



## A Rake's Midnight Kiss

*Anna Campbell*

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### **It Takes A Lady**

Brilliant scholar Genevieve Barrett knows how to keep a secret. Her identity as the author of her father's academic articles has always been her greatest deception—until a charming housebreaker tries to steal the mysterious Harmsworth Jewel from her. She doesn't reveal that she recognizes her father's devastatingly handsome new student as the thief himself. For Genevieve, this will be the most seductive secret of all...

### **To Catch A Thief**

Sir Richard Harmsworth has been living a lie, maintaining a rakish façade to show society that he doesn't care about his status as a bastard. Yet long haunted by his unknown father's identity, Richard believes the Harmsworth Jewel will confirm his claim as the rightful heir. But when Richard sets out to seduce the bookworm who possesses the stone, he instead falls for its beautiful owner. But even as she steals Richard's heart, Genevieve will be in greater danger than her coveted treasure...

### **A Rake's Midnight Kiss Details**

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Author : Anna Campbell

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## From Reader Review A Rake's Midnight Kiss for online ebook

### Ursula says

My first Anna Campbell book and I really enjoyed it! The writing was great- some lovely turns of phrase - and the main characters had lots of layers. The story is quite emotional and I even wiped away a tear at the end when our hero contemplated reconciliation with his estranged mother.

I really didn't like the hero, Richard (aka Mr Evans) initially and AC does a good job of portraying him as a shallow, vain, preening dilettante with a giant chip on his shoulder. So it is a real joy to see him change and become the man he is meant to be.

The heroine, Genevieve, is a highly intelligent scholar who has been writing her selfish father's scholarly articles for him and letting him take the credit. After all, what hope does a woman have of being taken seriously in the academic circles of that time? It is wonderful (even if a bit unrealistic, but hey- this is romantic fiction, not a doco) how Richard admires her intellect and facilitates her success.

Lots of passion, witty banter and emotion. A winner for me.

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### Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Posted on my blog: <http://www.buriedunderromance.blogspot.com>...

Anna Campbell broke hearts with Midnight's Wild Passion, induced tears with Seven Nights in a Rogue's Bed, and now has charmed her way onto a grand pedestal with this mesmerizingly sweet, sensual romance of two kindred souls who are both diamonds in the rough.

Sir Richard Harmsworth is a rake, a baronet, and undeniably a bastard. It was enough that he grew up with a highly promiscuous, uncaring mother, but even more that the ton scorns his every action and lashes at him with contempt. Unlike his friend, Camden Rotherrnere, Richard's armor is not to thrive for perfection, but to don a mask of nonchalance and feign disinterest to the world; this armor is not as durable as it seems, as Richard seeks to find the legendary Harmsworth Jewel and declare himself the legitimate heir to the baronetcy. After six months of investigation, he has finally located the jewel...with the vicar's daughter Genevieve Barrett who absolutely refuses to sell it. Richard, for all his roguish charm, disguised himself as a student of medieval history, planning to set up a slight flirtation with Genevieve for his jewel...except he did not know how serious this flirtation would soon become.

Richard and Genevieve both share a sharp wit and biting humor. Upon their first "official" meeting - Richard's masked break-in to Genevieve's house for the jewel notwithstanding - verbal daggers were drawn, Richard's charm only serving to infuriate Genevieve. It was only until he revealed his natural character that affability was achieved:

*"This time he laughed out loud. The sound was attractive. Open. Joyful. Genuine. 'You defeat me, Miss Barrett. How am I to work my wiles when you undo me at every turn?'" (Loc 721/5647)*

However, this is somewhat short-lived, as Richard could not reveal himself to Genevieve for the greater goal of securing the jewel. For someone of his intelligence, I had hoped he would perceive the gem that is Genevieve and through her affection and care become his own power, and he did that, though it took a good while of the story. Genevieve I admire more than Richard, for her understanding, resourcefulness, and act of

self-sacrifice for Richard, while he behaved at times an inconsiderate rogue. That is not to say Richard did not experience a journey either, for he did, and it made him honorable in the truest sense, but at the point that can only be fully appreciated near the end of the story.

