



Royal Ruin

Jessica Peterson

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Royal. Ridiculously hot. Totally off limits.

To: Emily@EPDesigns.com

From: HRHKit@PrimrosePalace.org.uk

SUBJECT: ENGAGEMENT CONTRACT (Marked Confidential)

FROM THE DESK OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHRISTOPHER

Emily—Thank you for joining me for dinner tonight. And for agreeing to my proposal, as ludicrous as it is. Desperate times call for fake engagements. At least in my family.

I am attaching the contract we discussed. Our lawyers asked that I highlight the following clauses:

- *The engagement shall last ninety days*
- *Both parties are to appear genuinely in love at all royal appearances*
- *Beyond required public displays of affection, there shall be no contact of any kind between the parties*

The first half of your payment will be deposited into your account upon the signing of this contract. Be sure to note your ring size. We would like to make prompt delivery of the family emerald. The Queen and I thank you in advance for your discretion.

Cheers,
Kit

P.S.—Sorry to hear about your divorce. Your ex sounds like a proper knob head.

P.P.S—You looked stunning tonight.

Royal Ruin Details

Date : Published January 18th 2018 by Peterson Paperbacks (first published January 13th 2018)

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Author : Jessica Peterson

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Royal Ruin for online ebook

Heather andrews says

Kit is a very alpha male, "mine," he growled against my mouth. "You're mine, Em, and so is this kiss. Let me have you." Kit is a real gentlemen, the man knows when to offer up his sleeves when his woman needs a hanky, "I don't care." He looked at me. "Seriously, I've got a whole closet of these things. And this is my least favorite out of all of them." Emily always wants to make sure her man is satisfied, "Emily reached down and wrapped her hand around my ***k. "It can happen again if you'd like." I really loved this book, and I'm hoping the other siblings get a book of their own.

~**Anna**~ A Romance Reader says

3.5 stars

I really enjoyed this book! I am a sucker for Royal romances and this was a good one.

Kit is the one that made this book for me. He's charming, loyal, responsible, sexy and so kind. He has a big heart and wants to make a difference by helping others. I love him so much.

Emily, on the other hand got on my nerves a few times. I know she's gone through some hard times and that trusting again is difficult, but Kit is so amazing and loves her so much I wanted to shake her! I didn't agree with some of her decisions but I respected them. I did like her overall, even if it sounds like I didn't, and think she's a great match for Kit. I loved how she brought light and joy to his life and how passionate she was. Also the chemistry between them was off the charts!

Overall this was a good contemporary romance with an H I absolutely adore! I can't wait to read about Aly and Rob in the next book in the series!

Kim Perry says

I have been waiting for this pairing throughout the study abroad series and I wasn't disappointed. Emily and Prince Christopher, aka Kit, had this amazing connection and chemistry while she was studying abroad in college. Fast forward in time and now Kit is even sexier than ever, despite coming across as more remote. The responsibilities of being a prince and the next King of England with three younger and wayward siblings is weighing on him. In the years since her study abroad, Emily has created a successful design business and travels between London and the States for work. Emily is ambitious but she doesn't trust her own judgment when it comes to relationships and men anymore. Seeing each other again is surprising in that their chemistry is still there and pretending to be engaged never felt so real. It doesn't help that Kit is charming, generous, and very supportive of her career. There are great secondary characters in Kit's family and I'm looking forward to reading about his siblings in this series.

I voluntarily read an advanced copy.

4.5 stars

Danielle from Short and Sassy says

Royal Love Story!! Need I say more!?! Full Review to come!

Tracy- OMGReads says

Royal Ruin takes an old trope, and along with laughs and steam, it's refreshing and fun. I could NOT get enough of Kit. He was so easy to fall for, and to root for. He had me swooning, being a real Prince Charming. He charms the girl he knew once upon a time, who is struggling to find her footing at the moment.

Royals, friends to lovers, fake relationship, this book really has it all. It was a great read that had me laughing, and an occasional gasp. It was a quick read, and kept my interest. I read it in one sitting, and I can't wait to see what comes next in this series. I would recommend to the reader looking for a sexy royal, and an addicting story.

review copy requested and reviewed on behalf of OMGReads

☆? Angie ?☆ says

Middle-of-the-road kind of pretty good.
Solid 3 stars.

