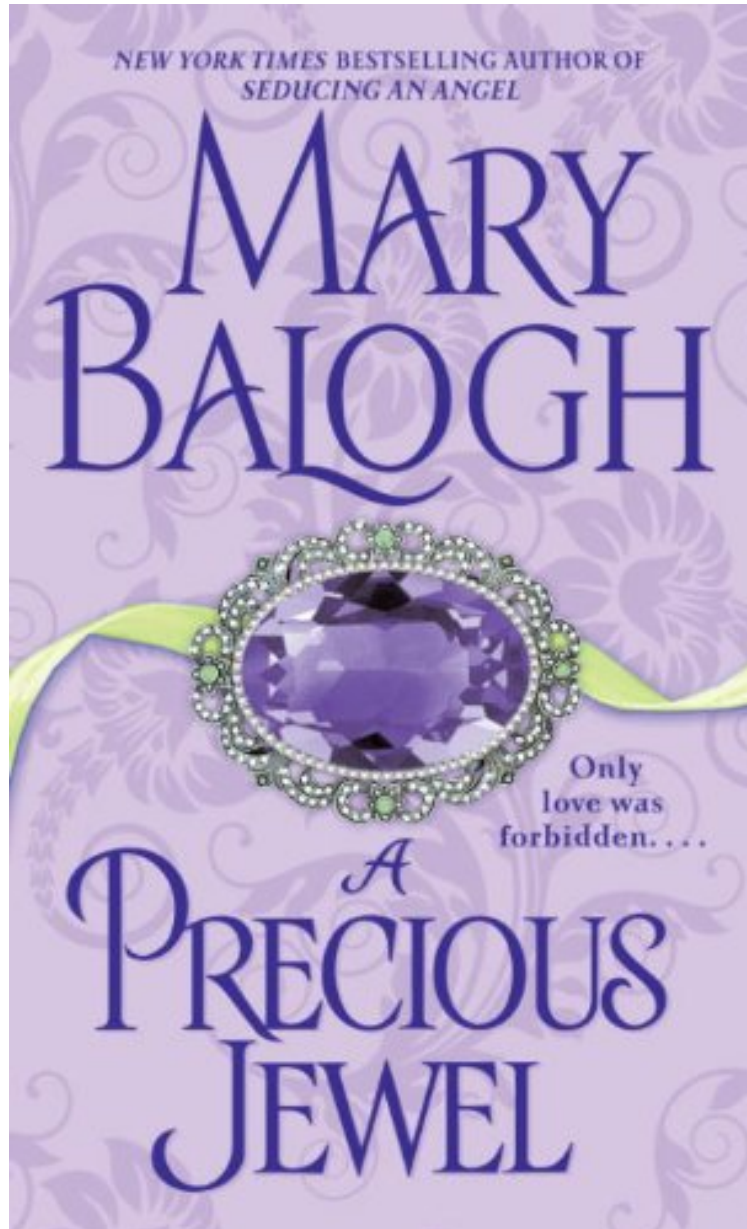


(Ebook pdf) A Precious Jewel (Stapleton-Downes)

## A Precious Jewel (Stapleton-Downes)

Von Mary Balogh

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**Von Mary Balogh : A Precious Jewel (Stapleton-Downes)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Precious Jewel (Stapleton-Downes):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Shorter

