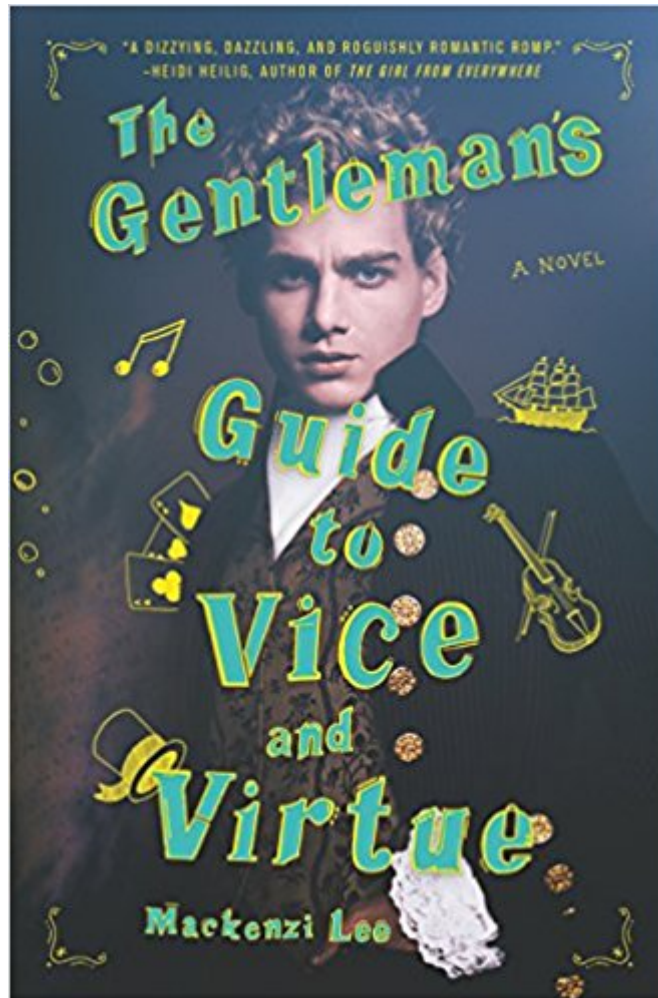




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# The Gentleman's Guide To Vice And Virtue



## Synopsis

A hilarious and swashbuckling teen historical fiction novel, named one of summer's 20 must-read books by Entertainment Weekly! A New York Times bestseller! A young bisexual British lord embarks on an unforgettable Grand Tour of Europe with his best friend/secret crush. An 18th-century romantic adventure for the modern age written by *This Monstrous Thing* author Mackenzi Lee – Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda – meets the 1700s. Henry – “Monty” – Montague doesn’t care that his roguish passions are far from suitable for the gentleman he was born to be. But as Monty embarks on his grand tour of Europe, his quests for pleasure and vice are in danger of coming to an end. Not only does his father expect him to take over the family’s estate upon his return, but Monty is also nursing an impossible crush on his best friend and traveling companion, Percy. So Monty vows to make this yearlong escapade one last hedonistic hurrah and flirt with Percy from Paris to Rome. But when one of Monty’s reckless decisions turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt, it calls into question everything he knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores. Witty, dazzling, and intriguing at every turn, *The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue* is an irresistible romp that explores the undeniably fine lines between friendship and love. 5-starred reviews and #1 pick on the summer 2017 Kids’ Indie Next List!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The book’s exquisite, bygone meter and vernacular sit comfortably on a contemporary shelf. And the friction of racism, tyrannical entitled politicians, and misguided

disapproval of homosexuality also have a relevance rooted in current culture—its xeno- and homophobia. Austen, Wilde, and Indiana Jones converge in this deliciously anachronistic bonbon. (Kirkus Reviews (starred review)) | “Tongue-in-cheek, wildly entertaining, and anachronistic in only the most delightful ways, this is a gleeful romp through history. Monty is a hero worthy of Oscar Wilde. (Booklist (starred review)) | “This is a witty, romantic, and exceedingly smart look at discovering one’s place in the world. A stunning powerhouse of a story for every collection. (starred review) | “A gloriously swashbuckling affair. (Publishers Weekly (starred review)) | Mackenzi Lee (*This Monstrous Thing*) combines her knowledge of European history with a contemporary, comic sensibility to create an over-the-top romantic adventure complete with cliff-hanging chapter endings and sometimes outrageous narration. Monty is a licentious, flawed and engaging 18th-century hero. (Shelf Awareness (starred review)) | “Monty is pitch-perfect as a yearning, self-destructive, oblivious jerk of a hero who inspires equal parts sympathy, frustration, and adoration from reader. A genre tribute, satire, and exemplar in one. (The Horn Book) | “Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue is the queer teen historical you didn’t know was missing from your life. (Best Queer Books to Celebrate Pride 2017) (Teen Vogue) | “A rollicking ride that also turns a keen eye to issues like class, racism, homosexuality, and identity. (Brightly.com) | “Careening from fete to fiasco on a Grand Tour of 18th century Europe, *THE GENTLEMEN’S GUIDE TO VICE AND VIRTUE* is a dizzying, dazzling, and roguishly romantic romp. This book makes me want to unrequite my own love so I can requite him all over again. (Heidi Heilig, author of *THE GIRL FROM EVERYWHERE*) | “Don’t read this book unless you like adventure, hijinks, and forbidden romance, and if you do, then read it twice. (Stacey Lee, author of *THE SECRET OF A HEART NOTE* and *UNDER A PAINTED SKY*) | “An outrageously fun, witty, fascinating, and romantic adventure, starring a memorable trio I’d happily travel with for ages. Lee is a definite force in diverse historical YA. (Dahlia Adler, founder of LGBTQ Reads and author of *UNDER THE LIGHTS*) | “The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue is a Grand Tour all its own. Hilarious and romantic, adventurous and scandalous, Monty’s adventures are just as delightful as Monty himself. I adored this book! (Rachel Hawkins, author of the Rebel Belle series) | “Sweet, smart, and powerful, *Gentleman’s Guide* tackles timely topics that will resonate profoundly with readers—all wrapped up in a truly epic road trip. Prepare to laugh, gasp, swoon, and cheer. (Claire Legrand, author of the Winterspell series) | “A delightful romp of a road-trip through

