



## **An Affair with a Notorious Heiress**

*Lorraine Heath*

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## An Affair with a Notorious Heiress Lorraine Heath

The son of a duke and an infamous mother, Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton, fought his way to respectability. Now, the most eligible bachelor in London, marriage-shy Rexton will take only a wife with an impeccable reputation, good breeding, and a penchant for staying out of the gossip sheets. But when he strikes a deal to be seen “courting” a sweet young debutante whose notorious older sister has blemished her chances for marriage, Rexton is unexpectedly drawn to the highly inappropriate, calamitous Tillie, Lady Landsdowne herself.

After a scandalous incident that sent shockwaves throughout society and disgraced her, Tillie refuses to cower in the face of the *ton*. Instead, she will hold her head high as she serves as chaperone for her younger sister, but Tillie is convinced Rexton’s courtship is shrouded with secrets—ones she vows to uncover. However, doing so requires getting dangerously close to the devilishly handsome and forbidden marquess...

## An Affair with a Notorious Heiress Details

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# **From Reader Review An Affair with a Notorious Heiress for online ebook**

## **Ginger says**

I really enjoyed this book. I liked the plot of Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton and future duke falling for a notorious American heiress.

Rexton has no plans to marry but when he does, he'll choose a bride with a perfect reputation and past.

When he is agrees to court a young, sweet woman (Gina) to help her with marriage prospects, he meets her older and scandalous sister, Tillie, Lady Lansdowne. She divorced after her affair with a footman became known, and she lives separate from society. But her scandalous situation is more sad than what society has judged her on.

She wants to see her sister happily married so she goes along with being a chaperon while Rexton is agreeing to the charade of courting her sister. The plot might sound a bit complex but it's not. Lorraine Heath does a great job of keeping the chemistry high and the characters confused on their attraction. It really is a forbidden love and works out rather well.

There's much joy to be found in this story. I enjoyed the love scenes and the characters. It was a great book and I plan on reading the rest of the series!

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## **Jultri says**

One of Heath's less memorable efforts. The dialogue lacks sizzle. The heroine is strong and proud outwardly but full of self-doubt internally. The hero is sweet but somewhat bland. It's not bad, but I know LH can be so much better than this.

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## **Donna says**

Tillie, Lady Lansdowne, is notorious for divorcing her husband. She's a wealthy American whose mother wanted her, and her sister, to marry a lord. So, at a young age she married an Earl who needed her dowry. After a few miserable years, she divorced him. Shocking! Unfortunately, her younger sister, Gina Hammersley, is having a very disappointing debut season due to her sister's scandalous reputation.

Their uncle, Garrett Hammersley, acts as chaperone at the various ton events as Tillie is not welcome. He asks Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton, to pay attention to Gina in hopes that other men will be interested if they think Rexton is. In return, Garrett will let Rexton breed his mare to his famous race horse. Rexton agrees but makes it very clear he is not looking for a wife. While paying attention to Gina, he falls for Tillie. They have a mutual interest in race horses and become lovers.

There is a HEA but Tillie and Rex go through a lot of ups and downs to get there. She worries he'll be ostracized due to her reputation. If you have read the other books in this series, you know that Rex's family will always support him. This book is part of the Scandalous Gentlemen of St. James series, but can easily be

read and enjoyed without having read the earlier books. I enjoyed this book VERY much and had a hard time putting it down. Lorraine Heath is a fabulous author so it's no surprise to me that this book is a keeper.

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## Feminista says

What utter bullocks.

I picked this book up, having read the blurb, and thought finally, the author has decided to write about real women in the historical times.

No. This heroine has "manufactured" a romance with the footman to escape her first husband. God forbid the heroine actually have an affair with the footman. I can understand why the author would not want while the heroine was still married to the first husband, but what about after the divorce?

What crime is it for a woman to have sex? I know this is a historical romance, but the heroine is already ruined. It's not as though she is a shy virgin. My god. This novel was utter bullshit.

