



Kissed by Shadows

Jane Feather, Wendy McCurdy (Editor)

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New York Times bestselling author Jane Feather has won legions of fans and critical accolades for her unique blend of sizzling seduction, dangerous intrigue, and passionate adventure. In this second of two romances featuring two unconventional sisters whose quest to solve the mystery surrounding their lives puts each of them in the path of an irresistible hero, Jane Feather tells the story of a young bride in peril and a mysterious English lord who find themselves at the center of a sinister plot...and a reckless affair.

Kissed By Shadows

Lady Philippa Nielson had no memory of what took place in her bedchamber in the dead of night--nor knowledge of the dangerous plot that put her life in jeopardy. But with a brief touch of his hand and one glance of his knowing gray eyes, Pippa felt a connection to the dark stranger who should have been her greatest enemy. Who was this man who seemed to understand more about her life than she did herself? Why did she respond to his most casual caresses with the most urgent and reckless of desires?

Lionel Ashton had been appointed guardian of both Pippa and the secret she unknowingly bore. And protect this sensuous and fiercely independent woman he would, even from the king himself. But what Lionel knows about Pippa will put both their lives in the greatest danger--even as they slip under the spell of a daring seduction that will turn them into passionate outlaws...and legendary lovers.

Kissed by Shadows Details

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From Reader Review Kissed by Shadows for online ebook

Susan (the other Susan) says

Spoiler that's also a warning: The premise of this "romance" is so nauseating, I couldn't enjoy it. The "hero" assists devoutly religious King Philip in repeatedly raping a drugged woman for the purpose of getting her pregnant, so that her baby can then be taken from her, if necessary, to be passed off as the queen's own child. If forced seduction makes you queasy in historical romance novels, wait till you read about the calculated use of an unconscious girl as a baby-maker for the hero's boss, and her subsequent imprisonment, with the full cooperation of the hero - who rationalizes his participation in the rapes by assuring himself that he will find a way to "make it right" after his king's baby-momma has served her purpose... Yes, I know that women in the Dark Ages were powerless and could be used as men wished , but I don't read romances for an education in how ugly the world can be, and I HATE it when a heroine falls for her rapist. I learned long ago to avoid authors who use rape as foreplay. The Jane Feather I've enjoyed typically has more class than that. Her bad-boy heroes might coerce and deceive to get their way, but this? There's something so calculating and clinical about the rapes in this book, and the "hero's" justification for helping it happen, that it somehow seemed harder to get past than the usual "carried away by passion" bit that turns rape into fantasy in novels set in the Middle Ages. There's no passion at work in the rape of poor Pippa (the fun and flirty younger sister we met in "To Kiss a Spy"). She's been chosen as an incubator, period. And we're supposed to believe she could get past the knowledge that a man who claims to love her was an accessory to her rape... Why did I keep reading? I think I kept hoping I'd believe in the developing romance and feel less dirty for having picked this up. It didn't work. It's been several years since I read "Kissed By Shadows," and I still think of it as Jane Feather's Drug-Rape Book. ..Should more fairly have been titled, Raped By Monsters.

Katherine ??? says

Lady Pippa mengira dirinya hamil dari suaminya, Lord Stuart Nielson. Yg tidak disadari adalah dirinya "dijual" utk nafsu bejat Raja Phillip, dibawa ke istana kediamannya dlm keadaan dibius. Dibawah intrik-intrik kerajaan, Lady Pippa bertemu dgn Lionel yg adalah kaki tangan Phillip. Pippa adalah pengikut setia Lady Elizabeth dan pernah ikut dipenjara bersamanya, dirinya sudah lelah dicurigai oleh Queen Mary (saudara tiri Lady Elizabeth) yg juga menyatakan diri sedang hamil.

Ketika Pippa mengetahui suaminya adalah homosexual, dia bertekad membala dendam dgn menjalin hubungan gelap dgn Lionel. Hingga Lionel mengungkapkan rahasia sebenarnya ayah bayi yg dikandung Pippa. Mereka tidak punya pilihan lain selain kabur utk menyelamatkan nyawa mereka juga. Dibantu Robin, kakak Pippa dan juga Luisa, gadis anak perwalian Lionel yg jatuh cinta pada Robin, mereka berpetualang menghindari kejaran dari antek-antek Phillip utk hidup dan mati.

