



Beckman: Lord of Sins

Grace Burrowes

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Beckman Haddonfield is ready to live again...

Beckman finally emerges from the shadow of his wife's death by agreeing to restore a family estate...and embarking on a dalliance with the quiet, mysterious housekeeper who resides there. But she is not who she seems...

Beckman: Lord of Sins Details

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From Reader Review Beckman: Lord of Sins for online ebook

Tin says

Just when I was about to take a break from the *Lonely Lords*, I get drawn back in with Beckman's story. Beckman Haddonfield is spare to Nicholas's heir, and he lived his entire life trying to live up to the expectations of being the spare. He married young to secure the succession, and to please his family -- but that didn't end well. He tried to be his older brother's companion, but Nicholas always preferred Ethan over his younger siblings, and the ladies of London preferred Nicholas over Beckman, so that didn't work out too well for him either.

His father could not figure out a space for Beckman, and so he became the Haddonfield messenger: asked to travel to distant places to oversee to such and such business, and Beckman was content to stay rootless and wandering. With his father ill, and Nicholas busy looking for his future countess, it comes as no surprise to Beckman to have to be sent away again. This time to Three Springs, one of Lady Warne's estates.

Considering Lady Warne's wealth and generosity, it is both a surprise and mystery for Beckman to discover that Three Springs is in utter disrepair, and that staff has dwindled to a housekeeper, her daughter, her sister, the cook, and a steward --

I love how Grace Burrowes tells stories: there's a sense of a linear timeline to it, and it's very easy to follow -- but you also get the sense of non-linearity. Of things implied, and never spoken of out loud: such is the case of the Hunt women, who have worked at Three Springs, but whose manners and conversation hint at a greater pedigree. The same could also be said of Gabriel North, who struggles to provide Three Springs with all its needs.

Sara Hunt is housekeeper at Three Springs, but Sara didn't start out in service -- in a different life, she was Sarabande Adagio, a skilled violinist who traveled through Europe, but her late husband was a petty tyrant who micro-managed her career and overspent her earnings, leaving Sara disillusioned, and disenchanted with her talent. When her husband died, she escaped the life and did a complete 360 -- eschewing the world of art, for the quiet, domestic life at Three Springs, bringing with her her sister Polly and daughter, Allie.

There isn't a great conflict in Beckman's story, but I loved his story for the study of human aspirations -- Sara and Polly had great artistic talents, but they were females and had to find a way to explore and develop their talents. They followed their dreams (blindly) to the point of forgetting all else (even their own selves), and were consumed by it. But, like the phoenix rising from the ashes, they regrouped and recovered ... but were never the same. Allie also possesses the same artistic gift as her aunt, Polly, but Sara is conflicted whether to allow her daughter to continue pursuing art, or to nip it in the bud.

Beckman is a golden boy: all blonde and beautiful, and, when he arrived in Three Springs, he seems to possess a magical cure-all for all that ails the disintegrating estate. But Beckman is tarnished as well: when he lost his wife, he also lost his way -- and, for a while, he was content to be told where to go -- he turned to drink, to women, to drugs -- and nearly died if not for his brother Nicholas, who found and rescued him from an opium den.

There isn't one defining scene that shows how or when Beckman became attracted to Sara and vice versa -- but, perhaps, the numerous encounters and conversations, and perhaps it's the recognition of the brokenness inside them that drew them to one another, and I loved them together: in Beckman's words, "they fit."

There's a lot of cuddling in Beckman (and in Gabriel's story, which I'm reading right now) and it's a great privilege that Burrowes allows us such an intimate peek into the lives of her characters. When the day is done, and the lights are out, and our hero and heroine are both stripped down to bare skin, she reveals all.

Beyond the housekeeper/titled lord social class issue, there loomed a much larger problem: Beckman's time is not his own -- his father is near-death, which would cause a change in his status from spare to heir (with Nicholas taking over the earldom), and he would be called back home. In that I appreciated Sara and Polly's unusual upbringing, because they had very realistic limitations and expectations. Sara and Polly (and Allie) also lived with one foot out the door, ready to leave if the things in their past threaten to overtake their present lives. Tremaine St. Michael, her late husband's half-brother, poses a threat to Sara. She knows he possesses some of her personal effects, and wonders what Tremaine would do with them. *Would he act like his brother and take advantage of her family? Would he be different from Reynard and do the honorable thing?*

I don't know how Burrowes does it, but she does it well: she succeeds in telling the main story and does a good job of intriguing you about the secondary characters. (Yes, Gabriel's book is next, and, yes, I'm reading it right now.) On the surface, Gabriel North and Polly Hunt didn't seem to have the same problem as Sara and Beckman: they are both free from entanglements and, as cook and steward, are not bound by the same social rules as the aristocracy. But Gabriel isn't really just a steward, and there's more to Polly as well.

