



The Devil Who Tamed Her

Johanna Lindsey

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Ophelia Reid is an incomparable beauty with a reputation for starting rumors and spreading them. Having purposely wrecked her engagement to Duncan MacTavish, a future marquis, which her social-climbing father arranged, Ophelia wants to return to London's marriage mart and make her own choice of a wealthy husband. But on her journey home, something unexpected happens....

The heir to a dukedom, Raphael Locke, Viscount Lynnfield is -- in spite of his disinterest in marriage -- the most sought-after young lord in England. He instantly disliked Ophelia when she caused a scandal to avoid marriage to his friend MacTavish, but having comforted her in a tearful moment, he begins to wonder if she's not all bad. So when MacTavish claims that Ophelia will never be anything but a spiteful beauty, Rafe bets his friend that he can turn her into a kindhearted lady who will one day make a good match, just not with him. With her parents' blessing, Rafe commandeers Ophelia's coach and whisks her -- chaperoned, of course -- to his remote estate in the countryside. There, as he tries to show his furious, sharp-tongued "guest" the error of her ways, he discovers the surprising reasons for her bad behavior.

Soon his daily lessons with Ophelia take effect and he finds himself irresistibly attracted to her. When Rafe champions the new and improved Ophelia's re-entry to London society, marriage proposals pour in. Only then does Rafe start to wonder whether he hasn't gone and fallen in love with Ophelia himself.

The Devil Who Tamed Her Details

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D.L. says

My Take:

Ophelia Reid is known for her beauty- and at no point in this book will you forget it. The central conflict in Ophelia's life is that she is so beautiful that no one has taken the time to get to know her for who she is. Men flock to her and praise her beauty but see nothing else, and women surround her to try to take advantage of her popularity. She trusts no one and has become bitter and alone, taking out her wrath on those around her. While it's a nice break from the wallflower, it does get a bit out of hand. No one could possibly be that beautiful. There isn't a single character at any point in the book who disagrees. At one point she can't go to a party without a man proposing to her within the first five minutes! In the end, I think the constant descriptions, both in narration and by other characters, of Ophelia's beauty took away from Raphael's admiration of her beauty, both physically and as a person after her "transformation".

I did enjoy the way the romance blossomed between Ophelia and Raphael. He makes a bet to a friend that anyone, even she, would be able to change for the better and subsequently abducts her to his country estate where he makes her see the error of her ways. (This is the part of the novel I didn't really understand- he intends to do this by telling her all the things she's done wrong, something people have been doing for a while. Supposedly he gave her a new perspective, but I only got the sense she was more expressive about the perspectives she already had because they were away from society. Overall, in almost all scenes, she was most personable one on one. I'm not sure what causes her to change her behavior when back in London. It seemed rather sudden and acted more as a plot device rather than an actual change in her character.) While away from society, Ophelia begins to let her defenses down. While there was still an intense and passionate side to their romance, the passages I liked most were Raphael's observations of her and her surprising passion for the simpler things in life.

What I liked most about this book was that the writing didn't get in the way of the story. I personally like Johanna Lindsey's writing style. Die hard historical fans may disagree with some parts of it (I highly doubt that well bred young ladies swore), but there was no overuse of outdated and distracting historical phrases and the language did flow smoothly. I particularly liked this because too often I find myself aware I'm reading a novel rather than engrossed in the story because of the writing elements.

What To Watch Out For:

While I did like the writing style, my one complaint would be that too much is told through dialog. A lot of the back story, such as Ophelia's failed engagement to MacTavish (subject of the first novel of the series) and her childhood are relayed through dialog and conversations, almost to the point where characters are having mini-monologues back and forth. It wasn't realistic, and the information could have either been better shown through non-verbal interactions, narrations, or just been left out.

Also, there did seem to be a bit of missing info. The grand reason for the end of Ophelia's engagement (and possibly a cause for scandal?) is never made clear. I assume it is all revealed at the end of *The Heir*, the first in the series, but it would have been good to have been made clear in this book as well.

Alisi ? wants to read too many books ? says

Oh Lordy, this has to be one of the worst Romance books I've read. The characters are all hollow and lifeless, which makes the plot - character driven as it is - even worse off then the characters.

The main character, Ophelia, was a Mary Sue. The most beautiful woman in all of england, maybe even world, more beautiful then any other woman who'd ever existed? Come on now... And the whole "I'm so beautiful, everyone hates me" is so cliché it makes me choke.

Even that, though, I can understand and go along with. Romance novels don't have to be the best plot driven things. Just believable, I can make up the rest. Rafe was equally and utterly stupid for someone who is supposed to be smart. The abduction was laughable. The "change" was laughable.