Laura says

ARC Provided by the Author and Give Me Books

It's possible I am the only person with this issue, and I am ok with that. But, let me start this by telling you that this takes place in the UK and it is set mostly in London.

Why does that matter; you ask?

Let me tell you. Because, I can't read books that are set in fake countries. I don't get the logic. Norway isn't going to sue, really.

So, after I managed to ascertain that this was set in a real place (just me?) I was able to really enjoy the story. And, enjoy it I did. Kit is wonderful and the exact way you think a prince would act. Emily, well, she is a little in awe of the situation, and of who he is...but this is tempered by the fact that this is not the first time they have met, and the first time set in motion the situation (in more than one way) in which they find themselves now.

I loved how the royal duties part of the story was handled, I loved that the changes in both of their lives were intentional. And, I loved that you believed the characters. I have little (read that as none) to no experience with royalty, unless you count that I have been to Buckingham Palace, but this is how I think they would act.

Really, for me to engage with a story, I need to be invested in the characters and I need to want them to work out and be happy. I was definitely there with this title. Add in that it takes place in an actual country, and things were fine.

There were a couple of minor characters that I was not sure really needed to be in the story, but they did not ruin the story.

I am looking forward to the next titles in the series and I recommend this one.

Beatrice ~ Confessions of a Pinay Bookaholic says

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

The first book in *A Flings With Kings series* centers on a fake relationship - second chance romance between **Prince Kit Thorne** and **Emily Kilpatrick**. Their romance began during their college years when Prince Kit was a TA and Emily was his student failing her exams. It was a brief affair and things didn't work out but Prince Kit was still head over heels on Emily. Then his life changed when tragedy hits his family. Ten years later, Emily and Prince Kit crossed paths again which ignited their chemistry again. Emily was a newly divorced interior designer and Kit was the next in line on the throne. Kit had a proposition for Emily to be his fake fiancée. In this way, she'll received a huge amount of money to save her business.

The story was lighthearted and cute. Kit Thorne's brothers, Rob and Jack made me laugh so hard. I have no problems with Prince Kit. He's a great guy and I really like his personality except Emily. Her decisions irked me and god this woman tested my patience from the beginning (view spoiler). I lowered my rating because of her. If she was less annoying, I might upped my rating to four stars. Damn her. Still, this book is a good series starter.

Final rating: 3.5 / 5 stars

Full review posted.

A.BookNerd.Bookseller&Bibliophile.Blog says

?????????4.5 Stars???????????

"I want him for more than a moment"

If I had a chance with Christopher "Kit" Thorne....heir to the British throne I'd want him for more than a minute too!!!

Emily and Kit met way back in college. Emily was studying abroad and Kit was her TA. Kit knew Emily was the one for him but Emily had a boyfriend back home.

Fast forward 10 years later and Kit and Emily meet again. The attraction is still there but Emily and Kit have both been through tragedy and heartbreak in their time apart.

Can a prince really have his happily ever after with the woman of his dreams? Can a successful....very driven business woman give up everything to take on the responsibilities of a future queen? All I can say is....you need to read this book...NOW!!! This is my first book by Ms Peterson and I CAN NOT WAIT for the next book in this series to come out.

Reviewed by: Heather S.

Quinn's Quippy Quotes says

4.5 I want him for more than a moment. I want him. Stars!!!!

Yes, Yes, and MORE YES!!!

If you guys are looking for the next royal romance, then you need to hop on this baby! Kit and Emily are #royaltygoals.

Ok, so if you guys didn't read Peterson's Study Abroad series,
#1 This is a total standalone (This coming from an anal series reader)
#2 What are you thinking, because that series is amazing!
#3 We get a glimpse of Emily as she is the heroine's friend in *Lessons in Letting Go* (aka, my fav of the series).

Ever since Peterson touched on Emily's relationship with a supposed Prince I was like, gotta have that story now! And finally it's here, and I'm about to gush...oh, did I mention that Emily and Kit's relationship isn't just a royal romance, but a second chance romance with a side of teacher/student romance with a big fake fiancé cherry on top??? That's like the Big Mac of romance novels! And it tastes SO much better :)

So if you like your books to start off hot and heavy, then you will not be disappointed with *Royal Ruin*. Emily and Kit have a definite spark, but timing is not their friend. So just as things are heating up, life dumps a big bucket of ice water on the both of them.

