



Lady of Pleasure

Delilah Marvelle

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Educating one's self in the art of love takes time...

Lady Caroline Arabella Starling has been in love with her older brother's best friend, Caldwell, since she was thirteen. Unfortunately, too many things keep getting in the way of proving her love. Her four younger sisters, her mother, her brother, all of society and the man she loves himself. But where there is a will, there is a way, and Caroline is about to redefine not only respectability but true love.

?

Ronan Henry Dearborn, the fourth Marquess of Caldwell, lives to see himself through Caroline's eyes but knows he is leading a life unworthy of her or her dreams. He will do anything to keep her from learning the truth about himself and his past, including keeping her at a distance. But when he and Caroline get tangled in a situation neither of them can get out of, the only way to create a happily-ever-after between them is to take up the advice of a French courtesan who re-educates them both in the art of love.

Lady of Pleasure Details

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From Reader Review Lady of Pleasure for online ebook

Sophie Barnes says

The characters in this story were extraordinarily well crafted and real. The heroine was both sweet and funny, her devotion to the man she loved incredibly endearing, while the hero invited endless amounts of sympathy throughout, due to his tragic past.

When Caroline Arabella Starling meets her brother's best friend, Ronan Henry Dearborn, the fourth Marquess of Caldwell, for the first time at the age of thirteen, she takes an instant liking to him. In spite of the twelve year difference between the two, they become close friends, meeting once a week - every Thursday - for a game of piquet. And as the years go by, Caroline falls hopelessly and madly in love with him, still holding out hope when he insists she's too young for him.

But it isn't just the age difference that prompts Caldwell to keep Caroline at arm's length. After losing his investment to a fire, he's penniless and desperate, completely unworthy of any lady's affection. Humiliated by the choices he's forced to make in order to get by, he puts distance between himself and the girl who has always idolized him.

Three years go by until they meet again, and Caldwell finds that Caroline has transformed into a stunning beauty. Her feelings for him are unchanged, and so she sets about trying to win him again, with greater success than before. But secrets from his past are destined to get these two tangled up in a series of terrible misunderstandings that only an open heart and absolute honesty can hope to undo.

I found Caldwell's story to be absolutely heart-wrenching! It is filled with so much angst, and just when you think it can't get any worse, something else is revealed. But the interaction between him and Caroline is wonderful, their conversation wrought with humor as their relationship gradually progresses from simple friendship to so much more.

Delilah Marvelle is a fantastic storyteller. I thoroughly enjoyed this read, and was very relieved when Caroline and Caldwell finally got the happy ending they both so thoroughly deserved.

Tracy T. says

Amazing story, amazing series, amazing narration by Delilah Marvelle (audible review)

Wow I loved this story. I loved the whole series. Caroline is an amazing character. She was strong, smart, funny, outspoken and forthright. And she loved Caldwell times 1000. Caroline's mother, father and sisters were a hoot. I love that they were so unconventional and open with everything. Such a nice change from the normal historical romance books.

Caldwell was awesome too. He was strong, handsome and sexy. He had a very interesting backstory. I don't want to give away spoilers so I won't just know it was good.

Caroline and Caldwell had some great chemistry together and some absolutely fantastic conversations. The dialogue in this book was superb! Loved every bit of it, and there was a lot of it. The sex scenes are very well romantically written, not erotica.

The story line and plot was great. If you have read any of the other School of Gallantry books this one does not disappoint. It is just as good. Love that School and Madam de Maitenon the teacher of the school was

fantastic again. Loved her scenes. This is one of the most entertaining historical romance series I have read. There are several LOL moments.

If you haven't read\listened to this series and are HR fan, I highly recommend all of these books on audible or just to read. The writing and stories are truly brilliant.

Mistress of Pleasure Book 1 School of Gallantry

Lord of Pleasure Book 2 School of Gallantry

Lady of Pleasure Book 3 School of Gallantry

As for the narration. Well it was fantastic. The author narrated her own book. Wow what a great job she did too. Everyone had their own voice. The men sounded like men. She read with emotion as called for ie, yelling, coughing, choking, whispering etc. It was great. Her reading voice was wonderful. She didn't read too slow or too fast. It was a fantastic listen.

