



Lady Claire Is All That

Maya Rodale

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In the third installment of Maya Rodale's captivating, witty series, a marquess finds his fair lady—but must figure out how to keep her

HER BRAINS...

Claire Cavendish is in search of a duke, but not for the usual reasons. The man she seeks is a mathematician; the man she unwittingly finds is Lord Fox: dynamic, athletic, and as bored by the equations Claire adores as she is by the social whirl upon which he thrives. As attractive as Fox is, he's of no use to Claire . . . or is he?

PLUS HIS BRAWN . . .

Fox's male pride has been bruised ever since his fiancée jilted him. One way to recover: win a bet that he can transform Lady Claire, Society's roughest diamond, into its most prized jewel. But Claire has other ideas—shockingly steamy ones . . .

EQUALS A STUDY IN SEDUCTION . . .

By Claire's calculations, Fox is the perfect man to satisfy her sensual curiosity. In Fox's estimation, Claire is the perfect woman to prove his mastery of the *ton*. But the one thing neither of them counted on is love . . .

Lady Claire Is All That Details

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From Reader Review Lady Claire Is All That for online ebook

Luffy says

This is the book that has hobbled me more than any other in my forays on the romance genre. It's with a weary and heavy heart, that I consider putting further regency romances on hold.

I'm sorry about that, as I know that what strikes half the population of the world as valuable, should give me so much strenuous fare, so much boredom, and so much prolonged bamboozlement. This is Luffy, sending back his badge.

Debbie Brown says

Somehow, I had gotten the impression that Lord Fox would be akin to Henry Higgins and that Lady Claire Cavendish would parallel Eliza Doolittle in *Pygmalion/My Fair Lady*. In fact, Lord Fox does make a wager that he can turn her into a lady acceptable to the haute ton. However, he does not have Lady Claire's cooperation, nor is she even aware that he hopes to change her.

Claire, one of three American sisters suddenly thrust upon British society when their brother unexpectedly inherits a dukedom, is quite happy the way she is and doesn't care much whether or not she fits into British high society. While she wears fashionable clothing (thanks to her aunt rather than her own preference), there's always something slightly askew. She wears spectacles and keeps her hair pulled back severely into a rigid bun. Her conversation in company is also odd, as she insists upon bringing up subjects that interest her but are shocking (for a woman) among her new peers. Rather than polite topics of conversation, she is disconcertingly forthright.

Her passion is mathematics and science. She is eager to meet the Duke of Ashbrooke and would love to visit the Royal Society, of which he is a leading member, to discuss and ask questions about the difference engine he has pioneered. As far as Claire is concerned, the chance to meet him is the only advantage of her new social position.

Lord Fox is quite the contrast. He loves competition and always wins, whether it's boxing or horse racing or wooing the ladies. He's a handsome, charming hunk of man, a loveable rake, and he enjoys being a darling of the ton. Heavy thinking? Not so much.

No one is more surprised than Claire when Fox singles her out at social events. They're clearly a mismatched couple, and his pursuit of her is a mathematical problem to her that just doesn't compute.

I do enjoy this author's light, playful writing style. Fox has various amusing names for the intellectual group Claire is enamoured with (such as Royal Society of $X = \text{Boredom}$) and suffers from an excess of Male Pride, which is frequently alluded to. There are also clever overlaps with the stories in the previous two books in this series involving the antics of Claire's sisters, Bridget and Amelia. Claire, as the eldest, is distressed to find that her own concerns have distracted her from protecting them as she believes she should. In all these books, my favorite scenes are invariably when all the siblings are together, teasing each other, getting on each other's nerves as only close-knit families can do.

As much as I enjoyed the story, the characters, the humor, and the writing, I wasn't as pleased with the resolution. (view spoiler) I think the first two books had much better conclusions.

Still, it was entertaining, and I'm glad I read it. I look forward to the next in this series, *It's Hard Out Here for a Duke: Keeping up with the Cavendishes*. This aptly named book is about James Cavendish, the girls' brother, the new Duke of Durham.

Inshirah Kamal says

i was so interested to see how this book will play out.

with lady claire being so intelligent, in love with math and annoyed with dolts.

and lord fox who's handsome, virile, lovable, interested in women and sports but if we are honest a complete DOLT!!!

with a pairing as different as them the book could either be a complete disaster or winner.

happy to say this one was GOOD!!!

Caz says

I've given this an A for narration and a B for content at AudioGals (I liked the story more in audio.)

Anyone familiar with Maya Rodale's current *Keeping Up with the Cavendishes* series can't fail to have noticed that the plots of the previous books in the series (**Lady Bridget's Diary** and **Chasing Lady Amelia**) have been loosely based on famous films**. The plot of *Lady Claire Is All That*, the third instalment, is no exception, deriving a storyline from the 90s movie **She's All That**, which in turn borrowed *its* plot from **Pygmalion**.

