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How To Marry A Marquess (Wedded By Scandal)



Synopsis

Lady Evie Chesterfield is a darling of the ton who refuses to become engaged. She's been desperately in love with her brother's friend, Richard Maitland, Marquess of Westfall, since forever. But the dark, dangerous marquess only sees her as a friend and refuses to marry any woman. When circumstances change and Evie has no choice but to take a husband, she decides to convince London's most notorious gentleman to marry her by seducing the scoundrel. Richard Maitland decided long ago that he wanted nothing to do with love. So when the gorgeous, off-limits Evie asks him for lessons in seduction, Richard knows he's playing with fire. Despite Richard's determination to protect her from his dastardly reputation, he is tested at every turn by his need for the infuriating, but enticing, Lady Evie. Before too long he is faced with making an impossible choice.

Each book in the Wedded by Scandal series is a standalone story that can be enjoyed out of order. Series Order: Book #1 Accidentally Compromising the Duke Book #2 Wicked in His Arms Book #3 How to Marry a Marquess

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Customer Reviews

If you haven't yet read Stacey Reid, this book is a great introduction. It's my fave of a good series, but also a standalone. Evie and Richard's story was engrossing, filled with romantic tension, and had right amount of steam (at the right moments). One of few recent books that tugged on my heart. Evie has loved Richard since he gave her support at her debut ball and the means to escape an arranged marriage. Richard met his friend's sister when she was but sixteen. Conflicted by desire and respect for the young lady, he offered his honesty and friendship in return for hers. That offer led to a long, loyal friendship between a darling of society and a man who chose principles over acceptance of his peers. Over time both came to greatly value and rely on the relationship. They shared secrets and emotions which they would never tell others. Evie acknowledged her love for Richard from the start and patiently waited for him to admit his love. Richard struggled to keep his emotions in check. Although he longed for more than friendship, he couldn't bear to be the reason that Evie lost her social standing and relationships. Story's pace was fairly good, but there were a few lags. However the sustained tension between the two seemed to compensate for any lulls. Loved the inclusion of bit of realism, i.e. consequences for those who challenge high society's firmly held values. Overall definitely one of better historical romances I've recently read.

A lovely story of best friends to lovers, quite dramatically and the pace doesn't let up for the whole of the story. Lady Evie Chesterfield first fell in love with Richard Maitland when she was sixteen, now 6 years have past and they are the best of friends but Evie wants more from Richard. Now that Evie has no choice she has to marry she comes up with a plan using Richard's teaching to snag her the man she has always wanted. Richard had his heartbroken, he refuses to marry as he thinks all women are superficial. He unexpectedly becomes Marquis of Westfall when his elder brother dies suddenly of a fever. When Richard saw Evie for the first time he was taken in by her beauty and he knows that for the past 6 years he has been playing with fire but he just can't say no to the beauty. This was a fun book I enjoyed reading it and the characters were a treat and very entertaining! I've never read anything by this author before and found this book very worth reading. I can't wait to go back and read the others in this series. I'm an Independent reviewer for Romance Authors That Rock and I gave this book 5

4.5 stars The setup: The Marquess of Westfall and Lady Evie Chesterfield have been friends for several years-and since the beginning of their friendship, they've been attracted to each other. But the road from friends to lovers isn't always an easy one, and several things get in their way. The biggest obstacle, perhaps, is the marquess himself, who wants to protect Evie from his bad

reputation, but who also doesn't really trust women. And this distrust extends to Evie, even though they have a closer relationship than he's ever had with any woman. I admit, Westfall bothered me a little at first. He's not only cold and arrogant, he can also be pretty condescending toward Evie, and even though the attraction between the two is palpable, I wanted Evie to knock some sense into him. Well, this book doesn't disappoint, and I loved how everything turned out in the end, as well as Evie's strength and determination when confronted with Westfall's stubbornness. This is a sexy, angsty story that has a truly swoon-worthy conclusion.

Instead of arranging a "meet cute" between her two romantic leads, author Stacy Reid has instigated a "meet puke." Yes, you read that right. Young Lady Evelyn, who hasn't even had her debut yet, is positively ill over the attentions of an older duke who finds her quite delectable. **Cue the reader's sympathy puke.** Luckily for Evie, the handsome young man she meets in the garden while tossing her victuals is handy with a shovel to bury said vomit and brazen enough to suggest a peculiar solution to her problem. From that moment on, Evie and Richard are unorthodox friends who find comfort in each other's good advice and steady regard. Unacknowledged but ever present is a hint of attraction that mushrooms into full-blown lust by the time Reid finishes the backstory chapters. "She was the perfect and dutiful daughter, he was wild and unpredictable, and he was her greatest guilty pleasure in life." I wish I could say that the tone remains light and airy throughout this classic Regency romance, but that would be incorrect. Richard, who has endured a very specific rejection due to his second son status, finds aristocrats to be snobs and capricious with their indignation. This attitude carries with it a refreshing honesty that pulls at Evie. Unfortunately, Richard's bitterness slowly overwhelms him, and it colors every aspect of his life. By the end of the book, it is Richard's rejection of himself and his assumptions about Evie that keep them apart. It goes on far, far too long for the health of the novel. I love to see a romantic couple overcoming obstacles together, but Richard was the obstacle. In fact, I became very angry with the horse's patoot. Of course, this means I was emotionally invested, but I was confounded by how contrary Richard was acting based on his past behavior and his personal beliefs. That said, this is a very enjoyable Regency novel that revels in characterization. Reid also delves with alacrity into period social themes. In *How to Marry a Marquess* she addresses poverty, divided classes, philanthropy, orphanages, illegitimacy, child slavery, self-worth, prejudice, and more. What would make this novel even stronger is equal attention to sense of time and place and outside influences on the plot. The *Wedded by Scandal* books are very insular to the trials and tribulations of the main romantic couple. In her fantasy novels, Reid very, very capably builds heightened dramatic tension with specious

villains and unparalleled action sequences; I would love to see some of that skill adapted for her Regency novels. The saving grace is Evie - her growth, her resolve, her originality. Plus, she flat out tells Richard that he does not get to decide her strength. I loved that line.

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