



# Lord of Scoundrels

*Loretta Chase*

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DETERMINED LADY

Tough-minded Jessica Trent's sole intention is to free her nitwit brother from the destructive influence of Sebastian Ballister, the notorious Marquess of Dain. She never expects to *desire* the arrogant, amoral cad. And when Dain's reciprocal passion places them in a scandalously compromising, and *public*, position, Jessica is left with no choice but to seek satisfaction...

LORD OF SCOUNDRELS

*Damn* the minx for tempting him, *kissing* him... and then *forcing* him to salvage her reputation! Lord Dain can't wait to put the infuriating bluestocking in her place—and in some amorous position. And if that means marriage, so be it!—though Sebastian is less than certain he can continue to remain aloof... and steel his heart to the sensuous, headstrong lady's considerable charms.

## Lord of Scoundrels Details

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Author : Loretta Chase

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# From Reader Review Lord of Scoundrels for online ebook

## Pepa says

reseña completa: <http://masromance.blogspot.com.es/201...>

#retorita#

Y le vuelvo a dar las 5.

Quizás no debería, está claro que mirado con lupa muchas de sus escenas son un puro sinsentido.

Pero cuando la autora lo justifica, me convencen. Aquí siempre he pensado que la figura de la abuela me justifica un comportamiento total fuera de situación, pero es que segura estoy de que en aquel tiempo también hubo mujeres que no se conformaron con decir sí a lo que se les dijera. Y eso es motivo suficiente para admirar a Jess como protagonista femenina. En muchos aspectos se comporta como un hombre y hace lo que un hombre pero, sobre todo, es inteligente y sabe manipular a ese grandote acosador como si fuera un muñequito de barro. Siempre digo que me encantan este tipo de protagonistas femeninas y, al mismo tiempo que me encantan los hombres de la Kleypas, siempre me han encantado las mujeres de Chase.

Dain... el antihéroe... pero qué capacidad de Chase para conseguir que este mujeriego, manipulador, mentiroso, bruto y, en muchas ocasiones, canalla en el mal sentido de la palabra... me tenga el corazón robado la mayor parte del tiempo... por eso ese sublime prólogo.

En muchos aspectos me gusta esta novela tanto porque, a golpe de sonrisa y carcajada, con diálogos inteligentes e irónicos (son mi perdición) plasma con una pasmosa seriedad muchos de los comportamientos de la época que en otras románticas se obvian. (Dejadme que os recomiende la película The Duchess basada en una historia real en la que se desmitifica mucha de esa sociedad que ensalza la novela que a mí me gusta tanto).

Hay tantas escenas divertidas... que no puedo dejar de leerla con una sonrisa perenne en la boca.

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## Erika says

*It's the most unhappy people who most fear change.*

*-Mignon McLaughlin-*

*And this time, the grown man asked, with the same despair a little boy had asked, decades ago:  
Why will You not help me?*

It's the kind of romance with hero like Dain, someone whose pain was hurting me too. I wanted to tell him that I know, I understand. I wanted to reach him, hug him, soothe him,

*This time, he felt as lost and helpless as that little boy had been, trying to understand why his Heavenly Father had made him wrong inside and out and wondering what prayer must be prayed, what penance must be paid, to make him right.*

It's the kind of romance with heroine like Jess, someone I wanted to have as a sister because I admired her,

*"I am not a pocket watch," she said tightly. She told herself she ought not feel in the least surprised that the cocksure clod pole proposed to settle matters by making her his mistress. "I am a human being, and you will never own me, no matter what you pay. You may have destroyed my honor in the eyes of the world, but you will not destroy it in fact."*

It's the kind of romance that held my breath and sent shivers through my body,

*"I wanted to lick you and kiss you and touch you... everywhere." He kissed her forehead. "Everywhere it's white. Everywhere it's pink. Everywhere else." He trailed his tongue over one sleek eyebrow. "That's what I'm going to do now. And you must lie there. And take it."*

It's the kind of romance with some of the best scenes that still lingered in my memory long after I finished reading it,

*She held up her fan in front of his face, to display the masculine scribbling upon the sticks. "Look carefully," she said. "Do you see 'Beelzebub' written there?" "I'm not shortsighted," he said, extracting the fan from her tense fingers. "You needn't hold it so close. Ah, yes, is this the one?" He pointed to a stick. "Rouvier?" "Yes," she said, looking past him. "Here he comes." Dain turned. A Frenchman was warily approaching, his countenance pale. Dain fanned himself. The man paused. Smiling, Dain pressed thumb and forefinger to the stick with "Rouvier" written on it. It snapped. Rouvier went away.*