Menurut saya novel ini lebih sarat dan cenderung ke historical fiction drpd ke historical romance. Tampaknya author masih "lemah" dlm menuangkan romansa yg pekat, sehingga saya merasa unsur romance dlm buku ini cukup ringan dan biasa saja. Justru titik fokus ini pada unsur history pada era Tudor yg lebih memikat, dan tema yg tidak biasa dimana heroine-nya nyaris terjebak dlm jaring-jaring kekuasaan yg penuh skandal dan permainan politik kerajaan yg berbahaya.

Saya suka sekali pada saat pelarian mereka ke Perancis yg lumayan menegangkan, dan juga membuktikan Lady Pippa punya pendirian teguh dan memiliki semangat yg tinggi utk selamat dari pengejaran orang-orang

Phillip. Buku ini layak dibaca bagi penyuka sejarah seperti saya. Ada unsur history, suspense, romance yg digabung menjadi satu, menciptakan jalinan cerita yg seru. Tertarik? Silakan dibaca.

Brilliant Hermione says

Berbalut kisah sejarah di era Ratu Mary, novel ini menawarkan alur yang memesona.

Sedari pertama membaca, saya sudah dikejutkan dengan plot licik yang dilancarkan suami Ratu Mary, Raja Phillip dari Spanyol.

Kehadiran Lionel Ashton, tokoh utama pria yang jauh dari kata sempurna membuat novel ini semakin memikat.

Lionel memang tidak tampan dan cenderung buruk rupa (sangat jauh berbeda dengan karakter utama yang biasanya digambarkan tampan dan berkelas), tapi entah bagaimana saya tertarik dengan pembawaan Lionel.

Segar rasanya jika dihadapkan pada penokohan karakter mayor yang berbeda dan tidak pasaran.

Selain daya tarik Lionel yang tidak biasa, gejolak rencana jahat dan intrik-intrik kerajaan juga menjadi bumbu penyedap yang membuat novel ini tak bisa dilewatkan begitu saja.

Catherine Labadie says

Too boring and obvious.

Nicola Davidson says

Jane Feather is a great writer and I've really enjoyed her other books, but the plot of this one was too much for me. A heroine who is drugged and raped by the king each night to get a child he could potentially pass off as the queens? And a hero who delivers her to this situation each time? No. Just no.

Inka says

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Jody says

This is the finale of the Kiss trilogy. I truly enjoyed this series taking place in the mid 16th century. Queen Mary (the daughter of Henry VIII) and King Phillip rule during a very fanatical time. People are murder for little reason and Mary is quite serious about her catholicism. The problem is she cannot produce an heir. A plot is hatched to impregnate Lady Nielson (Pippa) with Phillip's heir, while she is drugged. Lionel Ashton is involved with King Phillip and is left to care for Pippa. . . . (violins) It is the perfect historical romance full of plenty of action. Entertaining and great character development. I would love to see a new series, perhaps with her stepbrother Robin and Louisa.

Elle says

Up front, I'll just say that I can't see why the villains of this piece went to such extremes to breed a royal bastard when the story so proliferates with them.

The setting: England. Mary has ascended the throne and married Philip of Spain. The story centers around the queen's futile efforts to bear a child.

Royal bastard #1 is literally royal. King Philip. The story opens with him and some of his toadies standing over a young woman who is unconscious on a daybed. The toadies assure the king that she is drugged senseless and will remember nothing. They then set up a privacy screen so he can rape her while they stay in the room as witnesses to the act.

When it's over, royal bastard #2 is directed to tend to her. He covers her where the king left her naked. She wakes and looks into his eyes, looks at a brooch at his collar. He puts his hand over her eyes and when she drifts off again, he carries her out to royal bastard #3, her waiting husband.

