



## A Week to Be Wicked

*Tessa Dare*

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**When a devilish lord and a bluestocking set off on the road to ruin...Time is not on their side.**

Minerva Highwood, one of Spindle Cove's confirmed spinsters, needs to be in Scotland. Colin Sandhurst, Lord Payne, a rake of the first order, needs to be...anywhere but Spindle Cove.

These unlikely partners have one week to

- fake an elopement
- convince family and friends they're in "love"
- outrun armed robbers
- survive their worst nightmares
- travel four hundred miles without killing each other

All while sharing a very small carriage by day and an even smaller bed by night.

What they don't have time for is their growing attraction. Much less wild passion. And heaven forbid they spend precious hours baring their hearts and souls.

Suddenly one week seems like exactly enough time to find a world of trouble. And maybe . . . just maybe . . . love.

*An unabridged recording (10 hours, 58 minutes).*

### A Week to Be Wicked Details

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Author : Tessa Dare

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## From Reader Review A Week to Be Wicked for online ebook

**Aileene says**

So.

*\*wipes palms on skirts\**

*\*rubs hands together\**

So.

I have been curious about this genre. But I avoided it.

Why?

Well, just take a look at the covers of every historical romance books.

Not. Very. Appealing.

Yes, I'm not afraid to admit, that at times, I can be skin deep in choosing my books. I love a good cover. Esp if it catches my attention at first glance.

I also have this thinking that everything about this (genre) would be outdated. It's something similar to these:

Would you rather play this

when you can have this?

*Yes, I'm an R.E. fan - BIG TIME!*

Not to mention sexy times. I cringe at the thought of their very outdated, boring and old fashioned coupling.

In my head, male just goes on top of the female and does the deed---> probably with half the clothes on.

No copping a feel, no dirty talks, no sweaty bodies and no mention of male's subway size *\*shudders\**

UNACCEPTABLE.

This

Versus **THIS**.

So, you see, I did have reasons. VALID reasons, if I may add.

But being a member of Goodreads comes with the opportunity to meet other readers who are not limited to what you read only. These people are cunning. They influence. They gang up (on you). And **THEY ARE AMAZING**.

Enter Joanita, my book recommender.

Jess who instigated the "Let's read together "

and of course, not the very least, Alp, the accomplice.

Because of them, I was more excited to get my V HR-card punched.

My Jess and Alp in this adventure.

So, off I go to my first journey with my precioussssss.

On to the review.

*\*looks at Jo and mouths\**

Buckle up, this one is for you.

Warning: I so am going to abuse my new found love word = **TRULY**

\*\*\*\*Really?

**Truly!**

Not as effective as the word F\* (Oh don't you roll your eyes on me. F\* does punctuate and send the message across clearly) but nevertheless still fun to use.

The story was pretty SOS (same old story). Ah, ah, ah, not done yet - the author, Ms Dare, branded this story with her unique style. She is bloody brilliant and a mischief maker that after turning few pages in, I was hooked.

\*\*\*\*\*Truly?

**Truly!**

I'll be honest here, at first I was **truly** reluctant to start. I thought this would be my first ever moment when I said yes to this BR and have put myself into something I can't get out of but HOLY SHIT! as I read along, my journey companions disappeared, forgot 'em and totally got into the story.

\*\*\*\*\*Pfffft. That can't be real. This is not my genre, right?

Wrong. Coz I did - promise....err **truly!**

### The plot.

I want you to read the blurb to get a good picture what the plot is all about.

I try my hardest not to say anything at the risk of spoiling the story or even say something measly because I want you guys to experience every single bit first hand.

### Main characters

Minerva - one of the three Highwood sisters who live in Spindle Cove and the different of 'em all.

Colin - the Romeo who wreaks havoc anywhere he goes.

Together these two have created a very memorable journey where they find the ultimate love whilst facing different challenges the fate decided to throw.

Thoughts.

I fell in love with this couple. They were funny. They were perfect, be together or separated. And they balanced each other out.

Let me just say that I was ensnared. The way they danced around each other. Their snark at each other. Aaaaah! It was beautiful to read!

Colin. This cheeky but charming devil had me laughing non stop but squeezed my heart when I got to know him in deeper level.

He was very good in blurring his susceptibility by poking fun at everything.

He made their one week journey adventurous and full of passion.

But deep inside him, a scar that couldn't heal and I **truly** believe that he's just within a stone's throw of falling apart.

~~Marissa Madeleine Melinda Matilda~~

~~Michaela Morgana Melissande~~

**MINERVA.** My type of heroine, who doesn't care what others think. She's got the smarts and every word that comes out of her mouth holds water. I adore her. She was **truly** incredible.

I loved the plot. I loved the characters. I loved the settings. I loved the secondary characters.

Heck, I even adored Mrs Highwood, the witch.

So, Ms Joanita, I thank you for this adventure. You gave me a beautiful ~~ring~~ book that will definitely start my journey to Regency Romance.