The one thing I loved above all in this story is how Burrowes celebrates the Truth (yes, capital T) found in art. Art is honest and bares all. I had to stifle a laugh at how honestly Sara and Polly assessed Beckman and Gabriel, and how Allie spoke of the world with such unfiltered sincerity.

Caz says

4.5 stars

I'm gradually catching up with the *Lonely Lords* and have now reached the fourth book, which is the story of Beckman Haddonfield, one of the younger brothers of Nicholas, Viscount Reston and Ethan Grey.

The events in this book run parallel to events that take place in Nicholas: Lord of Secrets, and there are several references throughout as to what Nick is up to, rattling around in London, as well as to the cautious rapprochement that is taking place between Ethan and his half-brothers.

This book opens with the dying earl seeing Beckman off as the latter departs for Three Springs, one of the family properties which is in desperate need of attention. Lady Warne, Beckman's grandmother, owns the place, although she does not live there, and she is not altogether happy with the responses she is receiving to her letters and enquiries.

We learn as the novel progresses, that Beckman is the "fixer" in the family, and that he has travelled extensively in this role, surveying the family's holdings at home and abroad, and doing what needs to be done in order to maintain them and keep them profitable.

The thing that struck me immediately was the depth of feeling in the relationship between Beckman and his father – a thing rarely seen in historical romances. Normally, fathers and sons are at loggerheads or estranged, but here, Beckman is loath to leave; knowing his father is dying, he wants to stay, but also knows

the earl is despatching him because he doesn't want his family to see him in his decline. It's also clear that Beck is something of a favourite –

Nicholas is a good time. You are a good man.

and that the earl is concerned about Nick's suitability to inherit the earldom.

Arriving at Three Springs, Beckman makes the acquaintance of the women who run the house, the taciturn land steward and slovenly servants. The house and lands are in a bad way, but there has not been enough money forthcoming to do much other than to keep the house running in a very basic manner. The ladies – Sara Hunt, the housekeeper and her sister Polly, the cook – are helped by the mysterious Gabriel North, a man Beck immediately suspects is much more than a simple land steward, and hindered by a couple of lazy farmhands who Beck very quickly gets rid of.

I found this to be a very gently moving story about people finding their place and their purpose. Beckman has been a wanderer for years, a situation that came about when his father realised that Beck needed something to divert him from the course towards self-destruction on which he'd set himself after the death of his young wife and unborn child. But he's become weary and a little bit resentful of being continually sent away for "his own good" and wants to put down some roots.

Sara is surprised to discover that this son of an earl isn't above getting his hands dirty. He and Gabriel work all the hours God sends in order to set the estate to rights, something which takes its toll particularly on Gabriel because of a recent injury.

Like Beckman, Sara (whose full name is Sarabande) has her own secrets and inner demons. A hugely talented violinist, she married a man who subsequently exploited her and her talent, hawking her all over Europe, from concert halls to drawing rooms, and spending all the money she made on drink, gambling and other women. The Hunts were clearly a talented family as Polly (or Polonaise) is an incredible artist, a talent that appears to have been passed to Sara's daughter Allie.

Although Sara's cruel, wastrel husband is long dead, she and Polly live in fear of his relatives discovering Allie's whereabouts and taking her away to exploit her talent as an artist. This means that they are reluctant to let the girl paint as they don't want her to immerse herself completely in her gift to the extent that they had done in the past and in a way that left them open to the machinations of an unscrupulous man.

The thing that stopped me rating the book more highly, because the romance is by turns beautiful and scorching, was the fact that Sara's secrets turned out to be so... well, insignificant. (view spoiler)

I admit I'd expected Sara's deep secret to be something a little more scandalous, but in the grand scheme of things, that didn't affect my enjoyment of the book. As I've said, the central romance is utterly beautiful, and Beckman is an absolute joy of a hero; kind, caring and insightful, and I never cease to be amazed by the amount of romantic and sexual tension that this author can bring to the merest touch of a hand or a kiss.

