



The Secret of My Seduction

Caroline Linden

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The final chapter in the Scandals series...

Rule #1: Be discreet

No one suspects Bathsheba Crawford of being the anonymous author of a wickedly scandalous series of naughty novels. But she is.

Rule #2: Do not fall in love

When she approaches her publisher, rakish Liam MacGregor, with an indecent proposal, he's shocked. But he accepts.

Rules were made to be broken...

The requirements for their affair are simple: complete secrecy and no romantic attachment. But the more they see each other...the more pleasure they find in each other's arms...the harder it becomes to remember the rules...

The Secret of My Seduction Details

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From Reader Review The Secret of My Seduction for online ebook

Nadia says

I generally avoid novellas, I'm not a big fan, but this one was so wonderful! The story wasn't so rushed, as with other novellas I've read, the attraction and affection was believable and it was just a fun read. I'm slowly, but surely becoming a Caroline Linden fangirl.

Barbara Rogers says

What a delightful new novella from Caroline Linden. It is short and so very sweet!!!

I loved the characters, although there was really only the two main characters in the story. You saw a couple of appearances by their brothers, but nothing extensive. The two characters were just made for each other and this book is about them coming to realize that. He's a publisher - she writes naughty stories even though she has no to little experience. He teaches her passion - she teaches him love. Again, a great little read!

"I received this book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Georgie says

3.5 stars rounded up to say thank you for the series

I've enjoyed this whole series, with a particular weakness for the first book, Love and Other Scandals (that's because Linden lets the hero be a home-improvement nut - very sweet). Along the way, to my pleasure, CL has dropped in the odd novella to round out the series. She's one of only few authors that gets the novella form right more or less every time (I Love the Earl from the "Truth about the Duke" series is just luvverly).

TSoMS is another winner. There's a simple plot -

Bathsheba: "For research purposes only - ahem - I require you to seduce me."

Liam: "Bad idea. I mean, so-so idea. On third thoughts, maybe it has potential. Lots of lovely potential..."
They fall in love. The end.

What I liked though about this version of what is, after all, a reasonably common plot is that it avoided the Condescending Sex Tutor pitfall. You know, the one where the H twirls hypothetical moustaches & ignores any comments the h makes about the Process, in favour of telling her he knows best. The h is then grateful and certain this is love.

Here, instead, Bathsheba is (or certainly tries to be) ruthlessly practical about the whole exercise.

He took the glass out of her limp fingers. "Tonight you're going to undress me. If you also wish to disrobe..." He flashed his lazy smile. "I will not object."

Oh dear Lord. The thought of Liam, naked, sent her pulse leaping so hard, she thought she might faint.

"That is not what I asked for," she blurted out.

"Seduction goes both ways," he countered. "At least, it should." He folded back one shirt cuff and undid it, then undid the other one. He dropped the studs on the mantel. "Or do you find it unappealing?"

No. She found the idea dangerously, lusciously appealing, and she feared the actual experience of it would leave her a lunatic, mad with lust for him. "Don't be silly," she said brusquely. "You're the bloody expert, I'll follow your recommendation."

It's Liam who finds himself surprised by the depth of emotions he experiences. Although the focus is very much on H&H, Liam's scenes with his brother are both entertaining and a useful barometer of his feelings.

I do wish though, that I could actually read "50 Ways to Sin" and "The Tales of Lady X".

Rose Blue says

As reviewed at Roses Are Blue: <http://wp.me/p3QRh4-w0>

Bathsheba Crawford is living a double life. Only she and her editor / publisher, Liam MacGregor, know that she is secretly the writer of the Tales of Lady X, a series of fictional and scandalous stories. These stories are wildly popular, and generate a fair amount of income for both Liam and Bathsheba, so he's willing to listen when she comes to him with a problem. It seems that Bathsheba is running out of story ideas – everything feels stale and flat. Perhaps she needs to experience genuine passion herself in order to provide inspiration since her own previous experience is limited and disappointing. Liam is shocked when Bathsheba suggests that HE be the one to teach her about passion and seduction. He flatly refuses, and Bathsheba is not going to try to force him if he doesn't find her appealing. Yet, when Liam begins to think about another man with Bathsheba, he changes his mind and agrees.

Liam has always treated Bathsheba as a colleague, and as an equal. Her direct way of speaking, her forthright manner, and her understated way of dressing never led Liam to think of her in a sexual manner, but now it's all he can think of. He's very much looking forward to their series of encounters which he's arranged to take place in his private home outside the city. Truth be told, Bathsheba has been secretly infatuated with Liam for quite a while. She doubts that she'll ever find love, but perhaps pleasure is possible with the big, handsome Scot, for however brief a time it may be.

