



# The King Of Threadneedle Street

*Moriah Densley*

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## **The King Of Threadneedle Street** Moriah Densley

He owns three shipping companies, a diamond mine, and his own castle.

He knows Portuguese, Hindi, Mandarin and Morse code.

His assets net thirteen million.

Everyone thinks Andrew Tilmore, Lord Preston, the financial prodigy dubbed “The King of Threadneedle Street,” has it all, but he wants the one prize money can’t buy: his childhood sweetheart.

Alysia Villier can’t say if it’s worse having Andrew’s father in control of her inheritance or Andrew in control of her heart. He’s ruined her for any other man, but she simply can’t give in to him. She knows he’s destined for great things — marrying a courtesan’s daughter would jeopardize everything he stands for.

Keeping Alysia out of trouble and away from eager suitors becomes a cross-continental quest for Andrew, and he won’t be stopped by his old-fashioned family or the disapproval of the ton. After all, he’s a man with the power to play newspapers and investors like pawns, tumble world markets and incite riots... but can he win the biggest gamble of his life?

## **The King Of Threadneedle Street Details**

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## From Reader Review The King Of Threadneedle Street for online ebook

### Veri says

So MUCH drama.... you have the illegitimate daughter of a courtesan living with the family of her mother's last lover (openly acknowledged by all) - she is in love with the son of her late mother's lover, but th father disapproves of the mAtch so he basically tries to get rid of her by giving her to another man as a lady's maid for his wife--- this was only part of the epic. Not only was it full of drama but it was long-- our heroine travels to Paris and is almost sold at an auction ( her mentor was unknown to her a Madam ) , she travels back to England to work as a governess while wait she for an inheritance left by her mother . she later finds out she is the illegitimate daughter of Austrian royalty , so she is a princess.

This is not where our story ends --- but the rest is just obstacle after obstacle and her feeling she would ruin Andrew (hero) if she were to marry him.

The only reason it got 3 stars instead of 2 was because of the hero. Andrew knew he wanted Lisa (heroine) and he did everything in his power to get her - no matter the obstacle - they were separated for months and he didn't succumb to the women that were thrown his way , instead patiently waiting until he could be with the woman he'd loved since adolescence. There was also his many examples of being possessive and jealous - that had nothing to do with lack of trust towards the heroine (in light of rumors of heroine' s many supposed conquests) but because he couldn't bear the thought that anyone would steal her away from him.

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### Kate Reed says

So very, very good! This book made me realized what so many other novels are missing... a real story! I found myself thinking "Oh, here is were she will wrap up the story" "no, here is where she will". And instead of taking an easy way out and ending the book where most others would, Moriah Densley gave me a real story, a full length story that didn't end with the characters happily married off after a few weeks of back and forth - insteand you follow the characters as they go through their lives, the ups and the downs, the fun and the responsibilities. Even better, is that after (spoiler alert!) the happily ever after, we still get to follow the characters! We aren't left wondering "what happened?" and instead the story line makes it to a full conclusion! I was just so happy reading this book and following along and falling in love with the characters, every single one of them! Please do yourself a favor and pick up this book and enjoy a full bodied story!

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### Suzanne Johnson says

It was okay for Andrew and Alyssa to play at love when they were younger. Now that they're adults? The fact that she's the daughter of his father's mistress makes her unsuitable for more than a courtesan herself. But Andrew's not only a business genius; he can manipulate the wagging tongues of the ton. As for Alyssa, she wants more for herself than the life of a courtesan. A talented artist, every time she breaks free of her past and seeks an independent future for herself, society and her past reel her back in.

Moriah Densley writes smart, complex characters who steal your heart and make you think--while serving up a dose of sexy.

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## Susie Carson says

I love Moriah's books. This one is no exception. I think I liked Sophia and Wilhelm's story just a bit more, which is why I gave this one 4 stars instead of 5. I thought Threadneedle Street just needed a bit more plot to keep it going, although the interaction between the characters was very engaging. As always, Densley is witty, realistic, romantic, and believable. Of course I was pulling for the couple the entire time - often authors make up supposed "obstacles" to keep lovers apart in order to make the story longer. In this case, I didn't feel that at all. Alysia's sense of duty was very real, and I honestly thought she never entertained the notion of marrying Andrew, for fear of somehow dragging him down to her level. I thought that was endearing. And Andrew's genius was so entertaining - if only I could understand half of what he did to orchestrate the economic collapse! Brilliant. This installment was fairly steamy, for Densley, but not too much. Definitely the right amount.

