



An Uncommon Courtship

Kristi Ann Hunter

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Life for Lady Adelaide Bell was easier if she hid in her older sister's shadow--which worked until her sister got married. Even with the pressure of her socially ambitious mother, the last thing she expected was a marriage of convenience to save her previously spotless reputation.

Lord Trent Hawthorne couldn't be happier that he is not the duke in the family. He's free to manage his small estate and take his time discovering the life he wants to lead, which includes grand plans of wooing and falling in love with the woman of his choice. When he finds himself honor bound to marry a woman he doesn't know, his dream of a marriage like his parents' seems lost forever.

Already starting their marriage on shaky ground, can Adelaide and Trent's relationship survive the pressures of London society?

An Uncommon Courtship Details

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From Reader Review An Uncommon Courtship for online ebook

Alicia says

Hmm. I liked it and couldn't stop reading it, but in comparison to books 1 and 2 (which set the bar REALLY high) it was just okay.

Adelaide and Trent marry to protect Adelaide's reputation, barely knowing each other and certainly not in love, but they try to work on their marriage. They bumble their way through, often taking two steps backwards for every step forward. There are a few bumps and bruises along the way -literally- and some rather awkward moments; however, they don't give up and the results are worth it! I loved the ending and I loved how Trent ran to Adelaide's rescue time and time again after a rocky start.

The plot wasn't as exciting as the first two books and I didn't connect with Trent and Adelaide as much as the others. That's why it was just okay. Still, it was a Hawthorne House book and I liked seeing the other characters again.

Staci says

After enjoying immensely books one and two Trent's story in An Uncommon Courtship was a disappointment. There wasn't much of a plot and the plot that was there got incredibly repetitive. The humor found in books one and two was missing. I hope book four is better.

Beth says

I haven't known another author recently that has me raising my brow at a character, only to be completely and fully taken by them by the end of the story. Adelaide is just such a character. She's not your typical lady because her mother didn't focus much time and efforts on Adelaide, like she did her older sister. Although it's not evident at first, I came to notice that she's a bit quirky. Perhaps even a bit odd. She wears spectacles. She carries a book in her reticule, just in case. She doesn't like tea (gasp!). In fact, she prefers coffee – whoa, whoa, whoa. A bespectacled lady, who's a bit awkward that adores coffee over tea? Um, excuse me, Mrs. Hunter, but did bits of my personality get written into this story without my knowledge? ;)

What I mean to say is, while I didn't immediately warm up to Adelaide, much like Georgina in the previous book, by the time the story got rolling, I was her biggest fan. I found her to be such an endearing, unique character. Her character development is truly superb – once the Hawthorne family decide she's one of them, they embrace her fully, and so did I.

Trent Hawthorne had some mighty big shoes to fill – I adored Colin in book two, so I was already a bit skeptical of Trent to begin with. And a little secret here – I was right to be. He totally and utterly tanks in every way in the beginning of the story. He has a wife that he doesn't know what to do with, so falling back on his signature charm, he just kind of floats through the narrative doing a lot of things, but accomplishing very little. However, once he gets his head on straight, the endearing, more-than-just-charming Trent shows

up, and it's like, ah, there he is! I knew he would arrive. Seriously, y'all – this dude was so clueless. So, even though I was frustrated with some of his choices in the beginning, the journey that he and Adelaide take together is totally worth it.

In terms of the plot, because of the setting, there are a lot of party and ball attending, and because of Trent's plans, also a lot of courtship that really goes nowhere. Since, I love stories that feature a lot of balls and having tea and the like, I liked the slower pace of those moments. That's also where some of the best bits of dialogue come in – there's a certain tea scene that seriously has me cheering for Adelaide and Trent. It's also pretty awesome that the whole Hawthorne family shows up. I was particularly excited to see more of Trent's mother, Lady Blackstone, as well as Griffith, whose own story is coming up next. I enjoyed seeing Adelaide's reaction to how the family interacted and her realization that this family was now her family.

There is a lot of humor as well as several serious moments, and the way things culminate in their relationship is worth all of the angst in the beginning. And although honestly I didn't think I would mention this in my review, I've seen it enough in other reviews that I feel it has to be mentioned. They are a married couple, so there are married couple discussions – this isn't a young adult novel, after all – but there is never anything that crosses the line or pushes things too far, in my opinion. I found it all to be realistic and tastefully done. Everyone has different opinions on that, but I've found much more description and detail in other, extremely popular Christian fiction novels. Kristi Ann Hunter doesn't just write a clean, cutesy novel, throwing in a prayer or two – these characters realistically discuss faith and struggles as you'd expect family and friends to do, and I so appreciate that about her novels.

