



Espléndida pasión

Julia Quinn

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Poco antes de la fiesta en que será presentada en sociedad, Emma sale a dar un paseo ataviada de sirvienta para que nadie la reconozca. La atrevida pelirroja ya ha decidido que no quiere casarse y que rechazará a cualquiera que se le acerque. Pero un accidente la hace conocer al duque Alex Ridgely, un hombre guapísimo y tan rebelde como ella, que le llega a lo más profundo de su corazón. Sin embargo, Emma sigue haciéndose pasar como una criada hasta que Alex descubre que en realidad es la misteriosa prima de la familia Blydon. A pesar de sus intentos para no caer en las redes de este incorregible mujeriego, Emma no podrá ocultar por mucho tiempo la pasión que le despierta Alex.

Mientras, el duque encuentra en Emma a una mujer valiente, inteligente y divertida, y le resulta cada vez más difícil resistirse a ella. ¿Podrá el verdadero amor atravesar la coraza que cubre su encallecido corazón?

Espléndida pasión Details

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From Reader Review Espléndida pasión for online ebook

Ivana Azap Feješ says

This is the debut novel by this author and I enjoyed reading it. Good romance with a feisty heroine. There is one thing everyone knows about Alexander Ridgely. He's the Duke of Ashbourne.

I wasn't expecting to like this books as much as I did. I've read a lot of reviews that's it not as good as the Bridgerton series, and this is true. But it's also true that this book contains a lot signature Julia Quinn elements. The lightness, the witty banter, and the engaging pace. Ms Quinn has always been a favorite author of mine; and until recently I did not realize that I had missed her very first novel. So I picked it up and was rapt from the very first. Ms Quinn has always used humor in her books. Sometimes with ridiculous action on the characters part, and sometimes with the characters themselves. Entertaining, but I didn't love the couple as much as JQ's other books. Alex is a little too controlling and Emma (although much more likable in the other books where she is a secondary character) was, at times, more annoying than endearing. Because I want to end on a positive note, I will end it with my only dislike – Emma's childish/immature tendencies.

;)

Cheryl says

Julia Quinn's first published novel, *Splendid*, was quite *Splendid* actually! I enjoyed this book as it was funny, easy to read, and fast-paced.

Our Heroine...

Emma, an American, goes to London to visit her cousins for a season. She looks forward to just enjoying her time with Belle and Ned, and NOT looking for a husband. She has plans to take over her fathers shipping company in America one day and will not be tied down to some titled gentleman in London. Her aunt plans an elaborate ball to introduce her to the *ton* and the last thing Emma wants to do is be involved in all the details that go into that process! So, in order to avoid her aunt, Emma and her cousin Belle dress in servants clothing and hide out in the kitchen. When Cook realizes they are out of eggs Emma immediately volunteers to go to the market to get the eggs. Of course she would, Emma is known for her not-so-bright ideas! While out and about in town, unchaperoned, and wearing servants clothing, who do you think she meets?

Our Hero...

Alexander Ridgely, the Duke of Ashbourne, was immediately drawn to the small red-haired woman he was holding in his carriage. She had acted so bravely by running out in front of a carriage to push his nephew out of harms way. She was unlike any other woman he had ever met, and he was definitely intrigued by her. Most women he knew cared about nobody but themselves and the fortunes they were after, especially HIS fortune and HIS title. Yes, this one had captured his attention, but who was she, this red-head dressed in maids clothing. He intended to find out!

The Ball in Emma's honor...

Alex was looking for that girl. He had been looking for an hour, so sure he would have found her there at the ball. As he was talking to his best friend Dunford, he saw her! And she was not a maid, she was Miss Emma Dunster, the American visiting, the one the ball was being given in honor of, and she was beautiful!

I loved what Alex said to Dunford about Emma, "Don't touch her, don't even think about her." Already he had become possessive of her, he didn't want any other man looking at her or trying to gain her attentions. He was so funny because he kept saying he was going to have to have a word with those men.

There was obviously an immediate attraction between Alex and Emma but because neither one wanted to marry at this time, they resigned themselves to becoming friends. For the next couple of months they would see each other every day and at the balls they would attend Alex would always dance with her. They enjoyed each others company very much and Alex thought Emma was wonderful. The more he got to know her the more he was convinced that she was indeed different from all the other women he had met. He was even starting to wonder if he could be married to her and Emma was having the same thoughts about him. It was obvious to everyone else that these two were meant to be together and so several members of his family and hers set about trying to force the two of them together, even hoping they might be caught in a compromising situation and have to be forced to marry.

There was sizzling sexual tension between them and eventually they could no longer deny it and they let their passions consume them, knowing they were stepping over the invisible boundaries as friends and into an uncertain future.

I liked that we spent time with Alex and Emma after they were married. Some books lead up until marriage and then end, but we able to enjoy them for a bit as a married couple.

I also thought that the conflict toward the end of the story was wonderful! It was exciting and made my heart race and I was on the edge of my seat until it was resolved. I loved that it was not a conflict between Alex and Emma, but a kidnapping situation involving Emma and her cousin. I get tired of plots that have the h/h at conflict with each other, this was refreshing!