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## Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Not nearly as good as Song for Sophia. The real drawback to this book is the heroine, Alysia. She's almost completely unlikable. I really had a hard time finding anything at all to like about her, and I couldn't help thinking Andrew deserved someone who was willing to go through a hell of a lot more for him. That's the biggest drawback to stories like this; when an author attempts to tout the nobility and selflessness of a character by depicting that character as some kind of martyr, it insults the general reading populace. We *know* these two are going to end up together, so why does the author make us dislike one half of the duo by making them less-than-deserving of the other's esteem? Making someone miserable and denying them and yourself happiness in the process is *not* noble. It's weak and cowardly and selfish. So I can't bring myself to like, even a little bit, a character who seeks to bring misery in the guise of "doing what's right" simply because they're too weak-willed and terrified to fight for what they want. Alysia hated herself, to the point of it being embarrassing for the reader. Her willingness to deny herself happiness is one thing, but to keep denying Andrew and somehow think that him ending up in a loveless marriage would be *better* for him than finding happiness with her...well, it made her as bad, if not worse, than Andrew's parents.

Andrew was, I thought, a great character. He had his flaws, yes, but he was smart and loving and steadfast. He was way too good for Alysia, and it bugged the hell out of me that he had to fight so hard for a woman who kept running from him.

And why the hell did he keep calling her Lisa? Wouldn't 'Lissa' be more apt? I don't know why, but that bugged the hell outta me.

There was a lot that didn't need to be there (like finding out who Alysia's father was, which did nothing to move the story along), and some that could have been cut (like all the times Alysia turns Andrew down and acts like a prig). This just wasn't developed or executed well, and unless you're really itching to be able to say you've read all the installments in the Rougemont series, I would recommend just skipping this one.

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## Judy says

Background: Eighteen year old Alysia Villier has been part of the Tilmore family since she was a young girl. Her mother was an infamous courtesan and the mistress of Lord Courtenay (Marquess by title and head of the Tilmore family). If you read Moriah Densley's "Song for Sophia" you will already know that Alysia and

her mother actually lived in the Tilmore home along with the Tilmore family during much of Alysia's growing up years. From an early age, Alysia served in various roles in this home including housekeeper/companion/friend/tutor/steward - whatever was required of her. Alysia's mother passes on but Alysia still lives with the Tilmore family with Lord Courtenay serving as her guardian. Her mother did leave her a substantial inheritance but she will not have access to her funds until she is 21 years old - three more years.

Alysia's special friend and sweetheart during her teen years was Andrew Tilmore, Lord Preston, son of Lord Courtenay and heir to the marquessate. Andrew has a brilliant financial mind and has learned to manipulate funds and stocks around the world - hence the term King of Threadneedle Street which represented the London Stock Exchange of that period.

When this story begins, a family wedding is about to take place and Andrew, now 21 years old, is returning home from a two year absence - an absence required by his parents in order to break the bond between Andrew and Alysia. They want Andrew to get on with his life and find a suitable wife. However, as soon as Andrew sees Alysia, it is obvious he has not, nor is it likely he will ever get over his feelings for the love of his youth.

It seems very cruel but because Alysia is illegitimate and her mother was a courtesan, Lord and Lady Courtenay are determined that she must continue in life as a demimondaine and have made plans for her to take a position as the companion of a viscountess who is an invalid. It is unspoken yet understood that Alysia will actually become the mistress of this invalid's husband. Although Alysia hates the idea of becoming a courtesan, she knows Andrew has a bright future and she has been brought up to believe she would make a totally improper mate. When Andrew realizes what his parents have planned for Alysia, he steps in and begins to try and "manage" Alysia's life because he truly loves her and is determined that she will be his.

Alysia has plans of her own, however, and is also a very gifted artist. She leaves the Tilmore home without informing anyone where she will go and heads for France where she pursues her art. While there, she begins to find acceptance as an artist and receives commissions for her art which enables her to earn funds. She believes she can make it on her own until she turns 21 at which time she will receive her inheritance. Unbeknownst to her, her patroness - a woman she trusts - has been promoting the "sale" of Alysia to the highest bidder.

