



## Too Tempting to Resist

*Cara Elliott*

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**Too Tempting to Resist** Cara Elliott

**In the Wolf's Lair . . .**

Determined to stop her wayward brother from squandering their dwindling fortune, Lady Eliza Brentford decides to follow him to his favorite den of depravity. There, among the candlelight and raucous revelry, she encounters her brother's role model in debauchery, the notorious Marquess of Haddan, Gryffin Dwight. Staring into his smoldering green eyes, Eliza can't help but find the rakehell nobleman seductively charming—and sinfully attractive.

**In a Lover's Paradise . . .**

When Gryffin appears on Eliza's estate as a guest of her brother, a stolen kiss among the garden's blooms leads to a night of unbridled passion. Suddenly the lovely widow feels herself opening up, like the petals of a rose. Could this master of seduction possibly feel true emotion for Eliza? Or is he leading her down the garden path to an Eden of delights no woman can resist—and a fall no woman can escape?

## Too Tempting to Resist Details

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Author : Cara Elliott

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## From Reader Review Too Tempting to Resist for online ebook

### Kimberly says

Review written for [www.books-n-kisses.com](http://www.books-n-kisses.com)

What a delightful book. I could not put it down. The synopsis on the back of this book does not even come close to explaining everything that happens. Yes there is the love story between Hadden and Eliza but there is also the brother, the brothers despicable friends, her painting (incognito), Hadden writing (incognito) and flowers. I had no idea flowers had so many meanings and you will hear them all in this book. This is the second in the series even though it definitely stands alone. But the writing of this book makes you want to run out and read the first one and most certainly pick up the third when it comes out and I for one can not wait.

Hadden is the typical rake we have all read about in historical romance novels but the interesting thing is even before he meets Eliza he is tired of that life and ready to make a change he is just not sure what that change is until Eliza comes into his life. He has turned to writing and wants to publish his works about landscaping and has no idea the sample work he has seen is actually Eliza's paintings. Hadden is a "man's man" but when he meets Eliza he has this adorably sensitive playful side that makes the reader fall in love. And Eliza is so incredibly strong. So much is happening to her and she is always trying to figure it out on her own. She does not run off begging for help. She just knows that these are things she needs to deal with and she does. She is a delightful character who does not make you feel like she is a "damsel in distress" even though she most certainly is.

To play on the title - Read this book because it is "Too Tempting To Resist" and no lover of historical romances should resist it.

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### Aislynn says

Lady Eliza is in financial trouble. Her brother has no concept of how an estate is run and what the money is needed for. His only concern is the cut of his coat and what delicacies are on the table when he and his friends descend on his estate.

When Eliza ventures to town, she decides to take matters into her own hands and tracks down her brother at one of the town's most notorious gaming hells. Not only does she find her brother, but she meets a rogue – Gryffin, Marquess of Hadden.

From the moment these two meet, sparks fly. Gryffin is drawn to Eliza, and he can't escape his feelings. He feels the need to protect her and finds himself meddling in her affairs – much to Eliza's irritation I might add. When Gryffin shows up at the estate as a guest to her brother she fears he's just like the rest of them!

I loved the connection that Gryffin and Eliza had throughout this story. We are briefly introduced to Gryffin in the first "Lords of Midnight" book – "Too Wicked To Wed", he is a fellow Hellhound to Connor and Cameron (who I hope will have his own book soon!). I was so glad to see that Gryffin met his match in Eliza. She reforms this notorious rake with wit, and intelligence – one of my favourite ways to entrap their hearts!

This is one of those books that I don't want to give away too much of the plot. It's filled with romance, intrigue, the arts and a touch of mystery. It had me glued from the first sentence right up until the last page. An excellent addition to any regency readers collection!

Will I recommend this book? Most definitely! I was thrilled with the second book in this series and eagerly await the next one! Will I read more by this author? Oh yes, I love Cara's writing style and how she weaves in so many elements to the story that keeps me hooked.

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### **Lucy Dosch says**

Loved it!

Gryffin Owain Dwight, the Marquees of Haddan, also known through certain circles as one of the notorious Hellhounds. Gryff has worked hard over the years to earn his reputation of gambling and debauchery. He would rather not let those of his acquaintance know that he is publishing a book on the language of flowers. He has kept his interest in botany and landscaping private. All he needs now is to find a talented illustrator of his book so that they can begin printing his novel.