In *Beckman*, like the books that precede it, Ms Burrowes has also written a superb male friendship. I'm finding these to be among the highlights of the books in this series that I've read so far – in *Nicholas: Lord of Secrets* and *Ethan: Lord of Scandals*, the eponymous characters resurrect and repair a relationship destroyed years earlier and in this book, Beckman and Gabriel North strike up a friendship that I'm convinced will last

for years. There were a couple of laugh-out-loud moments in their banter, there were times they may not have liked each other much, but it's clear there was a lot of mutual respect and understanding between them; and in fact, their parting was almost as painful as the one that took place when Beck had to leave Three Springs after his father's death.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book despite the misgivings I've mentioned about certain aspects of the plot. But Ms Burrowes is one of those writers whose characters are so compelling and whose handling of the emotional content of her stories keeps me coming back for more, despite some minor inconsistencies.

Betty says

Beckman has spent years traveling for his family's benefit. The latest assignment given to him by his father, is at Tree Springs, a property owned by Lady Warne, his step-grandmother. He planned on staying there and doing whatever he could to bring the neglected property back to that of a functioning estate. However, he knew that his father was mortally ill and could die at any time.

The staff at the estate was very limited and the estate had suffered for that. However, Beckman rolled up his sleeves and pitched right in to help set things to rights.

The main characters are both rather stubborn people who have a tendency to try to solve all their own problems without putting anyone else out. The supporting characters do try to help and are very interesting people themselves. I loved the interaction of these people, not all blood related, but family just the same. The story line is interesting, with twists and turns and some unexpected outcomes. As with other Grace Burrowes books it is well written and comfortable to read.

Ilze says

Grace Burrowes' "Beckman, Lord of Sins" - #4 in the Lonely Lords series

(Reaction after first reading) Even though I'm giving this one 4 stars, it's not quite as enjoyable as the previous two stories about the Haddonfield brothers (Nicholas and Ethan) in this series. I saw a pattern emerging in the stories with the little scenes showing the possible villain gradually closing in on his prey. In the end, though, the villain/evildoer parts of this story were not very satisfactory or even exciting. There were quite a few surprises right at the end that I was not expecting and even now, a day later, they don't really make sense. The author could have let us in on those surprises much earlier in the story. Of course, if she *had* brought up one of those items earlier in the story, I might have thrown the book at the wall ...

The next book in the series is about Gareth and Polly who are both secondary characters in this story. I really look forward to reading Gareth's story, not so much Polly's story because a couple of the surprises revealed at the end of this book turned her into a character I could not like very much.

(After second reading) The book is a much better read the second time, when one knows the secrets that are kept from the first-time reader until the final pages of the book. The main characters - Beckman, Sara and Polly - are much more sympathetic and their actions make much more sense when their secrets don't obstruct the reader's understanding. But even though I enjoyed the book even more after the second reading, I won't change my rating - I still think those secrets should have been elucidated sooner in the story than they were.

Kat says

I loved Beckman. Sara? Meh. She and Polly annoyed me. However, I still loved this book due to two of Beckman's relationships - the one with his father (oh, I cried!) and the one with North. Ms. Burrowes writes beautifully about male relationships: paternal, fraternal and friendship. I loved watching Beckman truly come into his own.

I have a million things to do around here. But I can't put this damn series down!

May Taylor-Drake says

One of my favorite things about Grace Burrowes' writing is its gentleness. Not only is her prose relaxing and mellow, but also she presents in each of her characters a generosity and kindness of spirit. For example, there's a lot of hugging--and not just between the romantic leads. Fathers hug sons even when they seem to have a past hard to forgive. Brothers hug brothers even when there's resentment between them. And of course, the hero and heroine spend a lot of time locked in embraces that connect the characters emotionally through comfort and understanding rather than just incite passion. Indeed, even the passion mostly has a gentleness where sex is secondary to the characters' (usually soft and open) emotional state.

Is this a complaint? Not really--it's a feature that characterizes Burrowes' fictional world. But for this particular novel, the external threats to the characters' happiness didn't quite work for me, which is related to the idea of "gentleness" because those threats feel forced and undeveloped since the kindness of the main characters does not. [There might be spoilers from this point.] In *_Beckman_*, the threats came in the form of three people: two footmen of all-work who had been fired but make a cameo appearance late in the novel, bent on some sort of financially-motivated but otherwise unclear revenge on the heroine, Sara, and her sister Polly. The footmen's appearance was unconvincing and served only to point up the fact that some sort of external threat was necessary to the plot (you know, funny happenings on the estate, like broken axels on plows that threaten the safety of the workers, and such). The third person was more interesting and was admittedly the foil for the dismissed footmen: the heroine's erstwhile brother-in-law who has a couple of POV scenes in which he is established as a character with enough of a motive to hurt/control Sara and Polly, but we just aren't sure. Is he the one causing the odd happenings around the estate? Indeed, because the footmen disappear early in the novel, the brother-in-law seems to be our only culprit. Yet, when he appears on the estate, he turns out not to be a threat at all.