Despite this, this story has all the adventure, fun, and lightness (up to a certain point) that marked its originality among the rest of Anna Campbell's darker themed works. While I do not know whether her last Sons of Sin book starring Cam Rothermere will be as light and frothy as this one, it will certainly be a fantastic treat to behold romance readers.

Plot: 7/10

Characters: 9/10

Writing: 9/10

Structure: 8/10

Overall: 8/10

\*ARC received from the publisher via Netgalley

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## **Jonetta says**

### **Quick summary**

Genevieve Barrett is a bluestocking, secretly the academician behind her father's reputation as an antiquarian. Richard Harmsworth is the heir to his family's legacy but has lived under the cloud of his questionable paternity. Legacy has it that the heir would have possession of the Harmsworth Jewel and Richard believes if he can get it, he'll have earned the legitimacy he's sought for most of his life.

### **Heart of the story**

Richard has confirmed that Genevieve owns the Jewel and he assumes a fake identity to attempt to have her sell or give him the Jewel. Though she doesn't who he is, Genevieve is immediately suspicious of him. She's a confirmed spinster, valuing her independence so she's not receptive of his efforts to disarm her.

### **What I liked**

I really liked Richard, despite his past behavior and his deception. He had a strong appreciation for Genevieve's intellect and fell for her brain as well as her attractiveness. His inevitable seduction was caring and sensual, always thinking of her. I also appreciated their banter as it was clever and engaging. There's also a sinister element to the story that hooked me as soon as it emerged.

### **What slowed me down**

The first half of the story was tough for me to navigate. I've been accustomed to the author's writing style and really liked it. However, this book was overburdened with esoteric metaphors and arcane references that slowed my reading to a crawl. Maybe it was to accommodate the background of the heroine. Fortunately, the second half was really exciting and saved the experience.

### **The bottom line**

The sum of this book's parts made this a really good story. While the first half was troublesome, the second more than overcompensated. It's a great romance with two very interesting characters. I'm enjoying the series and the unconventional issues presented in these regency period romances.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)

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### **Lover of Romance says**

Sir Richard Harmsworth, has had to work very hard to gain respect as a member of the Ton, despite the fact he is a bastard. When he learns that a certain artifact, a jewel, will prove his legitimacy, his goal is to obtain it no matter the cost. Genevieve, is a scholar, and is the writer behind all of her fathers work. She hopes with the Harmsworth Jewel that was given to her, by a elderly woman who was always kind to her, that she will create a name for herself and have a career. She is content in being a spinster, until a certain rake comes along and stirs a hidden passion in her. Richard has come to seduce Genevieve into his bed, to gain the jewel, but as the progresses further into his seduction, he starts to lose his heart to her. Can he still go through with his plans or will the lovely Genevieve be his future?

A Rake's Midnight Kiss is the second in this fantastic series that Campbell has created for us. Ever since I read the first book last year, I was hooked. I fell in love with the first one, so I had super high expectations for this one. However despite how much I enjoyed it, I think I was expecting a story to make me fall in love again just like "Seven Nights in a Rogue's Bed" did. There are quite a few things that I did enjoy about it. And it still was a lovely romance that kept me hooked all the way through. The beginning set the stage for the story in such a perfect way, I couldn't have imagined it any better. There is a scene of Genevieve being robbed, only the robber doesn't know she is at home and she surprises him, and oh boy.....did this scene definitely made me laugh and stir up all kinds of senses. It took my breath away and I guarantee you won't have any problem getting started with this one. We see Richard slowly seducing Genevieve, in very creative and playful ways, you just want to trade places with the heroine so you can experience it too. The heat in the story isn't explosive or anything, its more of a gradual journey for them both, and the scenes were a bit steamy but not over much...just perfect for the style of this author and the way the story turns out.

The characters in this story were such fun. Richard, is a rake and a rogue but a fun one. He isn't all serious or anything, to me he was as playful as a kitten and passionate as any grown man would be. We definitely see his faults first hand, but he makes up for it in many other ways that I am sure will delight the reader. The heroine was stubborn and very "Bluestocking" and I loved how Richard uses creative ways to soften her up. She has never been courted really, and has always known books and study and scholarly pursuits. It was very interesting seeing a different side to Genevieve blossom in ways you don't expect from the beginning. We do see the other sons of sins in this book. We see Jonas and Sid-and they added some flavor to the story and it was fun seeing their involvement in helping this couple work their issues out since they have already obtained their HEA. Then we see Cam who is the next book. And oh boy, did he give me tingles in anticipation for his book--should be a whopper. There is a villain in the story but the villain isn't fully realized until later half of the book, so his involvement in the story definitely adds a edge of suspense and tension that you don't expect in the beginning but will blow you away in the end!!!

