



## The Ruse (Andrews Brothers, #1)

*Felicia Rogers*

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Luke Andrews, Baron of Stockport, is in trouble. He needs a wealthy bride to secure future funds for his financially shaky estate, but the belle of the London season is a spoiled terror with an arrogant father. They'd try the nerves of a saint and Luke can't quite bring himself to make an offer he knows he'd regret.

Meanwhile, Luke's half-brother Chadwick never could resist a good game of Faro, or anything else, for that matter. With the baron away, Chadwick will play — gambling the estate's remaining funds into oblivion. He needs to devise his own scheme to replace the money he's lost, before his brother returns.

In Stockport village, Brigitta Blackburn doesn't have two sticks to rub together — literally. With the estate in financial distress and rents high, food and wood are scarce. When she sneaks onto the baron's land to steal some firewood, she's caught, hauled before the play-acting "baron," Chadwick, and offered a solution to her plight... and his.

But Chadwick's ruse embroils them all. How can Brigitta accept what she thinks to be true, when she really yearns to follow her heart?

--a traditional Regency novel

## **The Ruse (Andrews Brothers, #1) Details**

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Author : Felicia Rogers

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## **From Reader Review The Ruse (Andrews Brothers, #1) for online ebook**

### **Vicky says**

I downloaded the Kindle version of this book in return for a review.

This was an OK story, a bit 'the taming of the shrew' with first one brother and then the other tricking a young woman into marrying them, but because of the period it is set, also involving a while household of servants into the ruse, as well as priests and local townspeople.

The interesting part is that the girl seems to have some morals, and at first really only marries because she thinks she can help the townspeople in her new role as mistress.

However, she lets herself be taken in, regardless of her supposedly stong mind, she is drugged into amnesia and other things that contribute to show her in a very passover role with really no influence.

Although I was interested enough to finish it, I doubt I would read another of the books in this series,

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### **Englishrose says**

Honestly, this read more like a gothic novel rather than a regency romance. The plot was a bit outlandish, with actions and events being exaggerated and making little sense. I honestly expected the villain to twist an imaginary mustache a few times. Occam's Razor was not at work at any point, with intricate plots more in play than reality. That being said, it was an interesting read as I haven't come across a book like this before. The romance was implied rather than relayed, and the events were a bit choppy. A few modern terms were thrown in and unsettling. Overall, a unique and somewhat outlandish story, but one that didn't appeal to me.

[www.cleanromancereviews.com](http://www.cleanromancereviews.com)

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### **Joan says**

DNF at 12%. Too complex.

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### **Judy Lavik says**

#### **Good in spite of ridiculous plot**

SPOILER ALERT:

Luke, the baron, is in need of a wealthy bride, so he's off to London to find one. He leaves his half-brother,

Chadwick (the fox,) in charge of the estate (the henhouse) while he's away. Chadwick gambles away what little money is left and devises a ridiculous scheme to replenish the coffers. Unfortunately, though money does start coming in, he continues to gamble, leaving them no better off. He raises rents for his already-strapped tenants. Luke decides he cannot marry the heiress he's been courting, and returns home to find that Chadwick is pretending to be the baron, and also pretending to be married to a villager, Brigitta, who he falls in love with at first sight. Brigitta doesn't know the marriage is a sham and is trying to be a good wife to the loathsome Chadwick, even though she finds herself attracted to his brother. And then it starts really getting crazy.

While the plot wouldn't work in a contemporary tale, the storyline lacked any authenticity of the times. Single women are repeatedly left alone with men, and everybody calls each other by their first names, including the servants speaking of or to their masters.

In spite of all this, I did enjoy the book and plan to read it's sequel, Chadwick's story. The author has dug a tremendous hole for herself in terms of making Chadwick viable hero material, but I'm pretty sure she'll find a wacky way out of it.

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### **Cindy Woods says**

#### **Waste of time**

This is one of the most convoluted, ridiculous plots for a story I have ever read....and never made sense. A total waste of time to read this remarkably dumb book.

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### **Yolanda says**

This was a fun, light, romantic read, with a unique twist! It has romance, comedy & suspense! The heroine is strong willed, yet vulnerable and I found myself cheering for her throughout the book. The Andrews brothers are both fascinating, yet entirely different characters that draw your interest. The plot is quite unique with so many fun twists it keeps you glued to see what will happen next! If you enjoy regency romance you will definitely enjoy The Ruse!

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### **A.M. says**

Luke Andrews is Baron of Stockport. While away in London trying to find an eligible heiress to marry to solve the estate's financial issues, his half brother Chadwick comes up with a scheme of his own. He runs tours of the house during which people can see the 'Baron' and his new wife, a girl from the village, Brigitta Blackburn, he has convinced he has actually married.

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What a ridiculous story line. No one in regency times is going to pay much to see a house. A penny maybe. Not enough for a wanna-be lord to pay off his faro debts anyway. Or to provide the gowns and finery that they wear during these appearances. If I remember my Austen, the housekeeper gave tours of Pemberley and was proud to do so.