The basic premise is that of high-school jock – in this case an incredibly handsome, ridiculously wealthy, hugely popular marquess – meets and falls for high-school geek – here, a new-to-London American lady who is obsessed with mathematics and widely thought to be rather odd. It's a fun, fluffy listen for the most part, but amid the froth, Ms. Rodale manages to make some pertinent points about sexism and feminism, and to include some moments of insight and introspection on the parts of both hero and heroine as they come to realise they need to make some major re-evaluations of their sense of self and plans for the future.

You can read the rest of this review at AudioGals

The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

Link to full review below! So freaking good!!!! A bit *Pygmalion/She's all That* with an allusion to *Mean Girls* in there as well! See full review on The Book Disciple

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance *Summary*

Claire Cavendish, is smart as a whistle when it comes to mathematics. She has a practical view of life and one of the main reasons she wanted to come to London, was to meet and talk with a certain Duke, who shares her viewpoints. But along the way in her search, she stumbles across Lord Fox. Fox, can't resist a wager, and after losing his fiancée to a actor, he engages in a bet with a competing friend. The bet is very simple, persuade Claire Cavendish to be more becoming to the Ton or he loses his most prized dog. Upon meeting Claire he knows that it won't be easy. The Cavenish sisters are very American, and aren't likeable by the Ton. Claire could care less how to dress her hair, or the latest styles in fashion or the best way to discuss dull topics in a ball room. She has a passion for the maths and sciences. Fox isn't her type and Claire isn't Fox's type, however through a course of events they discover passion and love....

Story and Plot Line

Lady Claire Is All That is a story that brings together two opposites that couldn't be more different from each other but somehow Maya Rodale has brought together a captivating story of seeing two people balance each other out. Our hero is a bit of a rake, loves to gamble, drink and horse racing and prize fighting. Our heroine is intelligent, independent and willful. She thinks in pragmatic terms. So these two couldn't be more alike than oil and water. It starts out with a bet gone wrong, and soon Fox and Claire start to find certain things in common with each other.

Now I will admit, I was very intrigued by this story. I was worried I wouldn't like it (since I had some issues with book 2) however this book won me over pretty quickly. The interactions between Fox and Claire are quite entertaining and sharp witted, I loved seeing these two go back and forth between each other. I really liked the family dynamics in this one as well, the brother especially was quite funny. I definitely am looking forward to his book. We also get some other characters from Rodale's "Wicked Wallflower" that made me eager to try that one out soon. What I love about Rodale's work though, is the way she builds her characters. There is quite a bit of growth that come into play here and it doesn't play out in the normal way you would expect either. So she kept me on my toes with this one. Definitely recommend to HR lovers.

The Cover

What a pretty cover....probably my favorite of the series. I love the green color tones in this one, and the cover just sets the right tone that matches the story.

Overall View

Lady Claire Is All That is a fun filled romance that has a witty dialogue, an engaging story line and a warm and likable romance. SIMPLY WONDERFUL!

London, 1824

Lord and Lady Chesham's ballroom

It was a truth universally acknowledged that Maximilian Frederick DeVere, Lord Fox, was God's gift to the ladies of London. He was taller and brawnier than his peers and in possession of the sort of chiseled good looks—above and below the neck—that were more often found in works of classical art. By all accounts he was charming and universally liked by men and women alike, though for different reasons, of course. He won at two things, always: women and sport.

Fox strolled through the ballroom as if he owned the place. He nodded at friends and acquaintances—Carlyle, with whom he occasionally fenced, Fitzwalter, who he had soundly thrashed at boxing last week, and Willoughby, who was always game for a curricule race.

Fox flashed his famous grin as he heard the ladies' usual comments when he strolled past.

"I think he just smiled at me."

"I think I'm going to swoon."

"God, Arabella Vaughn is one lucky woman."

"Was," someone corrected. "Didn't you see the report in The London Weekly this morning?"

Fox's grin faltered.

That was when Mr. Rupert Wright and Lord Mowbray found him. Their friendship stretched all the way back to their early days at Eton.

"We heard the news, Fox," Rupert said grimly, clapping a hand on his shoulder.

"I daresay everyone has heard the news," Fox replied dryly.

It didn't escape his notice that the guests nearby had fallen silent. It was the first time he'd appeared in public since the news broke in the paper this morning, though Arabella had so kindly left him a note the day prior. Everyone was watching him to see how he would react, what he would say, if he would cry.

"Who would have thought we'd see this day?" Mowbray mused. "Miss Arabella Vaughn, darling of the haute ton, running off with an actor."