This probably ties with book two for my favorite - I loved book two because of Colin, and Adelaide wins the day in *An Uncommon Courtship*. Now for the long wait (hey, September feels far away, right?) for Griffith's story – he has been most enigmatic up until *An Uncommon Courtship*, and the glimpses I got of his character here just makes me more eager for book four!

Aerykah says

I'm sure I'm not the only person who has been really, really looking forward to reading Trent's story. He's been one of my favorite characters almost since the moment I "met" him and I couldn't wait to see how things would turn out for him!

And I'm happy with the way things turned out-- in the end. I'm just not quite so happy about the entire process of getting to that "end". I'll do my best to not include any real spoilers, but I also want to give my honest opinion so... bear with me, will you?

This story starts off a bit slow and really confusing. But I don't mind a slower book, as long as it's still a good book and I'm enjoying it; and I actually often enjoy confusing beginnings because it makes things more interesting as I put the pieces together to understand the beginning of the story. So yeah. That didn't really bother me. I was reading along at a kinda slow, but steady pace and enjoying the story.

I still love Trent. And I grew to love Adelaide too. Their relationship starts off very rocky and seems to be headed for disaster. Their struggles as they attempt to muddle and fake their way through this new life are some times funny and other times painful. They really didn't know each other at all so seeing them discover new things about each other-- Trent discovering all of Adelaide's little quirks and Adelaide even going so far as to make a list of everything she knew about Trent (it was short). The author really makes you want things

to work out for these two! She pulled me into the story and had me thinking about these characters at random times throughout the day, wondering how everything would work out for them.

Trent's family members don't play a huge roll in most of the story, but you do get to see them. I always enjoy seeing characters from previous books make an appearance, though I wouldn't have minded seeing more of the Hawthorne family. ;)

The disappointing part of this book came about two-thirds of the way through. While it wasn't as bad as I had feared after reading a couple of reviews... I still don't really appreciate the way the-- shall we say "marital relationship"? --was handled. I don't want to specifically include this as part of the review, but I still feel it should be mentioned for those who want to know so-- **(view spoiler)**

Really, there was nothing explicit or super detailed... but I did feel that there was more included than what was appropriate or needed. It has been mentioned that there was nothing more in this book than what other Christian authors have included in theirs, but that doesn't make it a good idea.

I still think this story is enjoyable, but I would say it's definitely for more mature readers who don't mind books that teeter on the edge of being inappropriate for Christian fiction.

I received a free copy of this book through the Bethany House Blogger Review Program in exchange for an honest review. All opinions expressed are my own.

Michelle Griep says

Dinners. Balls. Gorgeous gowns and dapper gentlemen. If you love a classic Regency, then you'll want to pick up a copy of *An Uncommon Courtship*.

This is the 3rd book in a series -- and I admit that I hadn't read the first two. That being said, I don't feel like I missed out on any information and it all made sense to read. The author did a good job of making sure everything flowed in a logical fashion and didn't leave any gaps or glitches in the plot.

So, the big question is why did I give this 3 stars instead of only 4? This is personal preference only, so please take this with a grain of salt, but I didn't like the hero. To put it mildly, the fella was wishy-washy, not a rough-and-tumble take charge kind of guy. To be fair, he was at the very end, but it took too long for his character arc to get there for my tastes.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

While I did enjoy this one, it wasn't my favorite of the series. I liked the overall idea for the story, but didn't really connect well with the main characters. Adelaide was a nice enough heroine, at times I really wish she would have spoken more. Same with Trent, lots of inner dialogue. And I got a little tired of him comparing

his marriage to everyone else and just not knowing what to do. Lacks a lot of confidence.

It's a nice story and has some sweet moments. I actually enjoyed the scenes where past characters made appearances the most. It's a good addition to the series, but again not my favorite of the Hawthorne House collection. I am looking forward to reading Griffith's story when it comes out.

Content

Romance: Pretty clean, fade to black (view spoiler)

Language: None

Violence: Mild

Religious: Mild - skipped those parts actually. Not preachy, but to me felt a little forced.

Series: Hawthorne House, Book Three (or four if you count the first novella)

Source: Netgally review copy

Hannah says

This book in a word: awkward.

