



## Provocative in Pearls

*Madeline Hunter*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Provocative in Pearls

*Madeline Hunter*

## Provocative in Pearls Madeline Hunter

The Earl of Hawkeswell has been living in limbo for two years, ever since his bride, heiress Verity Thompson, disappeared on their wedding day. As she hasn't been declared deceased, Hawkeswell cannot legally remarry and cannot access his wife's funds --- either of which would settle his dire financial crisis.

Coerced into marrying Hawkeswell by her duplicitous cousin, Verity fled London for the countryside. With no interest in the earl's title or status, she was willing to forfeit her inheritance in exchange for her freedom. Now that her ruse has been discovered, Verity is forced to return to a loveless marriage.

Hawkeswell strikes a bargain with Verity: In return for three kisses a day, he will not insist on his conjugal rights. But Verity discovers there are kisses ... and then there are *kisses* ... as she begins to learn the true meaning of seduction at the hands of a master.

## Provocative in Pearls Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2010 by Jove

ISBN : 9780515147629

Author : Madeline Hunter

Format : Paperback 345 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction

 [Download Provocative in Pearls ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Provocative in Pearls ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Provocative in Pearls Madeline Hunter**

---

## From Reader Review Provocative in Pearls for online ebook

### willaful says

I was about halfway through this book when I realized I didn't have the faintest idea what the hero's first name is. It's possible that I just missed a mention -- it is mentioned two or three times in the second half -- but it seems indicative of the general lack of intimacy or emotional resonance I felt.

All the women who work for "the Rarest Blooms" have secrets. When Lizzie's friend Audrianna got involved with Lord Summerhayes, she knew hers would inevitably soon be revealed: that "Lizzie" is really Verity, the missing wife of Lord Hawkeswell. Discovered by her husband, Verity is forced to resume a marriage she had never wanted and still hopes to escape.

Well written as always, with many witty passages, this romance still failed to touch me. It was very reminiscent of both the first in the series and some of Hunter's other books, so it felt like a retread. But I was bothered more by not really having a sense of... I'm not sure how to describe it. Events happened in the book yet I had no sense of what happened *between* those events. Hawkeswell and Verity's marriage took a long time to seem real to me; there wasn't enough detail of their daily lives. Other details failed to convince me as well: (view spoiler). It was like a draft, with everything between the high points marked "fill in later." Perhaps this is why I felt no emotional connection to the characters.

---

### seton says

#2 in a four book "Rarest Blooms" series.

The first book in this series - Ravishing in Red - just came out last month in Jan. Both are stories of strangers in a marriage and it's a sign of Hunter's great skill that the two novels don't seem too similar when read back to back this soon.

I am not going to go into the plot because all you need to know is on the backblurb. I liked how Verity started out as a quiet, naive woman still clinging to the dreams of her childhood, Hawkeswell as a hot-tempered autocrat, and how both changed over the course of the book. Readers who like their heroes besotted, will like how Hawkeswell becomes quite lovesick in the last 50 pages.

I can write pages about the many touches I loved about this book but I will cite only a few:

I liked the moments of sly humor - Hawkeswell talking in metaphors about fishes and lures . . . and wives, Verity getting back at Hawkeswell after a less than satisfying wedding night, V & H negotiating on fellatio. Hunter also takes a page from the Mary Balogh Handbook and uses the numerous love scenes to illustrate the deepening of the relationship.

Readers of the first book who liked that manslut, the Duke of Castleford (and I read that there are many!), will be happy to know that he continues with his skanky ways in this one. He is set to be paired with the steely Daphne in the fourth book - DANGEROUS IN DIAMONDS (Spring 2011) - and she just might be the only one who can whip him into shape. And, no, they don't meet in this novel.

Grade: A-

## Elaine says

2.5 stars

This book was ok. I expected more from it though. It took me a long time to get into it. I liked the characters but I found the heroine frustrating (she had so little understanding of her situation and what was possible). I was very interested in the storyline but it was just so very slow moving and I kept getting bored. It picked up at the very end a little bit. I liked it enough though that I will be reading the 3rd installment in this series.

---

## Jacob Proffitt says

*This is the second in a series and I'd really suggest reading the first before this one. The backstory is more thoroughly explained there and the main characters of the first are frequently on stage in this one as well. Plus, the first is a better story.*

The sentimentality I discussed in my review of the first book is present in this one as well, but not nearly as powerful or interesting. I think that's because of this: "Of course, it also wouldn't have worked if the characters hadn't been engaging and the story interesting and the pacing excellent." In this one, the characters weren't nearly so engaging and the story was only kind of interesting and that made the open sentimentality more of a neutral "style" than the advantage it was in the first book.