"That alone would be scandalous," Rupert said, adding, "Never mind that she has ditched Fox. Who is, apparently, considered a catch. What with his lofty title, wealth, and not hideous face."

Fox's Male Pride bristled. It'd been bristling and seething and enraged ever since the news broke that his beautiful, popular betrothed had left him to elope with some plebian actor.

Not just any actor, either, but Lucien Kemble. Yes, he was the current sensation among the haute ton, lighting up the stage each night in his role as Romeo in Romeo and Juliet. Covent Garden theater was sold out for the rest of the season. The gossip columns loved him, given his flair for dramatics both onstage and off—everything from tantrums to torrid love affairs to fits over his artistry. Women adored him; they may have sighed and swooned over Lucien Kemble as much as Fox.

To lose a woman to any other man was insupportable—and, until recently, not something that ever happened to him—but to lose her to someone who made his living prancing around onstage in tights? It was intolerable.

"Just who does she think she is?" Fox wondered aloud.

"She's Arabella Vaughn. Beautiful. Popular. Envious. Every young lady here aspires to be her. Every man

here would like a shot with her,” Mowbray answered.

“She’s you, but in petticoats,” Rupert said, laughing.

It was true. He and Arabella were perfect together.

Like most men, he’d fallen for her at first sight after catching a glimpse of her across a crowded ballroom. She was beautiful in every possible way: a tall, lithe figure with full breasts; a mouth made for kissing and other things that gentlemen didn’t mention in polite company; blue eyes fringed in dark lashes; honey gold hair that fell in waves; a complexion that begged comparisons to cream and milk and moonlight.

Fox had taken one look at her and thought: mine.

They were a perfect match in beauty, wealth, social standing, all that. They both enjoyed taking the ton by storm. He remembered the pride he felt as they strolled through a ballroom arm in arm and the feeling of everyone’s eyes on them as they waltzed so elegantly.

They were great together.

They belonged together.

Fox also remembered the more private moments—so many stolen kisses, the intimacy of gently pushing aside a wayward strand of her golden hair, promises for their future as man and wife. They would have perfect children, and entertain the best of society, and generally live a life of wealth and pleasure and perfection, together.

Fox remembered his heart racing—nerves!—when he proposed because this beautiful girl he adored was going to be his.

And then she had eloped. With an actor.

It burned, that. Ever since he’d heard the news, Fox had stormed around in high dudgeon. He was not accustomed to losing.

“Take away her flattering gowns and face paint and she’s just like any other woman here,” Fox said, wanting it to be true so he wouldn’t feel the loss so keenly. “Look at her, for example.”

Rupert and Mowbray both glanced at the woman he pointed out—a short, frumpy young lady nervously sipping lemonade. She spilled some down the front of her bodice when she caught three men staring at her.

“If one were to offer her guidance on supportive undergarments and current fashions and get a maid to properly style her coiffure, why, she could be the reigning queen of the haute ton,” Fox pointed out.

Both men stared at him, slack jawed.

“You’ve never been known for being the sharpest tool in the shed, Fox, but now I think you’re really cracked,” Mowbray said. “You cannot just give a girl a new dress and make her popular.”

“Well, Mowbray, maybe you couldn’t. But I could.”

“Gentlemen . . .” Rupert cut in. “I don’t care for the direction of this conversation.”

“You honestly think you can do it,” Mowbray said, awed.

He turned to face Mowbray and drew himself up to his full height, something he did when he wanted to be imposing. His Male Pride had been wounded and his competitive spirit—always used to winning—was spoiling for an opportunity to triumph.

“I know I can,” Fox said with the confidence of a man who won pretty much everything he put his mind to—as long as it involved sport, or women. Arabella had been his first, his only, loss. A fluke, surely.

“Well, that calls for a wager,” Mowbray said.

The two gentlemen stood eye to eye, the tension thick. Rupert groaned.

“Name your terms,” Fox said.

“I pick the girl.”

“Fine.”

“This is a terrible idea,” Rupert said. He was probably right, but he was definitely ignored.

“Let me see . . . who shall I pick?” Mowbray made a dramatic show of looking around the ballroom at all the ladies nearby. There were at least a dozen of varying degrees of pretty and pretty hopeless.

Then Mowbray’s attentions fixed on one particular woman. Fox followed his gaze, and when he saw who his friend had in mind, his stomach dropped.

“No.”

“Yes,” Mowbray said, a cocky grin stretching across his features.

“Unfortunately dressed I can handle. Shy, stuttering English miss who at least knows the rules of society? Sure. But one of the Americans?”