The heroine: Lady Philippa (Pippa) Nielson, the second daughter of Guinevere (heroine of The Widow's Kiss). Pippa's married to Stuart, who is a great friend and shares her love of fashion (cliche alert--this is apparently a subtle hint), though his lovemaking has been more dutiful than passionate. But he's been even more of a disappointment lately. This is not the first morning Pippa has awakened feeling queasy and finding sticky fluid between her thighs. She Stuart out for not having the decency to at least wake her. Did I mention that his lovemaking was boring? Must be, if she believes she keeps sleeping through it. Stuart flushes and then blusters about being drunk and just couldn't resist, and anyway she's his wife to use as he pleases, and she drops the subject, tho she makes it clear she will not be pleased if it happens again.

Pippa and her husband are at court, although Pippa is much in disfavor. She was a lady in waiting and friend to Elizabeth, and voluntarily went to the Tower with her. Mary, who sees plots everywhere, has since imprisoned Elizabeth at Woodstock in Oxfordshire, but refused to let her be attended by any but strangers. Pippa, whose support of Liz is viewed as borderline treason, is required to remain at court, not even permitted to see her family in Derbyshire. The queen treats her with contempt and dislike, which is sure to win the loyalty of any subject. But then Mary wasn't concerned about winning loyalty by being a decent, kind, or merciful queen, either in this story or in history.

One day at court Pippa sees a man and stops dead in her tracks. His eyes are familiar--she's seen them before

but can't figure out where, and the more she tries to place him the more she gets this really creepy scary feeling. He sends her a complicit gaze as if they share a connection (?!). She asks her stepbrother Robin who he is and learns his name is Lionel Ashton, an Englishman who has lived in Spain and is one of Philip's men. Later she encounters Lionel and asks if they've met, and when he denies it she asks why he seems so familiar, he says he couldn't say with an amused tone. Because a good guy would be amused by that question under the circumstances.

If you haven't guessed yet, the king (with Bloody Mary's approval, as well as Stuart's cooperation and the facilitation of other toadies including Lionel) has been raping Pippa in order to breed an heir to secure Spain's claim on England. Mary is in her 40's, and while he is also trying to breed a legitimate heir with her, if that can't happen they'll take Pippa's baby and claim it is theirs. And thus far the plan is working well. Pippa is in fact pregnant (which is a relief so we don't have to see more than that one royal rape). And the queen thinks she's knocked up as well, a claim confirmed by her physicians and various symptoms.

Pippa is puzzled when the queen insists that she be tended by the royal physicians, disregarding her protest that she's more comfortable with her family's physician. The waters get even murkier when she is placed under house arrest and ordered to stay out of the royals' sight. Odder still, instead of her husband, Lionel is assigned to supervise her activities; she's not allowed to leave her chamber without his consent. She can't figure out why the king and queen would on one hand show such forceful interest in her pregnancy and yet not want to lay eyes on her and treat her like a prisoner. And she can't get a straight answer from anyone, certainly not Lionel and least of all her husband.

Some of Stuart's behavior has made her think that he has a mistress, but one day she wanders past a half-open door and hears her DH knocking boots (and a few sundry other bits) with another guy (I know you must be faint from the shock). Pippa doesn't know this just yet, but it seems the king and his toadies found out and threatened Stuart's lover with exposure (which would mean a gruesome death), if he doesn't deliver Pippa. Stuart has his priorities, and his wife doesn't rank quite as high as his boy toy. But he feels bad about what he's been doing to her, so he shuns her and treats her like crap to make up for it. Feather goes to some effort to make his quandary sympathetic. We're meant to root for him to find a way out of this trap, which he quite rightly recognizes will end with his death when he's no longer useful, but he doesn't care as long as his lover is safe. And I guess you could argue that by rendering Pippa senseless before he takes her to be raped, he makes sure that she won't have any knowledge that the royals might find inconvenient. So there's that. But still, I couldn't make myself care much what happened to him. No matter the motivation, what he did was brutal and cruel and done to someone he'd already abused by using her as his beard.

