



The Governess and the Beast

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With a new name and an eagerness to begin a new life, Lila Jenner answers an ad for a governess and embarks on an adventure she did not expect. Hiding secrets and a past she longs to forget, she is disappointed to find out she has been employed to be a companion of a different sort: To a man who embodies both beauty and the beast.

In a gothic, crumbling manor on the edge of a North Sea cliff, Baron Simon Wolstenholme is cloistered away from society. Horribly scarred from battle wounds, the baron lives up to his infamous title “The Beast of Stonecliff” in appearance and attitude, and it doesn’t take long for him to come to the realization he’s been alone too long.

Simon bargains with Lila for a singular night of passion. A storm rages outside, but it cannot compare to the clash of emotions between a lonely man and a distrustful woman. Secret desires are revealed, hearts are laid bare. Many obstacles lay before them until they can admit their true feelings, though pride could destroy the fairy tale before it begins.

Heat Level: Very Sensual

Previously published, re-edited, revised, and more than six thousand words added.

The Governess and the Beast Details

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Author : Karyn Gerrard

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From Reader Review The Governess and the Beast for online ebook

Cocktails and Books says

A sexy new take on the classic Beauty and the Beast, this short story has a great plot, some BDSM/bondage and a sweet romance. The Baron, Simon, is scarred, emotionally and physically. He's accepted himself as a beast until he realizes just how lonely he is. Searching for a compatible companion, Simon finds Hortense, an extreme beauty, and offers her a proposition – one night of extreme pleasure. Hortense reluctantly agrees.

From here, the story really evolves. It goes above and beyond to show just how beautiful flaws and imperfections can be and explores how deeply touching it can be to open ones self up to someone and get to know who they truly are before passing judgment. Hortense and Simon are so wonderfully written that it's easy for the reader to fall in love with each of them equally. The connection that the two of them make also makes their night full of pleasure all the more intense and scorching hot. It does contain some bondage for those who enjoy some of their nights a little tied up.

Reviewed by Marie for Cocktails and Books

Michelle Bowman / We Love Kink .com says

Unlike Disney's version of The Beast, Baron Simon Wolstenholme was not cursed but injured and subsequently scarred while in service to his country. Oh! and he is not a furry beast! He does however have a voracious sexual appetite that has been left unattended for the two years since his accident. Even as a child his looks got him anything and everything that he wanted. Now without those looks and locked away for two years of self-induced seclusion and regret he has come to the conclusion that he needs someone in his life, someone he can love and that can love him back. He needs to be stimulated body, mind and soul if he is to recapture at least part of the man he used to be.

Hortense aka Lila had dealt with horrible tragedies in her life all perpetrated upon her by a drunk gambling addict of a father that dies and left her penniless with creditors knocking on the door and an eviction notice in his pocket. After trying to make her way and failing miserably she is sucked into the world's oldest profession. Although no suited for the life of a working girl, she and her benefactor make a deal and Lila's fate is sealed until an unfortunate incident leaves her scarred and once again untrusting.

These two characters were beautifully written and the emotions they both experienced leapt off the page. When Lila looks at Simon and describes him as 'the beauty and the beast' it was truly amazing. My only criticism was the abrupt ending. I felt like the story had been building and building and then just ended. It was happily ever after but it left me hanging. Other than that these are great characters and there is a hell of a lot of really good stuff - including some steamy hot sex-packed in to about 22,000 words. Well worth the read!

****free copy was provided for an honest review****
for more reviews visit [WeLoveKink \(dot\) com](http://WeLoveKink.com)

Judith Bongiovanni says

Rp Well written with surprising character development.

Nessa says

SMUT. THIS WAS JUST SMUT.

AND FUNNY ENOUGH I WAS LISTENING TO THIS AUDIO BOOK AT WORK....

OUR HERO is scarred from the war, and he's also bitter about the lonely, ostracized life he has been leading ever since the incident that left half his face and torso twisted and maimed with scars, dead tissues and uneven skin. People find him to be a monster, and he may or may not act like a grouchy bear. So, he hires a governess in the guise for his ward but in truth he just wants to a warm bodied woman to fuck his loneliness away. Simon was pretty much superficial and this story was more on insta lust than anything else.