Fox let the question hang there. The Cavendish family had A Reputation the minute the news broke that the new Duke of Durham was none other than a lowly horse trainer from the former colonies. He and his sisters were scandalous before they even set foot in London. Since their debut in society, they hadn’t exactly managed to win over the haute ton, either, to put it politely.

“Now, they’re not all bad,” Rupert said. “I quite like Lady Bridget . . .”

But Fox was still in shock and Mowbray was enjoying it too much to pay any mind to Rupert’s defense of the Americans.

“The bluestocking?”

That was the thing: Mowbray hadn’t picked just any American, but the one who already had a reputation for

being insufferably intelligent, without style or charm to make herself more appealing to the gentlemen of the ton. She was known to bore a gentleman to tears by discussing not the weather, or hair ribbons, or gossip of mutual acquaintances, but math.

Lady Claire Cavendish seemed destined to be a hopeless spinster and social pariah.

Even the legendary Duchess of Durham, aunt to the new duke and his sisters, hadn't yet been able to successfully launch them into society and she'd already had weeks to prepare them! It seemed insane that Fox should succeed where the duchess failed.

But Fox and his Male Pride had never, not once, backed away from a challenge, especially not when the stakes had never been higher. He knew two truths about himself: he won at women and he won at sport.

He was a winner.

And he was not in the mood for soul searching or crafting a new identity when the old one suited him quite well. Given this nonsense with Arabella, he had to redeem himself in the eyes of the ton, not to mention his own. It was an impossible task, but one that Fox would simply have to win.

"Her family is hosting a ball in a fortnight," Mowbray said. "I expect you to be there—with Lady Claire on your arm as the most desirable and popular woman in London."

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Nadia says

Ugh, I swear, the entire r/iamverysmart subreddit was created for Claire. She was insufferable at times, but in general they were just wrong for each other. Totally odd and mismatched.

Stacey is Sassy says

She's all that and a big brain too.

3.5 stars

Unfortunately, I can't say I'm a big fan of *Lady Claire Is All That*. I found the characters shallow and very self-absorbed. The hero is a good-looking, privileged man who has been able to live a relatively easy life.

His two main focuses in life up until now have been sports and women. The heroine has lived her life in America with her family but has just moved to London when her brother inherits a dukedom. Her main focus in life is maths and numbers. The two of them live their lives in their own little bubbles.

Lord Fox has been jilted and his male pride a little bruised. To prove he is all man and still someone to be admired, he accepts a wager by a “friend” to make an American intellect who wears glasses into the belle of the ball. He meets Lady Claire and expects the job to be easy. A smile here...a little flirting there...she’ll be so charmed that he’ll be having her follow his lead in no time.

Think again Lord Fox...think again.

Lady Claire has plans for her big brain. Now that she is in London Lady Claire hopes to get the opportunity to use her amazing mathematical abilities. Unfortunately, her aunt, the Duchess, has other plans. Ladies do not show their intelligence. Her aunt wants Claire and her sisters married off to well-established families in London and push the girls to act more ladylike. Claire is not looking for a husband and talks maths as much as possible to scare off illegible bachelors. If only Lord Fox would take the hint. It seems that talking maths is not enough to deter him.

Lady Claire and Lord Fox spend quite a lot of time together and start to enjoy each others company. The wager is still in place but Lord Fox is coming to regret his hasty decision. Lady Claire thought she should be with an intelligent man, not a man who prefers to play a sport instead of using his brain. Lord Fox thought that he should be with a woman with similar interests. Neither are sure they are meant for each but can’t deny their attraction.

The storyline for *Lady Claire Is All That* appealed to me. At times, I liked the characters but more times than not Lady Claire going on and on about her big brain drove me crazy. It wasn’t much better with Lord Fox being so consumed with his good looks and ability to win everything he plays at. The author repeats it often and dedicates paragraphs and paragraphs to the same topic each chapter. I got it the first 5 times.

I did enjoy parts of the story and loved how it ended. My enjoyment would have increased if the characters weren’t so self-absorbed through most of the book. I have not read the first two books in this series and to be honest, I don’t plan to go back and check them out.

Not every author can be your perfect match. *Maya Rodale* is a well-known romance author with a backlog that proves her success. To each, his own and all that jazz, don’t judge this book on my opinion alone. Take the time to read what other’s say, and you may find *Lady Claire Is All That* appeals to your mind, appeals to your senses and works perfectly for you.