I have waited over a year for this book to be released on audible and it was well worth the wait. Thank you @DelilahMarville for finally releasing this book.

Marquita Valentine says

I loved the story of Ronan and Caroline. And I stayed up waaaaay late into the night finishing their story, because I JUST had to experience their happily ever after.

I'll definitely be waiting (impatiently) for the next book Ms. Marville publishes.

Also: That cover!!! LOVE LOVE LOVE. :)

Dana Delamar says

Another fun installment in the School of Gallantry series. I really enjoyed the first two books, Mistress of Pleasure and Lord of Pleasure, so I'm pleased Delilah Marville is continuing the series!

As usual, the hero and heroine are intriguing and entertaining. Caroline is more forthright than Ronan, despite being his junior by over a decade, and I enjoyed seeing how her direct manner kept him both fascinated and off-kilter. Ronan has some very dark secrets, and as they unfold, we see how they've shaped him, for better or worse. He's not ready to love Caroline, and he almost loses her... which is where the School of Gallantry comes in.

My favorite part was Ronan's instruction at Madame de Maintenon's School of Gallantry. I've always loved her character, and once again, she doesn't disappoint. I was laughing, smiling, and nodding my head at her quirky brand of wisdom and quick-witted instruction.

One thing to keep in mind with this series is that the chronology can be a bit confusing--although this is the third book, the books happen more or less simultaneously. In some ways, you could consider this the first

book, Lord of Pleasure the second, and Mistress of Pleasure the third. I gave up trying to keep the timeline straight and just went with it. When the story is this much fun, that's a minor quibble.

Wench says

Y'all. This book. I could NOT.

1. Trigger warning for rape, pedophilia, and coerced consent.
 2. DEBRETT'S. LEARN IT. LOVE IT. NO ONE'S CORRECT FORM OF ADDRESS IS "DOWAGER". SHE ALSO ISN'T ONE YET.
 3. SAME WITH WIKTIONARY.
 4. ALSO AN ANATOMY LESSON, UNLESS YOU DELIBERATELY MEANT TO EVOKE MOTHERFUCKING SERIAL KILLERS.
 5. The school the series is built around doesn't make an appearance until 65% through the book. WHY.
 6. If you don't like sexual behavior beyond monogamous, vanilla, heterosexual penis-in-vagina, missionary position sex, DON'T PUT ANY IN YOUR BOOK.
 7. IT'S "PER SE", FOR FUCK'S SAKE.
 8. WHY ARE PEOPLE IN THE EARLY 1800'S SAYING FUCK AS MUCH AS I DO
 9. ASSHOLE WASN'T A THING UNTIL AROUND 1900
 10. HOLY SHIT THIS BOOK IS FUCKED UP AND FILLED WITH MISERABLE FUCKED UP PEOPLE I WOULD BURN IT IF IT WEREN'T AN EBOOK
-

Verity says

Inconsistency : H/h's age gap was mentioned several times as 12 yrs, but on another page hero states he's 10 yrs older. Somewhat anti-climactic @ the end & H/h didn't spend enough quality time, the last 20 % of the story was verra sweet. Mayhap if I hadn't read "Once upon a scandal" prior to this, I woulda liked it more. Similar Cinderella hero.

Cerian says

Wow. I absolutely loved it.
I've previously read books by Delilah Marville, but this is the first in the School of Gallantry series I've read, and the first thing on my to do list is to get my hands on the previous two books!

I immediately felt myself drawn into the story. Starting with Lady Caroline as a rather wise and precocious 13 year old who befriends the outwardly rakish Ronan, Marquess of Caldwell. Their friendship is very sweet, and you can easily see why Caroline swiftly falls in love with him.

I'll admit that I wasn't expecting the book to be so scandalous! But it was wonderfully so, and Delilah Marvelle certainly has no fears of venturing into the secret and devious sexual world that existed. A word of warning, whilst it isn't in your face constantly there is quite a bit of sexual reference, so if you prefer your romance more tame- you may not enjoy it as much as I did. Personally, I loved it! Plus- how gorgeous is that cover?! I've had a look, and the next two books have equally amazing covers.

