



For Desire Alone

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Behind their passion lurks a dark truth that could destroy their love.

Mistress Matchmaker, Book 2

A mistress should never be foolish enough to fall in love with her protector, nor trust him with her financial future. Mariah Desmond did both, and now her dearly departed protector has left her with nothing.

Forced to seek another protector, she's determined that this time, she'll lead with her survival instinct—not her heart. But when she attends one of Vivien Manning's infamous parties, the familiar face of her late lover's best friend throws her for a loop.

A painful past taught John Rycroft that he's not fit to be anyone's knight in shining armor. His soft spot—make that a hard spot—for Mariah is precisely why he's kept his distance. Yet the sight of her flirting with a bevy of men vying to become her next lover makes something inside him snap.

As John hauls her bodily away from her suitors, Mariah's indignation melts away in the heat of the sizzling sexual chemistry. She quickly finds it isn't easy to navigate John's stormy emotional waters. Especially when his abusive father's quest to get his son back under his thumb puts her life in danger.

Product Warnings

Contains intensely sexy scenes of two people falling into bed (a lot) and in love.

For Desire Alone Details

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Author : Jess Michaels

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From Reader Review For Desire Alone for online ebook

Sammy Loves Books says

This historical romance was very erotic!!

Shelly says

This is the second book in the Mistress Matchmaker series. I didn't read the first one but I'm thinking this one could be read as a stand-alone as there's no notice to say otherwise.

Mistress matchmaker, Vivien Manning's best friend Mariah Desmond has just lost her protector/lover, Owen. It's not until after his death, that Mariah finds out that although Owen promised to take care of her, he's only left her £1,000.00 and her household bills paid for six months. She quickly realizes that she must find a new protector. Her friend Vivien has weekly parties where mistress can find protectors. Once she arrives at one of Vivien's parties, she sees John Rycroft who was Owen's best friend and someone she also considered a friend. During the party, John sees Mariah across the room talking to a prospective protector and John gets upset and takes her away to have sex into one of the back rooms. Put the brakes on - wait wait wait what just happened?!?

I had so many problems with this book I didn't know what to do. Mariah claimed to love Owen, her dead lover and protector of three years. But after a couple of weeks she quickly jumped into 'love' with John. Yes, they've known each other for three years but it's not been the kind of friendship where their attraction was ever recognized or even acknowledged. So it was hard for me to see how these two are compatible so quickly. Furthermore, Mariah was unbelievable to me as someone truly seeking a protector, because she couldn't seem to focus on that because she's so busy knocking boots with John. If you don't know where your next dollar is coming from, is sexing it up the best use of your time?

Don't worry, I'm getting to John. He started throwing around his alpha maleness with Mariah and she just kept taking it. He was an absolute jerk and I never liked him. But here's what I didn't understand, how could John claim to love/care for Marian yet not tell her that Owen only left her £1,000.00 and six months of household expenses? Even more, why not even seek her out prior to her having to find another protector if you care about her even as a friend? He wasn't a poor man, so I just didn't understand the rationale of his callous treatment of her.

The first two-thirds of the story was all about Mariah and John having sex - Mariah complaining to Vivien that she's in love with John but he doesn't love her - she must find a protector (rinse and repeat). By the last third, there was some real conflict with the arrival of John's brother Adam and his father Vaughn but by then it felt so forced and didn't seem to fit into the story line. Arrghh - I really wanted to like this story so much but I just couldn't give a good gosh darn about either of these two. The only reason I upgraded to the rating is because of the last part of the story.

Happy Reading Folks!

Rating: C

***ARC provided by author for review

Review posted at www.RedHotBooks.com

Crystal says

Whew! Jess Michaels can write a book with some smokin' hot sex scenes. For a time period known for its propriety, Michaels' has a wicked imagination on what those naughty men and women were doing behind closed doors (or not so closed doors when it's on the dining room table meant to seat 20 where even the servants can see). This book is filled with sweet lovin' sex, fast and passionate sex, super naughty voyeur sex, and at least eight other ways that my historically hawt sex fried brain can't remember.

