



Taming a Gentleman Spy

Maggi Andersen

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John Haldane, Earl of Strathairn, is on an urgent mission to find the killer of his fellow spy. After visiting the young widow of one of his agents, Strathairn strengthens his resolve. A spy should never marry, and most certainly not to Lady Sibella Winborne, with her romantic ideas of love and marriage. Unable to give Sibella up entirely, he has kept her close as a friend. Then, weak fool that he is, he kissed her.

Lady Sibella Winborne has refused several offers of marriage since she first set eyes on the handsome Earl of Strathairn. Sibella's many siblings always rush to her aid to discourage an ardent suitor, but not this time. Her elder brother, Chaloner, Marquess of Brandreth, has approved Lord Coombe's suit. Sibella yearns to set up her own household. She is known to be the sensible member of the family, but she doesn't feel at all sensible about Lord Strathairn. If only she could forget that kiss.

Taming a Gentleman Spy Details

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Author : Maggi Andersen

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From Reader Review Taming a Gentleman Spy for online ebook

Kat Green says

This exciting novel features everything you would want in a good historical romance. We experience suspense, intrigue, action, adventure, and run the gamut of intense emotions in this wonderful romance novel. John, the Earl of Stathairn, and Lady Sibella, a twenty six year old young woman, Lady Sibella, who has harbored the secret hope that one day, now that he was back from the war, would propose. Sibella is unfortunately beginning to be pushed by her family to marry, while John, though he is entranced by her, is annoyingly stubborn conserving his fear that If he marries Sibella, she might get caught up in his dangerous search for a French Spy. I couldn't help but remain fascinated in the workings of this original story line, even though there were plenty of times I wanted to knock a John, Strathairn, over the head to knock some sense into him, but I kept reading. This is an excellent continuation of book one, involving some of the minor characters in that tale. Maggi Andersen writes stories you won't want to put down until the mystery is solved. Easy to recommend this whole series. Great read.

Nicole Laverdure says

That sweet unforgettable kiss!

I had the chance to receive an ARC of Taming a Gentleman Spy written by Maggi Andersen.

This is an intriguing Regency story with loving characters. Sibella is an outspoken young woman who doesn't want to marry and give up her independence and John Haldane, a dashing Earl who loves his solitude and wants to stay free. The intrigue was well developed, believable and well-written. It all started, when an innocent kiss between Sibella and John, ignited a sweet passion. Younger, she had always admired him in secret, but now, several years later, he had returned from war, more handsome but with lots of secrets. Their families were quite aware that they were meant for each other and began to meddle in their affairs. Their friendship gradually evolved to love. Then the fun began! They both played the cat and mouse game. Pretending to be friends only, their families developed a plot to get them together. It is a beautiful historical romance of the lives of the rich and famous during the Regency period. It's sweet, charming and filled with schemes and plots. Will Sibella forget this man who gave her this sweet kiss? Will she choose the man of her life by listening to her heart or her reason? All these questions will be answered when you read this novel. Ms. Andersen's style of writing kept my interest throughout the whole book. I recommend this novel. Expected publication December 4th 2013.

Maggie Whitworth says

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I just adore Maggi Anderson's writing , she has a wonderful way with words ,that make her books a must with me .

This is an emotional adventure, with a little betrayal , murder and Mayhem thrown in , and a massive dollop of love and romance for good measure .

Sounds like the perfect recipe to me .

This is the second in the series and is Sibella and John's story .

Jo-Anne Vandermeulen says

Author Maggie Andersen Does It Again—A Fabulous Escape into Historical Romance!

ROMANTIC HISTORICAL REVIEW BLOG says

Review by: Anita

Link to Review: <http://www.romantichistoricalreviews....>

barbara michael says

What a interesting look into the life of a English spy that also happens to be the Earl of Strathairn. When his partner is murdered on an assignment, he feel that he cannot marry; with the treasonous Frenchman Count Forney returning and causing havoc on the government. And what is a beautiful lady to do, when the Earl she loves refuses to return her love and settle down with her. Even her family believes that no good can come from a marriage to a spy and force her into an engagement with another man. Mystery, spy mission and love seem to blend it way into this interesting book.

I enjoyed reading this and found I could not put it down until the end.

Lisa Jackson says

Entertaining

I enjoyed this book, a second in a series, about Lord John and Lady Sibella. The two have an attraction to each other that is strong enough to be noticed by others but John refuses to ask her to marry him. He is a spy for the English government. But Sibella's family doesn't want her to end up alone so she is pushed into an engagement with another Lord. Many people of the ton married people who they didn't love, but it's a bit more complicated than all that, and Sibella is determined to discover why.

The plot has a great deal of intrigue, with more than one mystery to solve. The characters were interesting and all throughout I was trying to guess the outcome, but it didn't become apparent until its conclusion.

Plenty of longing between the H and h, and all in all an entertaining read.

I am looking forward to the next in this series too!

KyBunnies says

Originally published at Bunny's Review

This book started off slow for me. I had to push myself to read until around 30%. After that it was easy to read and I did not want to stop.