I’m an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -

Caz says

3.5 stars

The books in Maya Rodale's current series, *Keeping Up With the Cavendishes* are all loosely based on well-known movie plots. The first book, *Lady Bridget's Diary...* well, that's pretty obvious. The second, *Chasing Lady Amelia* is a retelling of **Roman Holiday** and **Lady Claire is All That** is a reworking of the popular teen-movie from 1999, **She's All That**, which is itself described as a revamp of George Bernard Shaw's **Pygmalion**. This seems to be a bit of a trend in historical romance at the moment – if we're not bombarded by overly-cutesy (and mostly ridiculous) song title-titles, we're getting recycled plots from a medium that wasn't even around at the beginning of the 19th century; and that makes it really hard to maintain any level of historical accuracy, as characters have to be made to think and do things to fit the plot that vary from "unlikely" to "implausible" to "Just - No."

That doesn't mean this isn't an enjoyable book, because it is. I breezed through it in two sittings; it's well-written, the two protagonists are engaging and Ms. Rodale has some good points to make about how we sometimes need to adjust our perceptions of self and others if we're going to be true to ourselves and be the people we're meant to be. I often find myself saying of this author's books that they're ones I will pick up when I want to read something light-hearted and fun and am prepared to check my "historical accuracy" hat at the door. And if that's what you're in the mood for, then it'll likely work for you.

The Cavendish family – three sisters, one brother – moved to London when James Cavendish unexpectedly inherited a dukedom. The three books in the series so far comprise the sisters' stories, and the storylines run more or less concurrently – which means they can be read in pretty much any order. Their chaperone in London is the Dowager Duchess of Durham, and she is doing her best to ensure that the siblings are accepted into London society. That's not an easy task, given the rigidity of English society of the time, and the propensity to look down noses at those uncouth, brash Americans – but it's also true that the Cavendishes aren't making it all that easy on themselves either. Youngest sister Amelia is impatient with all the rules and conventions and does her best to deliberately flout them, and oldest sister Claire has only one purpose in mind – to meet the renowned Duke of Ashbrooke and discuss advanced mathematics with him. To deter any potential suitors, Claire talks about maths to anyone who will listen – which isn't anybody for very long.

Lord Fox is very much the equivalent of the US college Jock in the film. He's gorgeous, fit and excels at pretty much every physical activity he puts his mind to; hunting, fencing, boxing... women... you name it, he's the best at it. He readily admits that he's not the sharpest tool in the box, and doesn't see the trap being set for him when Lord Mowbray wagers that Fox can't take a wallflower and turn her into the darling of the ton. Fox, whose equally lovely fiancée recently dumped him to run off with an actor, is feeling a little bit bruised – he's a winner, not a loser – and only realises what he's let himself in for when Mowbray insists on choosing the recipient of Fox's assistance – Lady Claire Cavendish.

The plotline is straightforward and proceeds as expected, but what makes the book readable is the way Ms. Rodale handles the gradually evolving perceptions of Fox and Claire, both in terms of how they think of themselves and how they see each other. Not to put too fine a point on it, Claire thinks Fox is stupid; and even though, as the story progresses, she starts to see that his is a different kind of intelligence, she continues to believe that because they don't match each other intellectually, they don't belong together. And while Fox is initially all about the wager, he's impressed by Claire's "brainbox"; even when he has no idea what she is talking about, he likes the sound of her voice and way her passion for her topic animates her. He comes to appreciate her for what and who she is and doesn't want her to change, even though it means losing the

wager.

On the downside, however, Claire is fairly self-obsessed, and she's the sort of person who keeps having to remind everyone how smart she is in order to validate her own sense of self-worth. And she's pretty hard on Fox, making it clear that he's too dumb for her even though she's happy to snog and grope him at every available opportunity. He is, however, clever enough to recognise that she's only interested in his body.

Fox isn't perfect, either, and his constant refrain of "I win at everything" gets irritating fast, but he's rather endearing for all that. He is what he is and doesn't try to be something he's not – and I liked that he is prepared to go out on a limb for what he wants and doesn't care what anyone else thinks.

Another flaw is that while the couple does get to know each other well enough to begin to reassess their opinions, there's no real sense of their actually falling in love. One minute, they're not in love, and the next they are – and it's something we're told rather than shown.

In spite of those criticisms, there's no question Ms. Rodale is an accomplished author and she writes the familial relationships in this story very well. This is very much a wallpaper historical though, so if you like historical romance that has a strong sense of period, in which the characters speak and act as though they could plausibly come from the 19th century instead of the 21st, then it might not work for you. And then there is the usual complement of Americanisms – by far the worst of which is the constant use of the word "math". Given that Claire is a mathematician, this is only to be expected, but in England we refer to "maths" with an "s" on the end (it's a contraction of mathematicS, after all). It got very annoying very quickly.