eighteenth century Europe, packed with witty dialog, razor-sharp pacing, and the perfect amount of swoon. You should abso-bloody-lutely read this book. **★** (Erin Bowman, author of *VENGEANCE ROAD*) **★** “Vice has never been more charming and virtue never more daring than in Mackenzie Lee’s superbly written globetrotting adventure. Not since *Hamilton* the musical has the 18th century been this much fun. **★** (Amy Cherrix, Malaprop’s Bookstore) **★** “An incomparably delightful historical romp. I was swept away by Monty’s incorrigible voice from the very first page, and the rest of this confident adventure tale did not disappoint. Lee’s sophomore novel has heart, depth, and an abundance of wisecracks from a protagonist you can’t help but adore. **★** (Rebecca Wells, Porter Square Books) **★** “Simultaneously harrowing and hilarious, everything about this book from the serious questions posed about sexuality, chronic illness, and social inequality to the extraordinary journey Monty, his best friend, and his sister find themselves on make Mackenzi Lee’s latest the kind of book you’d be a fool to miss. **★** (Gaby Salpeter, Books of Wonder) **★** “Monty and Percy are insanely shippable from page one, and quickly became one of my favorite YA couples of all time. **★** (Rachel Strolle, Anderson’s Bookshop) **★** “The John Hughes of queer 18th century adventure novels with an alchemical heart at its center. Lee perfectly captures teen humor and angst. I can’t wait to see what she writes next! **★** (Alsace Walentine, Tombolo Books) **★** “I can’t wait to get this book in my store. I know my customers looking for historical fiction and LGBTQ stories will adore *GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE* as much as I have! **★** (Clarissa Hadge, Trident Booksellers) **★** “Filled with highwaymen, pirates, and heart pounding exploits of a romantic nature, this is the summer road-trip adventure you’ve been waiting for. **★** (Marika McCoola, Porter Square Books) **★** “With roguish charm, sly wit, and tender heart, *THE GENTLEMAN’S GUIDE TO VICE AND VIRTUE* is a shameless flirt of a novel. If Monty and Percy hadn’t already stolen my heart, I would surrender it to them gladly. **★** (Wendy Darling, The Midnight Garden) **★** “Wonderfully refreshing. A delightful, thoughtful, hilarious read. **★** (Maggie Kane, Between the Covers) **★** “An adventurous romp through 18th-century Europe with a trio of unforgettable characters. Lee weaves together the fun and the fantastical with a conversation on historical privilege that will resonate with modern readers. Perfect for fans of LA Meyer’s *Bloody Jack* series. Expect to fall in love with this book! **★** (Nicole Brinkley, Oblong Books) An elegant, colorful, swashbuckling good time of a read and a beautiful addition to the LGBTQ+ genre. This is a great novel for upper YA readers and a great adult cross-over title. I definitely have a book hangover after finishing this gem. (Amanda Zirn, Bethany

Beach Books) – “A Marauder – a Map of the heart, full of pirates, highwaymen, humor and romance. Mischief managed brilliantly! – (Chris Abouzeid, Co-Owner, Belmont Books) – “Lee – a rip-roaring, genre-trampling, beautifully affirmative novel absolutely lives up to the hype, whisking readers off on a breathless and refreshingly unique adventure. – (RT Book Reviews)

Henry – “Monty – Montague was born and bred to be a gentleman, but he was never one to be tamed. The finest boarding schools in England and the constant disapproval of his father haven’t been able to curb any of his roguish passions – not for gambling halls, late nights spent with a bottle of spirits, or waking up in the arms of women or men. But as Monty embarks on his Grand Tour of Europe, his quest for a life filled with pleasure and vice is in danger of coming to an end. Not only does his father expect him to take over the family’s estate upon his return, but Monty is also nursing an impossible crush on his best friend and traveling companion, Percy. Still, it isn’t in Monty’s nature to give up. Even with his younger sister, Felicity, in tow, he vows to make this yearlong escapade one last hedonistic hurrah and flirt with Percy from Paris to Rome. But when one of Monty’s reckless decisions turns their trip abroad into a harrowing manhunt that spans across Europe, it calls into question everything he knows, including his relationship with the boy he adores.

