

## The Unlikely Lady Valerie Bowman

He knows he doesn't deserve her, yet he can't get her out of his mind... Stripped of his title because of a crime his father committed, Marcus Berkly has struggled to find a new place for himself in the world. Now, as London's most skilled eye-surgeon, he dedicates his time to his patients while steering clear of Society. Until a chance encounter with a determined young woman upends his life. When Lady Louise discovers that Mr. Berkly's surgical method could save her from permanent blindness, she decides to enlist his help. Against her father's direct orders, she takes charge of her fate, and falls desperately in love in the process. But can a proper lady and an ill-reputed scoundrel have a future together? Or are the odds against them simply too great?

Ha perso una scommessa... ma ha trovato un tesoro. Una scommessa perduta costringe il duca di Ravenham a portare alla ribalta una piccola signorina nessuno di campagna tra le persone più importanti dell'alta società londinese. Ravenham non rifiuterebbe mai di onorare un debito, non importa quanto poco ortodossa, per cui ignora le reazioni volgari della signorina Gordon e fa il suo dovere, accompagnando la ragazzetta a balli e ad altri eventi. Ma ciò che pensava sarebbe stato un gran fastidio si rivela essere qualcosa di molto diverso quando cade nell'incantesimo del fascino innocente della sua protetta. Perdendo quella scommessa, Ravenham non pensava certo che avrebbe perso anche il cuore! La signorina Gabriella Gordon è venuta in città solo dietro l'insistenza di sua madre e di sua sorella; fosse stato per lei, avrebbe preferito aiutare nella conduzione dello studio veterinario di suo padre piuttosto che cercare di inserirsi nell'alta società. Non appena lei arriva a Londra, il celebre (e terribilmente bello) duca di Ravenham viene a trovarla. Il motivo della sua visita non è certo edificante: l'uomo ha perso una scommessa ed è costretto a farle da pigmalione, un 'onore' che Gabriella rifiuterebbe se solo la sua famiglia glielo permettesse. Ma più tempo trascorre in compagnia dell'affascinante duca, più forte si fa in lei il dubbio... soprattutto quando scopre che loro due hanno in comune più di quanto lei avrebbe mai osato sognare. Il primo volume della serie Classici Regency di Brenda Hiatt.

By day, Lady Donnatella is a duke's silly daughter. So she can save London lives by night. When she stumbles into something larger than a street fight, everything she's balancing may come crashing down... It's another lonely season for Tella, dancing and gaming madly while keeping marriage away. She cannot tell her family or friends that her true self is the one battling danger in the city's dark streets. Nor will anyone guess; she's perfected her disguise. Then her night-time alter ego is seen - just when she can no longer count on her best friend, or her beloved great-uncle. And the resulting fuss in the newspapers isn't making any of this easier. Nor is the reporter who saw her. Henry Fitzwilliam, third son of a marquess, left London society to serve in the wars, and won't go back. He's devoted his life to telling the stories Britain needs to hear, and perhaps this Caped Count falls into that category. He can't be sure until he gets much, much closer. Tella can handle a fight, but tracking a murderer is higher stakes. She might need someone at her back. Fitz might be the worst choice - or he might be more perfect than either of them suspects. A new kind of Regency romance, full of action, adventure, and forever love

He's everything she's trying to avoid...But somehow precisely what she needs... Caleb Crawford doesn't want to be a duke. He'd much rather build houses for a living. So when fate disrupts his peaceful life and burdens him with the responsibilities of a newly inherited title, he does what any sensible man would do by fleeing London, disguising himself as a laborer, and seeking refuge with three young spinsters who need his help with a leaky roof. Ruined by a marquess who promised her the world, Mary Clemens has sworn to avoid marriage forever. Instead, she intends to live out her days with her friends and the orphaned children they've taken into their care. But when Mr. Crawford comes knocking, Mary finds herself in real danger of risking heartbreak all over again. Especially when she discovers that he's not at all what he seems.