OUR HEROINE on the other hand...I thought the narrator did a terrible job at portraying the lady...sounding all put out, rigid and stiff....and just plain annoying with her shrill voice.

April says

****This review is for the newly revised version****

The Governess and the Beast by Karyn Gerrard is an Erotic Historical/BDSM Romance, #2 in her "Blind Cupid" Trilogy, but can be read as a stand alone.

"Previously published, re-edited, revised, and more than six thousand words added." ****Sensually explicit, Novella.****

Tastefully, written with a sexy scarred war Veteran, Baron Simon Wolstenholme, aka "The Beast of Stonecliff" and Hortense Jennings, a woman with secrets and Governess. Set against the backdrop in a gothic, creepy, crumbling down castle on a North Sea cliff, Castle Stonecliff.

Hortense has been accepted as Governess to Simon's ward, Christopher, however, Simon was untruthful in his advertisement. What he wishes is a mistress, so he offers Hortense a proposition, one singular night of unabandoned passion, but at what cost to Hortense's heart, but she agrees.

What transpires, is not just sensual, dominance or something bizarre, but a night of healing for both of them, and finding so much more. But will they allow their pride, to stop them from finding their HEA and their hearts desire, for only one night of passion?

What makes this story so realistic, intense and complex, is a series of events, not just sensually, but a horrific storm, crashing waves against this crumbling castle, gives this a very gothic feel. Think of Hortense meets her Mr. Heathcliff. An adult version of "Beauty and the Beast", and Jane Eyre, combined, not your Mama's Fairy Tale.

Ms. Gerard brought this story alive through the pages of "The Governess and the Beast". I enjoyed how tastefully, but explicitly descriptive, Ms. Gerard managed to write this story. Conservation, secrets told, with

a openness, soul searching, honesty combined with sensuality, dominance and strength makes a strong Erotic Historical Romance.

Ms. Gerard is a compelling, amazing storyteller who writes with brilliance and talent. A tastefully written tale with more than one night of unbridled passion, but human emotions involved as well as nature barreling around them and the power to destroy or find a HEA. Magnificent and powerful! Enjoyable read! A great Romance with a twist.

Fans of Erotic Romance, as well as Historical Romance, with a compelling storyline will enjoy "The Governess and the Beast".

Received for an honest review.

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Hot /Sensually explicit

Reviewed by: AprilR

For the reader's benefit, here is a list to the "Blind Cupid" Series: (From Amazon)

Book 1 is the short story, The Spinster and Mr. Glover

Book 2 The Governess and the Beast (new version of e-book NOW AVAILABLE!)

Book 3 The Copper and the Madam

L.S. Young says

I honestly read this because I thought it would be like a loosely-rendered erotic version of Jane Eyre. While the hero shares some personality traits with Mr. Rochester, the similarities end there. It takes place a few decades later, and the so-called "governess" is actually a former prostitute. While the romance happens too quickly to be believable (literally overnight), there is attention to historical detail and characterization. The love scenes, which comprise most of the book, are as scintillating as one would wish.

Lori D says

The Governess and the Beast by Karyn Gerrard - A story following the Beauty and the Beast trope but with much more. Hortense is desperate for a job and lands one as a governess to a ward of Baron Simon Wolstenholme. Simon is a recluse after returning from war horribly scarred and has secluded himself in his Gothic manor. Shades of Jane Eyre gothic. What she finds is no ten year old boy to tutor but a man who is lonely and longing for companionship. Hortense is really Lila, a former lady of the night who was trying to escape her past and become respectable. Simon wanted the nonrespectable Lila to become his companion in and out of bed. This story had a lot of twist and turns but was also very emotional as the two lonely hearts get to know each other. A steamy tale that will keep you reading until the end!!

Lucy says

This was an interesting historical take on Beauty and the Beast, except Beauty carries scars of her own. A

former soldier, Simon was damaged and scarred in battle. He has grown reclusive, a subject of gossip by the people in the village. He has shunned his friends and acquaintances. But now he is lonely. He wants company, female company.