The thing is, Verity is a pill. I didn't like her and rather resented Hawkeswell's indulgence of her outbursts and general misbehavior. Nowhere is that more evident than in her immature and idiotic attempts to run away. The thing is, her "plans" are all hope and zero understanding. Which means that all the sentiment behind her actions is empty, unreasoning, and ultimately self-destructive. Further, there are a couple times where she makes promises that she goes on to completely disregard (and I don't mean just the marriage vows she had apparently made two years prior). So for most of the book I saw her as a faithless idiot with an immature understanding of her own circumstances and an obstinance that was impervious to reason or reality check.

Hawkeswell was way more engaging, but he had moments I disliked as well. He puts up with *a lot* and I liked his willingness to work with Verity even at her most unreasonable. I didn't like his underlying faith in sex as a cure all or using sex to get around Verity or allowing, even encouraging, Verity to use sex to get around him. But he was at heart a kind man and willing to go quite far to protect and sustain those in his care and I particularly liked how he was completing the journey out of irresponsibility that had him really taking the reins of his future into his own hands in ways he'd neglected before.

I also didn't like how much of the plot felt like a polemic on the evils of the British class system and the abuses made possible there. It didn't help, of course, that the most self-righteous bits were spouted by the reality-challenged Verity or that the actual plot behind her inheritance and the people in her district served as a discourse on some of the worst-case abuses possible. Not to mention the hypocrisy of a story that resolves satisfactorily only because Hawkeswell and his buddies pull aristocratic rank to pierce the original plot and bring the abusers to "justice"—essentially saying that the class system is open to abuse that is best solved by people using the class system to right its wrongs.

And yeah, that's a lot of griping for a three-star review. The thing is, I *did* care about Hawkeswell and through him the rest of the story fell into place (including, grudgingly, Verity). I liked his character arc and

his falling in love and the ending was simply outstanding. Yeah, I'm still a sentimental fool at heart and while some of it irked me mightily, I was still eager to see Hawkeswell's growth in a story I knew in advance would have a happy ending. Since that happy ending was truly magnificent, I have to put this one in the "win" column. And yeah, I look forward to reading the next and seeing if it is closer to my enchantment with the first book or more like the (minor) disappointment of this one.

**A note about Steamy:** This one had three or four explicit sex scenes and that puts it edging higher in the middle of my steam tolerance. It was interesting that the main characters had been married (though separated) for two years before the novel starts and I first started attaching to Hawkeswell with his intimate care of Verity (who was still a virgin). As I said above, Hawkeswell's belief in seduction as a cure for reticence grated a bit, but I rather enjoyed seeing him be hoist by his own petard on that little hook, as well.

---

### **Katie(babs) says**

The blurb on the cover of this book from Publishers Weekly states that "Hunter's books are so addicting they should come with a surgeon general warning." This blurb is the farthest from the truth in regards to Provocative in Pearls. I gave this read until page two-hundred and had to put it down because it was incredibly slow moving and boring, in the sense there was no real action to further along the plot. What we have here is Grayson, the Earl of Hawkeswell who has barely a penny to rub together. He thought his money problems would be a thing of the past when he married Verity Thompson two years ago. Their marriage was arranged by her nasty social climbing cousin Bertram, who blackmailed her into marriage. To escape this farce of a marriage, Verity pretended to drown in the Thames, where she has been hiding out at a house run by a woman who helps underprivileged and other women in need, much like Verity. Now that Verity is twenty-one, she can come out of hiding, annul her marriage and claim her fortune. Verity will even make sure Grayson is paid for his woes.

Grayson feels he was played a fool and for some reason, doesn't want their marriage to end. Since he's her husband and "owns" Verity, he wants them to give their marriage a chance. He will ease her into the pleasures of the marriage bed and all he expects in the beginning are three kiss a day from Verity. Soon these two are sharing more than just three kisses a day, where they become husband and wife in truth. Verity loves the pleasure she receives from Grayson, but doesn't want to be married because she enjoys her independence and isn't too keen on the overall high handedness Grayson uses when it comes to her. Verity will continue to try and run away and hide from Grayson until he loses interest. But Verity is in for a surprise because after he has tasted her wonderful kisses, he will never let her go.

Provocative in Pearls is a pretty ho hum read that if I were to have continued reading, it would have been for the sex scenes, Madeline Hunter excels at that, but otherwise this romance didn't have enough substance to move the story along. And, I almost lost it when Grayson remembers giving up all his orgies and debaucheries he used to enjoy as a young man and certainly can't do with his wife. And Verity has no shame in asking about his past and all these fun time orgies he went to. Perhaps if these two went to a few, then maybe this would have become a more interesting read.

After this mention about Grayson's past sex fun, that was where I closed Provocative in Pearls and didn't care either way if Grayson and Verity's passion led to them working on their marriage.

---

### **Sonya Heaney says**

Originally posted **HERE** .