Bestselling author Valerie Bowman sets the stage in Regency England for her Playful Brides series, where couples' misadventures on the way to the altar are witty, romantic romps based on some of the world's most beloved plays. The first installment, *The Unexpected Duchess*, is inspired by Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac*. IN THIS BATTLE OF WITS Lady Lucy Upton's tongue may be too sharp to attract suitors but her heart is good, and when her painfully shy friend Cassandra needs help she devises a brilliant scheme to help her discourage an unwanted suitor, the Duke of Claringdon. Lucy will hide behind the hedgerow and tell Cass just what to say to discourage the Duke of Claringdon...but it turns out that he's made of sterner stuff than either of them anticipated. And Lucy is shocked to discover that tangling with the tenacious man is the most fun she's had in ages. KISSES ARE THE BEST WEAPON Lord Derek Hunt made a promise to his dying friend to marry the demure Cassandra, and for a man who wants nothing more than peace and quiet after the horrors of war, she'll make the perfect bride. If only the impudent Miss Upton will let him court the girl! Doing battle is the last thing on his mind, but bantering with Lucy behind the bushes is too tempting to resist. And in *The Unexpected Duchess*, the spoils of this war just may be true love... Valerie Bowman's Secret Brides novels are: "Intriguing [and] engaging."—Publishers Weekly "Too delightful to miss!"—Lisa Kleypas "Sparkling...witty...engaging." —RT Book Reviews

Explores the homogenization of American culture and the impact of the fast food industry on modern-day health, economy, politics, popular culture, entertainment, and food production. He's posing as a groomsman. Rhys Sheffield, the Duke of Worthington, has bet his friends an ungodly sum of money that despite his loftiness, he can pass himself off as a servant at the house party of the Season. But when his clever ex-flame arrives and recognizes Rhys in the stables pretending to be a groomsman, she realizes it's the perfect opportunity to pay him back for breaking off their engagement. She's the bride-to-be. The lovely Lady Julianna Montgomery may be the only young woman at the house party who's not in the market for a husband. She's quite happily engaged to a marquess, thank you very much, and scarcely remembers the pain of being callously tossed over by the Duke of Worthington two long years ago-till now. All bets are off. Rhys seems to be everywhere, flexing his muscles, laboring in the sun-and Julianna has never found him more appealing. With his signature charm, he persuades her to keep his secret. But when she learns he's determined to win a bet of honor, she can't resist playing a game of her own. She'll spend the next fortnight tempting Rhys at every turn and making him lose his precious wager. Even if it means she must lose her heart in the process?

Let the games begin . . . Every fortune-hunting female in London is after the newly titled Earl of Kendall, but he's intent on finding a wife whose heart is true. So, while drunkenly jesting with his

friends in a pub one night, he has an idea-what if the ladies of the ton didn't know he was a wealthy earl? All he has to do is pose as a servant at his friend's summer country house party and make sure the guest list is full of beautiful, eligible debutantes. What could possibly go wrong? May the best footman win. Miss Frances Wharton is far more interested in fighting for the rights of the poor than in marriage, but her mother insists she attend a summer house party and find herself a husband. Frances would rather wed a goat than the pompous man her mother has in mind, so in order to dissuade the would-be suitor, she vows to behave like a shrew. The only person she can be herself with is the kind, handsome footman she runs into at every turn. Their connection is undeniable, and the divide between them is no match for the passion they feel. But what will happen when Frances learns that the footman she adores is actually the earl she despises? In a game where everything is false, can they convince each other that their love is true?

An unconventional woman and a man shrouded in mystery walk a tightrope of desire as they race against a killer to find a top secret invention in this New York Times bestselling novel from Amanda Quick. Former trapeze artist Amalie Vaughn moved to Burning Cove to reinvent herself, but things are not going well. After spending her entire inheritance on a mansion with the intention of turning it into a bed-and-breakfast, she learns too late that the villa is said to be cursed. When the first guest, Dr. Norman Pickwell, is murdered by his robot invention during a sold-out demonstration, rumors circulate that the curse is real. In the chaotic aftermath of the spectacle, Amalie watches as a stranger from the audience disappears behind the curtain. When Matthias Jones reappears, he is slipping a gun into a concealed holster. It looks like the gossip that is swirling around him is true—Matthias evidently does have connections to the criminal underworld. Matthias is on the trail of a groundbreaking prototype cipher machine. He suspects that Pickwell stole the device and planned to sell it. But now Pickwell is dead and the machine has vanished. When Matthias's investigation leads him to Amalie's front door, the attraction between them is intense, but she knows it is also dangerous. Amalie and Matthias must decide if they can trust each other and the passion that binds them, because time is running out.

