



The Return of Lady Jane

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After a surprisingly passionate wedding day, Viscount Colin Wharton begins to believe he could overcome a painful betrayal in his past and truly make a future with his new wife, Jane. But a shocking betrayal crushes his heart. He sends her away, determined to forget her.

Viscountess Jane Wharton has no idea what hardened her husband's heart to her, but she is trying to make the best of her banishment. When she returns to London, she hopes to simply avoid Colin. But that is not to be. As the couple reunites in a clash of harsh words and heated passions, both begin to wonder if they could overcome the past.

Only a secret lurks that is darker than anything either could have imagined. And they will have to fight to survive, as well as fight for the love they both deserve.

The Return of Lady Jane Details

Date : Published January 8th 2019 by The Passionate Pen

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Author : Jess Michaels

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Genre : Historical, Romance, Historical Romance, Novella

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From Reader Review The Return of Lady Jane for online ebook

Lori D says

A story that captured my heart from the start and would not let me go until the end.

An arranged marriage that began with the groom, Colin, trying to still heal from a prior betrayal, believes his new wife has cheated on him! Are you serious? Well the wounded heart can only see what it wants, so he sends her to the country for six months. She corresponds with Colin but never receives a word.

But when her sister is to give birth, she travels to London to be with her. Word gets out she is in town by the Scandal Sheets who wonder where she has been! Of course Colin sees it and comes to see her and insist she stay in town at his house. Can they be happy now?

They are so sizzling together but it seems there are people pushing them apart. Full of surprises, angst and romance, I could not wait to see what would happen!

This was such a well written novella that Jess Michaels excels at with her eloquent words that paint a wonderful picture in your head. I cannot wait to read more in this series and recommend it to all lovers of historical romance.

Tracy Emro says

4.5 stars

On their wedding day, Colin, Viscount Wharton witnesses his new wife Jane betraying him with another man. On the advice of his cousin and best friend, he banishes Jane to the country.

Jane has no idea why Colin sent her away, nor has he replied to any of her letters. She has stayed in the country and made a life for herself, but when her beloved sister gives birth, nothing will keep her from returning to London. She doesn't plan on seeing Colin during her visit, but that plan is shot when the "Scandal Sheet" reports that she is in town and ponders the reason she was exiled.

Colin learns that Jane is in town and immediately goes to see her, instead of sending her back to the country as he planned, he ends up insisting that she lives at his house while she is in town and act his wife in public. She agrees and learns that Colin might hate her, but he still desires her.

They are electric together and Jane has hope that they will finally put the past behind them and move on, but Colin struggles with his feelings, he desires her, but she betrayed him, how can he trust her? When the truth of the betrayal is revealed in a shocking twist, Jane is devastated and returns to the country. Is it too late for these two? Can love heal the wound between them or is the cut too deep?

This was a well written, nicely paced, fully fleshed out novella, it never felt rushed or incomplete, the author gives enough backstory to support the current plot and doesn't rush the ending. The chemistry and emotion between Jane and Colin is obvious, the love scenes are smoking hot and the ending was heartwarming. I thought the title was a bit misleading, she is not, nor was she ever, Lady Jane, but formal address is a personal peeve of mine and that little error in no way diminishes the actual story. There are a couple of inconsistencies, but they will probably be corrected prior to publication, but even if they are not, they are minor and don't really impact the story. And in the end, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would happily

recommend it.

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher.

Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says

This novella is a great start to what looks to be another fabulous series by Jess Michaels. While brief, it packed plenty of anxiety for me. Anxiety that kept me turning the pages. Sometimes, I just wanted to step into the story, give everyone a shake, and settle all the misunderstandings between them. While I understood Colin's pain, he could have saved himself a lot of stress had he just communicated. But he'd been raised to keep it all inside and he had trusted the wrong person. I admired Jane for giving him another chance and for voicing her anger. Theirs had started as an arrangement and then grown into attraction. Jane's "betrayal" though occurred before they really knew each other like couples should. Had they known each other better, I think it would have all played out differently. The love scenes were steamy and definitely showed their physical desire for one another but would that be enough to repair the damage between them? Only getting to know each other and building trust could accomplish that. Though short, the story moves at a fast pace and keeps readers engaged and anxious to see Jane and Colin work everything out. It's a lovely story with twists and turns and even a little danger. I'm excited for this new series and anxious to read what's next. Thanks to NetGalley for allowing me to read an ARC of this book.

Lubnaa says

I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

If there's one type of historical romance that I like to read, it's the kind that builds on the marriage of convenience/arranged marriage trope and depicts the ups and downs of married life. After being banished to her husband's country manor, Lady Jane returns to London after 6 months, much to her husband's surprise. Why was she banished? Why did she return? I won't spoil it for you, but what ensues is a steamy and heartfelt romance between husband and wife who can't stay away from each other despite the barriers between them. This novella packs a lot of lust, pining, heartache, and groveling and the journey towards the HEA was a fun and satisfying ride.

Reading this novella reminded me just how much I enjoy Jess Michaels's writing. I'm really excited to read the next novella, especially after the enticing preview at the end of *The Return of Lady Jane*.

Barbara Rogers says

Series: *The Scandal Sheet* #1

Publication Date: 1/8/19

Number of Pages: 98

I am not normally a fan of novellas, but this is definitely an exception to that. This novella felt fully fleshed out and complete – I felt as if I had read a full-length novel. It is a lovely beginning to a new series by this author and I can hardly wait to read the next books. It is excellently-written, well-plotted and the characters

are memorable.

Viscount Colin Wharton had an unfortunate history with betrothals, so he could hardly believe his luck when his arranged marriage was to someone he found very attractive. However, a past betrayal by a former betrothed made him very susceptible to hints that his new wife has also betrayed him. So, the morning after his wedding, he banishes his new wife to the country and forbids her to come back to London. He gives her no explanation, he just banishes her.

Jane Wharton is a very lovely, sweet and caring young woman who has come to care for the man to whom she is betrothed. She is looking forward to her marriage – especially after the passionate afternoon they spent before the wedding ball. She is dismayed, shocked and very, very hurt when her husband suddenly banishes her to the country. She has no idea what she may have done. She writes him time after time, but never hears a word from him.

Jane is very close to her sister, Alicia, and when Alicia gives birth, Jane heads to London whether her husband likes it or not. He probably won't even know that she's there. Then, there was the scandal sheet that published all of the details of her travel and arrival, so he'd definitely know she was there.

Not long after she arrives at her sister's home, Colin arrives and demands that she stay at his home. That brings them into proximity and the attraction roars to life. Colin is drawn more and more to Jane, but there are forces determined to keep them apart. Can Colin overcome those forces? Can he win Jane back given all of the hurt he's caused her?

It was a lovely read and I highly recommend it. I loved Jane from the first page and strangely enough, I also loved Colin from the beginning. He was misled and misguided, but he was also very lovable. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing him grow as a man.

Please check out my reviews at:

Blog: <https://flippinpages.blog/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/flippinpages...>

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"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?♥?

???

Such a touching story by one of the best pen maestro's in the business.

Jess Michaels has a talent for storytelling that really speaks to me , she puts so much feeling and passion into her words .

The Scandal sheets is a new series and this is the first of six books .

Jane and Colin have a pretty rough time of it , he suspects her of cheating on their wedding day and banishes her to the country for the next six months , but even though she writes she gets no response.

Finally she has a reason to go to London and confront him , but all is not what it seems and other forces and people are also involved to keep them apart.

It's Stunning, Romantic, sizzling, tense and surprises are around the corner when you least expect them .

Don't miss this one !

Highly recommend !

