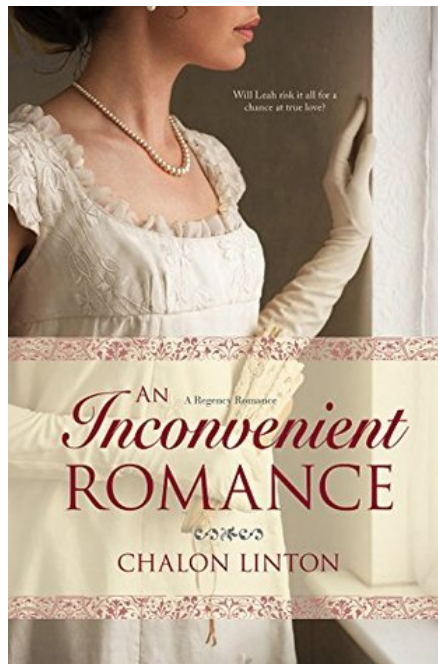




An Inconvenient Romance

Chalon Linton

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The countryside of England provided an idyllic backdrop for Charles Brumley's and Leah Hastings's childhood. Neighbors and best friends, the pair passed many happy days racing through the rolling hills of Derbyshire. Everything was perfect—until Charles ruined it all and abandoned Leah for university. Six years later, the former friends are thrust into each other's paths once more. Leah had been looking forward to the ball, an opportunity to further her acquaintance with the handsome Mr. Wilkins—but when she sees Charles's familiar face through the crowd, her traitorous heart leaps. Charles faces his own struggle: he has loved Leah since he was fifteen years old, yet it seems he is too late—it appears that her affections are otherwise engaged. As the pair tentatively renews their friendship, the spark between them is undeniable. After so many years apart, Leah endeavors to reconcile her feelings toward her once cherished companion. But when a conniving rival for Charles's attention approaches Leah, the threat is clear: give up her association with Charles or a devastating secret about her family will be revealed. Faced with an impossible decision, Leah must make a choice—the ruin of her family or the ruin of her heart?

An Inconvenient Romance Details

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From Reader Review An Inconvenient Romance for online ebook

Tori says

3.5 stars

Cute, enjoyable story. The switching back and forth between points of view kind of bugged me because it happened every chapter. But I still enjoyed the story.

Julie Carpenter says

I was pretty excited about reading this one. It has a fun beginning where the reader catches a glimpse of the relationship between Leah and Charles when they are younger. Best of friends, full of mischief, fun and carefree moments. I really enjoyed that initial glimpse into their relationship as well as the little snippets of memories throughout the novel.

I couldn't quite figure out how old they were and the book doesn't quite tell us right away. It feels like Leah is 10 or so and Charles close to her age. But a little bit into the book we find out Charles is 15 and heading away to school. I think after reading further into the book that Leah is also 15. After the opening scene we have a little bit of explanation that time has passed and Charles is home for good, 6 years later. Leah's age isn't revealed to the reader until later in the book, she is 20. Ok, not that the ages of the characters are super important, it was just a question that I had while reading and I thought if I had it maybe other readers would too so I figured I'd clear that up.

Leah's character could be a real spitfire and full of fun and life and then other moments very withdrawn into herself. Now a lot of that has to do with several factors that fuel the story and plot line. I enjoyed her character, as well as Charles. Charles growth and aha moments were interesting to read about and endeared me to him more. Now of course there are several moments where you wish the characters would just step up, speak their mind and clear up all these misconceptions, but hey if that happened then we wouldn't have a full length novel. So we get to read about several back and forth almost clear ups and then the misconception would be bigger.

I don't think I've read another regency book written in this same style, so it caught me off guard a little bit, but I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed reading every other chapter from Leah, then Charles POV, and written in first person. I liked being "in their head" per say and reading their impressions and their misperceptions and their thoughts and feelings of the other as well as other people around them.

One part that I felt was left out and I think would have clarified and helped the plot was a confrontation between the two. Now I'm a no spoiler kind of person so I really won't spoil it for you but will tell you that sometimes there is a reference to this confrontation and other times I was left thinking and feeling that something was missing that didn't make the angst between the two characters quite make sense. Am I completely confusing you? Yet at the same time knowing what was said in that confrontation would have caused Charles' confusion in much of the book to disappear...Maybe I'm way off feeling that but I'm an avid read and I really think that maybe just a flashback about that scene earlier on, without even adding dialogue would have added more to the book. You may feel differently when reading this and not even want to know until the end. I'll let you decide how you feel about it. My main point in saying this was that if it feels like something is missing and not quite adding up just keep reading and this will slowly start to reveal itself.

I loved the family members of both Leah and Charles. Oh they were so fun! They all knew and saw what

these two MCs were tiptoeing around. Their playful banter and fun comments had me laughing and cheering them on. Super fun addition to the book. Aunt Evelyn, ha! She was a little bit of a mystery at first because I wasn't sure how to take her character, it's not what a traditional regency older aunt would say/do, but the further in I realized she wasn't necessarily the traditional, staunch and proper aunt. She was fun and loving and had a great sense of humor.

