



Lady Charlotte's First Love

Anna Bradley

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From spirited young woman to reckless widow, the beautiful Marchioness of Hadley remains a force to be reckoned with. But beneath her antics lies a broken heart . . .

Since her husband's tragic death, Lady Charlotte Hadley has embarked on a path of careless behavior and dangerous hijinks from which no one can divert her . . . until suddenly, her first—and only—true love reenters her world. Their fiery romance was so scandalous Charlotte had no choice but to marry another, more suitable man. Surely now they are both free to pick up where they left off . . .

Julian West has returned to London a hero after making a name for himself in battle at Waterloo. Every woman is vying for his attention—except the one who stole his heart. No matter, Julian has other obligations. But when Charlotte's sister, Eleanor, charges him with protecting the widow from ruin, what ensues is another kind of battle—one that leads a chase from London's bars and brothels to the finest country estate as Julian and Charlotte untangle a host of secrets, regrets, and misunderstandings. For could it be that the love they've forced themselves to forget is exactly what they need to remember? . .

Lady Charlotte's First Love Details

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Author : Anna Bradley

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From Reader Review Lady Charlotte's First Love for online ebook

Mei says

I didn't like this one...

Here we have a ton of angst without two words given as explanation!

I arrived on almost 2/3 of the book and I still didn't know what were their sins... I understood only that:

She has a secret

She does stupid things because she's feeling guilty about something

She wants help, but doesn't want to explain what's the problem

He has a secret

He does stupid things because he's feeling guilty about the death of his friend

He doesn't want help

They both are feeling that they have to atone for their sins

And so they wound each other with mean words and immediately want to unsaid what they said/done a few hours ago...

All that was interspaced by sex scenes that didn't made sense, but were, IMHO, inserted randomly to give the reader a much needed pause from all that angst!

It was actually a painful read...

And all of this goes on for pages and pages and pages....

Oh, the writing is what made me continue reading, but at the end I didn't like neither Charlotte nor Julian.

Charlotte was a spoilt lady deeply depressed and unwilling to get help for some misguided idea that she deserved to suffer in punishment for her sins. Julian was the same. Both of them have some very heavy issues and I mean mental issues. Could be PTSD, could be just fragility, at least in Charlotte's case.

Another thing: their situation and issues were solved in the last 10 pages!!! Can you imagine? She became a strong, courageous woman just because she told the truth to Julian, while he gets to see the light while riding to London to meet his never-seen fiancé, while abandoning Charlotte, but changes his mind and instead of formally asking her to marry him retracts his offer and returns to Charlotte!!! All that in 3-4 pages!!!!

It was just too much!!!

Because of all of this I really cannot rate this book more than 2 stars... and I'm being generous...

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

'Lady Charlotte's First Love' by Anna Bradley is Book Two in "The Sutherland Sisters" series. This is the

story of Lady Charlotte Hadley and Julian West. I feel you can make this a standalone book if you choose to do so but totally enjoy their story you might want to.

Charlotte and Julian have met earlier in the previous book "Lady Eleanor's Seventh Suitor" and Julian was helping his cousin become closer to Charlotte's sister. Charlotte found out and felt hurt and went a married someone else. Julian left for Waterloo and that was it until now. Charlotte is a widow and starting to do scandalous things to keep from being alone. Julian too has changed after returning home. No longer the fun and funny guy he is hurt and serious. Loved watching these tow come together and heal each other.

"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."

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Barbara Rogers says

I'd actually do 3.5 stars . . .

Series: The Sutherland Sisters #2

Publication Date: 10/3/17

What an emotionally wrenching ride to reach a Happily Ever After! Toward the end of the first book in the series, Lady Eleanor's Seventh Suitor, you got an inkling of the issues that permeate this book. There are multiple issues but you could discern them from the first book's story. This book deals with the aftermath and reactions of each of the main characters. You really do need to read the first book in order to gain a full appreciation for and understanding of this story. I liked these characters in the first book but somehow couldn't come to like or be invested in them in this one. They are broken individuals and remain that way through the majority of the book – well, maybe the whole book except for perhaps the epilogue. There is a lot of melodrama.

Recap from the first book: Charlotte Sutherland was madly, deeply, passionately in love with Julian West. They had an intimate relationship until she overheard something that made her believe that he had pursued her only because it made things easier for his cousin Cam to pursue her sister. That is true, to a point. Julian did start pursuing her for that reason, but he came to love her as much as she loved him. When she announces her engagement to another man, Julian heads off to war.