I don't think either Liam or Bathsheba was prepared for their explosive chemistry together. After three steamy encounters, Liam is beginning to think of making this a permanent arrangement, while Bathsheba is ready to run for her life, fearful of losing what's left of her heart. Is it possible for a relationship that started backwards to lead to love? SECRET OF MY SEDUCTION is short, but packs a wallop! I love stories with heroines who aren't great beauties, but blossom in the arms of their lover, who finds them beautiful. I also adore when a strong, no-nonsense man suddenly finds that he is as susceptible to love as anyone. This story was a delight to read with its terrific protagonists, steamy passion, and genuine romance. Recommended.

Andrea says

Seduction is the art of making a woman fall in love with you, to bare her heart, to see her soul, to know her so deeply and intimately you would happily lose yourself in her and never want to be found. The seduction has succeeded when she wishes to do the same to you.

At the end of Six Degrees of Scandal, Bathsheba Crawford picks up a pen and starts writing her first story. She wants to write something as daring as the infamous tales of Lady Constance (stories all the heroines of the series are secretly reading), but how to write about intimacy when she has never experienced it? She asks her publisher, Liam MacGregor, the man she has been in love with on since she met him, to seduce her so

she can "improve her writing"...

This was a lovely (and steamy) addition to the Scandals series. Both hero and heroine were likeable, and I enjoyed spending time with them. And oh the letter Liam writes at the end... I can't wait for Linden's next full-length novel!

Jaci says

For over a year Bathsheba Crawford has had no time for relationships or love. She was doing all she can to keep a roof over her head, food for the table and taking care of her brother who is injured in the war.

Now she is writing risqué stories called Tales of Lady X anonymously for Liam MacGregor who owns the newspaper the London Intelligencer. She now has money in the bank and is no longer poverty stricken. The stories that she writes are sexually explicit. She's only had two experiences with bed sport, both of which were uninspiring and passionless. She has had to use her imagination in her stories and she is running out of ideas. She plans to ask Liam, who is a known rake and womanizer to help educate her in different aspects of lovemaking.

At first Liam refuses and Bathsheba says she will go find someone else. Liam gives in and they plan their first rendezvous. They are both surprised by the passion that explodes between them. The sex is amazing and the feelings they develop for each other are intense and completely surprising. After the three agreed upon meetings their affair ends. They are both denying the feelings that have taken them both by surprise.

Can either one of them find the courage to express their feelings or will they remain just business partners? Will they let down their guard and embrace a life together?

Caroline writes a deeply sensual love story about two independent people who have a chance at a HAE. Her writing is intensely moving. Liam and Bathsheba are both compelling and wonderfully intelligent characters. Even though this is a novella it has all the emotional impact and enjoyment of a full Romance Novel. I adored this addition to The Scandals Series. It is only 99 cents and well worth it.

Received a complimentary copy for an honest review.

Susan Gorman says

Bathsheba Crawford has a dilemma. As the author of the popular Tales of Lady X series, she needs to spice up her stories to hold her reader's interest. Bathsheba understands that she needs to experience passion in order to describe it. She discusses her idea with her publisher Liam MacGregor and propositions him! Caroline Linden is a terrific writer! This fast-paced novella is a sexy read with two fabulous characters! Bathsheba is described as plain and is able to capitalize on this feature when she attends social functions. She hears gossip that she is able to incorporate in her stories because no one notices her. I loved watching her gain confidence in herself as she and Liam began their affair! Bathsheba describes Liam as a rake but, there are glimpses of his true character and family relationships during the story. Loved the clever dialogue between the characters as they push each other's buttons. The couple's chemistry sizzles! Caroline Linden writes an excellent story-she blends fantastic dialogue, meaningful social commentary and sensual romance in The Secret Of My Seduction.

So what happens when an experiment turns to true passion? Pick up your copy of The Secret Of My

Seduction – and find out!

If you enjoy authors Katharine Ashe, Tessa Dare and Lisa Kleypas—you will love this novella!

herdys says

3,5 stars cause I enjoyed it but wish it had been longer! I love short stories but sometimes they should have 20 more pages to explore the otp and their feelings. Still, I enjoyed the sexy times and again wished we had more time to see them fall in love!

Caz says

I've given this a B at AAR.

One of the things linking together the books in Caroline Linden's recent *Scandals* series was *Fifty Ways to Sin*, the series of erotic pamphlets featuring the amorous adventures of the anonymous Lady Constance, a woman whose uninhibited pursuit of sexual pleasure captured the imagination of thousands of readers throughout England. The final book in the series, *Six Degrees of Scandal*, revealed the identity of the author, and saw the publication of the final instalments in the promised fifty stories, giving Lady Constance her own happy ending in the arms of a mystery lover and closing the book on the series.

But did it?

