



## Tempt the Devil

*Anna Campbell*

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*For Olivia Raines, London's most notorious courtesan, and the infamous Julian Southwood, Earl of Erith, falling in love will be the greatest risk of all in this wicked and wild romance from Anna Campbell.*

Any man in London would worship her. Yet Olivia is, quite frankly, bored of them all. Despite her many dalliances, she's never felt true passion, never longed for any lover's touch...until Julian, London's most notoriously wanton rake, decided to make her his mistress.

From the moment he first saw her, Julian knew he must possess her. And when he discovers her greatest secret, a scandal that could ruin her reputation and end her career, he knows just the way to use this damaging information to his most delightful advantage. He offers Olivia a deal with the devil: he'll keep her secret...if she allows him the chance to show her true ecstasy.

But Olivia must be careful, for Julian has a secret of his own: he will not rest until she is completely, shamelessly his.

## **Tempt the Devil Details**

Date : Published December 30th 2008 by Avon

ISBN : 9780061234934

Author : Anna Campbell

Format : Mass Market Paperback 359 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency

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## From Reader Review Tempt the Devil for online ebook

### Kat Desi says

[Absolutely loved it, but how could the author end it just like that?! Shit, I have never been more desperate for an epilogue in my life!!! (hide spoiler)]

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### Kathrynn says

*Tempt the Devil* is the sequel to *Claiming the Courtesan*, but the characters in the latter book play an extremely minor role in this one. They are mentioned once, then they have a small scene near the end. While I feel the books are related they are not--necessarily--a series and do not need to be read in order.

Having said that, I enjoyed how *Tempt the Devil* started out. Unique plot with a notorious "rake" (Julian and Earl) openly bargaining for the attention and body of Olivia, a well-known and sought after courtesan. Olivia was 31 and men vied for her attention. She created such an air of mystery about herself and had "rules" about her encounters that men fell at her feet in an effort to get her to select them as a "keeper." Of course, they talked about her behind her back and she was not accepted in society. When she got tired of a "keeper," she moved on. But she had secrets. Shameful secrets that led her into the life of a whore. And her mission was not what men thought...

Julian learned her secrets and together they began building a relationship. Sex was always the focal point; although, in the beginning they also talked, but their sexual encounters were **all the time** and got old.

Halfway through the book, I needed something else to happen. And I got irritated at how the dialogue was continually interrupted with lengthy (sometimes multiple paragraphs) of narration. Enough. It was fine in the beginning, getting the internal thoughts of the characters, etc, but it stayed that way through the entire book and, for me, ruined some of the momentum when some serious dialogue was going on. Sometimes, so much narration went on between a question and an answer, I forgot what the question was. At one point, I began reading the dialogue then went back to read what the author was writing between the lines. Often, some of the narration was recapping previous events or thoughts repeated.

I desperately needed something ELSE to happen in this book. Both characters were very likable, imo. Both had the standard troubled past and regrets to work through. I didn't buy that Julian fell in love with Olivia so fast--was shocked when he said he loved her so early in the book. For me, it conflicted with the way his character was set-up. Thought more time would be devoted to him clearing up his past mistakes and he caved too early in the book. Then the focus remained on Olivia and Julian and sex. Pages and pages of sex scenes...very long sex scenes--again filled with narration.

It was evident the author broke out the thesaurus--regularly. While I think expanding my vocabulary is a good thing, jerking me out of the story to ponder the meaning of words may not be so good on the flow of reading a novel for entertainment, imho.

A time-frame in the ending came late into the conversation and was buried in narration. I thought, come on, tell me how much time elapsed. Finally, that was provided.

What got my attention to read this book was the cover...:-)

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### **Tiffany Clare says**

Definitely one of those books you want to give more than five stars.

Very romantic, deeply evocative and of course, as always, beautifully written in Anna's unmistakable, elegant, deeply emotional, raw prose.

Julian is do die for. Even when he's being a jerk his love is palpable. Definitely a knight in shining armor, and willing to bare his heart no matter the vulnerability it shows in him. Olivia is a beautifully written character.

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### **Christine Seybolt says**

I just finished—literally just finished reading Anna Campbell's latest historical romance release by Avon called "Tempt The Devil"

Let me tell you readers, if you haven't read one of Ms. Campbell's book you don't know what you're missing. No really, you haven't a clue what's happening in between those sheets. All I can tell you is that you are missing out on a world of extraordinary erotic and spine tingling romance.