Leah and Charles had some insecurities, and unfortunately we have another character who steps up and threatens Leah that if she tries to pursue her friendship or anything else with Charles then there will be dire consequences. Leah is torn, especially when what she has always wanted and dreamt of starts coming to pass. Which way will her heart choose? Will Charles finally decide what he wants? Will he be able to fix the past, present and future? As in all relationships, there are mistakes but how each person in that relationship chooses to fix it and move on determines the strength of the relationship.

There were plenty of back and forth moments, struggles, sorrows, danger, illnesses and sparks of love. Will this inconvenient romance bloom or fade away?

Content: clean

I received a copy from the publisher, Covenant Communications, via NetGalley. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Kirsi Johnson says

This is the first book I've read by Ms. Linton and it won't be the last. While I was at times frustrated with the heroine's inability to confide in anyone around her, the story ultimately culminates in a happy ending built on forgiveness, the need for open communication, and, of course, true love.

Heidi says

While the writing of this book was a smidgen over the top, with some awkward phrasing here and there, I can honestly say that I enjoyed the story. Leah and Charles are both appealing characters and it was interesting seeing things from both points of view. I enjoyed following along as Leah and Charles struggled to deal with their changing relationship. I have to admit though that I was seriously irritated with Mrs. Ansley and her interference with Charles and Leah's relationship. And both Leah and Charles made me roll my eyes on occasion with their assumptions and foolishness. But then again, real life can be like that too. In any case, Linton pulled me right into her characters lives and I couldn't put the book down until I finished.

Katie W says

Leah and Charles grew up together, but when he decides to leave and go to University, her dreams are shattered. Years later, they're reunited and it's not as easy to take their crushes to a higher level, since so many things get in the way to prevent true love from happening.

First of all, this Regency romance is unique in that it's told in alternating first person points-of-view. Each chapter switches between Leah and Charles. I really enjoyed getting into these characters heads, and learning about them and their thoughts on a more intimate level. However, it bothered me that these two have a history and know each other quite well, yet their thoughts weren't consistent with the names they used. For example, "Mr. Brumley this... Charles... Mr. Brumley that..." I often felt a little confused when it would jump between titles/names, even though I usually knew who they were referring to. I also like timelines and it bothered me that I didn't know how old Leah was at the beginning of the story, as well as how much time had past when the book concluded.

Now for my likes. This story is told in a way that is simple to understand, yet still feels true to the era. I thought the characters are portrayed in ways that really allowed their personalities to shine and even gave me a few characters to hate. The banter between Leah and Charles feels like a tennis match at times but left me cheering for both teams. There are certain elements that I've come to expect in a good Regency romance and while there weren't any big surprises, seeing those elements appear was comforting. This is an enjoyable and cozy story for those who love a sweet, clean romance.

Content: mild violence (an accident); very mild romance.

I received a complimentary copy from the publisher, which didn't affect my thoughts in any way. All opinions are my own.

Amy says

Charlon Linton's debut novel 'An Inconvenient Romance' is delightful! It's easy to see that Jane Austen has a heavy influence on this author. We see plenty of spunky 'Elizabeth Bennet' in the heroine, Miss Leah Hastings. Leaving out the usual titles we see in most Regency novels today, it has the familiar feel of Austen's work, without the classical writing style. That is where the comparisons end. Fresh new story, in which we find childhood best friends Mr Charles Brumley & Leah inevitably destined to be together yet thwarted at every turn! Charles has returned ready to claim his lady, but there has been bumps in the road and he isn't sure Leah even wants him more than a friend.

With competition on the horizon, a spiteful woman who uses threats to intervene and make Charles a match for her own daughter, endless miscommunications it appears love will not conquer all. Just when a possibility arises tragedy strikes, and all is now lost.

I loved so much about this book. The movement around a variety of locations, is something I crave in a story, especially Regency England. (I'm English and homesick and I love being taken around the country!) It keeps the story interesting and prevents it from getting a little stagnant. The introduction of Charles' Cambridge buddy Fausett, brings lighthearted relief. There's a lack of humor within the group, and the banter between the two friends is fun to follow.

Charles is an endearing character. He's lost his father and has had to come to terms with his new role of taking care of the estate, and his family. He knows what he wants, and that something is Leah. It was nice to see him unwavering and despite every pitfall he did not easily give up. Leah on the other hand is a little more difficult for me to connect with. I liked her enough, but her constant flitting back and forth got a little tiresome. She realizes she must love Charles, then we are back to just friends. I know the events that play out in the book played a large part in keeping them apart, at times I could literally feel Leah's agony over the situation she was put in. I would have preferred once she realized she loves him, as she does early on, for her then suffer that 'love loss' without questioning her feelings. The emotional flip flopping with Leah is my

reason for this not being a 5 star review.

That said, I could not put this down! I absolutely loved the way this was written, the plot and the way it all came together. Plenty to keep the reader guessing and unpredictable. I cannot wait to read more from this author!

Thank you to Covenant Communications & Netgalley for the complimentary copy. This is my honest review.

