

MR. MALCOLM'S LIST



A Farce of Historic Proportions

BY

SUZANNE ALLAIN

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The Honorable Mr. Malcolm has a secret. This elusive matrimonial prize, long the target of desperate debutantes and their matchmaking mothers, is well known for his fastidiousness. What is not well known is that he has a list of qualifications for his future bride. Can any woman hope to win the heart of such a hardened critic? Selina Dalton can only try her best. And when she begins to succeed, Jeremy Malcolm is not sure whether he has discovered the perfect woman... Or the perfect hoax.

Mr. Malcolm's List Details

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From Reader Review Mr. Malcolm's List for online ebook

QNPoohBear says

This light romantic comedy is filled with the usual cliched characters and plot devices. I didn't like the relationship between Malcolm and Selina. I felt it could have been better developed aside from mere physical attraction. They are both intelligent and witty but most of their interactions are sparse on dialogue. Malcolm mostly comes across as a snob who doesn't really know what he wants. Selina is a bit too nice at first but she improves as her temper is tried. Another character experiences a change of heart which seems too abrupt. The dialogue is stilted and unrealistic and there's lots of telling as opposed to showing. The list plot has been done much better elsewhere. If you enjoy the light, fluffy books of Clare Darcy and other Georgette Heyer copycats you'll like this one. If you can get a copy for free or download the inexpensive e-book version, then this book is worth the money. It was not well-written enough for me to feel the paperback was worth the price.

Amy says

2019 Review

Still a fabulously fun read, but this time I think I enjoyed Incognito better. I recommend reading both. (Not as much a fan of The Celebrated Pedestrian)

2018 Review

So first you read Jane Austen. And Jane's great! Iconic, even! But sometimes, deep down, you have to admit...she isn't where you go for a comfortable romance.

Then you discover Georgette Heyer. And she's amazing! Readable, fun, romantic...everything you've hoped for. Until eventually, you run out of her books to read.

Now what?

You try getting other Regency books from the library. They leave you blushing hard but simultaneously banging your head against the wall because the historical detail is so off. But you're an addict now. You need your Regency fix and you can only re-read *Pride and Prejudice* or *The Grand Sophy* so many times.

Then a book like *Mr. Malcolm's List* comes along. From a technical standpoint, it isn't a perfect book by a long shot. It plays a little loose with historical detail (all that first-name calling!) and comfortably relies on some scandalous behavior, but it is. so. fun! And best of all, it fills that Regency craving *without* causing you to blush.

That's right, clean but *swoon-worthy*.

There isn't much drama in this plot. Not too many characters get introduced, the important ones all end up at a tiny house party. Despite a possible secondary love interest, this is no love triangle. The main couple falls instantly in love. But it isn't an awkward insta-love. They don't give into their lusts. Instead, it adds to the storyline.

The two main characters are rather perfect...but never annoyingly so. Malcolm is drool-worthy. Where can I find one?

Although at the times the story gets borderline preachy, it never crosses a line into irritating.

And it is so unexpectedly funny! And sweet! I found myself flipping back to re-read scenes I'd just read because they caught me as so deliciously funny or romantic.

I particularly liked scenes that I think will go one way, but instead go another. (view spoiler)

Also, all the innuendo in this book! It was the perfect mix of adult humor and tongue in cheek reality. It felt

healthy and didn't cross any lines. I appreciated it immensely.

I probably would have waited to review this book until I've had a chance to sleep on it and let my earlier glow fade, but I've got Incognito lined up on my Kindle and I just want to go devour it.

Definitely a book I will be returning to!

Andrea Lundgren says

I was prepared for this to be not-Georgette-Heyer going into it. I wasn't prepared for the areas where we lose the big things that made upper class Regency society what it was. At one point, the heroine and hero are together, in an alcove at a ball...and when he tries to kiss her, she succumbs. Where was the hitting-him-with-her-fan for his advances? Assuming she didn't want to become his mistress, what was she thinking? Gentlemen don't take advantage of young women when their foot has demanded that they leave the ballroom.