Bathsheba Crawford who, together with her brother, Daniel, had been responsible for printing the original pamphlets, was reluctant to say goodbye to their illicit enterprise. Not only had the money made from publishing *Fifty Ways* made them secure financially, she had, on occasion, edited the stories for publication, and had enjoyed being part of something that celebrated a woman's sexuality and her search for love. So she decided to try her hand at writing something similar, and, when **The Secret of My Seduction** opens, has been writing a series of successful stories entitled *Tales of Lady X* for a number of months, now. Her brother knows nothing of this, however; Bathsheba's publisher is Liam MacGregor – the owner and editor of the *London Intelligencer*, a popular news and gossip sheet – who appeared briefly in the final stages of **Six Degrees** when his presses helped meet the demand for the final issues of *Fifty Ways to Sin*.

But Bathsheba has a problem. While she has plenty of ideas for her stories, her writing is becoming stale, and she is becoming bored with writing the same thing over and over. She's not a virgin, but her few sexual experiences were not exactly exciting and she has never experienced the sort of passion described by Lady Constance, which makes it difficult to write about in a believable way. So she comes up with the idea of asking Liam to make love to her in order to further her knowledge. After all, she tells him in her typically non-sense way, it will be to both their benefits – it will make her writing better and hopefully increase sales – and, she says, if the rumours about him and his prowess with the ladies are true, then she should certainly gain some useful experience in his bed.

Liam is stunned by her request, and his first instinct is dismissal – until Bathsheba suggests finding someone else to help her instead. At that point, of course, Liam's protective instincts kick in, and he changes his mind, realising that perhaps seducing the plainly dressed, often overlooked, but very forthright Bathsheba Crawford won't exactly be a hardship.

Okay, so this is a terribly contrived set up, but once the reader has rolled their eyes and moved on, The

Secret of My Seduction is a very well-written, sexy novella that delivers more than just a hundred-page bonk-fest. Yes, there are several sex-scenes, but in this story that's kind of the point, and I wasn't expecting otherwise. More importantly, though, the author does a great job in those scenes of revealing more about the characters through their interactions under very intimate circumstances. Bathsheba knows that she has long harboured feelings for Liam and tells herself sternly that anything more than the physical release he is offering her is out of the question. And Liam is surprised to discover in Bathsheba a woman after his own heart – rational, logical, persistent and passionate – and begins to wonder if he really had not given any thought to seducing her before she asked him to, or if he'd secretly longed to all along.

Ms. Linden also fleshes out both characters quite well considering the limited page count, with Bathsheba probably being the more well-defined of the two. Life hasn't been easy for her – following the death of her parents, the failure of the family printing business and her brother's return from war unable to work, it was her sheer determination to grasp what opportunities she could that saw her and Daniel resurrecting their old printing press to print the first issue of Fifty Way to Sin. Liam is perhaps a little more of your stereotypical tall, dark, handsome sex-god of a hero, but his competitive relationship with his brother and his obvious fondness for his family adds some shading to his characterisation and rounds him out a little.

The sex scenes are steamy, intensely romantic and very well-written and the chemistry between Bathsheba and Liam is evident from their first scene together. This builds steadily throughout the story to culminate in an explosive wall-banger(!) which I think will make my personal "hottest of 2017" list. The story moves fairly quickly without feeling rushed, although I did think that Liam's realisation of the truth of his feelings for Bathsheba was a little fast. That said though, I liked that he wasn't afraid to admit it and was then ready to go after what he wanted and the final scene, wherein he answers all her questions about love, seduction and kissing is sweet and maybe just a little bit melty ?

The Secret of My Seduction is a quick, sexy read that works both as a standalone and as a nice coda to the Scandals series.

alex says

I have no idea how to rate this because so much of it was just PWP, but the romance between Liam and Bathsheba was lovely and I enjoyed reading it

Joana V. says

I've received this eArc in exchange for an honest review.

Review in Portuguese here: <http://pepitamagica.blogspot.co.uk/20...>

After reading a small novella by Caroline Linden in Dressed to Kiss, I knew I had a new author to follow. When the opportunity to read this book came up, I didn't hesitate.

The Secret of my Seduction has a very appropriate title because that's all the book is about. The seduction of... is it of Bathsheba Crawford, the main female character, or could it be the seduction of Liam MacGregor? It's true that it's Bathsheba the one who proposes that Liam teaches her flirtation and seduction, but, it's Liam that, even though he finds it odd that the author of erotic romances needs to come to him for advice, accepts her proposal, "for business sake".

I really liked their chemistry, the fact that they had already known each other for some time, not just “love at first sight”, but something that grew between them.

There were some seduction lessons and my only con against the book is.... how short it is! I wanted their relationship to be a bit more developed, more explored, in every way. The amount that was given, I really liked it, but I wanted more, that’s why I’m not giving it a higher score.

It was a book that I read really quickly and that gave me immense pleasure to read.

