



Before the Season Ends

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The Regency in England! This period boasted Jane Austen and Lord Byron. High society, the gentry, the working classes-they all knew their place. From coaches and carriages to Almack's and Regent's Park, from lorgnettes and quizzing glasses to Drury Lane and Pall Mall, it's all here, from chambermaids to the Prince Regent himself! Add Miss Ariana Forsythe to the intoxicating mix of fun and inspiration, and what do you have? The first Christian Inspirational Regency on the market today! Welcome to this delightful world, and prepare to fall in love with Ariana and her cohorts. From her home in the village of Chesterton to the very ballroom of Carlton House, you will follow her adventures and journey of faith to the edge-of-your-seat ending!

Before the Season Ends Details

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Author : Linore Rose Burkard

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From Reader Review Before the Season Ends for online ebook

Barbara says

The story itself wasn't bad, and it did keep my interest. I would give it 3.5 stars because of the writing at times. The author, in my opinion, tried too hard to make her characters sound like they were living in the Regency period. In doing so, she repeated some terms, like "gel" so often that it began to annoy me. I am going to read more of this series, though.

Ruth says

Young and impressionable, Ariana Forsythe longs for marriage and to do God's will. When a most unsuitable suitor emerges and takes advantage of her naiveté, Ariana's parents see no other recourse than to pack her off to London for the season. Under the eager sponsorship of her wealthy aunt, Ariana is introduced to the cream of London society. There she must learn to navigate an intricate web of etiquette and expectations, where a word in the wrong ear can ruin a girl's reputation and marriage prospects in an instant. Bolstered by her faith, Ariana refuses to be cowed by the opinions of others, or to mold her character in the image of society's "ideal." Her spirit catches the eye of London's most eligible bachelor, Phillip Mornay. Bestowed with the apparent favor of the "Paragon," Ariana earns the enmity of several society women. When Mornay gallantly offers to rescue her reputation, Ariana soon finds herself falling for the brooding nobleman. But for a woman of deeply held religious beliefs, Phillip's lack of faith is a troubling obstacle...for how can a man who seems so wrong possibly be the one God intends for her?

Before the Season Ends is an absolute joy to read, a little gem of a book that my Regency-loving soul absolutely savored. Burkard has obviously done her homework, and from where I sit she nails the time period - everything from the language and mannerisms to social customs and dress fabrics are authentically detailed. However, Burkard doesn't drown the narrative in details - the story is fast-paced, and the dialogue sparkles with the type of witty, cultured exchanges I love to see in Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer's books. Burkard's novel neatly fills a niche in the Christian fiction marketplace - she's delivered a novel dripping with Regency period detail, full of warmth and humor, interwoven with a deftly handled faith element. The Christian faith is a very real part of Ariana's and her family's lives, but thankfully they aren't "cookie cutter," perfect believers. Burkard's characters are real, and though expertly placed in a time and setting far removed from our own technology-filled lives, their struggles make for an engaging read. I can't wait to discover the next chapter in Phillip and Ariana's story!

ASC Book Reviews says

NOTE: I read and reviewed the original book. Linore told me that there are some changes to "lines of dialogue" in this edition but the story is the same. :)

A wonderful, elegant story that will shock and surprise you up until the end! Linore writes, especially well, about what true Faith and Salvation means, in such a heartwarming and honest way. She captures the style of Jane Austin's time and style so elegantly and beautifully! Writing in such an intelligent and exquisite way. Before the Season Ends is a wonderful book and I can't wait to read the sequel. This book is filled with situations that you wouldn't really want to find yourself in unless you have a Mr. Mornay yourself! I know that he would have made being in some of the scenes Linore paints worth it to me! LOL! This book is a must

read and I suspect that the whole series is as well!

My songs for this book is: "Find You On My Knees" by Kari Jobe and "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" by Alan Jackson

John 3:15-16

~ASC

Kathryn says

This book is advertised as a Christian Regency Romance for the Jane Austen soul. The author mistakenly assumes that a "Jane Austen soul" knows next to nothing about Regency England. She makes her characters ignorant of things that were common knowledge at the time in order to teach the reader things that a *true* "Jane Austen Soul" would know. For Example: In Chapter 3, the main character's Mom is speaking with her husband and their two daughters who are out (the younger one is 19) when she says, "Indeed, the season is known as the marriage mart" Does Burkard expect us to believe that the landed gentry don't know about the London season?