Ms. Campbell had me hooked from the moment I read her debut historical romance by Avon "Claiming the Courtesan" and then with her follow up "Untouched".

And now with her January 2009 release of "Tempt The Devil" she's steaming and heating up these cool Spring nights.

Tempt the Devil is filled with lush and provocative surroundings that put this reader into a romantic trance. Her intricate style of blending sensuality and –yes I will say it—love is wildly sensuous cupped in with titillating laughter.

I adore the fact that her characters are wounded and struggling to find their selves in a world that doesn't really accept them. Through their trial and tribulation Ms. Campbell's does an expert job of wielding and building these characters, wrapping themselves in her trademark mastery.

I found my self understanding Olivia's struggle along with feeling her heart ache, growing up and acting a part that she was really never suited for. And to struggle against her own wants and desires had me completely comprehending why she fought so vehemently to stay in control.

On the other spectrum, I can't call Julian Southwood, Earl of Erith, your typical alpha male hero. I mean he is a card-carrying-drop dead gorgeous who oozes power and sensuality. But underneath I felt he had a more understated sympathetic side. I grasped this side of Julian as he began to break down his walls when he let himself be vulnerable with his adult children and let go and finally love--truly love Olivia.

I found "Tempt the Devil" to be an exciting and worth every minute I spent devouring every word as if it was

the richest, gooiest warm brownie. All I can say is, keep them coming Anna--I can't wait for the next one. No, really I can't.

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### **Ana Rînceanu says**

Control is Olivia Raines' favorite word and, as it happens, it's also to be the Earl of Erith, Julian Southwood's favorite. So as you can imagine the power struggle in this book is smoking hot and the stakes continue to escalate with every passing encounter.

I enjoyed this book immensely, but I have a complaint about the ending being a little too convenient. It's weird that I don't feel the same way about the way *Claiming the Courtesan*, but it could have been done differently.

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### **Katie(babs) says**

With *Tempt the Devil*, Campbell has written two characters who are on equal footing, perhaps not in society eyes, but when it comes to the bedroom, both her characters fight over the right to be on top. Julian and Olivia are both alphas who won't back down from what they want. Julian wants Olivia's total submission, whereas Olivia just wants respect and the elusive joy that constantly escapes her ever she was forced into the lifestyle she hates because of the way she lost her innocence. *Tempt the Devil* is about forgiveness, trust and most importantly acceptance. If you are in the mood for a luscious and emotional read, *Tempt the Devil* is the book for you.

Julian Southwood, Earl of Erith, has come back from Vienna to London, England for the marriage of his eighteen year old daughter. Julian has never gotten over the death of his young wife who he loved with such fervor, and because of that he does not have any relationship to speak of with both his daughter and son. Julian is also a man with intense sexual needs, and has the need for a mistress for the few months he will be residing in London. He sets his sights on Olivia Raines, who has quite the reputation of being London's most notorious courtesan.

Olivia uses men for security and the money they bring to her. She allows Erith to be her protector for the moment, because she thinks she will be able to handle him, like all the other men that paid for the honor of bedding her. Erith thinks he will be able to break down her defenses to the point she will be craving his touch. Olivia is quite the skilled actress, especially in bed, and can give Erith what he needs even though she may not respond to his touch the way he expects her to. Olivia lays down some ground rules between them, such as no kissing and having as much freedom as she desires. Erith wants things his way and will not stop till Olivia is a pile of lust around him.

These two play an interesting cat and mouse game both in and out of the bedroom. Soon Erith is beyond obsessed with Olivia and wants not only her body, but her heart also. Olivia will not give into Erith because of her horrible past where another man ruined her for all other men, as well as a respectable life. Erith won't allow Olivia to remain cold around him, and will use everything in his power to make her respond to his touch and the growing love he has for her. Erith thinks he can get Olivia to respond to him, even though her body can't. The poor woman has never enjoyed sex and has emotionally blocked her mind and body from any pleasure she can receive from a man. Erith decides he will be the man to break down these walls, and will make her come to the realization that she can let herself go with him.

Anna Campbell sure does write some of the most emotional and angst filled romances, and *Tempt the Devil* is no exception. The road to happiness between Julian and Olivia is a very long and hard one. Olivia fights tooth and nail against all that Erith is offering her. She is one of the most tortured heroines I have read this year, and at times, the way she and Julian interact with one another makes for some heavy and dark reading.

