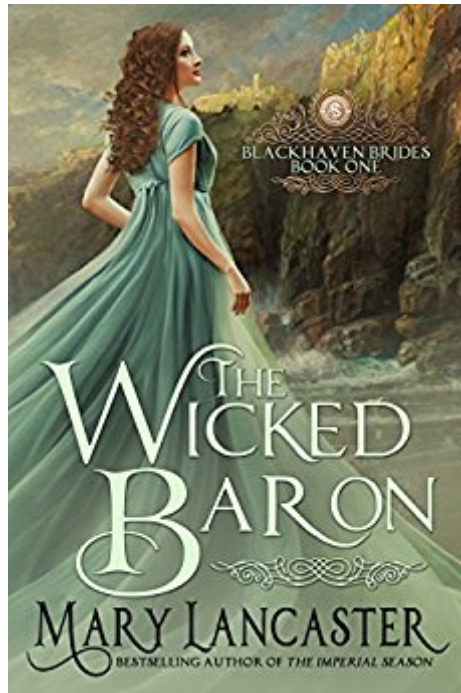




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The Wicked Baron (Blackhaven Brides Book 1)



Synopsis

The Wicked Baron is the first in the Blackhaven Brides series, set in a newly fashionable spa town on the beautiful Cumbrian coast, where the great and the bad of visiting Regency society turn local life upside down. Orphan Gillie Muir makes ends meet by holding genteel card parties for friends and visitors to the newly fashionable spa town of Blackhaven. But when Lord Wickenden, known as the Wicked Baron, makes her a shocking proposal, her world is turned upside down. Jaded and bored, Lord Wickenden has his own reasons for joining the house party at Braithwaite Castle. One of them is to oblige an ex-mistress by detaching her son from the local gaming den hussy who has ensnared him. But, confronted by Gillie's unexpected charm and innocence, Wickenden abandons his original plan of simply taking her for himself. Instead, he becomes embroiled in her bizarre problems, which include saving her reputation and her life, keeping the Watch away from her card parties, and hiding an injured smuggler who was once kind to her. The infuriating and devastating Wickenden soon has Gillie's heart in a spin. But when she discovers he means to fight a duel over her – and everyone knows the wicked baron never misses – she'll go to any length to save his life and his soul. Even elope with another man.

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Customer Reviews

Delightful and captivating, I loved Mary Lancaster's latest work, THE WICKED BARON!! I adore our Hero, the handsome and mysterious Lord Wickenden. Gillie Muir, our Heroine, is easy to love, as well! I admired her determination, her compassion and her wit! This story has so many funny moments - It is sure to make you smile! Mary Lancaster's superb imagery is so vivid - I felt as if I were sitting at a card table at one of Gillie's parties! This thoroughly enjoyable read kept me glued to the pages as I followed Gillie and Lord Wickenden on their journey! I am eagerly awaiting the next installment in the Blackhaven Brides series! Five Stars!

Actually, this is the first book I've read by Mary Lancaster. Not only was I immediately attracted to the lovely cover, I became entranced with the characters themselves. To be honest, I didn't want to put it down, and hated to see it end. I would love for this to be done in audio as well. Hope that will be a possibility at some point. The characters are so well constructed and defined that they are those types of characters who are hard to forget even when you've finished the book. I can't wait to read more from Ms. Lancaster! I believe I'll be adding her to my favorite authors list. This is not a book you would want to miss. I would easily recommend this book to any of my friends who love Regency Romance novels.

Mary Lancaster has done it again! What a lovely story. I was riveted from beginning to end. Lancaster's prose is beautiful and her plotting is right in this tale. Gillie Muir and her family are gently bred and light in the pocket. David Keith, Baron Wickenden is a lord with a wicked reputation urged by a former mistress to investigate the nefarious gambling hell the Muirs are running in an effort to extricate her darling son from Gillie's clutches. This love story is not clear cut. It weaves and bobs and takes us through multiple mysteries. I loved it and you will too! What a marvelous start to a new series. I look forward to the next installment.

I enjoy ready books by Mary Lancaster, this book is one of a new series! Gillie and Bernard Muir were trying to make a little extra money after the death of their father. Things started happening like smugglers, the Wicked Baron, a stepmother that no one knew about. There is so much more to the story and I would recommend to anyone!

Gillie Muir was more than a hostess for a card game, she was hiding a smuggler, eluded the watch, accepted a stepmom & fell in love with the wicked baron & even eloped with another man to prevent a duel.

Loved the characters through the development of the relationship of each one of them. Mary Lancaster is good writer. Hope everyone will enjoy this book as much as I did.

I absolutely loved this story! This romance between a British Colonel's daughter, Gillie, and the "wicked Baron", Lord David Wickenden, was so much fun. He came to the small country village with a task and to hide away from a London scandal in which he'd been involved. She and her brother were trying, in their often chaotic and humorous way, to make a living in their resort town after the unexpected death of their father. Thrown together by proximity or fate, and a series of interesting plot developments, these two people sizzled in their attraction to each other. The plot was one that keeps the reader invested, the characters were colorful, and the story was just great fun! I found myself laughing out at various times at the dialogue and situations it entailed. I highly recommend this book and look forward to the next in what I hope is a long series, especially if the following stories are as entertaining as this one.

I'm familiar with Lancaster as the author of the Imperial Season trilogy (VIENNA WALTZ/VIENNA WOODS/VIENNA DAWN). Those three books take place during the Regency period, as this new one does, but in Europe and they have, in addition to romance, an emphasis on spying and intrigue during the time of the Napoleonic Wars and the Congress of Vienna. This new Blackhaven Brides series, although taking place also in Regency times perhaps a tad after the above-mentioned trilogy, has England as its setting, in coastal Cumbria. Our heroine here is Gillie Muir, who lives with her brother Bernard in the town of Blackhaven. After the death of their military father in Spain, they are short of funds and have opened up their home to card parties as a source of income. Enter hero Lord Wickenden. (The "Wicked Baron", get it? How unusual. A hero with a somewhat unsavory reputation.) He's in Blackhaven from London hiding out after a duel and also to check on the son of one of his ex-lovers. The ex-lover is afraid her son has fallen into the clutches of a gambling den "hussy" (that would be sweet and innocent Gillie, of course). So the story is set up for you to sit back and enjoy the ride. And it's a ride that takes you everywhere. There are smugglers, traitors to the Crown, romantic mix-ups, a mysterious pregnant possible stepmother for Gillie and Bernard. There must be more that I have forgotten. Oh, yes, the kitchen sink is there, I believe. This book begins

well and then succumbs to the "let's throw this in too" weakness. Lancaster often makes her stories too hectic, too full of too many incidents and storylines, too many characters. Yes, there are some exciting moments with spies and smugglers, some humorous ones during a botched elopement, and some romantic ones with H and h, but--whoa, slow down please, Ms Lancaster. I'd like a bit more romance and character development. And also less stupid behavior on the part of the heroine in her romantic interactions. My very favorite Lancaster story was the first one I read: VIENNA WALTZ. All the rest of them since that one have been too "too" for me.

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