



The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous

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Lysander Hawley combined breathtaking good looks with the kindest of hearts. He couldn't pass a stray dog, an ill-treated horse or a neglected wife without rushing to the rescue. And with neglected wives the rescue invariably led to ecstatic bonking, which didn't please their erring husbands one bit.

Lysander's mid-life crisis had begun at twenty-two. Reeling from the death of his beautiful mother, he was out of work, drinking too much and desperately in debt. The solution came from Ferdie, his fat, fast-operating friend: if Lysander was so good at making husbands jealous, why shouldn't he get paid for it?

Let loose among the neglected wives of the ritzy county of Rutshire, Lysander causes absolute havoc. But it is only when he meets Rannaldini, Rutshire's King Rat of Rutshire and a temperamental, fiendishly promiscuous international conductor, that the trouble really starts. The only unglamorous woman around Rannaldini was Kitty, his plump young wife who ran his life like clockwork. Soon Lysander was convinced that Kitty must be rescued from Rannaldini at all costs, even if it means enlisting the help of the old blue-eyed havoc maker: Rupert Campbell-Black.

The Man Who Made Husbands Jealous Details

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Liz says

One of my all time favourite books. Lysander is the sweetest character, utterly swoonworthy. As with all of the Rutshire Chronicles it's full of laugh out loud moments, over the top characters and is a great book for miserable days. Always cheers me up.

Evelyn says

Trashy romance novel on the surface. The premise was that desperately unhappy wives whose husbands were straying hired a man to hang around, get them exercising and fit, update their hair and wardrobe and moon over them in their husband's presence in an attempt to make the husband jealous and give up his mistress. Cute premise, highly improbable.

Two interesting story lines were also included. One was music, mostly opera and orchestras, but also one rock star. Lots of singers and musicians and a couple of conductors. The pain and the joy involved in writing a new album. The hours of practice. The personality and creativity a conductor brings to the music being performed - I had thought they just read the music already written, I did not realize each conductor adds his own touch to it.

The second was horse racing, all about training a horse, what jockeys go through getting their weight down, studying a race course and the tactics a rider needs to know, about each jump, corner, hill, straightaway, and the other horses and riders.

I actually learned a lot about music and horse racing, which made this a 3 star read for me.

Meryan says

Lysader Hawley a gorgeous young man who cannot resist anything in trouble, be it an ill treated animal or a helpless mistreated woman he had to help them all, oftentimes getting himself in trouble. He finds himself at 22 dealing with the death of a mother he adored, out of work, drinking to much and in debt. His friend Ferdie comes up with a plan for Lysander to get paid for making these husbands jealous. They go to ritzy Rutshire and set Lysader loose. The problem is he falls in love with the women whose husbands he's supposed to be getting back and become very fond of him. But one man the is truly evil his name is Rannaldini and he is married to a very plain but sweet woman named Kity who he takes advantage of very badly. Lysander falls in love with her and she with him but Rannaldini will do anything to keep them apart.

Eve says

Always fantastic.

I liked how Lysander's trendiness and tenderness was evinced by his propensity to preface honest statements with 'basically'. I liked the puppy-dog disposition of his character, that matched the roiling bubble of fluff

that was Kitty. As always, I tend to gloss over the details about horse events, because they're beyond me. I love reading the word 'chukka' though. I like the descriptions of clothing: silk camisoles, polo shirts. I love how everyone is always 'drenching', 'dousing' and drowning themselves in heavy perfumes: Diorissimo, Chanel no.5, and Giorgio (banned for its intensity in restaurants? Internet folklore). I basically want to be one of these characters: sauntering through pollen-clouded gardens up to cottages, awash of Giorgio, to drink Bolly a 2pm (any am or pm), integrate recitations of classic poetry into casual conversations seamlessly, and eat- or suddenly be overcome with a wave of nausea thinking about something dramatic and 'completely lose my appetite for' - salmon and cream cheese sandwiches (or something equally refrigerated and unsubstantial).

Val says

I bought this book after watching the film and fell in love with the lead character. You really need to read all the other books that revolve around these characters. Although each book stands on its own, reading the other volumes help expand each of the characters and you will end up understanding why certain characters are the way they are in this environment.