I really liked the concept. The idea had such possibilities, and the story started out well, but it felt historically studied. The characters seemed to have modern thinking, and I ended up exploring the topic of how hard it is to write a historical fiction book with a modern mindset on my

Genean says

This is a well paced charming book that is built for farce! If a man were to be hung by his own petard it could only be by a woman without an agenda to her own cause. A light hearted read well stocked in follies that leave the reader with lots of laughs. Not a must read, however a good why not poke a bit of fun from this one?

Emmy says

Update 6/29/15

I'm knocking this down a star because, despite the fact that I read it 3 weeks ago, I can't remember a single thing! It's that forgettable.

This book could have used a bit more fleshing out. At only two hundred pages, there was plenty more opportunity to delve more into the characters and spend more time examining their motivations. Particularly the second half of the book, it felt like things were magically resolved a bit too much.

Beth Bedee says

I've never actually read a book from this genre before. I know, I know...have I been hiding under a rock? What can I say, Cliffs notes were my friend in school.

After reading so many "romances" that are in your face with the content, I was wondering how I'd respond to the subdued nature of the the content of this book. I thoroughly enjoyed it. In fact, I flew through the book finishing it in 2 days.

It was well-written, and the dialogue was extremely clever. I really enjoyed the characters. Even the ones I disliked at first, I liked at the end. At the beginning, I made predictions about where I thought the plot was heading, but was wrong. I'm glad that the story wasn't that predictable.

While reading it, I couldn't help thinking what a great stage play this would make. Even while reading it, I felt like I could totally hear the characters as they were saying the lines. Maybe this is the Drama teacher in me coming out.

Alice says

Regency Wit and Humour

A Regency Romance filled with devious plans and counterplans that leave our hero and heroine in confusion. Yet their witty dialogue carries the tale as they genuinely fall in love contrary to the manipulation of their friends.

A sweet, clean love story told with humour. Light and fun.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

After reading *Ingocnito* by Allain I had to see what other books she had written, which is how I found *Mr. Malcolms List*. This was probably just as fun as *Incognito*, both are lighthearted regency novels. I thought the story idea was fun, the characters likable and of course I love the regency setting. I admit, I did not love Mr. Malcolm, but he did grow on my throughout the story. I definitely think it's a good idea to have a general idea of what qualities you look for in a spouse, I just didn't always like how he went about things or the items on his list (but, to each their own). Selina was really likable though, I liked that she was honest (for the most part) and held her own. They have good chemistry together and was not only happy for them, but for all the side characters as well. If you're in the mood for a fun, light read then I'd give this one a try!

Brenda says

I started this book last evening, having read the first chapter online, and could not put it down.

I recently discovered the *Pink Carnation* series by Lauren Willig and this was very similar in atmosphere and temper. Light-hearted, well crafted, and a very easy read. I think that fans of Georgette Heyer and Jane Austen will find this book a pleasant romp. Mr. Malcolm is reminiscent of Mr. Darcy, a bit rigid in the beginning but quite pliable in the end.

I read this in a single sitting. It is a very quick read and a quite enjoyable one! I am now very interested in reading Ms. Allain's other novel, *Incognito*.

Lesr Kew says

Very cute and many laugh out loud moments. It started out a 3 for me and got better and better as it went along.

Kylara Jensen says

This is a fantastic study on how not to write a regency romance.

Let me just start by saying that Selina is more than a tolerable main character. I liked her a lot. I don't think I would have been able to finish this book if I had to deal with an annoying mc on top of everything else.

Let's just run through it.

Setting: Awful.

It's like Allain read one regency romance and then decided to write her own, with no knowledge of history or Britain. The language is so very modern. They might as well have said YOLO SWAG! It's like she made a little checklist for the setting.

Costume ball-check.

Call on someone in town-check.(Did I send a card? Am I wearing a morning dress? Did I take a hackney?)