Overall A tender romance that is guaranteed to pull at the emotions and make your forget about reality and you live in the precious moments between Genevieve and Richard. BEAUTIFULLY DONE!!

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### **Molly says**

This book was a little bit of a let down, considering how great the first one was and the spectacular work that

the next book in this series is. I honestly got frustrated with about 30% of the story - right after the heroine gave it up to hero out of nowhere with no sufficient reasoning behind her sudden desire to do the opposite of what she had wanted up to this point. Not to mention the fact that she got furious that the hero had lied to her for the first half of the book, only to forgive and understand him 10 pages later without ANY explanation. WTH? This is so not indicative of the writer's otherwise very interesting take on regency historicals. Honestly, I've enjoyed all others I've read from her, but this. I gave the second star for the prose - that at least was beautiful.

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### **Mei says**

I really love Ms. Campbell's writing and her deliciously dark and mysteriously sensual books. I really do.

That's why I felt left down by this one... :(

There wasn't anything mysterious, dark and only a small amount of sensual... A great pity!

I admit that the dialogue was the best feature of this book. The banter between Genevieve and Richard/Christopher was fun and witty and it is the only thing I enjoyed here and they bear the weight of all 3 stars.

The rest was lukewarm. The supposedly spark between Genevieve and Richard wasn't a prelude to an explosion, but remained a small spark... The complications that are necessary in a romance here were sooooo overused. The characters are also very typical: Genevieve is a beautiful bookworm; Richard is a rake and a bastard; Neville is a villainous greedy neighbor; Genevieve's aunt is a silly older woman, there's a cat, a dog, a pond... Everything has been already used in countless romance novels!

The plot was like that also: a bastard rake wants the ton acknowledge; the bookworm has a jewel that will make it so; the rake will get the jewel seducing (just a little, without ruining her!!!) the bookworm; the bookworm is suspicious; the rake is "disguised"; the rake falls in love with the bookworm; the bookworm resists, but at the end she falls in love too; the villain want the jewel too and first want to marry the bookworm, then tries to force her, then to kill them both... You see what I mean?

I'm still asking myself why this happened? Where's the mystery? Where's the sizzling chemistry, the explosive heat when the MC come together? Where's the thrilling sensation? Where's the doom?

There's nothing of that here... Sadly...

As I said before: this book earned 3 stars only because of the dialogue!

I hope the next book in the series(Cam's story?) will be better and more faithful to Ms. Campbell's other books!

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### **Nancy Goodman says**

Yes, I've said it before but it never gets old and it bears repeating. I love Anna. I love the way she writes, so

full of emotion, heart and soul. Her characters feel, and because of her expressive, beautiful writing, you feel for them too.

So when Anna came out with her Sons of Sins series, I was right on that happy bandwagon. A Rake's Midnight Kiss is the second of the trilogy (although who knows if there may be more...) and is the story of the scandalous Lord Harmsworth, who can't live down the scandal of his birth. For while he was acknowledged by his father as legitimate, the entire Ton knew better, as his father had not been in the country for well over a year. He wants to recover the famous Harmsworth jewel, which he believes can restore his family status by cementing his position as the family heir. Unfortunately, he doesn't possess it and he discovers it is hidden, out in the country under the very studious nose of Miss Genevieve Barrett.

When Sir Richard discovers who has the jewel, he sneaks into the house to snatch it back, only he ends up snatching a kiss from a lovely lady. He then masquerades as a scholarly student, worming his way into her home and ultimately into her heart. It's not an easy road to love, as Genevieve believes she is a spinster and is most untrustworthy of this strange man.

Who is is and why does he smell so familiar?

Genevieve is a brilliant scholar, who has been writing her father's academic articles for years, without credit to her name. She has been given the jewel and has no intention of giving it up, no matter how hard this mysterious stranger tries to seduce it out of her. Nor is she willing to marry and give herself and her jewel over to an odious Marquess.