A year later Julian returns from the war, except he isn't the same Julian who left. That Julian was joyous, happy, humorous and loved life. This Julius is hard and joyless. This Julius is Captain West.

Charlotte is leading a frenetic life in London. She is courting scandal at every turn and each thing she does is more outrageous than the last. She hates to be alone. As you read the book, you'll find out the reasons for this.

There is a new character introduced in this book and I really liked him. His name is Devon and he is an Earl. He knew all of Charlotte's secrets and pains and helped her deal with them – he also wanted to marry her. He will be the hero in the next book and that one looks like it will be a good one. Maybe not quite so dark and angsty.

I find this review a bit hard to write without including spoilers – which I won't do. I have a number of concerns and questions around the book and the plot and the characters, but they all hinge on those spoilers as well. The bottom line is that I liked both of these characters in the first book and was disappointed in them in this book. I did enjoy the story but don't pick it up looking for a lighthearted, happy read because you won't find it here.

"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Ermione Pickwick says

[need to blame and punish herself for her husband's death (hide spoiler)]

Zoe says

I think I have found a new writer to follow.

This is a book full of promises. The writer's style is very readable. I enjoyed her way of visualizing a scene, which always helps me establish some kind of connection to the story. But at the same time, a promise is just a promise. It has not been fulfilled. This is how I feel about this book: it is very promising for a new writer, but it promises, it doesn't deliver.

For 80% of the story, we are told repeatedly that Charlotte had some dark secrets. But the writer wouldn't come out and say it. So the readers are kept in the dark but dragged along for this merry chase, where everyone hinted and no one ever said anything useful. After a while I got really annoyed. What's with all the "i deserve to be punished"? After a while it was just melodramatic. I feel that the writer didn't really do those pains justice. And she wouldn't tell the readers what it was about. We are supposed to feel the anguish without knowing what it's all about. I had my guesses. And if you have read enough HR yes you guessed right. But I got tired of waiting for the writer to finally tell us what it was all about. And when she finally got around to it, I was out of patience.

This book is like a dog chasing its own tail. It kept going in circles. But it's a pretty dog so you keep looking at it. But it keeps going in circles and you get dizzy trying to follow it. In the end you just throw your hands in the air and say please stop you are driving me nuts.

I will certainly read more from the writer. I just hope her other books have more substance and she doesn't employ the same trick to keep readers' interests.

eyes.2c says

Love's tragedy!

A Shakespearean tragedy if ever there was one. Enmeshed in the emotional harrowing web that pulls at Julian West and Lady Charlotte Hadley I found it hard to put this down.

West returns from the war a broken man, followed by nightmares, and yet feted as a hero--a sobriquet he detests and knows in his inner being is a lie.

Charlotte is a widow with devastating memories of her relationship with West, the blame she carries for her husband's death, and the betrayal she feels West dealt her.

Charged by his cousin Cam who is Charlotte's brother-in-law, to bring Charlotte home to her family, the last thing West wants to do is face down the troublesome, brittle marchioness. A woman who is constantly outraging the ton, cutting a swathe through high society with her equally outrageous friends, and who is a step away from being rejected by this august group. A woman who has always been the light of West's life no matter how he tries to deny it.

When I previously said I could hardly wait for Charlotte's story I didn't realize the depth of pain that would be forthcoming.

Two broken people condemning themselves to unsatisfactory lives through misunderstanding and on West's part, misplaced duty.

A NetGalley ARC

Debra Martin says

This is the second book in THE SUTHERLAND SISTERS series and it's not a lighthearted regency romance. This book is filled with so much guilt, misunderstandings and pain. Charlotte Sutherland was just a wonderful character in the first book, but in this book, she's broken and filled with guilt over the way her life has turned out over the past year. Julian West loved Charlotte from the moment he saw her, but when she unexpectedly turns around and marries Lord Hadley, he devastated and joins the army. When he returns to London hailed as a hero, it only adds to his guilt that he couldn't save his best friend on the battlefield. He's no hero, just a shell of the man he used to be.