In case you don't know the following terms, you can look them up in the helpful glossary...

*ball

*chamber

*corset

*curtsey

*smelling salts

Of course, there are some words that are less well known such as: pelisse; regent; reticule; and ladies maid.

All this I could probably look over, but I also didn't like the characters. They were annoying and contradictory. The Christian element was also very heavy. The heroine says that while she belongs to the Church of England, her beliefs are more similar to the Methodists. She is determined to marry only someone with the same level of faith as hers.

Here is a summary of the book.

Ariana's (age 19) "lot" in life is to marry the 60 year old Rector because he shares her faith. Her parents ship her off to her Aunt in London because they think the Rector is too old for her. She goes to a fancy garden party at the "Paragon's" estate. She then proceeds to race another girl and later climb a tree only to be rescued by the Paragon. Someone starts a scandal involving the two of them. The Paragon offers to rescue Ariana's reputation by pretending court her.

Ariana is starting to fall in love with the Paragon but he doesn't have enough faith. He is in love with her too so he proposes. She has conflicting emotions because she is in love with him but the Lord has told her not to be yoked to an unbeliever. She agrees to leave her ball to talk about marriage in the Paragon's carriage. People watch her leave and now she has to become engaged to save her reputation.

She frets over her fiance's lack of faith and declares that they are not truly betrothed because they haven't set a date. She goes to his house in the middle of the night and sees him come home drunk. The next day she tells him that she doesn't care about his drinking but she wants him to go stay with her parents for two weeks

to get some faith. She does nothing herself to help him with his lack of faith.

While he's gone Ariana hears a rumor that the Paragon once got a woman pregnant and then abandoned her. She goes to his Aunt to find out if it's true. The truth is that the woman lied to try to trick him into marriage and he narrowly escaped. So now everything is ok. Ariana is fine that her fiance had sex with the woman because he didn't get her pregnant. The Paragon comes back from her parents house. He has accepted Christ and has enough faith to keep her happy.

They live happily ever after.

I would recommend it only to readers who like Christian romance with zero knowledge of Regency England.

I would categorize it as a YA novel except for the uber-christian heroine, born in the mid 1790's with very little knowledge of the times who is unconcerned by the fact that her fiance slept with another woman.

That said, I did like that the Paragon was not a rake. A popular theme to regency romances is the sweet maiden who falls for the reformed rake. Also, it's a first book from someone who is trying to fill the gap in the Christian Regency Romance niche. She's gotta get points for that. Hopefully her books get progressively better.

Carrie says

Warning Spoilers Ahead

Before the Season Ends was an enjoyable read and it got much better as it went on but then it well, went downhill and **made me mad**.

I stayed up into the wee hours finishing this book, slept on it and now that I am awake again, I am still disappointed. This book held my attention and interest for so long and then **I wanted to yell at it**.

Ariana is sent to stay in London with her Aunt, for the season. Her Aunt being overly wealthy is a childless widow who wants to present her niece to society. This will benefit the three parties involved, her aunt's invitations are not as plentiful as they used to be, this will get her invited to more of the Tons events. Ariana will be able to intermingle with the best of society, perhaps find a husband and see some of the sites of London she has hoped to visit. For her parents they want to remove her from the ageing rector that has set his sights on her and her him, thinking it must be her lot in life.

At her first event, a picnic she meets Mr. Mr. Mornay. Mr. Mornay is a bachelor, who can make you or ruin you in the eyes of the Ton, he is very handsome and rich. Due to certain events that take place in the story, Ariana and Mr. Mornay are to spend much time together. Which is the good part for me in this book, the better part.

Now here comes my frustration, she loves him, yet she is unsure as to marry him. Why? Because he isn't a "true believer". So she sends him to stay with her father so he can learn to become one. I'm sorry but that is ridiculous. I understand that this is Christian fiction, I've read a nice bit of this genre lately, and some of them a relationship won't work until they started going to church but this book, this book got me frustrated.

I see a lot of great reviews regarding this novel, and it was great book up until I wanted to yell and glare. Because of these frustrations I **CAN NOT** give it as high a rating as I had thought I would end up giving it.

So my final rating will have to be 2.5 stars.

Alice says

I SO enjoyed this first book in the Forsythe trilogy, and am SO looking forward to book 2!