Caroline was fabulous, she may be slightly more respectable than some of her outrageous family but she's forthright and confident. It's so sweet how much she loves Ronan, she would do anything for him. Of course, the path of love isn't always smooth and she has some pretty huge bumps in her path.

My heart bled for Ronan. He has a rather easy, rakish attitude but underneath all that is a man in pain. His past is dark, and makes him so ashamed that you can't help but feel heart-wrenching pity for him. But when he realises just how much Caroline means to him he will do anything to win her back!

The other characters in this book are also marvelous. They're all so well fleshed-out, that you want to know so much more about them. Which thankfully you can, because there are 2 previous books in the series, and a further two books to come! I can not describe how excited I am- particularly for Brayton's book.

Whilst aspects of the story are dark and heart-breaking, Delilah Marvelle also writes with a humour that makes you laugh out loud at times.

Overall, I thought this was a wonderful and sensual romance that grips you immediately, and doesn't let go. I sobbed at parts (seriously I was a wreck) and cheered at others. I heartily recommend this book and I can't wait to devour the rest of the books in the series, I'm just grateful there's already two out there for me to read now!

Originally posted at Rookie Romance

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

[the sexual abuse of a young man by a much older woman and the ramifications which are sometimes glossed over than if the situation is reversed (hide spoiler)]

a & says

I loved it! I like how with each book we're going more into the past. Chronologically the first book's events were the last to happen

Carol says

I have been BEGGING Delilah, on my knees, for years to add to the incredible pleasure read of the School of Gallantry. Finally the planets aligned and Lady of Pleasure is the incredible result. If you think this will be

"more of the same" you would be wrong. After all this IS Delilah Marvelle, in all her glorious historical, romantic, splendor. Kind of Fielding meets Euripides. The two sided lucky coin of comedy and tragedy.

If you thought you knew Caldwell from the second book in the series, you would be wrong. Caroline's intellect and passions introduced in the second book, are just a pale shadow of what the reader finds in this third book. She is a strong, intelligent passionate woman, beyond her years in all those elements. We find out things about her parents and brother and sisters that flip the coin from comedic to tragic then back again.

Caldwell's story will break your heart then put it back together again. He is a unique character I have never encountered before outside of Robin Schone. Caldwell is definitely a darker character than one ever expected from the first two books. He is stunning! He and Caroline together, with the menagerie that is their respective families and friends drag you in to the world of the School of Gallantry and leave you wanting more . . . NOW! I loved this book and the emotional trip on which it led me. I love this author because of her intellect, her passions, and her incredible understanding of the tragic and the comedic.

Keri says

Settle in ladies, because this is going to be a long fan-gurl squee review...can't be helped. :-) I wrote to Delilah after I read the 2nd SoG book and told her I couldn't wait for the next book in the series. I was heartbroken when she told me that the series wasn't going to continue because the publishing issues. So it was with a happy heart when I saw that she never gave up getting the series restarted and so here we are. The book takes place in tandem with Alex's book, (Lord of Pleasure). You don't have to read LoP though to read this book, but I recommend it, because the series is just full of sexy goodness. Caroline has been in love with Ronin Dearborn, the Marquess of Caldwell, since she was 13. Afterall, she has had her menses for a month, she is ready to take him on. For Cardwell's part, he realizes that Caroline is going to hold a special place in his life and he takes steps to ensure that she stays there. He has secrets, dark secrets that he in no way wants them to touch his sweet, pure Caroline. So for the next 7 years they meet weekly for card games and engage in extreme letter writing.

Caroline for her part is ready to move their relationship to the next level, but Ronin is completely standoffish. Finally a dark fairy god-mother(of a sort) takes matters in her own hands and sets Caroline and Ronin up at a "party" and nature takes over. Once Caroline and Ronin wakes up to the reality of the situation, he insists that marriage is the only way out. Caroline for her part is determined that she is to have the man she fell in love with at 13. Ronin is sick as he finally finds out the truth of how Caroline ended up in his arms. How is he to keep his dark secrets and keep his sweet Caroline?