When attacks on her home star occurring with frequency, she knows it is concerning the jewel. For only a moment, Genevieve believes Richard is guilty. Richard has his own ideas who the criminal is. I enjoyed seeing Jonas Merrick and of course Cam, the Duke of Sedgemoor back in the picture

(And being the shameless Book Slut that I am, I can't WAIT for Cam's book)

I won't give the ending away, but it is a sweet moment for Richard when he realizes he has fallen for a woman who he normally wouldn't have given a second thought to.

And, I will agree that this epilogue is probably the BEST ONE EVER...snuggle up with a big box of tissues and let the tears flow.

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### **Carol \*Young at Heart Oldie\* says**

#### **WOW! I LOVED THIS BOOK!**

Anna Campbell is known for her intense, emotional stories but A RAKE'S MIDNIGHT KISS is much lighter in tone. It reminded me of Loretta Chase's books ...romantic, sexy and funny...a winning combination. This book was pure joy to read from the first page to the last!

Oh, how I loved Richard and Genevieve! They were just the perfect match for each other and are definitely joining my list of all-time favourite Romancelandia couples.

Richard is such a wonderful romantic hero. He's handsome, tender, kind, clever and brave. His devastating charm and sense of humour just add to his appeal. Richard may appear strong and sure of himself on the outside, but inside he is still vulnerable to the pain and humiliation of being a bastard.

I adore the prim, unworldly, intellectual Genevieve who dreams, not of a husband, but of the freedom to pursue her scholarly ambitions. I admire her devotion to her father although he is unworthy of it.

It was an unadulterated pleasure to share their eventful journey to a Happy Ever After. Experiencing...

Richard's determined pursuit and Genevieve's retreat; their growing attraction; the sensuous pool scene; 'The Kiss'; the villain showing his true colours; the picnic where the appetite is for more than just food!!; the foiled kidnapping; the hero to the rescue; the invitation no hero could refuse; the confession and the quarrel; the dire situation with *benefits*; the friendly helping hand; two people head over heels in love; All's Well That Ends Well!

Along the way I enjoyed...

*Some delightful banter*

(Richard is posing as Christopher Evans)

**Mr. Evans, you are presumptuous."**

**His lips twitched. "Miss Barrett, you are correct."**

**"Pray be presumptuous at a greater distance."**

**His laugh was low and attractive. "How can I argue when you're armed?"**

**She realized that she brandished the needle like a miniature sword. Despite her annoyance, the scene's absurdity struck her and she choked back a laugh.**

*Some tender romantic moments*

**Then she felt the glance of Christopher's little finger against hers. A brush, almost accidental. He touched her again. Such insignificant contact. Yet she felt it. In a strange way, as strongly as she'd felt those brazen caresses on the river.**

*Some hot sexy moments*

**Tonight, praise the Lord, her legs swiftly fell open. She was wet, gloriously, lusciously, sumptuously wet.**

**He pressed his forehead into her satiny shoulder and tested her with one finger, then two. Yes...**

*Some funny moments*

**By Jove, he was in a bad way. The stickler who had scorned a hundred diamonds of the first water was head over heels with a woman who looked like she'd wrestled a mule through a landslide.**

There is a rich array of secondary characters; Dr Barrett, Genevieve's weak, selfish father, the villainous Lord Neville and the powerful, enigmatic Camden Rothermere, Duke of Sedgemoor (the hero of the next book). I also enjoyed seeing Jonas and Sidonie (Seven Nights in a Rogue's Bed) and their daughter. I must mention Richard's dog, Sirius, who plays an important part in this story and not forgetting the "pregnant elephant"!

The Epilogue is both heartfelt and touching and had me reaching for the tissues.

**Enchanting, romantic, sexy and funny! This is definitely a keeper!**

*How I imagine Richard...*

## ***How I imagine Genevieve ...***

### **REVIEW RATING: Stellar 5/5 Stars**

### **SENSUALITY RATING: HOT**

***My sincere thanks to Anna Campbell for providing me with an ARC of this book in return for an honest review.***

This review has also been posted on my blog:

<http://rakesandscals.wordpress.com/...>

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### **Alycia says**

This book is the second in Ms. Campbell's first series, Sons of Sin. I read this one first, I couldn't wait once it arrived, and I wanted to mention the caveat that it doesn't have to be read in order. The hero and heroine from the first book, (Seven Nights in a Rogue's Bed) are mentioned briefly a couple of times. I never felt lost or that I was lacking in general information. The Sons of Sin are three friends with questionable heritage that made them all illegitimate in some way. Instead of letting this label cripple their lives, these men have risen above what society expects.

