



To Kiss A Rake

Barbara Monajem

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WHEN A LADY IS ABDUCTED BY MISTAKE . . .

Melinda Starling doesn't let ladylike behavior get in the way of true love. She's secretly assisting in an elopement . . . until she's tossed into the waiting coach and driven away by a notorious rake.

REVENGE REALLY DOESN'T PAY.

Miles Warren, Lord Garrison, comes from a family of libertines, and he's the worst of them all—or so society believes. When Miles helps a friend to run away with an heiress, it's an entertaining way to revenge himself on one of the gossips who slandered him.

Except that he drives off with the wrong woman . . . and as if that wasn't scandalous enough, he can't resist stealing a kiss.

To Kiss A Rake Details

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From Reader Review To Kiss A Rake for online ebook

twelvejan [Alexandria] says

4 delightful stars!

May contain spoilers.

Is it about a notorious rake and a virgin? **DUH**

Is our notorious hero gonna save the virgin from ruination? **But, of course!**

Are there scandals and secrets? **What do you expect? It's the regency era. EVERYTHING IS A SCANDAL!**

The thing about me is that I enjoy the tease and the seduction between the MCs but then it's 'wham, bam, thank you ma'am' for me as I begin to skim through the remaining pages and wishing I could get to the end of the book so I could start something more exciting.

Yes, it has the makings of a typical, cliché historical romance.

But I enjoyed it immensely that I metaphorically gobbled down the book, going waaaaayyyyy past my bedtime. I was deeply entrenched in the MCs' thoughts; I just wanted to understand what they were thinking, why they did what they did.

I like how the backstories of the MCs were well developed that you could see for yourself how the past events in their lives shaped them to be what they are today. How the oppressed Melinda feels that one has to fight for what one believes in, how the treatment she gets for being a bastard translates into empathy when she sees another child being treated that way, why cuckolded Miles feels such great jealousy and anger when he sees Melinda near any other men. How they feel, why they feel that way, all were with valid reasons; not merely used as a tool to drive a plot towards the direction the writer wants to go.

The only drawback is that there wasn't a clear indication whenever the perspective change. I was reading on my Kindle, and at times I lost track of whose perspective I was reading.

Conclusion: An awesome freebie. Don't let the cover fool you. LOVED IT!

Amary Chapman says

Historical romance

Melinda, child of her mother's lover, endured years of her paternal grandmother trying to beat the son out of her.

Miles reveled in his life as a rogue after a love affair gone terribly wrong..

One night an error in judgement ties them together. The pair make the best of it and fall in love along the way. Enjoyable read.

Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

★★★★ 4.5 stars ! ★★★

"Thanks to you, my darling Melinda, I do believe in love."

To Kiss a Rake mostly revolves *Miles & Melinda* as a married couple and the walls they have to break down together, erected between them by their individual pasts.

Melinda has been paying for her mistake, for having the audacity to be born in the house of Starling, from the moment she took her first breath. Abused by her grandmother from a young age and with no one to turn to, *Melinda* grew up quickly and learned to be obedient & self reliant, like the perfect little society miss her family wants, in fear her grandmother would go through her final threat and disown Melinda like she has been waiting too.

Lied, cheated and shunned by the society, *Miles* has his own reason to hate the world and the rigid society his live in. Because of the lies spread by his cheating EX-Fiance, which the upper class chose to believe over the truth because his family's bad reputation, after all the apple never really does fall far from the tree, does it ?

I loved how drama filled the plot was and instead of the hero & heroine being plotted against each other for a good story, I loved how the author changed it up and made it *them* against the world from the very beginning.

Loved the main couple the best ! And *Miles!* *sign* jealous, dashing & misunderstood, his character stole my heart from the get-go ! Would defiantly recommend ! Especially if your in the mood for a little DARCY-ish hero ;)

Candy Briggs says

Melinda Starling is always aware of proper decorum and had a sterling reputation. Miles Warren, Viscount Garrison had a horrible reputation even though he may not have deserved it.

Of course, I loved this story with all the craziness going on. It was humorous, sad, loving, and at times cruel. Melinda's grandmother hated her. She felt Melinda was a stain on the starling name and she physically and mentally abused her. The tale has a nice plot and with the characters and descriptions it is easily read, even paced and quite enjoyable.

Iza says

4.5 rounded up to 5 for GR - a very good discovery, I'd never heard of this author before.

It was an entertaining read, I feared sometimes that the secrets would spoil the story for me (you know about historical romances and characters keeping secrets way too long, don't you ?), but no ! On the contrary,.

Even if I found Miles a little (*understatement of the year*) too paranoid, I was happily surprised by the way he tried to overcome that and think reasonably.

Same thing about Melinda : people told her awful things about Miles, but she compared the gossip to the man she knew and didn't believe them. Kudos, amen to that !!

All in all, it was a lively story, with good characters and none of the pet peeves I usually find in historical romances. I'm going to read the rest of the series - hop on my TBR spread sheet !

PS : some of the grammar I believe to be more contemporary than historical, I thought Melinda knew a little too much about what happens in bed between a woman and a man, but I didn't really care much about that - I was so into the story, I let that pass.