Julian is a character full of faults, which he realizes quite quickly due to his relationship with Olivia. He wants Olivia to confront her own issues and use him as support so they can have something worth while together. Olivia wants everything from Julian and that means marriage. But, Julian can't give Olivia that even though he longs for her with every sense of his being. The scene where his daughter goes to confront Olivia, and where Julian finds them talking together will make most readers angry because of the way Julian acts. Olivia's reaction is exactly as I would expect from her, and I couldn't help but cheer Olivia because tells Julian to go to hell because she refuses to be degraded. And those who enjoy a good groveling scene, there is a nice one that Anna has written with Julian because of his fear of losing Olivia.

I would have to say that third time is a charm for Anna. *Tempt the Devil* was a very enjoyable read. The sex was pretty hot and Anna made her hero, Julian suffers very deeply because of Olivia's indifference to him. Perhaps it was a bit evil on my part but I loved how Olivia wouldn't fall for Julian's charms. He was so dumbfounded, and because of that, he had to work for her heart. And when Olivia finally allowed herself to free and open with Julian, it is well worth it.

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### **Eastofoz says**

This story has everything I love in a romance novel : a *very* dark hero, a razor sharp tough as nails heroine, virtually no eye-crossing filler, the screeching emotional roller coaster and all that told within the framework of some brilliant writing. Anna Campbell is a genius with her eerie yet refreshing prose. Suzanne Enoch and Lisa Kleypas can rip your heart to bits with those nasty rakes of theirs but Campbell, she tears away at you slowly until you think you just can't take it anymore and you're almost shying away from the novel when the hero does something that just makes you go "*isssh*", "*aie*", "*oo*" (squint your eyes and purse your lips) that's a low blow".

The story is about Olivia Raines, London's most infamous courtesan, who chooses her lovers and insists that they follow her rules if they want her to be their mistress otherwise they can just hitch a ride on the high road. Olivia reminded me of Lisa Kleypas' Lily in *Then Came You*. She leads her life on her terms garnering as much financial wealth along the way to make her as independent as possible. She's a smart cookie. She plays the role of the worldly courtesan brilliantly but underneath it all she's frozen solid. I'm not a fan of the courtesan story but this one is very well-done.

Then there's Julian Southwood, the Earl of Erith(nice to see a more original title name), who is Mr Do It

And Do It Now Because I Said So. Oh you don't cross this guy unscathed! What a true sonofabitch he is but when Olivia plays cold fish to his charms he sets out to show her what a "real man" can do for her not one who just kowtows to her every whim and believes her charades. Now Olivia doesn't really give a crap about Julian and just wants the liaison to be over with and this really, really *really* bugs ol' Jules because he realizes that he's starting to care for her and with time she cares for him.

As the chapters pass by most of the h/h's time is spent in bed but it doesn't ever feel like one of those sex for sex let's skimp on the story kind of books. The story is always changing and the emotional turmoil that the two face heightens as the novel progresses. There's no frill here so if you're looking for a pretty Julia Quinn novel you might as well not even bother with this book. Campbell is the anti-Quinn. But like Quinn, Kleypas and Enoch when the h/h do find common ground the love story is believable and more than emotionally fulfilling. Her writing is not a "seen it all before" kind of writing. She has this way of putting words together that makes the darkness of the novel seep right into you so you shudder when the hero is absolutely heinous to the heroine and you wonder how in the world he can be redeemed with her not losing face and surprisingly she never does. She remains the woman who doesn't settle for second best but is not an uncompromising harpy, while he isn't just a smack him one upside the head kind of rake either. Campbell's descriptions and writing style are not the everyday kind. She writes with uncommon language and impressive precision in her sentences that is never stale.

As for the ending, it's "interesting", "different". I wasn't sure if I felt like I wanted more or if it was just another unique aspect of her writing, but when 98% of a novel is actually centred around the h/h without substories and waste-my-time extra characters just to take up page space I can let that go. If you liked Claiming the Courtesan this one is equally good but not as "rough" ---well maybe the Duke of Kylemore is in a bit of a class all by himself too ;). Campbell is definitely the Anne Stuart of historical romance –now that's my kind of read :D

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### **Mary - Buried Under Romance says**

What a deep, moving story! Time to finish my Anna Campbell marathon...

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### **Rane says**

From the moment he first saw the famous courtesan Olivia Raines, Julian Southwood, Earl of Erith wanted her, as he plans and makes arrangements to make her his new mistress, he finds out there's more to this well-sought courtesan then meets the eye.

