



The Rogue Returns

Leigh LaValle

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THE ONLY THING LESS TRUSTWORTHY THAN A ROGUE...

Lady Helen Gladstone has siblings to protect and creditors at her door. There's only one way to stave off disaster—to find the fabled fortune that her deceased brother buried years ago. Her experience with her lying father and gambling brother has left her able to spot a scoundrel at ten paces. Unfortunately, the scoundrel she encounters is a lot closer than that...and he's planning to make off with her treasure.

...IS A LADY WITH NOTHING TO LOSE

After years of exile, Roane Grantham is eager to begin a new life without the law on his heels. First, he needs gold—his gold, buried one drunken night long ago. But he doesn't count on a petite, bold-as-brass blonde laying claim to his hoard.

Forming an uneasy alliance, Helen and Roane adventure through the high peaks of England, battling treasure hunters, violent storms, and dangerous terrain. But can they escape the growing passion that lays claim to their hearts?

The Rogue Returns Details

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Author : Leigh LaValle

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From Reader Review The Rogue Returns for online ebook

Tracy Emro says

This was the ultimate road trip romance! The writing is great and the love scenes steamy and the characters very likable.

I loved Helen and Roane! They were perfect together. I loved that Helen was a girly girl who screamed when she thought there was a spider on her (been there, done that). I loved that Roane teased her about it!

Roane was a great hero - he has a past and he has done his time and wants to move beyond his past. He learned from his his past but it doesn't define him. He is not wallowing in self pity - he is just trying to make his dream come true.

Helen is a fixer - she has been hurt by all the men in her life and has learned to be the caregiver. She is afraid to trust a man with her future (can't say I blame her, all things considered).

I LOVED watching these two fall in love - it was beautiful! I loved that Roane said the I love yous first - that is so rare. I also loved that Helen didn't immediately return the words - it made it all the more meaningful when she finally did.

I liked the epilogue - I would have liked more - kids? I would have also liked a bit more about Cat and Jamie but it was nice to see that Maize and Trent had a boy and a girl. I wish there were more family members to write about!! I really enjoyed this series and am sad that it is over.

Valerie Bowman says

This book was a delight from start to finish. It hooked me and kept me pinned to my seat for two days. Such a wonderful, fun, romantic adventure. It's like a historical Romancing the Stone only with a better hero. I will also admit that the angsty part made me cry which RARELY happens. I'm just not a crier. Any book that makes me cry is an auto-keeper for me. Oh, and Roane is my new book boyfriend. Will read this again!

Maria says

Book three in the Nottinghamshire series. I broke my own rule about reading books in order, but the plot sounded like so much fun. Thankfully, it can be read as a standalone.

My thoughts:

I've read a few road trip stories in historical romance—the brilliant and hilarious *A Week to Be Wicked* by Tessa Dare and *Bride by Mistake* by Anne Gracie come to mind. I think it's a great plot device for a hero and heroine to get to know one another in the most trying of circumstances. After all, you don't really know someone until you take a trip with them, right? With all its possibilities of inconvenience, discomfort, and unfamiliarity, a road trip is the perfect way to see if you and another person are compatible.

For my full review on my historical romance and history blog: <http://bit.ly/1m1D6pB>

vaneeta naik says

"The Rogue Returns " by Leigh LaValle is my 1st book by d author...

i thoroughly enjoyed it it has all d ingredients ... romance, action , thrill & most important treasure hunt... i ve always been fascinated of treasure hunt subjects...

i absolutely fell in love with Helen & Roane wat an adorable couple... the story is woven around dis 2 characters who ve a treasure to hunt which will be shared by dem... so d adventure dey ve on d way to find d treasure is quite funny, sizzling at times & very interesting...

leigh has presented d story very well ... the plot is fast paced not boring ...a very well written story

Lady Helen Gladstone is the daughter of an earl, but everything that isn't entailed has been spent frivolously by her irresponsible brothers...she desperately decides to dig up a fortune in gold that her deceased brother allegedly buried in a field.so she can fend of away creditors..

Roane Grantham is the unacknowledged bastard son of a nobleman, just returned to England after three years' exile in Australia. He had been friends with Helen's brother James ,has a stake in d said treasure and he'd like to find the buried gold to establish a horse farm...

