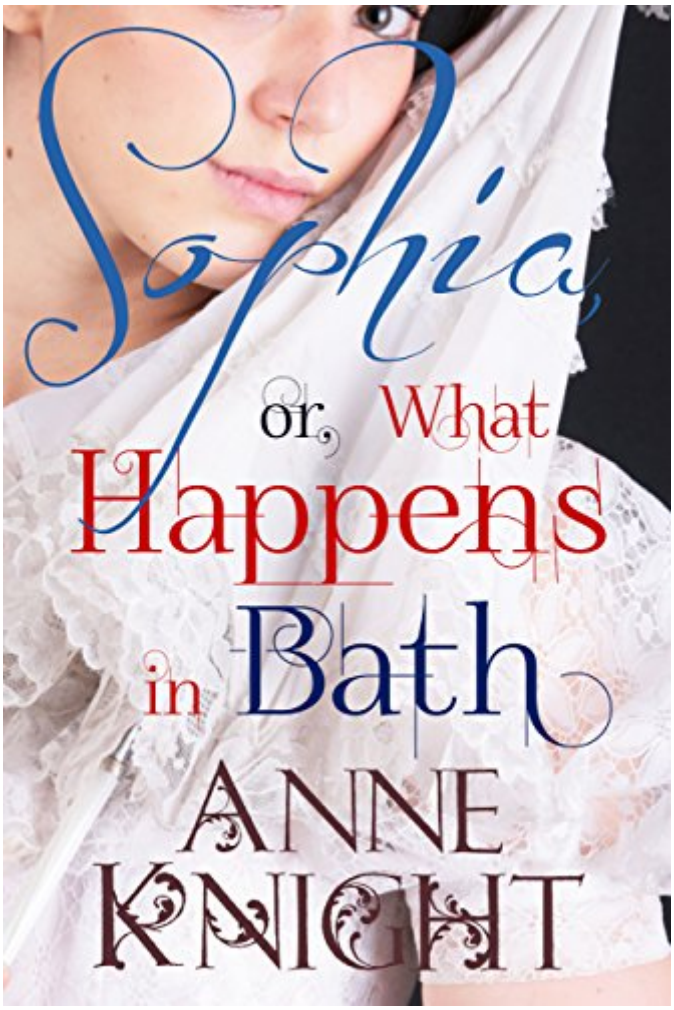
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Sophia, Or, What Happens In Bath



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Synopsis

The Thornton sisters, Harriet and Sophia, have not travelled much outside the county in which their quiet, uneventful village lies, and so are equally delighted when the prospect of going to Bath presents itself.Beautiful and charming, Harriet is determined to find her husband there, while Sophia, the quieter and more level-headed of the two, cannot seem to understand the appeal of marriage, and is certain she shall not.But when a chance meeting at a ball throws her sister in the way of Lord Dalton, the most eligible gentleman in the room, and Sophia is made to dance with his handsome friend, Henry Greenwood, both sisters are started down paths they did not expect. And if they do not keep their wits about them, the consequences could be very grave indeed.

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Customer Reviews

This novel would be a great one for discussion among fellow Regency romance writers and readers, because it has interesting strengths to discuss, as well as what I believe are areas for improvement. I am going to avoid spoilers in this review, because the novel hasn’t been widely-read as yet, and this is the first review.I’ll start with the cover. It features whimsical fonts which would lead a reader to

expect a carefree comedy of manners, an assumption further strengthened by the author's reference to reading Northanger Abbey at a young and impressionable age herself. The "What Happens in..." title also suggests the content will be light-hearted. For most of the novel, the tone is blithe, but becomes unexpectedly dark near the end.Ms. Knight knows how to write in a way suggesting Austen and the Regency period. The dialogue and descriptions of the characters are often witty. The style of writing, in my opinion, seems graceful, though the dialogue sounds a bit stilted (probably because we would naturally think the conversations of 200 years ago sound stilted - so that's not a criticism, just an observation.) I found few errors in spelling or usage and can think of only one homophone error ("reign," meaning a term of rulership, erroneously used three times for "rein," meaning straps used for control of a horse.)I enjoyed the sprightliness of the dialogue.The usual Regency romance plot, climbing the social ladder via shrewdly-conducted spouse hunting, was handled entertainingly.Now here's where I get a bit baffled, and would love to discuss this with another fan of Regency romances. Despite all these positives, I truly was startled at the abrupt turn near the end of the book, leading me to wonder whether I simply got lost at some point during the plot, or if I simply hadn't been given enough by the author to understand the characters in any depth.It took awhile for me to be sure who the heroine of the story would be. As it went on, I began to place Sophia in that role. (Well, the title kind of gave it away, too.) Harriet was a mystery to me. I never did decide if she was empty-headed. She suffered from depression in some of the scenes, which did not make sense from a character who spoke flippantly about who was going to make a match with whom and who wanted to meet every man mentioned in conversation. I didn't know if she was supposed to be taken seriously.I also had a hard time differentiating all the young people. So many new characters were introduced in a short time that I did not recognize until later that two of them were longtime friends of the sisters, unlike the rest, who all were new acquaintances. Two of the secondary female characters had names beginning with E, and perhaps for that reason, I could not keep them straight. It took a long time for me to determine which, if any, of the male characters were intended to be heroes of the piece, and if there was any foreshadowing to prepare the reader for a villain, it went straight over my head.Overall I enjoyed this novel, though I think it has flaws. I'm just not sure whether they relate to insufficient character development, plot, author tone, or what, and I hope other readers will weigh in. I hope Ms. Knight will continue writing, as she has talent well worth developing. Hope I don't come across as condescending, Ms. Knight! I will look forward to reading future novels of yours, and I do thank you for putting the book in Kindle Unlimited, so budget-minded people like me can read and appreciate!

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