And of course, the hero has slept with countless other women. The heroine has been to a club where ladies of the ton (masked) can choose men to sleep with. Of course, the heroine, herself shan't be so unvirtuous as to do that - then why the hell would you even write about her going there? If she is such a goddam prude, she never would have gone to the club to begin with. Or gone once, never to return. Don't write about such stupid unbelievable "surprises".

But oh, the hero, who also frequents the same club, can and has slept with many women. Why couldn't the author have written about the hero having gone to the club and then not having slept with the women?

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## Γι?τα Παπαδημακοπο?λου says

Την συμπαθ? την Lorraine Heath! Μπορε? να μην ε?ναι η αγαπημ?νη μου στο ε?δος της, αλλ? τα βιβλ?α της διαθ?τουν μ?α ειλικρ?νεια που ε?ναι εμφαν?στατη και που δεν μπορε?ς να μην την εκτιμ?σεις. Επιπλ?ον, αν και τοποθετημ?νες σε μια ?λλη εποχ?, οι ιστορ?ες της δεν περιστρ?φονται γ?ρω απ? ευ?λωτες γυνά?κες που περιμ?νουν τον πρ?γκιπα που θα τους χαρ?σει μια παραμυθ?νια ζω?, παρ? πα?ρνουν οι ?διες τη ζω? στα χ?ρια τους, διεκδικο?ν τα θ?λω τους, δεν υποτ?σσονται ?τσι, απλ? κι ε?κολα, στις κοινωνικ?ς συμβ?σεις και, κυρ?ως, δεν ?χουν καν?ναν απολ?τως ενδοιασμ? στον ?ρωτα. Μια τ?τοια ιστορ?α ε?ναι και η "Διαβ?ητη κληρον?μος".

Ο μαρκ?σιος του Ρ?ξτον ε?ναι ?νας ?ντρας με αρκετ? βαθι? ψυχολογικ? προβλ?ματα, εγκλωβισμ?νος, συναισθηματικ? και ηθικ?, στις μν?μες του παρελθ?ντος του που στιγματ?στηκε, χωρ?ς ο ?διος να το θ?λει και χωρ?ς να μπορε? να κ?νει κ?τι για να τ' αποτρ?ψει, απ? τις επιλογ?ς της μητ?ρας του. Αν και δυσκολε?τηκε, κατ'φερε ν' αποτιν?ξει απ? π?νω του την κατακραυγ? και πλ?ον ε?ναι ?νας περιζ?τητος εργ?νης,εκτ?ς των ?λλων, αλλ? δεν θα παντρευτε? καμ?α γυνά?κα που δεν ε?ναι ?μεμπτου ηθικ?ς. ?μως, η μο?ρα, θα φ?ρει στο δρ?μο του τη λα?δη Λαντσοντ?ουν, το ?νομα της οπο?ας συνδ?εται με σωρε?α πονηρ?ν σκανδ?λων του Λονδ?νου, ?ταν εκε?νος θ' αποδεχθε? να βοηθ?σει την αδερφ? της να βρει ?ναν καλ? σ?ζυγο. Τ?τε ε?ναι που ?λες του οι θεωρ?ες, και τα πιστε?ω του, θ' ανατραπο?ν, και θα καταλ?βει πως το να π?σεις σε πειρασμ? ε?ναι

κ?τι πολ? ε?κολο.

Θεωρητικ?, ?χουμε να κ?νουμε με δ?ο ανθρ?πους που ε?ναι σαν το νερ? με το λ?δι. Ε?ναι δ?ο στοιχε?α τ?σο διαφορετικ? που ?σο κι αν παλε?εις να τα εν?σεις, αυτ? δεν πρ?κειται να συμβε?. Και ?μωσ, κατ? ?ναν περ?εργο τρ?πο, η τ?σο ?ντονη κι εκ διαμ?τρου αντ?θεσ? τους, στα π?ντα, ε?ναι που δημιουργε? ?ναν εκρηκτικ? συνδυασμ? συγκρου?μενων δυν?μεων, με το ?να ?κρο να προσπαθε? να κερδ?σει εν? με το ?λλο απλ?ς να μην υποχωρ?σει. Δεν ?χουν χημε?α με την κλασσικ? ?ννοια του ?ρου, αλλ? δημιουργο?ν ?να μοτ?βο "ζευγαριο?" που προσφ?ρει κ?τι φρ?σκο, διαφορετικ? και ιδια?τερο και, αναμφ?βολα, αυτ? προσθ?τει π?ντους στο σ?νολο της ιστορ?ας, αφο? οι "στιγμ?ς" τους ε?ναι απολαυστικ?ς απ' ?ποια οπτικ? κι αν τις εξετ?σεις.