"St. Martin's Paperbacks historical romance"--Spine.

August Summer thinks she is a nobody until a London solicitor barges into her employer's drawing room, revealing not only is she the daughter of an earl but a wealthy heiress as well. Optimistic about a new life, she travels to her ancestral home of Linfield Hall, only for her brother to banish her to London to live with her aunt, a dowager duchess with a reputation. When Lord Bolton asks him to fetch his illegitimate daughter, solicitor Samuel Brooks does not expect himself to become so invested in the young woman's debut after wanting nothing to do with dinners and balls before. But as August navigates her way through this new world of the British aristocracy, Brooks is the one who is most dazzled by her unexpected charms. Since society demands every young girl must marry, August decides she will accept nothing less than someone's heart in exchange for possession of her newfound fortune. Forced to reexamine his negative views of love and marriage or lose August forever, Brooks soon realizes his heart is the only thing in danger of becoming possessed. Content Warnings: See copyright page using "Look Inside" function. Includes spoilers.

Cover crops slow erosion, improve soil, smother weeds, enhance nutrient and moisture availability, help control many pests and bring a host of other benefits to your farm. At the same time, they can reduce costs, increase profits and even create new sources of income. You'll reap dividends on your cover crop investments for years, since their benefits accumulate over the long term. This book will help you find which ones are right for you. Captures farmer and other research results from the past ten years. The authors verified the info. from the 2nd ed., added new results and updated farmer profiles and research data, and added 2 chap. Includes maps and charts, detailed narratives about individual cover crop species, and chap. about aspects of cover cropping.

Bestselling author Valerie Bowman sets the stage in Regency England for her Playful Brides series, where couples' misadventures on the way to the altar are witty, romantic romps based on some of the world's most beloved plays. The eleventh book in the series, *No Other Duke But You*, is inspired by William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. SINGLE LADY SEEKS DUKE Lady Delilah Montebank has her marital sights set on the Duke of Branville. There's just one problem: he barely knows she exists. But no matter, she's got a plan to win him over with her charm, her wit—and perhaps the love potion she has in her possession wouldn't hurt her cause... Lord Thomas Hobbs, Duke of Huntley, thinks his best friend Delilah's quest to become a duchess is ridiculous. He's always said he'd rather give up all the brandy in London than commit to one person for life. Besides, he knows that Delilah's love potion can't possibly win over Branville...since she accidentally gave it to him instead. But perhaps this is the excuse he needs to show her he's always loved her... Delilah can't believe she gave the potion to the wrong duke. Then again, Delilah could do a lot worse than win the hand of her handsome best friend. Could it be that the right duke has been before her eyes all along? The Playful Brides novels are: "Wholly satisfying."—USA Today "Smart and sensual."—RT Book Reviews "Delicious." —Kirkus Reviews

The Unlikely Lady Macmillan

From the author of the National Book Award finalist *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* and the WINNER of the 2015 Man Booker Prize for *A Brief History of Seven Killings* "An undeniable success." — The New York Times Book Review A true triumph of voice and storytelling, *The Book of Night Women* rings with both profound authenticity and a distinctly contemporary energy. It is the story of Liliith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a dark power that they- and she-will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Liliith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans. But when she begins to understand her own feelings, desires, and identity, Liliith starts to push at the edges of what is imaginable for the life of a slave woman, and risks becoming the conspiracy's weak link. But the real revelation of the book-the secret to the stirring imagery and insistent prose-is Marlon James himself, a young writer at once breathtakingly daring and wholly in command of his craft.

A duchess awaiting trial for her vile husband's murder is the most delicious gossip the ton has heard in years. But for Kate Townsende, the woman in question, it could be a matter of life and death. And when a shrewd and handsome nobleman offers to publish her side of the story while arranging for a barrister to take her case, she's tempted by much more than the chance to defend herself... James Bancroft, Viscount Medford, tells himself he's only interested in a bestselling pamphlet, but Kate's stubborn determination is captivating. Could the accused widow be telling the truth? At first, James isn't sure of anything besides his growing desire for her—but before long he's willing to risk much more than his reputation to make the infamous beauty his wife... *Secrets of a Scandalous Marriage* is the third Secret Brides novel from Valerie Bowman.

