



A Note from Ruth

Thank you for joining me today – and for celebrating the release of *A Reckoning for the Earl*. I promise no earls were harmed in the making of this book... unless you count emotional damage, which he absolutely deserved.

This story began, as many good ideas do, with a simple question: What would happen if a responsible, mildly brooding hero returned home to bury the past... only to collide with the woman he once loved, who is far less impressed with him now?

Answer: sparks, conflict, unresolved feelings, and at least one moment where I seriously considered throwing the manuscript across the room.

Alex and Georgina didn't make it easy. He's devoted, stubborn, and spectacularly allergic to expressing emotions. She's independent, razor-sharp, and has perfected the art of pretending she's absolutely fine (she is not). Then there's the small matter of the coal mine they unexpectedly co-own – because nothing says “romance” like shared mineral rights.

Writing this book reminded me why I adore historical romance: the fashion is lovely, the rules are unreasonable, and the emotions are delightfully chaotic. When society demands silence, these two choose to speak the truth instead – and the fallout is delicious.

Thank you for reading, for laughing, for swooning, and for letting my characters make a glorious mess of their lives while finding their way back to each other. I hope *A Reckoning for the Earl* makes your heart race, your eyebrows lift, and your tea go cold because you forgot to drink it.

Warmly (and with only slightly singed writing nerves),

Ruth