want or need in a book.

Kiesha ~ 1Cheekylass says

A really solid follow-up to book 1. I approve! I wanted to hate Anne but I found it impossible to.

Sherwood Smith says

Copy received courtesy of NetGalley

A very fluffy sexy Regency romp features three beginnings, establishing a curse over the Dukes of Hart, before we're introduced to the Marquess of Haywood, who has dedicated his life to keeping his friend the

Duke of Hart from marrying, and therefore dying, according to the curse.

Which may not be a curse after all.

Meanwhile, Miss Anne Davenport is competing with her besties to live in the Spinster House so she can escape her family, while trying to keep her father from remarrying. Why the friends can't live together isn't clear, because the main focus of the story is the marquess's pretty much constant state of arousal for Anne, and of course Anne's response.

The Regency era is presented in the thinnest veneer, the narrative voice trying for humor. The curse thread was unclear, feeling more like a plot device. I think if there had been a lot less about the marquess's "member" and more actual character development, the humor might have worked better—but then my tastes tend more toward comedy of manners. I did enjoy the cat.

Readers seeking an easily read sexy Regency should enjoy this tale.

Stephanie says

"Mistress of the House"

<http://fangswandsandfairydust.com/201...>

The Spinster House series offers a situation-romantic-comedy in Regency clothing, and with the specter of tragedy floating around the castle.

I found the language a little modern; especially the use of the word, "Hey" as a way of calling to someone or as an exclamation. But, according to the first online site that came up when I googled it; it has its origins in Middle English. It's all in the spirit of silly romantic fun. It reminds me of a cozy mystery but without a murder.

But, of course there is the specter of tragedy in the past and potentially in the future. The potential tragedy causes the obstructions between Anne and Nate. The revelation of older tragedies also help them learn about each other and, one, in particular, helps Anne to accept her present family situation. The tragedies of the past facilitate, because they grow with them and those potential in the future prevent their union. And, you know what they say about worry about future events over which one has no control.

Beverly Crick is not my favorite narrator, her voice is lovely, but her modulation has a sing-song rhythm I dislike. I also dislike the way she voices sex scenes. But her accent is plummy and authentic.

There was great continuity coming off the first book, as equally silly and fun, including the preternatural cat, Poppy. Seriously, how could I resist!
