



## **Slightly Scandalous**

*Mary Balogh*

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BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Mary Balogh's *The Secret Mistress*.

Meet the Bedwyns...six brothers and sisters—men and women of passion and privilege, daring and sensuality.

Enter their dazzling world of high society and breathtaking seduction...where each will seek love, fight temptation, and court scandal...and where Freyja Bedwyn, the wild-hearted daughter, meets her match in a man as passionate, reckless, and scandalous as she.

Growing up with four unruly brothers has made Freyja Bedwyn far bolder than most society ladies. From feisty manner to long, tumbling hair, Lady Freyja is pure fire, a woman who seeks both adventure and freedom.

Adventure soon finds her on a visit to Bath, when a handsome stranger bursts into Freyja's room and entreats her to hide him. His name is Joshua Moore, Marquess of Hallmere, a man with a hell-raising reputation of his own who is quickly intrigued by the independent beauty. So intrigued, in fact, that he makes her a surprising request: to pose as his fiancée and help thwart his family's matchmaking schemes. For two people determined to be free, it's the perfect plan...until passion blindsides them both. For as Joshua sets out to achieve his complete seduction of Freyja, a woman who has sworn off love is in danger of losing the one thing she never expected to give again: her heart...

## Slightly Scandalous Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2003 by Dell (first published 2003)

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Author : Mary Balogh

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# From Reader Review Slightly Scandalous for online ebook

## Jan130 says

3.5 stars.

Original review Oct 2016:

Not the best in this series, but still an enjoyable HR read. I have been rereading this series, slightly out of order, and enjoying it all over again. This one is Freya Bedwyn's story, and her slightly reluctant romance with Joshua, Marquess of Hallmere.

I like that Freya is portrayed as being a strong woman, full of character, but not having the most beautiful face in the world. But she is still attractive, sexy, and charismatic. It's nice to have an appealing heroine who isn't your traditional gorgeous beauty, but as a reader you like her and are rooting for her. And Joshua is likeable, charming, hot, and a man of integrity.

But in spite of all, this book isn't quite as fun as some of the others. Something just didn't quite gel. I didn't really like the Bath setting in the first part of the book (not sure why??) and the plot of the whole book is also a little too complicated. Some of the 'baddies' are very unpleasant characters, and perhaps too much time is spent with them and the complications they create. I also didn't like the shadow hanging over Joshua. You knew all would be well in the end, but along the way it was a bit uncomfortable. Maybe that's why I didn't like this book as much?

Anyway, overall still an enjoyable addition to this series.

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## Juliana Philippa says

### **The haughty and unusual Freyja meets her match in Joshua, a laughing Adonis**

This is a very enjoyable book. The sparring between Freyja and Joshua is wonderful and it's funny seeing her lose her temper with him - sometimes in very public places. They have very different personalities, but complement each other very well and seem destined for one another (and the chemistry between them is great!). One of the highlights is encountering the other members of the Bedwyn family again; they contribute greatly to a few of the entertaining and humorous scenes.

#### SUMMARY (Bedwyn Family, Book 3):

Lady Freyja Bedwyn goes to stay with a friend in Bath to avoid the birth of a past flame's child (Kit Butler, hero of A Summer to Remember). Joshua Moore, Marquess of Hallmere, is in Bath to visit his grandmother after gallivanting around Europe (and doing unofficial spy work) for five years. They meet and enjoy several \*very\* amusing incidents, leading to an impulsively created fake betrothal to help Joshua avoid an undesired forced one. While the betrothal was only supposed to stand for a few days, it ends up lengthening all the way to Lindsey Hall (Bedwyn home) and then to Penhallow in Cornwall (Hallmere's home). Balogh includes the usual villain subplot (this one is well-employed), dastardly relatives, past ghosts and demons to be faced and overcome, but in the end the book is an enjoyable read and as always, it's a treat to see the hero and heroine get their happily-ever-after.

#### MAIN CHARACTERS, Freyja and Joshua:

Lady Freyja Bedwyn is the third youngest Bedywn sibling and is 25 years old at the time of the story. If you have read previous Bedwyn family books, you may not be predisposed to like her; she's arrogant and haughty and in the aforementioned A Summer to Remember, she's horribly malicious and unfriendly towards Lauren. *Slightly Scandalous* shows a different side to her, however, and we find that she's also a lonely woman with a sensitive side, who hides this in order to not appear vulnerable or be hurt again. A plus in my opinion is that she's not the normal beauty - well, actually she's not a beauty at all, and is considered ugly at worst, and somewhat handsome and interesting-looking at best.

