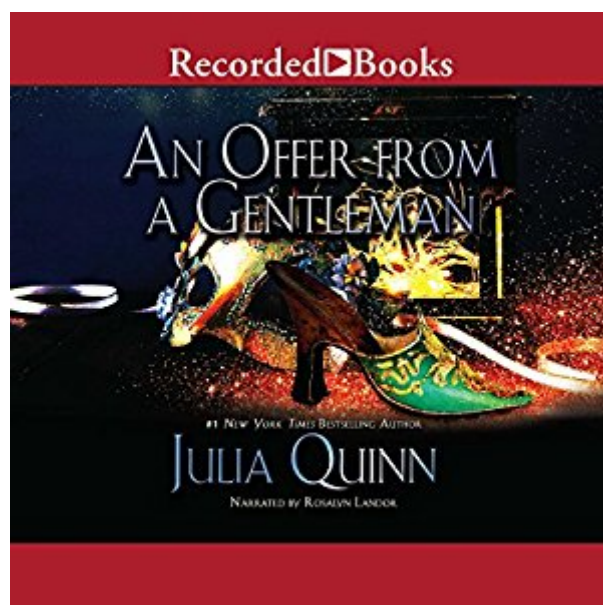


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An Offer From A Gentleman



Synopsis

Sophie Beckett never dreamed she'd be able to sneak into Lady Bridgerton's famed masquerade ball - or that Prince Charming would be waiting there for her! Though the daughter of an earl, Sophie has been relegated to the role of servant by her disdainful stepmother. But now, spinning in the strong arms of the debonair and devastatingly handsome Benedict Bridgerton, she feels like royalty. Alas, she knows all enchantments must end when the clock strikes midnight. Who was that extraordinary woman? Ever since that magical night, a radiant vision in silver has blinded Benedict to the attractions of any other - except perhaps this alluring and oddly familiar beauty dressed in housemaid's garb whom he feels compelled to rescue from a most disagreeable situation. He has sworn to find and wed his mystery miss, but this breathtaking maid makes him weak with wanting her. Yet if he offers her his heart, will Benedict sacrifice his only chance for a fairy tale love?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've danced around Julia Quinn books, never finding anything interesting enough to pick up until this one was on sale for \$1.99. I couldn't pass up that price and I was interested in seeing if a Cinderella retelling could be interesting. Sophia Beckett is the illegitimate daughter of the Earl of Penwood. At 3, she's dropped on her father's doorstep and instead of claiming his by-blow child, the Earl takes in Sophie as his "ward" even though it's common knowledge in the household that she's his child because she looks just like him. At 10, the Earl finally marries and Sophie is convinced that her father will finally love her and that her new stepmother will be a mother to her and her daughter's will be her sisters, but that's not the case. Araminta, knows at first glance that Sophia is her husband's

illegitimate child and treats her horribly. The Earl is a passive and weak man and does nothing to protect Sophie from the cruel nature of his wife. When he dies, his will forces Araminta to continue to house Sophie if she wants money, however she doesn't tell Sophie this and turns her basically into a unpaid slave. At, 18, the household helps Sophia get ready for the masked Bridgerton Ball, the most exclusive ton ball of the season considering the eligible Bridgerton brothers. Benedict Bridgerton finds himself drawn to the masked woman in the silver dress and the two share some hours on the balcony and it's love at first sight of not knowing each other's identity and with Sophie refusing to tell her name. She runs at midnight in typical Cinderella fashion but leaves behind a monogrammed glove but the initials are that of her deceased grandmother so Benedict has no idea who the lady was who wore the gloves. Knowing he fell in love with his dream woman, Benedict resigns himself to finding her for the next 3 years. When they meet again, Sophia naturally recognizes him since she knew who he was at the ball but Benedict doesn't know her even by her voice. He feels attracted to Sophia but is too stubborn and snobbish to think a servant would be worthy of anything more than a mistress. The relationship between Benedict and Sophia isn't quite that of master and servant but almost two frenemies. It's a cute tit for tat type of relationship but you want to strangle them both for not seeing the love that's in front of them but you still like them both. I loved Sophia's determination in sticking to her guns. Knowing she was the product of an affair, she never wanted to become her mother, the mistress of a man and bear his illegitimate children. Benedict tries and tries again unsuccessfully to get her to become his mistress but she brushes him off at every turn. This made me in awe of this heroine and extremely proud of her. I was slightly disappointed when she DOES finally give into the hero. I had hopes that Ms. Quinn would withhold the sex until they were married so Sophia wouldn't officially become her mother but she didn't do that. It's still wonderful but that one part sullied what was almost perfection in this book. Sure, they live happily ever after but it takes about 3 weeks for the hero to get his act together and that's plenty of time for her to have become pregnant out of wedlock which is what she dreaded more than anything in the world. It's unknown if that did happen but you never know and I didn't like that it was a possibility. If not for that one part, I would have given this story a perfect 5 stars.

