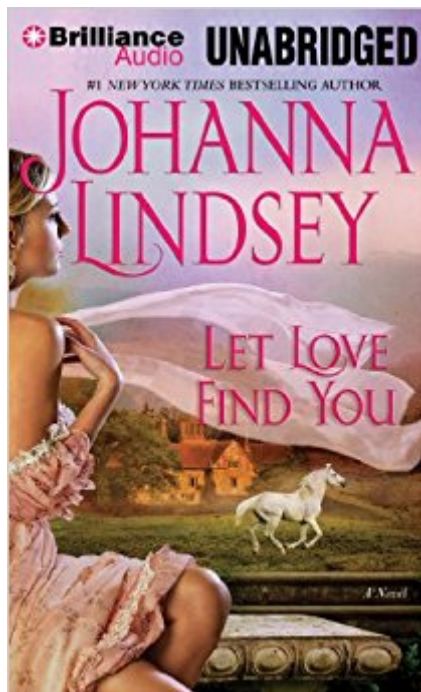


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Let Love Find You



Synopsis

London society has its very own Cupid. Renowned horse breeder and occasional matchmaker Devin Baldwin pairs eligible young ladies with suitable gentlemen based on his theory of animal magnetism. Unafraid of ruffling the ton's feathers, this darkly handsome Cupid doles out tips for bettering one's chances of meeting a mate that are as pointed as the love legend's sharpest arrows! Lovely Amanda Locke, the daughter of a duke, is everything a nobleman could desire, yet she enters her third Season still searching for a match.

Gossipmongers' tongues are wagging, and her mystified family is considering drastic measures to find her a husband. But the insufferable advice of this Cupid fellow is the last thing Amanda wants. When an earl passionate about horses becomes the target of her husband hunt, Amanda knows it's time to overcome her fear of riding. With her sister-in-law Ophelia hastening the romance along by arranging riding lessons, Amanda is soon taking instruction from infuriating Devin Baldwin. Astonishingly, in her daily encounters with Devin—who treats her as an ordinary young woman, not a prize to be won at the marriage mart—Amanda experiences passion for the first time. Now, her search for a match takes her in an unexpected direction as she finds herself falling in love with Cupid himself. Delivering the “potent, sexy chemistry” (Booklist) and witty repartee for which she is adored, Johanna Lindsey shines with this sparkling new novel.

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Customer Reviews

Johanna Lindsey has been hailed as one of the most popular authors of romantic fiction, with more

than sixty million copies of her novels sold. World renowned for her “mastery of historical romance” (Entertainment Weekly), Lindsey is the author of forty-eight previous national bestselling novels, many of which reached the #1 spot on the New York Times bestseller list. Lindsey lives in New Hampshire with her family.

Let Love Find You 2> LADY AMANDA LOCKE SIGHED as she gazed at her reflection in the oval mirror. Sitting at the vanity in the comfortable room she’d been given at her cousin Rupert’s house in London, she imagined she saw a wrinkle at the corner of one eye. She gasped. Did she? She leaned closer. No, just her imagination and the light, but it wouldn’t be long before it wasn’t. She had just turned twenty! The ton would be calling her an old maid soon if they weren’t already. She sighed again. Her maid, Alice, pretended not to notice as she pinned the last blond lock of Amanda’s coiffure into place. That wouldn’t have stopped Amanda if she felt like being vocal about her melancholy tonight, but she didn’t. Alice had heard it all and heard it often. Amanda’s whole family had heard it all, and she had a large family. But she was tired of complaining about such a sorry state of affairs, she just couldn’t help it sometimes. Her first London Season shouldn’t have been such a disaster. It was supposed to be a roaring success. She had expected no less. Her family had expected no less. She was a beauty, after all, even quite fashionable with her blond hair and powder-blue eyes, and she also had the aristocratic bones that ran in her family. She was also the only daughter of Preston Locke, the 10th Duke of Norford. That alone should have had the proposals streaming in. And no one had doubted that she would outshine all the other debutantes that Season two years ago, herself included. But then no one had been prepared for the infamous Ophelia Reid, who had debuted that same year, and no one, not even Amanda, could compare to Ophelia’s dazzling beauty. It was almost funny, Amanda thought as she looked back on it, how jealous she’d been of Ophelia, so jealous that she’d spent most of that first Season stewing about it and thus ignoring the young men who had tried to get to know her. So really, she could blame that disaster on herself. But of course her emotions got out of hand, especially when she found out her own brother, Raphael, was also falling under the ice queen’s spell. Ophelia hadn’t even been likable back then! Amanda recalled wondering how her brother could be so dense just because Ophelia was a raving beauty! Ophelia was manipulative, a liar, and spiteful to boot. Anyone with two eyes could see it, which meant every man in London that year wasn’t utilizing both of his eyes, Amanda’s brother included! Rafe did fall in love with Ophelia, he did marry her, and he did

