



The Hidden Heiress

Juliet Moore

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To escape a killer, Isabel Darton is forced to flee the only home she's ever known and adopt the identity of a governess.

Too late, she realizes that she must deceive not only those around her, but also the uncle of her charge, Marshall Templeton, a man she's falling in love with.

Desperate to tell him the truth, yet fearful for his life, she must decide if the risk of her heart is worth the endangerment of his life.

Determined to become a junior lord of Parliament, Sir Marshall Templeton is resolute to procure a suitable wife. Except the women his sister-in-law parades before him leave him with a permanent scowl.

With great irritation, he finds his attention drawn to his brother's new governess, Isabel, and tries to dismiss his interest. But as his heart has other ideas, he's torn between an untitled woman who could jeopardize all he seeks to gain and the respectability he's always strived for.

Era: Victorian

Length: 70,000 words

Sensuality Rating: Subtle

The Hidden Heiress Details

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Author : Juliet Moore

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From Reader Review The Hidden Heiress for online ebook

Alison says

I liked the plot, although I did get a bit anxious towards the end of the story. I wish she had added an epilogue, I would've loved to have known what else had happened to the characters.

Dawn says

This one really didn't work for me. The character's were not well developed and the pacing was off. Perhaps if it was a full novel it would have been better now I kind of want my dollar back.

Ros says

So *that's* a bodice-ripper. I often wondered. Now at least I know: I don't like 'em. The language wasn't formal enough, there was too much heavy breathing (if you know what I mean) - but the storyline was interesting.

Beckie Treble says

Again, I couldn't sleep last night, so I read this. I read it because it was short and on my list to read and I'm really glad I did. Isobel really played the part of being a governess when actually she's an heir to a huge fortune. I thought the reason why she went into the job was excellent, and the ending. I wanted to kill the cow who was trying to destroy her :) A lovely way of saying kill, right?

fabulous. Loved it. Going to see if Ms Moore has anymore books, so I can devour them as well :)

KyBunnies says

I like the interesting short story but it seemed like a lot of the words and phrases were on correct for the era setting used by the author. This book does need some editing by the author for the correct words/phrases to be using during the setting but I still enjoyed this book.

If the reader will take into consideration that the author is probably new with the book needing some editing then everyone will enjoy this book.

Sandra says

No Hiding From the Truth

I truly dislike writing a book review when I have to struggle to come up with even a few positive comments, so here goes. "The Hidden Heiress" has an entertaining plot line about an heiress in mortal danger from an unknown assassin, so she hides out in plain sight as a governess, but under an assumed name. Because everyone knows the aristocracy doesn't really "see" the help. They're just part of the furnishings and trappings of the wealthy and titled classes. Okay, a decent premise from which to build. Unfortunately the execution of said plot falls short of its potential in a few ways. Character development of Isabel and Marshall is adequate but suffers from serious inconsistencies from Isabel. She goes from prim to the point of prudish, suddenly veering into wantonly, all in the span of a few pages. I thought my neck would snap just from trying to follow along. Add to that the sheer banality of some of the dialogue, throw in a gazillion distractions from typos, dropped words, incorrect verb tenses, and some other misbegotten words, i.e. dredge vs. drudge and adverse when averse was called for. What you come up with is a poorly told story. I slogged through it out of sheer cussedness although I'm not sure why. But I am now convinced that pretty nearly anyone today can call themselves a published author. But then that says nothing about the quality of said writing, does it?

Denise says

So much potential going by the summary, so much of a let down. In a genre where it's pretty much the same thing every book, I continue my search for ones that stand out. This book did not. I could not like any of the characters. The actions of the main characters made no sense with their purpose or back stories (which we're told very little). I just couldn't connect to this book on any level. *flounced*

Norma says

HIDDEN AGENDA

A lot of room for potential in this book. Seemed like it was hurried with the importance to want details pertaining to the mystery of who was trying to murder Isabel. Would have been better if there was more to the mystery of the book and Marshall was an obsessive stalker, a bit on the scary side for a Hero if you ask me. Talk about over the top pushy guy.

salroka says

To be honest: I never expected a GOOD book when I downloaded it (I got it for free at Amazon.). I expected an amusing book, maybe with sex scenes (That's what you get when you're reading such books) and romantic scenes.

What you'll get is: humour, I would say romance and that's it. Don't get me wrong, it'll contain sex but the author didn't write about it.

It hasn't a good story but it's quite amusing, fun to read and you don't have to think about the book while reading it because it's such a penny dreadful.

January says

When Isabel Darton finds herself on the business end of a murder plot, she goes into hiding as a governess for a wealthy family in London until she can determine who is trying to assassinate her.

Her new employers have a difficult daughter who has run off all the previous governesses. As a servant of the family, Isabel soon finds that a life of servitude isn't all it's cracked up to be. Her employers see only her lower station, even though they are forced to include her in some of their social events to avoid unlucky numbers.

Marshall Templeton is a second son, the brother of Isabel's employer, with a promising political career. As a member of Parliament, his interest in a governess as anything other than a passing fancy is frowned upon in his social circles. The problem is Marshall just can't get Isabel out of his mind.

I enjoyed this book, though I did like Punish Me with Roses better. The characters were well-developed and there was a very intriguing conflict. I would have liked to see more of the mystery-solving in this one. Isabel does do a little digging, but for the most part she waited for the answers to fall into her lap. Though to be fair, she did have her hands full with the troubled girl as well as two men who couldn't seem to take no for an answer.