Emily had been the only girl who'd ever made me reckless.

Kit definitely learned his lesson with Emily. He knows know that he needs to lock down his emotions and stay in complete control. He is, after all, the next in line for the throne. A man of his position should be nothing but steadfast.

Emily is jaded. She's coming off of an ugly and hurtful divorce that has taught her that nothing can be taken at face value. So imagine that the next step in her life leads to a fake engagement to none other Prince Kit. FYI, this reunion is delicious and angst AF. Enjoy it.

But as soon as Kit and Emily start to spend more time together, the once faded spark starts to rekindle between the two. The entire royal family is enamored with Emily and Kit is having a hard time not following suit as Emily brings an airiness to his life that he desperately craves.

How did she manage it? How did she wear her worries so lightly? I felt so fucking weighed down by mine all the time. Suffocated, even. But somehow Emily managed to dance with hers. It made me want to dance with mine.

Emily melting the ice prince that is Kit was a delicious adventure. But soon we discover that there is a fine line with what is fictitious and prefabricated vs. true to heart.

Tonight, though. Tonight I'd let Kit touch me like he loved me. I'd let him take me like I loved him. I'd pretend that this was the beginning of our happily ever after. I'd pretend that fairy tales really did come true. Emily

I wanted everything she was. Everything she could give me. Kit

There are some incredibly tender moments in this book that draw these characters together in a sweet and tender way. There's still a lot of hurt and mistrust that they have to overcome as well. And leave it to Peterson to create her characters with a great sense of humor that will have you alternating between the sad moments to laughing out loud. This books is going to leave you craving for the next in line!

A good book will make you fall in love with the main characters. A great book with make you fall in love with all of them. I love all these people! And I can't wait for Aly and Rob's book!

You're my person, Emily. You always have been. It's just taken me a while to figure it out.

Nerdy Dirty & Flirty says

-Kacie, ??????????

Reading about royals usually isn't my cup of tea, but there was something about the blurb that caught my interest and made me want to read this book.

I fell so in love with this story and these two amazing characters. I was sucked into their lives and their story from the first page. Emily and Kit met in college and they had an amazing connection. They held off on their attraction until Emily became distracted by her boyfriend and it caused Kit to become concerned. One thing led to another and ...

Fast forward to ten years later and Emily is rid of her ex-husband and Kit has just been named second in line for the throne. Throughout the years, Kit has closed himself off from everything except protecting his family. And protecting his family leads him back to Emily. What started out as a fake engagement turns into something so right and so real.

I love the chemistry between Emily and Kit. It is hot, it is unavoidable, and it is real. I loved the family dynamics (of the royal family, and friends that are like family). I also loved how the relationship between Emily and Kit wasn't easy or perfect. There were snippets of Aly and Rob that set the ground work for the next book.

Siobhan says

Jessica Peterson started her life as an author writing historical fiction, before moving on to new adult romance. I have yet to pick up her historical fiction (The Hope Diamond trilogy is certainly something I want to read, though), but I adored her new adult romance (in fact, the Study Abroad series is one of my favourite new adult romance series). Now, though, with Royal Ruin, Jessica Peterson steps into a slightly different

genre. We have moved from new adult romance to plain old contemporary adult romance (although this book is anything but 'plain old').

Royal Ruin is the first book in the Flings With Kings series, and I'm sure it has come at a time where shelves will be overflowing with royal romances. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have the world in love with the royals all over again. What I am about to say next will shock many, however... I'm not overly interested. I find the British public is split into two categories – we either love the royals or we are rather indifferent. I fall into the latter category. I can appreciate the love some people have for them, I can understand why so many are invested in the lives of the royals, but I can read an article about them and turn my attention to something else all within a blink of the eye.

I'm sure you're now asking why I decided to pick up a royal romance read.

