



# The Gentlemen's Club

*Emmanuelle de Maupassant*

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**The Gentlemen's Club** Emmanuelle de Maupassant

The lure of danger is the greatest temptation

**In Victorian London, a man can purchase any kind of vice, and Lord Henry McCaulay avails himself of every possible pleasure.**

**The confirmed bachelor and rake holds women in disdain: empty-headed, simpering debutantes and gossiping matrons alike...** until he meets Mademoiselle Noire, the enigmatic and alluring hostess at his exclusive London Club. His hunger for her is insatiable, his recklessness without limits.

**Lady Maud Finchingfield is a determined young woman, struggling within the confines of polite society.** Must she marry for status and respectability? Must she submit to any man of means who desires to claim her? Embarking on the pursuit of knowledge, she seeks the independence of mind forbidden to young women of her class.

As their paths collide, McCaulay is forced to admit his admiration, for Maud's pursuit of freedom, for her refusal to bend her head to the yoke.

She will never belong to him, nor to any man.

In surrendering to their true selves, they play the most dangerous game of all.

Drawn irresistibly together, are they headed for inevitable scandal?

**A darkly sensual romance, set in 1899, recommended by Stylist magazine as ‘a mind-blowing’ read.**

**Heat level: deliciously kinky**

**The first, seductive volume of Emmanuelle de Maupassant's *Noire* series.**

## The Gentlemen's Club Details

Date : Published September 1st 2014

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Author : Emmanuelle de Maupassant

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# From Reader Review The Gentlemen's Club for online ebook

## CC says

4.5 stars. Through much of this story, the reader feels like they are participating or viewing each tableaux as a member of the club. Each tableaux is erotic, sensual and beautifully written. The Victorian setting adds to the taboo element of each performance, but it also defines and underscores the societal limitations imposed upon women in that era. As Lord MacCauley and Mademoiselle Noire begin their relationship, it is he who seems obsessed with her. However, I am not convinced of her feelings for him yet. The novella ends with much to still be revealed about both characters. I am looking forward to reading volume two.

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## Julia Rist says

This book. This book! This is the book I wish I had written. This is the book the recent "how-do-we-rescue-erotica" debate was talking about, without knowing it had been written.

De Maupassant offers a delightful, quality romp. Yes, a romp. She brings back the joy, the fun, the playfulness that has been missing from erotica. She reminds us that sex stories are supposed to be FUN! The dialogue is witty, the asides are amusing, the social commentary brings a giggle in between the sexy bits, which are many, and varied.

And the language...oh, the language! It grabs you and propels you smack dab into Victorian London from the first paragraph. It weaves a net about you, it draws you in, it gives *The Crimson Petal* and *The White* a run for its money, and it has you shouting 'yes, yes, yes,' like Meg Ryan at the diner, because finally there is a well-rounded, well-written, exquisitely crafted story which redeems the genre.

The delightful encounters between Lord MacCaulay and Mlle. Noir cover quite the gamut of kink: menages a trois, a quatre, a group scene with a cast of thousands, people watching, people being watched, all four letters of BDSM, and then some.

Kudos also for the tasteful treatment to consent. Erotic fiction often falls into two easy traps: either ignores the subject and glorifies abuse, or it takes it upon itself to deliver a Consent 101 lecture right smack in the middle of a plot. The author finds a happy middle, making consent a central part of the plot without being patronizing or preachy.

I find myself waiting for the sequel with all the anxiety of a fangirl. Oh, for Noir 2!

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## Dee says

Jan 16th

After my non review back in Oct 2014, and the author encouraging me read the revised edition, I took another chance on this story.

While the part I initially had an issue with read much better, and didn't push my buttons like the first time, I still can't say this story was a winner for me.

Yes it was chocka block full of all kinds of sexual scenarios, which was basically the guts of the story. I had no issue with that, some of the scenes could have been extremely hot, if not for the wording, that at times made me scratch my head, and often threw me out of 'the moment'.

I've read historical fiction before, but don't recall an abundance of terms like the below, so I am unsure if it was fitting for the era or not.

