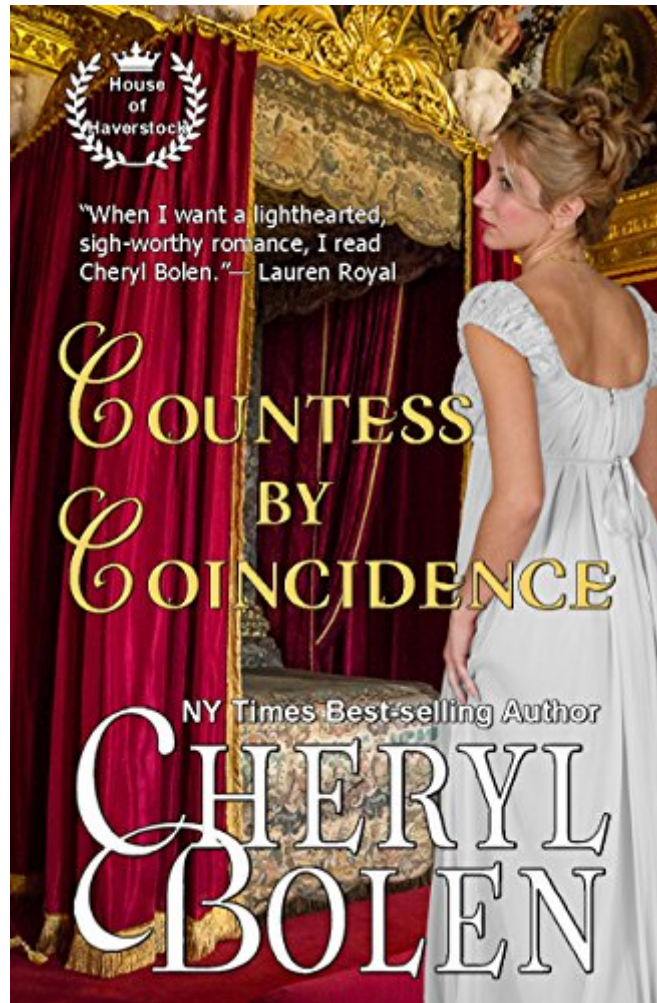


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Countess By Coincidence (House Of Haverstock, Book 3)



Synopsis

Two staggering coincidences result in the marriage of the reckless young Earl of Finchley and Lady Margaret Ponsby, a shy duke's daughter who's worshipped him from afar. . .Countess by Coincidence is Book 3 in the House of Haverstock series (three connected marriage-of-convenience love stories set in Regency England).Lady by Chance (Book 1 in the series) introduced the Haverstock family and spent two years on 's top 20 list for bestselling historical romances.In Duchess by Mistake (Book 2) an innocent visit to the Duke of Aldridge's to request a donation for her war widows puts Lady Elizabeth Upton in the midst of a most shocking scandal. . .

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In Book 3 of the House of Haverstock series, author Cheryl Bolen gives us the wildest set of circumstances yetâ "a Countess By Coincidence. And what a coincidence it was! Not only is it right place/right time, it is even right name. That is so perfect that surely it must have been fate all along.Margaret Ponsby is a shy, quiet lady who has given up all hope of marrying for love. With her sizeable dowry and less-than-perfect personality, she is sure that any offers for her hand are generated more by desire for her pocketbook than her heart. Only one man has ever caught her interest, but his reputation makes him entirely unsuitable for consideration. And then thereâ™s the

fact that even if he WERE suitable, she would be too shy to try to draw his eye. Content to admire him quietly from afar, Margaret spends her days helping those less fortunate and living the life of a spinster fully on the shelf. But that rake she has for so long admired has lived such a life of debauchery that heâ€™s made a real muck of things in his beloved Grandmereâ€™s eyes. Enough is enough, and she will not release any more of his funds until he can show some maturity. What better way to set along the straight and narrow path than to find a wife to help keep him headed in that direction? But heâ€™s so young and not ready to be âœgleg shackledâœ• yet. So whatâ€™s a young man to do? Place an ad for a wife in name only. How convenient. But who would answer such an ad? Lady Margaretâ€™s distant relative, a lady of near 50 years, to whom the offered compensation seems the ticket to living out the rest of her days in comfort. And whatâ€™s her name? Why, Margaret Ponsby, of course.

As its title would suggest, Cheryl Bolenâ€™s latest Regency romance opens with wild coincidences and foolish behavior, all of which combine to throw the hero and heroine of *Countess By Coincidence* into that favorite entertaining (for the reader!) predicament, the Marriage of Convenience. Margaret Ponsby, sister of the Duke of Aldridge (the hero of Bolenâ€™s *Duchess by Mistake*) has harbored a girlish crush on John Beauclerc, the Earl of Finchley, for years, although she has never actually spoken to him. His grandmother is her neighbor, and she has watched him coming and going from her window. When she stops at a local church one morning and finds herself swept to the altar by the earl, she assumes sheâ€™s been recruited to act as bride in a proxy wedding. Finch, as the earl is known to his friends, is a good-hearted rake who has concocted a ridiculous scheme to marry a stranger and pay her to go away, thus proving to his wealthy grandmother that he has matured enough to handle the money she has been too cautious to settle on him. (Finchâ€™s grandmother, mind you, is far too intelligent to fall for this plot.) Determined to make the best of her unexpected lot, Margaret persuades Finch to let her move in with him and take up her formal position as his countess (much to the bewilderment of her family) while he continues to lead a life of freedom with his trio of equally rakish friends. Margaret would love to have a proper marriage and family with Finch, but she tries to convince herself that sheâ€™ll settle for a home of her own and friendship with this oddly endearing (and very handsome) man. Finch, meanwhile, has absolutely no use for a wife or marriage, or so he tells himself and his friendsâœ”over and over again. But Maggie would be such a perfect wife.

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