Olivia finds the life of a courtesan tiresome after so many years, but finds a challenge in Erith and sets out to prove he's just like her old keepers.

As the wagers are set, a battle of wills between Olivia and Julian flare up with sexual tension with the winner taking all or nothing.

Anna Campbell stories always fulfills my love for the darker side of romance, Tempt the Devil is no exception as I got caught up quickly in story.

Julian came across as a prime Alpha Male throwing his weight around, thinking only of himself and hiding behind his grief of the lost of his young wife. He has so many strikes against him from the start you wonder

how he's going to ever been redeemable. Julian sees the error of his ways early on, not only with the way he treated Olivia but with his own life and the way he avoided his own children. He loved and adored his wife so much that he ran away and kept running until he met Olivia who's own scars are deep and very painful. Julian did surprise me in being a tender lover from the start and didn't find any pleasure when his lover didn't enjoy the act as much as he. It was a blow to his male pride when he finds out Olivia was faking the act, which forces a wager between the two. Julian's change was very swift and not gradual, at times he seemed somewhat two faced speaking before thinking. Although he did redeem himself at the "very" end. Unlike Julian, Olivia's change was gradual as she comes to terms with her past and making a stand to want better. Olivia put Julian through the ringer, but I couldn't help but be on her side. Julian kept pushing her and although I can understand where he was coming from, instead of being kind and coaching the pain forward, he forces the issues. Olivia's strength and courage and her not taking any crap from Julian made me cheer for her!

The sexual tension between the two was hot, each sex scene wasn't just about sex but about trust and moving past the pain. I never doubted the love between the two as they heal each other and pour their hearts out, it made you feel for both of them and understand where they came from. I smiled when Olivia wouldn't bow down to Julian's demands at the end and when he finally sees her then more then just a lover.

It was also cute to revisit Kylemore and Soraya and seeing their love staying strong.

Overall: a wonderful read of two strong-willed people finding their equal in each other as they put their demons to rest and heal their souls with love.

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### **Alaine says**

Romantic Times said 'takes your breath away ... an unforgettable powerhouse romance'. That is an understatement! I absolutely loved this book and will definitely read it again. Although I feel I must warn you, I recommend reading this book in a very cold room with the air conditioner turned to the coldest setting because it is steamy hot!

Anna Campbell has an amazing ability to write a story that gets to the heart of women's sensuality. What impressed me most about this story was not only was it very hot and steamy, it was a story that involved two peoples journey through abuse and grief and the way in which these emotional events affected their everyday living.

This was my first Courtesan novel and it is quite different from the typical Virgin heroine. Firstly the intimacy/sexual activity begins much earlier in the novel and I wouldn't say it built the sexual tension as much as the sensuality/eroticism. This book is a page turner from start to finish, I loved it and would recommend it to all woman.

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### **Gilgamesha says**

The scene where he walks in to see his mistress and daughter together....and the way Olivia's heartbreak was potrayed made the rest of the book almost worth it....but I found the rest of the book too dry.

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### **Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says**

I stayed up until 3:30am reading this book on Friday. It was just that good. Certainly not a book that is light and fluffy, but so excellent that you feel as though you have eating a ten course meal instead of a sweet, tasty cupcake. Erith is not what I would call a nice guy. He's selfish and blunt and doesn't work too hard to observe social niceties. He lives for his own desires, and goes where he wants to go, always drifting, and leaving nothing behind that he regrets despite the many mistresses that he's cast aside. He's abandoned his children, out of grief when his wife died, but abandoned all the same for sixteen plus years. He's had more mistresses than he could count, and he doesn't have honorable intentions towards our heroine, Olivia. The interesting thing is that his behavior is consider more socially acceptable than Olivia. It's one of the hypocritical aspects of society that never fails to irritate me. A woman is no good when she is forced to take lovers to support herself. Yet a man can have as many lovers as he wants and no one blinks an eye, as long as he's semi-discreet and doesn't marry a woman who has a past.