Lady Eliza Brentford is trying her best to keep her brother from gambling away the family fortune. She has survived one unfortunate marriage for the good of the family, and she refuses to be sold to another future husband to refill her brother's pockets. She has a plan to escape from her brother's household and buy herself a little cottage in the Lake County. She just needs a little more time. As her brother refuses to stop his outrageous lifestyle, Eliza realizes she must use her painting talents to earn the monies necessary to make her dreams a reality.

A chance encounter with Gryff during a house party begins an affair which brings Eliza more joy and pleasure than she has known before. She wants to let go of convention and enjoy her Hellhound before she needs to face reality and leave before her brother starts making plans which will destroy her future.

Once again Cara Elliott creates a remarkable heroine who defies the standard convention of her time. Eliza is passionate and talented and self-assured enough to try and take control of her own future. It is quite enjoyable to watch Gryff seduce the young widow and in turn be seduced by her passions for life.

The antagonist in this story is Lord Brighton who is so creepy and sleazy that I want to take a shower after spending time with him in the story, and you just want to punch out Eliza's brother for trying to force his sister to marry this vile man just to save his own hide.

This was another great novel from Cara Elliott and I am so enjoying her presentation of historical heroines who are above and beyond the usual boring ladies. Where *Pride and Prejudice* gave us Lizzy Bennet who was lively and defiant for her time, Cara Elliott takes her heroines just a little bit further. Lizzy Bennet wanted to marry someone who would take her for her small dowry. Cara Elliott's heroines take control of their own future and defy convention of the time to try to earn their own income to take care of themselves.

I am looking forward to meeting the woman who will take down the last Hellhound, Cameron, in the last book of the trilogy.

See out interview with Cara Elliott at <http://ebookobsessed.com>.

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### **Rebecca (everyday reader) says**

Gryff is restless with his life as a drinker/gambler/rogue, and he is ready to settle down. Eliza is a widow who has never really had a home, love, or males around her that didn't run, blackmail, and try to ruin her life. He has an interest and talent in writing essays of nature and gardens, and she has an interest and talent for painting floral illustrations for various writings, and both do it under pen names. Identities are found out, secrets are told, misunderstandings abound, evil men are hauled off to prison, an immature viscount is sent away to grow up, and a great love blooms. Good read!!

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### **Christine Seybolt says**

Review:

If you love Regency romance than Cara Elliot should be a must your book shelf. Elliott sets Regency romance rocking.

Whatever you are reading at this very moment put it down and pick up a copy of Historical romance authors **TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST**. This is Elliott's second installment in her fantastically fascinating exotic Lords of Midnight domain. This group of Hellhound rogues will win your heart from the moment they enter your quixotic atmosphere.

**TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST** is the story of the Marquess of Hadden, Gryffin Dwight, who readers were introduced to in **TOO WICKED TO WED**. The story takes place in the opulent and plush Regency world of the ton. For years the Marquess and his Hellhound brothers have honed their rascallion ways by owning one f London's seedier hell known as The Wolf's Lair. Hadden recently has felt a shift come upon him. His old ways do not seem to beguile him. Not as much as the blonde haired, blue eyed angel, Lady Eliza Brentford, has run her wayward brother down to his favorite den. Nothing prepares Hadden for the beauties feisty and steadfast nature. Tempted be on reason, Gryffin finds himself drawn to Eliza like a bee to flowers sweet nectar. He knows she is trouble, but there is something about this country spirit that leaves all rational thought behind when she is around.

Lady Eliza is not some insipid country bumpkin. No this spirited gel has hunted her wicked wastrel of a brother to give him a piece of her mind. She never expected to find the very devastatingly handsome stranger, with stunning green eyes her brothers Deity of sin staring at her among the raucous and revelry of The Wolf's Den. The man was made for sin. Eliza becomes intoxicated yearning to learn more about the rakehell with the stunning green eyes. First she must curb her incorrigible brother while fighting the temptation that is Lord Hadden.