As for Lionel, well, let's just say he is toadying to Philip for reasons of his own. Good reasons--when you read them you will fully grasp some of the horrors of those days. But while you can sympathize with his goals, they simply don't justify his actions, not only going along with the king's violation of a subject, but keeping Pippa in ignorance, not warning her or trying to find alternatives (like, oh, I dunno, maybe a noble but slutty woman who would willingly screw the king, hand over her spawn, and keep her mouth shut in exchange for a tidy fortune)? Lionel feels guilty, which is meant to make us like him, but it just made me angry. He is constantly assuring himself that he will make it right. But how "right" could he possibly make this? His plans to "help" this innocent, lively woman who loves her family turn out to be cruel in their own way. It's explained away--supposedly he was so set on his own goal that he thought that any discomfort suffered by the victim was justified--he didn't really feel bad about it until he had to face that he was doing this to a beautiful woman who happens to warm his loins (makes ya wonder whether his conscience would've even flickered if she happened to be fugly).

Ok, sorry. I just hated this guy all through the story and I never got past it. So I gagged up hair balls every

time this couple sucked face and flipped past the pages where they did the nasty, since it just felt like more violation to me, particularly when she's banging him while still ignorant of what he's helped the king do to her.

Oh, and towards the end he has the balls to claim that even before he knew her he loved her? But earlier he tells her he went along with all this before he knew her. Yeah. Some love there, buddy.

Even so, once again, the book gets lots of stars because I was heart and soul caught up with the heroine's plight. I cried--and I'm not an easy mark when it comes to that. I actually yelled at the book a time or two. And, if the "romance" required me to stomach a "HEA" with royal bastard #2, I'll say this--Feather does at least leave you wondering how that's going to happen, given Pippa's inconvenient marriage of convenience (and it doesn't work out the way you probably think!). And Pippa's rationale at the end was almost satisfying. I still might've rather seen Lionel eat midden, but eh, OK. Oh, and some decent adventure and well-researched history as well. Even though the rape/baby swap part of the story is fiction, you'll realize that England really dodged a bullet when Mary's baby turned out to be a tumor, and Philip's manner of death was probably karma at work. Nuff said.

I recommend this entire series, and Feather has a permanent place on my favorite authors list.

Owusua Adwoa Ayeh says

What was done to her was hurtful and the husband was the worst of all kind.

Titis Wardhana says

Baca selipan kisah Pippa di buku 1 dan 2 jadi penasaran gimana kisahnya di bukunya sendiri. Pippa yang cerewet, suka ingin tahu, suka menggoda, enerjik, de el el. Tapi ya ampun, di buku ini dari awal aja uda tragis. Setelah menikah, ternyata Pippa sempat dipenjara karena mendukung Elizabeth. Pas keluar dari penjara, hubungannya dengan suaminya menjadi renggang, yang paling menyakitkan suaminya ternyata memanfaatkan Pippa tanpa sepengertahuan Pippa sendiri, pokoknya sedih banget jadi Pippa, sifat2nya yang dulu jadi menghilang karena tekanan kedewasaan (taelaaaa...)

Mahareni Sukadi says

Meski buku2 Feather belum bisa beranjak naik dari bintang 3, tetep aja pengin baca bukunya (kecuali seri Matchmaker Duncan Sisters).

Gak bisa nangkap chemistry-nya Lionel+Pippa. And kisah cintanya Robin+Luisa ku-skip2 aja, kurang menarik.

Btw, d tengah hiruk pikuk lingkungan istana, kok ya bisa2nya Lionel+Pippa bermain cinta d atas rumput d siang hari bolong. Kok gak ketahuan gitu, heran aja.

analisa gak penting

Carissa says

One of the automatic DQs for me with a romance novel is when the female hero is sexually brutalized or humiliated or raped in any sense of the word. This book STARTS with such a scene, as the prologue, and makes it the major plot complication. Basically ruined the story of two quite likable characters. I also wish the secondary story between the female hero's stepbrother (whom we've known for three books) and his love interest had more emotional effect. A wasted opportunity.

Marian says

1554, not my favorite period to read but this was a knock-out.

This was a time of intrigue and one false move and you would die, horribly. A time where fanatics on both sides of religion used it for power and gain.

It is July, 1554 and Mary, daughter of Henry VIII is on the throne, married to Phillip of Spain, and Lady Elizabeth is in prison.