I received an advance copy of this book and chose to submit a review

Sheila Melo says

I received this book for free from Netgalley in order to prepare an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

FINAL DECISION: I enjoyed that the hero eventually had to prove himself to Jane in the end. Although the villain and his purpose was obvious from the start, the book shines in its development of the relationship between Jane and Colin.

THE STORY: Lady Jane Wharton was married and bitterly disappointed the same day. She married Colin after a long courtship, but after a passionate afternoon after their wedding ceremony, he banished her to the country. Now Jane has returned and despite Colin's coldness, he cannot seem to keep away from her. Jane is determined to claim her husband and find out what is keeping them apart.

OPINION: I enjoyed this short read. I wasn't sure I was going to like the hero since he is easily manipulated by the villain. It was obvious to me what was happening and I found the hero's inability to see that annoying. Of course, this villain, like Iago in Othello is too easily manipulated by his inability to trust. At least, there is some explanation for his lack of trust. Colin and Jane are just beginning their relationship as the book begins (since their marriage was arranged rather than a love match).

Although the mystery of what drove Colin and Jane apart is quickly settled, that didn't bother me at all because I was happy that this book is really about their reconciliation and not the plot of what happened in the past.

My favorite part of the book is when the truth comes out and these two have to find a way to save their marriage. That portion of the book which is just Colin and Jane is sweet and emotional. I loved the entire last section of the book.

This book is not as complex as others that Michaels has written primarily because of the length. However, the second part of this book which depends primarily on the emotional connection between the characters elevated this story for me.

I enjoyed this short read and look forward to more in this series.

WORTH MENTIONING: This book, and indeed each book in this series, is a novella. This book is about 100 pages.

CONNECTED BOOKS: THE RETURN OF LADY JANE is the first book in the Scandal Sheet series.

STAR RATING: I give this book 4 stars.

NOTE: I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley. I was not required to write a review or to write a positive review. All opinions contained herein are my own.

This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

Niki says

Lady Jane Wharton is returning to London after six months of banishment at her new husband, Colin's, country estate. She has no idea what caused her banishment after a passionate afternoon spent in her new husband's arms before their wedding ball and hopes to simply avoid him while she's in London.

Viscount Colin Wharton was just beginning to think he could overcome the betrayal of his first love, whom he had hoped to marry, and move on with Jane. All hopes come crashing down when he sees Jane kissing her former suitor on the terrace outside their own wedding ball. Crushed by this shocking second betrayal and cursing his own hopefulness, Colin immediately banishes his new wife to his country estate without waiting or asking for an explanation.

Jane has now returned to London to visit her beloved sister's new baby boy and Colin, unwilling to undergo the embarrassment of having his wife in the same city but not under the same roof, demands she move into his house. When the two reunite, their passion is explosive, but Colin reminds himself that he knows Jane's unfaithful character and can't risk himself again. Soon it becomes apparent that there may be something darker working against this pair and they may be forced to actually communicate.

This was a quick read but I enjoyed it and devoured it quickly. Like all novellas, it was a quick development and resolution but I didn't feel like the characters' relationships were rushed, perhaps because the hero and heroine were already married. All in all a great read.

I received a complimentary ARC via NetGalley. Thank you! All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Supriya Saran says

I have said it repeatedly and will say so again, I SIMPLY ADORE NOVELLAS. And to top that fact is this - this one is by Jess Michaels - an 'auto buy' author for me. When the 1797 Club series drew to an end, it was a dreadful time for me as I kept wondering what one would look forward to now and even with her assurance of a related series in 2020, it was just not enough. So long!!!! And then up crops up THE RETURN OF LADY JANE. A novella about Viscount Colin Wharton and his estranged bride Viscountess Jane Wharton. And yes, much as I enjoyed the book, and much as I enjoy novella's, this one got over too soon.