It's rare to find Christian regency novels, and sometimes -when you do- the spiritual aspects of the story seem shallow or nonexistent. Linore Burkard had a great way of bringing Christ into her story without being shallow, but also without seeming "preachy". I really appreciated that the Gospel was given clearly, and leaving no doubts that Burkard believes what she is writing.

I really enjoyed the style of writing- especially when it came to the points of view in narration. I get frustrated when two (or more) characters are having a conversation but you only know what's going on in the thoughts of one, and so the other characters aren't easy to read or understand; Linore writes in a way that she can- in the narration- jump from one person's thoughts/perspective to another's without the reader getting confused, and it's nice to have all the facts and know what each character is thinking and then, if the other characters are confused, you can rest assured and know a bit beforehand what to expect from each. :) This, written by some people, could be annoying or predictable, and Burkard is the first author I've read where this ability really stood out to me. Well done. :)

The plot was great! It moved along quickly yet coherently, and it never lagged. There wasn't too much "extra" narration around conversations and scenes, and everything ran along smoothly.

The added mystery towards the end (hinted at throughout, but addressed later on), though rather short-lived, added to the story well, and I liked it not being drawn out. :)

Ariana's Philip's aunts' were both really great characters! And I also loved Lavinia- Ariana's best friend. Mr Pellham was pretty awesome and threw in some great laughs.

The book was super clean- once Ariana is betrothed there's quite a few mentions of kissing upon greeting/farewell, but these were never dwelt on or narrated ;-)- and I highly recommend to all regency/Jane Austen/Georgette Heyer fans! There was intrigue, mystery, romance, comedy, misunderstandings, faith, parties, tree climbing dilemmas, and a sweet ending due to two loving and protecting fathers- earthly, and Heavenly! :)

Marlene says

This is an edited version of a my 2010 Amazon review, which I decided didn't make much sense!

In Linore Rose Burkard's *Before the Season Ends*, there were some similarities to *Pride and Prejudice*. I particularly like how the author explained some of the customs and there was a glossary of terms at the back to define the words of the period. All these years later, I still remember the cute meet scenario between the hero and the heroine. This is definitely a Christian historical romance.

Shelby says

Absolutely beautiful! I was encouraged in my faith, thrilled by the sweet romance, and delighted by the gorgeous details woven throughout. Thank you, Linore, for such a wonderful book!

Aerykah says

For the most part, I did enjoy the story. I didn't care too much for the writing style, but I like to think it was because this is the author's debut book. I think her writing will improve. So, I do believe I will go looking for the rest of the books in this series...

Loraine Alcorn says

I got this awesome book on amazon in their top free 100 books list and Im soo happy I did. I have since bought the other 2 stories in this saga and cant wait till they come in.

I have read a lot of Christian fiction and now exclusively read only books that are of this caliber. I cant tell you how great this story is.

Before the Season Ends by Linore Rose Burkard, Is a true gem of a story. Its very hard to find a Christian Romance that offers not only a great love story but is also filled in really great Christian teaching.

A lot of the books I read sometimes just touch on Christian beliefs and scripture, you get a lot of story and little inspiration. Before the Season Ends, has a really great balance of story ,romance and inspiration.

This is the story of a Christian young lady who has been sent to her Aunt in London in the 1800s to have a season and find a husband. She is determined to find a Christian husband and feels sure God will answer her prayer ,even though she has no real fortune. Her aunt is funding the cost of the dresses and finery to present her to society in the hopes of making a acceptable match.

What follows is a set of circumstances that shows, truly, that all things work for the good for those who have faith that the Lord knows whats best for us even if we cant really see that at first.

I really loved this book , it was a joy to read and the Best Christian book I have read that has both story and faith based inspiration.

The really great thing is that the story continues in her next book which I bought on amazon in hard copy because I wanted to be sure I had it on my book shelves forever.

This is the kind of book you can read and read again. As I said I got this copy on my kindle for free last week, Im not sure if its still available for free but if it is, I encourage you to download it.

If you are looking for a great Christian story that has plenty of romance and atmosphere than look no more, this is it!

I am thankful that the Lord has made it possible for me to find an author who not only knows how to write a fantastic Regency romance but one who is able to incorporate sound Christian beliefs and situations that we can all learn from . Thank you Linore Rose Burkard ! PLEASE keep writing !

