



# Unmasking the Marquess

*K.J. Jackson*

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**Unmasking the Marquess** K.J. Jackson  
*London, 1820*

**Some people are born with backbone. Others have to fight for it.**

List in-hand of suitable bachelors, Lady Reanna Halstead, the epitome of naivety, is thrust into London society with demands to gain a husband. To her utter amazement, she manages to capture the attentions of the Marquess of Southfork. Her love, dreams, and future are soon pinned on her marriage to this one man. One handsome, kind, fantastic man.

One man, who has a very different idea of what this marriage will be.

**He will be hated, before he is loved.**

Killian Hayward, Marquess of Southfork, is only one step away from completing the revenge he has fought his entire life for. All he has to do is marry Lady Halstead. The one woman that is the key to his revenge. To his peace.

The one woman that will threaten the very foundation of his entire existence.

**The Hold Your Breath series continues.**

A thousand reasons to hold your breath, and one to let it go.  
Historical romance with strong women, undeniable men, and hold your breath adventure.

*Author's note: Unmasking the Marquess is a stand-alone story. No need to read Stone Devil Duke before this (but I hope you put it on your to-be-read list!).*

## Unmasking the Marquess Details

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## From Reader Review Unmasking the Marquess for online ebook

### Cindy Woods says

#### Excellent

Again, five stars! What a great author and plots. Highly recommend....in fact, I recommend this entire trilogy. Excitement and emotional upset....you will grit your teeth! Reanna is so forgiving where most people under the circumstances of her early marriage would have blown a fuse. Killian was a true pompous ass! It is emotionally draining at times due to Killians evilness and misguided revenge. Definitely worth reading. Hard to put down. Fast paced...so glad I found this series!

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### KIMBERLY JONES says

#### Unbelievable!!!!

I couldn't believe how far the story line went with the treatment of the heroine and for her to forgive so easily. Unbelievable!!!! And what's going on with the way the story ended? I have so many questions that were not answered. Why is her aunt coming back when she said she wouldn't? she has urgent news to discuss and requested people they trust to be present, why? Why did the aunt hate the heroines father so much? What happened to the heroines mother? Why did the heroines father treat her so bad? Unless I am missing chapters in my book it did not completely finish the story. Which book finishes this story? Unbelievable that we are left with these questions.

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### Ivy H says

This is the most disgusting crappy excuse of a "romance" novel ! The hero should have died and his mistress should have been gutted like a fish and left to rot at the side of the road. What a waste of a few hours skimming through this pile of garbage. Angst is good in a novel, but outrageous cruelty is fucking disgusting. This "hero" was cruel. The "hero" turned a group of orphans out of the humble cottage that the heroine had cleaned up for them to live in, then he left her with little money and told her to transport the kids to a nearby orphanage. When the heroine went on her knees and begged him to reconsider ( the woman literally begged on bent knees because she cared about those homeless kids), the f\*cking bastard ignored her while his whorebag mistress stood there enjoying the private show. Mother F\*cker ! This novel made want to turn the air blue with a rampage of cuss words. Did I mention how much I wanted to see his mistress be tortured? That whore cackled like the witch faced c\*nt that she was and it just riled my every last nerve. The fact that the "hero" had not been having sex ( at that time ) with the dirty slut did not matter because he had paid the prostitute to humiliate the heroine by lying and telling her how much sex they had been having. When the prostitute took her insults too far and made the heroine cry the "hero" finally dumped the whore and sent her on her way. That still did not pacify my need for vengeance. I still say that the former mistress deserved to be boiled in oil and then dumped for sharks to feed on. This bitch had me thinking of all the various ways Jason Voorhies and Freddie Krueger had tortured their victims.

That was not the worst that was done to the heroine because of the "hero's" evil villainy. The poor heroine wanted to save the homeless kids and knew that the only way she could do so was to take them to London because she had her own house and money there. She had been lucky to have received that inheritance from

her aunt. Her aunt was also smart enough to keep that legacy totally separate so that no one, including the hero and the heroine's evil father, would be able to take it from her. The heroine didn't have any money so she had a huge problem transporting the kids to London. She was lucky that the stable boy at the "hero's" estate had allowed her to use a horse ( instead of the old mule that the "hero" had provided ) but there were too many kids for one horse to pull on a ramshackle wagon all the way to London. The kind heroine decides that the toddlers and the younger kids would sit on the wagon while she and the 2 older boys would walk. This poor woman developed huge blisters on the soles of her feet because she walked all the way to London. Her feet had swollen so much that her boots had to be cut from them by the doctor. The doctor even told the "hero" that she was lucky that her toes didn't have to be amputated. The little money the "hero" had given her was used to buy food for the kids on the journey. This heroine was an angel, who saved these downtrodden starving kids and their love saved her sanity when she thought she had little for which to live. The oldest boy was her little soldier too; I loved how the little guy tried to beat she thit out of the "hero's" ass.

