



## Racing with the Wind

*Regan Walker*

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## **Racing with the Wind** Regan Walker

The intrepid daughter of an earl leaves Regency London for the Parisian court of Louis XVIII, where she finds adventure, mystery, and above all, love. **THE NIGHTHAWK** Hugh Redgrave, marquess of Ormond, was warned. Prinny had dubbed Lady Mary Campbell "the Swan," but no ordinary man could clip her wings. She was a bluestocking hellion, an ill-advised match by every account. Luckily, he sought no bride. His work lay on the continent, where he'd become legend by stealing war secrets from Boney. And yet, his memories of Lady Mary riding her stallion were a thorn in his mind. He was the son of a duke and in the service of the Prince Regent...and he would not be whole until he had won her hand. **THE SWAN** It was unheard of for a Regency debutante to postpone her first season, yet Lady Mary had done just that. Far more interested in politics than a husband, she had no time for foolishness or frippery. Already she had assisted her statesman uncle in Paris, and she swore to return to the court of Louis XVIII no matter the danger. Like her black stallion, Midnight, she would always run free. Only the truest heart would race beside her.

## **Racing with the Wind Details**

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## From Reader Review Racing with the Wind for online ebook

### Goblin says

This review posted originally at: **Once Upon A Book**

Note: **I was given a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.**

Oh my, I have to admit right now that when this book came into our inbox here at *Once Upon A Book* I was absolutely captivated with the idea of a fantastic Napoleonic/Regency espionage story and snatched it up right away. Oh, the possibilities! Regency period novels are one of my favorite historical genres, next to medieval. What can I say, this titillating tale about a bold, rebellious, clever girl. And the smoldering, tall, dark and handsome man that would be her counter part had me ready to get reading! I honestly have to say that I was enthralled by this novel by the middle of the first chapter, and didn't look up until at least five am—where I now pause to type out this first impression. Unfortunately, I have completed the story but how I wish there was much more! I loved everything about "*Racing The Wind*", and I'm not ashamed to admit I believe I have been left with a little crush on Mary & Hugh.

Meet Mary, the impetuous daughter of her Father, the late Earl of Campbell, possesses a disinclination and lack of interest in the normal fripperies and refinements most of the girls in her age become engrossed in. She finds excitement in brashly sharing her views and following politics with a keen mind and intellect. Mary never wanted to be tethered by a man that would crush her spirit. But unlike so many other books, I actually *believed* it. And Hugh, the very image of tall-dark-and- handsome, with a dangerous streak and possessor of the alter ego of a French thief known as Nighthawk. He certainly appealed with his secret and oh so daring thieving-for-the-crown alter ego. I must commend Walker on her creation!

I so enjoyed Ms.Walker's characters! What wonderfully colorful personalities, with constructively informative pasts they had! Believe it or not, it seems there is a decided lack of character fleshing-out in many Romance novels nowadays. I've read many of these novels and hundreds of times simply found myself tossed into a story with characters that become paper cut-outs of themselves and boring due to a lack of sense for who they are, and what their motivations might be. Walker has managed to give the characters their due, and with that I found myself actually caring what happened to them as the action began to unfold. It was a great pleasure for this reader to be swept into the lives of this adventurous pair. The sensual interludes between Hugh and Mary were sizzling, and very "romance"-like, as they don't actually seal the deal until much later in the book. I loved the teasing, possessive kissing and the brief bread crumbs that were dropped before us throughout the story. Walker managed to bank the romance over time, in a way that seems most rare in recent authors. But perhaps that's because I was reared on earlier generations of romance novelists that were expert at such subtlety and I truly enjoyed seeing this skill emerge here. It made me long for more novels that slowly burn and then beg for release, it's what romance is meant to do.