*..his buttocks and **mighty staff**.*

*..he might impale her with his **divine spear**.*

*..**his sword** buried to its hilt.*

*..ached to feel **his thunderbolt** within her.*

*..His veined majesty rising..his sword...grinding his weapon...fat pythons...(and on it goes).*

*..her flower exploded within her..at the threshold of Daisy's garden...her own delta of pleasure..her mossy garden.*

I appreciate the author was trying to mix up the vocab, but much of it just threw me out of the story, and I personally didn't find it erotic. Which I think this story is supposed to be. However, it did in part, keep me reading to see what she could come up with next.

Food for thought - If an author is going to use flowery words, and garden references to describe sex scenes, it might be safer not to name a character Daisy! Or not, it was entertaining.

If you like stories with a lot of sex, terms mentioned above, and don't have to google words like 'confluence' and 'egalitarianism', to find out the meaning, then I encourage you to read this story.

NON-REVIEW Oct 19th

I am not going to rate this book as I didn't finish it. The content hit on something that really pisses me off in books with female leads. (view spoiler). Apparently this is the ultimate way for a woman to dominate a male....I beg to differ.

That's not to say many won't love this story, it's just not for me.

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## **Divalle Curie says**

Three adjectives: evocative, bold, steamy!

In *The Gentlemen's Club*, Emmanuelle de Maupassant recreates a genuine atmosphere of late Victorian London, with all its secret decadence hiding beneath the veneer of gentility. In this illicit underworld, sexual license and 'proper' gender roles are reversed: men are made to submit, while women dominate. And it's this perversion of normalcy that provokes Lord McCaulay, a seemingly respectable gentleman of high-born society, to obsess on his coquettishly elusive mistress, Mlle. Noire.

Ms. Maupassant draws on a wealth of knowledge and research to capture the feel of the period—from historical landmarks, to fashions and fads, to societal norms (unchaperoned women and underground pornography, to name but two). With fluid wit, she weaves a tale of complex relationships, juxtaposing propriety with impropriety, and questioning the artificial standards of morality. But she isn't afraid to explore the 'vulgar', punctuating her story with very vivid sexual adventures. In doing so, she elevates the art of erotica to first-rate literature.

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### **Rodin says**

The Gentleman's Club is an exquisite exploration of Victorian times and life.

Emmanuelle has surpassed expectations with beautiful descriptive prose that catches every delicious erotic episode.

Quite a long novella and needing to be so.

The first course is simply superb.

Mademoiselle Noire, Lord MacCaulay and Cecile each play delicious parts.

Although there are many other minor characters at the club who provide delightful passages of MM, FF, MMF, FFM the combinations go on and on.

Five beautiful stars from me

If you like beautifully written Erotica instead of porn, this is a must read book

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### **John says**

I absolutely loved this story. The little twist at the end was a big surprise. Emmanuelle de Maupassant has developed incredible characters and story to go with it. I can't wait to read more of what delicious, erotic treats she has in store for Mademoiselle Noire and Lord MacCaulay. Highly recommended!

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### **Steelwhisper says**

I'm not sure what to think of this, and I will leave it unrated, as I went in already having my doubts.

For one thing, no prostitute of any kind can be sold as an "empowered woman" to me who independently lives out her own sexual needs. No way, no how. The heroine is a prostitute alright, and as such she has no agency.

Next thing is that despite this being protested, this is no actual rendering of consensual sex or consensual sadomasochism. This most assuredly is not BDSM either. In quite a few instances you have outright rape, in others this is dubious consent. For that matter: someone blackmailed into consenting to sex isn't a case of dubious consent (dub-con), that is straight rape.

Just to clarify: I have no problem with rape!fiction if the author acknowledges that this is rape and doesn't side with the rape and rapist. Here you find no acknowledgement, on the contrary, the rape is sold to just be of minor import, especially in the case of Daisy.

Unlike some other readers, I liked the language, even though it was a bit overdone in some places. But as a

fan of e.g. May 1812, I can see the attempt to stay as close to the era as possible.