but still great historical romance Von Helen Hancox Mary Balogh, who is by far my favourite modern writer of historical romances, has definitely refined her writing skills over her long career; however it's always good to read some of her earlier books as there are some great reads in them. 'A Precious Jewel' feels in some ways like a prototype for 'More Than A Mistress', one of my favourite Balogh books. In this story Priscilla Wentworth is a gentleman's daughter whose father and brother have died and who is now at the mercy of her nasty cousin who has inherited everything. When he starts making improper advances she leaves his house and travels to London to see her former governess who has set up a finishing school in the hopes that she can gain employment with her. Unfortunately when she arrives at Miss Blythe's establishment she finds out that the finishing school is actually an extremely high-class brothel. In due course Prissy realises the only way for her to survive financially until her thirtieth birthday (when she inherits some money from her dead mother) is to become a whore, and thus she does. After two months she gets a new client, Sir Gerald Stapleton, who likes her so much that he asks her to be his mistress. Prissy and Gerald get to know each other much better once she is his mistress. She is still doing a 'job', of course, although she is in love with him, but Gerald is beginning to learn about real life through her. Gerald is an unusual hero for this kind of book - he isn't tall, handsome, witty, but instead is a man of average looks, average intelligence and rather alarming naivety. He finds the time he spends with Prissy as comfortable, she does what he wants, looks after him and isn't demanding in any way. Gerald has little experience of love, having been failed by his parents and his stepmother and having sworn off marriage and long-term women. But spending time with Prissy makes them both begin to reconsider their lives, but when something untoward happens and Prissy breaks it off, both she and Gerald have to find their new places in the world and how to live apart from each other. Sir Gerald reminded me very much of Freddie Standen in Georgette Heyer's 'Cotillion', the 'nice but dim' man who isn't particularly good at anything but who bumbles through life. Prissy is very much more the stronger character with intelligence, talent and skill but she is able to hide all this so that she can carry out her job. Part of the charm of the story is the way in which these two rather different people bring out the best in each other. Not much is made of Prissy's job as a prostitute in Miss Blythe's brothel and I think the repercussions of this might have been rather more significant in the long term than they are shown in this book but it is still a charming and romantic read. There are a few awkwardnesses in the plot that had to just be glossed over by the reader. I wondered how someone suitable to be governess to a lady might within a few years be running a brothel and who appears very good at it - did she have previous brothel experience, and consequently why on earth was she considered suitable as a lady's governess? Gerald's naivety is also rather strong in places - I wondered how someone so dim at times still had his fortune - but his protective feelings of Prissy showed what a pleasant man he is. He came across as younger perhaps than his 27 years and far from the usual hero but still a man with whom the reader knows Prissy can be happy. Like pretty much every book Mary Balogh has written, this is a great read and much better than most other books out there in this genre. It's an earlier work and that shows with less of a plot (for example, in 'More Than A Mistress' which has some similarities the heroine is hiding a murderous past and the hero in that book is a much stronger character with his own demons) but the characterisation is still good and the overall experience of reading it one of great enjoyment. 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Excellent! Truly out of the ordinary! Von AislinnMcEI bought this book on the basis of the fabulous reviews it received on this page and was \*not\* disappointed. I read it straight through in one sitting, and then had to read it again the following day. It captivated me. This is not one of your ordinary "missish" Regencies, this presents real problems and a heroine who courageously (and with a great deal of dignity) overcomes them. At times she is almost too perfect, but the bittersweet quality of the story of Prissy and Gerald falling in love put any complaints far into shadow. Mary Balogh is one of my favorite authors, but this has got to be one of the best books I've read by her. Definitely going onto my "keeper" shelf and is sure to be a favorite edition on it. Be sure to give this book a try! 3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Heart-warming and Satisfying Von Avid Reader With Mary Balogh, You are sure to get a good story. This one is no exception. but it is different from the usual Regency. It's plot is refreshingly original. It presents a situation which was realistic but never explored. I'm glad that Balogh did not write about the heroine as a beautiful, voluptuous and seductive creature decked out in all her glory and fineries but rather a gently-bred, simple, sensible and amiable girl forced by circumstances into prostitution and then became mistress to the hero. I love both the hero and heroine. They are so human and commonplace with ordinary situations and emotions. You feel so comfortable with them and feel for them. But Balogh as a way to make them touch your heart. I hope other readers would enjoy it as much as I did.

Kurzbeschreibung BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Mary Balogh's *The Secret Mistress*. New York Times bestselling author Mary Balogh weaves a sensuous spell of romance that brings together the unlikeliest pair of lovers in the unlikeliest place of all an infamous London house of pleasure. She was unlike any woman he'd ever met in the ton or the demimonde. But Sir Gerald Stapleton frequented Mrs. Blythe's euphemistically dubbed finishing school for pure, uncomplicated pleasure and nothing else. So why was this confirmed bachelor so thoroughly captivated by one woman in particular? Why did he find himself wondering how such a rare jewel of grace, beauty, and refinement

as Priss had ended up a courtesan? And when she needed protection, why did Gerald, who'd sworn he'd never get entangled in affairs of the heart, hasten to set her up as his own pampered mistress to ensure her safety and have her all to himself? For Priscilla Wentworth, the path leading to Sir Gerald's bed had been as filled with misfortune as it suddenly seemed charmed. But Priss couldn't allow herself to believe she'd ever be more to a man like Sir Gerald than a well-cared-for object of pleasure. Now, despite Gerald's deep distrust of marriage, neither scandal nor society's censure can keep them apart only the fear of trusting their hearts.

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**den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende**  
Mary Balogh is the New York Times bestselling author of the acclaimed *Slightly* novels: *Slightly Married*, *Slightly Wicked*, *Slightly Scandalous*, *Slightly Tempted*, *Slightly Sinful*, and *Slightly Dangerous*, as well as the romances *No Man's Mistress*, *More than a Mistress*, and *One Night for Love*. She is also the author of *Simply Love*, *Simply Unforgettable*, *Simply Magic*, and *Simply Perfect*, her dazzling quartet of novels set at Miss Martin's School for Girls. A former teacher herself, she grew up in Wales and now lives in Canada.