Genevieve Barret, our heroine is a beautiful bluestocking. She quietly pursues an academic hobby in medieval history. She wants nothing more than to break gender barriers, become a public and notable historian and be free to lead an independent life. She expects to gain her entre into the academic world by writing an astonishing paper on the Harmsworth jewel.

Rector Barret, Genevieve's father is an easy character to dislike. He is selfish, childish, has a dubious academic career focusing on Edward IV's disappearing princes. He puts no one's needs or concerns above his own, least of all the protection of his daughter.

Sir Richard Harmsworth is the notorious Harmsworth bastard who leads an idle life, but still has trouble with society's label. He can prove his worth if only he could locate the missing Harmsworth jewel. An artifact that was passed down among his family that proclaims the heir. Of course obtaining the jewel is much harder than expected.

Richard masquerades as a country gentleman curious about studying history with the Rector. He knows of Genevieve and sees her as no major threat to obtaining the jewel and if seduction is needed, so be it. He quickly discovers that he has met an intellectual match wrapped up in a beautiful and fiery country woman. There is more to Genevieve and Richard then first meets the eye. They both are dimensional characters as revealed over time.

There is slight mystery to this story, attempted murder, a local country lord that is smarmy that you will read a lot of. What I loved about this book is the fact that it didn't take the hero and heroine forever to realize that

they loved each other. No long drawn out cat and mouse games, just two lovers exploring love together and realizing that they can get through anything to be together. Campbell's story is written in a lighter vein, but it is very engaging. The love scenes are somewhat steamy. *A Rake's Midnight Kiss* is my favorite book by far from the author. She writes loves stories like this one exceptionally well. I plan on reading the first book of the series next. I recommend this book to all fans of the author and fans of historical romance.

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### **Becca says**

I think Anna Campbell has a beautiful way with words. Her books contain many words I have to look up on my Kindle, and she often creates scenes that do a wonderful job of painting a picture for me as a reader. While that skill typically pairs well with a plot that propels me through a novel, I am sad to say this story was missing that element.

Genevieve Barrett is a prickly but beautiful spinster who is working hard to make a name for herself in the publishing world instead of letting her spineless father steal all of the credit. To do so, she is revealing secrets about the Harmsworth Jewel, a lovely medieval artifact that Richard Harmsworth wants to get his hands on to stop the constant jabs that the ton aims at his illegitimacy. Unfortunately for Richard, Genevieve won't sell. Thus, Richard resorts to a disguise to charm the jewel from her (this disguise lasts through much of the novel..I think if I remember correctly over 50%). However, small town living changes Richard and he begins rethinking what he wants in life, while Genevieve reluctantly falls for him. It was an interesting premise, but for some reason, it read slowly. I never found myself plowing through pages or gushing over the characters. I could put the book down any time and I did so on occasion to read a novella.

Also, there is a lot of drama in here. Richard has some mommy issues, Genevieve has some daddy issues, and they both have creepy neighbor issues. The story just seemed to drag in places. The only reason I finished it was because some of the scenes were written so beautifully that I savored those enough to wade through a slower scene. This story most likely would have done better as a shorter novel. I don't think there was enough meat here for it to read like a tightly plotted novel. As a result, despite the beautiful prose, I can only give this 3.5 stars, which I didn't round up.

I am still fascinated by Richard's ducal friend, Cam, and will be continuing with the series to read his story. If you haven't read Campbell, I would highly recommend it, just don't read this one first because it doesn't showcase her skill as well as some of her others.

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### **Abby Green says**

Anna Campbell is an auto buy for me. Loved this second story in the Sons of Sin series. Genevieve is a stunning, independent and sensual heroine. Richard is a gorgeous hero, full of layers and depths and sexy HOT. Can't wait for book #3. Cam's story.