His best laid plans... Ewan Fairchild, Viscount Clayton, has been busy ticking off the boxes for a bright future. Become a rising star in Parliament? Check. Find a lady he intends to marry? Check. Make his stables the envy of every man in London? Check, thanks to the prize Arabian thoroughbred he's just won at auction. Clayton's on his way to having it all and won't change course for anyone—not even the beautiful young woman next door. ...are about to go awry Lady Theodora Ballard didn't mind missing a Season of dinner parties, balls, and soirees to care for her ailing mother, but when Thea's father sold her horse out from under her, she thought her heart would break. Now the roguishly handsome viscount at the neighboring estate has her horse—and she'll stop at nothing to get him back. Unfortunately, a

horse spying mission goes south, leaving Thea with a broken leg and Clayton with an alluring houseguest who upends his orderly world. The sparks between them are undeniable, but secrets and scandal abound. It's going to take more than a little love to save them...

A Brief History of Comic Book Movies traces the meteoric rise of the hybrid art form of the comic book film. These films trace their origins back to the early 1940s, when the first Batman and Superman serials were made. The serials, and later television shows in the 1950s and 60s, were for the most part designed for children. But today, with the continuing rise of Comic-Con, they seem to be more a part of the mainstream than ever, appealing to adults as well as younger fans. This book examines comic book movies from the past and present, exploring how these films shaped American culture from the post-World War II era to the present day, and how they adapted to the changing tastes and mores of succeeding generations.

Returning home from the war and to an unwanted arranged marriage, Captain Julian Swift finds himself falling for Lady Cassandra Monroe, his fiancée's cousin who, unbeknownst to him, has been in love with him for years. Original.

He never wanted a title Fresh off the battlefield, Captain David Ellsworth has returned home to discover the shocking and unwelcome news that he's the new Earl of Elmwood. Though David had no idea he was in line for a title, he and his sister must now navigate the snark-infested waters of the London ton. He knows how to be a soldier, an officer, and a brother, but he hasn't a clue how to be an earl. David will need all the help he can get. Even if it comes from the undeniably beautiful woman...who is the darling of the world he detests. She never wanted a husband The younger sister of a marquess, Lady Annabelle Bellham moves through elegant ballrooms with the ease of a lioness traversing the jungle. She's the most elusive belle at every ball, and gentlemen have long placed bets on which lucky man will finally win her hand. But Annabelle has no intention of falling prey to a man's charms. She's seen the destruction wrought by marriage and is dead set on avoiding a similar fate. But here they are... Thankfully, Annabelle's older brother hasn't pressured her to take a husband—yet. Which is why she feels obliged to agree when he asks her a favor: To teach the newly minted Earl of Elmwood how to act in Society. Still, the task shouldn't be too difficult. All Annabelle must do is spend countless hours in the company of a handsome, brooding ex-soldier—who's making her question every rule she's set for herself. She and David have nothing in common except a fiery passion and some highly inconvenient feelings...could it be enough?

It was her last chance:Amber Bierce had nothing left except her sister and two tickets on Earth's first colony-ship. She entered her Sleeper with a five-year contract and the promise of a better life, but awakened in wreckage on an unknown world. For the survivors, there is no rescue, no way home and no hope until they are found by Meoraq—a holy warrior more deadly than any hungry beast on this hostile new world...but whose eyes show a different sort of hunger when he looks at her.It was his last year of freedom:Uyane Meoraq is a Sword of Sheul, God's own instrument of judgment, victor of hundreds of trials, with a conqueror's rights over all men. Or at least he was until his father's death. Now, without divine intervention, he will be forced to assume stewardship over House Uyane and lose the life he has always known. At the legendary temple of Xi'Matezh, Meoraq hopes to find the deliverance he seeks, but the humans he encounters on his pilgrimage may prove too great a test even for him...especially the one called Amber, behind whose monstrous appearance burns a woman's heart unlike any he has ever known.From R. Lee Smith, author of Heat and Cottonwood, comes an epic new story of desire, darkness and the dawn that comes after The Last Hour of Gann.