Two broken characters filled with so much pain makes this book darker than most Regency romances. Ms. Bradley teases out details how they both have suffered during the last year and their unyielding guilt begins to make sense--Charlotte for her husband's early death and Julian for not saving his friend. When Julian is tasked with getting Charlotte to agree to leave London and return to her childhood home with her family, the battle of the wills begins. Who is stronger? Will Julian ever discover why Charlotte deserted him a year ago? And will Charlotte ever come to terms with the ghosts of her past? This book is a roller coaster of emotions that will keep you turning the pages until the very end to see if Charlotte and Julian can rekindle the love they once knew again.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Uvi says

4.25 stars

Another good read by Anna Bradley. This is the second one I read this week and I've loved them both. So much more pain and angst in this one than the first book and so much sadness. I keep telling myself I need to savor the book and not read it all in one sitting, but just as I put the book down to do something else, it calls back to me. Same with the first book..... this author's books have the perfect recipe for just the right amount

of angst and romance.

Definitely recommend if you're into historicals.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2y86cyp>

Aaaaahhh, Anna Bradley. It wouldn't be one of her books if I didn't want to stab someone at least once!

Quick of it is that Charlotte's having a wild-widow-loose-in-London breakdown and her family is all ohmahgawd we have to do something so they bring in Julian who has his own holy-shit-I'm-all-fucked-up thing going on and task him with getting Charlotte to leave the city and retire to the country with her family where she'll hopefully not cause her ruin with her crazy antics. Of course last time they saw each other shit did not go down well. So, yes. This will go well. Especially after he finds her smoking and drinking in a whore house. Erms. Yall. Widow-gone-wild. I'm telling you.

I liked Charlotte and Julian. I did. And wanted to throttle them both because good night, yall! Talking would have done both of them a world of good. But no. No, no. These two are stubborn little things. They have their reasons. They do. Really they're both hurting for different reasons and just don't know what to do with themselves.

Their past and all that pesky jump-each-other's-naughty-bits chemistry zinging about when they were trying to keep hating each other was entertainingly frustrating. Whew, yeah.

But I did like them and their difficult selves. Even if Julian did wind up needing a bit of stabbing he made it all the way to 65% before that happened! Not to be outdone, I had a brief oh no you didn't moment with Charlotte, too. lol

Family, drama, crazy friendships, damaged loved trying to mend itself, hurt, sass, the cattiness of the ton all combined for one entertaining read. Lady Charlotte's First Love was classic Bradley. Her characters may be a spot...difficult and drive you crazy now and again but dang if you can resist loving them completely in the end.

Mojca says

ARC provided by publisher through NetGalley

Julian West returns to London on a hero's welcome and reputation, but he feels a fraud. There's nothing heroic in him, since he left his friend to die in the field. He intends to stay in London just long enough to fulfill his obligation, but his cousin's wife's request proves to be yet another obligation.

Eleanor's younger sister, Charlotte, the one who stole Julian's heart and broke it a year ago, is going through a scandalous phase now that she's out of mourning for her husband, and Ellie and Cam need Julian to curb her impulses. Julian owes Ellie, so he's willing to do anything to repay the debt he feels toward her, so he agrees, knowing that Charlotte's spell won't work on him twice. He's no longer the man she knew...But the first time he lays eyes on her after the year spent apart, Julian realizes, Charlotte is no longer the woman he fell in love with.

Charlotte and Julian's story, *this* story, is a perfect example of how a single decision can change one of multiple lives and futures.

In the previous book Julian first seduced Charlotte, then she seduced him, they both fell in love, but Charlotte suddenly found out Julian's true role in his cousin's scheme, and, cutting all communications, married another. She sent word of her nuptials to Julian on the day of her wedding, and he went off to war...Charlotte's husband died mere four months after the wedding, and his death, and everything that followed, changed her. Julian had also been changed in the battlefield and its aftermath...Their decisions, spurred by the misunderstanding and lack of trust, shaped them, changed their lives, and their characters. But in the end, once it all worked out, once these two idiots actually talked to each other without the barriers of resentment, anger, hurt, and betrayal, it turned out the change wasn't that big at all; their new personas were just masks they hid behind, afraid to show their true self with all their flaws. And they ended up being the only ones who could look and actually see behind the other's mask.

This wasn't an easy story to read. It wasn't happy, it wasn't funny, it wasn't carefree. Far from it. It was dark, troubled, angsty, and turbulent. And I loved every single, dark, moody moment of it.