Joshua Moore, Marquess of Hallmere is 28 years old and comes off at first as a devil-may-care blond Adonis whose laughing eyes show him to be the rogue he is and nothing more. Of course (surprise, surprise!), this is not the case, and although he is a cheerful man whose teasing grin comes easily, his childhood was an unhappy one and his past is riddled with painful secrets. He is a very charming and engaging character who initially comes off as shallow and unable to take anything seriously, but is actually a very thoughtful and kind man.

Neither Freyja nor Joshua expect their light flirtation to turn into anything serious and due to this, they are actually a little afraid to get to know each other on any other level. She doesn't want to see beyond the laughing roguishness and he only wants to have fun by teasing her into losing her haughty temper. Of course, love gets in the way!

#### FAVORITE LINE:

"Freyja," he said, "what are you doing for the rest of your life?" ::sigh::

#### BOTTOM LINE:

Although if you read many of Balogh's books you'll start to experience déjà vu quite frequently (some of the lines, the idea of a fake betrothal that will later be called off, etc.), she's an excellent writer and this is a highly enjoyable read and must-have if you're going through the whole Bedwyn family series. Enjoy!

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### **Vera Neves (Sinfonia dos Livros) says**

????

*Até agora, sem sombra de qualquer dúvida, este foi o meu preferido. Freya é, e essa foi logo a minha primeira impressão, a melhor personagem feminina dos romances de época. Para começar, é uma personagem que cai um pouco nas sombras por causa dos irmãos. Toda a gente sabe que naquela época eram os homens que dominavam e, na família Bedwyn, apesar de toda a liberdade que era dada às mulheres da casa, eram os homens que ditavam as regras, ou pelo menos tentavam. Freya é absolutamente maravilhosa. Impetuosa, intempestiva, inteligente, forte e determinada nos seus propósitos e opiniões. Não é qualquer um que consegue fazer-lhe frente e, apenas os irmãos, têm alguma coragem de se baterem de frente com ela.*

#### **Opinião Completa**

<https://sinfoniodoslivros.blogspot.pt...>

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### **Zoe says**

Freyja hater, yep, that's me, guilty as charged.

The rating is not a reflection of Ms. Balogh's writing. This is Freyja hating, plain and simple. My disgust for Freyja runs deep. I read this book many, I repeat, many years ago. And I still remember how disgusted I was by Freyja. This is a 200% personal feeling. I am certain that she would appeal to another group of readers who love her to pieces. I respect that. It is just my feelings are on the other side of the spectrum. She completely destroyed the story for me. Her poor husband to be, delicious poor Joshua, was put in a relationship that has a lot of "how dare you" moments.

Why do I dislike her, you ask?

Let's see, what do I hate in a female?

1. Capriciousness - check
2. Prideful but insecure - check
3. Spoiled - checked
4. Asking "how dare you?" - check (why the hell dare I not? You dare me, I dare you right back.)
5. Taking things for granted - check
6. Issuing accusations when none is warranted - check
7. Pretending to not care while actually harboring a strong sense of inferiority - so check
8. Equating being prideful with being snobbish - check

Need I go on? I hope I have painted a telling picture of who Freyja Bedwyn is. It is petty of me but I dislike her so much that I have to write a review for my Freyja-bashing.

I beg your pardon. Such females really give me headaches.

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### **Bobs (Reader Unbound) says**

This is the best book in the series if you ask me. It was funny and easy to read, a bit more wicked and passionate than the previous two books. It is simply impossible not to love Freyja - she is independent, clever, spontaneous and a bit bitchy. I found myself laughing non stop throughout the whole book - the way she hit Joshua on several occasions ( and I was like a cheerleader at home shouting "you go girl!" ). If are a fan of Julia Quinn or Lisa Kleypas and you haven't read this book yet I suggest you start now , you won't be sorry ^-^ !

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### **Susana says**

With all justice, this should probably get a two/ two and a half star rating, but, I did manage to read this in less than a day, so it has to get at least an half star for that reason entirely.

This is what?

The fourth or fifth book I've read by this author, and I still can't say that this is a favourite series. This was written in 2004 \_ I think \_ so maybe her latest instalments are better? I can only wonder.

So far, a pattern seems to exist: I struggle with the beginnings and I end up enjoying the last pages.

I wasn't crazy about the characters, not because they weren't likeable \_ which, okay they mostly weren't \_ but because they felt undeveloped. Very one dimensional.

Also, there is quite a number of eye rolling situations: I don't care if they were engaged \_ of fake engaged \_ some things just weren't done at those times. At least not blatantly so.

Also in one of the prequels, the whole fake engagement plot, had already been used, and two books later here it is again?

Not very original..but at least in Kit's and Lauren's case, the situation was much more believable. What can I say?

I never felt the "love" between Freyja and Joshua, and their supposedly "hot" scenes were more tepid than anything else. \_ \_

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### **Shannon Gallagher says**

3.5 stars rounded up because I love Mary Balogh! I could have skipped this book in the series and been perfectly okay with that. It is not my favorite. I felt like I spent half the book trying to keep track of the characters strewn throughout this series.