This is where the story really begins and the reader is treated to one rescue after another of Alysia - throughout the book by the Absolutely. Amazing. Awesome. Andrew. He is single-minded in his efforts to keep her safe until she will acknowledge that she is "His." On the other hand, Andrew's father is single-minded in his efforts to get Alysia married off so that he can keep her away from Andrew. So what you have are three long years where Alysia moves around - sometimes with Andrew's help and at other times when she takes matters into her own hands. Along the way, Alysia finds that she does have friends in addition to Andrew - Lord and Lady Devon (Wilhelm and Sophia) and Lady Devon's mother all give Alysia their love, encouragement and provide places for her to stay.

\*Spoilers\* Andrew comes in and out of her life during these three years and I loved it when he told Alysia that she was "His" over and over again. At one point he basically said: he would have her as a sister, as his mistress or as his wife but that she was "His." I realize Andrew's strong determination was off-putting to some readers but the fact that he never wavered in his steadfast goal to have Alysia endeared his character to my soul. His love and passion for Alysia was not to be denied and he would allow nothing to stand in his path even if it required setting the financial world of that day on its end and/or successfully battling his wily parents.

I didn't like it that Sophia rejected Andrew's marriage proposals over and over and over. I liked it even less that they were apart for months at a time and would not even hear from one another during some periods for

months. Unlike many books where the H/h are kept apart, at least this book continued to hold my interest. I loved the fact that Ms. Densley didn't require the clutter of a lot of senseless sexual acts between the H/h to craft a lovely romance wherein there is a great deal of desire and yet, the lovers have learned to love without engaging in "hot sex." I loved it that Andrew was celibate during the three long years he and Alysia waited to have their HEA. I loved it that he expressed his regret about having sexual partners during the years of his youth. I loved it that we were able to revisit Wilhelm and Sophia and their children. Especially endearing was the scene where Alysia drew a picture of their family during the music hour.

Yes, there were a couple of things about the story line that I disliked, however, I can give this book nothing less than 5 stars. I look forward with great expectancy to the enjoyable reading of future books by this author.

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## Nicole says

2.5 stars

This book is as dramatic as a SoapNet (RIP SoapNet) marathon, and contains about as much logic. I didn't mind it while I was reading it, but when I thought about it afterwards, I realized that a solid 85% of it was unbelievably illogical. Why would a man raise his mistress's child alongside his own children? Having done this, why would he then object to his teenage son falling in love with the mistress's beautiful daughter? Having seen this happen, why would he try to use the concepts of familial obedience and honor to dissuade his son from marrying his love? Wouldn't having one's mistress openly reside WITH ONE'S FAMILY already tarnished the family's name for at least a generation? And what is up with Andrew's mother? How can a woman who at the beginning of this novel is portrayed as being incapable of performing the most routine hostessing duties manage to so capably vex his supposedly brilliant son with her marriage-minded scheming? And why would a paragon of *tonnish* virtue would repeatedly try to sic a fortune-hunting ho-bag on her own son? And what kind of stock exchange/black wizardry is responsible for the money-related goings-on in this novel? He's rich? He's poor! He's richer!!!! Or something.

The bottom line here is that nothing that takes place within this novel makes any sense if thought about for more than two seconds. Characters change on a dime, as is needed to further whatever scene is currently taking place. This book is utterly ridiculous, but as it only cost \$.99, I'm not too bothered by this.

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## Kym says

Okay, I had several problems with this one, the first being the age of the characters. Andrew Tilmore is 21 or 22 year old hero. He is a super-genius financial prodigy, but he acts with the forethought of a young adolescent. He's very selfish and has no insight into himself and doesn't even seem to understand the problems presented in the plot. Alysia Villier is the 18 or 19 year old forever self-sacrificing heroine. Andrew is a lord and Alysia is the bastard daughter of his father's mistress ( but is not her father) who occupies that place between servant and family member. It seems that she does everything in the household - reporting estate business to Andrew's dad, visiting tenants in place of Andrew's mom, planning the wedding of Andrew's sister... Alysia and Andrew have been in love since she moved to the estate when she was 15. Okay, characters aside, the plot was so muddled I almost made a chart to keep up, because there were so many extraneous details, but decided it would be as confusing as the plot. Finding out who her father was didn't mean anything. It did not move the story forward. It could have, but by the time you get to that, it's time to move on to the next needless plot point. Then there were all the times Alysia refused to marry

Andrew, telling him to find a woman of his own class to love, marry, and have children. He refuses, but then he gets a fiancée from somewhere. Then there was the need to drag in characters from the first book, who did things that weren't actually clearly indicated. I guess this was needed so the books could be called a series, but really? Why not just have a couple of stand-alones? The first book was a little better, but not much. So, the characters were irritating and the plot was too muddled to follow easily. I would say give this one a miss.