Such a pity, since I was really looking forward to Trent's story, and I have a soft spot for marriage-of-convenience stories done right. The entire story begins with the marriage, and Trent's eager wish to get away. He tries to include Adelaide to some extent, but the more he messes up, the more he withdraws. He begins to be attracted to her, so then he runs faster in the opposite direction. For the first hundred pages, it's frustrating but also humorous. But Adelaide is totally at sea with how to conduct herself, totally alone with no friends in London, and being completely ignored by her new husband. I felt more and more sorry for her as the story progressed.

So, now we have a man who has supposedly married a country lass to save her name from being smirched because of having been in an abandoned castle overnight with her. When he gets to London, he immediately begins to open her up to societal ridicule. First, he doesn't tell his mother about the marriage; she is a lion in society who should have introduced a new daughter-in-law at the first opportunity. Second, he feels awkward and decides to move out of his house into his brother's and to court her by seeing her once or twice a day. Does he not realize that in those two actions he has not only totally undone what he did by marrying her, but also brought her to the attention of a society that previously had no thoughts of her? Wow, totally not the actions of a hero here.

Though, we also get treated to a hot kiss with tongues and teeth involved...what?

Each plot point built on the other with an added bit of unrealism. We even have the nasty lecher that wants to have an affair with the heroine, even though he's apparently already had an affair with her mother. In the end, there are a few verses and a Bible study that is thrown in, where Trent is hoping to learn the meaning of love. It was too little too late, and even then it felt awkward, coming as it did the morning after the Big Fail.

Content: steamy

Age range: Not recommended. Period.

If you are under 18, do NOT click on the spoiler. If you intend to read the book, don't click. This is a

MAJOR spoiler.

(view spoiler)

Charity Andrews says

The latest book in The Hawthorne House series is here! woot woot! We've had a chance to read both of his sister's stories and now it is Trent's turn. Squeeee!

Ok, thoughts? Loved it, of course. I know that it's the publisher that makes the covers, but HOLY MOLY her covers are beautiful. That is, honestly, half of the battle right there. I could go on about how her characters are always entertaining, well rounded and lovable, but I especially love how they are deep. They really love God and these books are not just just clean or overall "religious". They have true and deep relationships with God that are obvious throughout. I LOVE THAT!

Adelaide and Trent are married in an effort to protect her reputation since they were trapped alone together. As they muddle through their awkward marriage, I often times want to smack Trent in the head for being such a guy. ha! As they work through their after-marriage courtship, you will find yourself rooting for them and falling more in love with the Hawthorne family.

Pick it up! It's a great read.

Thanks for this great read in exchange for my thoughts. As always, this is my honest opinion. Here's to many more!!

Kellyn Roth says

Originally part of a discussion post on Reveries Reviews.

1.5 stars

Having worshipped the ground books 1 and 2 walked on, I was deeply disappointed to find this amount of sexual content in a Christian fiction book.

When I first read that it was an arranged marriage book, my warning lights went off ... but I decided to read it. Books 1 and 2 were amazing; the author had written sweet, Christian romances with adorable characters, and I longed to see Trent's story. I trusted Hunter. I really did.

Then ... disaster struck.

As my fellow reviewer Hannah said, it was, in a word, "awkward" and could easily be classified as a steamy romance in my book (of ... definitions of what makes a steamy romance ... I guess ...). It reads like a

secular romance, and the plot wasn't well-conceived at all. I won't talk about the plot defects, though; other reviewers have in detail, I'm sure. I'll just talk about the content because that's what most concerns me and this post.

At first, Trent and Adelaide didn't sleep together, as always happens in arranged marriage romances for some reason (can you say unrealistic? It's the early 1800s; stop acting like marrying without love was uncommon!), and of course they think about this and are awkward all the time.

This was almost enough to make me put the book down, but I hoped they'd get past this and build a real relationship based on something more than mutual awkwardness. I'd seen it happen in a couple arranged marriage books before.

They never did.

When they finally do sleep together, we pretty much know every detail. No, Hunter didn't give us the actual "scene" ... but there were passionate kisses (including tongues and all that stuff that NO. I DO NOT WANT TO READ AT ALL EWWW) and undressing. It was incredibly uncomfortable and just disgusting. It wasn't that it was wrong; they were married after all. It was just that I never want to read about that. At all. Ever. *shivers* (I would probably literally die if I had to read an actual scene.)

Later on, we hear that Trent enjoyed it; Adelaide did not. OH. MY. WORD. May I shoot myself repeatedly in the head? What part of the brain stores memories of books read? Take that part out!

That alone in my eyes makes it a very "steamy" romance, especially as it was Christian fiction.