There's an enjoyable amount of historical detail and attention that the author has applied here. Whether it be to historical politics about the Bourbon Restoration and the tension precluding its subsequent revolutions, and continued right down to the type of china that was being used. Appreciated by this reader as well was the "contemporary" nods to Jane Austen (I couldn't help but note most of the English ladies names were also names from Austen novels, but they were popular names of the period, and it could simply be coincidence. But if not, this reader cheers for a Mary, finally getting her due!). For a history buff like me, I found that I loved every moment and description that she managed to add without bogging the momentum of the book down. There's nothing that excites me more than to be able to acquire real history mixed in with a fun and exciting plot with romance tossed in for good measure!

I truly did enjoy this book. However, as much as I hate to be a downer. In spite the many accurate historical facts, I feel I have to make a few notes about some things I wondered about as I read. First off, the character Mary does seem written to fit an audience of our time period, which is probably why I liked her so much. She's strong, independent and given a great deal many luxuries that simply were not normally tolerated of women of that time period. There were certainly some cases of gross negligence when it came to her being chaperoned; at a particular house party, and a shameful glancing over and lack of concern of what would have probably been seen as quite the scandal. But since we aren't in Regency England, and I am a woman of the now, these minor things did not take anything away from the book for me. But other readers may feel differently, so it was worth a small mention.

Another thing that made me take pause was **!(SPOILER)!**; why wasn't there more thievery involved? Hugh was the Nighthawk, and the story opens with a nifty scene indeed. I was hoping that there'd be more of that, sneaky, stealthy, roguish stuff. At least another safe robbery or spies listening in the dark. But he wasn't a spy, he was a thief. Over all I just found myself wondering why even have the thievery skill there at all! At first it was something that greatly attracted me to the character, so I was a little sad as I kept reading that this wasn't actually an on-going and necessary skill. The rogue lover in me died a little that day.

And now to the final complaint on my list which may have irked me was this; Why wasn't this book called "*The Nighthawk & The Swan*"? For the life of me I cannot seem to keep the title, "*Racing with the Wind*" in my head, it fades so far back into my memory that I have to look it up each time, that is to spite how much I enjoyed it. This has to just be me and I'll probably forever personally refer to it as, "The Nighthawk & The Swan book, by that Author I really appreciated. I should see if she's written anything new lately!" Now if only I could turn back time, fix the recession and find one of her books at a Borders. Nothing sounds more wonderful than drinking a sumptuous coffee treat and being engrossed in the wonderful delight that was this book. (Oh, how I miss you Borders!)

Without further ado, I give this book a happy, sensual, smoldering **5 stars!** I know a whole 5! What can I say I really loved this story. I do believe that I will definitely be keeping an eye out for Regan Walker's next books, I cannot wait to see what happens next in the *Agents of The Crown* series. And I sincerely hope that Elizabeth's and Lambeth's tale is told next, yes I do.

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## Gaele says

I received a copy of this book from the author for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review, and all conclusions are my own responsibility.

I prefer my period romances with heroines who are not faint of heart and constrained by society. Mary, the heroine of this story is far from compliant with the restrictions placed on a woman of society in 1816 London. She is encouraged in her difference by her uncle, a diplomat for England, involved in the intrigue surrounding the court of Louis XVIII, after Napoleon's banishment. Of course, diplomacy of that time involved some rather dubious ethical connections, and that is where Mary is introduced to her love interest, Hugh, Lord Ormond, who presents with impeccable English credentials, and has a penchant for subterfuge and the continued remove of Napoleon Bonaparte.

Mary is dragged, nearly kicking and screaming to the 'mandatory' events for a young woman of her station, even though she managed to delay her debut to her 19th year, and escapes to her country house repeatedly to "ride like the devil" clad in breeches and boots, upon her horse Midnight. Far from this being her only interest, Mary is an opinionated and well-read woman, full of input, ideas and opinions about everything that

makes men cringe. Mary is a far more interesting character, especially since she has a sense of humour about her more outlandish presentations and theories.

I enjoyed this book: it was a fun read that beautifully described Paris of the time, including a wonderful homage to Notre Dame. The characters were quite well developed, especially the details that ran to the tone and tenor of the time in which the story was set. Scenes were beautifully described and detailed, creating description that led to imagining with little effort. The artful crafting of the character and plot enabled me to feel as though I was right there, on a shoulder so to speak, to follow the action.