I am a sucker for a Cara Elliott's books. If it has Cara Elliott the cover I am thee. **TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST** is the perfect title for this story. From the moment I held the book with t beguiling couple surrounded with its intoxicating pink I was a goner. I gave up all pretenses and indulged in the rich transcendent world that only Cara Elliott cold creates. We were introduced to Gryffin Hadden in **TOO WICKED TO WED**. The moment he arrived I kept a little mantra of, "I hope his book arrives soon" all the

while reading **TOO WICKED TO WED**. Now, Griffin Hadden is here, and boy, am I excited he is. On the outside looking in Gryffin Hadden is everything a Regency Marques is perceived to be: jaded rogues gorgeous and expects everyone to follow his word. Beneath beats the heart of a romantic, a writer, a lover of gardens and architectural landscaping. He has a heart of gold and doesn't seek out recognition when he does something kind. He is steadfast in his conviction and will go above and beyond to help a friend or loved one in need. The fact that Eliot paired Hadden with Lady Eliza Brentford is simply priceless. This blonde haired, blue eyed sprit is not what she seems. Her indelible fierce spirit draws readers in like a moth to a flame. Even with her world crumbling around her a dastardly devil trying to blackmail her, along with a self-indulgent brother who only cares about his vices and nothing more Eliza stands firm in finding a way to save her beloved Leete abbey. I adore Eliza. It really wasn't hard to connect with this young beauty who believes she is nothing but a plain impoverished country widow. Lady Eliza was never appreciated for what and who she is. A talented young artist who lived under the thumb of her previous older husband is now at a cross road for her own independence. Lady Eliza even plays down her artistic ability by stating to Lord Gryffin that she dabbles and isn't very talented. Lady Eliza has heart as grand and deep as the Atlantic Ocean. You cannot help but feel optimistic about Lady Eliza and Gryff reaching their happily ever after in the end.

Lady Eliza and Lord Gryff are the major reason I was kept glued to **TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST**, but like every great story they need a wonderful supporting cast. There are two stand-out characters that you are going to enjoy. Every hero needs a best friend and Gryff is lucky to have two. Connor, The Earl of Killingworth from **TOO WICKED TO WED**. But it is the other Hellhound Rogue, Cameron Daggett from Elliott's upcoming Grand Central publishing November 2012 release *Too Dangerous to Desire*. The best way to describe this dashingly mysterious man is best delivered by the author her self. **"Out of the three Hellhounds, Cameron Daggett was perhaps the most enigmatic. And dangerous. A man of razor toothed wit and deliberately outrageous style, he gave the appearance of viewing life of nothing more than a scathing joke."** In short, Carmon Daggett is deliciously yummy and I cannot wait to read his story. Lady Eliza's ex-governess and best friend, Miss Augustine Haverstick is the bi-polar opposite of Cameron Daggett. Elliott describes her as a tiny figure dwarfed by her white apron and oversized mobcap and a vision of white with pastel speckles. Miss Augustine is such a powerful voice with a loving presence that endears her to the reader.

Cara Elliott always rocks my socks off whenever I read one of her books. She sweeps readers away with another captivating heart-stopping read in her latest installment with **TOO TEMPTING TO RESIST**. Tempting readers' senses is what Cara Elliott does best. Elliott's ability to compel her readers through the sensual romantic adventure world of the Regency is why she is captivating audiences praise far and wide. Elliott's **Lords of Midnight** series has everything a reader wants: compelling characters, dangerous plots e that sweeps readers away, sensual love scenes with a bewitching love story that leaves us wanting more.

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### **Tin says**

I discovered Cara Elliott through her Circle of Sin series and was fascinated by her very unconventional group of women. I loved the idea of the "sinners" -- of women with such unique talents and knowledge that society has seen this as a sort of transgression.

The heroine of the second book in her Lords of Midnight series, **Too Tempting to Resist** reminds me of the ladies of the Circle. Lady Elisa Brentford is a very talented botanical painter who secretly accepts commissions to illustrate books. She is saving her earnings, hoping to have enough to buy a small cottage somewhere and finally break free from her brother's extravagance and foolishness. In the meantime, she is

busy trying to keep said brother out of debt and out of trouble.

During one such mission, she finds herself at The Wolf's Lair and face-to-face with the Marquess of Haddan, the man her brother admires and wants to emulate. Eliza wants to hate Gryffin Dwight and everything he stands for, but she also can't help but be fascinated by this incredibly handsome, incredibly powerful man who doesn't seem to care about Society's rules.

Will passion overcome good sense? That seems to be the case with Eliza, especially when she encounters Gryffin again at her brother's house party. Gryffin may have accepted Lord Leete's invitation but he's really there to view the landscape designed by the famous Capability Brown -- research for his book.