QNPoohBear says

Nineteen year old Ariana Forsythe is convinced that God has called her to marry a man of the church, and she sets her sights on the elderly vicar of her family's country parish. Not wishing her to marry a much older man, her parents send her off to London to stay with her father's wealthy sister. Ariana looks forward to seeing the sights of London but her aunt has grand plans for the beautiful girl and they include being the toast of the ton and marrying a wealthy peer. On a visit to a country estate, Ariana literally runs into one of the patronesses of Almacks and innocently offends her. Next, Ariana invokes the ire and the interest of The Paragon, Phillip Mornay. When Lady Worthington tries to cause a scandal involving Ariana and Mr. Mornay, he rises to the occasion to rescue the innocent young girl. Ariana gets caught up in a whirl of high society and even catches the eye of the Prince Regent. Even though she's enjoying herself, Ariana knows Mr. Mornay would not make a good husband, even if he were interested in her, for he is not a true Christian. Ariana prays for his soul and prays God will direct her to the right husband, one of true faith and good character. Mr. Mornay seems to fit the character requirement but a Mr. O'Brien fulfills the faith requirement. Ariana prays a lot more for guidance and help coming to a decision while preaching to the ones she loves and badgering them to become true Christians. I absolutely hate preachy books, preachy characters and people who try to beat others into believing what they believe and this book has them all. At first Ariana is charming and funny with lots of country innocence but the author ruins the book by making Ariana turn wishy-washy. Ariana prays constantly and quotes Scripture as she tries to figure out what to do. I can't relate to that. The story would have been a lot better if she had accepted that it was God's will to marry a kind and generous man who loves her and whom she loves back. It also would have made the story shorter. Mr. Mornay isn't all that likable either. The story never gets inside his head and the reader only learns about the events that shaped his life second hand, as Ariana learns them from someone else! He is also overbearing at times, wanting to protect Ariana but also demanding that he choose her clothes, forever! It's hard to like a character without knowing what he's thinking. Ariana's aunt is a stereotypical dowager of the ton, scheming matchmaker and demanding aunt who never listens to Ariana or cares what the girl thinks or feels. This story starts off well but deteriorates towards the last quarter of the novel. I wouldn't recommend this one except maybe to Christians.

Wendy says

My Review

It was a pleasant change to read a Regency romance without a lot of sexual tension and innuendos. Burkard has the era down pat and it was easy to visualize the scenes as well as sympathize with the heroine. I also found her characteristics true to a 19 year old rather than a wishy-washy attempt to provide the character with teen emotions that weren't of the time and adult emotions that were beyond her age as so many authors do with girls of that age in different time periods.

Ariane is a determined 19 year old second daughter who has decided that her lot in life is to marry someone in the church. Her family is well educated in the meaning behind the Bible verses and she has the intelligence to engage in theoretical theology while at the same time the faith in what she believes to be correct. She knows the difference between being a real Christian and being a church Christian. Because the only church man in her village is over 60 her parents decide to send her to live with her aunt in London who has offered to sponser their oldest daughter to a London season. The aunt is not prepared for a young girl who knows her mind and isn't influenced nor really interested in the social circles and Ariane isn't prepared for an aunt whose only interest is the social life of the ton. It makes for some interesting personality clashes

and character development.

Burkard has spent the last couple of chapters detailing the thoughts behind the idea that becoming a Christian and developing a Christian lifestyle has nothing to do with deeds and all to do with inviting God into your heart. She has done this in a manner true to the story and not preachy, it doesn't seem out of place at all and I really don't think that someone not schooled in the idea would find it out of place with the story.

I give this book 4 stars

Paula Parker says

I have been a fan of Regency romances since I discovered Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer. Ms. Austen wrote from a first-hand knowledge of the Regency period, while Ms. Heyer wrote as if she had lived as a neighbor of Ms. Austen.

Linore Rose Burkard brought a unique touch to her Regency novel, by having her main character be a dedicated Christian. This provides some interesting twists and perspectives to the goals of a London season; to find a wealthy person to marry.

Beyond the story, Ms. Burkard has a skillful command of the language, crafting fun and colorful characters, descriptions, scenes, and dialogue.