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## ava\_magick says

SPOILERS.

Definitely NOT as good as "Song for Sophia" which is the first book in the Rougemont series. I sincerely recommend people read that book as a stand alone.

The premise was interesting, two childhood friends who fall in love but are kept apart because the heroine, Alysia, is the daughter of the hero's (Andrew) father's mistress (WTF) and thus not deemed a good match for his own son.

This book read like 6 months worth of "Days of Our Lives" episodes or, better yet, like a dysfunctional script out of a Korean Drama. Hello drama-rama.

Let's see, we've got...

- "star crossed lovers"
- disapproving HYPOCRITICAL parents
- ridiculously obsessive/jealous hero, you know the kind that's like a guard dog yapping "you are mine, you are mine, you are mine" all the time
- heroine with a complex mother issues... and father issues?
- secret birth identity...WTF???
- unappreciated/underrated second male lead

I felt like I was reading an alternate universe where everyone who was in this book that appeared in the first book were all out of character. It was strange and unnerving as all the plot holes in the story. I get the feeling that Moriah Densley was in a big rush to finish this book which is terribly unfortunate for the plot and her characters.

And honestly, I wish Alysia had married Philip instead!

The HEA was...undeserved and nonsensical. Here's where the "rushing" part kicked into high gear. Everything had to be tied in a big bow at the end which left me wishing I could reverse time to before I decided to read the second installment in this series, lol.

The two star rating is only because I really liked the first book so it's more of a courtesy really. Otherwise...

...please don't pick this one up. Unless there's a third book that comes out which can redeem the Rougemont series, consider it having ended with "Song for Sophia".

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## Susana Ellis says

Spellbinding, sensual read: 4.5/5 stars

At nineteen, Alysia is a strong, resilient character who, unlike her melodramatic courtesan mother, recognizes that happy-ever-after endings are rare, even among the most privileged classes, and that spending one's life striving after them is an effort of futility. No matter that the object of her desire—the son of her late mother's protector—returns her feelings and tries to convince her to thwart convention. She can't risk ruining both their lives by giving in to the passion of the moment, no matter how much she yearns to do so.

Andrew is a hero among heroes. While his actions in chasing after Alysia may seem impulsive and careless at times, the fact is that he knows Alysia is for him and is willing to do whatever it takes to convince her that their love is worth the risk...even it means a very long wait. A worthy hero indeed!

I loved both of these characters, their intelligence, witty conversations, concern for each other and others, and strength of character as they faced a myriad of obstacles. Although at times Andrew exhibited a devil-may-care attitude on the surface, both he and Alysia showed a maturity beyond their years.

This will not be the only book of Densley's that I read. In fact, I've already hit Amazon in search of more books in the series, since there does seem to be a previous story here. I read a lot of books and most of them are forgotten in a few weeks' time, but I can tell this won't be one of them. Densley shows an uncommonly deft hand with sensual detail that I've rarely seen before, a sort of romantic sensuality without being explicit that kept me hooked from beginning to end.

Highly recommended!

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## Elizabeth says

Loved it! I'm a sucker for childhood friends-turned-sweethearts stories, and *The King of Threadneedle Street* is one of the best.

Andrew and Alysia grew up together. He's the heir to a marquess; she's the bastard daughter of the marquess's deceased mistress. As they grew, their friendship deepened into love. For Andrew, the privileged son who could have anything he wanted, claiming Lisa for his own should have been the easiest thing in the world. Lisa lives closer to reality. As a young woman who is scandalous merely by existing, she knows she can never be accepted into Andrew's aristocratic world. And not only would society frown on the pair, the marquess disapproves the match--and he's Lisa's legal guardian.

And so Andrew embarks on a three-year scheme of waiting for Lisa to reach her majority, all the while dodging hopeful mamas and eligible misses, fearing Lisa might fall for someone else, and building his financial empire as the legendary King of Threadneedle Street.

I love Andrew's devotion to Lisa. From the very beginning, he makes it clear that she's the only woman for him. His dogged pursuit of the woman he loves manifests in gestures large and small. Whether it's sending her a monthly gift of flowers and chocolates or manipulating entire economies, there's nothing he won't do to make her his.