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### **Caz says**

**I've given this a B+ at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars in my book!**

We first met Sir Richard Harmsworth, sophisticated, charming and devastatingly handsome man-about-town, in the previous novel in this series, *Seven Nights in a Rogue's Bed*. Like his friend Jonas Merrick, the hero of that story, Richard is similarly tainted by the slur of bastardy; although in Richard's case, he is legally entitled to his baronetcy as his mother was married to Sir Lester Harmsworth at the time of Richard's birth, and Sir Lester formally acknowledged Richard as his heir. Unfortunately, however, it's public knowledge that Sir Lester was out of the country at the time of Richard's birth and conception, so while he is technically legitimate, in the eyes of society, he's still a by-blow.

But whereas Jonas opted to hide away from society's prying eyes, Richard has grown up in front of them, and has developed an iron-clad defence mechanism, presenting himself as a "lazy, even-tempered man who cared for little". He has cultivated an emotional detachment that allows him to maintain the pretence that the behind-hands sneers and whispered scandal don't bother him, whereas underneath he's a seething mass of resentment.

In an unguarded moment one evening, he vows to seek out the famous "Harmsworth Jewel", an ancient artefact that has been passed down through the generations and which is always possessed by the holder of the title and his heirs. After six months of searching, Richard discovers the jewel's whereabouts. His aunt Amelia, a noted devotee of Mary Wollstonecraft, had bequeathed it to one Miss Genevieve Barrett, a young lady with whom she had struck up a friendship, with firm instructions that under no circumstances should she allow the jewel to find its way into Sir Richard's hands. I admit, when I thought this book was going to be a treasure hunt/adventure yarn, I felt a bit peeved. But it wasn't long before I realised that it wasn't like that at all, and what I was reading was in fact a warm, witty, character-driven romance.

Genevieve Barrett is twenty-five, beautiful, and possessed of a brilliant mind. As far as the world knows, she is her father's amanuensis, helping him to produce and publish a large number of highly regarded and scholarly papers and articles about Medieval History. But what the world doesn't know – and which Richard works out almost immediately – is that Genevieve is actually the author of those works. Her father had promised to give her co-authorial credit, but it has never happened and she can't help feeling aggrieved. Even though she loves him, she is not blind to his faults, having realised over the years that his affable and distinguished exterior in fact hides a selfish, weak man.

Genevieve is currently – and unbeknownst to her father – writing an article about the Harmsworth Jewel which she intends to publish under her own name in order to kick-start an academic career. Richard has offered to purchase the jewel for much more than it is worth, but she has refused to part with it, so he resorts to subterfuge.

Obtaining an introduction to the Reverend Barrett courtesy of his friend the Duke of Sedgemoor, Richard, calling himself Mr Christopher Evans, and styling himself an interested amateur in the field of English Medieval History, undertakes a period of study under Barrett's guidance.

The sparks fly the minute he and Genevieve set eyes on each other. Genevieve is immediately suspicious of the handsome charmer who is determined to flirt with her, and tries everything she can think of to put him off. The problem is that she doesn't realise that her put-downs and obvious displeasure in 'Mr Evans' company have exactly the opposite effect on that gentleman and only make him even more determined to succeed in his quest to "charm the jewel out of her".

I like an adversarial couple in a romance, but it's not every author who can pull it off without making the banter seem arch or artificial. Fortunately, Ms Campbell is one of those who can make it work, and the exchanges between the urbane Mr Evans and the frustrated and often snippy Miss Barrett were delightful, as

he gradually begins to break through her defences and win a grudging acceptance.

Even though Genevieve is a ‘feisty’ bluestocking heroine, she never rubbed me up the wrong way as so many feisty heroines do. I think it’s because she reacts to things in a manner that is completely in keeping with her character as it has been established. Her suspicion of Mr Evans is natural, given her inexperience with men – especially very agreeable, very good-looking ones; and is even more so when one considers that her own father has, in effect, betrayed her trust in the matter of the co-authorship. There’s also the fact that one of her father’s cronies, the smarmy Lord Neville, has designs upon her and frequently tries to assert his claim to her in the face of Richard’s obvious interest by attempting to dictate her actions. I thought her reaction to the way ‘Mr Evans’ invades every corner of her life – from the parlour at the vicarage to her secret hideaways, leaving her feeling as though she no longer has anywhere to call her own – rang very true.