The author made no attempt to breath any life into these characters. The plot was crystal clear and see through, utterly boring because it wasn't supported; the characters stupid, dull, and dead; and to add insult to injury, she wrote the characters speech in some kind of butchered english accent instead of trusting that we can fill that in for ourselves.

Don't read this book. If she's a best seller, then this can't be more then a "need to fulfil a contract" book and nothing else.

Christa?? says

Lindsey is definitely an amazing writer. From the very beginning of the story, you can't help but be drawn to her main character, Ophelia, a detestably beautiful but sharp-tongued woman who doesn't seem to care about the welfare of others. Because of her great beauty, many men are enthralled by her beauty and many women hate her for it.

It is at the beginning of the story that Lindsey introduces Raphael, a dashing handsome bachelor whose best friend Duncan is the former fiancée of Ophelia. Ophelia and Rafe are not on good terms since Ophelia had created a number of scandals against Duncan, giving Rafe a bad impression of Ophelia. It is by coincidence that Rafe discovers Ophelia's softer side, which prompts him to want to change Ophelia and give her the chance to meet someone she can fall in love with. Through sly means, he is able to whisk Ophelia (and a chaperone) away to his family's isolated estate where he begins to tutor Ophelia into seeing the error of her ways. Slowly, Ophelia discovers that she isn't always right but also discovers a growing relationship between her and Rafe.

When Rafe decides to test his student by throwing her back into society, he realizes he has fallen in love with her but doesn't want to admit it and risk his everything.

One great thing about this book is how Lindsey incorporates the character's personality into their dialogue. She doesn't just detail out the characters, but through the dialogues, she is able to distinguish one character from the next. Another thing I found most interesting about the story are the sessions between Rafe and Ophelia, and how he tutors her to become a better person.

The great thing about the character's of both Ophelia and Rafe is their stubbornness not to give in to the

other. From the beginning of the story till the end, you can see how Rafe and Ophelia are battling it out against each other. The other a most sought after lady, the other a most sought after lord. Each know their strengths and weaknesses and are unwilling to give in till the very end. Even when Ophelia challenges Rafe to marriage and eventually gets it, both are still unwilling to reveal their feelings for each other.

Lindsey is able to bring together two most interesting characters who have so much to give to the other that it creates so much conflict and passion between the two of them. From the very beginning of the story till the very end, you will find yourself amused over the most odd of circumstances and turnout of events.

Elle says

Setting: Regency England, I guess. Not so clear except the social customs.

Heroine: Ophelia Reid. She's always the most gorgeous woman in a room, and has come to think of her beauty as a handicap, since people toady around her and "fall in love" and "befriend" her before they even know her. She's taken to being a prime beyotch just to give herself some distance.

Hero: Rafael Locke (Rafe). He's a good friend of the fiance Ophelia has pretty much trampled. The ex says she'll never change, Rafe takes the bet, then basically abducts Ophelia and takes her to a remote holding of his family's with the intention of "helping" her become a better person.

The "help" comes off sounding quite a lot like sessions with a shrink, so it's kind of icky when, inevitably, he can't help himself and has to bang this gorgeous babe. Even ickier when said banging is presented as kind of therapy--it's an outlet for her passions so she doesn't have to have such a temper.

Turns out Ophelia has her reasons for her behavior, and she's not really as nasty as people think, just acts that way as a defense. Turns out those reasons and her background assure that when she finds out about the bet, it's devastating to her.

As usual with Lindsey's novels, the guy is a pushy, self-focused, ignore everybody else kind of alpha male, and that's somehow presented as an attractive trait. Not so much liking that. But still the story folds together well, and realistically for the culture.

Not a bad tale, on the whole. But if you're looking for ye-olde Lindsey Bodice, ripper, you won't find it here, despite the abduction storyline. This was written after publishers started being PC.

KC 2.0 says

Eh. The title of *The Devil Who Tamed Her* is ironic considering how tame the romance was. I felt it lacked the author's typical trademark passion and entertaining writing. The passion between the protagonists never seemed to surpass anything beyond lukewarm. Raphael wasn't as smitten with Ophelia as I would have liked, even after encountering the sweeter and nicer Ophelia (whose true nature had been lying dormant). His plan to improve Ophelia for everyone else's sake because he's into helping underdogs just seemed silly and arrogant. Ophelia's reasons for acting the way she did in the past were plausible yet still left me indifferent to her character.

If one is looking for a similar Pygmalion story executed better, try *Once More, My Darling Rogue* by Lorraine Heath. It's a blessing that Johanna Lindsey is still writing romance, but this one was sadly just subpar for me.

Ann says

Read this one soooooo long ago, but remembered it had been a favorite.