It's the kind of romance with the best kiss that made my nerves jumped,

*The desultory plops of rain were building to a steady patter upon the trottoir. Droplets glistened on her hair and shimmered on her pink-washed cheeks. One drop skittered along the side of her nose and down to the corner of her mouth. "Damnation," he said.*

*And then he didn't care what he crushed or broke. He reached out and wrapped his monster hands about her waist and lifted her straight up until her wet, sulky face was even with his own.*

*And in the same heartbeat, before she could scream, he clamped his hard, dissolute mouth over hers.*

*The heavens opened up then, loosing a torrent*

All in all, it wasn't perfect, but it hit me so hard and left me emotionally drained...

It's special.

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## UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

**On sale!!!! To celebrate its 20th anniversary, Lord of Scoundrels Kindle edition is on sale for just \$1.99! <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B000...>**

Edited to Add: Renee just pointed out that the Audible version is reduced to \$2.99 if you own the Kindle Version!!!!!! (Thanks, Renee!!!)

Edited Again to Add: If you don't already own the Kindle version, you can still get this for the sale price of \$6.95 during Audible's Big Hits sale. (Thanks Lady Wesley!!!)

### **My review.....**

This is one of the best historical romances ever written. Lord of Scoundrels is a story so well laid out and so beautifully told that it will forever hold a special place in my heart.

What do you get when an emotionally detached, 42 year old widower marries the 17 year old daughter of a French nobleman? A poor match, an unhappy relationship, and a child who bears the brunt of it all.

Lucia was truly only a spoiled young woman herself when she gave birth to a son, Sebastian. He wasn't an attractive child and his proud, Florentine nose which came from his mother's side of the family was referred to as a beak by those who looked upon him. His own father considered him a punishment because of Lucia's enjoyment of "lewd unnatural conjugal acts," and after the birth of his son, never again went to her bed.

Eventually, Lucia went away with another man, leaving Sebastian in the care of his father. She thought she was doing the right thing by leaving him behind. It was left to his father to break the news gently to his son. He failed.

(view spoiler)

I could go on and on and still not do this story justice, so I'll stop trying and instead I would just strongly encourage you to read the book. It is worth every page, every minute, every hour.

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## **Rane says**

When I picked up this book, I thought I would be in for a dark romance of two lonely people. What I got is two of the best characters in romance.

This book had me laughing at times that I would re-read the passage for another laugh. It had some of the best banter between two characters I've ever read and two complex yet simple leads you could understand on a very human level.

Beelzebub...er. I mean Dain came across as a selfish, hard nosed, vain, self-center man who could care and do less for anyone but himself. After his bleak childhood he went out to prove to everyone he truly was a demon then demon Beelzebub. Then the armor around him started to crack and slowly your show a man that sees himself not vain, but very self-conscious about himself, you don't see a man who is selfish but unsure about his feelings and how to act toward those he cares about. For so many years he's hid behind the mask of no caring that when he starts to live without the mask he does everything in his power to hide.

Jessica to coin a phrase "big surprises come in small packages" she stood up to this giant of a man and laughed in his face, she didn't go weeping into her room while he rode away, she stood her ground and told him like it is. She was blunt, honest and had a big heart. She understood Dain better then he understood himself, but not without a few bumps along the way for sure.

The banter between them was awesome, either one let up and always ending up surprising you and each other with their actions. (I did love Dain's mental dictionary and his additions to it) Jess calmed Dain fears about him hurting her calling himself a ox of a man to his dainty wife. His dainty spitfire of a wife taught him a thing or two. Dain was so unsure about himself and the way he acted toward his child thinking he killed him by just picking him up roughly, Jess being small didn't mean she didn't pack a big punch.

You could understand and really relate to Dain and Jess both having to deal with the people around them, judging them and misunderstanding them. But through each other and their feelings they both discovery something in each other they were both missing. Love. Understanding, things many people take for granted and your shown through Dain how much that effects him and Jess having to show him it was okay to feel that way, but always there to give him that extra push.