I must admit it took me a long time to warm up to Erith. I felt he was a selfish man who didn't really understand what loving was, or he forgot when he lost his wife at a young age. He thought that his desire to give Olivia pleasure and trinkets was a act of generosity to be thanked for. He doesn't understand that his actions could make things even worse for Olivia when he decides he's had his fill of her. On the other hand, I loved Olivia from the beginning. I find it heartbreak that a woman would have to sell her body for a living. The thought of it just sticks in my craw. But I would never hold that against a woman. Olivia was a strong, capable, likable person. She hated men, and she had a lot of reason to hate men. Yet you never get the impression that she's deliberately cruel or even thoughtless. What was done to her was pretty lousy, and it was done by a person who should have taken care of her and cherished her. And even Erith, who declared his love, had to almost lose her to do the right thing by her. That's why I just about washed my hands of him. But the truth is, we don't really get to choose who we love. We are ordained by fate to love people, more than we want to. That's what happens to Olivia and Erith. He didn't want to fall in love again after his wife died. He just wanted to exhaust his obsession and lust for Olivia, who he hears is the greatest courtesan of all time and who he must have because of her reputation, but he does end up falling for her. And that's not the end of his journey, for this man has to learn that love is about giving up one's self and putting another person's needs first. That's what true love is. It's not just giving when it's easy or when it costs little. Love is giving up things that a person considers most important for the person who is loved.

Dark and compelling, this is a book that isn't a fun read. But it's a wonderful story that will stay on the mind, challenge the reader to explore different kinds of characters whose motivations aren't pure or demure, and don't exist in the pretty ballrooms and sitting rooms of a Jane Austen novel. These characters live on the fringe of that same society, where the light is dimmer, and their choices are drearier. Perhaps Olivia could have been Emma, or Elinore, or Jane, or Lizzy, yet she doesn't get to live in protected circumstances or genteel poverty. Instead she's a woman who received a very poor hand of cards to play, and did the best she could under the circumstances. And Erith is no Darcy or Captain Brandon. But still, I am glad that Ms. Campbell told us their story.

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### **Abby says**

Re-reading the back cover/teaser here on Goodreads makes me even MORE mad than when I finished this

book on the airplane. The back cover/teaser makes it sound as though her deepest secret and scandal is a secret baby, or that she's of foreign origin, or something equally as silly (not silly then, but silly now).

Readers, listen up close. Olivia's secret, her private scandal, is that she was sold into sexual slavery at age 14. She was pregnant at 15 and nearly died during the birth. Ever since, she's become a high class courtesan and used cream and great acting skills to make her lovers think she's turned on. In reality, she's dry as a desert and hates the act of sex. And CAN YOU BLAME HER? She was repeatedly raped at 14! ARGH!

Clearly this isn't the sort of backstory that's going to make readers buy the book. The difference between the teaser and the actual story made me feel utterly deceived. I thought I was getting a sexier Regency. Something with a little deeper characterization and plot than the usual "Regency Light". Something with a little more sex, bordering on erotica. Nope. Instead I get a weird twist on the Old Skool romance, complete with unawakened heroine and alpha-asshole hero.

When Julian meets Olivia he gets it into his crazy head that he HAS to have her as his mistress. (What IS it with romance heroes and their need to obsess and possess??) Of course, on their first interlude he realizes she's turned off by sex, and of course, he's supposed to be the hero because he's the only one who's bothered to notice. O rly? No one's ever noticed before? Let's give men some credit here.

So of course, Julian sets out to woo and make wet his mistress. ::headdesk:: He succeeds (because all it takes is some late night conversations and cuddling before suddenly she's as wet as a monsoon \*gag\*), they fall in love, but no man of standing will marry his mistress, so she leaves him, unwilling to live a half-life as the mistress to the man she loves. He gets her back and they move to France to raise horses, since they clearly can't be together in England (it would ruin his family you see), and the French are much more lenient about things like falling in love with your mistress.

OH. MY. EFFING. GOD!

Hey authors, here's a clue: rape, past rape and sexual slavery are NOT SEXY. The trauma these acts leave behind is not a solid base for a romance novel.

I should have put the book down, but there was part of me that wanted to see where this train wreck would end up. Would the family come out in support of Julian and Olivia? (No.) Can Julian's Mighty Wang of Magical Healing cure years of sexual trauma? (Yes.)

This was probably one of the most unrealistic and unbelievable books I've ever read. It's too bad, too, because I've heard good things about author Anna Campbell. But it would take a lot for me to trust her again after so shabbily treating her heroine in this book.

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### Zoe says

I am not sure who I disliked more while reading this book: Julian, Olivia, or myself.

I like Ms Anna Campbell's writing. I like that she is focused in her stories, not so many secondary characters to fill the pages. I think her writing smart and storytelling intense. I appreciate that her stories have a darker

edge. Her stories read well. The only thing that I cannot really relate to is how sexual her books usually turn out to be. The characters in her books usually find love through sex. The sentiment that "if we have great sex we are meant to be." is not something I share. And it is a prominent theme for her.