Not fond of the book cover. Just does not seem to fit my picture of the characters or anything in the book.

I read the first book in this series and enjoyed it. I am glad I was not let down like some series.

I look forward to reading additional books by Maggi Andersen.

Thanks for an enjoyable read

The bunnies and I give this book carrots.

I was given this book in exchange for an honest review. All views are my own and do not reflect those of the author, my clients or tour companies I work with. This is not a paid review. To form your own opinion please support the author and acquire your own legal copy of the book.

Helen says

This is a great story suspense a sensual romance and a great setting, this is the 2nd book in this series we met the hero John in the first one and I fell for him then he is a spy determined to get what he is after but Lady Sibella he must not have not in his line of work but can he stop himself when Lady Sibella wants him just as much. I really enjoyed this one it kept me turning the pages and up late.

Anita says

A fan of Maggi Andersen's novels, I was not disappointed in her latest addition to her 'Mayfair Spy' series. Her heroines are always of their time, in that being dominated by male relatives, husbands and sometimes even suitors, they have to find a way round Regency conventions to live the life they want. Her heroine Sibella, like the author's other ladies, is no weak and pliable female, but still her life is not completely her own as she has familial responsibilities and society to consider.

Given the freedom of being left her own devices, Sibella would choose to marry her long time love, John, Earl of Strathairn, a family friend returned from the wars.

John has also been doing his duty, to the crown, working as a spy to root out Napoleonic sympathizers who threaten the English government. John has lost a close friend to the cause, leaving a widow and child, so he feels he should deny himself domestic life in case history repeats itself.

He underestimates Sibella, however. Feisty and intelligent, she would take John on any terms, the chemistry between them is unmistakable. There is a degree of misunderstanding between the two as John mistakes her pride for disinterest, and tries to convince Sibella she would be better off without him – which is guaranteed to make her more determined – naturally, but how does a respectable Regency lady get the man she wants and still remain acceptable to society?

It is the misunderstandings and flashes of mutual attraction that keep the reader glued to this story to discover not if, but how Sibella convince John she would be a perfect wife and John put aside his misguided resolve to spare her unnecessary grief. Then there is Lord Coombes, Sibella's unwelcome suitor to complicate things and add a dash of menace.

Miss Andersen is a master at portraying the complicated emotions of an age where married love was not expected, or even sought, where even her character's respective families come to recognize Sibella and John deserve a chance at happiness. A true romance in every line – lovely.

Debbie Glenn Brown says

John Haldane, Earl of Stathairn, returns from war disturbed by nightmares, but he continues to spy for the Crown. Stathairn meet Lady Sibella Winborne before he went off to war with the intention of perusing her when he returned, but the war changed him and his mind. Lady Sibella family is pushing her to marry, but when she see Stathairn has returned from the war she harbors a strong affection for him and she realizes he makes every other man seem ordinary. John try to continue to stay good friends with Sibella, but love has a way of disrupting the best of plans. Statherian's friend is murdered so now there's a murderer on the loose too. I loved this story of a love not forgotten, and can no longer be denied in this intriguing romance with a bit of a twist as John and Sibella are thrown together finding a love they both deserve, but thought would never happen to solving the mystery and finding the killer before it's too late. This is my honest opinions after I voluntarily read a copy of this book that was provided to me with no requirements for a review.

Shannon says

Maggi Andersen gives her readers a wonderfully charming Regency romance in her latest novel, Taming a Gentleman Spy, the latest addition to the Mayfair Spy series. Maggi Anderson is a master of portraying the complicated emotions of the Regency era and the societal confines on women. In love and life, Regency women must be innovative in order to circumvent the male domination of their lives and live the life they want and the love they deserve.

Taming a Gentleman Spy's Sibella is one such woman, swearing off marriage for independence but still bound by family and societal responsibilities. There is one man though who has captured her heart; John, Earl of Straithairn. John, a longtime family friend of Sibella's, is our Gentleman Spy, but Sibella does not find him an eager suitor. John has returned from war shunning the desire for a family after experiencing the devastation and loss of war.

There is no doubt that the chemistry between Sibella and John is electric and no doubt he completely returns her feelings, but he denies his them and does his best to dissuade her interest in him. So then, how is a gentle Regency woman go about getting the man she wants? Sibella struggles to make a marriage of love and not for duty. She is feisty and intelligent, but will this be enough?

Maggi Andersen is masterly skillful in describing emotion and in so doing takes her reader on a journey of love and life. Taming a Gentleman Spy is wonderfully integrated in the history of the Regency period, full of rich and complex characters, romance and a touch of intrigue combine to create a wonderfully engaging page turner leaving me wondering where is my gentleman spy anyway?

Gaele says

It's no secret that I've been on a historical romance bender – and this book hit all the happy places for me: great characters, a touch of intrigue, family, the royals and even a villainous suitor!