tame the shrew. There was nothing not to like about the Ophelia her brother had married. That had all been part of Amanda's first disastrous Season in London. Last year she'd tried to take her brother's advice to heart and just let love find her. She'd had fun doing so, maybe too much fun. Relaxing, just enjoying herself and the many entertainments, she'd found that she actually liked some of her beaux, could even call them friends now, but not one had ever pulled at her heartstrings. So before she knew it, her second London Season was over and she still hadn't found a husband. Now, at the beginning of her third Season in London, she was quite desperate. Something needed to change this year because she obviously wasn't going about husband hunting the right way. She wasn't as silly and flighty as people thought, but even she knew that she gave that impression sometimes.

"You're bored already this Season, aren't you?" Alice said as she stood behind her. Amanda frowned as she met the maid's eyes in the mirror. Was the problem that simple? Bored all day long, and then when she finally had something to do in the evenings, she was so pleased she overreacted, behaving a bit more effervescently than she ought to? She didn't try to deny it. "It's different here, not as tall like at home in the country, where I've got so much to occupy me."

"Your aunt made a suggestion the other day. Why didn't you agree?" Amanda rolled her eyes. "Help with that sewing class her friend started? I love needlepoint, but not enough to teach it to little girls who'd rather be out fishing."

Alice couldn't hold back her laughter. "I really don't think most little girls have fishing on their minds like you used to. But you should find something to do while we're in London instead of counting the minutes until the next party. Going from utter boredom to utter excitement isn't a good balance under any circumstances."

Amanda managed not to sigh again, but of course she was ready to leave the house and was already beginning to feel the excitement. Tonight could be the night she met her future husband. Well, it could happen. So she merely nodded to her maid and decided that thinking up a project to occupy her during the day could wait until tomorrow when she felt bored again. She had to admit she was nicely decked out for not one but two parties tonight. Amanda did one last twirl in front of the full-length mirror to make sure nothing was out of place. It wasn't. Her maid was superb in that regard. The pale pink of the new evening gown highly suited her and was perfect for her mother's rubies at her neck and ears. She didn't look any different from how she had during her first Season, when she'd thought she'd be the first among her friends to get engaged and she hadn't ended up engaged as tall. Let love find you, it will, you know, Ophelia had assured her. Yes,

but when? How long was she supposed to wait for that magical moment to happen? Amanda went downstairs to see if her cousin Avery had arrived yet. The second of Aunt Julie's three sons, Avery had his own flat in London now, but Amanda had sent him a note in the afternoon, informing him that she was in need of a chaperone tonight, since Aunt Julie's oldest son, Rupert, and his new bride, Rebecca, hadn't yet returned from Norford as Amanda had hoped they would. And Aunt Julie's third son, Owen, was too young at sixteen to be anyone's escort. Amanda had stayed at the St. John household last year for the Season as well, since her father didn't own a town house in London. And she could depend on two of her St. John cousins as well as their mother to serve as her escorts, even if none of them were ideal. But now her old friend Rebecca Marshall was part of the household, too, having recently married Rupert St. John, and she was ideal. Amanda had been delighted by the news of Rebecca and Rupert's marriage. Rebecca would make a perfect chaperone because Amanda could actually have fun with her. But Becky had surprised Amanda by flatly refusing at first, claiming it didn't seem right because she was several years younger than Amanda. But Amanda's stubbornness had kicked in • she could be quite tenacious without even realizing it • and she'd convinced Becky to agree. But then Becky had hied off to the country without a by-your-leave, putting Amanda back at square one with her old choices. She so hoped her old friend had returned by now. She wasn't worried that Rupert would want to tag along. He'd had his fill of balls and parties. He'd been Amanda's escort in the past and never failed to cause a stir, as handsome and flirtatious as he was, which tended to make every other gentleman present quite jealous, and jealous men didn't want to dance. That was why she only asked Rupert to chaperone her as a last resort. His mother, Julie, was just as bad! She'd raised her three boys on her own after her husband, the last Marquis of Rochwood, had died, and she tried to be both mother and father to them, which, unfortunately, had turned her into somewhat of a bully. As Amanda had told Rebecca recently when she'd been trying to talk her into being her chaperone, "While Aunt Julie will agree to accompany me to parties, she'll also spend the entire night grumbling. And believe me, there aren't very many men who don't quickly retreat after receiving one of her scowls." Rebecca had made a good point though: if Amanda's beaux could so easily be intimidated by her aunt, then they weren't for her. Amanda had to admit she'd been glad when a few of the more obnoxious ones had been scared off by Aunt Julie. Amanda had almost reached the bottom of the stairs when her steps slowed. She wondered if Avery had arrived yet. While he never minded escorting her • at least he never complained