Ultimately, these external threats were a distraction from the more important business of secret holding and mining that occupies Beck and Sara. I liked the role of the brother-in-law to the extent that his appearance is one reason for Sara's honesty with Beck. But the footmen were a deus ex machina of the wrong kind ...

I hated giving this novel only 3 stars. I generally like Burrowes' novels much better, and would suggest you read the Windham series (*_Heir_*, *_Soldier_*, etc.). I'll get around to reviewing them, perhaps. But in the meantime, check them out.

eyes.2c says

Another Burrowes' winner!

Beckman Haddonfield, Earl of Bellefonte, is to put an estate of his grandmother's to rights. His farewell to his dying father is a poignant moment that brought forth if not a tear, a deep heartfelt sigh.

He is a man with a past, and a future to be determined.

A curious menagerie of persons inhabit his grandmother's property, Three Springs. There's Sara, Polly and Allie. All artistic, with Allie seemingly a child prodigy. (Burrowes makes some interesting comments on child prodigies in these times in her notes.)

Then there's the mysterious Gabriel North who reads French and dresses in the best labels, even if they are all well worn.

As Beck labours alongside this complex group of people he's found, all with dark secrets, but somehow becoming almost a family, he reflects on his companions, 'Here...he was not amongst strangers. He was with the same people day and night, he was becoming familiar with them...He was, in short, growing attached.' Beck's soliloquies are rather wonderful, thoughtful, and show a character of depth and feeling. I am falling in love with his gentleness of spirit. He wanted what tormented North solved 'because it plagued North's soul.' Just a wonderful reading moment that stopped me in my tracks as I contemplated this increasingly sensitive character that Burrowes has created.

It does seem to me that as Burrowes writes this series, each story is amplified by and draws strength from the previous book. Her main characters portray more fully developed personas, from Darius whom I didn't much like, to now Beckman, who is far more thoughtfully rounded. Scarred from his past he is a quietly compelling character. He is very much a considerate listening soul. He is the Prodigal returned, and renewed. Ah Yes! the story is at once complicated, simple and I loved it!

A NetGalley ARC

Dottie says

Another wonderfully wicked historical romance from award winning author Grace Burrowes! Taken from my review at RomanceJunkies.com:

Beckman Haddonfield, the son of the Earl of Bellefonte, has been sent to Three Springs to put the estate to rights. His father is dying and doesn't want his children, though grown, to bear witness to his final days, so he has sent all of them off in various directions. Although Beckman wants nothing more than to stay at home with his ailing father, he does as his father wishes, knowing that he will not see his father alive again. When Beckman was younger, he had been married, but the marriage was short-lived due to the death of his wife. He did not handle his grief well, but has managed to overcome his demons. However, he has no plans to remarry.

Sara Hunt, a widow and single mother, used to travel throughout Europe as a musician, but now she works as a housekeeper at Three Springs, where her sister Polly serves as the cook. They have been struggling to make ends meet because the owner of the estate, Lady Warne, who is also Beckman's grandmother, sends them chatty letters, but no funds, as if she has never received their letters explaining their dire need. Having heard that Lord Haddonfield would be arriving, Sara decides to check out the wagon of supplies that had been sent ahead. It is while doing this that she makes his acquaintance.

As they work side-by-side to improve Three Springs, they become increasingly attracted to each other, and things soon become intimate. Beckman finds himself falling in love with Sara, but when he proposes to her, she turns him down. There are some secrets in her past which make her believe she is not eligible for a man of Beckman's peerage and recently there have been some dangerous incidents at Three Springs. Are the incidents and her past related? Can Beckman keep her safe and convince her to confide in him, allowing them to get beyond the past so they can have a future together?

An intriguing tale, BECKMAN: LORD OF SINS, the fourth story in award winning New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Grace Burrowes' LONELY LORDS series, is a witty, sensual historical romance that will capture readers' attention from the very first page. The emotion-packed scene as Beckman's father sends him away for the last time, not wanting any of his children to bear witness to his last days, will steal your heart. Both Beckman and Sara have secrets from their pasts that they will have to overcome if they hope to have a future together.