He never forgot her... When General Collin Hunt is ordered to take a much-needed holiday, he resigns himself to rest and recreation at his brother's country estate. But when the only woman he ever loved—and selflessly gave up—shows up as his sister-in-law's governess, his carefully ordered life is turned inside out. She'll never forgive him... When Erienne Stone defied her family and fled her life of privilege, she never expected to be reunited with the man who'd abandoned her more than a decade before. But Lucy, Duchess of Claringdon, is a hard woman to say no to, even when Erienne's heart is in danger of breaking all over again. A meddling matchmaker may be the key to their second chance... After a decade of pain and heartache, can two star-crossed lovers trust the truth in their own hearts? Bestselling author Valerie Bowman sets the stage in Regency England for her Playful Brides series, where couples' misadventures on the way to the altar are witty, romantic romps based on some of the world's most beloved plays. The seventh book in the series, Never Trust a Pirate, is inspired by Emma Orczy's The Scarlet Pimpernel. The rules of engagement were never so scandalous. . . A rumored pirate and the scurrilous black sheep of his well-to-do family, Cade Cavendish relishes his world of rebellion, deception, and seduction. Nothing and no one can hold him to be the duty-bound, honorable man he is expected to be. But when an unexpected run-in at his twin brother's estate with a ravishing, raven-haired maid leads her to believe he's actually a viscount, Cade's renegade life is thrown wildly off-kilter. And even though a case of mistaken identity can be quickly set to rights, matters of the heart are quite different... Miss Danielle LaCrosse is startled to learn that the handsome gentleman who radiates sin and has the devil in his eyes is not her employer the Viscount, but rather his infamous brother. A former heiress, orphaned and left penniless, Danielle has more than a few secrets of her own. Cade may be skilled at coaxing even the most hidden desires out of Danielle but can he earn her trust—and win her heart—as they embark on an adventure to confront a dangerous enemy from both of their pasts . . . and uncover the identity of the so-called Black Fox along the way?

AN INDECENT PROPOSAL Lady Alexandra Hobbs, the daughter of the Duke of Huntley, has intended to marry Lord Owen Monroe since she first glimpsed him from the window of her bedchamber, back when she was just a girl. But the duke has already chosen Alex's infamously spoiled elder sister, Lavinia, for Owen. And now there's no turning back. Owen has spent most of his bachelor years drinking, gambling, and skirt-chasing. He won't see another pound from his parents, however, until he's engaged to Lavinia. Desperate, he accepts an offer from her innocent and spirited—and absolutely beautiful—sister Alex: She will turn him into a perfectly tamed suitor, and show him how to woo the shrew. But when Alex's true motives come to light, will their bargain lead to recriminations—or to a romance that defies everyone's expectations? Award-winning author Valerie Bowman once again delivers romance and wit in The Untamed Earl!

"The Gimmicks is a gorgeous epic that astounds with its scope and beauty. With empathy and humor, McCormick unravels the ties between brotherhood and betrayal, love and abandonment, and the fictions we create to live with the pain of the past. This novel will blow you away."—Brit Bennett, New York Times bestselling author of The Mothers Set in the waning years of the Cold War, a stunning debut novel about a trio of young Armenians that moves from the Soviet Union, across Europe, to Southern California, and at its center, one of the most tragic cataclysms in twentieth-century history—the Armenian Genocide—whose traumatic reverberations will have unexpected consequences on all three lives. This exuberant, wholly original novel begins in Kirovakan, Armenia, in 1971. Ruben Petrosian is a serious, solitary young man who cares about two things: mastering the game of backgammon to beat his archrival, Mina, and studying the history of his ancestors. Ruben grieves the victims of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, a crime still denied by the descendants of its perpetrators, and dreams of vengeance. When his orphaned cousin, Avo, comes to live with his family, Ruben's life is transformed. Gregarious and physically enormous, with a distinct unibrow that becomes his signature, Avo is instantly beloved. He is everything Ruben is not, yet the two form a bond they swear never to break. But their paths diverge when Ruben vanishes—drafted into an extremist group that will stop at nothing to make Turkey acknowledge the genocide. Unmoored by Ruben's disappearance, Avo and Mina grow close in his absence. But fate brings the cousins together once more, when Ruben secretly contacts Avo, convincing him to leave Mina and join the extremists—a choice that will dramatically alter the course of their lives. Left to unravel the threads of this story is Terry "Angel Hair" Krill, a veteran of both the US Navy and the funhouse world of professional wrestling, whose life intersects with Avo, Ruben, and Mina's in surprising and