Our hero and heroine both have secrets that they want to keep secret from one another but things take a downward (and dangerous) turn for Eliza when her brother and his friend, Lord Brighton hatch a plan which involves Eliza's talent.

**Too Tempting to Resist** is the second book in Cara Elliott's Lords of Midnight series. I have to admit I approached this book with a lot of reservation because I didn't like how this series started and I thought the nicknames of the 3 heroes were a bit trite (Wolfhound, Bloodhound, and Hellhound) but I still decided to get the rest of the series because, despite the nicknames, the greatest draw of each story is the hero, the interesting backstory and the potential for character development.

I liked the idea that Gryff, renowned rake and libertine was actually an aspiring writer and his main area of expertise was gardening. The truth is, the Hellhound is tired of his hell-raising life and would love to retire quietly and write. I didn't see any obstacles to this: he and his friends have gained a reputation for breaking the rules and I wondered why he didn't just drop everything to pursue his passion. Is it pride? Is it ego? I'm not sure -- but it was certainly a strong enough reason that he didn't divulge his secret hobby with his two friends.

Eliza's reason for secrecy is easier to understand: she needs to protect her one source of income from her brother. The minute her brother would discover her talent, she knows that she would forever lose the future dream that she has been saving up for.

Gryff's entry into Eliza's life is an interesting development for both of them and I was *initially* delighted with how flustered and undone Gryff felt when he was around Eliza and vice versa. These are two people who were used to being in control of their lives and their emotions but, around each other, they seemed to lose their heads -- what I didn't like so much was the constant apologies that happened after each indiscretion. Once would have been fine, but more than three and it got a bit repetitive -- and also slowed down the story immensely, so much so that the blackmail part of the story happens in the last third of the story.

Cara Elliott does intrigue very well and I wish she had devoted more time to developing the story between Eliza, Lord Leete (her brother) and Lord Brighton. I thought that Leete and Brighton were involved in a very sinister plot and I was compelled to read to find out how Elliott would resolve this.

This book was uneven, in terms of tone and plot: there were lots of moments of brevity and lighthearted exchanges but the sudden shift to dark/dangerous was a bit too jarring. My initial expectation was that this book would focus on the unconventional courtship between our hero and heroine, so the introduction of the intrigue was a bit of a surprise -- a good one, which I thought saved this book and made me pick up the last book in the series, which I will be reviewing next. ^\_^

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## **Geo Marcovici says**

O carte frumoasa, cu personaje puternice, acțiune si conversații spumoase!

Recenzie mea completa aici:

<http://www.delicatesliterare.ro/tent...>

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## **Shauni says**

Have you ever read a book that just made you cry? Made you jump up and shout YES!!!! accompanied by a fist pump? After first sinking to the depths of despair. Just worrying about your friend? If you haven't you must read this book. It is a delight to the senses and brought joy to my heart.

Cara Elliott is rather new to me and I am not quite sure why I waited so long to fall in love with her. This is the second book in her Lords of Midnight Series and I must admit I am reading it backwards. I read Too Dangerous to Desire as a Netgalley book (the review will post November 11th) and fell hard for these wickedly human characters. I must admit this book lived up to the promise. I can't wait to get my hands on book 1, Too Wicked to Wed.. all the chatter between the characters makes that story a must.

But.. on to my review..

Marquess of Haddan, Gryffin Dwight, oh what a delight. A true Renaissance man. Known to his Hellhound friends as the Deerhound, he is most definitely mad, bad and wicked to know. Having spent the past few years just the wrong side of what was proper Gryffin is disillusioned. Not liking himself very much he is determined to work on his book. Oh yes, this Resplendent Rogue has a bookish side and writes wondrous essays on Landscaping. In the midst of being published he is looking for one last estate to write about. Finding the perfect estate he accepts an invitation from what can only be called a lesser being.. you know like a slug.

Lady Eliza Brentford, sold into marriage to pay off her father's debts now her useless brother is attempting to do the same. Only Eliza has plans of her own. Painting under an assumed name she has been quietly selling her watercolors and is close to having enough to escape. One or two more commissions will do the job. When an offer from an anonymous writer is made she is thrilled. The writing is brilliant and the pay is exceptional. All would be wonderful if only her brother wasn't such a louse.