Giving it **4** *No-cumming-no-clenching-no-winking-no-giggling-nothing-that-made-me-cringe* **Stars**

Shout out to these beautiful women: Jess and Alp. Best buddy readers one could have.

~~~~~

Together, these 3 have joined forces to pop yours truly's cherry on Historical Romance genre.

Would it hurt?

Would it be an enjoyable ride?

Would I stop after this read and never look back or continue on until preventive measure will be placed to keep addiction at arm's length?

Answers will be revealed. Stay tuned.

Will commence on Wednesday 11 May

## Carmen says

*She couldn't 'heal' him. No woman could. Events that far in the past just couldn't be undone. But perhaps he didn't need a cure, but... a lens. Someone who accepted him for the imperfect person he was, and then helped him see the world clear. Like spectacles did for her.*

It's amazing to me how Tessa Dare can just NAIL some things, and then wildly misstep on others. And the sex, don't get me started on the sex. Let's work on breaking this down.

### PREMISE:

Dare creates the best set-ups. She really does. This one is about a bookworm who wears spectacles and loves geology who teams up with a roué with PTSD who can't sleep alone at night, which is the 'tragic' reason he gives for the fact that there's a woman in his bed every single night.

Needless to say this is a goldmine. Scientist female with low self-esteem, an overbearing mother, who has been told she's ugly and unappealing her whole life paired with a life-loving rake who struggles with PTSD and night terrors. Perfect. What could be more perfect?

Unfortunately, Dare's execution is flawed.

### THE ON-POINT SHIT:

Sometimes Dare kills it, I'm not gonna lie. Let me give you some examples:

- Well, the opening quote for starters. Here Dare just tackles the 'you can't heal a man with your magical vagina' protestations that often emerge. She just addresses it head-on. No, Minerva can't heal Colin's mental trauma. But she does listen to him talk, comforts him, provides a safe space and a refuge for him. I think that's very important and nicely illustrated by Dare.

- When Dare pours on the pain. She should do this more frequently in the novel, IMO. I know, she is going for sweet, cute, humorous and fluffy, but I like my heart to be bruised while reading a romance novel. She does have some great ideas, my complaint is that she doesn't follow through with them. Here are some great angst examples:

*A hot tear spilled down her cheek. She hated that tear. Hated that he'd seen it. A man like this wasn't worth weeping over. It was just... for that moment by the fire, after years of being overlooked, she'd finally felt NOTICED. Appreciated.*

WANTED.

*And it had all been a lie. A ridiculous, laughable joke.*

This part. Where she's crying and he can see her crying and he hates himself and she feels so betrayed and hurt.

- Also, when Dare discusses if their love (or love affair, I guess) is real or just a pretense by Colin who is 'humoring' and 'pitying' a little virginal ugly duckling.

*"Just keep your eyes closed and your lips parted. And learn how this should feel."*

*Learn how this should feel. Shouldn't this feel tender and romantic?*

*Shouldn't lovemaking feel like love?*

*But this wasn't love. It was just a diversion, a lesson. Just another elaborate pretense.*

- When Dare talks about people and their personalities and how society sees them (vs. how they truly are inside), she really makes some great points.

*Perhaps, she thought, people were more like ammonites than one would suppose. Perhaps they too built shells on a consistent, unchanging factor - some quality or circumstance established in youth. Each chamber in the shell just an enlargement of the previous. Growing year after year, until they spiraled around and locked themselves in place.*

*Colin's shell had been formed by tragedy. His parents' deaths had defined the shape of that first protective chamber. He'd owned it, grown to fill the shape of it, enlarged it with room after mournful room. But what if the person inside those many hollow, echoing chambers wasn't a tragedy at all? Just a man who genuinely enjoyed life and loved people, but happened to have two dead parents and a stubborn case of insomnia?*

*And who was SHE, beneath all her layers? A bookish, awkward girl who couldn't be bothered to care for anything but fossils and rocks? Or a bold, adventurous woman who'd risked everything - not on the hopes of achieving professional acclaim, but on the slim chance of finding love. Of finding that one person who could understand her, appreciate her, and let her understand and appreciate him.*

- *"Don't. Don't tease me." I can't bear to be hurt like that again.*

*"I'm not teasing you. I'm complimenting you."*

*"That's just it. I don't want compliments. I'm not fanciful that way."*

More pain, which I think needs to be explored more by Dare.

- *"No matter what occurs, you will never lack for anything. Once I gain control of my accounts, I'll quietly settle some money on you. Enough that you'll be able to live as you desire. Set up house in any place you wish. Devote your life to scholarship. You and your sisters will always have my protection."*

*"Your PROTECTION? Am I to be your mistress, then?"*

*"God, no."*

*"Oh." She swallowed a sob. "Not even that?"*

More pain, but unfortunately it gets resolved in about point three seconds. Dare just doesn't understand how to milk things and make her readers suffer.

- *"No. Don't speak that way." He propped a finger under her chin. "I hate it when you speak ill of yourself, Min. I'd visit bodily harm on anyone who dared insult you, but I don't know how to guard you from yourself. So kindly do me a favor, and just... don't. All right?"*

This is good.

- Minerva frequently tells Colin to STFU in bed. Thank heavens. At last someone has said it. Like... she's trying to concentrate on getting to that orgasm, you know. This isn't the time for long conversations. Really like that Dare addresses this, since it's one of my pet peeves in novels.

*Good Lord, did the man never stop talking? Minerva didn't want to converse right now. She just wanted... deeper. Harder. More.*

*- Charging toward her on horseback, dashing through the early-morning mist. The wind rippling through his wavy hair. The sight was just like something from a fairy tale. Oh, he wasn't riding a white stallion, but rather a serviceable, sturdy bay gelding. And he was dressed not in shining armor or regal attire, but in a simple, well-tailored blue topcoat and buckskin riding breeches.*