Who's having this marathon of historically romantic hawt sex? Well that would be Mariah Desmond, former mistress to the late Owen, who was John Rycroft's best friend. Unfortunately Mariah has discovered just weeks after Owen's death that he didn't leave her the funds necessary to support herself that he had originally promised her. She has a paltry sum saved and the thousand pounds Owen did leave her to get her through the remaining six months she has left in her home before she's homeless and destitute. After confiding to her close friend Vivien who is a financially comfortable former mistress, she faces the hard facts. She's going to have to find another protector to be a mistress too.

Who would happen to see her the first night she's out looking for a new protector? None other than the late Owen's best friend, John Rycroft. And frankly John is livid that Mariah is out looking for a new man so soon after Owen's death. The fact that he's lusted after her since the moment he laid eyes on her, but has never been able to pursue her, surely has nothing to do with his strong emotions. R-I-G-H-T. He confronts her at the ball they're at and thus starts the afore mentioned smokin' hawt naughty historical sex marathon.

The back story behind John's aloofness to real emotions was okay. The over all story line was a decent read as well. I just couldn't connect to the characters enough to feel like this story had me by the seat of my pants. What I can say without a doubt is that those super naughty ladies (you know who you are ladies! Wave those hawt erotic books around in pride!) who enjoy spicy stories like this should thoroughly enjoy it. Hats off to you Ms. Michaels for making me wonder if someone could have taught our historical romance era ancestors how to play the bow-chica-wow-wow song on their instruments! A solid three wine glass toast to For Desire Alone, and I hope all of you readers are now picturing the bow-chica-wow-wow story in violin in your head when you're reading Mariah and John's delicious scenes.

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<http://readingbetweenthewinesbookclub...>

Greselley says

“He wanted her. Now. He wanted her all night. Every night for a week. A month. Maybe even a year. He sank down in a chair beside the fire and rubbed his eyes. “I’m in trouble,” he muttered. And never had he believed a statement more.

I never expected this book to be so emotional that even if I'm done reading, I can still feel the heaviness in my heart brought by this story. I just love everything that comprises this book! The author was able to balance everything in this book that it turns out great.

She needs a protector...

Mariah spent three years of her life as a mistress under the protection of one man whom she THOUGHT loves her, leaving her nothing but only a thousand pounds and a no charged six-month stay in the place where she lives. That left her no choice but to find a new protector before she found herself on the street, desperate and nothing to eat. So she agreed to attend the party planned by her bestfriend to begin her search.

He is not a one-woman man even in his bed as he preferred infinite variety.

But when she entered the ballroom, he can't stop himself from taking quick glances to her. Well, he wanted her even she was his bestfriend's mistress. He wanted her so much that it never faded even when he poured it into other women. So when the temptation presented itself in front of him with a ribbon, he took her. And now that he got a taste, he seem to want more. But he doesn't want to be her protector.

The can't deny the desire hanging in the air everytime they are in the same room.

So they agreed for an affair while she continued her search, search which she do half-heartedly as her body and mind is only focus for one man. She already made a fool of herself while breaking the most important rule of being a mistress which is to never fall in love and she doesn't want to repeat that stupidity in any circumstances but she can't seem to control herself whenever she is with him. They both forbid themselves to feel feelings other than lust to each other but they could never control anything especially when it is bound to happen.

I RECOMMEND THIS ONE AND I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE IT LIKE I DID.

Kathleen says

Story Rating 4 stars

Character Rating 4 Stars

Romance Rating 4 Stars

Heat Level 4 Stars

Overall Rating 4 Stars

Book 2 in the Mistress Matchmaker Series

I have to say that I really liked this book, as a matter of fact Jess Michael's is an auto buy author for me. I really liked all of JM's erotic historical's, they just have a way of grabbing me and keeping me interested. The characters are always' well done and the story lines interesting. Add in some VERY sensual love scenes and I'm very happy.

Mariah is a mistress and the man who was her protector, Owen, just recently died in a fire and did not leave her much in his will. The sad thing is, he always' told Mariah that he would leave her well off and not to worry. Mariah visits her best friend Vivien who we met in book 1, An Introduction to Pleasure. Vivien is the Mistress Matchmaker and she gives Mariah the advice that she find a new protector and soon before she is flat broke with nowhere to live.