Sue Lyndon says

I've read many Johanna Lindsey books (most of which I've loved), but I wasn't initially planning on reading *The Devil Who Tamed Her* because I'd heard from a few friends that the characters in it are very unlikeable. BUT one day I was in the book store looking for a Johanna Lindsey book that I hadn't yet read and this was the only one on the shelf at the time, so I decided to give it a try anyway. I'm so glad I gave this book a chance, because I absolutely loved it! The story revolves around Ophelia, a beautiful woman who'd just intentionally sabotaged her engagement to a prominent Scot named Duncan, and her fiance's friend, Rafe. Ophelia is known for being a gossip and a shrew, so Duncan and Rafe make a bet that Rafe can't teach her the error of her ways. It did strike me as a little strange why Rafe would accept such a bet and go to the lengths he went to in order to "tame" Ophelia, but he claims several times throughout the book it is because he likes to help people and he thinks it will help Ophelia be able to find a husband she loves (instead of having to marry someone of her father's choosing). After Rafe absconds Ophelia away to his grandfather's secluded estate, he goes about trying to get Ophelia to confess all the bad things she's done (gossip, lies, etc) only to discover she's not really the shrew everyone believes her to be. During this process, Ophelia is constantly reminded of all the wrongs her father did to her and how she never really had a real childhood because her father insisted she be treated like an adult. Her father's ambition in life is to see her married to a man with a great title, even if that man is not of her choosing. It's impossible not to like Ophelia, especially when you learn of all the ways she'd tried helping her so-called friends. Yes, she's considered the most beautiful girl in London, but she actually hates her beauty because all she really wants is a man to love her for who she is - not for her pretty face. During her time alone with Rafe, they both become attracted to one another and end up making love. Rafe, however, claims he's not ready to marry yet and Ophelia says she will never consider Rafe as a husband because of how much her father would love to have a future duke as a son-in-law. When Ophelia is back in London, it isn't long before Rafe is attending the same parties as she is, and their paths cross often. Ophelia is actually grateful for Rafe's help and considers him a friend (and maybe more), until she discovers the bet between Duncan and Rafe. She feels incredibly betrayed and tries her best to convince Rafe that he never helped her at all. Near the end of the book, it seems that only a miracle can bring them together. The last few chapters of this book are very intense and filled with emotion on both sides. I couldn't put *The Devil Who Tamed Her* down! If you enjoy historical romance, I highly recommend giving this book a try.

Janarah says

I've been a very avid reader of Johanna Lindsey's books ever since my mom told me "A Pirate's Love" as a bedtime story. (She didn't include the other scenes, don't worry) Anyway, I did really like this book. I haven't read "The Heir" yet so I wasn't able to meet Ophelia's character from before.

I liked the cover and was enthralled by it because it was written by Johanna Lindsey. I really did like how it was explained why Ophelia became the way she was and it was quite enjoyable reading them falling in love with each other. The book was romantic, witty and would really make you envious of Ophelia's beauty. Even now, I could still never picture anyone who might be Ophelia.

However, the plot was a bit confusing. I wouldn't have thought that a bet would have made a guy do what the hero in this story did. He kidnapped Ophelia in order to "change" her because of a bet made with his best friend. Later on he realized he wanted to do it willingly to make Ophelia happy and also because he just wants to "help" her. I wouldn't think that motivation enough, but maybe it could be possible.

I didn't really care for much of the other things but when I read the book again, I found their 1st "love scene" totally wrong. Most books I've read, the hero would make love w/ the heroine because he loved her or they were married or engaged or have plans of marrying or something of the like, however, in this story, they did it because they just wanted to. Oh and also as a way for Ophelia to release her hidden passion. Seriously?! sigh] Raphael had no plans of marrying her at all even though he have obviously compromised her.

Good thing though because at least this is not my most disliked book by Johanna Lindsey. I really hated that robot futuristic one.

I still do recommend this book to Johanna Lindsey's avid fans. If you only want a quick read then this is the book for you.

Zeek says

Because I loved her old stuff, I can't resist a new Johanna Lindsey. Sad thing is, she used to be an autobuy for me, now I wait for library copies.

The Devil Who Tamed Her gets a "meh" and a "sigh" from this once loyal JL reader.

Ophelia Reid & Raphael Locke were first introduced in JL's earlier release, The Heir - a wholly forgettable novel that I never finished. In The Heir, Ophelia was a mean-spirited brat engaged to Duncan Mctavish. Raphael is Duncan's best friend. This story picks up soon after the ending of The Heir, or perhaps even before, because, as previously mentioned, I never bothered to finish it.

In TDWTH Raphael takes it on himself to tame the shrew and of course finds himself totally mistaken about her and helplessly besotted- eventually. (hey, at least there's no spanking in this one!)

I'll give Lindsey one thing, I wasn't sure if I was going to even like Ophelia after the way she acted in The Heir, but she does manage to transform her enough to make her match even the sweetest of heroines.