This was pretty awful in and of itself. However, then for 100 pages or so afterwards, Trent reflects on this night (as it was apparently an epic fail? WHY WHY WHY?! WHAT PART OF PRIVATE RELATIONSHIP DIDN'T YOU UNDERSTAND BUDDY?!), talks to his friends about this night (including asking their advice) and on and on and on about how worried he is about this, etc. He even reflects that sex is painful for women at one point! I. CAN. NOT. BELIEVE. THIS.

For the content alone, the book was getting two stars. Because of it being a bad book to top it all off, with a plot full of holes and characters who weren't likable, it gets 1.5. The .5 is because I love the Hawthornes.

I just don't know how this could have happened. Never has a book disappointed me in such a big way. I'm sorry, but I can't sit still and shut up. I'm too mad. This was wrong. Market it as secular fiction. I don't care. Just don't hand me a book and say "to God be the glory" and then write that kind of thing in it.

~Kellyn Roth

Amy says

3.5 stars to 'The Uncommon Courtship'. I have pondered, as I've read, how I feel about this book. It's the 4th one in (because I include the novella) - and I've long anticipated Trent's story, since 'A Noble Masquerade' - which is still my favourite. Trent was by far the best minor character, and I enjoyed his personality, and what he brought to the scene when he was present. This, is his turn, and I felt like his character developed well, and he continued consistently as expected. I also liked Adelaide. I found it a very different way to get two

characters together, from what we've seen before in the Hawthorne series, however, it's been done before (forced marriage to save a reputation) in many regency novels, and lacks originality. I quite expect for there to be an incredible amount of awkwardness, and did appreciate the fumbling manor at which he attempted to move forward, in a well intended yet disastrous attempt to court his new found wife. Relying on the sole advice of his unmarried brother, you can't blame him for acting as he does.

Despite the wonderful addition of the ever calculating and spiteful mother in law, the story felt dragged out and tedious in many areas. So many receptions in the drawing room, serving tea! Very little change of scene. I always love when they high tail it out of London for a spell. Get out to their country estates. I think I would have loved an earlier scene in Suffolk. To check out the horses, have Trent take Adelaide to place more familiar, have her come into her own and shine, as is what happens to someone once returned to familiar territory. I'm constantly wondering why, they seem to finally connect, and 5 minutes later, Trent or Adelaide is over analyzing and we are right back to square one. Of course, I appreciate that this humanizes the characters for us. Reality likely would make this a long drawn out scenario.

On top of that we are dealing with Adelaide's, understandably, lack of self assurance & confidence. She is lacking every aspect of knowing the high social society of London, though she is credited with some abilities having grown up in a titled home, that would have given her at least some insight into the proper way to behave, dress & speak. Though if she were excluded from social situations that would be a real hurdle for her. It was wonderful to see a continuance of the kindness and respect the highly titled Hawthorne family and spouses, in the way they interacted. There was no doubt they would accept and take care of Adelaide, which did leave me wondering the reason for Trent's hesitation to share his news. His mother seems like such a delight, and of course for Adelaide - desperately needed to show her the alternate way a family relationship was intended by God.

As always grateful for the inclusion of a Christian message. I especially enjoyed the final review by Trent of the verses in Corinthians, and the thought process he went through as he put them into perspective with marriage.

I do agree with another reviewer here, that this book steps out a little from the boundaries most Christian novels set, for how much detail to write of intimate things. This is definitely more descriptive than her previous books, and caught me a little off guard. How much it will bother you will depend on your own personal expectations. Of course this is far from an explicit novel, but a little edgier than we have seen so far. Some may say that the intimate relationship needed to be included in some way, and it was dealt with in an interesting fashion. It handled the expectations of Trent & Adelaide, as well as giving you the feel of their development and growth as a married couple. I would add, as Trent often reminds us, quickie engagements were not unheard of, and plenty of marriages of convenience or arranged to keep the aristocratic blood pure. So likely, everything they were experiencing together was probably quite common amongst marriages of the ton.

Many, many enjoyable scenes in the book, as always I can't put Kristi Hunter's book down - although I had to as life also goes on!!! But I was anxious to get back to it. I'm content with the way the book concludes, it's sweet & seems perfect for these two unique personalities.

I'm really looking forward to Griffiths story, and as the Duke, and oldest brother, hope we get some element of risk and pressure under which he lives. I also hope we get to see a good chunk of Riverton. I would love to see him governing his great estate!

Thank you to Netgalley & Bethany House for the opportunity to read and review a complimentary copy.

This is my honest review.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

I enjoyed this marriage or ruination story. I also enjoyed catching up with characters from the previous stories in this series. This book is the third, but can be read as a stand alone.