To this end, he puts out an ad for a governess for his ward and then plans on making more of the woman who appears. This woman is Hortense, who is desperately trying to begin a new life for herself. I actually felt really bad for her, because the offer Simon puts forth basically brings her right back to her former life and yet really, what choice did she have? Good for her for putting conditions on it.

One night together, that's what they have between them and they have sex. A lot of sex and Simon is very focused on making things good for Hortense. A lovely thing, that Simon.

As far as the BDSM aspect goes, it's very light. A bit of tie up is the farthest they go and it was not done as I would have expected, so I liked it all the more.

I have to admit, while I am a fan of audiobooks, this narrator's performance detracted from the book. While her delivery during descriptions was spot on, dialogue tended to be very over dramatic and made me view the characters as ridiculous when they shouldn't have been.

As this is a short tale, there is a lot of sex for the length but that's what the story is about. There is insta-love, as well, but it worked for me. Something I particularly liked was that the situation Hortense found herself in when her father died was exactly what could happen back in those times of women having no status. This is an easy, quick read, particularly for historical fans.

Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews

🌀???? [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're mostly my thoughts as I went with the book...

Karyn Gerrard's *The Governess and the Beast* had an interesting storyline and some pretty surprising twists that I hadn't imagine coming. This is the second book of *Blind Cupid* series, which is based on the characters from a brothel of the same name.

'Hortense' is trying to become a proper governess. She wants to change her past and start anew, and for that reason, she's now on her way to this distant countryside to work for a recluse lord, who is said to be ugly from scars and... umm, sexually impotent. She saw the ad on the newspaper about a governess for his ward and found the position to her liking. On her arrival, 'Hortense' is taken to her destination by the coach sent from the Manor. As she neared her destination, 'Hortense' is intrigued as well as a little apprehensive by the gloomy atmosphere, and the big, crumbling Manor house that stands before her. It's seemed like something from a Gothic novel!

'Hortense' is showed her room where she refreshes herself. But, her shiver of apprehension prolongs when she's taken to meet the master of the house. There, 'Hortense' finds a tall, muscular man... but what is this? This seems to be the coachman who drove her here from the station! As the master of the house reveals his face, 'Hortense' can't but gasp out in horror. One side of his face is severely scarred while the other side is a

stark contrast, showing what a handsome man he once was.

Simon had been burned severely during the war. Once been known as a very handsome man and used to having his way with the ladies, Simon can't take how it has all been taken away from him. His life of society, gambling and whoring is over. Now, having lived as lonely as he is, Simon is desperate for some companionship... even if it's of someone like 'Hortense'. Simon hasn't been with any woman ever since his accident but 'Hortense's' reply to his impulsive advert made him want to seek her out. He has also made a thorough check on her background which is the total opposite of prim and proper. 'Hortense' is none other than a former prostitute, Lila, who used to work in the Blind Cupid. She seems very well educated for that though. Simon is intrigued by her beauty, education, not to mention her apparent primness when she's anything but if the reports he read about her are accurate enough.

Lila is completely surprised when Simon makes her an offer and the fact that she was here for his need rather than his ward Christopher's. And that doesn't make her happy. She is not taking up the life she has left behind but after talking to Simon and some of his *attempts* at showing that he hasn't lost his mojo, Lila begins to change her mind. Simon's loneliness calls out to her, and when, after her initial rejection of his proposal, the hurt she saw in his eyes does something to her insides. Moreover, she's not all that disgusted by his scars. Fact of the matter is, both want to know about one another, so they struck a bargain of a night of passion. Lila can walk away the next day with the money she was offered for her governess position, and a great reference from Simon to start her life elsewhere as she originally planned.

But it becomes easier said than done when they finally start having sex, which was very HOT, with Simon's dirty mouth and imagination *wink*. That was the best part! As their intimacy deepens, Lila and Simon begin to open up about their respective past. While I understood that some of these revelations were necessary for the storyline, unfortunately, I didn't like knowing stuff about Simon's past indiscretions or the fact that Desmond, the H of the first book was Lila's first lover.