Alysia, too, loves Andrew from the word go. But after a lifetime spent reconciled to her status as a demimondaine, she cannot allow him to throw away his place in society by tying himself to her -- a ruined

woman whose shameful birth follows wherever she goes.

Readers of Ms. Densley's novel *Song for Sophia* will be delighted to catch up with Wilhelm and Sophia in *The King of Threadneedle Street*. As in her previous work, Densley once again demonstrates her gift for portraying her hero and heroine as authentic human beings, flaws and all. And I don't mean flawed as in, "He's just TOO perfect." No, Andrew suffers from an inability to see how his actions could affect others. As long as things go his way, he has little thought for the emotional wreckage he might leave in his wake. Lisa, meanwhile, is sometimes pathologically determined to keep herself from happiness. She was born with a figurative scarlet A on her chest, and does a good job punishing herself on behalf of the universe. Sometimes you'd like to knock a little sense into both of them, but that's what makes the novel so engaging. They have their shortcomings, but are still admirable. We see how they complement one another, and bolster the other in the places they fall short.

*The King of Threadneedle Street* is by turns tender and hot, heartwarming and heartbreaking. Highly recommended.

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### **Regan Walker says**

4 and ½ Stars... Entertaining Victorian romance!

This is book 2 in the Rougement series and it's a good one. Set in 1870-73, this is the story of Andrew Tilmore, Lord Preston, dubbed "The King of Threadneedle Street" for his prowess at making money. He's clever and mentally adroit... and determined to have the girl he has loved since his youth. But Alysia Villier, illegitimate daughter of Andrew's father's mistress, is not his family's choice.

Alysia understands his family's rejection of her and respects their wishes, but Andrew cares not. He means to have her as his wife and shows up wherever she is, determined to protect his interests. His clever power plays designed to make her his kept me entertained. And, since Alysia can't resist him, there are lots of steamy scenes.

A well-written story of a push me-pull me romance wherein Andrew gets what he wants. I loved the characters and the back and forth. There's not much history or politics in this one, or glimpses into everyday Victorian life, but I enjoyed the well-researched look into the financial dealings of Victorian London. And there is lots of gossip to savor.

I do recommend reading *A Song for Sophia*, book 1, before this one as many characters from that story show up midway through this one and, without descriptions, you might be left wondering who they are.

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### **Jennifer says**

I just love the characters. They are immediately likable with cute realistic quirks. I adore Andrew. While spoiled (I mean it seems like he plays with money, but is so good with it it just grows immensely. Has his instincts ever been wrong when it comes to stocks? Actually you just wait and see) he is immensely honorable, humorous, affectionate and adorable. What I like is that many of the men in Densley's books are very intelligent. Wil (he and his family make a lovely appearance in this book) was a savant, musically and tactically, Andrew is very good with stocks/bonds and making money and even Christian his twelve year old

brother is immensely smart.

But that doesn't mean the woman are no less in the brain department. While Alysia Villier is seen as only her courtesan mother's daughter, she's played steward and lady of the manor. She's intelligent and can spar with the best of them. When Andrew comes back from Eton (I presume) he's angry that Alysia has been doing all the duties his mother should be doing and being pressured into leaving the ancestral home in order to fulfill her duty as a courtesan's daughter. His parents know that there is something much deeper than a passing fancy between the two of them and they want her gone so that Andrew start his responsibilities as the heir apparent with a dutiful proper wife and such.

What I loved is the clear devotion and love Andrew has for Alysia. She understands her place in society and while she tries to make a move for herself in the world, with no resources or loyal friends it's hard to do so. We have the classic trope of heroine giving up her love for the better good. But Andrew is clearly aware of what she's up to and constantly reminds her that they will be together no matter the consequences. I liked that declarations were very early on and that drove the story. Also his admission that the women he slept with while in Eton were substitutes was endearing and heartbreaking. He's stubborn, but he wants what's his and he's willing to defy family and society in order to do so.

I started to fear when it came apparent there would be a love triangle. Poor Philip, I really felt for him. But I think the fact (view spoiler)

Mayhaps a little underwhelmed with the ending. When I reached the last page I thought that's it?!? Everything was rather neatly wrapped up, but after so many years of yearning and obstacles I thought there would be a bit more. However, this was without a doubt a really really good read. And I hope we're able to revisit these characters again.