I didn't particularly care for either the protagonists' behavior; the antagonism was grating, especially since I knew their history and what was beneath their animosity. What bothered me the most was Charlotte's blasé attitude toward what her behavior meant for her family and her seemingly complete disregard for her sister's feelings. Yes, she didn't know what she wanted, she felt she deserved to be punished, but I don't understand why she felt her sister needed to be punished as well.

Oh well. She and her reasoning was off, I guess.

Julian, as he hero, was no better, hiding behind his icy veneer, blaming the "vast blackness" inside him for snapping at Charlotte, when it was obvious it all stemmed from his hurt feelings.

These two were so wrong for each other, especially in their initial states of mind, they were absolutely perfect for each other. A match made in dysfunctional Heaven, if you like, and I enjoyed every single bruising, hurtful moment they spent together.

Because I just wanted for them to figure it out, work out whatever bothered them individually and about each other, I wanted the truth to come out, and I wanted the blasted conflict to end. Which would've if they actually talked, communicated.

I usually hate these types of conflicts that stem from miscommunications, but I found myself enjoying this one, looking forward to each scene, each tidbit of truth that was revealed, because as dysfunctional a pair these two were, despite me not approving of all their choices and behavior, I was invested in these two characters.

Which just goes to show, what a great author Anna Bradley is for creating these two heavily layered, flawed, issue-laden characters, enveloping them in a complex, dark, and angsty story, and still making them shine, showing what was beneath their veneer and mask, keeping me rooting for them, keeping my fingers crossed they don't make an even bigger mess of things...

I got my wish. I suffered, but it was worth it.

Damn, what a wonderful story!

Nicole Laverdure says

Beautiful Regency story with a darker touch!

I really enjoyed Anna Bradley's 1st book, *Lady Eleanor's Seventh Suitor*, the story of Eleanor Sutherland and Camden West! In her 2nd book, *Lady Charlotte's First Love*, we follow Eleanor's sister Charlotte and Cam's cousin Julian West. Their story is very emotional!

If you remember, Charlotte and Julian had a brief encounter. But something goes wrong, and Charlotte marries another man and Julian leaves for the battle of Waterloo. Meanwhile, Charlotte now a widow, becomes desperate! Until, Julian comes back from war and re-enters her life. Poor Charlotte's life is filled with secrets and lies, which will complicate matters. Be prepared to be sent on a roller coaster ride of emotions. She'll need Julian's help to get better and gain back her self-confidence. Will Julian forgive her when he learns her terrible secret? Can they get a second chance and can their love survive their journey filled with secrets, lies and scandal! Can those two bruised souls ever find peace and happiness!

*Received an advance reader copy from NetGalley and publisher in exchange for a fair review.

Donna says

Charlotte Sutherland was in love with her brother-in-law's cousin, Julian West, but when he joined the army to fight Napoleon, she married the Marquess of Hadley. She didn't love Hadley as she did Julian and feels guilty over his accidental death from a fall off his horse. She avoids her family by staying to herself and her 3 widowed friends. Her sister and brother-in-law, Ellie and Cam, are very concerned over the places she and her friends go and don't understand why she won't come with them to the country estate.

Julian returned from war with survivor's guilt and pain. His best friend died in battle and Julian thinks he should have saved him. He wants to make it up to his friend by taking care of his sister, which he thinks includes marrying her. When Cam asks him to help Charlotte, he reluctantly agrees as he still hurts over her marrying another man. They still love each other, but won't admit it.

The rest of this very good story is for you to read. I enjoyed it very much and can easily recommend it. I can't wait for the next book, *Twelfth Night with the Earl*, about Lord Devon, one of the secondary characters in this book (Nov. 14th).

Thanks to the author and publisher for the ARC. Release date is October 3rd!

Emma says

Enjoyed this book immensely, I knocked off a star as I think the hero was a bit rash in some of the situations.

Looking forward to Devons story.

4 Stars

Arc received from NetGalley for an honest review

Irma says

This story took me on such a journey - from 'what a wicked games you play', to 'love is a battelfield' and at the end 'you never forget your first love'.

I loved the hero and the heroine. He was not the man Charlotte used to know. Since he came back from the battle, he was now dark, troubled, angsty, and moody. And Charlotte has built a wall around her (heart).

But their story was a beautiful one. And I really liked the authors writting style.

Adria (Musings and Reviews) says

Originally posted on < a href="https://adriasromancereviews.blogspot... Musings and Reviews Review to come soon. (Blog post MAY have additional content such as playlists, interviews, giveaways, etc).