Amanda says

In *The Secret of My Seduction*, the writer heroine engages the publisher hero in an affair as a means of research and inspiration for her erotic novels. BEST. CONCEPT. EVER. The fact that Bathsheba approached the whole situation in a very methodical, almost scientific way, even going so far as to bring a pencil and paper to the assignations for note taking purposes, amused me to no end. Sexy times in the name of science? YES PLEASE! And boy, does her hot, Scottish test subject/instructor, Liam, deliver on the goods. I’m still fanning myself over that library scene where they both go down on each other. *Whoa!*

Fun premise aside, I found Bathsheba herself to be a very interesting character. Bathsheba was definitely not the average HR heroine we’re used to seeing: she was twenty-nine, she wasn’t a virgin (though not exactly experienced either) and she was self sufficient, single handedly bringing herself and her brother out of poverty through the success of her writing. However, she was not without flaws. Bathsheba seemed to be caught up in how other people viewed her, which in turn affected the way she viewed herself. Believing others saw her as plain and insignificant, why should she then try to be anything else? It’s Liam who later awakens not only sexual desire within her, but also a desire to fully embrace the passionate, talented, incredible woman Liam saw her to be. I wish this character journey of awakening agency had been fully explored because I don’t believe the short format did it justice.

While I enjoyed Bathsheba and Liam both as individuals and as a couple, I didn’t fully believe that *love* had formed between them by the end, so I couldn’t give this 4-stars. I will say that I have responded much better to Caroline Linden’s novellas than her full length books. Then again, I’ve only read ONE full length book by her so maybe I can’t fully form an opinion just yet.

Becca says

Caroline Linden's Scandals series was supposed to end with Book 4, *Six Degrees of Scandal*, but readers and one plain but determined character just wouldn't quit. Thus, Caroline gave us this brilliant, steamy little gem as a coda for an *excellent* series.

The Secret of My Seduction can be read as a stand alone for a short, sexy read, but it is that much better if you've read the series. My friends, I LOVED this series. There are only a small number of authors whose complete series have made it to my shelf (limited shelf space and all that), and the Scandals series has a prime spot.

The Secret of My Seduction is exactly what the back blurb describes. It is basically an extended series of sex scenes (three of them) with a lot of emotion built in to eloquently capture how two characters eventually come together for the long haul after building their relationship out of order. Bathsheba has been secretly

writing naughty stories for publication after her involvement in the wild success of 50 Ways to Sin (the sexy pamphlet that is present in the previous four books). However, she is lacking experience and is worried that her writing will become stale. So what does she do? Propositions her boss, Liam. Her reasons go a lot deeper than that, but I don't want to spoil the emotional journey. Liam is shocked, but accepts. Again, for more reasons than either I, or the characters, first suspected.

As a rule, I generally do not like a ton of sex in my books...and this novella packs in three (maybe four) full scenes in its short page count! However, in this case, I'll make an exception to my rule because there is still a complete love story in there too. And Liam's "lessons" are romantic and eye-opening for both Bathsheba and himself.

Overall, this was a romantic read that I enjoyed enormously. While none of the leads made an appearance (Madeline Wilde of Book 1.5 did get a mention), it was still fun to revisit the Scandals world and smile as two overly logical people fall into completely illogical and sigh-worthy love.

Truly, guys, if you haven't read this series, you need to. It really is one of the best.

I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review.

April says

The Secret of my Seduction by Caroline Linden is the finale of the "Scandals" series. While, book 7 in the series it can be read as a stand alone. A novella, only about 95 pages, but packed full of witty banter, seduction, secrets, and does not feel rushed but definitely satisfying.

What happens when a mysterious noblewoman who writes and publishes anonymously, of course, titillating, naughty novels, meets the rakish Liam MacGregor, why shocking seduction that's what! Let the seduction begin....

This is the story of Liam MacGregor and Bathsheba Crawford. Liam is the publisher of a mysterious author's scandalous novels.

A fun but very sensual tale. Will Liam and Bathsheba find love and a HEA, once all the secrets are revealed. Ms. Linden writes sensual, but beautiful stories of love, passion, and HEA.

Fans of Regency romance are sure to enjoy this story. Very enticing and entertaining. A great read for an afternoon read! Enjoyable and satisfying. Strongly recommended.

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Hot

Reviewed by: AprilR

Donna says

I have read and loved all of Caroline Linden's books and this short read is a wonderful ending to the Scandals series. Bathsheba Crawford writes the popular Tales of Lady X while not having full knowledge of her subject matter. Liam MacGregor, her publisher, is surprised when she asks him to teach her what she lacks, sensual pleasure. At first he thinks it's a bad idea, but then goes along with it when she says she'll find some other man. But can a few nights turn into true love? Read this novella and find out. I enjoyed it!

Thanks Caroline Linden for the ARC.