Eliza and Gryff meet at a country house party and sparks fly and fly and fly again. Ms Elliott does a wonderful job of allowing these characters to fall for each other for who they really are.. Then to fall again when each learns of the others talents. I liked the way this was written it wasn't a comedy of errors as some writers might attempt, rather a realistic way a Marquess of the time and a woman of that time might want to enlist in business, quietly and discreetly.

Eliza's brother plays a huge part in almost destroying what these two are slowly building and I liked the way Eliza handled it. She had integrity and class but wasn't above making the hard choice. Griff on the other hand handles it like many a man (ok woman too) judge first then rethink the facts. It was a harsh lesson for both of them and yet they learned.

Ms Elliott has a wonderful secondary character, flowers. She uses the language of flowers with an adroit elegance that was perfect. Even the havey cavey Cam used flowers to make his point. It was ever so well done.

I really enjoyed this book and am so very glad that I found it.

Shauni

For more reviews by Shauni check out Tea and Book and Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

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### **Karla says**

Too Tempting To Resist is the story of Eliza Leete, a widowed Lady who finds herself shackled to a feckless brother whose gambling debts is forcing him closer to the outskirts of the law. Her previous lot in life - robbed of love and affection from father, husband, and brother - has her wanting to live for herself for just once. So she plans to put her artistic talents to use illustrating books, save up some money, and high-tail it to the Lake District.

But her plan is trashed when she meets the Hedonist Hellhound, Gryff Something Welsh, and the rakey rake makes her dormant lady parts tingle. Gryff, like most rakes in these Regencies, has put all his bad habits aside (habits that weren't REALLY bad to begin with) and turning his brains to writing poetic essays for publication. He needs an illustrator and his publisher says he knows someone (who prefers to remain anonymous) perfect for the job...

Yes, you can see where this is all going. Two people who don't know that their artistic personalities are meshing quite nicely behind the scenes quickly find their bodies meshing nicely as well. She makes him realize he just wants a cottage in the country like his fellow rake from Book 1 who ditched the Ton to take up goat farming with his lady love, and he makes her realize that she has been denying herself pleasure and making herself miserable in the process.

There was some twee stuff that annoyed me, like comic relief with cats, and the hero's bone-headed Big Misunderstanding. The last few chapters seemed too drawn out and I ended on a more bored note than if the ends had been tied up more efficiently.

The secondary characters of Sara and Cameron Daggett (the rake in a future Book 3) were pleasant though predictable character types. The other characters served their purposes in this enjoyable, but not exactly riveting, romance. 3 stars, but just barely.

ARC provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Fiona Druce says**

I've loved Gryff from the first book in this series. He's very human and definitely not a perfect male. He makes silly mistakes and stumbles through life just like the rest of us. What makes him stand out is his

wonderful honesty. Normally, I would say "the road to hell is paved in good intentions" and, oftentimes, that's the case for the Marquess of Haddan. In this book, he gets a second chance to correct himself before he misses the chance of a lifetime.

Eliza is believably strong: determined with a strong dash of vulnerability which really lends a taste of realism to her character. I found myself really getting to like her. She made sensible decisions that didn't seem forced. Oftentimes, I'll find the heroine making decisions that seem to have been made in order to keep the plot running. That was definitely not the case, here. Lady Brentford makes decisions and the plot rolls with that. It's wonderful.

The plot isn't complex, by any means, and I figured out the ending as soon as I saw what the problem was. Within the first few chapters, I had a general idea of how the book would go.

That didn't make it any less enjoyable, however, and Ms Elliott plays to the knowledge that her reader will, in fact, know what's going on. I was worried that the book would be drawn out and long because I'd already guessed what would happen (and had continuously been proven right). Wrong! The book is written to involve the reader who does already know what will happen and it was actually very well done!

While this isn't one of my favorite books, it's certainly on my list of books I'd highly recommend. None of it was really "original" and yet it was perfect for the characters. Anything more and I'd have probably felt the characters were being forced by the author. No, this book was written to the characters very, very well and I really enjoyed it.

Definitely one to check out!

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### **Karen says**

Continuing to enjoy the heck out of this series (which I'm still thinking of as "The Hellhounds," since "Lords of Midnight" is just doofy as a series title). If I had any complaint about this book, it's that the relationship is so very similar to the previous title, although Gryff isn't quite as smoldery as the Wolfhound was. (That said, he cuts a fine smolder, I may say.)