Carriage ride in the park-check.

Visit family in the country-check.

This book just made me so much more appreciative of Georgette Heyer's books.

Characters- Meh.

Julia is an awful friend. She is completely different in the second half of the book. So different that she may as well have been a different person. Her motivations don't make any sense. Julia's brother is dashing what ho. Spiffing darling. Shall we have a go at whist then go see the horses. (In other words he's super British and essentially a joke.)

I did like Selina's relationship with her parents. I really liked Henry.

Relationships-Blech.

Don't get me started on Mr. Malcolm. He was awful. Horrible. One of the worst male leads I have ever read in a romance. There is no chemistry. No logical reason for her to like him. I really wish Selina and Henry would have gotten together. And at the end he was treating her horribly. He was telling everyone they were engaged so she couldn't "weasel" out of it. (Dubcon much?) And what the heck was up with them constantly ending up in compromising positions. People didn't fall into puddles/fountains and have mudfights so much back then.

Structure of the story: This is the worst.

This is possibly the best example of how not to structure your novel ever. The climax is like 100 pages away from the conclusion. The denouement goes on FOREVER. This book is way too long. It should have only

been a novella.

And the way it is, it's like it's in two parts I already said Julia is a totally different character. Well it's like a totally different book.

WHY DO SO MANY THINGS HAPPEN BEFORE THEY CAN RESOLVE THIS? Like seriously. Just wrap it up.

Anyway, if you're looking for a regency romance, try Georgette Heyer or Eloisa James. Not this.

Carolyn says

I really love books about the Victorian era in which passion has to be suppressed by societal conventions and manners. This story is that type. I actually would give it two and a half stars, if that were possible, because it is not all that well-written, but it was "cute." There is some clever, laugh-out-loud repartee between the main characters. Not great literature, but an enjoyable read.

Melody says

Well, this was a super fun book! I quite enjoyed it! It's funny - I thought, after looking at the synopses, that I would like another book of Suzanne Allain's (Incognito) better, but this one was better, in my opinion.

Essentially, this is a Regency period romantic comedy. Mr. Malcolm is the second son of an earl, but has inherited a large estate and a huge amount of money, so he is a popular guy with the ladies. To make sure he finds everything he wants in a woman (and protects his heart), he's composed a list of qualities he wants in a wife. Most of us do this in our minds, without even thinking about it, but he had so much on his list, it would be impossible to find the perfect woman who fit it all... or would it?

Humiliated by Mr. Malcolm's lack of attention and finding out about his list, Julia Thistlewaite invites her old school friend Salina Dalton to town to help her exact revenge. They don't know everything on it, but they know enough to have Salina imitate several of Mr. Malcolm's list items, get him attracted, then spurn him. But what happens when Salina starts falling in love with him? And what happens when he finds out he's being duped?

This really was a great read. The side characters were all interesting too. Julia had a tendency to drive me nuts, but I could sort of see her motivations. And everyone's efforts to help in the end led to some pretty funny scenes.

I'll definitely be reading this one again, which makes it a very good thing I purchased my own copy!

5 stars!

Alyssa says

I'm so glad I found this gem of a book on GR and would highly recommend this to anyone wh likes reading well written, clever historical romance with a lot of humour and a delightful cast of characters. In the beginning, we are introduced to Mr Malcolm, a fastidious eligible bachelor with a list of criteria of what he looks for in a bride. Unfortunately for him, one of the ladies he had turned down found out about his list, and with a bad case of sour grapes, she enlisted her attractive friend to help her teach him a lesson. What follows is a laugh-out-loud romp of cat and mouse game that makes for an entertaining read.

Abigail says

I really enjoyed this book! Suzanne Allain's style of writing reminds me a lot of L. M. Montgomery (her short stories, not A of GG). There is the development of characters, the conflict, and resolution complete with a moral. It's succinct, and a very quick read. I highly recommend this delightful book!