That was a nice little bit of mental-image porn.

### **THE BAD AND THE UGLY.**

Besides practicing sexual behavior that I find distasteful, Dare also makes Colin an asshole for NO REASON. Seriously, there is enough conflict in here without him being a dick.

*"I won't be made to look slatternly."*

*He held her tight. His breath fell hot and rough on her neck. "You'll be made to look the way I wish you to look. That's the point of a mistress, after all."*

What about this scene, where, in a fit of irrational jealousy, he rends Minerva's clothing, tells her to dress and act like a 'mistress' and takes her to a place where the men expect her to be passed around as a party favor?

*Now Minerva wanted to sink through the floor and die there. She understood Colin was angry, but how could he do this to her?*

UGH. He just acts so horrid in this whole scene, and I know Dare plays it up as an 'adventure' but it was pretty miserable to this reader.

*"Believe me, those women would not call themselves debased. And what makes you think they're whores? Perhaps they're ladies, every bit as pedigreed and well-bred as you, who understand what you don't. How to enjoy themselves. How to have a good time."*

This pretty much encapsulates the problem I have with Dare. See how she is trying to reach for the feminist idea that slut-shaming is wrong? See it? But see how her asshole hero twists it into 'making Minerva feel like a shit person for being humiliated, ashamed, and afraid after being taken to what is essentially a pleasure-house where she is apt to become public property?' But he's shaming her for feeling this way. And he's doing it with FEMINISM. It's sick. It's so fucking sick. I don't even know how to begin to address this, but I'm severely grossed out. Notice how he also neatly sandwiches in the insult that goes, "Well, you just don't know how to HAVE FUN. Or have a GOOD TIME by allowing your body to be a sex toy for men. You're so stupid and virginal. A REAL woman would enjoy being able to be 'free' and act this way." UGH.

Later in the book, Colin muses

*He wondered what it would take to coax THIS Minerva out into the world, permanently. She would need a steady supply of assurance, he supposed. Perhaps her participation in the Royal Geological Society could give her that, to some degree. But the right man could do far more. The right man could plant seeds of*

*confidence...*

Is that what YOU think you're doing, you fucker? I mean... no, you're not. Way to fail, asshole. You've been the opposite of nurturing, considerate and kind here. Honestly, Minerva deserves better, but we all know she's not going to get it and you're the best she can hope for. Considering the time period, you are golden, but to a modern reader you are trash. Work it out.

- She points a loaded gun at him.

- She slaps him around a little bit, but I'm willing to shrug this off as play-acting and honestly I'm tired of harping on Dare's physically abusive heroines. At least she doesn't punch him, kick him, or knife him like the previous heroines did to their men.

## **HOW'S THE SEX, CARMEN?**

\*Carmen bashes her head into the table repeatedly\* WHY. I don't understand how this perfect setup doesn't yield amazing sex and amazing sex/romance scenes. This is (IMO) where Dare always fucks up.

Take for example the scene where he makes out with Minerva. It's her second kiss (she got her first from him also) and her first makeout session, obviously. I was thrilled. I was delighted. KISSING. And I love makeout sessions that just exhibit the joys of kissing and don't end in sex. More books need makeout scenes.

*It had been ages since he'd kissed a girl simply for kissing's sake, and he'd forgotten what a pure, heady pleasure it could be.*

Cue excited squeeing from Carmen!

Anyway, in the middle of this Colin tells Minerva, "*You can do better.*" Wow, OKAY. Just killed any happy-feelings I had about this scene, thanks.

He doesn't seem to be able to get it together in bed, either.

First, at around 38% he decides to discuss - well, not really discuss. More like fantasize about and use as personal mind porn - her masturbation habits in a really creepy and gross way.

*"I'm not telling you anything." Her breath grew shaky.*

*"Surely it can't be," he said, his hand stealing over her thigh, "that this intrepid explorer of underwater caverns hasn't explored her own little cove?"... [starts touching her vulva] "Hm. I think you do understand pleasure." His touch moved in a devious circle. "But only the hushed, secret kind. You've always been surrounded, haven't you? By sisters, servants. Did you stroke yourself this way? Clamping that jaw shut, turning your head to the pillow to be very, very quiet?" [he continues to play with her vulva] "No, no. If I'm wrong, don't tell me. I'm enjoying this idea far too much. The little scientist, conducting quiet surveys beneath her night rail. Or in the bath, perhaps. Curious fingers wandering, exploring. Chasing that pleasure 'round and 'round as it builds... and builds." His voice dark, decadent. "Until the crisis shudders through you in perfect, devastating silence."*

Some women may find this very exciting - and that's perfectly fine! - but I was turned-off. I found it creepy and gross. Talking about her and her masturbation habits like that, I don't know, it was very skeezy to me. Ugh.

Then he does whatever the unclothed version of dry humping is to her, comes on her, rolls over, and goes to sleep. Like... what the fuck. Are you doing. Dare never goes into details about how Minerva deals with this, but is she sleeping with a puddle of his cum on her belly? Fucker didn't even help her clean up? Does she even really understand about ejaculate, is this inconsiderate jerk just dry humping with her and then leaving her to clean up the mess? Which I'm not even sure she understands needs to be cleaned up? Couldn't he have been a little tender here? Does she sleep in the wet spot or what?

Utter fail. I leave the scene feeling like Colin is trash who is not caring for his woman properly or being kind and respectful with her. :(

And I hate 'This is how you please a man' lessons. Ugh. Please stop that. It's gross.

*"I'm not..." She gasped at another greedy kiss. "I'm not sure I'm comfortable being the instrument of your release."*

*"You make it sound so one-sided. I promise, you'll enjoy it, too." 49%*