I cannot even describe how much I adore this book. Henry “Monty” Montague is an English lord going on a year long tour of Europe with his sister, Felicity, and best friend/secret crush Percy, but they very quickly get sidetracked. They go on a huge romp of an adventure, that twists through European cities, glamorous parties at Versailles, to robbers and pirates. This book is a masterclass in voice. Monty has such a distinct view of the world. He’s funny, sarcastic, often oblivious, irreverent. And yet, he cares deeply for Percy, is often desperately unhappy with his life and does his best to cope. Even if it starts out light-hearted, the stakes are quickly raised, both physically and emotionally. The trio of Monty, Percy and Felicity is a perfect group to go on this adventure. Even though Monty is such a distinct character, Felicity and Percy are never overpowered by him and are allowed their own complexities and narratives, as they often challenge Monty’s somewhat limited view of the world. (Felicity starts off as “the annoying younger sister” but completely escapes that trope and ends up as a true member of the trio, with her own valuable contributions. She’s amazing.) The romantic tension between Monty and Percy is charming and heartbreaking in all the right ways. As fun as this book is at times, there are moments that are so poignant and basically

ripped my heart out. Similarly, the book does not ignore topics like sexism, racism, and homophobia and addresses them carefully within the narrative. I can't recommend it highly enough. So good that I read it twice in one month!

After sitting on this book for a while after reading it. I decided to upgrade my review to a 4.5 out of 5. Action-packed, adventurous, fun and funny read. There was even a small magical element to this book. I feel like this book had pretty good character development. I really enjoyed the two main characters Monty and Percy. The romance was cute but not too over the top. Even though Monty is a very flirtatious, party-goer, over the top, drinker....he's super fun and hilarious at times. I literally found myself laughing out loud. I would definitely read this book again in the future and recommend it for a fun and fast read.

I must admit to my own blunder. After the first chapter I thought that maybe this book wasn't up to par. I was not in the mood for a slow read and after skimming the pages ahead I had nearly dubbed this book as such. I can't say the exact page that changed my mind, but I flew ahead and soon I was halfway through. When did this get so action packed? When did the characters get so likeable? When did I get so invested that I would rather tuck further into the pages instead of watching the 90 Day Fiancé reunion? This book is everything. No, quite literally everything. A forbidden romance, mysterious, progressive, thrilling and not to mention all the adventures they get into! You would not expect such a book from those first few pages. And such memorable characters, I almost don't want to refer to them as such, it seems to undermine the realness of their personalities. Oh the personality present in this book! In Henry (Monty), the narrator, especially. Whimsical, full of life, rebellious and exploring the complexities of being bisexual in the 18th century. The guy he fancies, Percy, is half African-American and the perfect compliment to Henry. His sister Felicity seems to be a bit stuck-up at first, but you soon see her character unravel and her strength becomes clear, along with the fact that the 18th century didn't favor strong, educated women. They're my favorite group, surviving in those times as an African American, bisexual and a woman who wants to learn more than the proper mannerisms for society in school. Oh and don't get me started on the originality of the setting- Henry's tour of Europe, with Percy and Felicity (although she's kept from their outings and was sent along to be dropped off at school- where she would be stuck learning about being a lady rather than what she would like). It is in France that Henry gets them into some trouble of course, and then the novel takes off! I felt like I was in the passenger seat driving past a very eventful street, trying to take it all in but also anxious to get to the destination. And we arrived in a

blink. This book was delicious to say the least. Very refreshing in the days of vampire, fairy and apocalyptic novels. Though, I will never tire of the latter. Cheers, to a book previously presumed to be dry, for being so flavorful!

Ok. Ok. OK. This book is truly fantastic. There is humor, romance, adventure and some diverse and badass characters. I can not remember reading really any LGBTQ ya books when I was younger, and I really wish I had books like this one when I was. Also I feel like now all YA LGBTQ books are contemporaries about how hard it is to be different or whatever. Anyway, I LOVE this book. Also it is well researched and historical! This review is all over the place and rambling but all I am saying is just read it. Do it. Also I usually hate photographs of people on covers, but this one is cute.

This is one of the most entertaining and fully developed stories I've ever had the pleasure of reading. It has incredibly charming and laugh out loud comical moments, and still manages to address a variety of issues in a way that demonstrates the author really cares about them. She even takes it a step further by including her research at the end of the book, which I think was wise and provided more fascinating reading material. Were you curious to learn more about race relations, homosexuality, and medical treatments of the time (I won't spoil the story by specifying for what), Lee offers some background and suggestions for further reading. I'm really looking forward to what she has in store for us next.

As far as Historical Fiction catches my interest, I am so in love with *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue* by Mackenzi Lee. *Monty's Not-So-Much-Of-A-Grand-Tour* had left me rolling on the floor, laughing; curled up at the corner, sobbing; clenched at the edge of suspense with excitement; but most of all, heart pounding for the forbidden romance that has had me falling. Must read of the year.

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