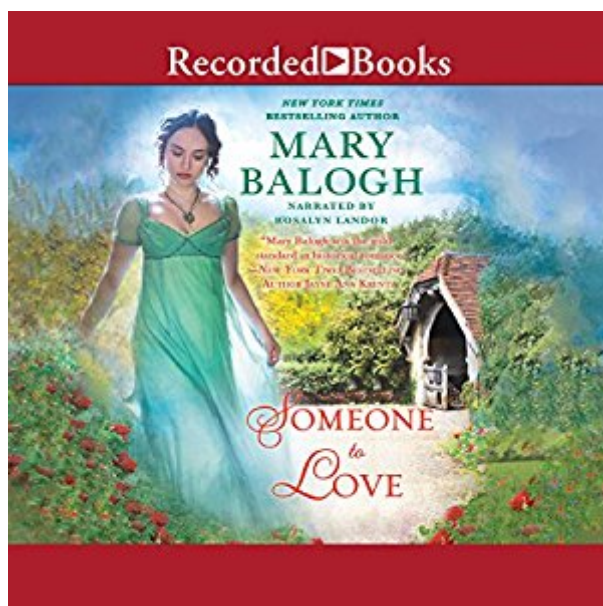


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Someone To Love: A Westcott Novel, Book 1



Synopsis

Humphrey Westcott, Earl of Riverdale, has died, leaving behind a fortune that will forever alter the lives of everyone in his family - including the daughter no one knew he had. Anna Snow grew up in an orphanage in Bath knowing nothing of the family she came from. Now she discovers that the late Earl of Riverdale was her father and that she has inherited his fortune. She is also overjoyed to learn she has siblings. However, they want nothing to do with her or her attempts to share her new wealth. But the new earl's guardian is interested in Anna. Avery Archer, Duke of Netherby, keeps others at a distance. Yet something prompts him to aid Anna in her transition from orphan to lady. As London society and her newfound relatives threaten to overwhelm Anna, Avery steps in to rescue her and finds himself vulnerable to feelings and desires he has hidden so well and for so long.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed for marysuedies.com Mary Balogh is the queen of regency romance. Her Bedwyn series, in my opinion, is the standard for modern day historical romance. Balogh manages to write romances without evil villains, a bunch of misunderstandings, or unbelievable circumstances. She just writes beautiful love stories. Balogh's new Westcott series is going to be fabulous. The premise is intriguing and original. The late Earl of Riverdale has died and his solicitor has unearthed a secret marriage and a single legitimate daughter, Anna. Anna has grown up in an orphanage where she later became a teacher. At first Anna is thrilled to learn that she has a family,

but when confronted with the Earl's now illegitimate children and wife, Anna quickly realizes that she is once again, alone. Avery, the Duke of Netherby, is the appointed guardian of the new Earl of Riverdale and decides he should also be responsible for helping Anna assimilate into the London ton. Avery is composed, detached, and a little aloof. Avery admires Anna's strength and fortitude against her new "family" and Anna comes to see him as her savior in a turbulent new world. There has been some disagreement and healthy discussion over a scene in *Someone to Love* involving a "Chinese gentleman" without a name. Before continuing with my review I wanted to just say that while I understand other readers' reactions, I personally found nothing wrong with the scene. It shouldn't matter but I guess it does, my family is bi-racial Asian/Caucasian, although not Chinese, and I found nothing offensive. I ran it by my sister as well and she agreed with my thoughts, you may feel differently. *Someone to Love* is beautifully written and the love story between Avery and Anna is slow and sweet and everything that you would expect from a Mary Balogh romance. I highly recommend that you pick it up because I have high hopes for the series. The reason that this isn't an A+ review is two fold. First, there is a lot of set up. It is the first book in the Westcott series and set up is necessary, but the story drags at parts and the romance often seems to take a back seat to the various character introductions. Everything involving Avery and Anna is lovely but we don't get quite enough of them. Secondly, Anna spends a lot of the book (which is already too much set up and not enough romance) writing letters back to her friend, Joel. These letters, for the most part, don't give the reader any new information, they just rehash everything that has already happened. They felt a little like filler to me and I mostly skimmed them. Overall *Someone to Love* is a nice read. look forward to the upcoming books in the series.

I LOVE Mary Balogh's books - her plots are fun and original! Her characters are wonderful and I love watching them develop as the story progresses. I was pleasantly surprised not being confronted with her usual bedroom scenes - that kind of detail is so unnecessary and is so distracting the the story as a whole. My only objection is that I never quite figured out who was who among the secondary characters. There were so many characters - whose names and ranks and relationships continued to be confusing right up until the end of the book.

"Regency" romance was a popular category some years ago but today there are only a few writers

of the type that genre represented then that are publishing today. Balogh has continued to meet expectations and give us reads worthy of the time. While this was not her best, it is very good and ranks high among what is currently available and that influenced by "5 stars" rather than perhaps 4. But it will get shelf room meaning that it is not a one time room. I am interested in this period and luxury goods and reading a novel about consumers of luxury goods is interesting. I hope to read the remaining books in this series and group them together as I have other great series from this author.

What a tangle of relatives to drop on a reader at the beginning of a book. A few were unnecessary, and if they prove necessary down the line in the series could have been woven in later. Eventually, one sorts them out and then the book turns into one of Mary Balogh's charming Regencies. So don't let parts of the beginning stop you from reading. I bought book #2 and am looking forward to #3.

Great characters and super plot. This was an unusual plot line with strange but really good circumstances. At the end of the book I was left wondering about the other characters in the book and if they found their soul mate. At this point I am ready to search out and read others in the series. Balogh's treatments of people and situations was different than other writers in a very good way!

I am a HUGE fan of Mary Balogh. This book is so Mary Balogh. The same, but different. If you read Mary you will already know this. This has all the markings of another great series start. The Duke of Netherby ranks right up there, for me, along with The Duke of Stanbrook (Only Beloved) and my all time favorite, so far, The Duke of Ridgeway (The Secret Pearl). This book is an automatic buy for Mary Balogh fans I am sure. If you have not read her before, try this. You will not be disappointed. I started, by chance, with the Secret Pearl and have read all but six of her earliest. These are being released in digital format little by little. Try some of her earlier books, if you can find. There are quite a few on Kindle. This story is told in a way that takes you in and want it to be finished so you can know all, but disappoints because it is over. Hopefully in the series we will see these characters pop up and we will get updates on their lives as we see in most of Mary's series. The Christmas Promise is a great book, particularly now.

Another wonderful book by Mary Balogh. It's a little different from the normal historical romance in that the hero was a smaller man who secretly practised martial arts. The heroine is an orphan who inherits property and wealth. I found the story very interesting and didn't want to put it down until I was getting close to the end. Then I wanted to stretch it out. Immediately preordered the next book.

There is a subtlety at play in the theme here that can't be explained without a massive spoiler. So subtle, it only struck me as I began this review. Balogh's characters have depth and nuances and enormous understanding of the human heart. There was poignancy and joy, humour and sorrow, gains and losses. All of it beautifully written. I didn't want it to end.

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