It is based on the horse crowd in UK and takes in a concert pianist and his troubles and other offshoots such as a self-made millionaire with a common touch, wives who don't feel they measure up and others that feel they are too high up on the totem pole to even entertain the lower characters. It is filled with sexual romps, cheating husbands, misunderstood children, naive women, etc, etc. A little bit for everybody written with the usual Jilly Cooper, tongue in cheek, humour. I never thought I would read anything about the polo or horse crowd but find these books very entertaining and great for reading at any time.

Vicky says

Only Jilly Cooper could write about sex using the analogy of an otter frolicking on a riverbank and joyously plunging into... Anyway, perhaps addressing the fact that her previous books were called rather racy, this book is all about sex. Some romance, a fair amount of deception, and lots of bantering between sparky characters. And just one or two ponies.

The characters are engaging, and despite both Rannaldini and Hermione being grotesque caricatures, utterly believable. You become drawn into their world and need to know what happens to them, helped by the fact that the book makes space for an ensemble cast of familiar old friends.

However, I did feel that this wasn't the best Jilly Cooper I've read, and it was slightly overlong, but nevertheless an enjoyable, easy read.

JFN says

If you like ridiculous trash or wasting your time or are at all interested in casting off a few burdensome IQ points, this book is for you. Though it's not even well-done, rollicking fun, wholesome-guilty-pleasure ridiculous trash, like Cooper's other book I read, *Riders*, which is like Pulitzer worthy compared to this soppy, far-fetched, ponderous behemoth. Still, I finished it -- read all 700+ pages, because I actually cared

how it turned out for some strange reason.

The inferiority of this book compared to *Riders* is not enough to put me off Cooper altogether though. It's exceedingly British in a way you're not going to get from reading other writers, and I love that, so I'll read on...

caty says

This is the fourth in the *Rutshire Chronicles*, and the only one in the series I hadn't yet read. And it is by far my least favourite. This book is nothing but sex. Lysander, hopelessly gorgeous and in desperate need of cash, is persuaded to 'pretend' to date married women to tempt their cheating husbands back home. Usually it's successful, but usually there is little pretense behind Lysander's relationships either. Rannaldini makes his first proper appearance, but I found I detested him even more in this book than I do in later books. And the knowledge that he dies two books later on didn't placate me. He's just such a horrible little man. But what really made this book less interesting to me is that for most of the book there wasn't any other plot besides the sex. At least in the rest of the series there is opera, or show jumping, so there is some drama outside of who's bonking who. I'm glad I read this one only because it tied together the older and newer books but that's it. I'd say it's the book I'm least likely to re-read.

Amy Jones says

BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO KITTY AND LYSANDER? WHAT HAPPENS TO GEORGIE AND DAVID AND RANNALDINI AND HERMIONE AND BOB? Gah. I need to read another one.

Louise says

This was ok. I never really got hooked on Lysander and again I compared this with her trio of *Riders*, *Rivals* and *Polo* and found it short. Wasn't a bad read and her use of language is spot-on.

Dark-Draco says

Lysander Hawley doesn't have a lot going for him - apart from his looks. Dyslexic, reeling from the death of his mother, unable to talk to his father and hopeless with money, even his best friend, Ferdie, despairs for him. But Ferdie comes up with a brilliant plan - there are a lot of cheating husbands in *Rutshire*. With Lysander hanging around their wives, getting them fit, making them look good, the husbands soon come back - and the wives will pay for it. Lysander is too soft, falling for each of the women and refusing to obey Ferdie's rule about not sleeping with them. One of the errant husbands, Rannaldini, is a top conductor and only married Kitty so she can run his life for him. Constantly flaunting a series of ex-wives, mistresses and children, he relishes how unhappy he makes her. But everything changes when Lysander falls for Kitty.

Another great story in the series. These are so funny, sweet and sad in places, with a requisite happy ending. They don't take much thought to read and are pure entertainment - I love them. Can't wait to get on to the

next one.

Dangermousie says

This is probably my favorite Jilly Cooper book, even if it isn't one of her most famous ones. It's just so funny and sweet and with a creepytastic undertone and I adore the protagonists.

