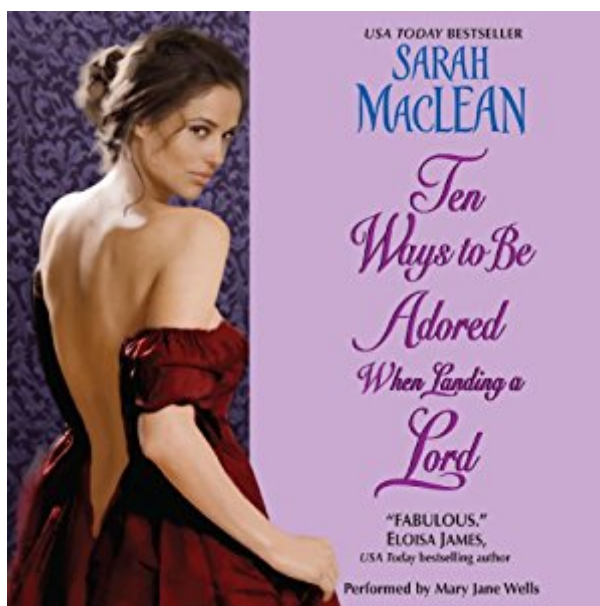


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Ten Ways To Be Adored When Landing A Lord



Synopsis

Since being named "London's Lord to Land" by a popular ladies' magazine, Nicholas St. John has been relentlessly pursued by every matrimony-minded female in the ton. So when an opportunity to escape fashionable society presents itself, he eagerly jumps - only to land in the path of the most determined, damnably delicious woman he's ever met! The daughter of a titled wastrel, Lady Isabel Townsend has too many secrets and too little money. Though she is used to taking care of herself quite handily, her father's recent passing has left Isabel at sea and in need of outside help to protect her young brother's birthright. The sinfully handsome, eminently eligible Lord Nicholas could be the very salvation she seeks. But the lady must be wary and not do anything reckless and foolish...like falling madly, passionately in love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

TITLE: Ten Ways to Be Adored When Landing a Lord
AUTHOR: Sarah MacLean
SERIES: Love by Numbers, Book 2
SETTING: Late Georgian (post-Regency), Yorkshire
THEMES/TROPES: secluded country heroine, impoverished estate, crossdressing
OVERVIEW: Lady Isabel Townsend has spent her life on her father's estate in Yorkshire, looking after her brother, secretly taking in women in need, and trying to hold everything together in the face of her father's gambling and abandonment. When she gets news that her father has died, her building anxieties about finances and safety become more urgent, and while many members of her male-dressed female household think marriage is her best route, Isabel decides to seek an expert to help her sell her

large, valuable collection of marbles. Enter Lord Nicholas St. John, antiquities expert and (more notably to the women of Isabel's household) number one on the list of London's Lords to Land. Unbeknownst to most, Nick is also a legendary tracker, having honed his skills throughout Europe and Asia, and he has taken up the mantle once again as much to escape the ladies of London as to help his friend whose sister has run away. When Nick takes a break from his search to value Isabel's marbles, it's clear that something more is happening in the household, and he's determined to unravel the mysteries surrounding the beautiful young woman and her home.

PROS: I'm a sucker for secondary romances, so my very favorite thing about his book was the romance between Isabel's cousin, Lara, and Nick's friend, Rock. They had the more straightforward kind of romance that usually falls in the background, but Lara is so sweet and Rock is so funny, and there is a touch of conflict because Rock is Turkish. As for the main story, MacLean excels at both fresh plot concepts and strong heroines. Isabel's mission to help women with nowhere else to go and her willingness to take on a wide variety of responsibilities in order to care for her household form a character who is confident and competent and a little fragile after so many years of being the person who holds it together for everyone else. The other women in Isabel's household and her little brother are also delightful, and the love and camaraderie among them makes a heartwarming backdrop for Isabel's troubles. The secret of the all-female household made a good plot concept, giving Isabel a reason for both her strength and fears, motivating Nick to delve further into the secrets of the household, and keeping a barrier of secrecy between the two as the romance develops.