Wow, she's coming to you with concerns that you are using her body to get off. Instead of reassuring her that you care about her, that she is important to you, that she is not just a masturbation aid for you, your response is to be like, "Well, I'll make sure you get off, too." WOW, how ROMANTIC. Yeah, no. It's gross and not loving or romantic at all. THIS is exactly why I can never get into Dare's sex scenes.

*"You have so much fire in you, Min. A natural talent for passion."*

I wish Dare would stop having her heroes tell their virginal women that they have 'natural aptitude' for kissing and 'natural talent' for sex and other gross things. It's very demeaning. It makes it sound like they are grooming them for future use or something. I hate it.

THEN, at around 58% he wants this little virgin to give him a blowjob. If this isn't horrifying enough, he initiates it by putting his thumb in her mouth.

*"This." He slid his thumb between her startled lips, pressing it deep into her hot, wet mouth. "Yes."*

I'm just gobsmacked. Woody Allen much? Aziz Ansari much? Am I just totally missing something in which men stuff their fingers down women's throats as a kind of harsh, unappealing way to get them to give them a blowjob? I'm not talking about porn here. I'm talking about IRL. Do men do this IRL? Because let me tell you, if a man ever tried this shit with me... \*Carmen trails off\* Well, let's just say it wouldn't end well. First and foremost because I'd immediately vomit all over him. Not on purpose, just what comes naturally when people shove their fingers in my mouth. And after that, I'm sure things would only get worse. >.<

More to the point, is this ROMANTIC or SEXY at all?!?!?! No, absolutely not. It goes beyond the other shit into a whole new territory of gross that I'm not prepared to deal with, especially not in what I thought was going to be a sweet and cute novel.

Fast forward through an absolutely disgusting blowjob scene that I don't want to hear about. NEXT!

68% Taking her virginity is unpleasant. Moreso because the man doesn't seem to understand the importance of foreplay. WITH A VIRGIN.

*"Damn it, I know I should be selfless. I should give you pleasure first. But I want to be in you. I want to be so deep inside you when you come."*

Ah, I see. You KNOW you should be kinder, more compassionate, and more orgasm-giving to her before you painfully take her virginity but you JUST CAN'T help yourself. Right. Got it. Very romantic, sexy, and merciful of you. You inconsiderate fucker. I honestly thought a rake who knew women SO WELL would actually be a good partner for her, but you've let me down SO MUCH. In so many ways. :(

- To cap it all off, the fucker goes down on her at 85% but doesn't even finish the job. He decides she wants the D more. I can't tell you how irate this makes me. One, it's her first experience with cunnilingus, fucker. You could have at least put in a little effort. JFC, do I have to walk you through every little thing?! This hero is so fucking selfish. Two, she finished your blowjob! The blowjob I don't even think you should have been asking for, but she finished that! You can't even reciprocate?!?!? Fuck this shit. FUCK IT.

**TL;DR** Well. It was better than *A Night to Surrender* and *Once Upon a Winter's Eve*, I'll say that much. Dare has an amazing scenario to use for her book. Too bad she ruins it.

I did like some of the philosophical and psychological points she was trying to make here. And it's refreshing to see a heroine that calls the hero on his shit most of the time.

If you like realism in your historicals (I don't give a fig if historicals are accurate, so this is not me) I would advise you to stay away from Tessa Dare. She takes modern ideals, ideas, and viewpoints and just sets them in the past, which is no more than window-dressing. I personally have no beef with this, but I know it bothers some people.

I don't understand why Dare had to make Colin an asshole... or at least an intermittent asshole in this book. There really was NO need for it. There was plenty of conflict, excitement, and issues between the couple and acting on the couple without him being a jerk. It was unnecessary and just made me dislike him a whole lot.

The sex was gross. I mean... opinions may vary, I am grading on my own standards and expectations and of course judging by my own personal tastes. If you love the sex in this book, I am very happy for you. :D However, it wasn't pleasing to me.

I know tons of people love this book, and I can understand the appeal. It has a perfect set-up. But IMO Dare fails to deliver on this promising premise. If you love it, I am so happy for you. :D But for me, personally, it didn't work out. In my personal opinion, this was not enjoyable.

#### ROMANCE CATEGORIES:

Historical Romance

Regency Romance

STEM Heroine Romance

She's a Geologist, He's a... nothing. Rich man, I guess.

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### Catherine says

**\*Originally read 3/24/12\***

Do you remember Colin from my Tempting Teaser of *A Night to Surrender*? No? Well, let me refresh your memory. Colin is an unrepentant rake. He enjoys women and they enjoy him. He is arrogant and can come across as quite an ass. But what does he care? The women love him just as he loves them. He might have a

tendency to make a mess of things but he always manages to put on a charming smile and turn the situation to his advantage.

"You have no compunction ruining your reputation, nor those of your sisters. But have you given a moment's thought to mine?"

"To your what? Your reputation?" She laughed. "But your reputation is terrible."

He colored, slightly. "I don't know that it's *terrible*."

She put her left forefinger to her right thumb. "Point the first. You're a shameless rake."

"Yes." He drew out the word.

She touched her index finger. "Point the second. Your name is synonymous with destruction. Bar fights, scandals...literal explosions. Wherever you go, mayhem follows."

"I don't really try at that part. It just...happens."

That is Colin, the lovable ass.

Minerva is content to fade into the background and concentrate on her study of rocks. She's attracted to Colin--*what female wouldn't be?*--but he flusters her and they don't really have any common interests, so she doesn't have to suffer his presence often. We got a hint of a spark on Colin's end in *A Night to Surrender*, but nothing really concrete until now. When Minerva hears a rumor about Colin's intention to end his financial problems by proposing to her sister, she knows she has to do something to prevent it. Her sister means a lot to her and Minerva is adamant that Colin is not for her. So what's a girl to do but convince the man there's another way to fix his financial woes?