devastating ways. Told through alternating perspectives, *The Gimmicks* is a masterpiece of storytelling. Chris McCormick brilliantly illuminates the impact of history and injustice on ordinary lives and challenges us to confront the spectacle of violence and the specter of its aftermath.

USA Today bestseller *Lenora Bell* returns to her *Wallflowers vs. Rogues* series with a romance between a lady and the scoundrel claiming to be next-in-line for her father's title. Lady Henrietta Prince is far too busy for romance. She's dedicated her life to turning her family vineyards into a profitable sparkling wine venture. But when she shares a thrilling kiss at midnight with a handsome stranger, she's captivated...until he claims to be the distant heir to her father's dukedom. Ash Ellis is a gambler who lives life on the edge. Now he's locked his sights on a glittering prize and nothing will stand in his way. When Henrietta is forced to marry the wicked rogue to keep her beloved vineyards, she vows that Ash will never have her trust, or her love. Even if his kisses are more intoxicating than the finest champagne. His new bride is certainly beautiful, but biddable? Not so much. Ash will settle for nothing less than Henrietta's total surrender...but is he the one in danger of losing his heart?

Born to an Indian maharaja and a British noblewoman, Princess Sarani Rao has it all: beauty, riches, and a crown. But when Sarani's father is murdered, her only hope is the next ship out—captained by the boy she once loved...and spurned. Captain Rhystan Huntley, the reluctant Duke of Embry, is loath to give up his life at sea. But duty is calling him home, and this is his final voyage. Leave it to fate that the one woman he's ever loved must escape to England on his ship. "The *PRINCESS STAKES* came along just when I needed it most. There's star-crossed, swoony, steamy love, true to the genre—but there's also a subtle, searing focus on racism, colorism, and what it means to belong that is rare for a historical romance, which elevates it to a unique and truly resonant read."—JODI PICOULT, *New York Times* bestselling author

A PROPOSAL FROM A SCOUNDREL Daphne Swift has not laid eyes on her devilishly charming husband, Captain Rafferty Cavendish, in quite some time. As a matter of fact, she wants the rogue to annul their brief marriage so that she can marry the reliable and estimable Lord Fitzwell. But the breathtakingly handsome Rafe is not interested in letting Daphne go—at least not without paying his scandalous price... THE SEDUCTION OF HIS WIFE Rafe prefers to face the dangers of spying alone, but this time he needs his innocent, fiery wife to uncover the information he seeks. He has even agreed to release her from their marriage if she submits completely to his plan. However, Daphne's alluring combination of courage and curves makes her a dangerous distraction, and it is not long before Rafe is trading subterfuge for seduction in order to prove that Daphne is meant to be his and his alone... Valerie Bowman's *Playful Brides* novels are: "Smart and sensual...readers will be captivated."-RT Book Reviews "Sexy, satisfying romance."-KirkusReviews "Merry, intelligent, and wholly satisfying."-USA Today

This report is based on an exhaustive review of the published literature on the definitions, measurements, epidemiology, economics and interventions applied to nine chronic conditions and risk factors.