The Governess and the Beast takes place much earlier than book 1, The Blind Cupid. I couldn't remember Lila from that story though. But, I must say I felt the bond forming between her and Simon among the sex and the sharing of their past. I could almost feel Simon's yearning for Lila, and her wish to stay, even though she knew being a mistress to Simon would ultimately bring nothing good for her.

The story ends on a positive note; the hope for a new beginning for both Simon and Lila. I was definitely glad for that. 3.75 stars.

Goddess says

Baron Simon Wolstenholme, the Beast of Stonecliff, has done his research and found the perfect woman to hire. But the skills he wants are not confined to the school room, but the bedroom.

Lila, ex-prostitute and educated governess, finds she can't escape her past, but is forced to face her scars in order to move forward with her life.

One of the questions I ask myself when reading a romance is, "What is about these two characters that make them perfect for each other?" Is there some unique spark in her that calls to him? What makes our hero different from every other man she's known in the past? I thought Mrs. Gerrard's book, "The Governess and the Beast" answered those questions, while combining an attention to historical detail with erotica/light-BDSM (i.e., restraints, blindfolds, anal play).

One of the facets I loved about this book is the realism of the period. Women had very little rights, dependent on our fathers first, then our husbands. And what happens when a woman was left financial destitute with no relatives? Lila came across as a very strong heroine who was willing to do anything to survive. She needed someone to restore her belief in men and sex and Simon certainly filled the bill.

Simon has been transformed by the war and his scars. He's changed since his dissolute youth, but still remembers the things he took for granted and all the mistakes he's made. None of these characters are the perfect regency H/H we read all the time and I appreciated Gerrard's research and details that added to Lila's description and desperation. The love scenes were appropriately placed – meaning they added to deepen the emotion intimacy between the two characters.

At the end of the story, I felt like these were two characters who were fated to be together - my definition of a good romance.

Decadent Publishing LLC says

~REVIEW by Ms. Bill~

"A brief but well-written romance for grownups. I really admired Karyn's ability to give us a great story line and believable, likeable, well-developed characters in a mere 63 pages. No long-lost twin brother caught in the arms of a scullery maid; no long-lost scullery maid with her arms caught in a twin brother. This is just all the 'good stuff' of a historical romance minus the fluff and fillers. True, Karyn has penned honest, clear descriptions of the physical needs and sexual activities of her two characters, but it's not shocking or crude, just intense. There's no cruelty, coercion or degradation involved. In fact, our scarred-yet-sexy hero makes a conscious decision to avoid acts that might hurt or humiliate our nubile heroine. What a man!

I enjoyed this first installment of the Blind Cupid Series so much, I've already bought the others."

Vânia Nunes says

Who would be the most deceived?

Simon Wolstenholme hires Miss Hortense Jennings to be governess of his 11 year-old ward. However, when she arrives at his house for the interview, she discovers that the boy did not actually live in the house because he had been sent to the school, and that her contract was to make company the Baron himself.

For her side, Hortense was not who she claimed to be. She was a former courtesan by real name Lila Jenner, who had not adapted to life in the brothel, had the opportunity to study to be prepared to be a governess, even if her beauty was in the way of finding good jobs.

She worried that because he had discovered her past, he just wanted to have hired a whore, which was not true, but would be very welcome.

Hortense/Lila decides to spend only one night with him at a very high price, and he agrees. Simon had been Royal Artillery captain, who was far too close to a twelve-pouder when it exploded. The scar tissue runs along his left side down to his thigh. Because of this, Simon had not had sex even with prostitutes for two years.

The night was a learning experience for both of them. And the next morning, by arrangement, Lila would receive her payment and a good letter of recommendation and go away...

Another book based on the story of Beauty and the Beast, whose plot is very interesting. But the end came too fast. The book is short. An obvious and easy resolution.

3,5 stars

April says

Check out my other listens at [Eargasms Audiobook Reviews](#)

What a yummy little quickie!!!! I love a smexy read and this one really delivers!!