about it. He usually had to cancel his own plans to do so, which made her feel bad. Occasionally, he wasn't available because he was out of town. She supposed she should have waited to dress for the evening until she had received confirmation that he was coming. Now she started to panic. Aunt Julie would be furious if she had to dress at the last minute to join her. But Amanda had already canceled two engagements because of Becky's absence. She simply couldn't cancel the two tonight, not when one party was being given by one of her closer friends, and the other by her sister-in-law, so Amanda had decided to attend them both but not without an escort! It wasn't Avery who appeared in the parlor doorway, drawn out by her loud sigh, but the man standing before her made her forget every one of her woes.

"Father!" She flew into Preston Locke's open arms. "What are you doing here? You never come to London except on business." He gave her a brief hug before he set her back to explain, "I consider this business, family business. I came to find out what your cousin Rupert was doing here while his new bride was in Norford. You do know they didn't even bother to inform me of their marriage?" Amanda winced for her cousin's sake. Her brother, Rafe, had done the same thing, married Ophelia Reid on the fly, as it were, without telling the family first, and their father had been quite put out about it.

"Well, that would explain why Rue left so suddenly today," Amanda said, giving her father a knowing grin. She could just imagine how that conversation between annoyed uncle and admonished nephew had gone. "So he'll be bringing Becky back to London, don't you think?" "I would imagine." "Soon, I hope? Perhaps even tonight?" "I highly doubt it." Amanda sighed. Preston chuckled her chin. "What?" "I was looking forward to having Becky as my chaperone tonight. Now I'm stuck with Avery again." Preston frowned thoughtfully.

"Isn't Becky a bit young for that?" "No, no," Amanda quickly interrupted. "She's married! You know that makes it quite acceptable." Preston gave her a doubtful frown, which started her squirming. He was a big man, tall, strapping. She and her brother, Rafe, both got their blond hair and blue eyes from him, though Preston had a little gray at his temples, which quite annoyed him. But he rarely lost his temper, didn't even appear to have one. He could exert such a calming influence on friend and foe alike that it was quite difficult to maintain a temper in his presence. He didn't argue his points, he got them across in a reasonable manner, and if he was proven wrong, he'd merely laugh about it and go on from there. The only exception was how he dealt with his siblings. Where his sisters were concerned, he enjoyed pulling their cords, was quite the tease in that regard.

Her brother had gotten that from their father, too, much to her annoyance. Before her father actually forbade her to rely on Rebecca as her chaperone just because she was a few years younger than Amanda, she said, "You did know that Becky was a maid of honor, right up till she married Rue? That's where he met her, at the palace. But having served in the royal court, she's more a stickler for proper etiquette than anyone I know." "No, I didn't know, on either count. Your aunt Julie is still your best friend," she said. "She doesn't like going to these parties. She'll go, of course, but you know how she is when she doesn't like something," she mumbled. Preston sighed. "I wish she had remarried instead of practicing being a curmudgeon." "She wishes the same thing about you," Amanda said, then sputtered, "Not the curmudgeon part!" "Was that actually a blush climbing his cheeks? Surely not. It wasn't as if the family didn't know why he chose to stay single after his wife had died. He'd loved her too much. He'd preferred to honor that love and not try to replace it. Actually, she and Rafe had concluded that their father didn't want to be disappointed in a second wife after having been so happy with the first. They could hardly disagree. They didn't want their mother to be replaced either. But they did want their father to be happy, so if he did find someone who could make him that happy, they certainly wouldn't object. He just wasn't looking. He already knew all the unattached ladies at home and wasn't interested in any of them, and he rarely came to London, where he might meet someone new. But he was here now. She wondered . . . " "By the by, I sent Avery home," Preston said matter-of-factly. "I'll be your escort tonight, my dear. I want to see for myself the current crop of eligibles and what's taking you so long to make up your mind." Although it was quite hard to utter a delighted squeal and a groan in the same breath, Amanda managed it just fine. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