Their journey through the mountains of England allows Helen to shed her fancy clothes and her fancy attitude. Roane falls desperately in love with her. I loved the development of their relationship, Helen is practical. a feminist but still falls in love with Roane for all d good qualities she finds in him...wat i loved about d book was there is a lot of humour...

i can say it was one of d best books ive read ...keep it up Leah good work... thank u ...

Shannon The Romance Addict! says

H: Roane Grantham

h: Lady Helen Gladstone

This is book 3. I didn't read the other two yet. (after reading this I now wanta go back and read them) But that being said I don't feel I missed anything by not read the other first.

So you got Lady Helen who is at the bottom and need to save her family. Then she remember the story that her dead brother buried a hidden treasure and she has the perfect plan to save her family. Find the money and her problem are over. simple right? No because Roane has the same idea.

I really enjoyed this book. The Hand h go though a lot to finally get love in the end. I liked the heat between them and I was very satisfied when they finally got their HEA!

I will be recommend this book to my girls! Great Read!

Leigh LaValle says

The Rogue Returns is now available! Read an excerpt here.

Line edits are done! The Rogue Returns is ready to be sent out into the world. I can't wait for you all to read Roane and Helen's story. It's a fun action/adventure in the vein of Romancing the Stone and The Electric Horseman.

January 9th update- galleys are done! As is a special HEA scene for the entire Trilogy.

Virginia Tican says

It had a good beginning, but I simply could not relate to anything or anyone in this book. It felt like the story is just an excuse for the sex, though I should have more empathy for the former Midnight Rider's plight: his bastardy and his life as an outlaw plus his deportation. The same is true with the cultured well~bred Helen who had to learn quickly how to adjust to poverty and penury. But, nothing. I also had a hard time trying to finish it, it just did not and could not hold my attention. This book or this author and I just do not gel well. So I will leave her to others who can relate to her style of writing.

Dawn says

Not my thing.

Again, heroine attracted to an asshole right from the start.

Not liking the story, too cliched.

Didn't get far, have no desire to continue.

Daidase says

Finally, a book which I couldn't get out of my head during the day while I was not reading. And feel good when I thought about it. It was fun,intense too. Most importantly, I felt something. I was tingling all over when he has declared his love. My heart has physically ached :) I love it,when a book does that. That is the sole reason I even read. Like an addict I can't seem to be get enough of the feeling.

Linda says

Arc from Net Galley of honest review.

Review to come closer to release date, if you enjoy historical set romance o adventure Romance you will like this one!

Maggie Hesseling says

Writing a treasure hunt novel can be tricky. It's hard to leave clues without making it sound childish, but LaValle makes it look easy. With fun characters and moments when you just want to hit them because they're so obvious, this novel is a great romp of an adventure.

Kiltsandswords says

The Rogue Returns: Nottinghamshire Series by Leigh Lavalle

Overview by Amazon:

THE ONLY THING LESS TRUSTWORTHY THAN A ROGUE...

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After years of exile, Roane Grantham is eager to begin a new life without the law on his heels. First, he needs gold--his gold, buried one drunken night long ago. But he doesn't count on a petite, bold-as-brass blonde laying claim to his hoard.

Forming an uneasy alliance, Helen and Roane adventure through the high peaks of England, battling treasure hunters, violent storms, and dangerous terrain. But can they escape the growing passion that threatens to steal their hearts?

This book was such an amazing adventure. I adored reading every moment of it and couldn't put it down. The story has it all – treasure, danger, follies along the way, lust and love. It's the third book in the series, but it was so masterfully told that I didn't feel that I needed to read the other two to enjoy the amazing adventure Roane and Helen undertake.

We meet Helen first. At times she seems a contradiction. She is a London miss who loves her clothing and fripperies and clings to etiquette when all you want to do is laugh at her. However, she battles for her inner fortitude to continue on this adventure, when really all she wants to do is sit down and cry at times. As we get to know her we learn that she cares deeply for the properties attached to the Earldom in her family. She cares about their maintenance and the people who rely on the Earldom for their lively hoods. She is a budding feminist, no longer content to be at the whim of men, as she has vast experience that the men she should rely on let everyone down. She also longs for an adventure. Not just one on galloping horses chasing treasure, but one of the heart and body.

