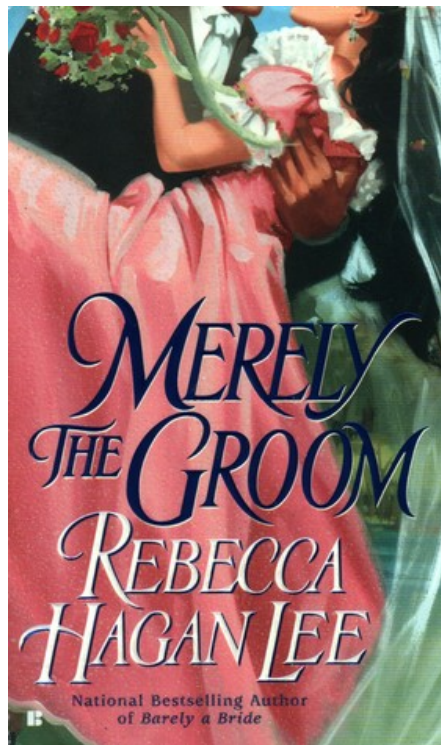




## Merely the Groom

*Rebecca Hagan Lee*

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# Merely the Groom

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## **Merely the Groom** Rebecca Hagan Lee

Colin McElreath, Viscount Grantham, has sold his soul to the devil—a devil of an irate English father. For cash. Colin is about to become a very wealthy man—a very wealthy *married* man.

The powerful Baron Davies urgently requires a respectable husband for Gillian, his disgraced daughter, and he sees Colin as the perfect candidate. When Colin balks, Davies isn't above using his daughter's large dowry as an incentive—or applying a bit of blackmail. He threatens to expose the undercover work the Free Fellows do for the government, and as a charter member of the Free Fellow League, Colin has sworn to protect the League at all cost. Also someone has been masquerading as Colin, which indirectly landed Gillian in her predicament, so Colin is faced with no choice.

He doesn't know whether to laugh or to cry at the irony. After a lifetime of avoiding society misses, he is about to marry one.

Miss Gillian Davies is about to become a blushing bride.

And Colin McElreath is merely the groom ...

## **Merely the Groom Details**

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## From Reader Review Merely the Groom for online ebook

### **Maggie says**

I love the Free Fellows! Unfortunately I am reading this series out of order, I finished book 1 & 3 before reading this (book 2) so I kinda knew what happened. I love Gillian's character, smart, pretty and a genius at math! I read this on audio and Virginia Leishman did an excellent job narrating. I look forward to book 4 which contains one of my favorite characters, Miranda! I hope I can find it on audio as well.

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### **Heather says**

One of the best romance novels I have read in awhile !

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### **shirley fisher says**

#### **Not so much!!**

Thought book one good but little disappointed in this. Story twists and turns makes for good reading BUT so much extra dialogue makes things run long and seems a bit "jerky" All characters and plot fun but you have to have patience. Old saying "to make a long story short" would have helped. Looking forward to more from Grif, Allysa, Colin and Gillian, just must remember scanning ahead never hurts real plot.

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### **Faye Lawson says**

#### **He was a spy and someone was using his alias!**

When he saw the young woman peering out the window of an inn that catered to smugglers and rough characters, he didn't know after overhearing a discussion of her abandonment by her 'husband' between the innkeeper and his wife that HE would become her husband! He was a confirmed bachelor but that all changed when he seeks the stealer of his identity and in the process finds love. I enjoyed this book! The hero truly is the knight he styled himself and his help for the damsel in distress came when they both needed it!

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### **Harold E Parker says**

#### **A very well written romance series.**

Well I've just purchased the remaining books in this series. After reading the first and second one I am convinced the remaining books will be very very good also.

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### **Jennie says**

This book has everything, romance, spies, attempted kidnapping, espionage and laughter.

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### **CameForTea says**

The story was just wonderful. I love how some facts were thrown in, giving insights of the how things were. But it did left me hanging, the end made me want for something more. Overall though I am satisfied with the story.

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### **Jultri says**

2.5/5. Plot cramped into very short span of time (about one month) during which heroine married twice voluntarily, losing her virginity to the first guy, who turned out to be a less than honourable identity-thief. The two leads met briefly twice by halfway mark, exchanging only a few words, far less dialogue/contact than between the hero and his merry male friends and even far less interaction than between the hero and his future father in law. Despite that and her dubious beginnings (which she took all in stride, none of the usual shame or trauma or heartbreak one expect from a gently-reared girl who had been deserted by her husband), she managed to get quite excited about her marriage to a stranger a few short weeks later.

