



Falling for Frederick

Cheryl Bolen

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Her second day doing doctoral research in the basement archives of Siddley Hall, England's grandest Tudor home, American Antonia Townley stumbles upon the hall's curator with a knife plunged into his chest. Police suspect Antonia of being the killer because of two insignificant—to her—reasons: The first is the pesky matter of her fingerprints on the murder weapon. The second is the unfortunate email she had sent to her sister saying she would kill for the curator's job.

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Handsome bachelor Frederick Percy, Lord Rockford of Siddley Hall, learns that the curator was on the trail of the Percy family monstrance, the most valuable monstrance in England before Henry VIII's dissolution. Frederick becomes convinced that the curator's death is tied to the priceless artifact, and he must find it before the killer does to free Antonia from suspicion of murder. More importantly, Frederick vows to protect the beautiful scholar against the menacing forces after her.

But as Frederick and Antonia crisscross England seeking information on the Percy Monstrance, it becomes clear that someone is stalking her every move. Could Frederick, the man Antonia has fallen in love with, be the very person who is out to destroy her?

Falling for Frederick Details

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From Reader Review Falling for Frederick for online ebook

Patricia says

FALLING FOR FREDERICK, FEET FIRST

This is a sweet book, lovely to the end. It has two heroes, plus a heroine, and (in addition to the real villains), several less than lovely relatives and friends. In the end, one hero gets the girl, although she will still have to defeat one of the less than lovely...The girl his Lordship the Earl of Rockford has been expected to wed forever!

I really enjoyed the heroine. She is intelligent, not snobby, genteel, and - well, impulsive. That makes her so realistic. As smart as she is, though, she should have figured out the tracking device...which should also have been found when she was arrested - they should have searched her purse.

But the high point of the book? No, not when they catch the bad guy. Not when they find the treasure. Not even when she knees the jerk in the nuts....

The best part of the book is when she tells the guys why the jerk may have been a bit hobbled....by asking the guys what they would tell THEIR daughter to do to defend herself. (Which is exactly what my father said to do.)

And their response was the same as men everywhere. I could just see them kind of bending forward, arms somewhat inward, but attempting not to show how the information hits them. Because guys always do the same thing when faced with that thought.

Andreah says

I read this book as it came out serially on kindle. As a fan of Charles Dickens and an English major, I have been fascinated with serialization. Every time I explain it to someone, I say it is like television shows today with a new episode coming out each week. I loved reading this novel serially because it gets you excited about the next episode and the waiting makes the hype great!

However, what really drew me to read this novel, were the archives and research of the stately homes. I am a little biased, as I am studying to be an archivist, but the moments of research, handling of the documents, etc... are accurate (to my knowledge).

The suspense of the killer was greatly hidden. Each episode I kept changing my idea on who it was. For awhile, I did think it was Frederick. I loved Antonia's passion and determination to retrace her steps and use the research. Simon was sort of annoying. He did go to a few of his lectures, but my experience with professors, there is no way they have all that time to be spending with one of their students. Although, he did throw a loop for me thinking he was the killer.

I have to say, despite my overall liking of the novel, I was disappointed on the ending. I felt the episodes had built and built the relationship between Frederick and Antonia to only find a massive drop off a cliff in the end. I thought with all the time spent together, something more might have happened. It seemed as though the ending was rushed and not as developed at the other parts.

Sharon Crocker says

Well, it started OK....

But it really didn't go anywhere. Ms Bolen hinted at chemistry but Frederick was borderline cheating and when an opportunity arose to break it off with the other woman he didn't. That's when I put the book down. The mystery was slow moving with much unnecessary musings. She is a know it all and he is bland, uncommitted and weak. Glad that some have liked it but I really couldn't finish it.

Michele Adams says

Normally I am more into the bad boy romances, but thought I would try something different. To my surprise I really like this book. It is extremely well written. The right amount of detail, for being written in the English dialect it is easy to understand and I was constantly guessing throughout the story. One minute I said it was one person while a few pages later I thought someone else. So then why the 3 stars. I had planned to give it 4 stars, all until the last chapter. It left many unanswered questions, to things that were key stories in the plot as well as emphasized in detail throughout the story.

There were 3 key stories. The first is who murdered the curator at Siddley and why. The second is the search for the Percy monstrance and the third is the budding relationship between Antonia and Frederick. Only one of these had a real conclusion to it. The other two left you hanging with what happened. One can't even assume as nothing is even mentioned to what the possibility could even be.

Now for the breakdown ****spoiler****

As you approach the ending you find out who the killer is and why. AS they always say go with your first guess. I assumed Allistar was part of it because his office was never ransacked. Dumb or not, he could have had something on his computer providing information to the montrance's location. He could have transcribed notes, emailed something for the curator - anything. But I believed Antonia when she said he was not all there and he became less of a suspect.

