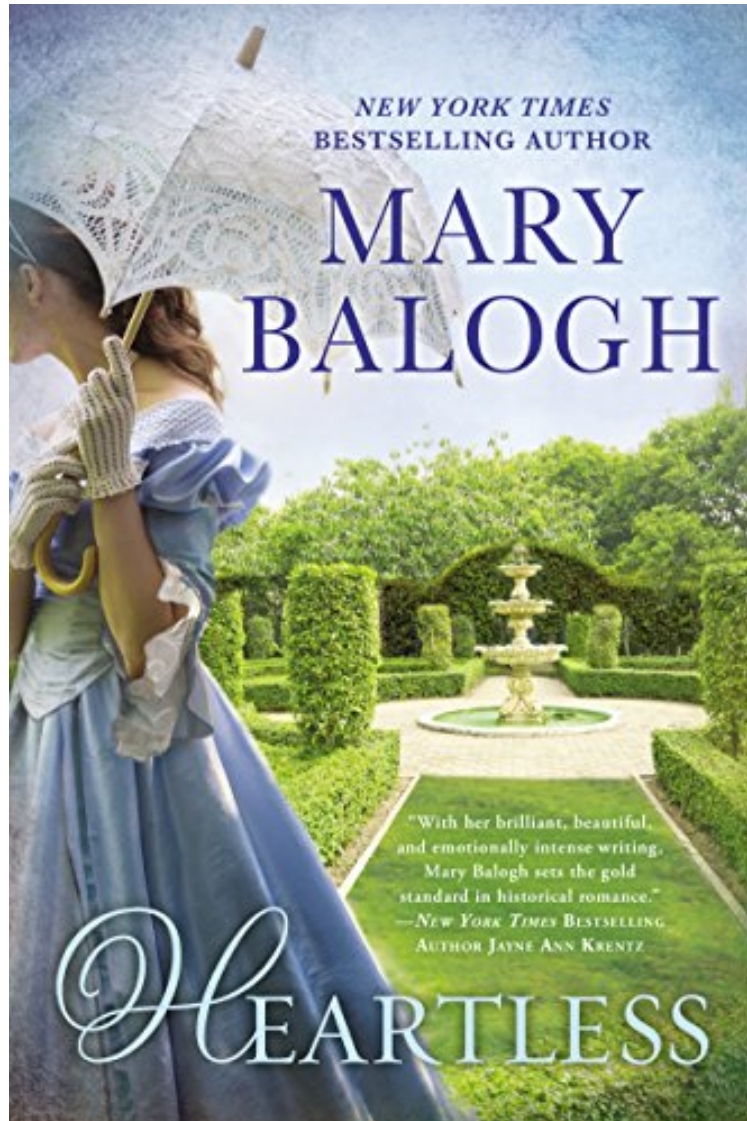


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Heartless

Von Mary Balogh

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Von Mary Balogh : Heartless before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heartless:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Another excellent story from Mary Balogh - this one set in the 1750sVon Helen Hancox"Heartless" is the first Mary Balogh book I have read that isn't set in the Regency period. I didn't initially realise that events were taking place in the 1750s rather than early 1800s but was clued into it by the different language used and the descriptions of clothing. And of the