* A copy of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the purpose of an honest review. All conclusions are my own responsibility and I was not compensated for this review.

What's it About? A year ago Lady Charlotte thought she had found love with Julian West, then she found out he was part of a revenge plan and she was his target. Her heart broke and she married someone else. Julian on the other hand went off to war with a broken heart because he truly did love Charlotte only she wouldn't see him after they spent a night together and then she married someone else. Now he's back from the war wracked with guilt and not in the mood to help his cousin Cam, who is married to Charlotte's sister Ellie. They want Julian to find Charlotte and convince her to join them in their country estate. Since Charlotte was widowed she's been acting reckless and while Julian is sure he doesn't care for the woman he thought he loved a year ago, he reluctantly agrees to bring her home. Well, he finds her and her wicked widows club in a brothel and when he sees Charlotte again he can't help but feel again.

Overall reaction to the story? The angst and heartache almost did me in! Lady Charlotte's First Love has so much emotion bursting from the pages and I couldn't help but be drawn into Julian and Charlotte's conflicted romance. These two had so much to work through because so much had happened in the year since they last saw each other. This book is definitely high on the angst and heartbreak but to me that made the romance so much sweeter, so much more earned if that makes sense. Their inner demons weren't easy and the guilt they suffered for their individual mistakes was the biggest threat to them individually and as a

whole but by the end I was so happy for Julian and Charlotte because they're that kind of couple that you know loves with everything they have.

Describe the hero in five words: Stubborn. Kind. Loyal. Loving. Damaged.

Did you like him? Yes.

Why? I liked Julian when I first met him in his cousin Cam's book, *Lady Eleanor's Seventh Suitor*. Julian lacked the ruthlessness of his cousin and had a kind of poetic, gentle lover kind of vibe about him. He fell so hard for Charlotte in that book and when she turned away from him he was broken. Now Julian's experiences as a soldier have turned him more like his cousin used to be. He's bitter, wracked with guilt, and determined to stay away from Charlotte. He was so different but I still liked him, he loved his cousin and was genuinely happy for him and Ellie but he was totally broken. I have a soft spot for broken characters like Julian. He was a good guy who saw horrible things and was haunted by them and he just forgot who he was for awhile, but that's what made him such a good character. There was still some of that gentle, passionate, kind man in there somewhere that needed to come out so he could truly join the living again.

Describe the heroine in five words: Caring. Destroyed. Stubborn. Lost. Smart.

Did you like her? Yes.

Why? Charlotte bore the brunt of her falling out with Julian and she bore it alone. That really had me feeling for her because it totally changed her. I missed that spirited, mischievous young girl she used to be but it was clear early on that she wasn't that person anymore. No matter that she married someone else, Charlotte truly believed that Julian didn't love her like she loved him and how could she believe him? He had played a part in his cousin's stupid revenge plan and while Julian soon backed off of the plan and really did fall in love with Charlotte, the damage was already done. I felt for her, she was alone in her grief and unrequited love because she never stopped loving Julian. That's a torture in itself. I wanted Charlotte to overcome her grief because it wasn't just the loss of Julian that was tormenting her and I understood why she felt so guilty, she was a good person and she felt like she could have been better for her late husband.

Let's talk about the romance: There was no question that Julian and Charlotte belonged together. I fell in love with their sweet romance in the first book and had my heart broken right along with theirs but these two were special. They had a connection that was impossible to deny and difficult to describe. Not all couples have this special magic that comes from a sweetly passionate first love gone wrong. There was just something so dang solid about their feelings for each other even when they were fighting not to feel it again. Julian was just so hopelessly in love with Charlotte and she desperately wanted to love him again it was just so powerful. I fell in love with their second chance romance. It was like watching a dying garden being touched by sunlight for the first time in long while.

How about that supporting cast? There isn't much by way of supporting cast except for Cam and Ellie and Charlotte's wicked widows club which consists of three other women who are for their own reasons engaging in risky (for their reputations) behavior. By all accounts they seemed to be good friends though and I'd love for them to get their own stories soon. Then there was Charlotte's other friend Lord Devon who seemed to be fighting a bad reputation and his own demons. Heavens but I can't resist those kinds of characters!

Click It or Skip It? Click It. *Lady Charlotte's First Love* is a sigh worthy emotional romance that I wouldn't pass up for anything.