Furthermore, for a guy who signed a decree not to marry without a fight, never fall in love with his wife and to dump any future wife on some rural property once the deed has been done, he all too readily embraced married life without much preamble. Well apart from the 100 pages or so of preamble when he negotiated the marriage with the father-in-law. Oh not to mention, he had no qualm sleeping with her even though she might or might not be carrying the other guy's baby (it has only been a few weeks since her previous marriage after all) and did not seem to mind that his future heir might not be his own. It must be due to the distraction of her "pointy twins" or was it "twin points" that the author likes to refer to often...? And so after 3-4 days into their marriage, it was inevitable that they both fell head over heels in love because credibility and character development are less important than wrapping up the story in 4 weeks.

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### **Rachel Sides says**

Nice addition to the series.

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### **Diana Barton says**

#### **Addictive**

Well conceived characters that make you root for them. A plot that fits into the genre but has enough originality to be fresh. Well edited: few or no typos or glitches to break the mood and the fantasy. I blew my book budget buying all of the series as fast as I could read them.

## Carole Rae says

I read the first one a bit ago and I loved it. I was intrigued to read Colin's story. I also love the whole concept of a group of guys who not only made a vow to avoid marriage as long as possible and to focus on the good of England. I still get why guys hate the concept of marriage, but men are silly.

Colin has to pretty much make his own way and take care of his family due to his father's gambling issues. Gillian was seduced by a cad and then abandoned. Through some crazy scenarios, they end up being married.

The beginning was good. The middle was good and then the ending died out. The climactic part near the end was so underplayed I barely even caught it. All this build up and then it died. So upsetting. It really had a chance to be really good, but yeah...it died.

I did love the romance between Colin and Gillian. Sure they married first to save each other's reputation due to that jerk, but they did have a small lust for each other. They became good friends and then love happened. It worked very well for the two characters.

Colin and his family need to abandon his dad. I can't stand how they just allow him to just gamble away the fortune and not say or do anything. Especially the mom...like what? C'mon people.

Overall, I enjoyed the journey of the two characters and their love story. It was okay. The climactic part at the end was a big meh. I am curious to read the other stories. I'll give this a 3.

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## Cherie says

The first book of this series I found 2nd hand and loved it so much I went looking for more by this author. She was out-of-print. Then about a year ago the 3rd and 4th of this series became available as e-books. I wanted to read in order so I waited until this 2nd one was available and I'm glad I did. The author did an incredible job of filling in from the previous book but I still found it worthwhile to read in order. Colin and Gillian were out of this world wonderful as individuals and a couple. This is my favorite of the quartet. It is difficult to write a forced marriage story that flows naturally without love being forced by the writer. This one succeeds. Bravo. Loved it.

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## Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Merely the Groom is the most Ridiculous, Unbelievable story I have ever read!! I loved bk1 Barely a Bride and gave it 5 stars. But this story is a absolute Disappointment!! After BAB bk1 I was hoping Colin Viscount Grantham would marry a women like Alyssa in bk1. Instead he marries the stupidest women I think I have ever read. The story is not believable. The author Ms. Lee would have readers believe that a Viscount heir to an Earldom would marry a women who eloped to Gretna Green with another man she barely knew. Gave up her Maiden Head/Virginity to a man she thought was her husband, but not. He steals her jewels and money

and leaves her stranded with nothing in a cheap dockside Inn the Blue Bottle were all sorts of unsavory men stay. On top of that Gillian my be pregnant by this Bigamist. The Bigamist husband also is asking Gillian's father the very rich but recent lowly titled merchant for 50 thousand pound ransom. Come On this is unbelievable!!

I really love Colin in bk 1 and wanted to see so much more for him. His father the Earl has gambled away there fortune and all Colin will inherit is a title and a mountain of debt. So he goes along with Baron Davies, Gillian's father scheme and marries her. No title as old as Colin's would jeopardize giving his title to a child that wasn't his blood heir. Colin had his friends and the Free Fellows. He also, was a spy at the war office. So he was not totally bankrupt. He had managed to invest an make some money. The story makes Colin look so weak and less of a man. Gillian is just and idiot and I could not recover any respect for her and what she had done!! So why would the author write such an unbelievable story? I think I will return this story. Not worth my money.

I Cannot Recommend Merely the Groom Sorry!!

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### **Susan says**

Lots of really obvious exposition in lieu of natural dialogue dragged this down for me. And there really wasn't much of a plot to be honest.

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### **Donna says**

Really enjoyed reading this story. Lots of twists, great characters, and a bit of suspense at the end. Entertaining series too.

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