For a first time author, this work was amazingly polished and masterful. As the first in a trilogy all centered on servants to the Crown, it is a stunning opening salvo. This was a winner on all fronts for me, and I look forward to book 2.

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### **Karen says**

An intelligent, astute, debutante more interested in political intrigue than the dull monotony of the ton.

The heir to a dukedom gains a reputation as a rake to cover for his clandestine activities for the crown. He's not prepared to give up freedom but a hoyden catches his eye and dismisses him then finagles her way into his mission as well as his waking thoughts.

I enjoyed this novel because of the strong, resourceful, witty female heroine not willing to compromise or diminish herself to placate male egos. Also the competent, confident hero undone by a young woman refusing to do as she's told.

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### **Amanda Hughes says**

Writing Fiction 101 says, "Start your novel with a grabber," and that is just what Regan Walker did in Racing with the Wind (Agents of the Crown) chapter one. In the first paragraph she hooked me with a scene reminiscent of The Scarlet Pimpernel and later A Tale of Two Cities. Racing with the Wind is a story of intrigue and romance set in early Nineteenth Century England and Post Napoleonic France, a period turbulent and lavish at the same time.

Walker lays an accurate historical foundation without belaboring the facts ad nauseum. She keeps the pace lively with engaging storyline, sprinkling the chapters with just the right amount of historical detail.

There was enough mystery intertwined with romance to make me think of the long forgotten novels of Mary Stewart (if you remember her, bravo!) and the plot held me especially since the romance was extremely engaging, and I was eager to learn about the time period with its colorful players.

Although I liked Lady Mary, Hugh Redgrave, the Marquess of Ormand was the character with whom I connected. He was dashing and dangerous, tough and clever yet Walker made him vulnerable enough to be believable. Because of Hugh Redgrave, I am eager to read the next in the series and sincerely hope we see more of Hugh's exploits as The Night Hawk.

There is no question that Regan Walker has done her homework before the completion of her debut novel. It is excellent. It is rich in historic detail, fast paced and filled with steamy love scenes. It is my sincere hope that she will release her second in the series before the year is out. We will be waiting.

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## Lisa says

Lady Mary Campbell has no desire to have a coming out but knows she must finally do so after delaying it for a few years to please her mother. At the ball, no one really captures her attention, as her attention is drawn to more un-ladylike pursuits, riding astride, helping her uncle with spy work and the like. She has no interest in marrying and having a chance at losing the one she loves, as she lost her father so many years ago. Yet one man manages to grab her attention with his dashing good looks and they share a smoldering kiss. Hugh Redgrave, Marquess of Ormond, knows his mother wants him to settle down and marry but he has no desire to do that after suffering a traumatic loss as a child. Once he sees the lovely Mary flying on her beloved black stallion, he thoughts adjust and as they spend more and more time together, he starts to think that Mary could be the one to finally make him want to settle down. However, her love for adventure, and in the process-danger, sets him on edge especially with his work work as an undercover agent. Can this headstrong, bold woman and this dashing rogue bent on protection find a way to compromise their interests to discover a deep, lasting love?

I have read quite a few debuts this year and each one has been a hit for me and I can add Racing with the Wind to that list now as well! I always enjoy stories where the heroine is a bit unique and in this case Mary is headstrong, outspoken, intelligent and determined with her desires to wear mens clothing to ride astride and desire to aid her uncle and country with undercover work. When Mary unknowingly stumbles into a dangerous mission in Paris, Hugh knows he must get her safely back to London. Convincing Mary to abandon her desires to aid her country almost prove deadly and she agrees to his plan. They travel from safe house to safe house and in the process, lose themselves in their passion. I really liked how Mary spoke her feelings, positive and negative, to Hugh as she felt them but Hugh was a bit closed off. It takes a dramatic ending for him to reveal his love and I wished he would have said them sooner, before the twists at the end. Hugh was strong, sensual and once he realized the depth of his feelings for Mary, nothing...and no one, including a vicomte or his own past, would stand in his way. Political intrigue is always hard for me as it just doesn't really interest me on a personal level but I did not feel overwhelmed at all in this story. There were wonderful tidbits of history sprinkled throughout and even some real life heros from the past make appearances and added to the story. I really enjoyed the attention to the fashion and felt like they were described in such a lovely manner, I could picture them in my mind. The attraction between Hugh and Mary is quick and the build up, with their sharp, quick dialogue and their hot kisses lead up to a beautiful, passionate relationship. This will surely please fans of action packed romances with a strong, determined couple not looking for love but when it finds them, they get swept off their feet. 4 stars