Ultimately, **Lady Claire is All That** is a well-written piece of romantic fluff that's entertaining and easy to read. Anyone in the mood for something in that line could do a lot worse than to pick it up.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

'Lady Claire Is All That' by Maya Rodale is book three in the "Keeping Up with the Cavendishes" series. I have read the first book 'Lady Bridget's Diary' but not the second book 'Chasing Lady Amelia' yet...so for me this was a standalone book. This is the story of Claire Cavendish and Lord Fox. Lady Claire is the oldest and has looked after her sisters and brother since their parents have died. After their brother inherited a title, they moved to London. Lady Claire is not like her sisters and is the bluestocking of the family. Lady Clair is all about numbers and wants to meet the Duke who she has enjoyed reading his writing. Lord Fox was the 'darling' of the town but after his future wife left him for a commoner he has fallen some from the towns eye. So with his 'friends' he has made a bet that he can bring Lady Clair up to town standards. Lady Clair doesn't even remember him from their first meeting which puts Lord Fox on a unsettle footing for him. But Lord Fox keeps trying to win her over so that he can win the bet. Lady Clair thinks that she might use Lord Fox since he has started to awaking her desire. Can these two who are total different people make a real go of a relationship? This was another great book by Ms. Rodale!

"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."

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Hollis says

It's super late, I'm super tired, and I have to wake up in four hours so I'll make this one quick :

"May I have the honour of this dance?"

"What does my dance card say?"

"It says Lord Fox for every dance." He didn't even look.

"That cannot be true."

"[as she's without her glasses] Well, you can't see to argue with me now, can you?"

LADY CLAIRE IS ALL THAT was so much fun. Like the previous installments, we have a historical romance loosely based on a modern film (and, in this case, the story of PYGMALION), and I just loved Rodale's give and take, forward and back, of the handsome charming dude meets unimpressed intelligent woman tale.

"You stayed through that entire conversation on mathematics. You must have been terribly bored."

"I was. But then I noticed I had a prime view down your bodice and I wasn't."

"Did you actually just say that aloud?"

These characters are lightyears apart in manner and yet are exactly what the other needs. It follows the standard plot line and yet was still funny and swoony and I definitely got swept up. I said in past reviews that I so love this Cavendish family and that hasn't changed. Though all three books are taking place simultaneously, in each one we see different angles, different conversations, of those same moments. It adds depth and flair to these characters and definitely keeps you from being bored.

"Speaking of math, fancy calculating the angles of our bedsheets?"

Unlike book two I thought the ebb and flow of Claire and Fox's romance was very consistent, except when it's not supposed to be, and as I love a good hate-to-love (though it was hardly hate in this case, just indifference) I'm naturally predisposed to enjoy this one more. But honestly it was just well executed. Though the themes are familiar, Rodale still had to make us love and care about the interests and struggles and flaws of her characters, and not just the main family. And she does that very well. Including characters we might have been feeling less kind to in book one. Again, different depths.

Can't wait for book four! I had thought maybe James' story would be slipped in amongst that of his sisters but I see he gets his own soon. And, after all the eyerolling and uncomfortable talks in the stables with his siblings over other men, he definitely deserves it.

4.5 "so many pi(e) jokes" stars

Maria Rose says

The American Cavendish family is trying to find their way in the social circles of London, with James having inherited a Dukedom and his three sisters Bridget, Amelia and Claire on the marriage mart. Claire's only desire now that they've upped and moved the whole family to England is to have the opportunity to meet The Duke of Ashbrooke. She's studied his mathematics papers and has ideas of what he could do with his proposed analytical machine. Finding a husband is the least of her concerns. Still, at the insistence of her aunt, the Duchess of Durham, she along with her sisters must put up with weekly balls and introductions to all the important and noteworthy members of society. It's in one of these social situations that she first meets Lord Fox, and it's as unmemorable as any other meeting with someone she could care less about.

Lord Fox, on the other hand, isn't used to being overlooked so easily. The bluestocking Lady Cavendish clearly isn't impressed with him, and having just lost his fiancée to an actor (the scandal of which still hasn't blown over), it's another blow to his ego. When his long time school friend Mowbray challenges him to a bet to make Claire more acceptable to society, he knows he has his work cut out for him. But he's also determined to win. His attempts to charm her at subsequent social occasions go unanswered – until he realizes that introducing her to his friend the Duke of Ashbrooke could garner her attention.

Claire is certainly willing to put up with the vain and charming Lord Fox if he can bring her to the attention of the only man she traveled to England to meet! But a funny thing happens as she and Lord Fox spent time together – she grows to like the man for who he is, even if he has no understanding of math at all. And likewise, Fox becomes quite charmed by Claire's forthrightness, her complete lack of concern for her social status, and her ease in his company. Plus, he finds himself attracted to her, body and mind. But with the bet hanging over Fox, will he come clean to Claire about his original intentions before she finds out on her own and he loses the one woman who has stolen his heart?