"That is brave of you, pet. Offering yourself to wed me in your sister's stead. But truly, I--"

"My name is Minerva. I'm not your pet. And you're deranged if you think I'd ever marry you."

"But I though you just said--"

"Run away with you, yes. Marry you?" She made an incredulous noise in her throat. "Please."

I completely fell in love with Minerva and Colin together. This is an "on the road" sort of romance, so we were able to pluck the characters from their usual habitat, shake them up a bit, and watch them try to adapt. Their journey was an adventure at its finest, with obstacles and amusing shenanigans cropping up, usually at the behest of Colin. He loves to invent stories and make Minerva go along with them. She is so delightful to tease and he loves nothing more than forcing her to break out of her shell. Their relationship was not without its bumps as Colin stayed true to form and couldn't help being the ass that he is, especially in the beginning.

"You're ruining this journey," she all but shouted. "You ruin everything."

"Well, I beg your pardon, but I believe you signed on to be ruined!"

Slowly we saw a genuine friendship build between them. It was lovely to see how completely won over

Colin was, however unintentionally it was achieved. Colin and Minerva fit together so well. She had her insecurities and hesitations, but Colin could be a force to be reckoned with. He knew, always he knew, that she was something special. He fell like a tree and I absolutely love when romances show the protagonists so slain by love.

This was a fabulous read. I felt like the setup for the next book was a tad heavy handed, but I did enjoy getting a peek at everyone's reactions to Colin and Minerva's disappearance. Everything I saw from them validated Minerva's worries about the believability of a future with Colin and made her insecurities feel more real and sad. But really, the sequel bait was a small complaint in an overwhelmingly wonderful read. I cannot wait for the next book.

**Favorite Quote:**

"Don't worry," he said. "This is ideal, you'll see. We do everything backward. It's just how we are. We began with an elopement. After that, we made love. Next, we'll progress to courting. When we're old and silver-haired, perhaps we'll finally get around to flirtation. We'll make fond eyes at each other over our mugs of gruel. We'll be the envy of couples half our age."

**\*Review originally posted on Fiction Vixen\***

**\*For a sneak peek, check out my Tempting Teaser on Fiction Vixen\***

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**Shawna says**

5+ stars – Historical/Regency Romance

Wow! What can I possibly say about this one to convey how absolutely wonderful it is? Talk about a charming, wickedly splendid read and a smashing good time! *A Week to Be Wicked* is one of the most engaging, refreshing, witty, banterific, and all around pleasing historical romances that I've read in quite a while and definitely so far this year.

Colin is a handsome, flirtatious, affable, generous, funny, sweet, and utterly lovable scoundrel whose tormented past and insecurity make you want to hold him tight, heal his wounded soul, and never let go. And spunky, awkward, bespectacled, bluestocking, spinster geologist Minerva, who prefers spending her time unearthing rare rocks and minerals and making scientific discoveries to people, might appear his polar opposite, but together they prove that magnets indeed attract.

Colin, with his good-natured, roguish charm, endearing wit, and underlying tortured soul, reminded me of one of my favorite romantic heroes, Leo Hathaway, Lord Ramsay from Lisa Kleypas's masterful *Married By Morning*, and that's high praise indeed!

It's a highly enjoyable, gratifying read for historical romance fans! Big 5 stars!

One of my favorite scenes/passages:

(view spoiler)

## Susanne says

### Updated review after reread! Thanks Karen and Jennifer for reading it with me <3 <3

*"A geology symposium." He flicked a glance at the journal. "This is the scandalous midnight proposal. The one you trudged through the cold, wet dark to make. You're inviting me to a geology symposium, if I leave your sister alone."*

**And so it starts, one of the sweetest romance of this year.** Colin and Minerva is absolutely banterlicious!

*"I think you've more than made up for lost time now. In fact, I'm certain you've exceeded your teasing quota for the day."*

*"I can't borrow against tomorrow's?"*

**She is a spinster and a geology nerd and he is a hellish rake** - and together they are a match made in heaven.

*"I've never understood why girls are always made to stitch insipid flowers and ribbons."*

*"Well, just to hazard a guess..." Colin straightened his edge. "Perhaps that's because sleeping on a bed of flowers and ribbons sounds delightful and romantic. Whereas haring one's bed with primeval sea snails sounds disgusting."*

*Her jaw firmed. "You're welcome to sleep on the floor."*

*"Did I say disgusting? I meant enchanting. I've always wanted to go to bed with a primeval sea snail."*

**Tallyho!** Tessa Dare is the queen of fun and romantic historical romance! She really outdid herself with this one. There are so many wonderful moments in this book! And my own nerdiness cheered when they were talking dirty about mathematical terms. They cracked me up and they charmed my pants off!

**Min is the sweetest heroine ever.** She has been put down by her mother her whole life. She has spectacles and she loves rock. Her nerdiness is through the roof. She cannot believe that Colin actually cares for her.

**Colin is a charming rake.** He cannot believe that he is taken with Min. He is awesome! And the list with all the names beginning on M melted my heart.

*Truly? That whole determined, dangerous saunter across the room was for me? In that case, would you mind going back and doing it all over again?*

**If you haven't read it – do yourself a favor and read it now!** It is one of the wittiest, funniest, sweetest, greatest romances out there. If you've already read it – do it again!

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## Jill says

### 4.5 stars

For amateur geologist Minerva Highwood, her passion for science is equaled only by her love for her sisters.