Οι στιχομυθ?ες του Ρεξ και της Τ?λι ε?ναι ?κρως ενδιαφ?ρουσες, χαρακτηρ?ζονται απ? μ?α οξυδ?ρκεια κι ?να παιχν?δι λ?ξεων που σε διασκεδ?ζει και σε κ?νει να παρακολουθε?ς την εξ?λιξη της σχ?σης του με αμε?ωτο ενδιαφ?ρον. Αρκετ?ς φορ?ς ξεχν?ς πως διαβ?ζεις ?να ρομ?ντζο εποχ?ς, αφο? η αφ?γηση -μα και η τοποθ?τηση των γεγον?των μ?σα σ' αυτ?ν- ε?ναι ιδια?τερα σ?γχρονη, και κατ? τι νεανικ?, ?σως περισσ?τερο απ? ποτ? ?λλοτε. ?χι πως η Heath χαρακτηρ?ζεται απ? πουριτανισμ?, κ?θε ?λλο, αλλ? στην προκειμ?νη περ?πτωση ?χω την α?σθηση πως ?χει αφ?σει τον εαυτ? της περισσ?τερο ελε?θερο απ? ?λλες φορ?ς, με μια παιχνιδι?ρική δι?θεση να κυριαρχε? στο σ?νολο του βιβλ?ου, πρ?γμα που, προσωπικ? π?ντα, εκτ?μησα απαερι?ριστα.

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### **Molly says**

This book represents Lorraine Heath at her best - he characters are complicated and fully fleshed, their interactions are emotional and steamy and the premise of the story is original. I highly enjoyed it. Thank you Ezi for the recommendation, it was lovely!

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### **Haze Prado says**

I've waited. And then I saw this simply...horrible thing.

Sorry but I really found it disappointing. What has happened to Lorraine Heath's covers? I love the gorgeous book art of all her books in this series. Then the last one, her latest release, was suddenly doesn't have stepback art anymore and then this.

The model's pose is just so awkward. I'm not an authority to say this but I think she appears stiff and unflattering in this illustration. And boy... her makeup is just so distracting.

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### **Bubu says**

In a nutshell? Dull and contrived.

I really, really tried with this book. And I really, really tried with Lorraine Heath. More than with any other

author, actually, seeing how many books I read. Alas, I think I'm going to give up on her.

What attracted me to her books was that she uses plots and tropes that differ from the average HR. But I've never been able to warm up to her writing style or her characters. I've noticed that her heroes, in particular, bore me to tears; the heroines being only slightly better.

As to **An Affair with a Notorious Heiress**? Alistair is already accepted by Society. What's with the angst about achieving even more respectability?

Snoozefest.

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### **Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says**

3.5 stars

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### **Becca says**

I really didn't like this story, I'm sad to say. Perhaps it is just me, but I feel like Heath's writing has changed a bit and as a result, I haven't been as in sync with her as I used to be.

I skimmed most of it and couldn't even manage to get to the end. I got through more than 75% so I'm giving it a star rating though. This book had too much internal waffling and lusting on the characters' parts. While I thought the divorced woman story would be interesting, I just couldn't bring myself to connect with the romance. I thought Rexton was a bit of a boor. He was this golden boy and lacked depth. Tillie was a little more interesting, but still lacked deeper development. Characters are usually what Heath excels at because the plots are usually slim and built on the characters and their emotions. Since I couldn't connect with either character, the story went nowhere for me.