Although Royal Ruin has come along at a time where I'm sure everyone is considering a royal romance book, this one has actually been on my radar for quite some time. We were introduced to the leading characters in the Study Abroad series, we've just been waiting a while for their story to be told. Do not feel as though you need to read the Study Abroad series to understand this one, though. They were introduced, but they were never the focal point of the story. We got enough to leave us intrigued, but you will not be at a disadvantage if you simply read the Flings With Kings series. That being said, I would certainly recommend reading the Study Abroad series – as I've already said, it's one of my favourite new adult romance series.

I'll tell you right now that I had very high hopes for Royal Ruin. I was hyped up in so many ways, I was counting down until I could get my hands on the book and stick my nose in it. I couldn't wait to read the story of Kit and Emily – and I was not at all disappointed. I believe Lessons in Letting Go still holds the title of my favourite Jessica Peterson book (mainly because the issues dealt with throughout the book touched extremely close to home), but Royal Ruin is certain up there near the top. I have loved all my Jessica Petersen books thus far, but I think it is safe to place Royal Ruin in my top three.

You see, this book had so much. Emotion, humour, steamy scenes, wonderful characters, and a whole list of other goodies that will pull you in and leave you wanting more. It is a book worthy of devouring, one you will find it near-impossible to put down. Starting this book at three in the morning really wasn't the best idea I've ever had, as it soon developed into a night of no sleep as I worked to see how everything came together.

Honestly, this book was wonderful. I could list so many things that made it an absolute delight, but I'm going to list my top three things – otherwise this review will end up becoming a real whopper like my review of Lessons in Letting Go turned out to be.

So, up first, the thing I loved the most about this book – the humour. Oh my gosh – boy, did I giggle. I read this after finishing a book labelled as a rom-com, yet I giggled more throughout this book than I did in my rom-com read. There are so many laugh out loud scenes, so many things you will want to read over and over. Without a doubt, this is the most humorous book Jessica Peterson has written to date. I've had some giggles throughout all of her books, but never as many as I had throughout this one. It's not a pure rom-com, but some of the scenes will certainly have you wishing for a Jessica Peterson rom-com in the future (petition to make this a reality, please).

Number two – the characters. I was excited for Kit and Emily from the moment I met them in the Study Abroad series, but nothing could have prepared me for their story. They were such a perfect fit for each other, and I loved every moment of their interactions. There was so many volatile emotions flying, so much pure feeling throughout. Jessica Peterson always pulls your emotions, but this is a thing of pure beauty. The relationship between the two is a study in contrasts – so hot and steamy, yet so wonderfully sweet. The two should not merge as beautifully as they did in this story, and yet Jessica Peterson more than managed to make this a wonderfully steamy sweet read.

The third and final thing I'll mention is something I love about all of Jessica Peterson's work. Although this is a romance story, there is also a much deeper message at the heart of it. It's not the kind of story to preach at you – Jessica Peterson is not that kind of author – but it does have more elements to it than just the boy meets girl you sometimes find in romances. A boy meets girl story is all well and good, but I prefer a romance story with depth. Jessica Peterson certainly gives us that – every single time. With this one, it isn't just a story of falling in love with another – it is a story of falling back into love with love. We fall back in love with love, our characters find themselves again, and so much more depth is added through the story through these elements.

Without a doubt, I loved this story. It is another winner from Jessica Peterson, and I cannot wait until I can pick up the next book in the Flings With Kings series. I know whatever comes next will be another mind-blowing read. Hell, I'm waiting for the day where Jessica writes me into a story. Then I'm going to find some kind of magic to turn her words into a reality. Because, without a doubt, if my love story was written by Jessica Peterson I know it would be a thing of beauty – and that right there, is why I will always come back for more.