There were many parts of this book that I loved. One being when Alex followed Emma up to her bedchamber without her knowing it. She had gone there during the ball because she had a headache and he went into her room and surprised her. She had only seen him the one other time in his carriage. It was very funny!

Probably my favorite quote from the book has to be this:

Alex planted his hands on his hips. "I have thoroughly compromised your niece," he declared. "Will you please insist that she marry me?" Caroline didn't bat an eyelash. "This," she announced, "is most peculiar."

So, I read many different reviews of this book, some good, some bad. But I loved it. I know it was Julia Quinn's first novel but I didn't even think about that. I just read the book and enjoyed it for what it was and didn't try to pick apart anything. I recommend it because it made me laugh out loud many times and was quite steamy as well! :)

Calisto says

2.5 stars actually. It's not bad when you consider this was written in 1995 and it was one of her earliest books. Having said that, it almost feels a bit dated.

As someone pointed out, it was a light bit of fluffy that became a bit of a chore when JQ had to add the madcap burglary 'caper' and the mustache twirling 'villain' with a kidnapping plot. It's almost like there are

two different books mashed together and the second half just seems out of place with the first part of the story.

I kinda felt as if I was in a boxing match and then a hockey game broke out.

If you are new to JQ, don't start with this series. Her early Bridgerton are much more focused in terms of storytelling. But if you are a JQ fan, its kinda cool to see her beginnings and how she has grown as a writer.

Lhara says

This was Julia Quinn's first regency novel and it's really telling from the style. It's full of cliches, annoying characters, absurd plot turns, douchey male characters, douchey male characters who want to have sex with the female protagonist in a way that almost borders on harassment, anachronisms, dialogue inconsistent with the time period, a female American character that may be self-insertion etc. I found it really hard to finish this book, but I stuck with it.

Luckily, Quinn's style has improved immensely and I rather enjoyed her later books (especially The Bridgerton series) - even with the modern-sounding dialogue (which becomes sort of endearing.) This book could have been so much better and it's even hard to excuse the fact that it's her first novel. Still, everyone has to start somewhere and I am so glad Quinn moved on from this (mostly. Some of her books fall into the same traps but at least not having all of the problems.) For anyone wanting to read this, I would only suggest doing so after you've read her later works and still want to read something more.

Allison says

He was a controlling asshole and she had purple eyes. This was not a good book.

Desi says

Me encantó....!!!

Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

[Bella & danford end up together in this one.. Glad to see the next story in this book is about them . (hide spoiler)]

Sharon says

When contemporary romance has disappointed me, I switch over to historical~~

Sweet. Simply sweet.

I didn't think I was going to like the book much because the main guy, Alex, was such a cocky asshole. And he had a mistress at the beginning of the book, so that brought up the cringe factor to 1000. However, as the book progressed, I started enjoying the romance.

Alex was presumptuous and arrogant in the beginning, but he got better when he softened and became more genuine after becoming friends with Emma. On the other hand, the protagonist, Emma – I liked her from the very first moment. I loved that she was ambitious and curious. She took action herself if she wanted something done, so props to that. **For a woman of this time, she was progressive** and I admired that she dreamt of taking over her father's company (no matter that society probably wouldn't allow her to do so). Also, **she was not afraid to talk back to people, go on adventures, and try new things**. Her only real flaw was stubbornness, but it was honestly amusing to see her and Alex butt heads because of her stubbornness and his need for control. By the end, they both learned to compromise and make it work, and **I'm left here feeling all warm and fuzzy inside.** *sighhh*

Julia Quinn is always on point with family dynamics in her books. You can really sense the bond and harmony, and it honestly makes me tear up a bit in some parts. I loved Emma's relationships with her dad, John (only for the beginning scene), her Aunt Caroline (who was her mother figure), her Uncle Henry (another father figure), and her cousins Ned and Belle (her best friends – particularly Belle who was like her loyal sidekick in a way). Seeing her being so close with her family was just pleasant to read about. There were cute bantering, touching moments, funny dynamics – I loved it. A+ for a good support system with family/friends.

Overall, I'm giving *Splendid* (*The Splendid Trilogy #1*) **3.5 stars**. This book got bumpy at times, but it was overall enjoyable, particularly in the 2nd half of the book. It was sweet, romantic, heartwarming, and funny, etc. etc.

[Things that you might want to know \(WARNING: Spoilers below\)](#)

Is there a happy/satisfying ending? (view spoiler)

Love triangle? Cheating? Angst level? (view spoiler)

Tears-worthy? (view spoiler)

Humor? (view spoiler)

Favorite scene? (view spoiler)

What age level would be appropriate? (view spoiler)

Linds says

I wasn't expecting to like this books as much as I did. I've read a lot of reviews that's it not as good as the Bridgerton series, and this is true. But it's also true that this book contains a lot signature Julia Quinn elements. The lightness, the witty banter, and the engaging pace. It's a good read.