*Review copy provided by the author, thank you!*

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## Emily says

Lady Mary Campbell is not your ordinary lady coming out into society, she is intelligent and can match any mans wits, has a will of her own and if she had her way would do away with her introduction to the season. With her first entrance she makes heads turns and quickly becomes known as outspoken and untameable, it does not however stop the single gentlemen from taking notice of the beauty she bestows and the desire to get to know her closer.

Hugh Redgrave, the Marquess of Ormond, had been warned but the man also secretly known as the "Nighthawk" had to see for himself if Lady Mary was as intriguing as she sounded. With an unsettling first meeting with the minx, Hugh finds himself wary of meeting her again, after all he does not want to get married anytime soon and when he is in her company, he finds himself thinking along that line. When Lady

Mary becomes embroiled in discovering a double agent working both sides of the war, Hugh ends up not only trying to protect her but trying to keep her far away from her other suitors.

Thoroughly enjoyable story, Racing With The Wind had a spark of humor, bit of intrigue, and a sensuous cat and mouse dance between the notorious rake, Hugh and the alluring but determined Lady Mary. I enjoyed that Mary does not expect more from Hugh than who she knows he is, it really set the tone and left her character completely believable as a bluestocking hellion. Loved it, would definitely reread and pick up the next in what I hope is a new series

Review on blog

<http://musingsfromanaddictedreader.bl...>

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### **Deniz says**

This was a wonderfully written love story.

There's an enjoyable amount of historical detail in this book and it is filled with steamy, good written love scenes, I so enjoyed Ms.Walker's characters .

Her characters are strong and believable.

I love Paris and she beautifully described Paris of the time.

I enjoyed this book from beginning to end and recommend it to all lovers of historical romance...

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### **S.B.K. Burns says**

Racing With The Wind by Regan Walker bears all the facets of an historical condensed into one fine jewel of a fairy-tale romance.

Walker's done her homework. Not only is her novel historically accurate, but I find myself sharing the hero and heroine's story to such a degree, its pages transport me to the very century they represent. In this fictional account, the early nineteenth was a time when France's returning monarch was threatened by those desiring the return of ex-emperor Napoleon. In the midst of that comes a headstrong, black-stallion-riding young noblewoman, Lady Mary Campbell--who knows her own mind and refuses to be marketed at the grand balls of the ton. She meets a devilishly handsome and mysterious agent of the British Crown, Hugh Redgrave, undercover name: The Nighthawk.

While in Paris on business, Mary's uncle, a British diplomat, leaves her under the secret agent's protective hands. The rake is forced to spend time reining in her natural sleuthing skills and finds he can't keep his hands off her. He barely realizes he's fallen in love.

In Racing, we find our pot of gold, as Mary and her Nighthawk find theirs, at the end of a masterful sexual-tension rainbow. I loved it and especially the heroine, a fearless and daring young woman.

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### **Patricia McAllister says**

## Regency with a Suspenseful Twist

There are three things I look for in good historical romance fiction novels: strong heroines, accurate historical details, and an education. The third expectation means I must finish the book having learned something new or something more about real historical events or people.

Prior to this book, I didn't know much about post-Napoleonic France, so there was a definite education awaiting me in Regan Walker's "Racing With the Wind." It was an enjoyable and eye-opening lesson indeed. Despite her ordinary name, heroine Mary Campbell is far from ordinary, and worlds away from the typical Regency young lady. She is intelligent, outspoken, and willing to risk her very life in service of her country. She boldly dives into intrigue and danger rather than simply gush and simper over gowns. I love a brave heroine and Mary does not disappoint.