My verdict is that this is an interesting premise, which unfortunately wasn't explored in the manner I would have enjoyed. As I already surmised I wouldn't like erotica based on the woman being a prostitute "liberating herself as a prostitute" I will not rate this.

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## **Seasar says**

5 UNEXPECTED STARS ??????????

At first I thought The Gentlemen's Club is probably like other erotic novella, short and has no plot, only about sex. A quickie.

But boy, had I ever been so wrong...

This book is very well-written. The tone of the book had me glued to my kindle from the first page till last. The plot is so unexpected it's refreshing. Even now, when I re-read the book I still think, 'I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING!'

There are some scene that I normally won't like but the author, Ms. Emmanuelle, managed to change my mind. But I warn you, when you read the book, keep an open mind.

I am now very upset because since this is the debut novel, I have nothing else of the author to read. I'll definitely buy her following books (if she writes a new book.) I won't harass her into writing a new book, but a person can only have so much patience.

So if you're still thinking whether or not to read this book and you have an open mind, I'd say go for it.

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## **twelvejan [Alexandria] says**

**4 very-well-done Stars!**

I thoroughly enjoyed this piece. A few editing issues but it wasn't too major that it detracts from the story.

If you're looking for a well-written Victorian erotic novella, then look no further. It has (of course) an abundance of sexual content that some may find objectionable, a substantial plot, and a HEA. I have to admit, all the scenes were delicious!

Looking forward to Mademoiselle Noire and Lord MacCaulay's European Tour!

**Conclusion: A sensual novella as smooth as silk.**

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## **Rodin says**

Lord Macaulay and Mademoiselle Noire are the perfect couple

Book one is such a tasty beginning

Can't wait for the follow up

Inspired writing

Emmanuelle makes you feel she is one of the characters living in these pages

Red hot

Especially the early MM

Delicious erotica

Beautifully written

Excellent character development

Great plot

Delicious five stars

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## **EroticaAfterDark (Lilith) says**

I am being honest about this book actually being a 3 star for me, the only reason why I feel obliged to round it up to 4 stars is the unique, wonderful and eloquent narrative of the author. I can't help but bow my head to that.

But it's maybe exactly this out-of-the-world style that made it hard for me to connect to the characters, to feel for and with them. Emmanuelle de Maupassant skillfully puts the reader into the role of a voyeur, not being part of the story at all, but still bound to watch with intrigued interest.

The narrative is perfectly fitted to match the area of the story, which rather feels like a play than a story. And that, to be honest, is one of the downsides for me.

It seems as if the author couldn't decide whether it should be a recount of sorts, displayed as a theatre play, or closer to a diary, because as the story continues, it approaches the main characters, but fails to make a connection between me as a reader and both characters.

The descriptions were too clinical for me to find an emotional connection, and therefore it's not 'steamy' in my eyes.

Most of the scenes in this rather short story were sexual and expertly described, though some words made me cringe, but that's my personal perspective.

For me, I would have loved for the story to be written more smoothly, to explore more of the characters and their surroundings. Without this, it is not more than expertly and eloquently written porn.

Despite the few pages, it's worth the price, something I rarely admit, but this story is a rare gem among erotica books. I only miss the heartache a bit, sadly.

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## **Emily says**

Eloquently written erotic escapism, guaranteed to liven up a dull evening.



Adored the feisty heroine, Mademoiselle Noire, who chooses an unconventional life of adventure and experimentation, expressing her sexuality to the full. She is a rare delicacy of empowerment and sensuality.

Meanwhile, the author's convincing portrait of Victorian London is penned with elegance, giving an interesting context from which to explore the double standards faced by women in a man's world.

Extremely raunchy, but never lurid, it may well broaden your mind (and enhance your sexual appetite)! There are several scenes which are likely to stay with you long after you've turned the pages.

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### **Connie says**

This book is strictly about sex. It's all about finding sexual gratification and pleasure by means other than what society finds conventional. The story is centered on Lord MacCauley and Mademoiselle Noire. Lord MacCauley went to an exclusive gentlemen's club in London to seek entertainment. There was new entertainment to be found in Mademoiselle Noire who was a Domme. She titillated the gentlemen with her command and charm. For her presentation, she needed a volunteer and so comes her first contact with Lord MacCauley. He preened, he was proud, but by the end of that first contact he was humiliated, and thus began their relationship.

