



## If You Deceive

*Kresley Cole*

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Burning vengeance...

Ethan MacCarrick was a heartbreakingly handsome rake until a powerful nobleman ordered him brutally beaten and his face scarred for a crime he didn't commit. Ethan's reprisal -- bankrupting the nobleman and forcing his exile -- does little to appease his wrath. Ten years later, a haughty, mysterious beauty enchants Ethan -- the daughter of his enemy. At last, Ethan will have the revenge he's craved; he'll promise her marriage, seduce her, then cast her aside.

Bitter hardships...

When Madeleine van Rowen's family was suddenly plunged into destitution and dishonor, she steeled herself against further heartache. She never weakened, never trusted, until a towering, scarred Highlander relentlessly pursues her, breaking down her defenses.

At what price forgiveness?

The passion between them burns hotter than Ethan's fury, and soon he finds he can't let her go. But when Madeleine uncovers the truth about him, can Ethan convince her to accept all he now offers -- when he once destroyed everything she had?

## If You Deceive Details

Date : Published May 22nd 2007 by Pocket Star

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Author : Kresley Cole

Format : Kindle Edition 370 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical

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## From Reader Review If You Deceive for online ebook

~IreneOust~ says

5 GLORIOUS "**WORTH THE WAIT**" STARS!!

This book ... THIS SERIES!! OMG!! I can't even ... PERFECTION!!

From start to finish, this book and the entire series was ABSOLUTELY PERFECT! I mean OH EM GEE! I can't stop reeling ... the writing, the story, the brothers, the women they fall for, the supporting cast, the setting, the brogue, the sexual tension, the actual act (which in THIS book was DEFINITELY worth the wait!) ... I can go on but if you are a fan of this author, you know she writes some of THE best alpha males [and in this case they come in a form of HIGHLANDERS!!!] and her heroines are super and I mean **SUPER** kick ass! They are strong, funny, sassy, independent, sexy & the banter they deliver is always BEYOND entertaining! And THAT EPILOGUE!! It was like a cherry on top of a perfect sundae! GAH!

I DEVOURED this entire series! And I honestly feel like going back to the beginning and reading it all over again! I really don't know what else to say other than this is a MUST READ for anyone who enjoys a good love story. Or three.

Truly, when a book leaves you feeling like this

it deserves all the stars in the world! In this case, the ENTIRE SERIES did that!

Cheers!

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**Sophia Jones says**

I've read a lot of romance novels in my day, and from a wide variety of sub-genres. Paranormal. YA. Contemporary. Historical. Futuristic Sci-Fi. Fantasy. Erotica. Dark Urban along the lines of Kim Harrison and Laurell K. Hamilton. From Jane Austen to Danielle Steel, been there, read that. But this one, this one's my favorite.

Kresley Cole's If You Deceive is the third book in her MacCarrick Brothers trilogy. The first two were good. All of Ms. Cole's books are good. But this one is special. The premise of the series is a familial curse cast upon three smokin' hot Scottish brothers. They can never fall in love, because if they do, their women would die. Of course, by book three it's obvious a 'Happy Ever After' is possible, so the third tale doesn't spend much time on the curse. In fact, you could read it as a stand-alone and not feel lost. I'm not encouraging that, but it's possible. What Ms. Cole does in the final book of the series is deliver two of the most compelling characters I've ever read, in a romance novel or otherwise.

Ethan MacCarrick is the eldest of the three brothers, and the most scarred, emotionally and physically. A deep gash runs across his face, marring his masculine perfection. He's unapproachable, cold. Even hateful. Ethan MacCarrick is an asshole. Sure, there was a traumatic event in his past, a very traumatic event, but that's not the reason for all of his woes or his personality disorder. Even before that he was a bit of a jackass. Born into privilege, he spent his youth in self-absorbed pursuits often involving married women, and one such affair led to his tragedy. Pretty much his own fault, though he pays a steep price.

Madeleine van Rowen was also born into a wealthy family, but a chain of events-- a chain in which Ethan is one link-- leads her to spend her formative years orphaned on the streets of Paris. Now she is a Survivor. Independent. Thrifty. And okay, an opportunist and a pickpocket. She's beautiful, knows it, and is willing to marry for money. Ethan has money. But he also has hidden motives in his interest in her.

Reading this story is like experiencing a cleansing rain. Hurt, bitterness, and revenge morph into hope and joy. Love unfurls.

I won't reveal more. But I promise you, the tale of these two imperfect characters, perfect for each other, will lodge itself in your heart and never let go. I reread it at least once a year.