The hero Hugh Redgrave is all male without being overbearing. He is protective of Mary but respects her intelligence, and their mutual attraction is the delicious tension underscoring the intricate plot. And as I hoped, there are also real historical characters here to round out the cast. Without a doubt the author has done her research to paint a vivid portrait of the era, and sweeps her readers along at an exciting gallop with a couple well-suited in life and love.

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## Cats of Ulthar February Weird Fiction says

Reviewing for "Racing with the Wind" Blog tour-will post review after it appears on my blog, on Sept. 10 2012

Review of Racing with the Wind Book 1 Agents of the Crown Trilogy  
Reviewed for Racing with the Wind Blog Tour for Sept. 10 2012  
5 stars

A well-researched, enticing, and sensual novel of Regency England (and the European Continent) by author Regan Walker, "Racing with the Wind" immediately captures readers' interest with the escapades of the legendary "Nighthawk" (is he a thief? A type of residential "highwayman"? a spy? Or-?) and next with the strong-willed heroine, Mary Campbell, a woman far ahead of her era in terms of her interests, her determination, and her will to persevere as herself rather than as a cookiecutter copycat of society.

Not only is the novel enjoyable as a story (the plot lines are neatly intertwined, giving espionage, royalty, romance, mystery, and a precursor of women's movement towards autonomy), but additionally it is smoothly written, maintaining the reader's devotion. The characters are well-delineated, both the heroine and hero, as well as the secondary characters, who are too good to be called just "secondary" but instead are an important part of the novel themselves.

Ms. Walker has performed an excellent work of research and of bringing the historical details-geographical, cultural, social, political, and more-to vibrant life. The reader will feel as if she is a present observer rather than just a reader.

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## Mary Willmont says

Recently, I've become acquainted with Reagan Walker, a new author of historical romance. In *Racing With the Wind*, I encountered Lady Mary Campbell, who like the famous Scarlet O'Hara, didn't fit into the role expected of her as a young woman of society. In spite of how little room the dictates and expectations of her privileged class allowed her, Mary is able to express her individuality and to be adventurous and strong willed enough to resist being pushed into a mold she considered unacceptable. An interesting heroine, she also has a wild streak that makes her take risks.

Her resolve to be her own woman is tested to the max when she meets Hugh Redgrave, the Marquess of Ormond. Considered a rake by some, he is a man of mystery and intrigue who Mary finds irresistible. On the verge of having everything she dreamed of having with Hugh, her sense of honor forces her to give him up.

I'm impressed that a first time author of historical romance has accomplished such a high level of storytelling in addition to making the historical aspects within the story authentic. In doing so, she gives the reader an accurate picture of the customs, clothing, social structure and historical events of the time. Into the center of that, she creates a heroine with backbone and a resolve strong enough to hold out for what she wants in life. Walker then weaves a plot that keeps her readers guessing, thus creating a page turner I found difficult to put down. Last of all, she writes in a way that allowed me to feel what her heroine and hero feel, making their choices more believable and understandable--their doubts and weaknesses quite human. I can't wait to read the sequels.

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## Anita says

Lady Mary Campbell is an unconventional woman, though Regency society is less forgiving of individuality in a woman than a man. Bored with her first season, she prefers to help her uncle, a British Diplomat, and despite objections, accompanies him to Paris.

Thrown together with a British Spy known as The Nighthawk, Mary is left in his care, but she then proceeds to infuriate and frustrate him by her own efforts to exercise her investigative skills. He swings between wishing to had never met her, to falling for her charms, while her feelings run along the same lines. The combination of passion and reluctance is irresistible.

Regency England comes alive in this engaging story, with authentic details of the customs, clothing, social structure and historical events of Napoleonic Europe. Both the main characters are enigmatic, strong minded and with an intriguing story of their own to tell and ultimately deserving of each other.