The story was just boring. I didn't like Heath's earlier series either. I have been finding her books too melancholy and don't get the bubbly, happy feeling when I read. To avoid giving more bad ratings to an author who has written some of my all-time faves, I think I'm going to take a break for awhile...at least until she finally writes about the children of Catherine and Lucian from *In Bed with the Devil*...man, I loved that book.

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### **Maddie says**

#### **Prologue**

Because of Alistair mother's scandalous background which caused him to suffer for her transgressions, while growing up, he was bullied by other students at school, but he learned a valuable lessons, he learned to stand up for himself:

Respect, it seems, is not granted by birth, but must be earned.

And he was determined none of his children would be burdened with the sins of either parent.

I would live my life above reproach, without scandal. And the woman I took to wife would be as pure as freshly fallen snow.

But ALAS the heart wants what the heart want and it life does not always goes according as planned but will Alistair discover what he wanted was not what he actually needed, or will he marry a girl for appearance's only?

### **Type of Characters and my choices according to pictures :**

Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton, future Duke of Greystone

Mathilda Paget, aka Tillie ex Countess of Landsdowne.

At a ball, Gina's uncle asked Alistair, to help out his with his niece because of her sisters transgressions she was not very popular.

Alistair knew how it felt to be touched by scandal because of his parents scandalous marriage, so he felt empathy for Gina and the scandal that was caused by Gina's older sister Tillie when she kissed the footman in front of guests that got her a divorce from Earl of Landsdowne a divorce she planned on getting but the divorce gone with lots of rumors and she was cast aside by the aristocrats.

So Alistair made the deal with Gina's uncle, to help Gina out of her predicament he will court Gina, so that other young men can notice Gina being courted by Alistair a well sought after bachelor!

At the end of the courtship when Gina gets respectable suitors the uncle will borrow Alistair his most priced Arabian stallion to breed with Alistair's priced horse Fair Vixen, as Alistair had his eyes on the stallion for a long time, without any luck of negotiation in the past he almost immediately agreed upon courting Gina!

Problem was Alistair was nine and twenty, and Gina was eighteen, totally too young for him and still very immature, who harbored dreams of love and romance, other problem, Gina and her sister was never to learn about the arrangement!

Alistair was totally unprepared upon meeting Tillie, as he only knew her only by the rumors and never met

her in person, Tillie was the total opposite of Gina, and she was all strength and vinegar. Alistair and Tillie had an instant attraction, problem was, he is not prepared to take a person like Tillie as a wife because of her scandalous past, and Tillie do not trust men, she also do not believe in happily ever after anymore.

Alistair and Tillie was like oil on water they did not mix, but wow the chemistry between the two was HOT!

Alistair was very protective of Tillie from the day he met her, she intrigued him like no other woman ever did! And he had his hands full with people saying mean things about her, but as the future duke he will be, he never backed down and always protected her.

Gina on the other hand had ulterior motives as well, when she agrees that Alistair court her!

Question, - will Alistair let go according to of his own set rules, or go according to his heart? Read the book to find out!

**Epilogue! →**

**Will I read it again?→**

Most definitely!!

**My feelings while reading this: →**

I truly enjoyed this novel; and I will recommend to lovers of Historical romance!

Lady Gaga - Million Reasons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDh70...>

**To the Author**

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## Esther says

ARC provided by Edelweiss and publisher for an honest review.

Rating 2.5 -3.0

I wanted to really love this but sadly was disappointed.

Review closer to publication.

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## Carol \*Young at Heart Oldie\* says

This is the 4th book in Ms. Heath's *Scandalous Gentlemen of St. James* series and, while I enjoyed it, I didn't feel it had the same emotional intensity which I found so satisfying in the other books in the series.

As heir to the Duke of Greystone, Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton (Rex) enjoys a life of wealth and privilege but, at an early age, he learned that respect didn't come automatically, it had to be earned. He loves both his parents but, at school, he had been subjected to bullying and insults because of his mother's scandalous past, but with physical maturity came the ability to fight back and he gradually earned the respect of his fellow pupils. He is determined that his own children will never suffer the same way he did and when he finally chooses a wife, she will be someone *'with an impeccable reputation, good breeding, and a penchant for staying out of the gossip sheets'*.