Of course, the longer she spends in Richard’s company, the more Genevieve begins to perceive that there is more to him than at first appears. In spite of her wariness, she finds him to be good company, intelligent and perceptive – and although she fights it, she senses he is a man she can trust.

For Richard’s part, he finds that he rather likes being ‘Mr Evans’ – discovering a new and unlooked for freedom that comes from feeling unfettered by his past, and which enables him to allow his true self free rein. It was a moment of great poignancy when he admitted to Sedgemoor that he liked himself far more as Evans and that Harmsworth was a “scurvy fellow”.

I thought this novel provided a near-perfect balance of romance, character development and plot. The emphasis is on the former two, yet the third is neither neglected nor too prominent. Both Genevieve and Richard grow as characters throughout the story – her horizons are broadened as she admits the possibility of a life that encompasses more than dusty books and parchments, yet she loses none of her fierceness and tenacity. When he assumes a different identity, it’s immediately apparent that there is so much more to Richard than the world-weary and self-centred dandy he presents to the world (which, to be fair, was apparent in his willingness to aid Jonas in the first book), and he finally grows into the decent, kind and loving man he was always meant to be.

Finally, a note about the epilogue, which – fortunately – didn’t include characters from other books cropping up with their broods of children while Richard gives a heavily pregnant Genevieve a foot-rub. No, the epilogue here was worth reading because it provides the final piece in the jigsaw of Richard Harmsworth’s past, finally allows him to make his peace with it and to begin to rebuild his relationship with his mother.

Although I have read the previous book in the series, you don’t need to do so in order to enjoy this one. Richard and Genevieve are a thoroughly likeable and well-matched central couple and their romance is well-developed and full of tenderness and affection. Ms Campbell writes with intelligence and humour and I’m definitely looking forward to reading Cam’s story in the next book.

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### **Lisa says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this smoldering romance by one of my favorite authors! Genevieve Barrett is tired of living in her father’s shadow and is ready to break free and show the world who really writes up his academic articles by publishing her research on the mysterious Harmsworth Jewel. Unfortunately, the jewel was left to her by an aunt and Sir Richard Harmsworth wants it back for himself and will go to any means to obtain it back...even steal. When the break in goes awry, he is drawn to the prickly Genevieve and devises a new plan

that involves going undercover to seduce the lady and get the jewel back. What he does not expect is to have Genevieve help him find himself and fall hard for her. When a vile threat poses too great of a risk to Genevieve's life, Richard knows he must tell her the truth before it is too late. Will Genevieve be able to forgive the deceit and hurt that Richard has caused?

Reading an Anna Campbell romance is always guaranteed to make me smile, blush and devour the book to fast and wish I had not! This book accomplished all of that and more! I adored Genevieve with her appealing, clever, prickly demeanor she is just the right woman to help Richard see past the views of society to the man he truly is. She can see that his heart is heavily guarded due to his mother's indiscretion that lead to his birth and it has shaped him into the man he is today. Richard has grown up with being sneered at in society as all of society knows he is not the true heir, even if he was accepted by his father. She finds herself misjudging him just as everyone else has done but she gradually sees him for the kind, brave, perceptive handsome man he is. The only thing that really bothered me about the wonderful story was the deception. I understand why Richard did what he did but it is always a touchy subject for me, especially when he chooses to finally reveal his true identity to Genevieve. I thought the villain aspect was well done and worked well within this story. Anna Campbell writes with her usual lush descriptions and smoldering passion and I got swept away by the delicious romance of Richard and Genevieve! 4 stars

*eARC provided by Grand Central Publishing via netgalley*

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### **Gamze says**

<http://gamzeninkitapdunyasi.blogspot....>

Serserinin Öpücü?ü, Sons of Sins serisinin ikinci kitabı. Bilmeyenler için ilk kitabı Yedi Gece'dir. Ve benim için de bu kitaptan daha iyidir :))

Bir Harmsworth Dü?esi var ki.. Sormay?n gitsin. Tam bir kapal? kutu. ??te bu hatun zaman?nda kocas?n?n evden 16 ay uzak oldu?u bir dönemde ba?kas?ndan hamile kalm?? ve Richard o ili?kinin meyvesi.