*Racing With The Wind* is the first book in the 'Agents of the Crown' series

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## Vickie says

*Racing with the Wind* takes place in England and France. Napoleon (Boney) has been overthrown in France and Lady Mary's uncle Adrian, Lord Baynes, is an integral part of the Prince Regent's (Prinny's) diplomatic force that travels abroad to ensure England's place in world affairs. Lady Mary's father died when she was a child and her uncle has been more of a father figure than an uncle. And she is more than interested in the political climate than she is in attending balls and galas in order to find a husband. She does give in and

attends a gathering where Hugh Redgrave catches her eye, and she catches his. And, they both have reputations. She as a hellion who won't be told what to do, and he as a rake.

Hugh, who also works for the Prince Regent, goes to see Lord Baynes and is fascinated to see a woman riding a black stallion astride and in breeches..... Lady Mary. Hugh meets with Lord Baynes and is invited to join them for lunch. When Mary enters the room, she is surprised to see Marquess Redgrave sitting at their table. They all make polite conversation, which grates on the Lady's nerves, so she steers the conversation to politics. Hugh is totally taken aback to see that Lady Mary is very knowledgeable in the political climate of England and France and is even more surprised to learn that she has accompanied her uncle to Paris on a diplomatic mission and was actually involved. And, somehow, he knows his life will never be the same.

Once Lady Mary and her uncle Adrian arrive in France, she is caught up in political intrigue and the social scene in Paris. Unbeknownst to her, Hugh Redgrave is in Paris as well. Once she sees him, things start to happen quickly. Mary is instrumental in helping gather information against those that would want Napoleon reinstated as ruler of France. And Hugh is bound and determined to help keep Lady Mary safe. Little did he know what a job that would be.

This was a wonderfully written story. There is political intrigue, romance and a bit of mystery. The descriptions of England and France were refreshing and not overdone. And what a wonderful character Lady Mary was to read about. She was determined to be her own person in a time where that sort of thing was frowned upon, but she never wavered from her convictions. And Hugh Redgrave was the perfect companion for her.

I have to say that if it were left up to me to read this book based on the description, I probably would not have picked it. Thank God the author sent it and I had agreed to review it. The story is intriguing from the beginning and it only grows from there. There were times when I wasn't sure who was the good guy and who was the bad guy and times when I could not turn the pages fast enough. This book grabbed me and didn't let go. I loved this book so much that I contacted the author when I found out that it was book 1 in a trilogy and had to know when the next came out. She was very gracious and humored me. The next book in the trilogy, AGAINST THE WIND, should be out sometime around the end of this year, to be followed up by WIND RAVEN some time next year. The next books are definitely on my MUST READ list. I don't really know what genre this series would fall in. Historical romance, mystery..... But I do know what category it falls in: GREAT READ!!!

You can read all of my reviews at [www.thereadingcafe.com](http://www.thereadingcafe.com).

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## **Tina Williams says**

### The Hellion and the Spy

Racing with the Wind is the first book in Regan Walker's Agents of the Crown Trilogy. It is a passionate romance between an unconventional debutante, Mary Campbell and the dashing Hugh Redgrave, the Marquess of Ormand. It is set in 1816, in the turbulent aftermath of the defeat and imprisonment of Napoleon and the restoration of the Bourbon monarchy.

Hugh is an agent for the British crown and as the legendary spy, the Nighthawk, obtained intelligence, securing Napoleon's defeat. He is in retreat from this role and is working closely with Lord Baynes, a top diplomat, and fellow agents to ensure that peace and prosperity are restored to France under King Louis. As heir to a dukedom, Hugh is under pressure to marry, a pressure he has no wish to succumb to, preferring freedom and adventure.

On to this stage steps Mary Campbell, a young debutante. Mary shuns convention being regarded as a hellion. She is educated, schooled in European affairs and politics and an excellent horsewoman. She has been indulged by her uncle, Lord Baynes and her mother, widowed since the untimely death of the Earl. She craves adventure more than the ballroom and wishes to avoid marriage, which she feels will curtail her freedom and prevent her from riding her stallion Midnight, clad in men's breeches.