American heiress, Mathilda (Tillie) Paget, Countess of Landsdowne, caused a scandal when she was caught kissing a footman, leaving her husband no choice but to divorce her. Further scandal ensued when the divorce courts agreed, at Landsdowne's request, to strip her of her title, but she had the audacity to appeal to a higher court and won her case. Appalled by her behaviour, society has shunned her, friends have abandoned her, and she has become the target for gossip and disdain. Only her sister, Gina, has remained loyal to her. Tillie is determined to protect Gina and ensure her sister does not make the same mistake she did.

*She wanted to help Gina find the right man to wed. She wanted nothing more than she wanted her sister's happiness.*

After seeing, Gina settled, Tillie has every intention of returning to America and making a new life for herself.

The sisters' uncle, Garrett Hammersley, is aware that Tillie's notoriety is having an adverse effect on Gina's chances of finding a titled suitor and persuades Rex to feign an interest in Gina. Mr Hammersley hopes that, as Rex is the most sought-after bachelor in London and well respected by his peers, his attentions will pique the interest of other suitable gentlemen. If he succeeds, Rex will acquire the stud services of Hammersley's prize Arabian stallion. It's an agreement he simply can't refuse. Rex and Tillie, who is acting as Gina's chaperone, are frequently thrown into each other's company and soon an undeniable attraction flares between them.

Unaware of the arrangement between Rex and her uncle, Tillie feels guilty because Rex is courting her sister

and she would never jeopardise Gina's happiness. Even when she discovers the true situation, she is wary of ever trusting a man again, which I could understand given her husband's infidelities. Tillie is just the sort of woman Rex has sworn to avoid but he is fascinated and intrigued by her.

Rex comes to appreciate how difficult it must be for Tillie to chaperone her sister, leaving herself open to society's censure and wants to protect her from the unkindness of others. I loved him for wanting to do things that bring Tillie joy, especially in the scene where he takes her to a secret destination and she is expecting something nefarious, only to find something magical.

I loved Tillie's unconditional love for her sister and her determination that Gina would have the happiness she never did. I also admired her for having the strength, courage and determination to fight in any way possible to escape her unhappy marriage, knowing full well the personal cost to herself.

*She'd sacrificed her reputation, her standing, her place in Society for a chance to be free of Landsdowne. She'd forced a life of solitude, an absence of friends, onto herself.*

Landsdowne's mother and sister always made it clear that they didn't consider Tillie good enough for him and treated her atrociously. So, I loved seeing Rex's sister Grace, the Duchess of Lovington, spike the sister's guns, when she tries to have Tillie and her sister removed from The Royal Tea Palace.

*"Come along," the duchess said to Tillie and Gina.*

*Lady Blanford had the audacity to step in front of them. "Mr. Wadsworth, I must insist you prevent this rabble from entering."*

*"Come now, Countess," the duchess said, her voice tight but controlled, "do you really think he is going to adhere to your wishes when doing so will mean that my party immediately leaves to never return? And let's not forget Lady Landsdowne's pistol. Scars can be a symbol of courage but I'm not certain that would hold true in your case. Now step aside and do not make a further fuss or you will find yourself being the one escorted out."*

What makes Ms. Heath's books so special for me is her ability to write beautiful and emotionally moving love stories, but the romance between Rex and Tillie didn't elicit the same strong emotions that I felt when reading the other books in this series. For me, there were no moments when I thought my heart might break or tears streamed down my face.

I liked Gina who is much wiser than anyone appreciates and I'm looking forward to following her own journey to a Happy Ever After in **Gentlemen Prefer Heiresses**. I loved how Rex's family and friends offered their unconditional support for Tillie and it was wonderful to see Rex's parents, Frannie and Sterling and know that their love is as strong as ever despite the obstacles they face. Their story is told in **Surrender to the Devil**, the third book in the original *Scoundrels of St. James* series.

I like how Ms. Heath highlights the unfairness of Victorian society where a divorced wife would be ostracised while her unfaithful husband could carry on as before without any repercussions.