Widowed Lady Julia Renwick is still young enough to crave a man's touch; but she's too old to think that the Earl of Bedingfield could see her as anything more than a family friend. Garrett Walker is handsome, charming and only 26 years old—the perfect catch for any one of this year's debutantes. Garrett has no interest in the maidens vying for his attentions. He wants only Julia. With just two weeks left in the season, he makes a bold move by asking her to dance. When she counters with a shocking request of her own, Garrett eagerly agrees. Soon, they are stealing away for passionate encounters at every society event they attend. Garrett introduces Julia to excitements she never knew existed, and her newfound confidence quickly attracts other eligible men. It's not long before Garrett realizes he must find a way to keep the lady all to himself... 17,000 words

Can two star-crossed lovers come together—until death do they part? Viscount Hart Highgate has decided to put his rakish ways behind him and finally get married. He may adore a good brandy or a high-speed carriage race, but he takes his duties as heir to the earldom seriously. Now all he has to do is find the right kind of woman to be his bride—ideally, one who's also well-connected and well-funded. . . Meg Timmons has loved Hart, the brother of her best friend, ever since she was an awkward, blushing schoolgirl. If only she had a large dowry—or anything to her name at all. Instead, she's from a family that's been locked in a bitter feud with Hart's for years. And now she's approaching her third London season, Meg's chances with him are slim to none. Unless a surprise encounter on a deep, dark night could be enough to spark a rebellious romance. . .for all time? Valerie Bowman's *Playful Brides* novels are: "Wholly satisfying."—USA Today "Smart and sensual...readers will be captivated."—RT Book Reviews "Smoldering." —Booklist

She 's hiring... Meg Knightley is a history professor with a little OCD and a lot of competitive spirit. When her similarly nerdy history professor boyfriend tosses her over for a starlet on the eve of the Jane Austen Festival and Games, she needs a new Mr. Darcy STAT. He's the man for the job... Jeremy Remington left a lucrative tech job to follow his dreams—but getting his custom woodworking business off the ground isn't cheap. When his best friend's sister offers good money for little more than acting the gentleman, he jumps at the chance. After all, how hard could it be to fly over to England and wear a cravat for a few days? Until things get real. She hired him to play the part of a proper gentleman, so why can't she stop thinking about what's underneath his waistcoat? And when Meg finds out Jeremy has had a crush on her for years, will she toss him out on his ear...or will the job turn into a permanent gig?

From the author of *The Secret Garden* comes this novel about a strong-willed woman who defies English society in the early 1700s to remake herself as a lady of quality.

Lizzie Howard is a big-city trauma doctor who has always put her career before everything else. When one careless mistake brings her planned future to a halt, she temporarily takes over a friend's practice in the small Maine town of Jewell Cove. Widowed doctor Joshua Collins comes back home to Jewell Cove to recover from his wife's death. The two of them spark a flame that crackles higher and brighter every day and makes them wonder if a seasonal fling can turn into the love of a lifetime.

FOR THE BACHELOR AND THE BLUESTOCKING... Certain that no man wants a bluestocking for a wife, Miss Jane Lowndes is careful to wield her books and her spectacles as weapons against matrimony. Convincing her ambitious mama that she's content to stay a spinster is easier said than done, however. It's a good thing Jane is not above a bit of manufactured scandal if it will keep her from the altar, and the argumentative, contrary Lord Garrett Upton... ROMANCE IS NEVER BY THE BOOK With the war over, Garrett is determined to enjoy his bachelor's life while he can, even when it means attending a house party in celebration of a friend's wedding—and suffering Jane's notorious disdain. But when a masquerade ball leads to a mistaken kiss, he's surprised to learn that Jane's bookish exterior hides a truly passionate soul. When two such headstrong people are determined to remain unattached, can love lead to a happy ending?

A 2018 Daphne du Maurier finalist *First* comes love, then comes marriage. Unless it's the other way around. . . General Mark Grimaldi has sacrificed everything for his military career, working his way through the ranks without the benefit of a nobleman's title. Now, his years of dedication are about to pay off—with an offer for a prestigious promotion to Home Secretary. There's only

one condition: Mark must be married. Aside from the small matter of not actually wanting to be wed, Mark faces another troubling problem: he already has a wife. Nicole Huntington Grimaldi has spent ten contented years in France without her husband—and without regret. When Mark asks her to return to London and play the part of his beloved wife, she sees her chance. But neither of them is prepared for news that will throw Mark's future into chaos...nor the undeniable desire they've rekindled. Maybe happily-ever-after can happen the second time around in *A Duke Like No Other*, the next Regency romance from Valerie Bowman. Valerie Bowman's Playful Brides novels are: "Wholly satisfying."—USA Today "Smart and sensual...readers will be captivated."—RT Book Reviews "Smoldering." —Booklist