The story opened on their wedding feast and a misunderstanding that the reader could figure out instantly even though silly Colin could not. Yes, Colin needed a rude shake of his shoulders to put some sense into him, but for me he redeemed himself perfectly with the romantic apologies and actions that eventually united him with his love. He came out a winner just as I muttered 'now how are you going to get around her after that!' As I said it ended too soon, and I hoped that we would at least have thirteen letters to reply to before she came around. ;)

Jane was too good to be true and your typical English miss who found herself in an arranged marriage, with a passionate husband and then exiled without even a 'if you please' to his country estate on the day of their wedding. She was a very 'believable' character and it was easy to relate to her when she was clueless as to why her circumstances were so, and having no power to do anything about it -- what I am sure any young girl in an arranged marriage would actually feel in those Regency times.

And since we were reading a novella, we had a misunderstanding, an estrangement, a reconciliation and a whole of "Jess Michaels style" passion all bundled into fourteen enjoyable chapters, even though a tad too short.

But worry not oh lovers of historical romance and Jess Michaels ... there are six stories in this series 'The Scandal Sheet', and apparently Book Two, Stealing the Duke, is already on preorder, I believe. A small warning here for those looking for full length novels thereafter, the whole series seems to be novellas!!!! Did Christmas come early for me or what :).

Showie Ford says

The Return of Lady Jane was exactly what I needed right now: short, sweet, and steamy. I read the entire thing lying in bed before I had to get up and bring the kids to school. I loved every page.

Anyone familiar with my reviews already knows that I am not usually a fan of novellas. I find them often rushed. This one was, predictably, very fast paced. It is nearly impossible to build any sort of slow romance in such a short space. That being said, the story is sweet and sexy in all the right ways. It was definitely a Jess Michaels quality standard. I just love every one of her books.

I fell mad in love with Lady Jane. She is a lovely character who showed spunk and backbone. Collin was a sweet little innocent darling. He needed a good slap for the way he treated Lady Jane, but at least he has a good excuse.

<https://wordpress.com/post/ssshwearer...>

Janet says

After a surprisingly passionate wedding day, Viscount Colin Wharton begins to believe he could overcome a painful betrayal in his past and truly make a future with his new wife Jane. Then a shocking betrayal crushes his heart. He sends her away, determined to forget her.

Jane has no idea what hardened her husband's heart to her, but she is trying to make the best of her banishment. When she returns to London six months later to see her new nephew, she hopes to simply avoid Colin.

This novella is the first in a new series & for a short story packs a punch. The pace is very good, I read it in a sitting. Also for a book of 100 pages the characters are well developed & have plenty of depth. I really liked Jane & surprisingly I also liked Colin even though I kept wanting to shout 'talk to her'. The pair are attracted to each other but they don't trust each other, then events take a twist that makes them both reassess their

marriage. A thoroughly enjoyable story that went from sweet to steamy, I look forward to the rest of the series

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read

MG says

4.5 stars!

I very rarely enjoy novellas because I either feel like the story didn't have enough background for me to care about the characters; there wasn't enough time to build a connection between the main characters; and/or the ending seemed completely unrealistic in terms of the resulting HEA. None of these were an issue with this book!

First of all, I only think it is fair for me to state that Jess Michaels is one of my favorite historical romance authors --- I have enjoyed all of her books, and I usually end up inhaling them when I get my hands on them! Her books are always entertaining --- they have romance, passion, steamy goodness, a solid and interesting plot, usually some intrigue/mystery, and are historically accurate (for the most part, but I am not a nitpicker when it comes to that kind of thing as long as the story is good).

I really liked the story (though I did know early on who the "bad guy" was in the book, but that is more because of a limited supporting cast since it was a novella than a lack of mystery). The main female character (Jane) was likeable and sympathetic from the beginning; the main male character (Colin) was generally likeable, but obviously tested the reader's patience with his stubborn refusal to listen to Jane. Their relationship was very passionate, and oh the steamy goodness (this is definitely an NC-17 read, kids!); The only thing I didn't like about the book was the angst aspect because I felt like it went on a little too long, but since it was a novella and that was the storyline, it made sense that this took up the bulk of the book. I do feel that once all was revealed, I better understood the male main character, and he became much more likeable.