Roane meets Helen as she is slightly disrobed and washing. He declares himself a rogue right off the bat. But like Helen, we get to learn there is oh so much more to his story. Roane has been many things in his life – bastard son, criminal, gambler, seducer, prisoner and loving nephew and brother. He is just the kind of man you'd want to set out on this type of adventure with. He is handsome, capable and smart. I love how he called Helen 'buttercup'. At first it was just to annoy her, but later it was such a tender term of endearment. The two of them are on an adventure to find over 16,000 pounds in gold hidden by her deceased brother James. He leaves them a map and the chase is on. They are to share the gold equally. Both desperately need

the money. Roane to finally purchase land and start his horse farm and Helen to return her family and homestead to its rightful place. Roane has serious misgivings about bringing Helen along. He vehemently argues with her that she needs to return to London and he will send along the money. Even after almost being robbed, Helen demonstrates her tenacity and declares she is in for the chase.

And what a chase it is. They sleep in caves, under pine boughs, in the forest. Prim Helen has to find worms to use as bait for fishing. It is a totally different world than she is used to. As her wardrobe becomes tattered and useless it is replaced by sturdy practical clothing. This is a mirror to what is happening to Helen as a person. The things she delighted in like ribbons and lace now can't compare to the beauty of the English countryside.

The love story between the two was so well written. I loved that Roane declared himself first and gave her the choice. As a somewhat sheltered young woman, she has little sexual experience, but a healthy interest in what happens between a man and a woman. Roane becomes her tutor. Things move slowly – they don't consummate their lust immediately. Rather it's like a titillating dance between the two as they slowly pleasure each other. For a rogue, Roane gives her ample and abundant opportunities to walk away from this growing intimacy. But Helen knows that he is the one she wants to experience. He ignites her blood and her heart. The sex scenes are well developed. It didn't matter that they were on the forest floor. They could have been in the most exclusive hotel in London. The passion and lust they explore is primal the relationship they build.

They meet strangers along the way to find the gold. Some helpful and some not so much. Roane realizes they are being tracked after the first incident the night he meets Helen. It is his past coming back to haunt him and he loathes putting Helen in danger. This plot development adds urgency to their quest to finding the gold and getting to their respective destinations.

James left some tricky clues with his map, but they figure them out and find the secret hidden place. It was such a satisfying ending to a beautiful adventure. They both get what they long for, as well as their families. We read these stories because we want that happily ever after and I loved the epilogue because it just made everything feel right.

Reviewed for www.kiltsandswords.com

Tin says

Disclosure: I received a review copy from the author. Yes, this is an honest review.

* * *

The last we saw Roane Grantham, he had willingly surrendered to the Earl of Radford (his own brother in-law) and was on his way to the penal colonies in Australia. Roane is back and ready to start over, but, first, he must locate the stash of gold that he and his friend, James Gladstone, buried many years before. He isn't the first person searching for the treasure: when he arrives at the location, he finds a young woman with a hundred holes dug up around her already.

When her brother was alive, Helen never gave a second thought to his story of buried treasure, but desperate times call for desperate measures and she is desperate enough not only to believe the story, but also desperate enough to go digging for it. With her brother's death, and her second brother's own dissipation, it falls unto Helen to come up with a solution to their financial problems.

When I found out this was another journey story, I was a bit worried. I'm not fond of the trope because of all the traveling and stopping at inns and such, but, Leigh LaValle's **The Rogue Returns** has opened my heart up a little bit. The story begins with the hero and heroine finding the X and the treasure chest -- but the treasure isn't there! Helen's brother (and Roane's friend) moved sixteen thousand pounds-worth of gold

without them knowing it, and all he left behind was a cryptic poem telling where he buried it.

I loved the poem that LaValle wrote and thought it foreshadowed the relationship that would result from Helen and Roane searching for the treasure together. Did James intend for his sister and Roane to go off on an adventure and find the treasure together? I know it is not possible because of Roane's incarceration, but the romantic in me likes to think that the treasure is both literal (sixteen thousand pounds in gold) and figurative (love!).