Alex is a Duke who is disgusted with society. Since he was a teenager woman have lied and tried to manipulate their way into his title and money. Emma is an American with a fortune and mind of her own. She doesn't need his money and is unimpressed with his title. She is naturally without artifice and as you can

guess, they are perfect for each other.

Cris says

[Alex knowingly risks Emma's reputation multiple times just because he doesn't care if she's ruined. In fact he's determ

Jilly says

When a novel starts out with a disclaimer from the author that this was her first book so "it is, perhaps, not as polished as what (she) would publish today," it is hard to be too critical of it. It is true that this book isn't even close to "The Duke and I", or some of her other books. There is major insta-love, and the story is just okay.

But, Julia Quinn knows how to build great side-characters and funny situations. This book proves that she was doing this since the beginning of her writing career.

"Do tell me," she said. "Is it true that wild bears roam free in Boston? I understand that the Colonies are overrun with savages and wild beasts."

"Actually, Boston is quite civilized. You'd feel quite at home there...We even have dressmakers there...and milliners, too.....Of course they often get destroyed when the wolves come through town."

"Wolves! You don't say!"

"Yes, and they're so terribly vicious. Why, I lock myself in my home each year for weeks in fear of them."

Lady Humphries fanned herself vigorously. "Oh my. Oh my..."

The sister of the duke is also pretty funny as she keeps imagining what she will wear at the wedding as she is talking with Emma (the main character).

Emma herself seems to be slightly modeled on a Victorian Lucille Ball. She is a red-head and is always coming up with crazy schemes that may or may not fail. Her cousin, Belle, is the Ethyl of the duo. Then, there is the Duke, Alex, who could be kind of like Ricky Ricardo because he is a hothead who doesn't like her crazy stunts. But, my "I Love Lucy" comparison is a bit of a stretch, and this book doesn't have half of the brilliance of that old show.

In general, the book is just okay. It has its moments, and it's lighthearted, but it fails to deliver anything special.

Susanne says

It was truly splendid. I am totally blown away by Julia Quinn's debut novel - it was so good. It was one of

the funniest books I have read and I laughed so much! It was tender, sweet and utterly hilarious. It was such a great start to this series and I pretty much loved every character in it (expect for the villain of course).

Plenty of balls - check. Rakish duke besotted with fearless beauty from 'the Colonies' - check. Lots of laughs - check. Pretty much angst-free romance - check.

I am so glad that I read this book! There was plenty of traps on the way where it could have taken a turn for the worse but Julia Quinn elegantly navigated us past them. There was just one tiny misunderstanding but that was resolved quick enough. And we got what I love most in historical romances - a lot of balls, interactions with the ton, rakish dukes, a house party in the countryside and plenty of time for Emma and Alex to be with each other.

Wild_irish_rose says

I still enjoy this story with two of my favorite characters -- Alex and Emma. This is a great read and is a great introduction to Julia Quinn's writing.

Caz says

**I've given this a C- for narration (seriously, it's BAD) and a C+ for content at AudioGals.
Such a disappointment when a long-awaited audio ends up getting assigned to a narrator who
shouldn't have been let near it.**

Splendid, the first book in Julia Quinn's *Blydon* trilogy (the others being **Dancing at Midnight** and **Minx**) was issued in 1995 and is Ms. Quinn's first published work. I've read many of her most recent books, but not her earliest ones, so I was interested to listen to this to find out how it would compare. Naturally, it's not as polished as her later work, although the writing is confident and there are flashes of the humour for which she has become renowned. On the downside though, the storyline is rather predictable (and goes off the rails a bit towards the end), and the characters – outspoken American heiress, stuffy (but hot) duke, bluestocking cousin etc. – are rather stock-in-trade and never really transcend that. There's nothing wrong with predictability in a romance – we know where it's going to end up and who is going to end up with whom, after all – but there has to be something else that makes up for it, whether it's characterisation, sub-plots or dialogue, but here, unfortunately, that's not the case, and large portions of the book tend to drag while the hero and heroine – who are clearly crazy for each other – try to make up their minds about how they feel.

But by far the biggest impediment to the enjoyment of this story in audio is the narration. I don't know what on earth Harper Audio was thinking when they engaged Lucy Rayner to narrate all three audiobooks in this series – were Rosalyn Landor and Mary Jane Wells unavailable? – but they've done themselves and one of their best-selling authors a serious disservice. I listened to Ms. Rayner a few months back in Kat Martin's *Bold Angel*, and gave her narration a C grade, saying: *sometimes her tone is overly harsh, and lacking in subtlety or expression. There were times I found myself wincing at obvious and painful overacting...* and that her male voices were below par.

Sadly, those things are still true here, and the narration as a whole proved so difficult to listen to that it often distracted me from the story and I found myself having to rewind to listen to large chunks where I'd just

zoned out.

You can read the rest of this review at [AudioGals](#)

laurooou says

Splendid is the first book ever written by JQ. You can see its her debut novel as some passages are a bit lengthy and lacking in plot/meaning. But her characters are, as usual, witty and funny. I always have a good time when I read one of JQ's novel and I guess it's why they're my comfort books :) Just needed a little bit of frivolity in my life, and this was the perfect fix.