Honestly, I wasn't expecting that much from this title, because Gryff was the somewhat hangdog hound who spent much of the last book denned up inside a brandy bottle, or apologizing for same. In this book, his personality (mostly sans alcohol) comes out a lot more, and I LOVED his fascination with English landscaping (which, I sense, let the author's fascination with English landscaping come out and play a bit, too). And really-- heroine as botanical artist? COULD there be a more perfect pairing, here? (The bit about her wanting to compose a new shade of green for her paintbox, and name it after his eyes... that was a really sweet touch.) As a side note, I think I'm coming to adore Ms. Elliot if only for her wordplay-- last book, it was dog puns. This time, it's the language of flowers.

One last note, about the ending. Some might complain that the intrigue aspect of the plot-- the threat to Eliza's happiness-- got wrapped up awfully quickly at the end. In this case, I don't feel like that was a bad thing. If anything, it was a neat demonstration of how canny and efficient (not to mention determined) Gryff could be when he's not soused. To me, that whole aspect of the plot was more of a sideline, anyway-- the real story was Eliza and Gryff's mutual secrets, and the slow, twining circle of their mutual attraction.

Nicely done... and now I \*REALLY\* can't wait for Cam's story!

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### **Daisy says**

I really enjoyed the previous book in this series Too Wicked to Wed and was really excited about reading Too Tempting To resist. And while it didn't fully live up to my expectations, I still really enjoyed it!

I really liked Eliza, I liked that she got into very awkward situations because of her curiosity and spirit and I liked her creativity. I remember kinda liking Gryffin in Too Wicked to Wed and I'm glad we got to see more of his character in this one. And you guys, he has a dragon tattoo on his abdomen! And sure, that probably will look hot on him in all his hotness now, but I can't help but imagining how it will be a very sad dragon once he reaches 70... Anyway: Gryffin is definitely swoonworthy and he RESCUES KITTIES! A guy that's good with animals is always a winner in my opinion.

I very much enjoyed the interaction between these two, I guess I just wasn't fully there with the transformation from lust to love just yet. That they shared a mutual passion was definitely a bonus point and I loved a certain scene having to do with paint and a garden. And a naked man. And that's all I'm saying on that subject.

I thought Eliza's brother was a royal douchebag and someone had to teach him to behave. I just thought that the way in which he was handled by Gryffin was slightly overstepping his boundaries. It just felt a bit wrong to me and I was kind of disappointed in Eliza that she just went along with it. If Gryffin had been aided in this by a cousin or some other relative, I would have felt more comfortable with it I think.

While it was a nice read and it had some really excellent moments, the romance was lacking something for me. I am however really looking forward to reading the last Hellhound's story, he sounds infinitely fascinating!

My rating: 3,5 stars

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### **Kat ~ Forever Book Lover ♥ says**

You can find this entire review at [Forever Book Lover](#).

For those of you new to the series, this is the second book in the Lords of Midnight series. It is a stand alone book, though there are some reoccurring characters from the first book, you won't feel lost not having read the first book.

Here is a quick summary of the "Hellhounds"... known for their fiery tempers, biting cynicism and taste for prowling the darker side of London, the trio of Connor Linsley, Gryffin Dwight and Cameron Daggett have been dubbed "The Hellhounds". Though their august pedigrees allow them to roam at will through the highest circles of Society, they are seen as dangerous predators, whose appearances in the glittering ballrooms of Mayfair sends a frisson of fear through the ton.

Too Tempting to Resist centers around Gryffin, who as we learned a bit about last time, is a typical rake.

But, what we learned in this book is Gryffin has a sensitive and private side, who would have known that this rake pens books on the language of flowers. His hidden talents are in landscaping. He is penning his newest book and he is in need of an illustrator. Our heroine, Eliza, well she is a surprise. She is a woman in a man's world. She has a hidden talent of

Our heroine, Eliza has her own private side, both personally and professionally. She has been living in a man's world and ready to escape. She is keeping her family's estate afloat despite her brother's gambling and immature ways. Where she finds her escape is in her illustrations; she has an escape plan and all she has to do is complete her this last assignment. As it is unheard of for a women in this time period, she herself uses a pen name for her work. Hmmm, can you guess how this is going to turn out....

I learned so much about the language of flowers, I love books where I can take something away from it. You will love this book, I read it from cover to cover within a day. Cara has done a wonderful job in building the characters and keeping the pace. There is no lag time in this book. This book was "too tempting to resist", and if you are like me and love historical romance and happy ever afters, you are sure to love this book. And for those dragon lovers, wait until you learn about Gryffin's tattoo!!! Steamy!!