Things come to a head as he realizes that he can't be the man that Caroline wants him to be unless he can come clean about his past and how he has been keeping himself, his aunt and her children afloat. So at his uncle's request he enrolls in the School of Gallantry and at the suggestions of Madame de Maitenon, proceeds to transform his life. Once Ronin starts to take steps to be honest with Carolyn, there was no way she could turn away from the man that she truly loves, no matter what was in his past.

This story completely encompasses why I love DM's writing so much, it has a lot of humor, but also there is always a series underlying message about love and forgiveness. You can also tell how much research DM pours into her writing, whether we are talking about time period sex toys or secret spanking societies. She draws you in and makes you gasp at topics that she is willing to take on to bring her characters to their final love destination.

However, as much as I love Alex and Ronin, I can't wait for my man, Lord Brayton to get his book in 2014. I hope though that even beyond the next two books we still get more books after that. It sounds like Lord Gifford, the mysterious Luc and Lord Ridley all have interesting stories to tell. I hope we get to see them in other stories down the road. Ladies I hope you will give this wonderful series a chance, as we read about the School of Gallantry ring the bell on some hard headed men for the women that they love.

Jessie says

Full Disclosure: I am a huge fan of the School of Gallantry series and even though I had to wait three years for book 3, I was extremely lucky enough to be one of the author's beta readers. So of course, I love this book. :-)

Carol *Young at Heart Oldie* says

LADY OF PLEASURE is very different in tone to the previous two books in the series, MISTRESS OF PLEASURE AND LORD OF PLEASURE. Whilst these two were uproariously funny, this book is much darker...a compelling and intensely emotional story of friendship, heartache, love, understanding, forgiveness and redemption. It's a story that really drew me in and elicited so many emotions as I was reading it. Ms Marvelle is an author who isn't afraid to push the boundaries of historical romance. I admire her for tackling not only the subject of male sexual abuse but also touching on racial prejudice.

How I Imagine Ronan...

"I have always known there was something special between us. From the very beginning. From the moment I met you. You changed my way of thinking in a way I never expected and made me want to be perfect. Even though I wasn't. Even though I knew I could never be."

Ronan was such a tortured hero. I wanted to comfort the lonely fourteen-year-old Ronan who was so betrayed by someone he trusted. He lost his pride, his innocence and his soul. His sense of shame and self-loathing is so great that he has never been able to talk about what happened to anyone, even to his best friend Hawksford. He keeps all his feelings locked up inside. I understand why his friendship with Caroline is so important to him. She is the only unsullied thing in his life and he clings to their friendship like a drowning man. When he finds that his feelings for Caroline are more than just friendship, he is determined to distance himself from her rather than see her tainted in any way.

How I Imagine Caroline...

Love was not meant to be shared with the world. It was a secret romantic language between two

willing hearts and two willing souls that only needed each other to survive. And, one day, she would know of such love with Caldwell. One day.

Caroline is everything I would expect of a member of the unconventional Hawksford family; uninhibited, independent, proud, outspoken and passionate. The anger, hurt and humiliation she feels when it seems that Ronan has betrayed all they shared and the devastation she feels on learning the true nature of her parents' marriage reveal just how vulnerable she really is beneath that confident exterior.

Ronan and Caroline's journey was such an emotional roller-coaster. Ms Marvelle captured all the charming, heartrending, poignant and passionate moments so beautifully:

The special friendship...

She nestled her cheek against his embroidered waistcoat and achingly wished he could love her in the way she loved him. "Know that I will always love you. No matter how much or how little you have. No matter how hard you fall. I will be here for you. Always."

The undeniable attraction...

The warmth of his breath fanned her throat in uneven takes. Still buried in the curve of her neck, his full lips slowly, slowly dragged leaving a moist trail that cooled against the fire of her skin. The tip of his hot tongue suddenly slid across her skin just above her necklace, causing her to sway.

The Broken Heart...

She had already turned toward him, tears still streaming down her face. And as those grief stricken blue-green eyes met his, he knew everything he had hoped to keep sacred between them was sacred no more.

The Desperate Plea...

