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The Earl Next Door: The Bachelor Lords Of London



Synopsis

USA Today Bestseller American heiress Piety Grey is on the run. Suddenly in London and facing the renovation of a crumbling townhouse, she's determined to make a new life for herself "anything is better than returning to New York City where a cruel mother and horrid betrothal await her. The last thing she needs is a dark, tempting earl inciting her at every turn. Trevor Rheese, the Earl of Falcondale, isn't interested in being a good neighbor. After fifteen years of familial obligation, he's finally free. But when the disarmingly beautiful Piety bursts through his wall and into his life his newfound freedom is threatened even as his curiosity is piqued. Once Piety's family arrives in London, Falcondale suddenly finds himself in the midst of a mock courtship to protect the seductive woman who's turned his world upside down. It's all for show or at least it should be. But if Falcondale isn't careful, he may find a very real happily ever after with the woman of his dreams. An Avon Romance

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Customer Reviews

This book could have been a solid 4 and even a 4.5 had the author done a little basic research. The writing was engaging and well done, the plot was entertaining and the characters captivating. Yet here I am teetering between a 2.3 and 3 on my review scale. The reason for this is

the authors rather obvious lack of even basic historical research. I would like to make it clear I also blame her editor. Because the things that were off were the obvious things. (very mild spoilers) Regular readers of Regency romance know that prior to 1829 you would go to Bow street not Scotland yard. They also know that the revolver was not even a concept in the Regency age, a villain with a gun would be carrying a rather large 1 shot pistol not pull out a revolver they happened to have on them. As for the epilogue, well I cringed as the Napoleonic War started in 1807. The entire book felt VICTORIAN in atmosphere and details. I like Victorian romances, I just do not want them set in 1808. These annoying details could easily been edited without changing the plot, story arch etc. (Alternately, the date of events could have been altered to match the book) All that would have been required was either A.) The author read a few regency (NOT VICTORIAN) romances so she at least gets an idea of the era or B.) The author utilize the internet and type life in Regency era Britain into a search engine than refine her searches and details from there. The historical inaccuracies did not ruin the book. It is a good read and worth buying at 1.99. So a 3 star review is about right.

I received a copy of this title to read and review for Wicked Reads 3.5 Stars. The Earl Next Door had a difficult start for me, but I was glad I continued to read when I almost gave up. Be forewarned, the pacing is slow, and the storyline itself takes a long time to reveal itself, neither of which make a page-turner. The narration is by Piety, Trevor, and the nurse/chaperone, each offered a unique perspective to the story. Trevor is an introvert, longing for peace and tranquility, and it takes more than half the book before the reader learns why he yearns for such. Piety is a strong-willed, independent American who has moved to London for her own reasons, colliding and creating chaos in Trevor's silent world. Even with the slow pacing and an enigma of a storyline, Piety & Trevor kept me engaged when otherwise I would have moved on to another book. Witty banter, sometimes cuttignly so from Trevor, but Piety rolled with it and handed it right back in a way that wouldn't turn into a fight or offer more opportunity to insult. These fiery exchanges led to amazing chemistry, and a strong connection felt by the readers. The side cast was engaging, especially the self-appointed, elderly keeper of the street, and a wide variety of female cast members. The story was written in such a way that the next narrator (no doubt) was introduced at the end, whetting appetites for his book to follow. I'm going to be slightly critical now, because it wasn't without struggle that I read and completed the story itself. I hope those who are struggling read this review and decide to continue on, because it is worth it. Absolutely. There were certain plot points that I felt absolutely ludicrous.

I have finished *The Earl Next Door*, and I found the story extremely entertaining. For a debut story it's funny, entertaining, and time worth spent. I found that a list of characters would probably work better for this review. Here we go:

- *Piety Grey: What a hoot. Oh my goodness this American heiress is fabulous. She's a fast talker, who magically gets whatever she wants. She's also charismatic and everywhere. However, she's a sweet girl, who wants a chance to live her life as she like, which she couldn't do that in New York. Good old mommy dearest.
- *Idelle Grey-Limpett and her thugs (I mean her stepsons): Mother dearest. She's something else. I totally wanted to throat punch her when she enter the scene. She's horrible person who is extremely selfish. You wonder if it's possible to hate a character that much. She's definitely not vying for the mother of the year award. The stepsons are thugs.
- *Trevor Rheese, the Earl of Falcondale: All he ever wanted was peace and quiet, uncomplicated but that came crashing down when Piety stepped into his life. His life has never been the same. As the story unfolds you get an understanding why he wants an uncomplicated life, and why he avoids people.
- *Lady Frances Stroud, Marchioness Frinfrock: We meet her right off the back. She's concerned about her neighborhood. Busybody of sorts. She plays a huge part into get getting Piety and Trevor together. Deep down she's a softy at heart. Shh, don't let anyone know.
- *Miss Jocelyn Breedlove: She starts off as Lady Frinfrock's nurse/companion. However, they aren't a good suit. Miss Breedlove ends up being companion to Piety, and they become fast friends.

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