I have never read a book written by Johanna Lindsey that I didn't love. This book was no exception and was really a fun book. I loved the story line of "Cupid". It was really a fresh story where he advises her on where she is going wrong...that was really fun...and the fact that I often talk too much when nervous made that part delightful for me. The fact that he breeds horses is only a minor point and besides a man working with horses never makes me tired. I loved his character. I loved her character, the interplay and how angry he makes her sometimes. She is a beautiful girl in her third season which is an unusual twist and then for him to have the nerve to pick on her about her issues with finding a husband just really made it interesting. I loved her mental thoughts on his size and

what she considered his lack of gentlemanly attributes. I laughed a great deal with this book. But then, Ms Lindsey is the master and always will be. If I could even write with a fraction of her skill, I would be blessed. This was a fantastic book and to me well worth the read.

This was a pretty good historical romance but I think I'm a little iffy on how much I liked it. This boils down not to my enjoyment of the characters or the plot, I actually was just annoyed by what I felt was an excessive use of exclamation points. Weird, I know, but there was some dialogue that I almost recoiled from because I had to re-read, trying to imagine how or why the hero was finishing his sentences with an exclamation point. Outside of that, I actually really loved the story. A duke's daughter is entering her third season and instead of becoming "on-the-shelf" her family enlists the help of a matchmaker. Not too uncommon except this matchmaker is also a successful horse breeder nicknamed Cupid. Amanda and Devin have an almost instant dislike of each other. Devin has no problem telling it like it is and Amanda is not used to people being so honest with her. I love the interactions and fights these two get in to. Their chemistry is almost instant and I really loved the battles they faced opening up to the love developing between them. I guess you could say that overall I did enjoy the story, odd dialogue choices aside. The Mallory series is still my favorite from Johanna Lindsey but the Reed series is a fun read.

As always Johanna Lindsey delivers a wonderful story about love. You are reintroduced to characters from other stories and I love that. It's like they are family. Typically the main characters get together in the end but what they go through until then is always full of surprises and fun and frustration until that time that they realize the one for them has been in front of them the whole time. I just love reading these historical romances.

I have been reading this series for years. I thought I had read them all. This was a wonderful surprise to find out there was one more! For anyone who has read this series and got to hate Ophelia as much as I did, it was wonderful to see her in a new light in a big sister type role. Synopsis: woman on the husband hunt going on 3 years, feeling love was not ever going to happen for her. As young girls I guess we all think true love happens the instant we meet that perfect person. But true love comes from finding common ground and interests, and from the friendship that develops from that. This is the basis of this novel. Wonderfully written, beautiful fleshed out characters with their own foibles. A total delight to read.

I love Johanna Lindsey's books, both historical and contemporary, but this was rather ordinary. Characters were nice, nothing special. Plot excellent, as always. Perhaps this doesn't appeal because it is an older book reissued, and would have seemed fresh and original at time of original publication.

Another of her books that captures the heart ..Johanna Lindsey is an awesome writer. She captures the reader and leads them on a wonderful journey of ups and downs, the intrigue and suspense. She has a way of pulling you in and not letting go. She leads you to romance and always the "Happy ending." Why else do we read these stories because we enjoy the fantasy and the thrill of knowing fairy tails do come true thru books and movies... :) part of the Mallory Family series but .. so far all of her books are awesome reads..

I enjoyed it very much, I hate it that the series is over with. It would be nice to have a couple more of them.

This was a nice historical romance set in the Regency period of England. I down-rated this book from 5 stars because something about it did not sit right with me. The language was a tad stilted, the period details did not exactly ring accurate, something was off. The story however was great. I really liked the characters as well as the plot. The book could have been longer, and perhaps gone over with a fine-toothed comb, but it was very good. Recommended for historical romance lovers.

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