hero. Now I have to say that I wasn't 100% convinced by the hero initially - although he's dishy and has waist-length long dark hair (phwoar!) he wears cosmetics (a bit of rouge and powder) and carries a fan. These descriptions of him rather made me think of 1980s pop stars and didn't really work for me as a dashing man with whom the reader tumbles into love. However, despite these unfortunate downsides, Lucas Kendrick, the Duke of Harndon, is a manly man. He has spent the last ten years in Paris after being banished by his family following a duel with his older brother, and in those ten years he's lived the traditional dissolute rake lifestyle. However his uncle Theo has finally persuaded him to return to England, now that his older brother has died, and take up his responsibilities as Duke. One of these responsibilities is to get married and have sons, and conveniently for Luke he bumps into Lady Anna Marlowe at a ball and finds himself interested in her. Lady Anna seems bright, engaging and smiley - but as one of Mary Balogh's heroines we know there's more to it than that. She's on the shelf at 25 but has no expectation of marriage - she has a very deep dark secret that prevents it. However she finds herself in a whirlwind romance with Luke and then, lo and behold, they are married. She and Luke return to Luke's family home, Bowden, and she meets the rest of his relatives whilst having her younger sisters come and live with them too. But things aren't going as swimmingly as one might hope - Luke her husband is heartless, appears to treat his brother and sister unlovingly, and Anna wonders if he can feel more for her than he does for his old flame Henrietta, widow of his elder brother. And then Anna's nemesis arrives in the area and she realises that her secret is still controlling her life and there is to be no happy ending. As always with a Mary Balogh novel the strength of this book is in the characters - the way that they change and grow. How can a heartless rake learn to love again when love caused him so much pain ten years ago? How can Anna ever hope for happiness when her secret is so all-encompassing. There are a number of other characters through whom we see the story, including Anna's deaf-mute sister and Luke's restless younger brother (whose story continues in "Silent Melody"). "Heartless" is a delicate and yet heartening love story, particularly in the scenes with a newborn baby and the way in which the birth affects the parents. The fact that this book is set before the Regency doesn't really change its overall feel and if you can get over the fact the hero wears blusher (which I did manage to do - eventually - by pretending it didn't happen) you will probably very much enjoy this book.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Beautiful read
Von Ein Kunde
What happens when a man whose emotions have been non-existent of his own choice for over ten years is confronted with the one person whom he can't do anything but love? My favourite scene in "Heartless" describes exactly that. Lucas Kendrick has been away from his English home and family for over a decade, after having been cast out by his own family, for reasons that are anything but fair (but what heartache in romance ever is??). He decided to become another person, one who does not feel and thus cannot suffer from any form of emotional loss. But when his brother, heir of the title and dukedom, dies, it becomes his responsibility to return to England and marry to continue the family line. His chosen bride turns out to be much more than Luke had ever wished for in a woman - and he thinks he's falling in love with her the day they marry. But a terrible secret haunts Anna, a secret due to which she never thought to marry. But Luke is her dreamed-of Prince Charming, and she is deliriously happy that he seems to really want HER, a "spinster" (she's 25) without a dowry. The wedding night, dreaded for reasons that would reveal too much here, turns out to be the debacle Anna feared; but Luke does not leave her as she dreaded, though all his newly discovered feelings are killed in an instant. They are not really happy, but somehow life is better now than both of them expected. But when Joy is born, Luke can't help but love his daughter. She's the beginning of a new life for the whole family, and although it will take some more time to overcome their respective pasts, Anna Luke finally find what they had only dreamed of as a distant possibility, but couldn't stop yearning for nevertheless - the love of a lifetime. Unfortunate circumstances, delightful secondary characters (Luke's brother Ash Anna's sister Emily have their own story in "Silent Melody") two protagonists that onw can't help but live make "Heartless" everything one can wish for in a historical romance. (Dies ist eine .de an der Uni-Studentenrezension.)

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Kurzbeschreibung From New York Times bestselling legend Mary Balogh and the beloved author of *Longing*, *Silent Melody*, and *Beyond the Sunrises* comes a ravishing novel of passion and duty, love and menace.... Life has taught Lucas Kendrick, Duke of Harndon, that a heart is a decided liability. Betrayed by his elder brother, rejected by his fiancée, banished by his father, and shunned by his mother, Luke fled to Paris, where he became the most sought-after bachelor in fashionable society. Ten years later, fate has brought him back home to England as head of the family who rejected him. Unwilling as he is to be involved with them, he must assume responsibility for his younger siblings, the family estate he once loved and the succession. He faces the prospect of marrying with the greatest reluctance until he sees beguiling Lady Anna Marlowe across a ballroom one night. Anna, far from being the bright-eyed innocent Luke takes her for, is no more a stranger to the shadows of a painful past than he is. But for her, marriage cannot so easily solve what is wrong in her life not when a tormentor stalks her to the very doors of Bowden Abbey, where Luke and Anna must learn to trust in each other or risk any chance they may have for a happy future.

Pressestimmen Everyone loves Mary Balogh! One of the best! New York Times bestselling author Julia Quinn "Balogh is today's superstar heir to the marvelous legacy of Georgette Heyer, (except a lot steamier!)" New York Times bestselling author Susan Elizabeth Phillips "With her brilliant, beautiful and emotionally intense writing Mary Balogh sets the gold standard in historical romance." New York Times bestselling author Jayne Ann Krentz "When it comes to historical romance, Mary Balogh is one of my favorites!" New York Times bestselling author Eloisa James

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