Lysander Hawkley is gorgeous and ridiculously nice. He's also not the sharpest tool in the drawer, can't read or write in any coherent matter due to dyslexia, and is incapable of holding down a job or even function much in real world due to just losing interest and not keeping track of anything. Luckily, his fed-up friend finally finds him a job Lysander can hold down - the job of the title of the book. A particular town near to London is a favorite living space for many of the England's rich and famous and, as it often goes, many of the rich wives are neglected by their husbands, either for work or for mistresses. So Lysander becomes the man who gets hired by these ladies to get their husbands back - by pretending to be these ladies' devoted admirer etc - as Lysander is naturally nice to people and very attractive, that is an easy easy job for him. (Sex is not included in the purchase package, but usually happens anyway).

And then he meets Kitty Ranaldini. Kitty is plain, chubby, Cockney and married to the most appalling man ever (I actually think he's the only monster in all of Cooper's books). Ranaldini is a famous conductor who married Kitty when his previous wife left - Kitty was his very efficient secretary and he didn't want to lose her services. He doesn't love her or like her, treats her like dirt, and so does everyone else in his entourage (Kitty is expected to book hotel rooms for Ranaldini's mistresses, etc). The same is true in town - her 'friends' pretty much use her to arrange their lives and make their parties more pleasant and never think about her wishes twice.

Lysander is not particularly interested in Kitty but he does feel sorry for the way she's being treated and eventually they become friends. Oh, and then one of his former clients hires him for Kitty to bring Kitty's husband back, etcetcetc I think it is no surprise to say they fall desperately in love?

It all sounds like a plot of a romance novel (well, perhaps a lot tawdrier version of one) but it's not really - it's cynical and funny and actually pretty biting, with a lot of spotlight on characters who are not the main two (various wives, Ranaldini and his entourage etc).

I think it's my favorite of her books because it's rather a character piece and also because I just adore the two protagonists, who are both ridiculously nice (Lysander especially reminded me of a puppy) and also total misfits - despite his looks and upper-classish background, he is just as much of an outsider as she is. They are both too naive for the creepy creepy games people play around them (the only scene in all of her books that freaked me the hell out was in this book and involved Lysander at Ranaldini's party and ugh) and rather unsuited for the real world alone (together, they do fill in each other's gaps - she is as impossibly nice as he is but very practical).

Basically, it's hilarious and darling and with some dark dark undertones that nonetheless do not overwhelm.

Amanda says

Here we go again with another hefty tome concerning rich people, fast lifestyles and rampant infidelity. In fact, infidelity is rather the theme of the book - Lysander Hawkley is making a living from lonely housewives in the village of Paradise, improving their appearance, making them desirable and encouraging their husbands to come home. The problem is, he never anticipated falling in love with one of them...

I have a lot of issues with this book, hence the low rating compared to the other novels I have read by Jilly Cooper. We move here from the horse world into that of classical music, meeting for the first time such characters as Roberto Rannaldini and Hermione Harefield. This made me realise just how much of Jilly's books are made gripping by the presence of animals. In fact, another of my gripes is that here Cooper shoehorned in a plot concerning an old racehorse called Arthur - not only was it entirely extraneous to the plot, but she also reused a plot device from an earlier book. The first time she used it to great effect - this time I could only think about the fact that it had already cropped up in a prior book.

In addition to this I found the entire idea of a man employed to make husbands jealous ludicrous, and the amounts he earnt for doing so seemed ultra unrealistic. I also didn't enjoy the amount of adultery - I know Jilly's books are known for their bed hopping and wife swapping, but here it seemed overwhelming to have a whole plot centred around it.

I did enjoy some of the outrageous characters in this book, though. Lysander himself is sweet, gorgeous and sensitive. Flora was fiery and fun to read about. And once again the animals stole the show somewhat, particularly Arthur.

This book I have now read twice, and both times it has left very little impact. Forgettable.

DeB MaRtEnS says

If you enjoy broad satire, have a bit of a clue about the British class system and are open to novels that lead you on goose trails with hijinks and shenanigans all the way to a neatly and delightful ending, you can't do better than Jilly Cooper. Her books are, to use the English expression, "a lark", filled with high comedy, pretentious snobs, salt of the earth types, love stories, romps, successes and rightful devastation of the villains in the plot. The plot, however, is always so serpentine that the reader is usually kept guessing until the end. Farcical fun!

Racquel McDonnell says

Liked it but not as much as the others, couldn't get over the fact that someone could get on a crazy horse and ride to her lover, personally would just go in the car or take to safe nag.