At points in this novel I started wondering if I was in a Dickens or Hardy novel. This level of physical suffering is too extreme for a romance novel. In fact I try to stay away from romance novels that focus on too much physical suffering but this one was unexpected and I kept reading because I needed to see how the c\*nt "hero" would redeem himself. I couldn't forgive the "hero" even when he grovelled. I didn't even care that he had been cruel to her because her dad had caused his father's death and forced his mother to become a whore. He should have simply put a bullet in her father's head and just left the poor sweet woman alone in peace. His brand of vengeance was too f\*cked up and sinister. Her father was just as bad ! Her father had her kidnapped and placed in an asylum and then sold her to a vile bastard who threw her into a tub of very hot water because he decided that he needed to wash away the asylum's filth before he raped her. This poor woman ! Ok, at least she was saved from being raped but the kind of physical suffering she endured was over the top ridiculous. I still can't believe she had the kind heart to forgive this beast of a "hero".

I can't, with a good conscience, recommend this for those readers who are sweet little romantics and read romance novels to feel all good and bubbly inside. This novel will torment your soul if you're a sensitive reader with triggers for human suffering. I'm aware that there's a lot of cruel shit that happens to people in the world but I don't like reading about it in romance novels.

If I'm in the mood for human suffering, I will read an old Richard Laymon novel or something that's horrifyingly crazy by Edward Lee ( my personal horror master ). However I separate my genres and when I read romance, I like it light, fluffy and happy with a tinge of angst...

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## **Cheesecake says**

I knew this would be horrid, but it was even worse than I expected. In fact, this was one of the most unromantic romance books I have ever read!

Reanna the nit wit and Killian the other nit wit. Between the two of them, they may be able to rub two brain cells together.

OK so here we go... Reanna's dad is a big time scumbucket. But she doesn't know this as she wasn't raised by him. Killian hates her dad, and marries her for revenge. They have a wonderful wedding night until Killian realizes that he is supposed to hate her and he hates her with gusto.

Leaves her to fend for herself on a forgotten estate until a year later he shows up with his nasty mistress (seriously why are the mistresses always so nasty? How can the H keep it hard when having sex with such trolls??). Some orphans show up like she's an orphan magnet, and he kicks her out, meaning her to walk them all to the nearest orphanage which is a terrible place.

She decides to walk them to London.

He feels guilty, sort of, and kicks his mistress to the curb. But it's too late when he tries to find his wife. Eventually, he finds her in London, but the h's sh\*t end of the sick isn't anywhere near at an end. Seriously, the horrible skin afflictions she is forced to endure are so over the top, unrealistic and just **gross**.

Safety (view spoiler)

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## Joan Osborne says

### Enjoyable romance

First off, I want to explain the reason for my 4 star rating. It has nothing to do with my enjoyment of this story and if not for one thing I would definitely have rated it 5 stars. Normally I am not someone who rates down a story for minor things but I found the swearing being done by Reanna to be out of place for a gently bred young woman from this time period and Reanna was depicted as a very gentle woman so why would she be cussing no matter how angry she was? Other than that one drawback, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. I have to admit that I did not Like Killian much in the beginning but once I learned of his reasons for seeking revenge, I was inclined to forgive him. The scene with his mistress disgusted me, the fact that he brought her to their home and allowed her to talk to Reanna in such a way more than disturbing and his cruel response to Reanna's request which brought not only emotional but physical pain to her was hardly commendable. Like all heroes, Killian managed to redeem himself in my eyes but I loved that the heroine did not give in right away and fall immediately into his arms. After the despicable way he treated her, it would have been implausible. The suspense towards the end of the book had me staying up late to finish it. All in all, I found Unmasking the Marquess to be a highly entertaining romance taking me from tears, to anger, to joy and finally to suspenseful anticipation of a happy ending.

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## KatieV says

I'm a sucker for the books where the hero hurts the innocent heroine out of some misguided revenge against her family. This one definitely had that, but the hero was too weak for me. If you like the alpha males, this guy isn't one. He's not even a beta... It was too bad, too, because there are too few books where the hero has to actually try to get the heroine back for more than a page.

Also, the language was odd. It did not feel like 1800s England. Definitely more modern in thinking and speaking patterns than I'm happy with in a historical.

There was lots of crazy. The kitchen sink treatment. Which, hey, not judging. I seek out the crazy. But I was confused with the mess in the last 3rd when the heroine's evil father has her kidnapped. Very convoluted and an overload (yes, I said it - "an overload"). Just one more comment on that: I'm not a doctor, but pretty sure if you get dunked in 'boiling' water, you'll be horribly scarred for life IF you survive it. You won't just have some blisters and have to wear smelly cream for a few days while it heals.

Others have enjoyed this, but it just wasn't my cuppa.

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## Rachel says

I liked this book because our Heroine was stronger than usual in these types of books. Also she managed to do so without being annoying, which is apparently a difficult balance to reach.

Our Hero was very focused on one task despite there being evidence in place that this wouldn't be the best course of action for him. So he kind of didn't deserve her forgiveness. But I am a sucker for a happily ever after.

The final conflict felt very forced and unnecessary.

