



Miss or Mrs.?

Wilkie Collins

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Persons possessed of sluggish livers and tender hearts find two serious drawbacks to the enjoyment of a cruise at sea. It is exceedingly difficult to get enough walking exercise; and it is next to impossible (where secrecy is an object) to make love without being found out. Reverting for the moment to the latter difficulty only, life within the narrow and populous limits of a vessel may be defined as essentially life in public. . . .

Miss or Mrs.? Details

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Author : Wilkie Collins

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Kerry says

Wilkie Collins is so fun and so good at writing women who act like humans and speak to each other and have inner lives and such. Quite melodramatic but so fun!

Laura Verret says

Playful, but not nearly as detailed or thrilling as Collins' longer works.

Karen says

I liked this better than the Rogue book, but not quite as much as The Woman in White. The main idea seems to be about deception and fraud, which lead to other crimes. The book has an entertaining plot, though the ideas of marriage to one's cousin, and underage marriage certainly don't appeal to me. Apparently, there were many marriages arranged for the sake of money, land and titles in Victorian England.

Gema says

Un historia corta pero que amando a Wilkie Collins me atrapó desde el primer momento. Sus obras me tienen en vilo hasta que las termino, porque sus giros son increíbles.

Vmontgzz says

Me gusto mucho, es cortita pero muy interesante y atrapante.

Amle says

An arranged marriage, stolen kisses, financial ruin, dark pasts, and gunfire... This is what you can expect from Miss or Mrs.?

For being a story by my old friend Collins, it's a very short one. However, the length of the story isn't the only thing unusual.

Contrary to his usual mystery where we (usually) follow our protagonist and perhaps one or several eyewitness statements. Here we get to follow along in the thoughts and actions of our antagonist, clearly and plainly. It even made me doubt if I didn't want the antagonist to succeed in some way, it would have made it

all rather thrilling, although perhaps not a very popular choice at the time of publishing.

I can't help thinking though how it would have been interesting to see what he could have accomplished if he had chosen his usual novel recipe. To make the Who and Why remain a hidden gem for the reader to find near the end. To add a couple of pages and take the longer path of discovery. There are still questions but of the simpler sort which makes the read more like action than drama near the finish line.

I did enjoy myself but I stick to my opinion about Collins; The longer the book, the more we are going to enjoy it.

Anuradha says

Okay, so before I start with a review of this book, I'd like to make a point. I read Ann Veronica in the beginning of the year. I'm currently reading Cousin Betty. I've read Pygmalion, Little Dorrit, Great Expectations, and a whole hoard of other books written well over a century ago, that portray women as strong, independent, and extremely likeable characters. And I haven't even started with the female writers yet! So what seems to be the problem with today's writers? Why are women in modern-day romances portrayed as absolute spineless loonies? And then touted as strong, powerful women? I tried to make some sense of this, but then I got a headache, so now, here I am, still without answer. True, this isn't a book about women at all, but somehow, I felt like the point had to be made, so...

Anyway, to the book now. Richard Tur(d)lington is a singularly deplorable character; a paedophile, to be precise, who has his eyes set on the lovely Natalie Greybrooke. And her sizable (?) fortune. Ms. Greybrooke is in love with her cousin, Launce Linzie. There's a secret marriage, and blackmail, and money, and an asshole villain; the story is quite run of the mill, but the writing is sublime, orgasmic even. There is this perfect balance of humour, of seriousness, and the depth given to the characters is, much like the baby bear's porridge, just right. No element is overdone, nothing is underplayed, and long has it been since I read such an easy read.

Nagisa says

I'm happy that I live in the present day when I have my own choice about my future and will not be forced into marriage for the sake of others' interests.

April Sparrow says

Not one of his best books. Still well written with a good plot, however the characters were weak especially the heroine and the ending was abrupt.

Calenmarwen says

Short romance drama story. Not a particularly pleasant set of characters, however a satisfying end.

Lucy says

Not at all what I was expecting from the title - I thought this was going to be another Scottish marriage one. Actually I think it refers to what couldn't possibly be mentioned at the time, consummation....

It's a very easy read, the goodies and baddies get what they deserve - and the heroine is casually mentioned as mixed race, and IT DOESN'T MATTER. Wow, Wilkie ahead of your time as with your disabled characters. Good for you.