Paula Phillips says

Ten years ago Emily was studying abroad in the UK and Kit Thorne was her T.A, for the majority of the class they would fawn over Kit as he was a Prince but for Emily, she never treated him like a celebrity but more so as a friend. Kit liked that and had a crush on Emily, but she was off the market until Luke cheated on her and one thing led to another, and the pair had ravishing sex in the office. That day though would be the last each other saw of one another for the next ten years. Fast forward to now, Emily is an interior design owner with a love of history and castles and has been divorced from Luke for two years. Kit is now heir to throne and next in line to become King as his parents have passed away. The Royal Foundation are renovating an old building and a school and have a few Interior design companies up for the bid. One is Emily's company, and she is meeting with Jane - Kit's sister. One thing leads to another, and the pair is face to face, and of course, all the feelings come rushing back not to mention Jane has caused a bit of a scandal and now the Queen has come up with a crazy idea. Kit and Emily must have a fake engagement which will be so newsworthy that the public will forget about Jane's scandalous adventures. With her business on the line and Kit's family, the pair agrees reluctantly. What could go wrong as it's just a fake romance for the next three months, right? As you can guess Emily and Kit, start to fall head over heels, and the old Kit starts to return and yay, Emily's ex Luke finally gets what's coming to him. Will Kit give up his right to be King to marry Emily as she isn't exactly Queen material? Or is the Thorne's royalty in ruins?

Find out in this romantic read of Royalty meets Commoner, one of my favorite tropes to read about. I am now looking forward to reading Book #2 in this series featuring Emily's friend and business partner Aly and Kit's brother Rob.

The_Book_Queen says

I have so many mixed feelings on this one.

First off, all the sexy scenes? SUPER HOT.

And this story had its moments, I admit.

Buuuuut. My biggest problem was the start of their romance. Emily had just found out her long-distance BF cheated on her, but they have **NOT** broken up. She's overcome with lust for Kit and also wants to forget about the pain of being cheated on, blah blah, so what does she do but **CHEAT ON THE CHEATING BF**. And before Kit can even pull out to get rid of the condom, the BF calls, she jumps up to answer it -- no hesitation, which screams **SHE'S NOT OVER HIM IN ANY WAY**, duh -- and walks out. Fast forward ten years, she married the cheating BF, but they just got divorced after -- you guessed it -- she caught him cheating [again].

I'm sorry, but I could not get on board with her, or fully on board with this couple's HEA, when it started with her cheating. Doesn't matter that the BF cheated on her first, that's not how this works. And yes, I would say the same if it had been the hero who pulled this.

From there, there were some other things that came up -- like slut shaming Kit's sister for partying and sleeping around, while Kit's brother, a total manwhore, is just fine. Fuck that.

And then there's the fact that this entire story felt very shallow, as far as development and plot.

And don't get me going on how Kit reacts when she has to put her fucking **BUSINESS AND CAREER** above him for a night. And no, I don't think he changed or learned, not one damn bit. He just got drunk daily for the 6 months they were apart and then after a 5 sec talk with his siblings, he's planning a proposal. They haven't spoken, she's still mad at him, but he's planning a big proposal for the first time he sees her in six months. Rather than, **IDK, TALKING SHIT OUT AND SEEING IF SHE EVEN WANTS YOU ANYMORE? UGH**. Just . . . yeah, I was not exactly happy with that whole bit in the last few chapters. It was annoying, unnecessary, showed him to be a dick -- and he didn't grovel or change from it -- and ultimately just . . . disappointing.

I'm somewhat curious about the rest of the series, but I just don't know. I liked parts of this one, and, seriously, the sex was **hot af**, but that's just not enough, you know?

~ * ~ * ~ * ~

If you wish to look at some quotes/thoughts I highlighted, please check out my Twitter feed

Rae Lake says

This was such a cute story.

I loved how Emily and Kit were together.

SO you have Kit who is next in line for the throne. His parents died leaving him with all the responsibilities at a young age. Instead of acting out like the rest of his siblings he got his life together and became the prince everyone wanted him to be even if that meant that he would have to give up his dream to be Ph.D in economics.

He is in love with one of his students but since that is forbidden he leaves it at the one day stand that it is. Fast forward 10 years and now Kit's little sister is getting in bad with the press. According to the queen the only way to fix it is for him to have a fake marriage. Guess who she thinks is the prime candidate. Emily. Her business is failing and she no longer trusts men thanks to her douche of an ex. Of course the both of them think that they will be ok and that they can keep any real feelings out of their fake engagement, but two days in they figure out that they can't. She refuses to give up her business and he can't step down from the thrown. In my opinion they didn't try very hard, he could have sent folks over to help with the flood and she could have asked for that help.

They break up again but then after a few months of both of them being miserable they figure out that they both can give up anything to be together.

It was a sweet sexy read!