Kimberly says

Hmmm, perhaps I didn't read the same book that everyone else who reviewed *Before the Season Ends* read, because I certainly did not come away with the same fawning impression that the others apparently did. I'm not quite sure why everyone who read this book and then subsequently reviewed it has given it high marks and glowing reviews. *Before the Season Ends* is **not** a four or five star book. To compare Burkard's writing style and language use to Jane Austen's is just laughable. To even imagine putting *Before the Season Ends* on the same level as any of Austen's works is ludicrous.

Having said all of that, *Before the Seasons Ends* is not a terrible book and I didn't hate it. It's a cute book about a Christian girl in Regency-era England and her entrance into society. That's pretty much it, nothing profound or heart-wrenching, just a cutesy story. The characters were fairly cartoonish, the dialogue was stilted at times, and after a while, the book became tiresome. I grew sick of Burkard's incessant use of the terms, "Paragon," and "gel;" those terms popped up so frequently, I felt as though they were only added to make the book seem more "authentic," when in fact their use had the opposite affect. It was also odd and annoying that in the middle of certain tragic scenes, Burkard would suddenly give a detailed description of what Ariana was wearing. For example, after Ariana hears the story that Mr. Mornay has fathered a child and abandoned it and the mother, she goes to visit his Aunt Roylefrost, but on the way, Burkard takes the time to tell us about Ariana's "pale blue walking gown," including minute details unnecessary for the point of the story (p. 311).

Another issue I have with this book is the strange and often contradictory Christian message Burkard weaves into the story. At the beginning of the story Ariana is blindly convinced that she has been called by God to

marry a man of the cloth. Mr. Hathaway, the local rector, is decades older than Ariana, and her parents are set against her marrying this much older man. Ariana is so sure of God's calling that she is on the verge of accepting this man's suit, until her father intervenes and the supposed man of the cloth, Mr. Hathaway, starts a fistfight with her father. That's right. The rector, the pastor, the man of the cloth, Mr. Hathaway, started a fistfight with Ariana's father. How very Christian of him.

Ariana is sent off to London to stay with her wealthy aunt for the society season. She is concerned that she will be persuaded to forget her calling to marry a man of the cloth, but she is sure that she will resist all attempts of her aunt to find her a society man to wed. Needless to say, Ariana does forget her "calling" to marry a man of the cloth and she becomes betrothed to a society man. Hmm.

Ariana falls in love with Mr. Mornay only to decide that she cannot marry him because she suddenly remembers her conviction that she cannot marry someone who is not a true believer. The basis of this conviction coming from a verse in 2 Corinthians, chapter six, verse fourteen: *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers*. An admirable conviction, but it causes such strife for Ariana it just becomes silly when she continues to refuse Mr. Mornay's and Mrs. Bentley's attempts to set a wedding date. Silly because Ariana is completely willing to overlook Mr. Mornay's other failings. How about the time Ariana encounters him while he's three sheets to the wind? Or the time when Mr. Mornay conceals himself behind some draperies in the parlour while Ariana conducts what she thinks is a private conversation with her aunt? Or when Ariana hears the story that Mr. Mornay has fathered a child out of wedlock and abandoned the mother and child? Oh, wait, that story turned out to be false, except for the fact that if Mr. Mornay himself believed that he fathered a child it would mean that he would have had to have been in the position of physically performing the act that **would** bring about a child. So, Mr. Mornay's drunkenness, lying, subterfuge, and carnal acts can all be overlooked by Ariana, but not the fact that he is not a "true" believer, which in this book means being a Methodist. Mr. Mornay admits to a belief in God, but that, as we know, is not good enough. It is not enough to simply acknowledge His existence, one has to be a stellar Christian, exactly like Ariana is.

This convoluted Christian message is part of what turned me off of this book. Even another character, Mr. O'Brien, who is set up as being a man strong in faith is eventually turned into a cartoon character when Burkard writes about his repeated attempts to win Ariana's attentions and convince her to turn away from Mornay's affections.

This isn't a terrible book, but it's not as awesome as every other reviewer on this site has made it out to be.

Becky says

Up to 3/4 of the way through the book I loved it- couldn't put it down. It was like a cute version of Jane Austen or Elizabeth Gaskell. I would have easily given it a 5 stars, but all of the sudden it turned born again christian on me and it irritated me. It's not the religion in of itself that bugged me. I just found the main character to be overly pious and judgmental. If the book had ended when they had gotten engaged it would have been so much better.