CONS: While both Isabel and Nick's characters are well-rounded, I didn't feel a lot of chemistry in the romance, which I attribute largely to inconsistencies in the portrayals of their characters. Nick is supposed to be pretty easygoing, as displayed in earlier parts of this book and in the previous book in the series, but he acts very imperious with Isabel through a lot of the book, which made it feel like his twin brother, the hero of the previous book, was copied and pasted into this story. I get the idea of people acting differently when they're confused or scared or in love, but a laid-back guy turning so autocratic just didn't feel true. I had a similar issue with Isabel, to a lesser extent. She's so markedly stubborn and strong that her moments of diffidence and awkwardness seem off, though it's more understandable for her as a woman who has never dealt much with men, never mind attraction and sex. There's a good bit of improper behavior (even outside of the sexual stuff), like the whole cross-dressing staff and Isabel dressing in breeches and doing manual labor, which works well for the characters and situation, but I wish there could have been some context to make the lack of propriety feel like more of a risk.

Because the book is set almost entirely on the isolated country estate, it lacks the thrill of bad behavior that could have consequences "there's nobody around who cares if anybody is misbehaving." RATINGS: Writing: 5/5 MacLean's consistently great writing. Characters: 4/5 Well-rounded, a touch inconsistent. Plot: 5/5 Good concept and execution. Setting: 4/5 Limited historical detail on the unorthodox estate. Romance: 3/5 Lack of chemistry. Sexiness: 4/5 Good but nothing impressive. Humor: 4/5 A sprinkling of funny dialogue. Average: 4.14 Great Plot Concept, Lacking Chemistry OTHER INFO: This is the second in the Love by Number series, the other two books starring Nick's twin brother and younger half-sister. This book introduces the hero of the third book, the Duke of Leighton, who only appeared very briefly in the first book of the series. This book also introduces the Duke's sister, Lady Georgiana, who eventually gets her own story in the fourth and final book of MacLean's Rules of Scoundrels series.

Although all of this author's titles are good, there are too many sex scenes which interfere with the narrative and ruin the rhythm of the book. In fact they are so repetative that they destroy the narrative of the story and become repetitive. Limiting the number of sex scenes to one or two strong ones instead of five would improve the books greatly. In fact, I find the extra scenes boring and have begun to skip past them. It's a shame because the author is a gifted story teller and her stories are gripping.

Alright, so I really hated to rate this book as merely OK, but after experiencing MacLean's Nine Rules to Break When Romancing a Rake, I found this book to be a total letdown. It really had a lot of potential, but the route MacLean chose to go just didn't fit with what I now expect from her. I was excited to finally read Nicholas St. John's story, as I really enjoyed his character in 9 Rules. Unfortunately, he was just too...boring...something. Certainly not the man I'd thought he was. Yes, I want a hero who is ultimately good, but let him at least be a bit...exciting. Unfortunately, it seems that Nicholas used up all his excitement in the years leading up to this book. Which brings us to Isabel (LOVE her name). She had so much potential, but ultimately was uninteresting (except for when she was kicking would-be husbands out the door & repairing roofs). Her girls' refuge, which could have been a source of endless humor & stark emotions, was instead a rather drab background for a less-than-stimulating love story. Geesh, I really hate to keep going with this review. It just makes me sad. I really wanted to love these characters & get lost in their story. Instead I found myself bored & distracted in between kicking out would-be husbands & repairing roofs. (Seriously, those are the big things I remember from this.) This book could have been so much

more, but instead it is great potential lost in a sea of mediocrity. Read this book if you're reading the series. If you're simply sampling MacLean, then head straight over to 9 Rules.

A slow but readable start which, thankfully, improves. A good solid romance although not as good as the first in the series. 3 stars or 3.75 romance stars

This is my favorite in the Love by Numbers series. Nicholas St. John is described in the first book as the more charming of the two twins, and I certainly found myself more drawn to his light-hearted character than to his brother Gabriel's seriousness. I love Isabel as a heroine despite her stubborn nature and difficulty accepting both that she needs help and the help itself. I enjoyed the change of pace from the usual London-set romances - it was nice to take a trip to the country. I think the criticisms by other readers re the "smooching" scenes as MacLeans herself terms them on her website are valid. The dialogue can come off pretty silly and seems to belong out of time, as you can't imagine anyone using that language then or now. That said, I find myself able to suspend disbelief enough that this isn't a deal-breaker for me. Your own tolerance may vary.

I enjoyed this book liked the characters. I would have liked to know more about the women in the house. It was a nice read.

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