A late regency, the story focuses on Sibella: 26 years old and finally feeling the familial pressure to make a choice and marry. As one of several children, she has been the auntie and allowed, within reason, to lead her own life. A long-held crush on a family friend, now returned from the wars has her dreaming of a life with him, and a marriage for love, not duty.

John, Earl of Straithairn has been a family friend for years: he ventured out to war, and while not active military, he is still working for the crown to protect England from the Napoleonic sympathizers who would seek to overthrow the government. Although he is attracted to Sibella, his recent brush with death and loss of his working partner who left a wife and young child behind, has him reluctant to marry.

The connection between the two is electric: Sibella is headstrong and intelligent but rarely foolish, her enjoyment in John's company is apparent, although she often misconstrues his reluctance as a lack of desire. John is desperately trying to convince her that she must make a more 'appropriate' match, although he can't seem to stay away.

I adored the emotion displayed in this story: while John often appears to be a bit of a cold-fish, his concern for those around him, and willingness to extend himself to set Sib's brother on the right track, as well as investigate the man she agreed to marry shows his involvement with her and the family, even as he seeks to ignore it. Throughout the story, the build to an explosive conclusion is slowly developing, and not unsurprisingly all the interlocking elements of John's life seem to converge in one afternoon in London.

With clever insertions of secondary characters and several moments of intrigue as well as clever integration of history, this story manages to engage and delight as you continue to turn pages, cheering and jeering connections and hoping for that happily ever after.

I received an eArc copy from the publisher for purpose of honest review for the Jeep Diva. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

InD'tale Magazine says

3.5/5.0

“Taming a Gentleman Spy” is a tale of romance and mystery.

Read full review in the 2014 February issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Carol *Young at Heart Oldie* says

I thoroughly enjoyed this second book in Maggi Andersen's *The Spies of Mayfair* series with its engaging story, appealing characters and delightful romance. There is also mystery, drama and intrigue.

John Haldane, Earl of Straithairn:

Somehow, the surge of adrenaline and sense of living on the edge banished the anguish he carried. And nothing else had thus far come close.

John is a man of action rather than words and, after returning from the Napoleonic Wars, he can't contemplate hours of debating in the House of Lords. So he inhabits the dark and dangerous world of spying in an attempt to uncover Napoleonic sympathisers threatening to destabilise the British Government. The intelligence work has also given him a purpose in life that he found missing after his return from the war. It also helps keep at bay the terrible wartime memories that continue to haunt his dreams.

John and Sibella have shared a close friendship but his feelings have deepened beyond friendship. But he knows that, in his line of work, death could be lurking just around the corner and he is determined to remain single. His resolve is further strengthened when a close colleague is murdered leaving behind a wife and child. He could never subject a wife to such pain and so he keeps his feelings in check.

Lady Sibella Winborne

No wonder her mother was giving any likely candidate for her hand a push. Unfortunately, Mama didn't push; she shoved.

Whilst her mother has been occupied with bringing out the last of Sibella's three sisters and enjoying her grandchildren, Sibella has managed to avoid several suitors over the years since her own come out. However, at the age of twenty six, she is in danger of being left on the shelf and her mother is now pressurising her to marry.

John Haldane, a family friend, is the only man she has ever desired but he has a strong aversion to marriage. Believing John will never be hers and longing for a home of her own and a family, she may be willing to settle for her brother's choice of suitor, the polite and well-mannered Lord Coombe.

Sibella and John's story has all the elements I look for in a romance:

A protective, caring hero:

He fought the strong pull of attraction; he could not bend. His life was too dangerous; he would never risk Sibella. She was far too precious.

A strong-willed, intelligent heroine:

But now, after that kiss! She'd find a way to make him face the truth. They were after all, perfectly suited.

Delicious sexual tension:

With a swift movement, he cradled her face in his hands; his lips, firm but gentle, covered hers, stifling her gasp of surprise. Coherent thought slipped away as his arm encircled her waist and pulled her hard against him. His hold tightened and the kiss deepened, teasing her lips and stealing her breath..

A few stumbling blocks along the way:

"I don't enjoy having to say this to you John, but it befalls me as head of the family. Sib has a love of home and hearth. She looks for a husband who will sit by the fire with her at night. That isn't you, is it?"
"She deserves the best, and no, it isn't me, Chaloner."

Drama:

And somewhere, a ruthless murderer lurked, well-armed and with some evil design to bring chaos to England.

Of course, this is a romance, so assuredly there will be a Happy Ever After...

Moments later, Strathairn slipped the gold band on her finger. He exhaled on a long sigh of contentment. She was his.

Once again, Ms Andersen has woven true historical events into the story, creating a real sense of the era with its political and social unrest.

A charming romance and a touch of intrigue combine to make *Taming a Gentleman Spy* a wonderfully entertaining story.

REVIEW RATING: 4/5 STARS

The Spies of Mayfair series (click on the book cover for more details):

I would like to thank the author, Maggi Andersen, for sending me a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

This review is also posted on my Rakes and Rascals blog:

<https://rakesandrascals.wordpress.com...>