I enjoyed this story immensely. Although it can be read as a standalone, reading the previous books in this series will give you additional insight into this family, as well as a great deal of enjoyment. As a huge fan of Ms. Burrowes' work, I waited for the chance to read this story and it more than met my expectations. For me, all it takes is seeing her name on a book to make it a must read. Although I hated to see this story end, it did whet my appetite for the next addition to this series, GABRIEL: LORD OF REGRETS, which is due out in September. It is the story of Sara's sister, Polly, and the overseer of Three Springs, Gabriel North. In the meantime, be sure to pick up a copy of BECKMAN: LORD OF SINS. I am sure you will enjoy it as much as I did.

Dottie, RomanceJunkies.com

Kimia Safavi says

Beckman: Lords of sins is a sweet story of the couple whom had each unhappy marriages before. It is a nice family story with dark secrets and miserable past. Beckman is a wonderful and sweet Hero. Sara is strong and protective heroine. It is nice to see how the Hero and heroine come to love and trust each other.

Satu says

Grace Burrowes' books are just like chocolates. You think you are taking just one, because they aren't good for you and they aren't even very good. However before you know it, you have taken a dozen or read eight books in so many days. Sorry not sorry. I blame hormones. Fortunately I can resist chocolates. GB's books not so much.

Jennifer says

This review was originally posted to Jen in Bookland

Alright, Beckman: Lord of Sins is the third Lonely Lords book I have read in as many days. While I did

enjoy this story, I did like all the characters, I can't help but notice that the same basic outline is followed in all three stories. As I was reading I just thought okay, now this will happen, now this next, oh this is about when this will show up, and so on. The situations are different, but the basic plot line is the same. Read by themselves farther apart I might not have noticed it, but read back to back I cannot help but feel like I have read this before, which just made it not as good as it could have been.

Beckman has always been sent off here and there to try and keep him out of the gossip. This book starts either about the same time or just before Nicholas, so it was interesting to see what Beckman was up to at that time. His dying father sends Beckman to Three Springs to restore the place to what it should be. When he arrives things are not in good shape. Sara and Polly are trying to keep everything going on what little they have, with North managing the estate and farming. It is an uphill battle to get everything fixed and taken care of, but Beckman is ready for it. He is used to working hard for things, though he has to get Polly and Sara to agree to let him spend money on the items they need. They shouldn't have to scrimp and use their income to supplement what money his aunt sends them for the estate.

Sara is pretty terrified of change. She doesn't trust men, she doesn't want to leave their little place they have in the world, she doesn't want anyone to hurt her daughter or her sister. She is always worried about something, and her attraction to Beckman doesn't help. She wants to be with him, but it is not a good idea. After all she has secrets from her past, secrets that will make him not want to or be able to be with her.

Beckman doesn't care about Sara's past. He just wants to be there for her and her daughter. He just wants to be with her. He has his own dark past, but he is still ready to try and move forward into a better future with Sara. He is really great with her, pushing her when she needs it, comforting her when possible, just being there for her. Sara, while she loves that, is still stubborn and refuses to accept that Beckman can or will want to be with her once he learns everything. She is one of the more difficult girls from these books. She is just so certain that things with Beckman won't last she doesn't give it a real chance. She keeps pulling away after every step forward he tries to take. It was just...she has some things that happened that were not good, things that she is ashamed of, and people who know of them are threatening to intrude on her present and ruin everything she has built for herself. Someone is threatening to ruin her little safe hiding place she has made. I do love how everything worked out. I really enjoyed Beckman and Sara together. I did enjoy this book, but I think I am going to have to hold off on reading more. I am just a bit worn out of the same general plot line.

Lover of Romance says

Originally Posted At Addicted To Romance

Beckman, has spent years trying to recover from past griefs, and with his father practically on his deathbed, he agrees to restore a family estate, that needs work and a helping hand. So despite his reluctance, he knows that he needs to do this. So when he heads down, he doesn't expect to be attracted to the housekeeper, but she holds secrets of her own. Sara Hunt, has had her own past and sorrows of her own. She was married young, and used for her talents by her greedy husband, now widowed, with a daughter and a sister to care for, she is determined to secure their future. When Beckman arrives to help with the estate, Sara just wants to pretend that everything is alright, when the estate is practically tumbling down on them, with little funds to support them all. Soon she can't resist Beckman, his sincere interest in her, or the desire she feels for him. But when her past comes to haunt her again, she might have to trust everything she is to Beckman, and trust in his devotion to her...