With that being said that leaves what 2 stories went unfinished. Let's start with the monstrance. Simon, Antonia and Frederick find it in the tomb, and Frederick mentions he will see if he can split the royalties of it. Do they? Does he get money? Does he get his dream cottage back? Is it in a museum or does the owner of the estate lay full claim to it since it is on his property. We spend so much time looking for this important piece to history what happens to it? I get you can't go into how it affects history but for all we know the house owner could keep it and hide it never letting the world know. Also, with this being found does it affect Antonia? You can't tell me she gets her school paper done, good riddens and she is back to California on the next plane. You get no answers.

Next is the relationship between Frederick and Antonia. The ending is just as it is throughout the entire book. The two not admitting their feelings, just guessing what the others comments and actions mean. Does something become of them? Do they date? Have any future? After all Frederick makes a comment to Brat that when the time comes to get married she is on the top of his list just like he is on the top of hers. Alright I get neither Fredrick nor Antonia are ready for marriage but do they pursue their feelings? At the beginning of

the book Frederick said he would love to offer the curator job to Antonia but it was not the right time because it would draw suspicion to her. Does he? Even that would be a step in some direction as it would give Antonia a reason to stay, so you know that at some point they must do something about it. But nothing. So they kiss again. They kissed before and didn't know what to make of it. I just wanted something especially when the author put so much time and effort into these two characters feelings for one another.

Just my opinion, but if you spend so much time writing details, and important details at that, it doesn't just add fluff it adds and supports a story. We all enjoy a book for a different reason. Some are drawn to the romance, others the mystery, or the history.. whatever it may be. To conclude only one leaves others disappointed. I always take reviews with a grain of salt as we each have our own opinions and preferences, but when I see stories are not concluded with no more of the series to follow that is a key discouragement in reading this book. After looking at some of the reviews by others who have read this author, she tends to do this. The good news is a found another style of book I like, but if this is how the author traditionally ends her books I'll look to an author who does, so I am not disappointed.

Marion Ziegler says

Compelling

The title does not give you a clue as to what is inside of the book. Very well written. I also enjoyed the glimpses of English history.

Janice Hougland says

First off, I have to say that I would rather have read this story all the way through without stopping in between episodes. But having said that much, I can tell you that I really liked this story. There was a very proper British romance, a murder, mayhem and mystery. And me being a history buff, I really liked the scavenger hunt aspect for an historical artifact. I was able to peek into a different side of English history (old manor homes) that I hadn't read about before. Very interesting. I would recommend this story highly to readers.

Mary says

I listened to this book as an Audible audiobook. It is a murder mystery/romance set in the present day, but it features the grand historic homes of England and a long-lost artifact from the days of the Tudors. Antonia Townley is an American doctoral student researching the secret Catholic families in England after Henry VIII abolished Catholicism. After the archivist at the stately home where Antonia is doing research is

murdered and dies in her arms, she becomes the main suspect. Luckily, Frederick, the handsome lord of the manor, doesn't believe she did it and helps her continue her research to find clues in the past. Soon, the murderer comes after Antonia, and Frederick must protect her as well.

Parts of the book do tend to drag as there is a lot of description of the stately homes that the characters visit and explanation of the historical context for the Catholic families and the missing artifact. But if you like historical detail, this is the book for you.

Kelly Ann says

Episode 1 - I don't normally read contemporary romance or fiction but I really have enjoyed the books I've read by Cherly Bolen. I also love Kindle Serials. Episode 1 didn't disappoint either. It was a promising start! (1-10-13)

Writer says

WHAT A GREAT CONCEPT! REGENCY HISTORICAL MEETS MODERN DAY DAY
ROMANCE...May 1, 2013

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: Falling for Frederick (Kindle Edition)

I couldn't think of anything better than mixing historical romance with modern day romance, complete with old castles and Dukes, Marquess, Earls. Imagine my delight when I stumbled upon this gem, what with the super hot Earl of Rockford, Frederick Percy, so handsome that turns women's head around including the bright, witty and beautiful Antonia Towley of Southern California. This two are one dynamic duo who traipsed around parts of England, castle to castle to ancient massive turreted Tudor homes built during the reign of Henry VIII trying to locate and recover the missing ancient Montranse (valued at eight million dollars and a great motive to kill for) that once belonged to the Percy's family.

This is a thrilling story complete with murder, suspense, mystery, wit and a little romance. It is so cleverly written everybody is suspect(whodunit) including the handsome Earl himself, you really wouldn't be able to guess who is the murderer until almost the end. I just wish the author focused a little bit more on Antonia and Frederick and their budding romance and attraction to each other. I admire Ms. Cheryl Bolen and I have read quite a lot of her books, though at times I think she tends to leave the story not quite finished in some of the books she's written. What I mean by that is, you're left thinking and wondering whatever happened to the hero and heroine, in essence and perhaps if she writes an epilogue it'll be a little more satisfying. But all in all, this is a good read and I truly enjoyed it.