I like Juliet Moore's story lines. She does a good job drawing the reader into her character's lives. This wasn't my favorite of the two books I've read, but I do think it's worth recommending to others. It gets your heart racing in several places. And there are parts you'll want to re-read. The love story was complete, but there were a few holes in the mystery.

Jolie says

I read this book in one day....lol. I am a sucker for historical romance and with it being set in England and Victorian, I was a very happy girl.

Once I started reading the book, I was drawn into the characters. I felt really bad for Isabel. Someone tried to kill her twice, she is the governess to a bratty 13 year old, she has to constantly dodge the attention of her charge's father and she falls in love with Paige's (the 13 year old) uncle. Plus, she is trying to find out who has it out for her.

I did find it fascinating about the clear lines of who could marry who back then. Men (well the rich ones) couldn't marry "below" themselves (ie the maid/governess) and if they did, they were shunned. Lower class women could marry up but they were ridiculed and often accused of being a gold digger (for lack of a better word).

I could not have lived in such a male dominated society. Women could be seen, not heard. Wives were supposed to live with their husbands having mistresses. The help (ie maids/governesses) were supposed to just give into the master of the households.

The author did a great job of keeping who wanted to hurt Isabel until literally the last chapter.

Will I read this book again? Yes.

Will I recommend it to family and friends? Yes.

Faith says

This book could have had 4 stars except for the one scene. Although most of it was behind closed doors, there was enough mentioned that knocked the review down to four stars. Other than that, I liked everything else about the story. It was well-paced, well-written, and the characters were well-developed.

Laurel says

This is an apparently love it or hate it book. I am one of the hate it folks. The storyline was promising... even the characters were promising...the writing was dismal at best. Perhaps I should say amateurish. There was no development between our hero and heroine. I could go on and on but I believe this says enough.

Tia says

This story oozed romance. To give up all for love. How endearing is that. Isn't that what we all want? Someone to love us most, to love us more than anything and everything. Someone to value you and protect you, that is the job for Marshall Templeton. For Lady Isabel Darton it would be to marry beneath her station and for Marshall it would mean to give up a coveted position which both were willing, yet hesitant to do. This story has mystery, deceit, infidelity and intrigue to engage the reader throughout.

Alanna Jenkins says

Every now and again I get an email from Amazon offering me books that are similar to what I've in the past. Nine times out of ten, these emails result in several additions to my reading list, and my latest email was no exception. I was offered two Victorian romance novels by Juliet Moore, and one caught my attention so much that I downloaded it straight away and started reading.

The Hidden Heiress is the story of Isabel Darton, recent heiress to her family fortune and living with her brother and two cousins in their family's country estate. Isabel is out riding one day when she is shot at in the woods, she makes it home almost 100% unharmed to find that her brother has been killed by the same attacker. She decides to go into hiding until she can find out who is trying to kill her, telling only one of her cousins where she is going. When she reaches her town house, someone poisons her tea, and she decides that she's going have to go deeper into hiding. She applies for a job as a governess under a different name and moves into the family's house to look after their 13 year old daughter. The girl's uncle and her interviewer for the post, Marshall Templeton, has an unexpected effect on her and she finds herself struggling to keep her secret. Marshall is in the process of trying his best to gain a position in government, and knows that in order to qualify he must marry well in society. What he doesn't expect is that his niece's new governess would tempt him so much; he has to decide what is more important to him – his position in society and government, or marrying for love.

Isabel and Marshall were both adequately written characters for the purposes of the story. Isabel was shown as strong-willed and defiant, unafraid to do what she needs to do to protect herself – it's not often the rich

heroine is willing to give up her fortune for a life as a governess. She was feisty and quick-witted, making her an interesting read. Marshall came across as quite suave, but was always depicted as a gentle, caring man. His affections towards Isabel were always on show, unlike many male leads in these kinds of novels; his dilemma doesn't come from being able to tell Isabel how he feels, but from working out whether or not he should be led by his feelings. This is a different dynamic to what I'm used to reading (normally the male lead is stubborn about how he feels and is blind to the obvious) and I really enjoyed it.

The plot for the novel seemed like a nice mix of romance and mystery to start off with; we, as the reader, would get to follow Isabel as she figured out what to do about Marshall and as she tried to discover who was trying to kill her. While both of those things were present, it was not in the way I expected. Most of the novel was focused on the romance between Isabel and Marshall and finding a happy conclusion to that. The mystery aspect to the story, which I was rather looking forward to as a fairly dominant sub-plot, wasn't dominant enough for my liking and was overshadowed by Isabel's relationship with the family that have hired her (particularly her charge, the little girl). I would have liked to see more tension around the identity of her attacker; the way it was written, it felt very cramped and rushed in the last few chapters of the book. However, the family dynamic that was given to the reader instead was well written and made Isabel's new world feel more complete than if the reader had only given us insight into Isabel herself and her relationship with Marshall.

Whenever I read romance novels they tend to be regency, but reading this had opened me up to the possibility of reading more Victorian-based novels. The book was an enjoyable read and I did find myself eager to discover the conclusions of characters that were easy to fall into step with. I've got another of Juliet Moore's books waiting to be read on my Kindle, so I'll be picking that up in the near future.