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## **Buggy says**

Opening Line: *"Ethan had long grown used to the sinking expressions people cast him when they realized it was he who darkened their doorsteps—but in the East End rookeries this tendency seemed even more pronounced."*

Does anyone else find it near impossible to write a review about a book you absolutely loved? You can't ever say quite the right thing or express adequately how much it affected you. How much you loved the characters, the heartache, the passion and the drama. It always ends up sounding like a big pile of cheese, and really how many different ways are there to say amazing?

I guess I should start by letting everyone know that they were right. This was fantastic (there's one) placing as one of my top historical reads ever. I only wish now I hadn't waited so long, because Ethan stole my heart. What a great hero. To watch someone as cold, damaged and emotionally shut off as Ethan fall and allow someone into his heart was just... sigh. His confusion, his denial and in the end his willingness to do anything to have her, to keep her, borders on obsession. And then there's this big lie hanging over him and his guilt over how he's inadvertently destroyed her life which he then tries to make up for which only succeeds in pushing her away just when he's realized he can't live without her. Gah, this is how romances are meant to be --not necessarily reviews though.

What a great love story, what a great couple because as much as I fell for Ethan I equally adored Maddie. These two are equals, Their banter, flirtation and verbal sparring is some of the best I've ever read and sexy, jeez that carriage ride after the masquerade ball and oh let's not forget the shopping extravaganza homage to Pretty Woman in Paris. Yeah.

Not many books have the ability to give me actual emotions but Kresley Cole managed it here in spades; smiling, sighing, cheering, crying and at one point yelling at Ethan (you fool) to get away from those two floozies and go the hell home.

I should also mention that I read this as a standalone and other than Cole's odd way of backtracking the story and then doing a whole lot of showing not telling (of events that happened in the previous 2 books yet took place during this one) I had no real issues.

Ethan MacCarrick has been out for revenge for the past 10 years, seeking to destroy the Von Rowen family who tortured and viciously scarred his face for a crime he didn't commit. Once a handsome and successful philanderer, woman now shun him, turning away from his brutal scar with disgust. As a consequence he's hardened his heart and sworn off women altogether. After bankrupting and exiling the Von Rowen's Ethan still finds that his anger has not been appeased, so when their daughter comes of age he makes it his mission to seduce and ruin her then cast her aside as his final act.

However when he meets Madeline he's also met his match, she's unlike anyone he's ever known and he's confused by his feelings. This is where the story takes on a Beauty and the Beast quality because Maddie doesn't care about his scar or his hostile demeanour. She's only out for herself, trying to ensnare a husband of means before she faces a life of squalor and ultimately prostitution. So who's playing who here? And what are they to do when the heart has a mind of its own? Taking us from London through the slums of Paris and inside Scottish country manors. We witness gun fights, cholera epidemics and some of the sweetest, heart wrenching dialogue written. This is a story I won't be forgetting. Cheers

*"You canna do this—take my goddammed heart and then leave me! You think I will no follow"*

*"Somewhere along the way, he's fallen in love with her—or as much as possible for a man like him, with the lies between them."*

309jb5

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## **Aoi says**

Madeline van Rowen has had the most horrible childhood you can ever imagine, yet she goes on ahead, striving hard to make tomorrow better. She's no wilting flower, and she gives back as good as she gets. For the first time, I'm not afraid for the heroine when the hero goes after her with a sinister intent.

And Ethan! The author hasn't taken the easy way out- he continues to be douche-y nearly 40% into the book. But, I could somehow understand his bitterness and anger blinding him to all that stands in way of his revenge, not sparing a thought for the future of a young girl. The guilt when all was revealed nearly ripped him apart, and he spent each day fearing that Madeline would somehow find out. His transformation when he begins to fall for her, so organically shown, is what made me love this book.

(view spoiler)

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## **Dina says**

I felt a bit uneasy at the beginning of the book, as the idea of having the hero almost having sex with the mother of the heroine wasn't something I thought I could easily overcome. Well... I should've known better than to doubt Ethan! Way before I was halfway through the story, I was already in love with him. :) Obviously,

that event would have to come back from the past to "bite him in the arse", and that was the only "fault" I found in him: he really should have come clean and told everything to Maddie, instead of playing the odds and hoping that she would never find that out.

Maddie was a breath of fresh air: very straightforward and honest about her feelings, she was what a man as callous as Ethan needed to "settle down". Unlike the heroines in the first two books in this series, Maddie wasn't coy and didn't play silly games in the pretense of being "feisty and daring", and I really loved her.