"A sixteen-year-old girl once told me she would embrace me no matter how hard I had fallen. I need that girl right now. I need her back in my life. I need her to believe in me in the way she used to. The question is, can she? Will she?"

The Heartrending Truth...

For the first time since knowing Ronan, she felt as if she were touching more than his hand. She felt as if she were touching his soul.

The Kiss

His lips parted hers slowly as if unsure as to what he should do. Her tongue met his gently and together, they became one. Her fingers and her toes tingled and went numb. She was Anne Elliot. At long last, she was Anne Elliot.

It was everything she could have ever dreamed of... and more.

♥♥♥

It was... delicious. Caroline's lips were like all those strawberries he had dipped in cream. Her lips were

moist and soft, yet firm. And her tongue was gentle, but playful, making him feel welcome and warm, yet in control. It was beautiful.

She was beautiful.

I love all the secondary characters, particularly the quirky Hawksford sisters who provide some lighter moments among the intensity of the romance. Here are two of my favourites.

“Aside from the braids, how do I look?”

Anne squinted up at her, crinkling her freckled nose. “Do you want our honest opinion? Because all those pimples make it very difficult to see your face.”

Anne sat up and glared at Mary. “How about I buy you a casket so you can sleep in it every night?”

Mary paused. “How much do you think one would cost? If I did want one for my room? Are they expensive? Do you know?”

Caroline groaned. “For heaven’s sake, Anne, don’t give her ideas.”

I like Ronan’s uncle who, despite their occasional spats, obviously loves his nephew as a son. I was conflicted about Lady Danbury whose meddling caused so much heartache, but I don’t see her as malicious, simply misguided. Lord Banfield, Lord Brayton and the Earl of Hawksford, the other ‘students’ at the School of Gallantry all make an appearance. The plots for this book and ***Lord of Pleasure*** (Hawksford’s story) run concurrently and it’s interesting to see the same events from a different perspective.

Delilah Marvelle proves once again why she is one of my top favourite authors with this moving love story. Definitely a keeper!

REVIEW RATING: 5/5 Stars

SENSUALITY RATING: HOT

The School of Gallantry Series so far (click on the cover for more details)

My sincere thanks to Delilah Marvelle for sending me a copy of this book in return for an honest review.

This review has also been posted on my blog:

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

Delilah Marvelle says

Dear Reader,

Many of you have been waiting ever so patiently for the arrival of book 3 in the School of Gallantry series. You will be tickled to know that the Hawksford family (including Little Miss Morbid Mary) is about to

sweep back into town and cause trouble. Think you know the Hawksfords? Think again. Trouble is about to be redefined. And more importantly, everyone's idea of respectability and love is about to get spanked.

Yours Truly,

Delilah Marvelle

Mary Gramlich says

Everyone has a right to expect that you will have someone to love

Caroline has known since she was thirteen years old the Ronan was the man she would love forever. Her only goal was to grow up so they could marry and live happily ever after regardless of what it takes to achieve that goal. Caroline did not know that while Ronan may have wanted all these things as well he understood they would never happen, his family responsibilities demanded he choose another path for his life.

Ronan had to fight for every amount of money he could obtain regardless of the circumstances of their acquisition to help keep himself and his family financially solvent. The finances are obtained a variety of ways one of which included brokering his affections toward lonely women of the ton. Caroline felt destiny brought them together while Ronan saw that as what kept them apart. Ronan may love Caroline and she may make every breath he takes worth living for, but those feelings have to be controlled and he will do so as his circumstances have deemed necessary.

Caroline finds a way to stack the deck in her favor and attempt to make Ronan realize they should be together. When the plan backfires Caroline is left devastated and Ronan realizes the mistake he made by letting her go searches for a way to win her back. Who knew that the place that could teach Ronan how to be a man of worth would be a school taught by a Courtesan? Learning to tell the truth, work through his phobias, and release the joy of his love for Caroline creates a Ronan that has Caroline acknowledging that no one will ever bring her joy but Ronan.

Delilah Marvelle graces every word with a prolific sentence that surrounds each paragraph with romance, joy, and the expectation of eternal love.