Once Mary and Hugh meet, there is an undeniable attraction. However, Hugh resolves to keep his distance, being wary of her wilful nature and favouring discrete affairs with older, more experienced women. Similarly Mary decides to avoid Hugh, viewing him as an arrogant rake. Yet circumstances throw them together in London and later Paris, as Mary persuades her uncle, Lord Baynes, that she will be a useful pair of eyes and ears for him whilst he carries out his diplomatic work. Mary has no idea that Hugh and the Nighthawk, whom she admires, are one and the same and she is unaware of Hugh's activities as a spy for the Prince Regent.

Once in France, the tension in the plot increases dramatically and passion ignites. A double agent is on the loose and Mary endangers herself as she uncovers suspicious activities. Hugh is sworn to protect her and the exciting and suspenseful plot, in which Mary could pay the ultimate price, involves Bonapartists, royalists, English agents and the Prussians.

Hugh is a great hero, handsome and honourable, willing to go to great lengths to protect Mary, even from his own desire, which he reigns in on numerous occasions. He finds it hard to admit his love, being scarred by an event in his past, which has led him to take great risks as an agent for the crown. He is extremely jealous of Mary's admirers and I found his reactions amusing and endearing. Despite his initial resolve he is drawn to Mary, admiring her beauty, intelligence and bravery. He soon realises that she is his perfect match.

Mary cannot prevent her attraction to Hugh, even though initially she regards him as a dissolute rake. She soon realises that there is more to him than meets the eye and falls under his spell. However, she does not want to be just a pleasant liaison and she will be no man's mistress. The romance is sweet. When lovemaking scenes do occur, it is Hugh's sense of honour that prevails. However, Hugh fires Mary's blood and when presented with the opportunity to get to know Hugh more intimately, Mary eventually decides to seize it, in some memorable scenes!

This book is different to many Regency romances I have read, the foray onto France adding a definite frisson of danger, romance and excitement. The author has clearly done a lot of research into the politics, fashions and places where she sets her scenes. I enjoyed the secondary characters, which included some historical figures. We are also introduced to Martin Powell, Hugh's fellow agent, the lead in book 2 in the series, *Against the Wind*.

I recommend this book to all lovers of historical romance, particularly those who like an unconventional heroine and a strong and honourable hero, whose passion ignites in a tale full of intrigue and adventure.

This book was given to me by the author for the purpose of an honest and fair review.

## **KyBunnies says**

Interesting book with a great story line however there was just something missing for me from this book. Don't get me wrong, this book is well written, and does not have any grammar or editing mistakes. I just could not connect with the storyline or the characters.

The book just did not have a historical romance feel in the plot. The lead female character, Lady Mary seemed like someone from modern times and placed in Regency England. Everyone loves this female and she does not have any rivals. No one has any fault with what she does or her talk about subjects that females do not talk about during this era. I love reading about strong female characters, but no matter how strong or independent everyone has either a rival or someone that does not like them.

During the beginning of the book, the female is in a man's bedroom after he tries to help someone from being hurt. This is understandable, however for the male to not be wearing a shirt and the female be allowed to touch and bind his ribs just does not sound like Regency England. There are people in the room, older adults, and no one finds anything wrong with Lady Mary being in the room.

Granted I am sure during that era just like today lots of families over looked female behavior and allowed them whatever they wanted. However no female or man is knowledgeable in every aspect of life. Lady Mary was knowledgeable in everything. To me the book read like Lady Mary was a super human without any faults.

I can understand Lady Mary enthralled Lord Osmond. However, it seemed like no matter what he never found fault with her actions. It seemed like Lady Mary did not have to face the consequence of any actions. Now, I did like the writing style of this author. I love reading historical romance. To me personally this would be a great book if the author allowed the female to have some faults. No one is perfect including fictional characters.

I was gifted with this book as part of the VBT. My opinions are my own and your opinions will differ from mine. To support this author please purchase this book and form your own opinion.

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