Though thoroughly embarrassed, Lord MacCauley would go back to the club again and again, more confused with more questions rather than answers and insane with a desire to be near Mademoiselle Noire. Every time MacCauley went to the club, there were different scenarios being played out. There was the helpless virgin, f/f action, group sex, menage, just about every sexual fantasy that men wanted, they were able to partake in at this club. Mlle. Noire wanted the gentlemen to know that women were just as sexual and their desires shouldn't be suppressed just because society deemed it inappropriate for a woman to even have sexual needs. Each time Lord MacCauley went to the club to seek Mlle. explicitly, a new sexual challenge was presented to him by Mlle. Noire to see how he would handle himself. This book shows MacCauley and his transformation from what he thought he should want, to what he saw that he really needed and the freedom to be had in that lifestyle.

I enjoyed reading this story. It flowed well, had a good story line, was entertaining and it was edited well. I look forward to reading the second book as Lord MacCauley and Mademoiselle Noire's journey continues.

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### **Tamara Chandler says**

This is a well written erotic novel based in Victorian times, so expect twosomes, threesomes, too-many-to-countsomes and a range of surprising encounters.

In between the naughty nookie, there is a subtle tale of love and lust, with a promise of another book, or more to come.

Whilst not the longest book you'll come across, it does pack a lot between its pages and the simple, yet effective narrative leave you plenty of room to indulge yourself in the fictitious carnal delights of the main protagonists.

Read it, enjoy it and push Mlle Maupassant to hurry up with her next volume.

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## Rosebud says

Somewhere in Victorian era London, England there exists an exclusive establishment known as *The Club*. For all practical appearances, it's one of many exclusive Gentleman Clubs that cater to men of wealth who wish to enjoy some quiet time reading, drink a beverage or two in the company of friends, or savor a steak dinner with all the trimmings. This club however is different but you have to be a member to know *how* different.

This story follows one of the club members, Lord MacCaulay, who is about to meet the Club's new temporary Mistress of Ceremonies Mademoiselle Noire. Mademoiselle Noire has a unique take on adult entertainment with plans to provide a variety of entertaining nightly performances that are guaranteed to amuse those in attendance.

\* \* \* \*

This book won't win any prizes for literary excellence or become a New York Times #1 bestseller in the fictional historical romance category. It's way too erotic and raunchy for mainstream readers ... which is why I enjoyed it as much as I did. Oh to see some of the celebrities who read all those FSOG passages read any adult content passage in this book .... well, no reason to wonder as it's not gonna happen. Too over the top HAWT for prime time TV. lol.

The author blows the lid off Victorian era England premising a fanciful exclusive sex club for the wealthy. Nightly performances put on for the clientele result in individual mono on mono scenes or a free for all orgy with the harem of the club. Whatever their pleasure, sex is enjoyed in all shapes, sizes, and dynamics. Guess this is a good time to mention to check out my tags for the 'dynamics' specifics. :D

My takeaway from this book is that erotica and adult content scenes encompass 90% of the story with other 10% featuring an actual complex and multifaceted romance. The reader gets to experience Lord MacCaulay, a self centered pompous noble, charting into unfamiliar territory as the female interest of his affection is not intimidated, fearful, or impressed by him in the least. Rather, she's the one in control calling the shots. Becomes a guessing game if the two have any hope of a future in this sort of circumstance or if the expected norms of Victorian society are too problematic to overcome.

To be frank. This isn't a book that's going to appeal to all fans of historical romantic erotica. It's an in your face read that features sexuality between consenting adults in a time where sexual repression is the norm. Additionally, it puts the female main character in the position of power and control in a time period where this sort of thing is unheard of. For readers who can appreciate and more importantly look for this I would suggest checking it out.

I do see at the end of this book that the author has posted a soon to be released: **The European Tour (Volume two in the 'Noire' series)** though I can't find any time frame for it so maybe the story isn't finished yet.... only time will tell.