John the hero of this book was Owen's best friend. From the moment John saw Mariah he wanted her but stayed away because of his friendship with Owen. John is the type of man who is never with the same woman two nights in a row but when he see's Mariah at a party in Vivien's house knowing that she is looking for a new protector, he could NOT deny his desire for her no longer and they end up have a very sexy affair. There are reason's why John cannot have feelings for other's. This is a part of the story line that I am not willing to spoil. Needless to say it evolves a murder, kidnapping and a very mean and wicked villain.

The ending was good, but NO epilogue!! WHY!!!! I love epilogues. The only reason I can come up with is MAYBE at the end of book 3, Her Perfect Match, JM may be putting an epilogue that includes all 3 couples from all 3 book's, giving us one big HEA. Now that would be great!

I'm really looking forwards to reading Her Perfect Match where Vivien finally finds her hero.

Redheaded Bookworm says

If you've read my review for the first book you already know that the author had me in tears towards the end of her tale. You also already know how surprised I was to find that there was a little bit of a true love story written into the sexy little novel. So with that being said, I felt that going into the second novel I already knew what to expect from this author and could not be surprised. Boy was I wrong. The second book is nothing like the first book. In my opinion For Desire Alone was even better. While it did not have me temporarily despising the hero and crying like a baby, there were a few moments where I was setting on the edge of my seat holding my breath dying to find out what would happen next. Like the first book there was a true love story and lots of hot creamy steamy sex. Unlike the first book, in this story there was also a little bit of action, betrayal, murder, and small mystery to add to the entertainment factor of the novel. I love that the hero in this story didn't try to add a lot of angst by continually fighting the feelings he had for our sweet heroine by constantly trying to think of ways to remove himself from her life. Nope, in this sweet tale the hero had more to fight against than just himself and his past. He also got to fight a bad guy! And let me tell you, the bad guy was a really really bad guy. I hope Ms. Michaels continues with this series. While I don't normally read a lot of erotica I would definitely like to follow along to see what she comes up with next. I would very much like to see Vivian get her own happily ever after. I would definitely recommend this book to you and hope that you enjoy as much as I did.

PS. Just making sure that I made myself clear, this is not a full length romance novel. This is an erotica novel and was judged as such.

Review by Jessica for Redheaded Bookworm

Julie Ramsey says

For Desire Alone

This books premise is of a Mistress in the 1800 hundreds who is a paid mistress. Her Current protector as they are called dies and leaves her with a pittance. She musty now go and find another Protector.. Yet her protectors best friend who has secretly desired her, steps in and offers her a pleasure relationship until she finds another protector. He falls in love with her yet feels that do to his upbringing he does not now what love is. It is up to Judith to show him what love is through many sexual encounters. Yet the Attack on Judith from John's past thrust them into a marriage that neither are prepared for.

This book lays the storyline down and with holds back to leave the reader with wanting more. The beginning is full of great sexual scenes yet is slow going, I really had to work to get through the storyline. Half way through the book it finally picked up and let the ride begin, I found myself really wanting to read this book. I am so glad I got the chance to read this book. You will also.

come see this review and more on juliesbookreview.blogspot.com

Amy says

Actually four and a half stars!

Mariah Desmond finds herself in quite a precarious predicament. Her protector has died in a tragic fire and even with all of his promises to always make sure that Mariah would be provided for, she is now facing destitution if she does not find another suitable protector before her monies run out in six months. When her former protector's best friend, John Rycroft, lends a shoulder and more on the first night out of her search, Mariah hopes that John will come through and make her an offer that would satisfy her both financially and sexually.

John Rycroft has been attracted to Mariah Desmond from the first moment he met her on the arm of his best friend, Lord Heathcote. Not wishing to offend his friend, John never made his desire for his friend's mistress known to either of them. Upon hearing of his friend's sudden demise and having knowledge of the financial state of which Owen had left Mariah, he had not been surprised to find her, once more, in search of a new protector. He, however, was not such a man who would take a mistress. He regarded himself as a man who had no ability to care for or protect any other person as he was not even sure of being responsible for himself. Wealth was not an issue but more the inability to be of use to anyone, especially a woman, for more than a single night of entertainment.