As with all the books in this series, Ms. Heath ends with a lovely Epilogue.

**MY VERDICT: This may not be my favourite book in this series but there were still many things I enjoyed about it.**

*Scandalous Gentlemen of St. James* series (click on the book covers for more details):

This review was first posted on my Rakes and Rascals Blog:

<https://rakesandrascals.wordpress.com...>

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## kris says

Alistair Mabry, Marquess of Rexton, future Duke of Greystone, must marry a woman "pure as driven snow" because of plot contrivances. Except then he meets Mathilda "Tillie" Paget, Countess of Landsdowne who is Scandal-Ridden. Obviously they must bone. This boning resolves itself into For Real Feelings. And eventually Turgid Declarations of Lurve and Stuff.

1. I don't know. I finished this yesterday and vaguely remember bits about it but nothing really stood out as obnoxiously bad or emphatically great. It just was. Oh, and all the sex. SO MUCH THINKING ABOUT / DOING SEX.

2. That is one thing I remember: from FIRST MEETING, both Rex and Tillie are like "The sex with this person would be grrrrreat." And Rex's first thought upon meeting Tillie's sister (the one he's asked to "court" to ease her movements in the Ton) is—HERE'S A QUOTE—"he'd easily break her if he were to ever bed her." OK? GREAT? GLAD YOU APPLY THAT METRIC TO EVERY WOMAN THAT CROSSES YOUR PATH? INCLUDING ONE WHO YOU'VE ALREADY DISMISSED AS TOO YOUNG?????? WTF.

3. Obviously, Tillie's scandal has more to it than a mere affair with a footman. I mean, I read. I know things. So watching Rex continually dismiss Tillie as a cheater, even after he's gotten to know her and remarked on her dedication to her sister, is really frustrating. If he'd just get his brain out of his pants and *think* for a few seconds maybe he'd recognize that Tillie's motives are slightly more layered than "lust for servants". But nooooooooooooo he'll just go on dismissing her because RUMOR HAS IT she's a CHEATING CHEATER WHO CHEATED.

3.5 OH HERE'S A THING: Tillie has to ""redeem"" herself by confessing to Rex that he's only the SECOND SEXUAL PARTNER SHE'S EVER HAD. EXCUSE ME NOW? Sure, Rex has allegedly ""forgiven"" (OMFG WHY) Tillie for her purported transgressions, but it doesn't seem like it when you need her to admit to actual chastity for it to "stick". FUCKING HELL IT IS SO GROSS. Meanwhile, Rex has no qualms about admitting to sleeping with TONS OF MARRIED LADIES, so this double standard is exceptionally rank. STOP RESTRICTING YOUR LADIES TO ONLY THE SEX OF TRUE LOVE OR THE SEX OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT WILL BE CORRECTED BY THE HERO'S MAGNIFICENT WANG.

4. Much of this book felt like a first draft, and a rushed patchy first draft at that. Stream of conscious paragraphs and mushy motivations—other than the boners—really left things as murky.

5. Also public marriage proposal, ack.

6. I don't know. It's just a book about some attractive people that really want to see each other naked; and then when they see each other naked, they really want to see only each other naked for the rest of their lives; and then when they admit it they need to get society on board. It's kind of a overly simple romance that could be resolved with a few honest conversations instead of some of the boning. Like, *so much boning*.

7. I was going to give this 2 stars until I remembered the "Tillie's a dirty cheater" stuff which was infuriating.

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## **Mei says**

While I appreciated the strenght of the heroine, I found it a little bit unbelievable for the time. I loved her unconditional love of her sister and her unweaving support of her! I loved how protective she was and how she tried to avoid her sister making the same her mistake in marriage.

Also the hero, while portrait as an intelligent man, was too stupid to believe that marrying a respectable woman somehow that respectability will make him even more respecatble in the eyes of the ton! Still I liked him even if he refused to recognize that he could have the same love his parents had and stubbornly resisted his love for the heroine.

Obviously, this being a romance, the HEA is a sure thing! :)

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