But like when I read Gaelen Foley's *The Duke*, which has almost the same plot, I have trouble liking the story and the characters. A young woman (Olivia, 31), raped by an evil man when she was 14, turned courtesan. Naturally she hated her "career", men in general and the sexual act. She met Julian (somewhere close to 40), who became her protector and fell in love with him. Guy was of nobility and couldn't marry her. She was disappointed and left him. He came around with a marriage proposal. The end. (And if you have read *The Duke* by Gaelen Foley, you should see the similarity)

And of course, lots of sex scenes in this book, here and there, all very hot because if it isn't hot enough they couldn't be together you know. This plot almost never goes down well with me. With combined with a courtesan theme, it almost always means a woman's sexual awakening (because God forbid if women enjoy sex with men they do not love). I mean not that I disagree with any of the assumptions usually made in such books. I am not rooting for sex for the sake of the act, nor am I saying that women or men should have sex to liberate themselves. I mean, sex is sex, a part of life and I see little point of making a fuss about it. When a book makes it a BIG deal, and often in such stories, the main driver for the relationship, I feel very disconnected to the lead characters and their passions.

I don't know where to begin with my problems with Julian and Olivia. I sympathize with both characters and actually like them. I think the characterization of Julian successful, even though a lot of readers seem to think him a jerk. I don't see him in that light at all. He is high-handed, yes, jaded, aristocratic, full of himself, he is all that. But I think Campbell made him a likable hero by making him grieve for his dead wife. He was capable of love, at one point in life. So I could see how he would fall in love again with Olivia. I don't think it was odd for him to say "I love you" earlier (at about 70%).

I also think, that Olivia is a woman that demands respect. It is hard to pity her, because she held herself with pride. You have to respect her for that. And really, what she did does not define her. This was evident in the book.

So I don't have problems with the characters themselves. Their actions, however, raised my eyebrows, especially in the second half.

So Julian realized he loved Olivia and wanted to keep her forever. He asked her to stay with him, as his mistress in Vienna. But all blew up in his face when his 18 year old daughter visited Olivia to separate her father from Olivia's dirty ways. Julian exploded seeing his daughter with Olivia because his precious pure daughter should not be anywhere close to a dirty whore like Olivia. And his language was more vulgar than my description. My eyebrows went to the ceiling when I read that scene. I was warned, granted, but man, that had to hurt. Very unsporting of Julian.

Julian's "transgression" prompted Olivia's ending the relationship by issuing an ultimatum. She would only stay if Julian married her. I do not have problems with her "wish". But I have a problem with the way she asked for it. There, that is the problem. She asked for it.

See here, I honestly do not know how a man of Julian's station could marry Olivia without destroying his children's future, both were unmarried. Julian's station be damned, he was getting Olivia and if that means he would be shunned by society, so be it. But marrying Olivia would almost certainly mean Julian's daughter would never ever make a good match. I mean, writing about courtesans is cool and all, but I really see a

practical problem here.

I think Olivia was right to leave. It was the dignified thing to do. But see, this is my reasoning: She made that a choice for Julian. I think that weakened her negotiation position. If you are in the wanting position, beggars cannot be choosers. And why would you be a beggar if you could be the chooser? Choose to go, do not give Julian a choice to marry you or not marry you. If he could not come to that decision himself, he does not deserve you. To issue an ultimatum like Olivia did was to put herself out there for Julian to either accept or reject. "If you marry me I will stay. If you don't I will go." I hate that. There is no other word for it. The only permissible answer is "You do your own thinking in your own time and here is where I must leave you."

I think it's safe to say that I really despise myself make reading yet another courtesan turned duchess/countess story. It almost always spells disaster for me. The courtesan always ends up wanting, waiting for a marriage proposal. She leaves but only after the man says he would not marry her. Ah how undignified!

All in all, my 2 stars rating has a lot to do with my personal preferences, little to do with the book. The book is written well and characters are well defined. It could be a rather emotional read if one responds to such stimuli. This is just not my thing and I shall learn to stay from courtesans and sex-driven stories.

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### **Cheryl says**

It's been a long time since I've read an Anna Campbell book and I have my friend Kelly to thank for recommending this one! I loved it! It had the perfect blend of steam and emotion, without being heart-wrenching or smutty! ;)

My only complaint... the ending!!! Was my copy missing a chapter or did everyone else's copy just end suddenly? I wish it had a more solid ending, rather than ending on the assumption that she said "yes"!

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