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### **Liz says**

KJ Jackson is one of my new must read authors. iBooks had a free copy of Stone Devil Duke and I enjoyed it so much that I quickly read this one and My Captain, My Earl. Ms. Jackson is such a wonderful storyteller and I just eat up her stories. I couldn't put this book down and finished it in a day. The story was so well developed that I was completely and utterly emotionally involved. With this story, a first happened for me. I always, seriously always, empathize with the hero. Apparently it's just something about a titled gentlemen that apparently makes me swoon. Anyways, back to focusing, this was the first time I didn't empathize with the hero (if you could call him that). You seriously have to be a giant a-hole for me to not root for you. I did understand his point of view and tried with all my being to cheer for him, but I just couldn't. My only criticism would be the story wasn't long enough. Don't get me wrong, with was fully developed and no corners were cute but my mind tells me that if the story developed even further I would empathize with him on a Rhett Butler level. Than again that could just be me trying really hard to always love the hero :)

There were some lovely plot twists and the story line was constantly developing. This apart of a series and I read them in order, but I do believe it stand alone on it's own well enough. Read it now, you won't regret it!

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### **Debbie DiFiore says**

#### **Heartbreaking story**

I cried through approximately 40% of this story. It will tear you up. The Hero is one of the worst heroes I have ever read about. I gave this five stars simply because the author made me feel so much. I loved the heroine and the last 60% of the book was filled with the hero's grovel. I want to write more but I am emotionally exhausted right now. Will be back.

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### **Nessa says**

**WAY BETTER THAN THE FIRST BOOK!**

Finally some emotions worth reading!

If you are up for a semi-tortured hero, then this is your book to go.

#### **OUR HERO:**

Killian, which is a terrific name by the way, is our tortured hero who is not spiritually mean hearted despite the way he tosses his wife aside like yesterday's leftovers. It wrenched a lot of emotions from me and towards the heroine. I can understand why he did it, I don't exactly blame him but that is when his journey begins to properly woo his wife and beg her to give him another chance at love and setting his demons aside.

#### OUR HEROINE:

Reanna is exceedingly naive from the first few chapters until her husband thoroughly breaks her heart and boy was it painful to watch. She later opens up her own orphanage and eventually wounded herself in the process, this part is important because it finally opens Killian's eyes to his wrong doings. She is hurt real bad and it is hard for her to open up and forgive her husband when she has no clue to his reasons. It was nice to watch her grow a backbone and fight against him awhile.

#### OVERALL:

It is quite about pride when it comes to these two. But I absolutely loved it when Killian did not hesitate to set his aside his pride, literally begging for her to take him back and give him a chance to prove that they can have love again. I couldn't have loved it better!

#### THIS I URGE YOU TO READ!

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#### **J??£ says**

Usually I find that I love a book for its hero. This book, however, had an amazing heroine. I loved seeing her overcome all of her struggles. I'm giving it 4 stars because, for more than half the book, I truly hated the so called hero.

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#### **Tracy T. says**

This ended up being a great story!

I was really worried about this story at the beginning. But it did end up being a very good book. The hero, Killian was really quite mean to the naive heroine, Reanna. It was a rough start the way he treated her. I don't usually like it when this happens, however, he put her through a lot stuff and she ultimately made her a much stronger not so naive heroine. For that the book ended up to very good. Watching her grow and making her strong was a plus. Had she stayed the naive heroine would have made a bad story.

The chemistry between the H and H was great. There are some hot and steamy sex scenes too. Lots of dialogue throughout the whole book was great. I like lots of dialogue.

The story line and plot was great and the story flowed very nicely. Easy to read and follow. I also enjoyed the characters from the previous book showing up and being part of the story. Really enjoying this series. I like that this author is not afraid to write some of the cringing scenes. It makes for some good OMG moments.

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#### **Aou says**

How can I describe my feelings? I've read last year but I remember most of it. Sainly and loving heroine and the most cruel, horrible, asshole, giant jerk Hero bozuntusu (I mean so called hero). Of course he grovelled. Was it enough? NO! But Ms. Jackson wrote one of the best trainwrecky angsty book. It was like Arabesk. (a Turkish movie that mocked with angsty Turkish movies with using all the cliches ever used )

Anyway, for the love of tears I shed, 3,5 stars.

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### **Ms Em says**

#### **Beyond stupid**

Scratching my head not sure why the heroine is totally the opposite from book #1. I really enjoyed Aggie and Devin and was looking fwd to read Killian's (H) but his character not what I imagined would Ms. Jackson portray him to be since I do like him in book #1. The h either lack of backbone or just plain dumb..seriously? Pls write another character like Aggie and Hero just like Devin.

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### **Wendy Tavenner says**

This was such a good book, so many twists and turns. Killian is only out for revenge and he doesn't care who gets hurt including his worst enemies daughter whom he marries to get revenge. The day after Reanna marries the man she loves he calls her a whore and so much more then banishes her to a property he never visits. Her life is crushed. After almost a year Killian goes to his home with his mistress to only crush Reanna even more!!! He realizes after that what he has finally done and will do anything to gain her trust and live again. There is so much heart ache that makes you cry reading the book. Another awesome book from the author!!!

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