The plot follows much the same theme as in the first 2, which doesn't really bother me. It's a theme I like and can read over and over... the refusal to marry when the characters are obviously in love. The side plot about a maybe murder took backseat to the reminder of past and current family members.

What I did love about this book were, oddly, the main characters. I needed more of their story and less of the story fill in for previous books and less set up for the next 3 books.

I would definitely recommend this book, but if I read the series again I'll probably skip this one.

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### **Susanna Herrero says**

Maravillosa lectura! Una historia de amor muy bonita con sus tira y afloja. Personajes muy buenos. Y las escenas en las que aparecen todos los Bedwyn juntos son desternillantes. Gran familia.

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## Karen says

*Slightly Scandalous* is the third book in the Slightly series by Mary Balogh. We first meet Freyja Bedwyn in *A Summer to Remember*. I didn't like Freyja in that book. I didn't like any of the Bedwyns, in fact. I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed reading Aiden's book *Slightly Married* and Rannulf's *Slightly Wicked*. I figured that if MB could turn Rannulf into a sexy, likable hero then I should like Freyja too, right?

Wrong. Freyja Bedwyn was easily one of the worst heroines I have come across. The best adjective that I could use to describe her would rhyme with witch, ditch, pitch, etc...you get the picture. She snapped at the hero constantly and I lost count of the number of times she punched him in the face with her fist. I don't know how he could stand to be in the same room with her for 5 minutes much less carry on a "pretend" betrothal. The only thing that saved this book was the fact that Joshua was such a wonderful hero. He was sexy, kind hearted, and had the patience of a saint if he could put up with Freyja. I don't think physical abuse is okay whether it's coming from the man or the woman, and Joshua's need to dodge Freyja's fist every time he said something she didn't like totally turned me off.

I'm giving this book a 3 solely based on how much I cared about Josh. Freyja deserves less than a 1.

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## Andrea says

If it weren't for the fact that I absolutely love Mary Balogh's writing, I would give this one star for the horrible heroine and awful aunt. But I did like the Bedwyn family overall, I did like the hero. But I'm sorry. I tried to like Freyja, but I just couldn't.

Very early on, she jumps to conclusions, hits the hero on the nose (it's a really annoying habit of hers), and marches off without talking to him. At their next meeting, she causes a huge scene in public and demands he be taken into custody for "assaulting" (he in fact tried to calm a young girl who had been scared by a squirrel and was about to kiss her when Freyja hit him) a girl. I thought the humiliation after she was forced to admit that she was wrong would be a wake-up call for her, but it wasn't.

At around 68% she finds out that he has let everyone believe that he had gotten his cousin's governess pregnant, and she does this: "'I find you remarkably stupid. I am enormously relieved we will never be married.' And she stuck her nose in the air and went striding off ... She hated him. She really did. How *dare* he be so foolishly noble". At this point I stopped caring. How dare he indeed have a sense of honor and provide for a woman his family wronged and would have shamed out of the county if he hadn't intervened. The last straw, however, was when she hit his aunt. Admittedly, the woman is a nightmare and adds way too much drama to the plot for my taste. But how am I supposed to respect a heroine who would PUNCH an elderly woman on the nose, knocking her unconscious? Now matter how foul that woman is, there is no excuse for this sort of behavior in what is supposed to be a grown-up for me.

I will continue with this series, because Mary Balogh is an insanely talented writer and I am dying to see the haughty Wulf fall in love. But this book just wasn't for me.

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## Denise says

I just can't get enough of this Bedwyn family! I was not looking forward to Freyja's story at all, I truly hated her in the other books, although we got to catch glimpses of her in a better light in *Slightly Wicked* Well we got to know her well enough here that I was able to get over my dislike of her and am now full of

appreciation of her spectacular wit! She and Joshua certainly met their match in each other even though they were opposites in many ways. He was described as gorgeous while she is usually considered ugly. We have that fake betrothal theme going on again here as was in *A Summer to Remember* But I just loved the way it suddenly came about at a ball.

Truly very strong characters in this series. The evil Aunt in this book was perfect! Loved it!

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### **Marcia says**

This historical romance was pretty funny but a little bit too long. i'm not sure I like my protagonists to be quite so headstrong, but it was cute none the less. as far as the historical accuracy, it felt like those details may have been a little loose... so I just be prepared to suspend some disbelief.

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### **Nadia says**

Wonderful!!

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### **Dina says**

As someone who had been quite happy hating Freyja Bedwyn since meeting her in *A Summer to Remember*, I have no qualms admitting that I wasn't very thrilled about reading *her* book. At the same time, I couldn't help feeling some kind of morbid anxiety about it, as I wondered if Ms. Balogh would be able to redeem "lovely" Freyja. So, it was with some trepidation that I started reading *Slightly Scandalous*...