What a delightful read! It's stories like this that have endeared me to historical romances for years. The banter in this one is so enjoyable, with the clearly smarter Claire trying at every turn to dissuade Lord Fox's interest by pulling no punches in her conversations with him, and he doggedly trying his best to keep her attention. Fox is a little bit shallow, it's true, but he admits it of himself. Plus, the way he refers to the Royal Society meetings that he escorts Claire to, both to Claire and in his internal monologue had me laughing out loud. As an example:

“There is another meeting of the Royal Society of Boring People to Death with Numbers, on Tuesday. I shall come 'round at two o'clock for you,” Fox told her as he held her hand when she alighted the carriage at Durham House.

And later: 'Fox continued to notice her fine figure while the ladies took tea with the Duchess of Ashbrooke. They seemed to get along exceedingly well. And then Lady Claire and he traveled down a vast corridor to the room where the Royal Society of People Who Were Immune from Death by Boredom of Numbers were gathered around a small machine in the center of the room.'

I loved seeing Fox and Claire come to the realization that they were attracted to each other despite their differences, and that they were really the yin to each others yang and understood one another so well. Claire's difficulty in being taken seriously by the Royal Society because of her being female was understandable but frustrating for Fox. While Claire was used to being maligned and ignored for her intellect, he found it quite annoying and stood up for her when it counted. While Fox may have wanted to appear that he had no cares or concerns in the world other than his own pursuits, the truth of his real heart is seen by Claire and in turn

she soon realizes that he could be the man for her. They share some steamy love scenes and seem destined for a happy ending. But of course secrets always have a way of coming out and the bet Fox made with his friend will destroy his chances with Claire unless he can find a way to salvage the trust between them. I loved how the story played out, the quick wit and delightful characters and seeing an unconventional couple find their soul mates. I highly recommend this story, and I look forward to catching up on the rest of the series!

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the publisher via Edelweiss for review.

This review appears as a blog post at Straight Shootin' Book Reviews:
<https://straightshootinbookreviews.co...>

SmartBitches says

Full review at Smart Bitches, Trashy Books

Apparently I have a reading quirk. When I am sick, and only when I'm sick, I have to read Maya Rodale. Her work has too many cute pop culture references to suit me in a normal state. But when I'm loaded up on Nyquil, nothing makes me quite as happy as a Maya Rodale novel.

Lady Claire Is All That is a homage to the movie *She's All That*, but since I am apparently one of the only people on earth who never saw the latter I have no basis for comparison. It's also supposed to be a tribute to Ada Lovelace, a mathematician who really did exist. However, the only thing that Lady Claire and Ada have in common is that they both love math. It's also the third book in the Keeping Up With the Cavendishes series. I read the first book, *Lady Bridget's Diary* (Grade: B-), but not the second, and I didn't feel I had missed much in terms of being able to follow Book #3. However, I did think that the first book laid the groundwork for the plight of the Cavendish family. Also, the books take place at roughly the same time, so I did enjoy seeing the misadventures of the first book play out in the background of Lady Claire's story.

Even without the Nyquil, this book is quite charming. For one thing, while I loathe math, I LOVE a brainy heroine. I also found it incredibly relatable that while Fox hates math from the first page of the book to the last, he loves that Claire loves math. He loves her enthusiasm, if not the topic about which she is enthused. Claire is never that interested in sports, but she recognizes that doing a sport well does in fact require considerable intelligence, and she recognizes that Fox is much smarter than he thinks he is. They are able to appreciate each other's interests without actually wanting to participate in them.

To say that I only like this author's work when I am, let's face it, incredibly stoned on cold medicine is not high praise, but it's not an insult either. It takes a special writing quality and considerable skill to both soothe and entertain someone who is sick and miserable, and I had a wonderful time hanging out under my electric blanket reading this book. The language is quite lovely and the story is both simple and entertaining. The characters are fun – for all his faults, Fox is quite engaging. Claire is utterly delightful. Francesca, the Alpha Mean Girl, is suitably mean and unexpectedly awesome. It's a lovely world to spend time in, and a lovely collection of characters to spend time with.

- Carrie S.

Seffra says

4 stars!

This book had been on my mind since I read the synopsis and I literally went to the bookstore to buy it and sat in for a read.

I was no disappointed in the slightest. We have such a strong female in Claire and a sweet guy in Fox. They were such a good couple and they were actually so cute together...and funny! So funny.

I will be reading more of Maya Rodale's books and I cannot wait to do just that!

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

Lady Claire Is All That by Maya Rodale
Book Three of the Keeping Up with the Cavendishes series
Publisher: Avon
Publication Date: December 27, 2016
Rating: 4 stars
Source: eARC from Edelweiss

Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers

Summary (from Goodreads):

HER BRAINS...