Sandy M says

This is a book I picked up, not intending to review it. But when I began reading the first few pages, just to get a feel for Cheryl Bolen's writing because I've not read her before, I couldn't stop. Mystery, historical and

present day; murder; and a romance that seems unlikely but grows nonetheless. The only reason this book does not get a higher grade is the way a few too many things go unanswered by the end. But if you're into history and mysteries, it may work for you.

Antonia is a doctoral student researching secret Catholic families in England after the abolishment of Catholicism. Finding Siddley's curator murdered in his office, Antonia is the primary suspect. It's Frederick Percy, earl of Siddley Hall, who believes in her innocence and agrees to work with her to prove it. And also help her find the Percy monstrance, an historical artifact that has been lost for centuries. There's immediate attraction between them, but they keep their distance, Frederick not wanting to yet marry – despite his fiance all but picked out for him – and Antonia an American who's out of his league. If they find the monstrance, it should exonerate Antonia and they'll go their separate ways.

Thus begins the journey to a number of castles over the English countryside as they try to rebuild Antonia's notes that were lost when her computer was stolen. Keeping her from the murderer is also foremost in Frederick's mind, once kidnapping attempts and other equally frightening events begin to happen to Antonia. Amid all the hypothesizing and hunting, the attraction between them grows more and more, leading to a few kisses along the way.

Now comes the point where questions begin to rise for the reader. Who's the murderer? You think you know, then you don't. Once that is revealed, there's too many things left unsaid. Frederick and Antonia stay a step ahead of the killer until the end, discover the whereabouts of the monstrance, but once the culprit is taken into custody, there's nothing more about the artifact, what happens to it, whether Frederick keeps it or not, and a whole host of other things. Then there's the relationship between these two. I expected them to finally express their feelings for one another and move on in love. Nothing even close happens. There's not even enough information given for the reader to create their own epilogue after the last word is read. Very frustrating. In fact, all of this had me furiously typing in the author's web site address to find out if there's another book featuring Frederick and Antonia. There's not. :(

So with all of that, it's just too much for a higher grade. Ms. Bolen does keep the suspense high, along with the historical aspects of the story, which I enjoyed quite a bit, even though the romance takes a backseat to it. It's interesting and the author does a terrific job of interweaving that history without becoming boring. I also like the modern-day earl getting involved where most nobility wouldn't. If you're in the mood for an all-consuming romance, don't read this book at that time. Wait until you're in an historical mood and you'll have one grand time.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

Ted says

Falling for Frederick

I really enjoyed this modern mystery. Antonia was a wonderful heroine who proved that beauty and brains could go together. Lord Rockford was a great hero. This book was great fun to read

Rose Matthews says

Reviewed

I really enjoyed reading this book, it kept me guessing throughout the book who it could be. However I was not at all happy with the ending of the book. I felt like it just left you hanging.

Susan says

Antonia Townley, Oxford doctoral student discovers the body of Siddley Hall's librarian, Ellerton. When she pulls out the killing weapon she obviously becomes the main suspect. But had Ellerton discovered the location of the missing monstrance.

Didn't really care much for the main characters in the story which is a problem for me, and would have preferred more of a mystery than a romance mystery story

Donna says

Great book. This was the first time I read a book in installments. Enjoyed looking forward to each installment. Now, I have read everything Cheryl has published.

Claire says

I received Falling for Frederick as part of a Goodreads giveaway.

In the midst of making a major breakthrough in her dissertation research, history graduate student Antonia Townsley finds the curator/librarian/historian of the Siddley estate (where she is working) stabbed, ultimately fatally. With the help of the lord of the manor, Frederick Percy, and her adviser Simon, Antonia suspects the murder is connected to the Percy Monstrance, the that held the Eucharistic host for the secretly Catholic Percy family during the reign of Henry VIII and an object of priceless value. Along the way, she (as the title suggests) finds herself attracted to the handsome bachelor Frederick despite fleeting suspicions that he and/or Simon are connected to the crime.

Unlike some other readers, I got to read the book straight through (I was initially confused by the "Episode" titles, which remain in the full-length novel, but which now make more sense). I'm a lot like Antonia--history buff, especially of the medieval/Renaissance period, with a soft spot for British history and literature. The story was entertaining and I particularly liked how, unlike other romance-oriented novels, Antonia didn't try to deny her attraction to Frederick. It's a romance novel, I know it's a romance novel, just get on with it.

If there was one cliche that annoyed me, it was the "beautiful smart amazing American who literally has every poor British sop under her spell." Such was Antonia. Young, gorgeous, knower of all facts large and small...I didn't mind reading from her POV, but reading others' fawning over her got to be a bit much.

A solid 3.5 star book and a fun read for those who love their mystery-romance tinged with British history. Recommended.