John quickly realizes that his attraction to Mariah is mutual on her part and that as a pair, their sexual escapades were worth more than one lone night's enjoyment. Unwilling to give her what she wants as a protector even as she is more than willing to be his mistress, John offers her the option to be in an affair with him until she finds a suitable protector and quite possibly after, as well. Both become more and more amenable to their sexual pursuits. So much so that Mariah begins to judge every other man against John, just as John finds himself becoming jealous of those that Mariah may consider to take her into their charge and their beds.

While John and Mariah battle their hearts, a threat from John's past rears its ugly head putting Mariah in danger. John must make a decision, either expel Mariah completely from his life for her own protection or take her as his wife in order to secure her absolute safety. Mariah accepts his proposal reluctantly for even as she has come to realize her love for him, she fears the emotion only flows one way.

This is the first work by Jess Michaels that I have read and I must say that I have now found a must have author to add to my reading list. FOR DESIRE ALONE by Jess Michaels is a very sexy, wickedly naughty, character driven, mystery bound historical romance that kept me reading long after I should have stopped. This is one that will suck you in and keep you reading past bus stops, train stops, and light's out. A full-length historical romance featuring a peek into the life of a courtesan and the world in which the men of the ton and their mistresses play. This is not your average love story but an indulgence into the world of women pleasuring men, voyeurism, and adult play. Read at your own risk but be prepared to be titillated.

I highly recommend FOR DESIRE ALONE by Jess Michaels if you are a fan of historical romance featuring an adult story about a nontraditional lifestyle that still provides a satisfactory, and leave you smiling, happily-ever-after.

***eARC provided by author in exchange for an honest and unscripted review.

Joana V. says

3.5*

<http://pepitamagica.blogspot.co.uk/20...>

Os livros da Jess Michaels são sempre um pouco diferentes e para um público um mais circunscrito. Mais que um romance histórico, é um romance erótico.

Mas o que admiro e gostei particularmente neste livro foi que, apesar de ao fim de 10 páginas (se tanto) já termos cenas de sexo explícito, estas foram tão bem enquadradas, tão bem descritas que não me incomoda minimamente – aliás, até é bom, porque mostra que a autora consegue escrever bem o suficiente uma cena de sexo e de emoção.

Mariah Desmond não foi, de todo, das minhas personagens femininas favoritas (para não dizer que não gostei nada dela). Achei muito mais interessante (e fiquei curiosa em saber a sua história) Vivien Manning, que é uma mulher que tem as festas mais escandalosas e ajuda casais a juntarem-se (isto é, amantes) mas que é mais do que a fachada que mostra ao mundo. Já John Rycroft foi uma personagem mais interessante, qqe me prendeu durante a leitura do livro.

Apesar de ter sido um bom livro, achei que a história por vezes era um bocado inverosímil e isso acabava por me distrair. Daí não chegar a uma pontuação mais elevada. Foi, no entanto, uma leitura agradável e rápida.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Behind their passion lurks a dark truth that could destroy their love.

Those who have read Jess Michaels' historicals know that she writes some very steamy stories, but this book, in my opinion, was so much more than just an erotic tale. It was more emotional than I had expected, with a story that grabbed hold from the first page and held on to the last.

From the cover: A mistress should never be foolish enough to fall in love with her protector, nor trust him with her financial future. Mariah Desmond did both, and now her dearly departed protector has left her with nothing.

Forced to seek another protector, she's determined that this time, she'll lead with her survival instinct—not her heart. But when she attends one of Vivien Manning's infamous parties, the familiar face of her late lover's best friend throws her for a loop.

A painful past taught John Rycroft that he's not fit to be anyone's knight in shining armor. His soft spot—make that a hard spot—for Mariah is precisely why he's kept his distance. Yet the sight of her flirting with a bevy of men vying to become her next lover makes something inside him snap.

As John hauls her bodily away from her suitors, Mariah's indignation melts away in the heat of the sizzling sexual chemistry. She quickly finds it isn't easy to navigate John's stormy emotional waters. Especially when his abusive father's quest to get his son back under his thumb puts her life in danger.

One of the things I most love about Ms. Michaels' writing is that her stories are not just sexual, they're sensual, arousing not just the body, but the heart and mind, too. In ways, they sweep me away to another time and place and have me feeling as though I'm there. I'm the heroine... the woman being seduced – or doing the seducing – and I love that emotional investment in the story.