Still, The Devil Who Tamed Her is almost as forgettable as The Heir. The hero was too flatly drawn and by the end I simply didn't care too much either way about them both.

But I did finish it so I'm giving it 2 out of 5.

Susan (susayq ~) says

This is really 3.5 stars ;)

I really didn't want to like Ophelia.... practically hated her in the first book in this series. Strongly disliked her through about half of this one. But by the end, she had grown on me. I still don't approve of her reasoning for why she behaved the way she did. An uncontrollable temper? Only having the best intentions when saying something or doing something but it's always misconstrued because of the way people perceive you because you are mean spirited? I just don't buy it.

And you know all those times I said I hoped she got ran over by her horse and carriage? I kinda feel bad cause she did in this book ;)

Chitra *CJ* says

"The Devil Who Tamed Her" is the story of Ophelia and Raphael.

The protagonists of this book have been introduced in the last- Lady Ophelia is the gorgeous, ethereal beauty with a vile tongue and even more wretched behavior. We saw her tantrums and snide, thoughtless remarks in the previous book- and for me she was a villain beyond redemption..

That is until I started this book and JL proved me wrong. It fascinated me, how her true character was revealed in layers, her actions justified but not defended, and how she took criticism and changed for the better.

The book begins with Lady Ophelia running away as her ex fiancé Duncan chooses to marry the poor Sabrina. While this is happening, Duncan challenges Raphael that Ophelia is nonredeemable, and the latter takes on the bet to tame the shrew.

Kidnapping and whisking her away to a remote countryside, he plans to make her realize her misdeeds, but what he does not count is the growing attraction to her, and as he sees the real Ophelia emerging, he starts falling for her..

But there are many hindrances to their blooming comfort- Ophelia hides behind a hellish mask whenever she is angry, and Raphael has not yet revealed the whole truth to her.

Two notorious people who are used to attention- while one despises it, other revels in it-can they finally find the truth about one another?

I enjoyed this book till 80%. I felt Ophelia was vindicated in this book, and her character was finally likable. Raphael on the other hand starts as a charming rake, but as the book progresses becomes more and more short tempered and impulsive, until we reach the dramatic climax. I felt the feelings were not addressed after the conflict, and that there should have been more groveling/detailed confession.

That being said, liked the epilogue and the few sex scenes (JL is their queen!)

Safe? SWE? (view spoiler)

3.5/5

Nira says

Not too great. I expected a bit more excitement in the whole story and was a bit disappointed when there wasn't much. Also I found the characters to be a tad bit one-dimensional. The kind of change and growth you'd expect weren't there. And I personally did not like their individual characteristics much. Johanna

Lindsey didn't really satisfy me with this one.

ChloeLeeNH says

I read the Heir about 4 or 5 months ago and didn't realize it to Ms. Lindsey 7 years to do a sequel. Good thing I didn't read the first one that long ago! I thought this was a nice quick easy read. I really liked the hero in this one. And I liked how they "warmed up" in one scene LOL. A bit too much was made of the heroine's looks though that was the point but at one part I am like enough already we know she is the most beautiful in the whole wide world :). Those of you who read the Heir will be happy to finish the story where it left off with this novel.

Princess78 says

Lijepo osmišljeno, stil pisanja, likovi ... ali predvidljivo :)

Ivana Azap Feješ says

Ophelia Reid has been known as the "ice queen", who has no friends, and has a bad relationship with her father. She doesn't know why people pretend to be nice to her, even after she broke up her engagement with Duncan MacTavish. When she meets Raphael Locke, he's the one who has to set her on her ways, tames her wild side, and made a bet. Things gets heated up between Ophelia and Rafe, even after they kiss, when they realize what's going on between them. Rafe and Phelia is so cute and sweet together^_^ Ophelia Reid is an extremely beautiful woman. But she is also cranky, surly and self-centred. She appears to be a rumourmonger and is, by her own admission, impatient, tells lies when it suits her and has difficulty controlling her temper. She is bitter because she feels that people only act like her friends because of her looks.

I really didn't want to like Ophelia.... Strongly disliked her through about half of this one. But by the end, she had grown on me. I still don't approve of her reasoning for why she behaved the way she did. I thought this was a nice quick easy read. I really liked the hero in this one. And I liked how they "warmed up" in one scene LOL. A bit too much was made of the heroine's looks though that was the point but at one part I am like enough already we know she is the most beautiful in the whole wide world :). I love this book!! It was a delight to read! So subtle and loving, and a bit sensual as well. I really liked the ending it was too cute. I enjoyed this book! The story line had just the right amount of drama, romance, tragedy, and humor. I couldn't put the book down at some parts! I just was not swept away into the story.