Fearing that Colin Sandhurst, Lord Payne that lazy, aimless, dim-witted rake might have designs on her beautiful, sweet sister, Minerva proposes a plan to Colin whereby both of them will end up winners. And her sister will be safe from the clutches of an arranged Society marriage.

If Colin escorts her to Edinburgh, Scotland and helps with her presentation to the Royal Geological Society, she will give him the monetary prize when she wins. His dire financial straits will be taken care of. And she will be rewarded with the prestige and recognition for her scientific work that she deserves. To prevent a scandal, this will all be done under the guise of an elopement.

Returning to Spindle Cove where those young ladies that are considered misfits in society are given a chance to heal, grow and thrive, *A Week to Be Wicked* sees the plain and bookish Minerva paired with the handsome and feckless Colin. Unlike the first in the series though the story is set only initially in Spindle Cove.

This Regency road trip is funny and entertaining with two polar opposites. Intelligent, awkward, bespectacled Minerva, who along with her mother has never expected love or marriage. And charming, roguish, playful Colin who has never wanted love or marriage.

The love scenes are steamy with the experienced Colin teaching the highly inquisitive student, Minerva all about the science of love. The unlikely romance between the spinster and the rake grows from an initial sparring of adversaries, to admiration and respect, and finally to love.

This can be read as a stand-alone, but don't shortchange yourself. Read book #1 *A Night to Surrender* and #1.5 *Once Upon a Winter's Eve*. With such a large number of talented writers of historical romance it's hard to stand out. Yet Tessa Dare is in my opinion one of the best writers of historical romance and certainly one of the best at humorous dialogue and situational comedy.

*A Week to Be Wicked* is a fun, romantic, steamy read. Highly recommended.

**Steam:** 3.5

*ARC courtesy of Avon via Edelweiss*

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## Jilly says

I'm a sucker for a charming rake. Here's what my "coming out" season would have been like:

1st night: "Oh look, there's Jilly in her pretty new dress..."

Oh, the most notorious rake in town just made her laugh...

There she goes with him out on the veranda - without a chaperone...

Aaand.. she's ruined.

I hope she enjoys living with her spinster aunt for the rest of her life."

Not only is Colin gorgeous and funny, but he also has a painful past that plagues him with nightmares. A bad-boy in pain? That's like female kryptonite!

Even our heroine, Minerva, who is super intelligent and cynical isn't immune:

*As he's related his story, a veritable fount of emotion has welled in her chest. Sadness, sympathy. Her*

*womb somehow became involved...*

*He's a broken man..*

*He needs you...*

*You can heal him...*

Minerva is my favorite heroine too. She is constantly reading, is super smart, and embarks on some sexual exploration with the hottie "in the name of science." I think she would fit in well here on goodreads. ;)

This story is mainly a journey-story where they are trying to get someplace and have every hardship imaginable as they fall in love. It is hilarious, cute, and full of ooey-gooeyness. Plus, sex, and dinosaurs. It has it all.

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**Jennifer says**

**5 "FOR-THE-LOVE-OF-TITS" STARS!!!!!!!**

**I'm in love with this book!!!**

**I'm giggling like...a nerd!!!**

**Nerd Words Are Sexy!!!**

*And the way you pronounce all those polysyllabic words? Makes me rock hard, every time.*

**This book was MADE...FOR...ME. I'm a huge nerd, ladies. I'm obsessed with books (duh). I love math. I loved school and still love learning.**

This book starts on page 1 and doesn't stop until the last word. This story is full of adventure and imagination. It's sexy, hilarious, and fast-paced. There isn't a dull moment!!!

Colin and Minerva strike a deal. If he helps her journey to her geology symposium, she will marry him (temporarily) so he can receive the money for his birthright. Most of the story is their journey to Edinburgh. They are constantly pretending to be other people, and it is hilarious! Their relationship in the beginning is beyond entertaining. They are constantly bantering back and forth (Colin is always calling her by the wrong name, and I laughed every time!).

***I didn't recognize your face without the book in front of it.***

Colin is a “jack of all trades.” He is funny, dry, sexy, witty...perfection. He is a spoiled rich guy on the outside, but very intelligent because he can maneuver through many different adventures.

**My Colin:**

*“You are the most deceitful, horrid, shameless, contemptible man I have ever had the displeasure to know. How do you sleep at night?” His reply came just as she banged the door closed. “I don’t.”*

Minerva is a **BADASS NERD**...and one of my favorite historical heroines!!! She is a female geologist (studies rocks) who is determined to become recognized. She has discovered a rare fossil and because she is passionate about what she does, she wants the world to know about it.

**My Minerva:**

*“I’m a woman who knows a great deal about rocks. I suggest you find the stones to deal with it.”*

Min and Colin are perfect for each other! There is so much laughing in this book, and yet there is also so much tenderness. When Min and Colin fall in love, it is so beautiful!!!! I didn’t expect my heart to stutter so much.

*Certainty becomes you.*

*The story doesn’t end with defeat. It ends in triumph.*

Thank you, Susanne for recommending this book to me! This is my first Tessa Dare book, and I am sold for life. She does a fabulous teaser for the next book, and I am super excited to read it!

**Find me on**

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**Anne says**

I'm not quite *as* in love with the **Spindle Cove** series as everyone else is, but this one was definitely one of my favorites! These two are just such a cute couple.

The smart, bookish girl and the rascally ladies man...what's not to love?

This was one of those books that scratched my need for a fun, humorous, lighthearted romance. I loved Payne's silliness, the way he made up crazy stories, and (of course) seeing him fall for Minerva and the huge fossilized lizard footprint she found.

*This may be an important discovery...*

So, in order to escape her meddling mamma & get a chance to present her scientific findings, Minerva convinces Payne to 'fake elope' with her Scotland.