Deborah Carter says

I enjoyed this book. I thought the book was sweet. The heroine, Melinda, was rather naive. She helps her friend to elope not once but, twice with the same man. The hero, Miles, was careless. He claims not to care about his reputation and yet he works hard to clean it up. It was fun to see how these two tried to maintain some semblance of propriety and yet obtain a more relaxed lifestyle. I hope that we will have a continuation of this series and also be able to visit previous couples.

Donne Knudsen says

Cute historical romance that was easy to read. I liked Melinda, she was funny and amusing and I liked the way she and Miles interacted. Took a peak at the next book that's about Colin who seemed likeable. However, the story sounds kind a similar to this one, which seems a little redundant and over played.

Lana Birk says

This is the first book I have read from Ms. Monajem, but it won't be the last! Our heroine, Melinda Starling, is a hoyden & proud of it but she has been schooled on the "right" way a lady should behave - just doesn't tend to follow the rules set for others. Miles Warren, Lord Garrison comes with a family reputation of libertines & scandal a few years ago has made his reputation even worse - true or not, the way society sees it.

Melinda, is helping her friend elope & Miles is helping his friend elope. Melinda is doing it to help her friend with a love match & to get away from a horrid mother; Miles is doing it to help his friend (with pockets to let) marry an heiress & for revenge against one of the gossips (the bride's mother) who slandered him. The only catch in this elopement is the escape carriage drives off with the wrong woman & Miles is inside with a lovely young lady he can't resist stealing a kiss from. There are forced to marry but it is such a fun courtship after the wedding - you will love it!

Kathy Brickert says

Lovely story!

Such a good book, couldn't put it down! Had lots of funny parts, some sad parts, some sweet parts! All around good read!

Michelle says

4.25

This is story is the usual girl's reputation is ruined and has to marry to rake type of situation but what makes it different are the lovable characters and the lighthearted fun plot. I read most of this book with a mischievous grin as the reader, I know what both Miles and Melinda are up to and their problems they have to overcome. Miles fell in love with a young lady named Desiree years before but once he found her in a revealing and compromising situation he fell out of love with the idea of love. Melinda finds herself locked out of her grandma's house one night after getting mistakenly kidnapped then her life gets tangled with Miles'. As her reputation is ruined the only way out is marriage.

I really enjoyed watching their relationship grow. Miles does have problems with trusting Melinda but he really works on it. Melinda is finally able to escape her horrid and shallow grandmother. She has found freedom even though all she wanted was to marry for love. She is trying to help her friend Lavinia with her problem of deciding between her two beaus. As Miles doesn't approve of Lavinia's wish-washy personality, he tells her to stay out of it. Of course Melinda being Melinda she does as much as she can to help her friend. Melinda has guts and strength in her that was slowly being crushed while living with her grandmother. I really loved both Miles and Melinda especially when they worked together. They start by pretending to be in love with each other to calm the gossips but pretend slowly turns into reality and the end result is a fun and sweet romance.

Eileen Dandashi says

Melinda can't stand for injustice and she's fiercely loyal. She is forced to act inappropriately to help her friend wed her true love, for Melinda believes in love. Her original efforts are fruitless for her friend. They only land her a husband not of her own choosing. Where was her love match?

We are all shaped by our past, how we were treated when young and other experiences in life. Melinda was must the hoyden from a family that valued conduct. Her family had an impeccable pedigree and she had to toe-the-line or be severely punished. Miles, on the other hand, came from a family who had flaunted proper conduct and was considered a rake from his past foolery. Therefore, any misstep by his family wasn't forgiven, it only reactivated disapproving tongues. Can the two facing marriage possibly make a go of it and beat the odds of an unhappy union?

Rebecca, Miles's illegitimate daughter, touches your heart strings as she already has a good taste of what is

to come in her lifetime. It takes people like Melinda who have passed through part of this ostracism to recognize what it could do to young Rebecca. Her receptivity to accept Rebecca is very telling to the strength of her character.

I particularly like how the author gave us insight to Miles's character. Miles had difficulty even thinking about fostering Rebecca. He preferred having her live next door, being her guardian. However, after marriage to Melinda, he didn't want to hurt her with the constant reminder of the little girl. Not sure she was even his daughter, he wanted the best for her.

Ms. Monajem charmed me with this light Regency romp, where two honorable individuals see beyond how society wishes to label them. As I've come to expect from her writing, this story is very entertaining giving the reader a peek into the machinations in a time period in history which was very restrictive for females. There is never a dull moment in her work, always well-paced, great dialog, full of humor, charm and delightful, spirited characters. She is very much the Regency writer!

I received an ARC from the author for a read and honest review.

Pamela says

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This was an amazing book I loved the characters it had so much adventure, excitement and a very happy ending

Debbie says

I received an ARC of this book for an honest review. I would be reviewing it anyway as it was such a good book.

Melinda Starling is trying to help her friend elope when she is mistakenly kidnapped by Miles Warren, Lord Garrison who is trying to help his friend. Everything that could go wrong goes wrong and Melinda ends up being tossed out by her Grandmother. Causing her to have to stay with Lord Garrison. Well that is just not done. Miles offers to marry her as they really have no other choice. Ms. Monajem has a way with the characters and has done a wonderful job of telling Melinda and Miles's story. You will have to read the book to get the rest of the story.

Amanda says

Pretty good. Didn't feel like beating the heroine the majority of the book- so not bad at all.

Kelly Ann says

2.5 stars reluctantly rounded up to 3.