I'm back in with the BRIDGERTONS! *cheers silently* This family, man. THIS FAMILY. They make me laugh. Sometimes I even get a little teary. Not because of the Bridgertons or anything. Not this time, at least. No, this time it was for Sophie. Poor girl. So. Benedict. Brother #2. I kinda liked the guy. He was bit by the love bug out of the blue and had his mystery woman disappear on him without warning. When he comes across Sophie again and doesn't recognize her, it kinda killed me.

Little bit. BUT... watching him fall for her despite his lingering feelings for his mystery woman was fun. Then there's Sophie. I felt for her. She's straddling two worlds and she doesn't really fit into either. She tries. She really does. Benedict simply refuses to let her fall into the role of servant and that throws her for a loop. THOSE TWO! (Also, Mama Bridgerton has my undying support for HER support of Benedict's choices. GO, VIOLET!) I have the rest of the series lined up and plenty of time on my hands. Let's do this! -Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

This story has a very interesting storyline where a well known man, Benedict Bridgerton, happens to meet this girl at a masquerade ball. He instantly likes her and then loses her that same night. Little does he know that the girl he has fallen for is none other than Sophia Beckett, a slave in her own house. The story mostly takes place two years after the masquerade, and it just so happens that Benedict saves Sophia (she had left her home by then and started working for a family with a touchy-feely son) and takes her with him to work for his mother, but she seems so familiar, like they met before. Sophia knew it was Benedict at the masquerade but can't bring herself to tell him that she was the one he spent the ball with. After all, she's just a lowly servant who was born illegitimate. And this starts a forbidden relationship between a well known gentleman and a servant girl. I'm a sucker for romance fairy tale remakes and this one has to be my favorite so far.

I thought that I had read all of Julia Quinn's books but somehow I missed this one. I am so glad that I was able to read more of the fabulous Bridgerton family. This retelling of the Cinderella story started out a little slow and predictable for me and I was wondering if it was going to continue on in the same way as other Cinderella stories, when, bam, it took an altogether new direction. The story picked up speed and became the witty, enchanting tale that I have come to expect from Julie Quinn. The moment our heroine entered the Bridgerton household, I was truly hooked. Sophie and Benedict's story is a delight and the added bonus of the other Bridgertons was wonderful. 4 1/2 stars
2nd Epilogue: Posy's story. At the end of 'Offer from a Gentleman' I was left wondering how poor Posy was going to fare in life. This epilogue is a short story of Posy that, in my humble opinion, is even better than 'Offer.' It is a true gem and not to be missed. 5 stars

One of my favorites from Julia Quinn. Her gift with repartee and loving relationships within a large family make her a standout in the field. Strangely, about midway through this kindle version (after the introduction of the servants named Crabtree), Lady Bridgerton was referred to as Lady Crabtree a few times. The E-Book Extra is titled "The Crabtree Basics" and refers to the "Crabtree Books,"

the "Crabtree siblings," etc. A minor, yet confusing issue. Not worthy of losing a star, of course.

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