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### **Melanie says**

This author manages to entertain me regardless of the name she writes under, Andrea Pickens or Cara Elliott . Her characters are fun, entertaining and can always manage to get themselves into all sorts of mischief. I love watching them squirm while figuring out how to extract themselves out of the troubles they mostly create themselves.

I read this series awhile ago, but apparently failed to review it, so this week I'll be bringing you the lords of midnight.

I had so much fun reading this series about three men whose friendship and bond was formed on the battlefield fighting a war in Portugal. They're known as Hellhounds. Connor Linsley is the Irish Wolfhound, while Gryffin Dwight's a Deerhound, and Cameron Daggett's a Bloodhound.

They are seen as dangerous predators in Society, mostly because of the Wolf's Lair, a notorious gaming hell and brothel which is owned by Connor, and is a place where they spend most of their time!

These stories are for all of us that appreciate and love a bad boy and you can't read this story and not fall in love with Gryff. You know right off the bat that he's not all that he appears to be. He has his secrets and secret passions that have little to do with sex...well, almost. I'm not surprised that our heroine found him dangerous, charming and handsome. And with a strategically placed tattoo, this man was everything our heroine didn't need but found herself intrigued and drawn to him. Watching these two and listening to them was too much fun!

I also liked Eliza who was on a mission to reform her brother and along the way she finds love in the most unlikely place and within an even more unlikely man.

The attraction they feel for each other is instantaneous and I while both are struggling with it, I liked the sparks and fire they both ignited within each other.

Oh, and there's a bit of a mystery here too, so honestly, you can't go wrong with this one. It has romance, intrigue and mystery. What's not to love?!

Melanie for b2b

Complimentary copy provided by publisher

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## **Kati says**

\*\*original review by Jamie posted at Romancing Rakes For The Love of Romance\*\*

**Confession:** The main reason I read this was because I was at Lady Jane's Salon in NYC and heard Cara Elliot read a passage from it. This excerpt had the heroine accidentally manacling herself to the hero's bed because she was curious about the cuffs dangling from the ceiling. Of course the hero finds her. Needless to say I heard it and had to read it.

Lady Eliza Brentford is determined to try and get her brother on the right path. After following him to a brothel she meets a notorious, and handsome, Hellhound, Gryffin Dwight, Marquess of Hadden. She's drawn to him right away and finds herself flirting with him though she dislikes him because of his reputation. She's been burned by men like that and tries to put him from her mind. But then Gryffin shows up at a house party hosted by her brother and she can't help herself.

Gryffin is not all that he appears. Yes, he's had a bit of a reputation, but that's not all there is to him and no one knows his true passion. When the opportunity to see the gardens at Leete Abbey he jumps at the offer, even if it means spending time with Lady Eliza's brother and his friends. But the bonus is that he finds Lady Eliza there.

Gryff finds himself attracted to Eliza in a way that has never struck him before. From their meeting in a brothel, to finding her stuck in a tree and then cuffed to his bed, they have this chemistry that sets the pages on fire. Gryff does everything to romance Eliza and while she gives in a little more each time she still keeps her distance. She does not want to be attracted to Gryff but she is totally charmed by him.

### **Favorite Quote:**

How in the devil had she come to be sitting between his legs?

“Stop squirming, Lady Brentford.” Like his body, the marquess’s breath was warm and tingly against her flesh. “Not that it isn’t exceedingly pleasant. But certain parts of the male anatomy respond on their own to friction, and I don’t wish to embarrass you.”

“You are enjoying this, aren’t you?” she muttered.

A zephyr of a laugh tickled against her neck. “I’m just trying to be a gentleman and help a lady in distress.”

“Ha! A true gentleman would not take advantage of the situation to grope a lady’s...chest mound.”

### **Overall:**

I so totally fell in love with Gryff. He's charming and handsome and has a tattoo, a rather large tattoo in a rather precarious place. But most importantly is I loved the story. It was fun to watch these two fall for each

other and make mistakes along the way. Yes, there is a bit of mystery but it didn't take away from the romance. I really enjoyed it. And I cannot wait for Conner's story. Reformed rakes make the best heroes.

\*\*\*review copy provided by Netgalley\*\*\*

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