His half brother is impersonating the Baron, thus upsetting any plans the actual Baron has to marry legally,

after making a sham wedding ceremony to a girl that most of the local village know. And she isn't a lady. Each time she comes downstairs, all dressed up, Chadwick insults her and she runs back to hide in her room. **It makes no sense.**

Why does his half brother even have access to the estate funds? They must have no money left if he can spend it all in the couple of weeks Luke was away.

The servants don't know their place and don't behave like servants.

And I fail to understand why Brigitta is going along with this. She can't actually think she married this guy, can she? How dumb is she?

She shouts at the servants, too. I don't like her and I feel no sympathy for her. Here she is throwing things into the wall in exactly the way the spoilt brat that Luke decided not to marry behaved, if not worse.

“No doubt they toured the kitchens, the gardens, and the library, places I’m never allowed to visit!” She threw the fan. The shallow bone frame cracked and crumbled against the base of the wall. (Kindle Locations 567-569)

Everyone's parents seem to have perished in terrible carriage accidents. I can understand one set, but two seems careless. (Or unimaginative of the author. Shot by highwaymen perchance?)

Not sticking around to find out how dumb the heroine is.

Did not finish at 18%

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### **Kathy says**

I had a hard time with this book. It was painful reading about how cruel the Baron's brother Chadwick is and he never really gets his comeuppance. Brigitta is innocent and tries so hard; she's duped into believing she is married to Chadwick and doesn't understand why he won't have anything to do with her. Luke, the Baron, falls in love with Brigitta but goes about trying to help her without telling her the truth about her marriage, which makes her feel worse as she develops feelings for him. Luke has to finally tell all, but I found the ending rushed and unsatisfying.

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### **Carol says**

Honestly, I have no idea what to make of this.

It has to be the most unbelievable, most ridiculous plot I've ever come across. Much of it makes absolutely no sense. I loathed most of the characters. Luke is no hero. Apart from the moments of extreme wussiness, he was also cruel, manipulative, and not much better than his brother Chadwick. Even knowing what was going on, he went along with it, continuing to lie to Brigitta (who is unbelievably stupid and weak). Temper or not, she is the ultimate doormat. (view spoiler) There is just nothing likable about any character.

For some weird reason, I kept reading. The author can spell and I've read worse books. By the end though, I was generally just dazed and confused.

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## **Carol McGrath says**

### **A good story**

I enjoyed this book. It's the story of a young woman whose parents have died. She uses the last of her money to buy food but has no wood to cook it. She goes into the woods to gather wood on the baron's property and is accused of stealing and taken to the baron's residence, only he is not the real baron. What happens after that makes this book very interesting. This is a good book if you like historical romance.

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## **Manuela says**

Oh, this could have been such a good read. Two guys, one girl, a fake marriage. All ingredients of a great story. Unfortunately the MCs did the biggest No-No in my Romance world. They hardly talked to each other, they assumed (and you know that makes a donkey out of u and me) what the other thought, meant, felt. That is ok in the beginning, but when they have been together for a while, under false pretenses or not, they should be able to talk, to admit to errors and mistakes they made. In the end it stretched and pulled and the ending was quite rushed and felt like a false climax. (view spoiler)

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## **Bethany Swafford says**

Honestly, I didn't finish reading this. The plot was just far too convoluted and the characters were unendurable. On at least one occasion there was a phrase used far before it came into use (such as 'tag along' which came into use in the 1930s). I couldn't suspend my belief a moment longer.

It was, as far as I read, a clean book, so it did have that going for it.

I would not recommend this to any reader.

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## **William Simmons says**

### **4.5 stars**

I must say that I was pleasantly surprised by this book. For some reason I did not have high expectations when I began this book but the plot was good so I decided to try it.

Well, the storyline was great, a little slow because you wanted the hero to tell the heroine what was going on a lot sooner but for the most part it was fast paced, and the characters were well developed.

I did not care for the way the sub plot of what happened to Chadwick was left hanging for another book.

I do recommend this book.

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### **Angi Neal says**

I really enjoyed this story!! It was fresh and very different than any other book I have read. I fell in love with the characters quickly. I felt Brigitta's and Luke's internal struggles in my heart. The twists and turns were really fun and some things took a very unexpected turn. Plus who doesn't love a very strong lady lead that Brigitta was:). Now I can't wait to see what happens to Chadwick!!

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### **Heather says**

While the Baron of Stockport, Luke, is in London looking for a wife, his brother, Chadwick, tricks Brigitta into "marriage." What she doesn't know is the marriage isn't real. Chadwick has a gambling problem and comes up with the complicated plan to pretend to marry Brigitta, not tell her and then pick fights with her during tours of the castle to make money. Yes that is the actually plan, farfetched as it sounds. Luke comes home and discovers his brother's ruse. Instead of immediately putting a stop to it, he plays his own games. He does fall for Brigitta though. Chadwick just seems to have no redeemable qualities at all. If this wasn't a regency/historical type romance Luke would have been punching his brother in the face, just my opinion.

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