Claire Cavendish is in search of a duke, but not for the usual reasons. The man she seeks is a mathematician; the man she unwittingly finds is Lord Fox: dynamic, athletic, and as bored by the equations Claire adores as she is by the social whirl upon which he thrives. As attractive as Fox is, he's of no use to Claire . . . or is he?

PLUS HIS BRAWN . . .

Fox's male pride has been bruised ever since his fiancée jilted him. One way to recover: win a bet that he can transform Lady Claire, Society's roughest diamond, into its most prized jewel. But Claire has other ideas—shockingly steamy ones . . .

EQUALS A STUDY IN SEDUCTION . . .

By Claire's calculations, Fox is the perfect man to satisfy her sensual curiosity. In Fox's estimation, Claire is the perfect woman to prove his mastery of the ton. But the one thing neither of them counted on is love . . .

What I Liked:

What a delightful addition to a wonderful series! I adore Maya Rodale's books, and this series has been so fun to read so far. In addition to the first three books in this Cavendishes series, I've read several books in her Bad Boys & Wallflowers series. A thing I did not realize - this Cavendishes series is like a crossover/continuation of the Bad Boys & Wallflowers series! Ashbrooke and Emma make an appearance in this book. I didn't realize that the Ashbrooke of this series was the same Ashbrooke in *The Wicked Wallflower* (which I adored). How fun!

This book follows Lady Claire, the eldest Cavendish sister. She's the bluestocking, the glass-wearing, drab-dressing, math-talking American sibling, the one who brings up mathematics and equations to bore potential suitors to tears. Lady Claire wants to meet the Duke of Ashbrooke (newly married) to discuss his inventions and theories. And the person to introduce her? Lord Fox, who has taken an unusual interest in her. Except that it's not unusual for Lord Fox. He's made a secret with a friend, who doesn't like how Fox wins at everything. Turn Lady Claire into a dazzling debutante, or Fox has to give up his prized hunting hound. Fox isn't an intellectual, but he's charming, handsome, competitive, and a notorious rake. On paper, the two are complete opposites. But when they collide?

I loved Lady Bridget's Diary, and liked *Chasing Lady Amelia* (though not nearly as much as book one), so I was really pleased when I really enjoyed this book. It's definitely my second favorite of the series. And we can talk about the cover? I love the metallic green!

From the start, I really liked Claire. She's so intelligent and clever, and she uses her intelligence to keep suitors away. She wants to write a scientific paper on certain mathematical subjects, but fears putting her name on the paper. She's blunt and logical, and loves to solve equations and puzzles. Claire is all of us intelligent women!

Fox is the complete opposite. He's charming and dashing, rakish and mischievous, and almost carefree in attitude, though he has his own drive and focus. He's not book-smart like Claire, but he is intelligent in his own way. He's very athletic and loves all manner of physical activity and sport. He's also very competitive and likes to win. He is a fighter, and he likes to get his way.

I liked Claire, and rooted for her throughout the story. I adored Fox, and was cheering him on as well, despite the silly and idiotic wager that he made. He made it shortly after his fiancée left him to elope with a lowly actor, so we can forgive him, especially after how he fights for Claire, after she finds out. But I really like how Claire fights for the relationship as well. The ball was solely in her court, and I love how she declares her feelings to Fox and the rest of society.

The romance is swoony and steamy! You might be surprised by how steamy things get between Fox and Claire, despite Claire being a nerdy lady. Fox, on the other hand, is known to sex incarnate, so the two as a pair is pretty fiery. Rodale saves all the sex (which was one scene) for the very end, but the tension is really intense in the book.

I love the humor and light tone in all of Rodale's books! This book was no exception. I laughed, I giggled, I rolled my eyes at some of the silliness of the Cavendish siblings. Rodale has a very distinct voice in historical romance, and I really enjoy reading her books because of this.

Overall, I was really happy with this book. The series has yet to really disappoint me, and I'm hoping book four, James's book, won't!

What I Did Not Like:

More Fox and Claire steamy times, thanks. Yes, this book was plenty steamy, but I thought it could use a liiiittle more intimacy. You know what I mean. *insert suggestive meme here*

Would I Recommend It:

I highly recommend this book, this series, and pretty much anything Rodale has written. She's an auto-buy author for me, right behind Elizabeth Hoyt, Tessa Dare, Caroline Linden, and Katharine Ashe. Rodale's books are sweet, funny, steamy, and so enjoyable! I couldn't read this book fast enough.

Rating:

4.5 stars -> rounded down to 4 stars (remember, I'm picky with 5 stars). I am so excited to read James's book! I'd be interested in reading a book featuring Lady Francesca too. Rodale redeemed her, in this book!