Before I read the **MacCarrick Brothers Trilogy**, I'd thought that the ongoing theme was the curse that haunted the brothers and how they would get rid of it. In a way, it was... But the funny thing is, the curse didn't play a major role in this book, which ended up being the best in the series! Without the curse hanging over Ethan's head, I was saved from the push-pull behavior that plagued his brothers in the previous books, and that was a relief.

As I've noticed before, Ms. Cole's writing sounds too "modern" sometimes and that can be a little distracting. Nevertheless, I still enjoyed reading this book.

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

I am one of those readers who finds Ethan MacCarrick to be a completely irresistible hero. He is dark and dangerous, bitter, treacherous, unsociable, but deeply delicious. I love his large scar, his hulking presence, and his surly demeanor. But most of all, I love the fact that his wounded heart falls so completely for Madeleine, who happens to be the daughter of his enemy. Initially he plans to seduce and discard her, but she captivates him, and he begins to love her. For me, this story shows that love can come to even the darker hearts.

I think Cole is a fantastic writer, and it's very evident in this story. She knows how to write passion and love, and she researches and presents the Victorian period beautifully. A recommended read if you like passionate historical romance. I plan to reread this book to give it the justice in reviewing it, that it deserves.

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### **Katie(babs) says**

This final book in the MacCarrick Brothers' Trilogy features the most tortured hero of the three brothers. Ethan feels because of the scar on his face, no woman would want to love him let alone marry him. He is a loner and has no zest for life. And the fact that his family is cursed also makes his life very unsettling. But when he meets his heroine Madeline, his heart thaws and he finds a reason to live. All it takes is one look across a crowded room and Ethan has lost his heart.

Madeline is one heroine that is strong willed and tries to make the best out of her life. What she doesn't realize is Ethan is responsible for her parent's downfall because of her mother's lying ways. But when Ethan and she meet during a masked ball (yes, another lovely typical scene from any historical romance) they are so hot together that there is no going back.

Kresley Cole had written one hot and passionate book. Even though Ethan comes across as tortured, he is so unsettled by Madeline who gives as good as he does. It is a real joy to see these go at it. They insult each

other every chance they get and Madeline won't allow him into her heart until she can trust him.

These two lead the reader on a merry adventure with undertones of despair and lying that doesn't let up till the very end. Madeline is very witty and one woman you would want to have at your back during a fight. Ethan is her equal in everyway. And he has this lovely Scottish accent that is also intriguing.

Passion and erotic love scenes are throughout this novel and they are scorching. But overall this story is simply about trust and letting go of deception and finding the right person to spend your life with. By the end you are rooting for Ethan and Madeline so they both can become worthy of each other.

Another excellent historical romance from Cole.

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### **Holly says**

This book had almost zero surprises, everything you think is going to happen does happen basically, but somehow it still kept me interested. Maddy is perhaps a little too forgiving but otherwise is an enjoyable character. Ethan is the more troubled one in this relationship but his emotional transformation is very believable.

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### **Zeek says**

Brutally wounded and left for dead after being discovered with a conniving married shrew of woman, ruthless Ethan MacCarrick wants nothing but revenge and he will have it. Being a man of action, he proceeds to ruin the people behind the deeds of that devastating night, but it leaves him little consolation for the things he lost.

Years later he becomes helplessly drawn to the friend of his brother's woman only to find she's the daughter of his hated enemy. Deciding to use her to finish them off for good he enters into a relationship with her, only to find himself caught in a web of his own making- but he's not so interested in escaping.

Living most of her life in the slums of France, Madeleine van Rowen is determined to get out of her abject, improvised state by the only decent means a woman has for herself- marry a rich husband. When Ethan ruins her chances with the one man she had dangling on her line, she's determined to cut Ethan out of her life, despite his dogged pursuit. Yet something about the gruff Scot tugs at her and when he makes her an offer she can't refuse, she caves.

When she discovers the truth behind Ethan's actions, her devastated heart is ready to leave. Now Ethan must decide if the love he's feeling is stronger than his anger and desire for revenge- and woo her back to his side... forever.

Perfect ending to a very romantic trilogy!

Ethan's a bad boy for holding on to his hatred for so long, but I loved him for loving Madeleine despite his

anger. I loved that he let her charm the pants off of him (literally) and I love the way he made a home for her in the end.

