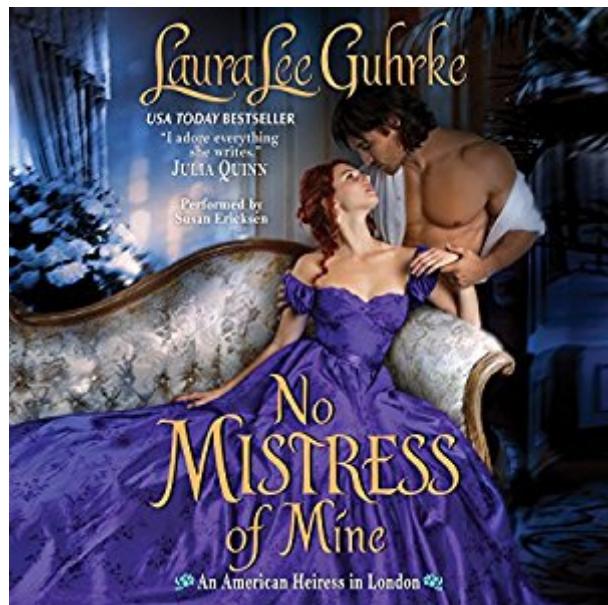


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No Mistress Of Mine: An American Heiress In London



Synopsis

USA Today best-selling author Laura Lee Guhrke is back with the latest in her dazzling An American Heiress in London series, in which a reformed rogue finds all his honorable resolutions tested by the only woman who ever broke his heart.... After spending his youth as one of the wildest rakes in the ton, Lord Denys Somerton has devoted the past six years to putting his past behind him. He is determined to fulfill his duties, find a suitable wife, and start a family, but that plan changes when Lola Valentine - the red-haired temptress from his past - returns to London, sparking the same irresistible desires that almost ruined his life once before. Lola is a woman with no romantic illusions. She knew love would never be enough for a British lord and an American girl from the wrong side of the tracks. For Denys' sake she walked away from him and the glittering life he offered. But when an unexpected inheritance brings her back to London, Lola discovers the passion between them is as hot as ever. Can they vanquish it, or will it burn out of control again and destroy them both?

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 10 hoursÂ andÂ 17 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: HarperAudio

Audible.com Release Date: August 30, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01I29RM7E

Best Sellers Rank: #322 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Historical #1199
inÂ Books > Romance > Historical > Victorian #10039 inÂ Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature

Customer Reviews

"He'd been ready to sacrifice everything dear to him, to turn his back on everyone else he loved, in order to keep her. And then, she had left him."FINAL DECISION: This is my favorite book of the series. I loved just about everything about this book. The characters were good people, intelligent and demonstrated growth in the story. The romance was difficult and there was no magic solution for these two but rather a mature acceptance of the painful things that can go with love.THE

STORY: Lord Denys Somerton has finally regained the respect of his family after a wild period where he fell for a cancan dancer and thought to make her his future countess until she abandoned him for another man. Now Denys is considering marrying his childhood friend while managing his family businesses. Then Lola Valentine walks back into his life. Having inherited half a theater from the man she left Denys for, Lola has returned to London to fulfill her dream of being an actress. Denys finds himself an unwilling business partner of Lola. Denys knows that Lola is bad for him but he has never been able to resist her.

OPINION: I don't if I can express how much I loved this book. A fallen woman. Class differences. Hero is a genuine nice guy. Heroine is smart. Setting someplace other than the ton balls. Second chance at love. Accepting love requires sacrifice. This hit so many of the points that make my heart soft and gooey. I loved Lola. This woman is a survivor. Intelligent and self made. She has taken risks and brought herself so far. And yet she is haunted by the choices she has made to get where she needs to be. Being with Denys challenges her because she feels unworthy because of her past and because of their class differences.

I'm a longtime fan of Laura Lee Guhrke's work but, IMO, this HR is really quite bland. Yes, I like the characters. Yes, the love is shown on paper quite nicely. Yes, we have an HEA, arrived at with very little annoying behavior or failures to communicate. Yes, the writing is competent, although not up to Guhrke's best. And it's a second-chance romance. I like those. So with all those "yeses" above, this should be a 4-star book for me, but, as I said, it's rather bland and been-there/done-that. Hero Denys is of the English peerage. Heroine Lola Valentine is a showgirl/dancer/singer (with ambitions to become a serious actress). Lola grew up very poor in America, deserted by her mother at a young age and living with a drunken father until he died when she was in her early teens. Yep, struggling, desperate, lower class all the way. Denys and Lola had been lovers 6 years in the past, when he was a young man stricken with lust upon seeing Lola on the stage. He was so in love he was willing to brave family and society by asking her to marry him. But Lola was frightened off by Denys' father and her own conscience about their class differences and left to go back to America. Purposefully she breaks Denys's heart by leading him to believe that she has found better options and does not love him or want to be with him. 6 years later fate has them partners in a successful London theater. Denys is angry, hurt and resentful but still attracted to Lola. She's still a showgirl with ambitions to become a good actress, still with her secrets about her life and why she left him. There's still that huge social divide and here we are, full circle. It all works out in the end, of course, because it's a romance and must do.

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