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## **Moon Love says**

Andrew, Lord Preston, aka "The King of Threadneedle Street" has been in love with Alysia "Lisa" Villier since he was child. While Alysia loves him back, a marriage between the two is unthinkable because of Alysia's parentage; she's the orphaned daughter of his father's mistress. It does not help that his father is Alysia's guardian and does not look upon Alysia as a favorable match for his son. And if it wasn't enough, Alysia loves her "Drew" so much she can't think of marrying him, putting her happiness before his, and then ruining his social standing and the love they have for each other.

Talk about stubborn! Both Andrew and Alysia are stubborn to their cores. I loved how defiant Andrew was of everyone when it came to Alysia. He remained persistent long beyond Alysia, who'd already given up on them ever being together and tried as much as possible to make sure they didn't. I loved and hated how honorable Alysia was. Loved because she thought of Andrew's needs first and hated because she had to deny and hurt both him and herself to do it. Both embodied a virtue I value highly and try to emulate: integrity.

The chemistry between Andrew and Alysia was scorching. I don't know how she did it, but Moriah Densley found a way to make the book feel like it as NC-17 while having PG-13 material. I had to stop reading and fan myself a few times. Another part of the book I really enjoyed was Andrew's knowledge and working of the stock markets. He actually had fun and used his smarts to get what he wanted both financially and personally.

As loathe as I was to put this book down I really do wish it had been longer. It was great to see more of

Sophia, Wil, and the rest of the gang from [Song for Sophia](#), but I have so many questions left unanswered. How did the famed courtesan meet Alysia's father? And how did her mother meet Lord Courtenay, Andrew's father? I would've also loved to have read more about Andrew and Alysia as children and Alysia's interactions with her father, but these sort of things tend to happen when you fall in love with characters and you don't want the magic to end when the book is over.

After two books and a novella, I'm not sure which beloved character will get their story told next in the Rougemont series but I will be eagerly awaiting its arrival.

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## Caz says

### I've given this a B- for narration and C+ for content at AudioGals, so 3.5 stars overall

This is book two in Ms Densley's *Rougemont* series, the first of which (*Song For Sophia*) I awarded a B grade at All About Romance. I enjoyed listening to **The King of Threadneedle Street**, although it is very different in tone to the earlier book, and I feel it to be the weaker of the two in terms of plot and characterisation.

The hero and heroine are Andrew Tillmore, Earl of Preston, heir to the Marquess of Courtenay, and Courtenay's ward, Alysia Villier. The pair have grown up together and as the years have passed, their childhood friendship has turned into something more. Andrew is determined to marry Alysia but, even though she is just as much in love with him as he with her, she turns him down, insisting a marriage between them would be to his detriment, for Alysia is the orphaned, bastard daughter of the Marquess' former mistress, left to his guardianship upon her mother's death.

For the past few years, Alysia has run the Courtenay household (Andrew's mother being too indolent to do so) and has been acting as the Marquess' steward, being in essence an unpaid servant. But as soon as Alysia has finished overseeing the arrangements for the imminent marriage of Andrew's sister, she is expected to leave the house and make her own way, which means turning to her mother's profession and finding herself a rich protector.

Andrew is furious, and his father, in his desperation to separate them, bundles Alysia off to Paris, where she is introduced to society by Madame Desmarais. The Madame is, unbeknownst to her, nothing more than a high-class pimp preparing to sell Alysia off to the highest bidder. When Andrew manages to find out where she is, he spirits her away to Rougemont, the home of the Earl and Countess of Devon (Wil and Sophia from the previous book).

Andrew's plan is to wait until Alysia attains her majority, at which point his father's guardianship will end and she will be free to do as she pleases. But that is almost three years away at the beginning of the book, and it will be a long and difficult wait that will see Alysia discovering her true parentage, and Andrew pursuing her across Europe.

While the story is enjoyable, and the fact that the central couple is already in love is a refreshingly unusual one, I can't help but feel that there was just TOO much happening in terms of the plot to allow for much by way of character development. We first met Andrew in *Song for Sophia* and at seventeen, he was already a formidable financial whizz-kid. At twenty-two, he speaks several languages, owns a castle, is acquainted with royalty and has earned himself the moniker of "The King of Threadneedle Street". In fact, he has already made himself a substantial fortune and has no need of his father's money, so I couldn't help asking

myself why he and Alysia didn't just elope! But Alysia doesn't want Andrew to be disadvantaged by marrying the daughter of a notorious courtesan, and believes that separation is the best course for them both. She does genuinely love him, but her insistence on not marrying him for his own good becomes wearing after a time.

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

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