Madeleine is an equally endearing heroine. Because of where she lives she's not as innocent as most women of her class, but still pure. Her heart is golden, as evidenced by her care for the ladies in her slum, and she has spunk. These two generated some scorching heat together and were a great pairing, making *If You Deceive* a historical romance keeper to be sure.

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### **Laura the Highland Hussy says**

everyone who told me that this was fabulous can now say "I told you so!" lol  
yes, all you who know who you are (Leah, Catherine, Ally, Monica, UM, and anyone else I forgot),  
I loved Maddy and Ethan.

Jane had a 2 second cameo and still managed to piss me off-wonder if I'd have liked Hugh's book better if I could have liked Jane?

So it's no secret how much I love Kresley Cole's IAD, and I liked her Sutherland Brothers series a lot as well. So, since me being me (the Highland Hussy), I love KC, I love Highlanders, what could be better than KC's Highlanders? Apparently a lot. The first book was good, but nothing special, in fact the heroine irritated me and Court was a jerk for most of the book.

The second book had such a great hero...I just loved Hugh, and I love the overlap of the series, but Jane? I really think it's fair to say that I hated her. Really. And I've wondered if I'd have rated the book better if Jane hadn't been such a holier-than-thou bitchy heroine? I mean I love me a kick-ass heroine, or even snarky and sassy, but Jane just made me want to slap her across her face! She needed someone to take her down a notch! (deep breath-this review isn't about Jane)

So for everyone to tell me that this was the best book of the series when Ethan was kind of a prick for the first 2 books, I wasn't at all looking forward to reading it.

I loved it!

Not only was he a tortured hero, I felt he wasn't really as big an ass as he pretended to be. And thank goodness Maddy saw through that too! Of all the heroines KC has written I usually love her Valkyrie. I could seriously see Maddy as a kick-ass mouthy Valkyrie.

I won't go into detail since a ton of readers have summarized and reviewed this one, but the big secret that Maddy finds out about Ethan? Broke my heart. I only wish Maddy had waited to see Ethan again before taking off for Paris. But him rescuing her? Fantastic. And the epilogue that had all three couples? So so wonderful.

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### **Mojca says**

*If You Deceive* (MacCarrick Brothers) Yes, this is the best book in the series. I don't care much about what



happens to the previous two, but this one is staying with me for a bit, I'll definitely read it again.

Maybe Ms. Cole should've added a few more brothers to the MacCarrick brood, since it seems this series improves with time.

From the first book onward I was intrigued by Ethan, the oldest MacCarrick brother. The hints and innuendos sparkled throughout the two previous stories created almost a mythological quality around the man...His scar, his cold demeanor, his deadened eyes, the mysterious death of his fiancée...All this made me literally itch to read his story.

And I admit I wasn't disappointed. Far from it.

The emotional roller coaster this books takes the reader on is extraordinary and extremely well-developed and plotted, holing unforeseen depths I'm utterly glad I explored.

The prologue introduces us to an Ethan, completely different from the Ethan we came to know in his brothers' books. Ten years ago he was a drunken, whoring libertine...Whose destiny is completely changed by a chance encounter in a country inn. And it is the punishment for the act he didn't commit that sets the grounds for the true story that picks up ten years later.

I could easily say that Ethan MacCarrick was one of the best developed male characters I've ever read about. In the course of this book he goes through so many changes it could easily make your head spin, not being able to tell top from bottom, yet the author did a splendid job of keeping him and the reader (more or less) grounded, despite all the upheavals he and the story went through.

We first meet him as a good-for-nothing, handsome bastard intent on bedding yet another married woman, then everything comes tumbling down around him, transforming him into the surly bear we know, until he meets the one woman that "could break his family curse", yet the discovering of her true identity embitters him even more. It is only after learning the truth about her, and accepting his involvement in what happened to Maddy, that Ethan finally accepts the possibility of his feelings toward her and slowly starts to change.

But ten years of bitter anger and striving for revenge, deceit and lies cannot be buried, and instead of revealing the truth, hoping for forgiveness, he decides to lie and deceive further, almost bringing about his own downfall.

The only chink in my appreciation of Ethan was his "tender" feelings toward Maddy that (as even she noted), bordered on obsession. I know that he felt strongly for her, the woman who saw beyond his scar, and wanted to make some kind of amends for what she's been through, but this (almost) sudden reversal from cold and distant blackguard, to obsessed, besotted fool came off as a little unrealistic...Although it was a great excuse for his impromptu trip to cholera-infested Paris in the end.