Mariah and John are great characters! They are both flawed, and have their own problems to deal with, but their shortcomings only make them more compelling. I found myself cheering for them one minute, cursing them the next, then cheering them on again as they came closer and closer to their *happily ever after*.

I want to mention that those who know me know I'm OCD about reading books in order. However, this is the second book in the *Mistress Matchmaker* series and I read it without reading the first. There were some references to *An Introduction to Pleasure*, but I never felt lost or felt like I was missing out on anything. Well, I take that back... I know I'm missing out on another great story, so I'll be getting my hands on and reading it just as soon as I can!

The bottom line: If you're a fan of well written historical romance and like it served with a healthy helping of steaming hot sex, then Jess Michaels is an author you should be reading. Her stories are always wonderful, the characters always complex, and I can't ask for more than that!

My thanks to Samhain Publishing for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Cristina says

Apesar de muito aclamada no nosso país, esta foi a primeira obra de Jess Michaels que tive a oportunidade de ler! E, apesar de estar classificado como um romance erótico, considere que "Puro Prazer" ia mais além do que simplesmente as relações de teor sexual. Ora vejamos!

Mariah Desmond acabou de perder o seu protetor num terrível incêndio! E, apesar de terem partilhado pelo menos 3 anos das suas vidas juntos, Owen - o seu protetor - não lhe deixou grandes bens ou fortuna para que Mariah pudesse continuar a sua vida sem se preocupar como seria o dia de amanhã. Por isso, e com a ajuda da sua melhor amiga Vivien Manning, Mariah fica decidida em encontrar um novo protetor! Contudo, a tarefa revelou-se mais complicada do que pensava!

Num dos bailes organizado por Vivien, Mariah reencontra John Rycroft, o melhor amigo de Owen, o seu antigo protetor. E, apesar de ainda estar em processo de luto por Owen, Mariah é incapaz de reprimir os seus sentimentos por John. O mesmo acontece com ele. Desde a altura que Mariah ainda tinha a companhia de Owen que John sentia algo diferente! Contudo, sempre foi um homem digno ao ponto de preservar a sua amizade com Owen e de nunca tentar nada com Mariah. Até então!

Apesar de todas as suas atitudes que indiciavam que sentia algo maior por Mariah, John sempre ignorou os sinais e enganou-se a si mesmo! No entanto, as investidas de Mariah deixavam-no desconcertado! E, ao longo da história, John aprendeu à sua maneira a dar mais valor aos seus sentimentos e a demonstrá-los àqueles que amamos! E assim, quando soube que Maria corria perigo, John de facto percebeu que havia algo mais!

Este foi um livro que realmente me agarrou do início ao fim! Como disse anteriormente, a autora deu muito mais importância à construção da relação de Mariah e John e ao desenvolvimento da sua relação! Sem dúvida, uma obra fantástica de Jess Michaels que eu recomendaria!

Gwen ~the Book Diva says

3.5 stars. A good choice for a hot historical romance read but I wanted to connect with the H more, he was just OK for me. Still moving on the book 3 though!

Jamie says

Mariah Desmond is mourning the loss of her protector, who she loved. He said he loved her and promised that he would always take care of her. But when she receives the terms of his will she is shocked that the man she loved for three years has left her with practically nothing. Lost and confused she turns to her friend Vivian Manning, famous for her mistress matchmaking.

Though she is reluctant at first Mariah goes to Vivian's party to look for a new protector when she runs into John Rycroft. John has never taken a mistress. His philosophy is why keep one woman when he can have many. He was best friends with Owen, Mariah's previous protector, and has always desired her but keep his distance. When he sees Mariah out he decides now is the perfect time to take what he wants, Mariah in his bed for a night.

Mariah sees John as a friend but when a steamy encounter shows them just how good they are together they both can't seem to stay away. Even though John tells her over and over again that he cannot be her new protector he isn't ready to let her go. What was supposed to be only a short affair is forced to take another turn when John's sadistic father comes after John and the person he cares the most about.

John is such a tortured man. He had a horrible childhood and has spent his adult life resisting making meaningful relationship because of his father. I think he truly cared for Mariah but was afraid. I loved watching him fight his feelings for her. As for Mariah, she has this innocence about her that I liked. Yes, she is a mistress and is well versed in sex, but she still has the capability to believe in love. I think that's why I liked her, she wasn't able to just go put her feelings aside for a man with money.