As the story opens, Freyja has left Lindsey Hall, her older brother Wulf's estate, and is on her way to Bath just to avoid being in the neighborhood during the birth of her former beau Kit Butler's first child. Even though that was not the impression I had when I read *A Summer to Remember*, it looks like Freyja was truly in love with Kit back then and she hasn't quite recovered from it, so she can't stand being near and pretend to be happy while watching Kit and his beloved wife Lauren burst in joy with the arrival of their love child. Bitter much? Ha, haughty Freyja fancies herself above that! *Riiiiight*... Anyway, I digress. Let's get back to the story...

During her journey to Bath, Freyja has to spend the night at a rather shabby inn. While she's fighting the lumpy mattress for sleep, a disheveled man bursts into her room, hides in her wardrobe and asks her to cover for him. *How dare he?!?* Freyja isn't willing to harbor a "criminal", but when his pursuers treat her with less than the respect she deserves, she lifts her regal chin and orders them to leave her room without giving away the man hidden in her wardrobe. But then, the man has the nerve to kiss her and Freyja, being Freyja, punches him in the nose - *Strike One!* - and forces him out the window. Naturally, Freyja and her unexpected visitor are to cross paths again, as he's none other than Joshua Moore, Marquess of Hallmere, and he's also on his way to Bath, where he's to spend some time with his grandmother.

One of the first things that Freyja does when she meets Joshua in Bath is confront him about another misconduct of his and punch him in the nose - *Strike Two!* And she does this in public, for everyone in Bath to see! But as it turns out, Joshua's innocent of what she's accused him of, and he doesn't hesitate to mockingly put her in her place. Strangely enough, Joshua and Freyja end up striking some kind of friendship



- Bath must be a very boring place! - where he enjoys teasing and winking at her and she finds pleasure in threatening to punch him in the nose. Again!... I'm making fun here, but Joshua and Freyja's relationship does work and their progression is quite believable.

When Joshua's aunt comes to Bath and starts stirring trouble, trying to get him to marry her eldest daughter Constance, he asks Freyja to enter into a fake betrothal with him to thwart his aunt's plan. Bored with life in Bath and willing to have some fun, she agrees. But what starts as a temporary diversion to fool Joshua's aunt gets more and more complicated, and they can't find an easy way out of it. So what does this mean? Should they turn their fake betrothal into a real one?

As everyone is tired of hearing, I really disliked Freyja in *A Summer to Remember* and none of the previous books in this **Slightly** series have changed my mind about her. She was too haughty, spoiled and truly unlikable! The way she talked, walked and acted, lifting her chin and punching the nose of every poor male who had the misfortune of crossing her path, *everything* in her annoyed me. There's a difference between being feisty and being downright rude! BUT - and it pains me to say it - I couldn't keep hating her after reading this book. I still don't like her and I haven't excused her behavior, but now I understand why she was so awfully nasty towards Kit and his beloved Lauren. Plus, Lauren has forgiven her so who am I to hold a grudge? While I was reading this book, I got the feeling that Ms. Balogh had worked hard trying to redeem Freyja and, to be fair, Freyja did show some redeeming qualities but, at the end of the day, she was still haughty and spoiled Freyja - as she was supposed to be since she didn't have a personality-change surgery - and she wasn't the kind of heroine I love. I've learned to *tolerate* her, though. :)

As for Joshua, he seemed to be a bit silly and air-headed at first, which wasn't a bad thing considering Freyja's character - I mean, no stuffy and serious man would have been able to tackle her and survive, LOL. He had to be that way to get past her initial defenses, both emotional and physical, but he grated on my nerves with his frequent winking. Halfway through the story, I was on the verge of asking Freyja to punch him in the nose if he "*depressed one eyelid in that slow wink of his*" one more time! Anyway, I was glad to see that there was more to him than what he presented to the world, and he was a caring, protective and honorable man. I even felt a bit sorry for him the first time he made love with Freyja, because I think she was just using him to forget Kit. I do believe she fell in love with him later, but that first time didn't feel right to me.

As for the plot, it wasn't the most original one and I'm starting to wonder if all the books in this series have the same theme, as in marriage/betrothal of convenience. As much as I love Ms. Balogh's writing, I don't think it's good to have all the books in the series with the same basic plot.

All in all, this was a slightly better than average read to me, but I don't think it would be fair to place it in the same level as *Slightly Wicked*, which I liked better and has earned 4 stars from me, so I'm giving it 3 stars.

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## Caz says

Another outstanding performance by Rosalyn Landor bumps this into the 5 star bracket.

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