Honestly, there's nothing that he gets out of it, but for some reason (mostly a crush he won't admit to) he agrees to go along with it...so he can protect her. Riiiiight.

Ok, I realize that none of what I said makes any sense, but *trust me!* If you're looking for a cute, sweet, funny romance? This is gonna fit the bill.

No, it's not perfect, but you won't regret reading it!

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## UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

### 5 Wickedly Feel Good Stars!

*A Week to be Wicked* is the second book in Tessa Dare's thoroughly entertaining, completely brilliant *Spindle Cove* series. It's funny, romantic, poignant, passionate, sexy, inspiring, clever, delightful... in a word – it's *wonderful!*

#### The Series:

Not all young ladies are looking forward to seasons, balls, comings out, love matches - or any match at all, for that matter! But what's a lady to do when her whole life will be defined by how well she marries? How do young misses cope when Marriage Minded Mamas won't pass up any opportunity to introduce their daughters – in some cases, kicking and screaming – into polite society?

*Welcome to Spindle Cove!* On the surface Spindle Cove seems to be the kind of place Mothers can bring their daughters to prepare for their debuts. It's a place to relax, recuperate, to gird up their loins and plan their attack. Again, this is *on the surface*. But what Spindle Cove really is, is a place where these young ladies can be themselves. Where they're not just accepted for their eccentricities, they're encouraged to nourish them! But don't let their mamas find out!

#### This Story:

Minerva Highwood, one of Spindle Cove's confirmed spinsters, needs to be in Scotland.

Colin Sandhurst, Lord Payne, a rake of the first order, needs to be...anywhere but Spindle Cove.

These unlikely partners have one week to

- fake an elopement
- convince family and friends they're in "love"
- outrun armed robbers
- survive their worst nightmares
- travel four hundred miles without killing each other

All while sharing a very small carriage by day and an even smaller bed by night.

What they don't have time for is their growing attraction. Much less wild passion. And heaven forbid they spend precious hours baring their hearts and souls.

Suddenly one week seems like exactly enough time to find a world of trouble. And maybe...just maybe...love.

### **My Review:**

I have to say, I'm absolutely in love with Colin and ~~Millicent~~ ... ~~Madeira~~ ... ~~Michaela~~ ... ~~Marilyn~~ ... Minerva! They're such amazing people! Colin is so vulnerable, and he hides that vulnerability behind his sense of humor. Joking his way through any situation, never even considering the possibility he might fail at something...but not really. Inside Colin there's a nightmare so deep, so tragic, that I couldn't help but feel that he was just one short step away from a breakdown. He's strong, don't get me wrong, and maybe I'm totally off in how I'm reading him, but regardless... he's one tormented man. Thankfully, he has Minerva, an amazing heroine who cares little for what society thinks of her. She's accepted her "spinster" title, and has nothing to lose. So why not live her dream? Fortunate for her, she has Colin to help her do precisely that!

Apart they're wonderful, together they're perfect!

### **The Bottom Line:**

I absolutely love the idea behind this series! What a fun, unique place to be, Spindle Cove. It's the perfect setting for mischief, mayhem – intentional or otherwise – and romance, and I can't wait to move on to the next book, *A Lady by Midnight*.

### **This had me giggling:**

“Jesus,” he finally managed, pushing water off his face. “Jesus Christ and John the Baptist. For that matter, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.” Still not enough. He needed to reach back to the Old Testament for this. “Obadiah. Nebuchadnezzar. Methuselah and Job.”

“Be calm,” she said, taking him by the shoulders. “Be calm. And there are women in the Bible, you know.”

“Yes. As I recall it, they were trouble, every last one...”

Excerpt From: Dare, Tessa. “A Week to Be Wicked.”

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## **Kimberly Carrington-Fox says**

**Nuestra reseña en *A la cama con... un libro***

Colin, me tenías ganada desde el libro anterior ?????? #LoveYou

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## Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

**"When a girl trudged through the rain at midnight to knock at the Devil's door, the Devil should at least have the depravity - if not the decency - to answer."**

*Guys. Guuuuuys. I think I may be a romantic.*

**Yes there are parts completely unbelievable and twists rather roll-eyes worthy** - of course. *But you know what?* That's okay, because what Min and Colin are offering us? That's **a tale** - a show of deception, the triumph of the lies - and that's **hilarious**.

**Yes the plot is predictable and we run into some sentences very cliché sometimes.** *But you know what?* There's also several **damn hot scenes** and if Colin's personality has been already seen in other novels, well, he's fucking awesome in this role of the sarcastic, infuriating, devilish, and somehow delusional Lord. As for Minerva, well, she's pretty amazing. Moreover, the scientific similes of Minerva and Colin completely cracked me up.

**"I've always thought that word sounded splendidly naughty." He let it roll off his tongue with ribald inflection. "Logarithm." He gave an exaggerated shiver. "Ooh. Yes and thank you and may I have some more."**

*Plus* I have a theory about the clichés we find in this story. Yeah, I know, I'm not some investigator. Perhaps I'm delusional. But still. **I'm almost sure that Tessa Dare plays consciously with the clichés she includes.** *Why?* Because when a reaction or a sentence seems dripping with cheese, that's always followed by something which makes fool of it.

*Colin is being completely overdramatic?*

→ Miranda hurries to call him on his shit.

*Colin wants to offer Minerva his ring as a sign of love?*

→ The ring stays stuck on his finger. A long time.

**"You taste of ripe plums."**

**She couldn't help it. She laughed. "Now that's just absurd."**

**"Why?"**

**"Because it's too early in the year for ripe plums."**

**See?** I could add some examples but then, I'd spoil the story too much. Maybe I'm wrong, I'm just a random reader after all, but it pleases me to think that Tessa Dare is able to do that. I guess you'll have to make your

own opinion about it.