I am genuinely perplexed by the mixed reviews for this series. Apart from the sometimes cringeworthy uses of American words and expressions (*fishing poles?*), it is one of the most engaging historical romance series I have come across.

But therein, I suspect, lies the problem. In a genre currently populated by Disney-style fluff pieces with an abundance of often pointless explicit sex, Madeline Hunter's more realistic depictions of Regency-era characters and attitudes just aren't cutting it. It's disappointing, because the modernised Disney fluff is the very reason I don't read anywhere near as much in the historical genre as I do contemporary.

*Provocative in Pearls* is the second book in the *Rarest Blooms* series, and I loved every moment of it. In fact, I liked this one even more than the first in the series, for the gradual, believable development of a desperate man and a beaten woman forced into a marriage, into two characters in a deep, deep love. I loved the humour between the men. I loved the gestures the characters made that spoke a lot more about how they felt than any words could do.

Perhaps what I love most is that the characters are bringing a genuine Regency-era mentality to their lives, to their marriages. I'm about as much of a feminist as you can get, but when I pick up a book in the historical romance genre, I expect women to be up against the challenges and restrictions of their times. Misplaced feminism that is accepted by the other characters makes me cringe. After all, what is the point in the historical setting if things are going to be as they are in the twenty-first century, only with fancier dresses?

There was angst aplenty in *Provocative in Pearls*, and our hero had more than one opportunity to prove himself his wife's greatest champion. I loved the well-constructed scenes from start to finish, showing our Regency aristocrat – despite himself – finding himself in love with his errant wife.

But, oh if only US publishers took more care with language! I am so, so, so, so tired of being yanked out of the story by American English! This is also the first historical romance I remember reading where *arse* was misspelt as *ass* – more than once. There's no excuse for the use of such blatant American terminology in an allegedly English setting. If the rest of us can recognise these terms as American, American editors should be able to recognise what is British!

Even so, this was one of my better historical romance reads... ever. I love this series.

---

## **Keri says**

This was the 2nd in the *Rarest Blooms* series and I liked it better than the first. I connected much better to the characters because the writing seemed a bit more looser. The love scenes were well done and heart felt.

I liked that Verity wasn't a pushover and she didn't mind telling Grayson where to stick his title. Even though she didn't have all the information quite right on the Earl of Hawkeswell. Yes he needed a monied bride and he was under the impression that he had a willing one. But once he found out the truth, he was fully capable of setting things right...or was he? Grayson knew that once his virgin bride had a taste of his man essence and passion she would beg to stay his wife.

Yeah...it worked out just like that..or did it? Somebody was willing to be a slave, you will have to read it for yourself who slaved over who. Sweet and awesome read and I can't wait to pick up Celia's story. But I am on pins and needles for Tristan and Daphne's story. Gosh he is such a man-whore...I already love him. :-)

## Meow says

2 Stars (for good prose style)

Ugh.

Spoilers ahead.

This book made me cringe so much I couldn't finish it. It hits my least favorite romance trope: If I just keep seducing her, no matter how many times she says "just a kiss" or asks for her freedom, I'll convince her that she likes to be my marital property! (And I generally love Historical Romance, tropes and all, but No.)

Unlike Hunter's last book in the series, this book lacked the underlying mystery that kept the story rolling in the last one. The "mystery" in this is revealed by the heroine early on, and then it's a romp through misunderstandings, assumptions, and misguided male lust (and greed, he did marry her for money in the first place!) from there forward.

Moral of the story: If Hawkeswell was really so noble, he would've let the poor girl have her annulment without scraping at his male pride to force her to have no other choice, and THEN tried to convince her to change her mind because he actually LIKED her. If he'd been unattractive, he would've been the villain of this story.

Sorry, M. Hunter. I will check out the rest of the series, but I am not much pleased with this one.

---

## D.G. says

**DNFed @9%**

I hate when women in historical romance act like they are modern women. So this heroine fakes her own death because she says she was "tricked" into the marriage? And then leaves her bridegroom in limbo for two years, destroying him his finances and his reputation and then acts like she's in the wrong? WTH??

If I'd been the groom, I'd sue her to kingdom come and take all her money.

---

## Joanna (joreadsalot) says

I originally had my rating at a 3 star but I've brought it to a 2 stars because I didn't like this as much as Ravishing in Red. I am struggling to recall this book because it did not leave a lasting impression on me. I thought Verity was very tenacious and very logical but almost too much. Same with Hawkeswell. They both had the same qualities but sometimes their words were so austere that I was frozen sometimes. The heat was there occasionally but there was always a bit of a breeze, if you know what I mean.