Overall, a highly recommended read if you like your HRs steamy, interesting, and with a dash of mystery!

Plot --- 4.5/5

Main Characters --- 4.5/5

Supporting Cast --- 4/5

Violence --- only the confrontation with the antagonist & that was not egregious

Language --- minimal

Steam Level --- 4/5

POV --- 3rd (but slanted at times)

I received an advance copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted on Got Fiction?

This is a story with a Big Misunderstanding. But, I don't think it's the kind of Big Misunderstanding that can

be resolved with one conversation (those always drive me nuts!). But a conversation could have at least helped. Or started the way to a resolution. I love a good betrayal plot; I don't know if it's considered part of the second chances trope, or if it has another name, but when one character betrays the other, I love watching them come back together. Some people love secret babies, I love betrayals.

Colin and Jane have married and while it's not a love match, it seems to be leaning that way as they spend more and more time together. But on their wedding day, something happens to make Colin think she's betrayed him. His previous love had been with any man who looked her way while they were together, so Colin is a little touchy. This sends him in a downward spiral. He banishes his new wife to the country. He pretends that she doesn't exist. And he misses her terribly.

Jane thought she and Colin were hitting it off nicely, but after their wedding, he sends her away with no explanation. She spends a few weeks crying, raging, everything. But then she starts to write him. She writes him weekly. She wants to know what she's done and how she can fix it, at first. But after that, she just writes him letters about what's going on in the house, in the countryside, with her. She keeps it lighter, and tries to win him back.

Then, her sister has a baby, and Colin be damned, she's going back to London to visit her sister. And Colin finds out through the gossip pages.

He's all about his image, so if she's in Town, she'll stay with him, rather than with her sister. And Jane wants this too because she wants to fix whatever is broken in their marriage.

This is where I felt it couldn't be solved by a simple conversation. There's nothing simple about what happened. It's a lot trickier than a simple Big Misunderstanding. And this is also why I felt this would make a better novel than novella. Colin was not my favorite person for a while there, but then he started answering her letters. You might be thinking too little, too late, but seriously, there are reasons he didn't answer sooner. I loved this part of the book. I wish this part of the book had been given more pages. More letters. It was wonderful. One of the better grovel scenes, I've read. And to me a grovel is more than an I'm sorry, it's a whole change coming over the person doing the grovelling. Colin changed.

I enjoyed this novella, and I look forward to the next book in the series.

***ARC courtesy of the author via Netgalley

Cheryl says

I did enjoy this book although I did surmise who the villain was earlier on. I liked the characters of Jane and Colin. Jane really took matters into her own hands to try to repair her marriage. I did think Colin was just a bit too trusting of certain people but maybe his background affected his judgement. It's a book you will keep reading to ensure the villain gets his comeuppance. I found this an entertaining read. I look forward to next in the series. I received a copy and have voluntarily reviewed it. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Shell Cunliffe says

I received this ARC from Netgalley in return for a honest review, all thoughts are my own.

The Scandal Sheet is the first book in Ms Michaels new series. Yes this is a Novella...but Ms Michaels writing does not let you down.

On what should have been Jane's most happiest of days, her wedding day, it started off well...but other forces had other ideas, and so Jane was banished to the country, without been able to appeal to Colin or being told what she had done wrong.

Then six months later Jane is back in London, to see her baby nephew and at all costs she must avoid Colin, I mean you just wouldn't want to see your husband after he did that...but for Jane she still loves her husband. There was a moment in the book I wanted to give Colin a shake and tell him he has made a big mistake...but luckily for me Ms Michaels did that (no not shake him), no she showed him error of his way.

For me this book was a great start to what will be a brilliant series, the characters are well developed and the writing is brilliant as ever.

I give 5/5 stars and its a book I can highly recommend.