Charissa says

Leah and Charles have been childhood friends forever, but when Charles leaves for Cambridge for six years, Leah feels abandoned and tries to protect her heart by moving on from her childhood 'crush.' But when Charles hears that a certain army captain is paying her specific attention, he races home to proclaim his love and devotion for her. But it might be too late. I really loved this book. It's told from the point of view of both Leah and Charles and really tugged at my heart. The characterization is done well, and I really liked the plot twists and emotional appeal. I finished it in two days because I couldn't put it down once I started. ***I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review, and I honestly adored this Regency romance.

Lucinda says

Can't get into it. Not going to finish. Both main characters have 1st person POV and you can't distinguish the voices.

Patti says

This is my first book by author Chalon Linton. I liked one of her short stories which made me check out her longer books. Not sure, but this may be her first published book and I liked it.

Young Leah Hastings and her neighbor, Charles Brumley, spent many wonderful years as best friends. Charles ended up going to Cambridge and the separation was difficult for both. Leah was two years younger but the bond had been forged tight.

However, as time sometimes treats close relationships unfairly, happenstance played some mean tricks on the two. Even though love was strong between them, it was definitely different as their encounters proved to be good and awkward at the same time.

I loved Charles, but found Leah to be frustrating. Halfway through the book, I didn't like her incredible stubbornness. She had to work hard to get back into my good graces! Linton created a really effective villain in Mrs. Ansley. Couldn't stand the woman, but that makes for an important part of the story. I sorta wish I could have witnessed her being confronted...

Anyway, I liked the story and will give it a place in my personal library. I look forward to read any others

books by Chalon Linton.

PS – C L, why not give Captain Wilkins his own story...

Shauna says

What a GREAT book! I LOVE regency romances! Emotions are OH. SO. REAL. And sometimes they conflict and get in the way of each other-- especially when it comes to love! PERFECT read for February!

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I loved the Regency setting in this friends-to-romance story! Charles and Leah are so informal with each other as youth, there was a real contrast to how polite and civilized they must act around each other as adults. All the fun parts of their relationship are shown in the prologue when they are young, but the majority of the story is full of hurt feelings, misunderstandings, lack of communication, and heartache. Even with all the angst, there is an underlying tone of hope and perseverance that makes the characters endearing (despite their flaws) and I was rooting for a happy ending as Charles and Leah flounder from the obstacles standing in their way. Leah's father and sister were grounding and their wisdom helped Leah as she is faced with decisions that will determine her future happiness. Another secondary character that balanced out Charles' moodiness is his friend from university who is visiting and knows just how to tease him and also propel him to fight for Leah. While I would have liked to see more happy moments between Leah and Charles throughout the book, I enjoyed the plot and would recommend this book to fans of sweet romance. Looking forward to more by this author!

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Kathy says

Very much enjoyed this story but oh so many misunderstanding! Told in alternating points of view there were times I was frustrated with these characters and how stubborn they were and by how drawn out the conflicts were. That said this story sucked me in and kept me reading late into the night until I finished. content: squeaky clean

Chesney says

First off I bought this book just on the cover and description. A friend had also had it on her to read list so I thought why not. I was hooked from the first chapter. Leah and Charles are meant to be together and when a secret could ruin everything she stays away from him despite her feelings. My heart just went out to Charles he being such the gentleman to Leah despite their relationship. Great characters all around and a story to keep you wanting to know how it ends. Great job to the author.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

Regency is such a fun genre and the English countryside always makes for a beautiful backdrop. This book revolves around Charles and Leah, childhood friends with the spark of something more. I enjoyed the alternating points of view which helped me form a stronger bond between both characters. It was fun to see both sides of the story and made me a champion to both Charles and Leah.

In the beginning I thought the characters acted much younger than their supposed ages. I wish I would have had a bit more definition of their early relationship. I was also bugged by the continued name change (which another of my blogging friends mentioned as well). From first names to Miss or Mr, or just last names. It was distracting.

But, aside from these minor annoyances, I really enjoyed this book. The characters were both easy to like and understand. The back and forth banter made me smile and I could easily picture this story playing out like a movie in my head. There was a dangerous accident, a dastardly villain, secrets and misunderstandings.

I do believe this is an author new to me. And, I also believe that this is her first book. This makes me extremely happy because while I enjoyed the book, there were some things that bothered me but that can only get better as this author refines her craft. I'm really excited to have another author to keep my eyes on and I will be watching for future books.

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

This is a thoroughly enjoyable Regency romance. The writing style is a little different from the Regency books I usually read. The chapters are short and told from both Leah and Charles POV's. As a reader we are immediately rewarded with the other characters thoughts and feelings. It was refreshing and felt "real time". There wasn't a lot of past tense rehashing of plot points. There were flashbacks to previous events that revealed piece by piece the history of the characters.

There is someone who is trying to prevent Charles and Leah from becoming a couple. This book contains the maneuvering and plotting of advantageous marriages. One thought that came to mind while I was reading was that I don't like the games that petty people play. There lives would have been so much simpler without outside interference. There are also a few other events that complicate their relationship. But without angst, there wouldn't be much of a story or happily ever after.

This is a clean book. It is very entertaining and well worth the read.