**"My name is Minerva. I'm not your pet. And you're deranged if you think I'd ever marry you."**

**"But I thought you just said - "**

**"Run away with you, yes. Marry you?" She made an incredulous noise in her throat.**

**"Please" .**

**Yes it awfully looks like instalove.** Yep. Because there's no denying that falling in love in a week *is* instalove. But then, I strangely didn't care that much, as I saw this book as a fairy tale. A wicked and silly journey into the foolish heart of mine. *And you know what? A day after finishing my read I can still feel the butterflies.*

**"But now that he was seized with lust for her, she ought to at least reciprocate with a grudging-yet-helpless infatuation. So much would only be polite."**

**Yes the pacing is uneven and the story kind of drag towards the end.** *But you know what?* I must confess that I wanted my HEA. I was shipping Colin and Minerva like crazy and despite the fact that Colin's transformation can lead to awkward moments, well, I was smiling so big it hurts. *Right. I think I may be a romantic after all. Don't tell anyone.*

In a nutshell : Here's a somehow predictable romance book, where we find characters who fall in love pretty quickly, whose comments are sometimes a bit cheesy, and where some situations will make you roll your eyes something fierce, yet it was a page-turner and I laughed and ~~giggled~~ **GIGGLED** so much. Not to mention the steamy scenes. Did I talk about that? Yeah?

**As guilty I can feel about that, it was a complete enjoyment. Damn. I'm ruined.**

*For more of my reviews, please visit:*

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## **NMmomof4 says**

### **4.25 Stars**

**Overall Opinion:** I really enjoyed this! I think this author is definitely one of my favorites for her characters and witty banter in historical romances! If only she would have more closure and epilogues...????? I would still highly recommend her works to anyone trying out the genre. I enjoy throwing in the occasional hr to mix things up with my contemporary romances, as to hopefully help prevent possible book funks. It was a lot of fun ?

**Brief Summary of the Storyline:** This is Minerva and Colin's story. The story starts with Minerva confronting Colin about the idea of him proposing to her sister. She doesn't want that match to happen, and she comes up with a proposition to fake an elopement with her instead. She needs to get to Scotland for a

symposium to present her findings of an ancient footprint, and he needs people to believe he has married to get his inheritance early. They embark on their journey, and it is a wild one. There are crazy stories being told, highway men chasing them, new identities being made, some sexy times, and some sweet moments...and they get a HEA ending.

**POV:** This alternated between focusing on Minerva and Colin in 3rd person narrative (with some side characters thrown in as well).

**Overall Pace of Story:** Good. I never skimmed and I thought it flowed well. The ending was a little too abrupt for my tastes tbh.

**Instalove:**No, they take a while to develop stronger feelings (though not *that* long since its only in the course of a week ?)

**H rating:** 4.5 stars. Colin. I really liked him. He was damaged from his past, and tried to cope in whatever way he could. I appreciated how he cared for the h and came to love her so much.

**h rating:** 4.5 stars. Minerva. I really liked her. She was smart and witty, but I would've liked for her to stand up for herself with others a little more at times (she was great with the H).

**Sadness level:** Low, no tissues needed

**Push/Pull:** Yes (view spoiler)

**Heat level:** Good. They have some good tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story.

**Descriptive sex:** Yes

**OW/OM drama:** Kind of, but mild (view spoiler)

**Sex scene with OW or OM:** No (view spoiler)

**Cheating:** No

**Separation:** No

**Possible Triggers:** Mild (view spoiler)

**Closure:** This didn't have enough of a glimpse into their future for me! Why, oh why couldn't we have a jump ahead epilogue?! I would reluctantly call this a HEA, even though I wanted more (view spoiler).

**Safety:** This one should be Safe for most safety gang readers (view spoiler)

## Alp says

A Week to Be Wicked is a sweet, humorous, and entertaining historical romance story. I enjoyed reading Colin and Minerva's journey to Edinburgh for the most part. There were many good and bad things happened along the way. Sometimes they made me laugh, but they got me frustrated the other times. The romance between them made my heart melt though, and seeing them finally could be happy together made me happy, too.

### What worked for me :

1. It was an easy read. There was nothing particularly complex about the plot, and it only took little time to finish it.
2. There were plenty of steamy sexy times and they were explosive—incredibly HOT!
3. The ending and the sweet HEA did me right! It was so beautiful that Colin loved Minerva the way she was. I was blown away!

### What didn't work for me :

1. Both Colin and Minerva behaved childishly at times. They thought and acted in a very immature way like in the scene where Colin started to lie to the Fontleys family and Minerva reluctantly went along with his story. But later, Mr. and Mrs. Fontley found out the truth, Minerva was angry with Colin and they began to blame each other. No, this wasn't what I expected. And then to add insult to injury, she hit his sore spot with cruel words that he couldn't even ride in a coach. Argh! I was as much disappointed as frustrated at both of them! I wish these things never happened in this book.
2. Colin is such a tease and he was incapable of taking certain things seriously, except for IN BED. (Fortunately, he could redeem himself in the end.)
3. There was too much repetition of 'bookish' and 'awkward'. Grrr! I felt so irritated with them!
4. Some parts of the book didn't make a whole lot of sense to me.

Despite the fact that the story was quite slow and remotely boring in some parts, it was a pretty light-hearted story overall.

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**\*\*BR with my lovely friends, Aileene and Jess.**

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## Warda says

I mean, I cannot give this book anything less than 5 stars. It'd be absurd and unfair, because the happiness I felt whilst reading it was unreal. It's so worthy of 5 stars and more. My heart is glowing!

Now, I'm off to explore more of Tessa Dare's books.