Beckman is the fourth book in the Lonely Lords and I have really been enjoying this series. After reading the first two books, I have been looking forward to reading Beckman's story. Grace Burrowes is a author that I am glad to have discovered. Her stories are witty, charming, and pure delightful fun, and Beckman was no different. I did have a difficult time at first getting into the story, but I think the problem was myself and current stresses in life, and not the actual writing or even the story. Beckman is a story that shows a journey of two people that have both struggled, and have dark pasts, but still need to heal and focus on the future.

Beckman, has had quite a struggle in his life, but I loved him even more for it. He has such tremendous strength and compassion for others, and I found myself falling in love with him with every page. At first he seems like the usual regency rake, but as the story progresses further, you start to see that he carries so much depth with him, and suffers just as much as the other members in his family have. Sara is very stubborn and prideful, and refuses to ask for help, especially when she desperately needs it. Sara has had to make decisions ever since she was married at a young age, and most of her freedoms taken away from her at a young age. You see how she is struggling to protect herself and her emotions from Beckman, but Beckman is just as stubborn as Sara, and won't let her go without a fight.

A uniquely written romance that is bound to create laughter and your immediate attention. Characters to steal your heart, a love story that is beyond riveting and will tie your heart up in knots. A WINNER OF A ROMANCE!!!

Maria says

Note: page references refer to an ePUB version of the book.

Grace Burrowes is on my auto-read list which is funny considering how I first came to her writing. She has cast a spell of truly beautiful writing, memorable characters, and realistic romance.

My thoughts:

At first, I was worried this was going to be a love story between a domestic and a peer (as it first seemed in The Heir), something that rubs me the wrong way as I see that as completely improbable. But, as always, things are not what they seem and Burrowes is accurate with her time period and its strictures.

The musical names of the heroine and her family were both a surprise and a bit much, but also creative and clever: Sarabande, Allemande, Polonaise.

For my full review on my historical romance and history blog: <http://bit.ly/1mxVWEV>

Sandy Frediani says

Since I've been reading the Lonely Lords series out of order, I've met Beckman before. It was nice to read his story and fill in all those parts I didn't know. Once again a wonderful story, elegant writing. The only "down" part would be that the bit with the twins feels a bit contrived. Even so, I enjoyed this very much.

Kathie (katmom) says

Ah, Beckman...just like the rest of Grace Burrowes' *Lonely Lords*, I love him. He's the younger brother to Nicholas, the Earl of Bellefonte. This is the fourth book in the series. You can read these alone, but it's such a joy to see characters from the earlier books wander through.

Beckman's wife has been dead for several years. During those years, he's tried several ways to rid the earth of his existence. He harbors some guilt for her death. Not that it was his fault, but he holds onto the guilt anyway. We meet him as his father, who is fading rapidly, sends him away from the family seat to deal with the neglected property of a relative. This hurts Beckman as he feels he's been sent away for his misdeeds. His guilt causes him to think that he deserves his banishment. Not that he's a bad fellow, not at all. But on some level he thinks he really does deserve to not be with his father as he dies. If you've read any of the other *Lonely Lords* books, you know that dear papa is just trying to hold onto his dignity and spare his family.

When Beckman arrives at the dilapidated manor, he meets the housekeeper, Sara Hunt, her daughter and her sister. The three of them, and Gabriel North, have been working their fingers to the bone to try and keep the manor, and property, up.

When he first sees Sara, Beckman feels like he's met her before. He can tell she has secrets, but he has his own and doesn't pry. These two sad souls find they have a lot in common. And there's a pull they can't deny.

I enjoyed the romance between these two and the supporting characters, Polly and Gabriel kept things interesting. Their story is in the next book, *Gabriel: Lord of Regrets*. I loved the friendship that arose between the two men. Nicholas made an appearance, and that was fun, too.

There's some skulduggery going on throughout the book. One tends to wonder just who is the good guy and who is the bad. There are a couple characters that I was really glad were already dead, too.

My review of this *Lonely Lord* can be summed up this way:

LOVED IT!
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!
FIVE BOOKMARKS!

*Thank you, NetGalley and Sourcebooks ~ Casablanca, for the opportunity to read *Beckman*.