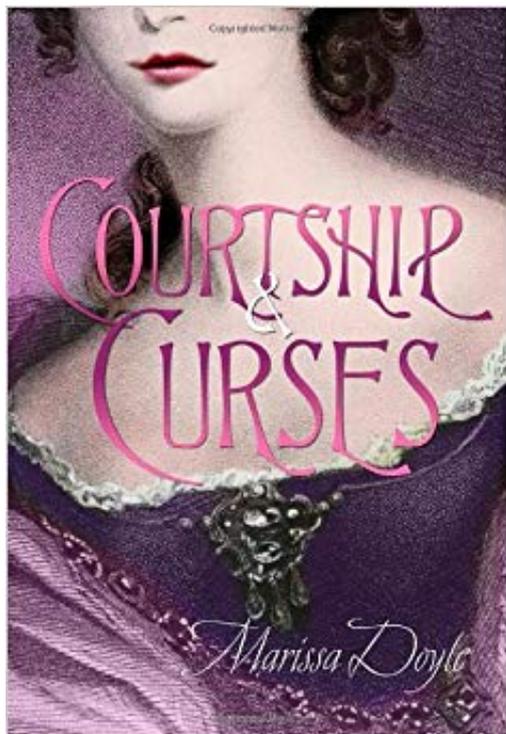


## Courtship and Curses *by* Marissa Doyle



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**Author:** Marissa Doyle

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From the author of *Bewitching Season* and *Betraying Season* comes a brand new regency romance with plenty of intrigue--and magic!

Sophie's entrance into London society isn't what she thought it would be: Mama isn't there to guide her. Papa is buried in his work fighting Napoleon. And worst of all, the illness that left her with a limp, unable to dance at the Season's balls, also took away her magic. When the dashing Lord Woodbridge starts showing an interest in Sophie, she wants to believe it's genuine, but she can't be sure he's feeling anything more than pity.

Sophie's problems escalate when someone uses magic to attack Papa at the Whistons' ball and it soon becomes clear that all the members of the War Office are being targeted. Can Sophie regain her own powers, find her balance, make a match--and save England?

Find out in Marissa Doyle's *Courtship and Curses*!



## Reviews of the **Courtship and Curses** by Marissa Doyle

generation of new

*Courtship and Curses* by Marissa Doyle is about a eighteen year old girl named Sophronia Rosier (she prefers Sophie) and how her entrance into London society is shadowed by the loss of her mother, her little sister Harriet and her crippled leg. Sophie is also a witch but she has been having trouble controlling her magic ever since she got ill with the influenza two years ago that turned her right leg crippled and made her magic disappear. She doesn't know why she lost her magic and she has no one to turn to since her mother was the only witch in the family besides little Harry and Sophie herself. Sophie also has to deal with the rumors that she is feeble minded and a hunchback since she has a crippled leg. It doesn't help that her Aunt Isabel is always calling her poor Sophie or that her Aunt Molly is way more interested in plants or that her father is too busy in his work at the war office to pay much attention to his daughter. Luckily for Sophie, Amelie who was the wife of an old friend of her father's decides to stay with Sophie during her London season and help her through it. During the first ball they attend to, Sophie meets the cousins Lord Woodbridge and Lady Parthenope. Sophie's Aunt Molly is also reunited with her lost love Auguste, the comte.

Sophie is attracted to Lord Woodbridge but when she thinks he only was kind to her because he was under orders by his mother to be especially nice to her Sophie is hurt and angry at his pity of her so their relationship is off to a bad start. On the other hand, Sophie soon finds a best friend in Lady Parthenope and is happy that Parthenope didn't pity her like she thinks Peregrine did but that Parthenope only showed kindness and sympathy towards her. Parthenope also tries to help her cousin Peregrine show his true feelings for Sophie although it's hard since Sophie is afraid Peregrine is only offering for her because he wants to protect her or feels sorry for her. Sophie also meets the cool and sly Mr. Underwood while on a ride with Parthenope in the park and immediately recognizes him as the one who said horrible things about her at her first ball so she doesn't like or trust him. Sophie soon realizes that someone is using magic to try to hurt her father and other members of the war office (although it's pretty obvious who it is) and that it's up to Parthenope and her to put a stop to them since they're the only ones who are aware that magic is being used.