The overall plot for this story was definitely more complicated than what transpired in the previous book and I felt it had more substance. What I mean by that is when it comes to the reason as to why the woman in this quartet reside at The Rarest Blooms with Daphne, Verity has a better reason for doing so than Audrianna. The interesting thing about this book is that we spend a lot of time with Hawkeswell, Summerhays and Castleford. Probably more time with them than we do with Verity and the other blooms. I thought this was kind of interesting because we usually don't spend much time with the male MC and his friends and hear their musings and find out about their shenanigans. I actually found Castleford in this book to be quite funny and a lot of fun. I really do want to see if he gets a book and the woman who is going to wrangle that guy in. LOL

In the end I was lukewarm about this book but it is not stopping me from continuing on with the series especially since I am listening to them all in the audiobook format. I hope Sinful in Satin is better and I hope it is a quick read so I can hopefully read a book about Castleford.

Happy Reading peeps

Jo

---

## K says

????: <http://thecrazyadmins.info/index.php/...>

?????? ? ????? ?????????, ?????, ?????, ??????? ? ? ????????????? ? ? ???? ?????.  
?????? ? ? ????????????? ????? ? ? ???? ????????? ?????????.

---

## OLT says

This is book two in M. Hunter's Regency quartet, The Rarest Blooms, following RAVISHING IN RED. You can read this one as a stand alone book but there will be recurring characters in all four and it's nice to meet them in order. This one showcases the romance of Grayson, Earl of Hawkeswell (friend of the hero from book one) and Verity Thompson (friend of the heroine from book one). Grayson's an impoverished earl and Verity a rich heiress not of the peerage and their marriage had been arranged when Verity was still a minor and was powerless to avoid it. So she becomes a runaway bride the day of the wedding and isn't found until two years later and is forced to return to Grayson's control. The story has two central plotlines: 1) the marriage of convenience developing into a real marriage of love, and 2) some mysterious happenings in Verity's ironworks, her source of income which she inherited from her late father. Getting to the bottom of the problems in the ironworks is also important to the improvement of the relationship of hero and heroine and the story takes off well for me in the second half of the book. There are interesting issues of class showcased in the marriage of a peer and non-peer and social issues involving the working class in the ironworks and, to me, the story rings true in historical authenticity. Also, as is usual with M. Hunter male protagonists, Grayson is quite autocratic, this in keeping with the time period when men were the "deciders" and women considered not much more than chattel. It is always interesting to watch the Hunter male start out so autocratic and chauvinist and end up developing a "softer" side as he falls in love with the heroine and the two become equals in an emotional partnership.

If I have a criticism of this book it is that, in the first half of the book, Verity and Grayson become intimate before any of the issues and conflicts between them had been aired sufficiently. I would not have expected

Verity, who held some mistaken ideas about Grayson's involvement in some dealings which hurt people dear to her, to feel such a strong attraction to him until these issues had been dealt with.

---

### **Amarilli Settantatre says**

Ho preferito il precedente.

Questo sì è carino, c'è un mistero da risolvere, però è un po' tirato per le lunghe con infinite scene di sesso.

Verity e il conte sono un po' opachi come personaggi.

Bonus: le varie apparizioni del duca libertino mi fanno morire!

Lo adoro già e non vedo l'ora di leggere il quarto volume.

---

### **Umaiya ?Insignificant September? says**

Why in the name of all that is Holy, was I reading this?!

I mean, there weren't even good reviews left by my friends serving as a recommendation and the avg rating wasn't that compelling either so, **What.The.Hell.**

Where was the romance, the chemistry, the zing, dude?!

The entire time reading this, I wasn't laughing.

I stomach didn't fill with butterflies.

My heart didn't flutter.

Never shed a tear.

Didn't visit LaLa-Land either.

For God's sake I didn't even sigh or aww.

**Not. Even. Once.**

This was so. . . so. . . wooden.

If it weren't for that ending (.5 stars) I'd have called this the Bella Swan of books.

Flat. Lifeless.

2.5 stars.

---

### **Ana says**

Hawkeswell has found himself in a bit of a muddle. Two years ago he married a heiress so that he could replenish his empty coffers. Unfortunately the bride dissappeared on her wedding day. Now he can't get her fortune, and he can't marry another woman. And then, while visiting the Rarest Blooms with his friend Sebastian (hero of Ravishing in Red) he sees her again - his wife Verity.

Verity has been blackmailed into marrying Hawkeswell by her cousin. When she found out that he didn't stick to his part of the deal she ran away. She spent the last two years hiding, waiting for her 21st birthday

and her majority. And then she sees her husband again. And he refuses to allow her an annulment, but insist on continuing their marriage. And then he decides to seduce her with kisses.

Their roots are very different. He is an earl born and bred to take over the title, and she is a daughter of a mine owner (or something like that). Verity especially is aware of the difference of their status, particularly when she goes to her hometown and when she notices that everyone treats her differently - she's not one of them anymore, but a countess.

My main problem with the book is that wit was really slow and boring, mostly in the beginning. But when I passed that it picked up in the second half.

Castleford as always is great. :-)

Rating:

**3.5 stars.**

---