Phillip and Mary have devised a devious plan to allow Spain to eventually have control of England and the secret could cost the lives of many.

"Lady Phillipa Nielson had no memory of what took place in her bedchamber in the dead of night--nor knowledge of the dangerous plot that put her life in jeopardy. But with a brief touch of his hand, and one glance of his knowing gray eyes, Pippa felt a connection to the dark stranger who should have been her greatest enemy. Who was the man who seemed to understand more about her life than she did herself? Why did she respond to his most casual caresses with the most urgent and reckless of desires? Lionel Ashton had been appointed guardian of both Pippa and the secret she unknowingly bore. And protect this sensuous and fiercely independent woman he would, even from the kind himself. But what Lionel knows about Pippa will put both their lives in the greatest danger--even as they slip under the spell of a daring seduction that will turn them into passionate outlaws...and legendary lovers."

Maryori says

Siendo violada repetidamente por el rey al estar drogada a causa del vino alterado que le daba su esposo gay para así este poder estar a favor del rey para que no matara a su amante gay... Que delicia! Sobre todo la parte en la que Pippa se enamora del hombre que la llevaba en brazos desde la habitación del rey hasta las de "su marido"... Lo único meramente salvable es que Pippa no odio a su pequeña solo por ser fruto de las violaciones, esa pequeña vida no tenía la culpa... Muy bueno que la reina mary halla pagado con creces por lo desagradable que se volvió con la familia que la puso al poder!

Lástima que Phillip no murió de manera horrible como Mary! Bastardo violador!

Nona B. August says

Oh wow bener-bener kisah yang paling memilukan.

Dari prolog aja, aku udah tau kalau itu Pippa dan pemilik bros aneh itu Lionel. Parah, dari prolog aja aku udah sedih. Dari prolog aja udah kasian. Dari prolog aja udah gak mau lanjut baca tapi penasaran dengan akhirnya, bagaimana Pippa berhasil keluar dari masalah kelamnya.

Parah.

Sedih banget.

Di buku ini ada dua cerita, tentang Pippa dan Robin (akhirnya!) (yah walau biasanya aku termasuk yang menentang ada dua cerita dalam satu buku tapi di buku ini dua cerita itu kan saling berhubungan erat jadi oke). Dan ketika aku baca buku ini, aku merasa kelam, kasian, suram ketika baca cerita Pippa, dan senyum-senyum, ringan, ketika baca ceritanya Robin. Begitu kontras.

Tapi untunglah Feather masih berbaik hati dengan memberikan kisah bahagia bagi Pippa. Walau, parah, kasian parah.

Kisahnya menyedihkan, mana lagi di awal cerita Lionel dideskripsikan sebagai *buruk rupa* oleh Pippa sendiri. Lalu pernyataan tentang 'mencintai' bagi Pippa itu berada di bagian akhir, ketika konflik mulai meninggi, bukan sebelumnya. Lalu walau pasangan Robin diceritakan bahwa ia dibutuhkan oleh Pippa, namun rasanya tak ada adegan ketika pasangan Robin itu benar-benar dibutuhkan oleh Pippa. Perjalanan mereka hanya menjadi kisahnya untuk menjadi lebih berani dan menggapai cinta pertamanya. Bila aku bisa membayangkan tokoh hero-heroine lainnya dengan akhir yg bahagia walau buku telah ditutup, namun tidak begitu dengan Robin dan pasangannya. Entahlah, imajinasiku membayangkan walau gadis itu mencintai Robin namun cintanya lebih besar dibanding Robin kepadanya, lalu nanti dia meninggal dan barulah Robin bertemu cinta sejatinya. Well itu imajinasiku. Tapi perhatikan lagi Kiss Trilogy ini; semua tokohnya sudah pernah menikah dahulu, pasangannya meninggal/berkhianat sebelum bertemu dengan pasangan sejatinya. Rite? Dan kenapa tidak dengan Robin?

Oh well, memang disayangkan.

Kayanya segitu saja deh kesanku pada buku ini. Kalau gak salah. Oh well...

Poor Pippa. Berbahagialah... *lebay

N.b. Aku gak mau bikin sinopsis tentang cerita ini lah.