I liked this story. It was a fun and entertaining book with a bit of magic, romance and danger thrown in for good measure.

I liked the heroine Sophie. Sure she may have had a crippled right leg but that didn't mean she was weak, far from it. She was strong willed and tried hard to not let her crippled leg make her different or let rumors about her trouble her. I know why Sophie hated to be pitied since a lot of people couldn't look past her crippled leg and see Sophie just as a person and not a person with a crippled leg but at times I was kind of annoyed at her for being so quick to snap at anyone who showed what she thought was pity but was simple sympathy I thought at times.

It was interesting to read the many spells Sophie use to do (or could do) when she could use her magic but then it was kind of annoying that she always followed up with a self pity reply like but my magic doesn't work anymore or that even if she used a spell it wouldn't work or it would probably go wrong. Every time I read that Sophie would wish she could use a spell I knew a self pity reply would be seconds behind. But I was happy for Sophie's big revelation near the end (although it was obvious from the very beginning). She finally learned that she was thinking of herself as someone who suffered and lost. She had let Aunt Isabel and other people define her as broken and she let herself believe them. And maybe that was why her magic disappeared and maybe it was finally time to reclaim it.

I liked Sophie's best friend Parthenope. She was kind, honest and loyal to Sophie and was truly the

best friend any young witch could wish for.

I also liked Lord Woodbridge. Peregrine fell in love with Sophie at first sight which I thought was very sweet. He did make mistakes in the beginning but he tried hard to make things right between Sophie and him. He learns that Sophie doesn't need to be rescued or protected by him, all that she needs from him is to be cherished, honored and for him to love her with all his heart. Which he will.

I liked Aunt Molly too. She was funny with her obsession about plants.

I give this book four stars.

Gribandis

Book arrived in good shape. Mum was pleased as it is hard to find and a part of a set she needed.

Thank you

Lanin

Entertaining and fun read. Book was in excellent condition.

Bulace

Great condition. Really love the book

Stanober

The book arrived in perfect condition! I am ecstatic and happy to read this wonderfully clean copy of Doyle's newest book.

ACOS

This is the prequel to the series and is another Regency period romance with a twist of magic. Sophie is preparing for her season, but is struggling without her mother and the damage to her leg from an illness that has left her with a limp. The illness has also impacted her magical abilities. Her aunts, who are sponsoring her Season, are not much help, with Molly being obsessed with horticulture and Isabel being difficult to deal with and old-fashioned. Thankfully, the widow of her father's friend, a French woman named Amelie, comes to her rescue with fashion help and she becomes friends with another young lady named Parthenope. At her first ball, she is surprised by the attention of Lord Woodbridge, but she suspects that he merely pities her condition. After an accident at the ball, and a series of other curious events where she feels the presence of magic, she begins to suspect that someone is targeting members of the War Office, including her father. Sophie must pull all of her resources to help find out who is the mastermind behind the plot before it is too late.

Hystana

Book 1 was a bit too leisurely for me & I did not like book 2 at all so I was reluctant to try this, but I took a chance based on the good reviews of others & found this book is far superior to book 1 (and even more so to book 2!).

There's a nice little mystery that I guessed the answer to early on & the conclusion of the romance is a given, but that doesn't spoil the enjoyment of the read.

While I did find Sophie's insecurities too frequent & annoying, the story was quite enjoyable & would recommend this book to those who enjoy Jane Austen books.

I did find it a bit odd that the use of magic was so restrained, I would have liked to have seen it more fully incorporated into the story

note: the one really negative thing that I would mention is that on page 106 there's a description of Sophie looking at herself .It let's the reader inside her head & see her deformity the way she sees it, but the way that it's phrased rather put me off.: " her breasts were full but not over large, her waist slender". That small sentence didn't seem necessary & rather seemed to imply that Sophie was really "perfect" except for her 1 leg...and that there is a perfect bust size. Pfft ! I could have done with out the form of an ideal woman being the same old same old !

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