Maddy quite paled in comparison with this larger-than-life Highlander. I liked her for her dogged determination and resilience, the environment in which she grew up shaped her into a strong woman who knew her worth and far from the replica of her mother (which was her worst fear). All of which made her rash decision toward the end so much more out of character. As he friend said, one should know when to run and when to stick around and wait for an explanation.

For the strong female character Ms. Cole created with Maddy, her flight from Ethan was odd...And stupid.

Instead of creating some suspenseful plot, Ms. Cole decided to stick on the simple dynamic between two completely opposite not-so-strangers, and explore the romance that evolved between them despite having to constantly struggle underneath deceit and lies, stubbornness, pride, and waning revenge.

The author made the right choice and this reader readily recommends this book to all lovers of historical romance, Scottish brogue (and superstition), nicely-timed humor, and a pinch of a little star-crossed love. A very satisfying read.

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### **Jane Stewart says**

Good historical romance novel. I enjoyed it. A nice escape.

#### **STORY BRIEF:**

Ethan was a handsome rake having affairs with married women. Although he never slept with her, Sylvie lied to her husband saying Ethan raped her. The husband had Ethan beaten and his face scarred (with Sylvie's knowledge). Ethan was wealthy and got his revenge by bankrupting the husband who killed himself. Sylvie and her daughter were forced out of their home and went to live in the slums of Paris. Women are repulsed by Ethan's scar. He is celibate for most of the next ten years. He sees Maddie and is unexpectedly attracted to her. She is drawn to him as well. They have an encounter and a misunderstanding. She is insulted and returns to Paris. Ethan then learns she is the daughter of Sylvie. He wants to continue his revenge, hurting Maddie and Sylvie, so he travels to Paris. Maddie has been living in the slums, an orphan since age 14. She survives by selling cigarettes, waitressing and stealing.

#### **REVIEWER'S OPINION:**

Characters and events were interesting. There were none of my pet peeves. I liked Maddie's actions. When they were on a ship, he told her to entertain herself during the days and not be underfoot. She said right, be overfoot. Then she did what he asked. She made friends and was happily occupied during the days. But to Ethan's surprise, he missed her. He got what he said he wanted, but he ended up not liking her being gone. I also liked Maddie's reactions to Ethan's scar. Aside from his scar, Ethan has a powerful body, a seductive smile, and gorgeous eyes. He is a brooding alpha male. This is the third book in the series. I did not read the first two books which are about Ethan's two brothers. I found this fine as a stand alone book.

#### **DATA:**

Story length: 356 pages. Swearing language: strong, including religious words. Sexual language: strong. Number of sex scenes: 5. Total number of sex scene pages: 27. Setting: 1846 – 1865 England, France, and Scotland. Copyright: 2007. Genre: historical romance.

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### **Lauraadriana says**

This was the last book in the McCarrick Brothers series and this was my favorite of the three...not because the other two were not good, but because I really liked both Ethan and Maddie. The first two I preferred either the hero or the heroine but not both.

Ethan is the oldest brother and the one that is the most scarred inside and out, he was disfigured unjustly by a scorned husband and later destroyed the family that did this to him

He meets Maddie at a masquerade ball, he is fooled into thinking he took the virtue of a society girl, which she had been before he took everything from Maddie's family as revenge for what they had done to him.

Maddie is strong and witty but vulnerable she lives in a Paris slum as a result of her family losing everything. She is alone and desperate, and even their first time together ended badly, she can't forget Ethan.

Ethan can't marry, won't marry, but cannot get Maddie out of his head, he looks for her finds her and deceptively offers marriage.

Things get dicey from there, Maddie is scared of being lied to, Ethan is totally lying about his intentions, the man is surly, closed off, and kind of a lying bastard, but the man is in love with Maddie and that takes them where they need to go if though unnecessarily dramatic routes.

The epilogue ties everyone in and you see where the three families end up.

I liked it... I love K Cole's paranormal series and this one did not disappoint.

I recommend :)

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### **Jacqueline says**

Wonderful angsty story. Great characterization, great pacing, great plotting. There wasn't a slow moment in the whole book. It didn't have a lot of outside stuff going on, no lame spy plot or silly ton stuff. Just a good solid relationship story as Ethan learned to love and Maddy learned to trust. Nice feel for the times and nice details of the slums etc., in Paris in the mid 1800s. Beautiful love story with some wonderful quotes. I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

Highly recommended for historical romance readers.

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### **Debbie "Buried in Her TBR Pile" says**

**3 stars**

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