Trent makes the decision to marry Adelaide when they spend the evening together after an accident. He is a man of honor and abandons his plans to marry for love.

This romance has some humorous moments. Trent decides to court his wife. Their marriage at the beginning is shaky. They do not know how to communicate with the stranger they are currently living with.

This book had moments when I wanted to hit them with my tablet. Trent knows how to completely bungle things. He overthinks and overreacts. Adelaide has spent her life living in the shadows of her older sister and is wonderful at retreating into her books.

The book shows the progression of their relationship. The extended family added many wonderful moments. I loved it when the family ganged up on Trent, he deserved it.

This book has a strong Christian element. It is clean with kissing and fade to black intimacy.

Source: Netgalley

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I love stories with a premise like this, where the couple gets to know each other and falls in love after they marry. There are so many obstacles to overcome- in this situation, it was mostly the lack of communication between Adelaide and Trent and their naiveté. I loved seeing Adelaide come into her own and learn to embrace her new independence. Being free of her family allowed her to blossom and true colors shine. Trent was a bit of an idiot of course as he worked through his feelings of feeling trapped into a loveless marriage, but once he opened his eyes and received some needed advice from his family, he was able to keep "trying again" with Adelaide until their choice to love was finally able to flourish. Great humor and great romance in this story, even if the plot was not as involved as the first book in the series.

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Rachel says

When I first read A Noble Masquerade (book one of the series), I knew that Kristi Ann Hunter was unique. Little did I know that her books would be able to twist and pull on my heart and emotions in such a strong way. An Uncommon Courtship is a story filled with sweetness that will make you sigh, rogues that will make you shudder, scheming women that will make your blood boil, and passion that will make you swoon.

Trent and Adelaide make such an adorable pair. They complement each other beautifully. Watching their "courtship" progress, witnessing their hearts opening, and learning what it means to love and be loved is a precious thing. This is a Christian novel and the passion and discussions are clean and appropriate by my standards. However, there are conversations that you may or may not feel are suitable for younger readers. One of the messages that continued to speak to me throughout the story is that, "God doesn't make mistakes." I have been reminded of this several times over the last couple of months, and it is so very true. No matter what we go through we must trust that He knows what He is doing. Even through the pain of shattered dreams, He does not make mistakes. Whatever He gives us, He gives us for a reason. The other thread that really stuck with me through this book is, love. True love, the love of the Father, the love He created between husband and wife. Kristi broaches this subject in a pure and Biblical way. It breaks my heart to see our society searching for and demonstrating love in all the wrong ways. His love is perfect and loving each other the way God intended is such a beautiful thing.

If you haven't read the rest of the books in the series I would recommend you do so before you jump into this one. The novella, *Lady of Esteem*, is available as a free ebook. I highly recommend this book and the series.

I received a complimentary copy of *An Uncommon Courtship* from Bethany House Publishers. I was not required to write a positive review. All opinions expressed are mine alone.

Dawn says

I was so excited to see this book. I'd been looking forward to this book for a while. I'll admit that I was a little sad not to see as much of either of Trent's sisters in this book, but I still enjoyed the story.

Trent was a character I wanted to know more about. He'd been a minor character in the other two books, so getting to know him was delightful. I positively adored his unusual group of servants. They were fascinating, and I could tell that they wanted their master and mistress to find happiness. I really liked it when Trent started courting his wife. I loved how he was determined to give her what she didn't have.

I cannot wait for the 4th book in this series - the one about Griffith.

I received this book from the publisher in order to share my honest opinion. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of historical fiction, Karen Witemeyer, Kristi Ann Hunter, Jody Hedlund, Julie Klassen

Rating - 4 stars

Jamie says

2.75

I've been a fan of the Hawthorne House series since the beginning. The stories have been fun quick reads that I like to add to my reading pile. This latest release follows one of the brothers, Trent, and while it wasn't my favorite of the group, I think fans can still enjoy this one.

I liked Adelaide's character. I appreciated her development and how she dealt with her unexpected hand. I was also pleasantly surprised to see that Hunter was willing to talk about issues newlyweds might have that aren't often discussed.

I was more annoyed with Trent. I think some might find his actions endearing, but I was more frustrated. Also, he was naive on some things to a point that was unbelievable in some ways.

But it was fun seeing all the siblings together and I think if Griffith gets a story, it could be a lot of fun. So while this wasn't a favorite of the series, that won't stop me from reading Hunter in the future.

What family series are you enjoying right now?

(Thank you to Bethany House for a copy of the book. All views expressed are my own.)

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