**THE MAKING OF A LEGEND...** When Christian Forester, Viscount Berkeley, flees the stuffy ballrooms of London for his Scottish hunting lodge, the last thing he expects to find ensconced before his fire is an incredibly beautiful woman. But the plight of lovely young Sarah Highgate, who has run away from an unwanted betrothal, inspires an eminently practical exchange. He'll safeguard her reputation with the ton while she advises him how to best attract a proper bride... As the undisputed belle of the season, Sarah has enchanted plenty of suitors. Still, she isn't interested in marriage, especially not to the pompous bore her father has chosen for her. But her hasty escape seems reckless now that she's estranged from her family and has no one to count on besides Christian. Turning the lucklesslord into such a catch has another unplanned consequence for Sarah: Has he run away with her heart? *The Legendary Lord* is the sixth installment of Valerie Bowman's Regency-set Playful Brides series.

To escape a forced marriage to her loathsome, social-climbing cousin, Cecelia Harcourt banks on selling a romantic novel. But when she's hit by a coach on the way home from meeting a potential publisher and loses her memory, the accident leads to an encounter with a fascinating man. . . who she's convinced is the hero of her novel. Due to his brother's influence, Lieutenant Adam Hunt finds himself honorably discharged from the army. Adam intends to make his way in the world without the help of a war-hero duke, brother or no. He finds his plans for independence sidetracked by a chance encounter with a lady whose memory has gone. She believes he's a hero. Can Adam become the man he was meant to be and fill that lofty role? **Secrets of a Wedding Night** Valerie Bowman **HOW TO STOP A WEDDING** Young, widowed, and penniless, Lily Andrews, the Countess of Merrill, has strong opinions on marriage. When she spots a certain engagement announcement in *The Times*, she decides to take action. She will not allow another hapless girl to fall prey to a man—particularly the scoundrel who broke her heart five years ago. Anonymously she writes and distributes a pamphlet entitled "Secrets of a Wedding Night," knowing it will find its way into his intended's innocent hands... **HOW TO SEDUCE A WIDOW** Devon Morgan, the Marquis of Colton, desires a good wife and mother to his son—someone completely unlike Lily Andrews, the heartless beauty who led him on a merry chase five years ago only to reject him. When Devon's new fiancée cries off after reading a certain scandalous pamphlet, he vows to track down the author and make her pay. But when he learns it's his former fiancée Lily, he issues a challenge: write a retraction or prepare to be seduced—to find out how wonderful a wedding night can be...

"Merry, intelligent, and wholly satisfying."—USA Today "Sizzles with sensuality." - Publishers Weekly "Delicious and suspenseful." —Kirkus Reviews A spirited lady facing spinsterhood. A common man with a noble mission. And a surprise that just might be waiting for them under the mistletoe in *Kiss Me At Christmas* by Valerie Bowman. Bow Street Runner Daffin Oakleaf abhors Christmas. Carol singing and holiday cheer only remind him of a dark time. When a close friend calls on him for help, Daffin is happy to capitalize on the distraction. But when he learns the lovely Lady Regina is the one in danger, he's to become bodyguard to the captivating woman... Regina has one mission: to find a night of passion in the arms of a gentleman. Considered firmly on the shelf, Regina has given up on marriage—but that doesn't mean she wants to be denied the pleasure married ladies experience. Daffin has long captured her attention...and when a threat calls him to her side, the sparks between them ignite. But how can a hired bodyguard find his way into Regina's noble heart?

**SECRETS OF A RUNAWAY BRIDE** Valerie Bowman Miss Annie Andrews is finally free to marry the man she loves. With her overprotective sister out of the country on her honeymoon, nothing can prevent her flight to Gretna Green—nothing, that is, but an abduction by the wrong gentleman. When Jordan Holloway, the Earl of Ashbourne, promised to look after his best friend's sister-in-law, he didn't realize she would prove so difficult. But when he spirits her away to his country house to prevent her elopement, he discovers that the tempting beauty knows how to put up a fight. To make matters worse, he's stuck playing the role of honorable protector...when what he really wants is to run away with her himself.

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