*For that, there's this, a game to end and begin
You, a new start, me, a laugh, and all of us a sin.
You will find the end of your rainbow, that I do swear
And mine as well, for my kin, but I will not say where.*
- loc 379

Character growth is very clear in this story, especially in Helen's case. She started out as a bit of a spoiled London lady, cringing at the idea of sleeping in a cave or riding wearing inappropriate attire. But Helen is not a one-note character: from the very first chapter, we see that this is a lady who isn't afraid to get her hands dirty. She single-handedly found the treasure site and had been digging, albeit unsuccessfully, for the treasure. It's so easy to hate her and her behaviour in the early part of the book gives us a reason to: when she starts complaining about her lack of dresses and her insistence on keeping her reticule -- but I feel sorry for her instead.

It's a heartbreaking side to Helen's character and story, because she's clearly used to more comfortable circumstances but she has fallen from her stellar position and is reduced to following her brother's tale about treasure and hoping, hoping that it would be true. It is not her job to save the family, but, if she doesn't, then who will?

"And who shall keep me safe in Cromford? The servants who abandoned me for fear they'd never be paid? Or shall I return to London, and the ruffians stalking my front door? Oh no," she held up her hand, "of course, my brother Harry shall keep me safe. Harry, who looks for every answer in a bottle. Indeed, it has been some time since I have been safe. I think I shall take my chances and protect my half of the gold."
- loc 214

Roane is an unusual hero. We've read about convicts being shipped off to Australia and we never hear about them again, but Roane has returned to England -- scarred and changed. His body contains the story of the past three years -- the hard labor and difficult circumstances that he was in while serving time. He's brooding and mysterious, but Roane is innately kind and it shows in how he deals with Helen. There's also a bit of reflection in having an ex-convict be the hero of the story. In Roane's case, he was not wrongfully-accused and innocent all along. He truly did the crime he was convicted of and actually voluntarily surrendered himself for his sister's sake. What I like about Roane is that his change was not a result of falling in love with Helen -- he had made the choice to live his life differently even *before he met her*, and this was the reason why he has returned to England and is seeking out the treasure. He needs the money to start his new life.

LaValle planned, wrote and paced this story so well. I actually lost track of time reading about Roane and Helen and enjoyed their interaction. I was worried when they were getting closer and closer to finding the

treasure, because I didn't want their journey to end! They were learning so much of each other and of themselves and I wondered how they would be when they find the treasure and returned to their normal lives.

Their parting was inevitable. They were from different worlds, had different futures ahead of them. He wanted to build a life for himself in the hills, to breed and train horses and ride carefree across the sunlit meadows.

- loc 3050

When I finished reading this, I really wanted to read more of Leigh LaValle, so I downloaded **The Misbehaving Marquess** and will be reading it soon!

My one small, small complaint? Pallet is the small bed. Palate is what's inside your mouth. ^_^

Kat ~ Forever Book Lover ♥ says

I have waited patiently for Roane's story. I first met him in *The Runaway Countess*, this was Leigh's debut book. If you missed my review you can find it here in goodreads.

This story begins after Roane's three year return from isolation. He has paid for his time, now he has plans, big plans and all he needs is the gold he and a friend buried. But it is not as easy as it sounds, you mix in a high spirited woman and missing gold and you have a action packed adventure. As they partner up to follow the clues left by her brother, Roane and Helen start a journey that will be filled with humor, suspense and some very seductive romance. I couldn't have picked a better heroine for our leading man. She is spunky and tenacious.

This is a must read, you don't necessarily need to read the first two in the series, but I think it will help with building the background. Leigh writes characters that are believable and have depth. Why not take the journey with them.... Will Roane give up the girl and walk away when he finds what he is looking for?

Collette Cameron says

I don't know how I missed the first two books in this series, but I must go back and read them after the reading thoroughly enjoyable, *The Rouge Returns!*

I adored Helen and Roane from the beginning to the end of this wonderfully crafted tale. I loved that most of the story was set outside of the expected ballrooms and salons too; it was refreshing change and made for some interesting scenes!

When this mismatched couple, him a convicted criminal and her, a privileged lady of society, pair up to find the gold her dead brother hid, you can expect all sorts of misunderstandings. There was sweetness about Roane and a pluckiness about Helen that made for a fabulous read.

I enjoyed every page!