Favorite Quote

He could be no one's rock, no one's hero, no one's love. Something had broken in him long ago and since there was no fixing that, he simply avoided situations where someone would or could ask him for more than he could give.

Overall

I have always enjoyed Jess Michael's books and For Desire Alone may be my favorite. I don't think I can say enough great things about it. I loved the story. I loved John. I loved Mariah. I was so involved in it that I refused to put it down. The sex scenes are mind blowing. They aren't just about the sex though, you can feel the passion and emotion in them. It truly is about the story.

I look forward to reading about Vivian and getting her backstory.

Titinha Scairo says

3.75* quase nas 4*

Gostei muito das duas personagens, gostei daquele pequeno “drama” que se desenrolou no livro, gostei da força dos dois personagens... sim, há muito sexo mas entre os 5 livros que li de seguida da autora, este foi o que menos me fez impressão a quantidade de sexo, não sei se foi por me te “habitado”, ou porque a autora escrever tão bem o envolvimento destas duas personagens, se o mesmo passou para segundo plano ou não teve a mesma importância para mim, que os anteriores...

Gostaria que a QE lançasse o terceiro da série, pelo menos gostava de ler sobre a personagem que aparece nos 2 livros...

Sophia says

This is the second book in the Mistress Matchmaker series and it is the first one that I read. It is loosely connected to the first one so can easily read as a stand-alone.

I have an absolute weakness for historical romance and sometimes very passionate ones at that. This one has all the hallmarks of the historical with its beautifully dressed participants, the balls and masquerade, the gentility of the time while on the other hand because this story is about demi-monde of society (mistresses and their gentleman protectors), it is also lusty and openly passionate.

The story is about a woman, Mariah Desmond, who has just lost her protector of three years and he dies leaving her desolate both financially and because she allowed her feelings to enter into their arrangement. Now it is time to find a new protector and her friend Vivian sets out to help her. Vivian invites her to a ball and Mariah comes. She forces herself to put herself out there and several men are interested until her dead lover's best friend wrests her from the room in a confusing fit of temper, drags her into a private parlor, and shocks her with a desire to have her for the night.

John Rystock has been interested in Mariah since the first moment he met her, but his loyalty to his best friend keeps him from ever acting on his desires for the man's mistress. John has a reputation for taking any woman for a night and moving on to the next. He is a good lover so he has plenty who are willing. But on this night when he sees Mariah for the first time since his friend's death, he is angry to see her looking for someone new and he is equally determined to satisfy his lust for her and get her out of his system. She wants to know his intentions and he tells her frankly that he can only give her the night.

When all is done, he does indeed walk away, but he finds that he was affected by being with Mariah and wants her again.

Mariah continues her quest even though she secretly wishes that John would have offered for her. She is surprised beyond all when he finds her again and rescues her from a man that won't take 'no' for an answer. He makes a startling proposition to her. They will conduct an affair where there are no strings attached in that she is welcome to continue her search, but in the mean time they will have each other just for pleasure. Mariah is skeptical of agreeing because she knows that she'll become attached, but wants to be with John so agrees.

Meanwhile, John's past comes knocking on his door to haunt him once more. Things turn dangerous and he should be focused on the danger, but all he can think about is Mariah and protecting his growing feelings for her. But the evil from his past that seeks to break him is observant and zeroes in on Mariah as his weak spot.

This was a very heated read and is obviously erotic, but it is also a sweet romance in a way with the slowly

growing relationship from no strings to a deep and sacrificial love. I enjoyed how there was still a nice plot that drove all the passionate scenes and the element of danger pushed up the intensity. I found the villain a bit over the top, but yet his part in the story still worked for me. I really liked the role Vivian played as Mariah's wise friend and as a subtle matchmaker for this pair who really worked well for each other. I loved seeing Mariah's sweet, but lusty nature work as the perfect foil to break through the jaded, unfeeling wall that John tried to put up to protect himself from getting hurt. It's always fun to read about men who aren't as unmoved as they'd like to pretend because it seems that those character types tend to fall the hardest.

It was a satisfying read that I'd recommend to fans of Historical erotica.