Küçük ya??ndan itibaren sosyetenin i?nelemeleri ve p\*ç laflar? adam? ç?ld?rtma noktas?na getirmi?. O yüzden son bir ç?rp?nma ile me?rulu?unu kan?tlayacak olan Harmsworth mücevherini aramaya ç?kar.

Mücevher ise, Genevieve'ye miras olarak b?rak?lm??t?r. Ve Richard mücevherinin papaz k?z?nda oldu?unu ö?renince arkada??n?n da yard?m?yla papaz evine k?l?k de?i?tirerek s?zar. Amac? önceleri çalmak olsa da daha sonra mücevheri Genevieve'nin Richard'a satmas? için ikna etmeye çal??mak olur. Çünkü çalacak olsa o mücevheri hiç kimselere gösteremez.

Genevieve ise, 25 ya??nda dönemin k?z kurusu lakab?n? alm?? zeki k?z?m?z :))

Papaz olan babas?n?n bilimsel alandaki asistan?. Asl?nda çakt?rmay?n tüm o makaleleri falan yazan da bizzat kendisi zaten. Ama babas? taraf?ndan ne de?er ne de takdir görür. Bu durumdan bunalan Genevieve kendisine emanet edilen mücevher ile ilgili ara?t?rma yap?p, bir makale hazırlar. Amac? bununla ilgili gerçe?i gün yüzüne ç?kar?p, kendisine bir gelecek olu?turmak.

Kitab?n konusu genel olarak bu ?ekilde. Gelelim benim yorumuma :)

Anna Campbell, historical tarz'nda kalemi güçlü olan yazarlardan biri hatta ba?? çeken birkaç ki?iden biri diyebilirim. Ben genel olarak seviyorum tüm kitaplar?n?. Okurken of çok uzad?, çok saçma sapan ?eyler oluyor tarz?ndan ?eyler akl?m?n ucundan bile geçirmiyorum.

Kitaplar? aynen su gibi ak?p gidiyor. Ve o süre içinde keyif alarak, büyük merakla okuyorsunuz.

Bu kitapta beni tatmin etmeyen tek ?ey mücevher ile ilgili bilgi oldu. ?ahsen ben daha karma??k bir ?eyler bekliyordum.

En ba?ta da yazd???m gibi kitap serinin ikinci kitab?. ?lk kitap olan Yedi Gece benim için çok daha iyiydi. Yani o çiftimi okumay? çok daha sevmi?tim :) Burada da yine az?c?k bile olsa onlara tekrar rastlamak iyi oldu.

Seride bir karakter var ki onun kitab?n? deli gibi merak ediyorum. Cam :) A?ka inan can?mm karakterim :) Onun hikayesini okumak için ?imdiden sab?rs?zlan?yorum. Dilerim yay?nevi bizleri çok bekletmez.

Seri 4 kitaptan olu?uyor.

1. Yedi Gece
2. Serserinin Öpücü?ü
3. What a Duke Dares - Cam & Penelope
4. A Scoundrel by Moonlight

Bu tarz? seven arkada?lara kesinlikle bu kitab? ve yazar?n di?er kitaplar?n? tavsiye ederim :)

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## Nas Dean says

A RAKE'S MIDNIGHT KISS is a September 2013 release by author Anna Campbell.

The day Richard Harmsworth broke into the vicarage to look for the Harmsworth jewel was the most exciting day of Genevieve Barrett's life. She felt something while being held in the burglar's arms. After he locked her in and without taking anything from her home walked away, she was intrigued.

So, when she met Richard in the guise of simple Mr. Evans, she had the niggling feeling she knew him. Of course, she remembered his cologne.

Richard Harmsworth was just after the Harmsworth jewel that would give him his rightful place in the society. He was a born bastard and had to endure it. But the jewel was bequeathed to Genevieve. And she had no intention of selling or parting with it. How would Richard get it from her? And now there were more people after it.

A RAKE'S MIDNIGHT KISS is a sensational romance, which is filled with mystery and danger as well as intrigue. The dialogue is fast and witty. This is another fabulous mesmerizing romance from the brilliant regency romance author Anna Campbell.

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