The book starts off with a Jane Eyre reference, yeah, one of my fav classics!! It swiftly jumps into the steam. Things get sexy really fast, more of a lusty feeling than love. Most of the book is steam, but it has variety and depth to the bedroom scenes. I love a man who is a giver, if you know what I mean!! And one does not generally encounter an naughty mouth in a historical, but be prepared, this gent is a dirty talker. Oh la, this is a hot ticket.

The characters are surprisingly engaging and dynamic. They are each damaged in their own way, a perfect match for healing. Things start off rocky and there is a slight misunderstanding. They get past that quickly. Simon is really gruff but when her opens up he steals your heart!! And how could the sweet governess resist him. Even though it is a short period of time I am willing to believe the feelings are real. They share so much in their time together, it creates a true bond for their connection.

The book is a mixed narrative, swapping between the two leads POVs. This makes them more real and gives insight into their motivations. This goes a long way in making Simon less beastly. Sigh, and you get to understand poor Lila as well.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Audrey Lusk. She does a great job with the character's voices, keeping them distinct and consistent. She has a wonderful pace that is brisk and helps the story flow. Oh boy, she adds serious vocal energy to the smexy scenes!! Definitely looking for more of her reads!!

I really liked this smexy historical. I hope Ms Gerrard plans to add more of her delightfully naughty reads in audiobooks!! I am definitely a fan! Sexy steam with a great story hidden in it's folds.

ancaraisa says

Written For Confessions From Romaholics

This is the second book in the “Blind Cupid” series, but can be read as a standalone. Baron Simon Wolstenholme returns home from the war in South Africa after a horrible explosion has left him scarred on his left side of the body. His attitude and his scars have made him shut himself away from society and from the few friends he has left—even his ward is sent away at school. But after six months of unbearable solitude he forms a plan for finding a companion, a woman actually. Not an easy task with his beastly looks and all the gossip that circulate at his expense. So he posts an ad for a governess.

Hortense Jennings answers an ad for a governess, but what she doesn't know is that her past has been thoroughly searched and she is being hired precisely because of that past. Hortense, fna Lila Jenner in her former profession as a whore, wants to leave her past behind and build a new future as a respectful woman. But all the odds are against her when the baron tells her of his real intentions: he doesn't need a governess, he needs a woman. This unexpected offer leads her to accept that no matter how much she struggles to have a better future, the past will always follow her. Trying hard not to despair, facing homelessness and without a job if she refuses, she presents the baron her own conditions and agrees to one night only. One night that will give her the money that will help her start the life she dreams of, far away from everybody that knows her. Being without feminine companionship for more than two years, angry at first for being rejected, Simon accepts the deal with the condition that he will dominate her body for the entire period of time the bargain will hold. He is determined to use the stubborn woman, to take his pleasure and then send her away. Even if she was a former prosy, Hortense never enjoyed sex. She had been used by all sorts of men for their perverted pleasures, never knowing the pleasure of the act. She thinks the baron is simply another perverted man, but hunger is a great stimulant for a woman in need, so she accepts the deal to stay one night.

Following a night of passion, secrets are unveiled, the past is revealed, and new and unexpected feelings burst forth between the two of them. They are both vulnerable and lonely people who closed their hearts to everything that made them feel, but in each other's arms they find passion and the fulfillment of their sexual fantasies. It isn't love at first sight, but there is chemistry between them, and then trust and respect come into the equation. It doesn't take much to make them realize that this could be true love.

Even if this book is a short story we get enough glimpses into their pasts to understand the present and enough facts in the present to see what the future will have in store for this tortured couple. It's very well written, easy to follow and has some great love scenes and a little light bondage. Perfect for a quick read.

This review can also be found here: [Confessions From Romaholics](#)

Carole Burant says

Now that's what I'm talking about....a novella that has the perfect amount of heat! Such a sexy short story and very well written. At first I was surprised at the heroine's background but it all works very well in the plot of the story. I'm now looking forward to reading more of Karyn Gerrard's books!!