Overall: an excellent romance about two very unlikely people finding the path to love through fears, a lot of humor and bumps in the road but finding their in the end!

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## **Duchess Nicole says**

**"A monster he may be, but he was her monster."**

[illegible]

♦ I loved the heroine! She went on my favorite heroine shelf. She takes no bull but has the patience and perseverance to be amazing.

♦ I'm not sure I ever read such wonderful back and forth banter between two people. These two are both brilliantly smart, and their conversations reflected that.

[illegible]

-- "Miss Trent," he said, "I am sure all the other girls at school found your wit hilarious. Perhaps, however, if you would stop batting your eyelashes for a moment, your vision would clear and you would notice that I am not a little schoolgirl."

**You made me want you, he told her in his mother's language. You've made me heartsick, lonely. You've made me crave what I vowed I would never need, never seek.**

The beautiful, mad creature - or blind and deaf creature, or whatever she was - coolly announced it as one might say, "Pass the salt cellar," without the smallest awareness that the earth had just tilted on it's axis."

-- "And in Lord Beelzebub's dark, harsh Dartmoor of a heart, the sweet rain fell and a seedling of love sprouted in the once barren soil..."

I hardly know what to say about this one. I haven't read too many historicals in the past year, but boy oh boy, maybe I should start! This book had me totally riveted! The story, the witty dialogue, the oh-so-complicated hero, the take-no-guff heroine, the whole *love/hate thing between the H/h*--it was at times funny, sad, frustrating, but there was *never* a dull moment. At times I felt sooo sorry for Dain, who grew up unwanted and unloved, but other times I wanted to slap him upside the head and tell him to grow up already! Thank God that Lady Jessica came into his life, because I'm not sure there was another person in the world who could get through to him and into his heart, *and* go toe-to-toe with him. She was one tough, smart heroine--I loved her! Dain had such a low opinion of himself (both physically and morally), women, children, and life in general that I didn't think he could be saved. I don't think I've ever read about a more messed up, tortured hero. But boy was he fascinating! I also loved how he and Jess were so passionately attracted to each other,

but didn't want to be--animal lust, I think they called it. I just loved their whole dynamic--how they met, how they wanted each other, how they fought, those sexy Italian phrases he used with Jess, and how they grew to love each other. Wonderful storytelling.

A minor quibble--I got a little tired of reading about Dain's supposedly huge nose (I get it--his nose was big) and the reference to him as Beelzebub--that just sounded too *ugly*, and in my head Dain was one giant, sexy man who just desperately needed some lovin'. I'm so glad that this wicked hero was able to be redeemed, and I enjoyed reading about his stubborn journey towards love.

If you haven't read a historical in a while, you can't go wrong with this one--I urge anyone to try it. This is just as good (if not better) than anything I've ever read by the fabulous Lisa Kleypas. 5 big stars!

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## **Nana says**

Me la he pasado de maravilla leyendo esta historia!!! Además de que mi debilidad son las historias tipo "bella y la bestia" me ha encantado la química entre los protagonistas desde el primer momento. Los encontronazos con ellos al principio del libro no tienen comparación!!!! Gracias a Chase por crear a estos dos personajes tan maravillosamente adorables. No recuerdo haberme sentido tan a gusto antes con un personaje femenino y debo admitir que el carácter de Jess junto con su manera de llevar las situaciones me hicieron querer quitarme el sombrero ante ella..

Por otra lado esta DAIN... Pfffffffff me tuvo derretida desde el inicio del libro hasta el final.. (Con lo que me mata un hombre huraño y hosco jeje). En serio, uno de esos personajes que con su primera aparición en el libro ya te tiene tendida a sus pies..

Definitivamente una historia preciosa .

No le pongo 5 porque creo que la traducción me echó a perder ciertas escenas y diálogos que tenía que leer varias veces porque no le encontraba el sentido y en varias ocasiones me hizo perder el hilo.

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## **Geri Reads says**

### **4.5 stars!**

Now I know why this book is considered a classic in the romance genre. I was utterly charmed by the unconventional love story between Lord Dain and Jessica Trent. Dain was described as somewhat less than an appealing hero, physically with a countenance of a brute. But boy, did he won me over in the end not by changing into someone unrecognizable but just by being him and falling in love with Jessica.

Jessica Trent is one of the best heroines I've read of all time. Seriously, this girl rocks. She was sassy, smart and beautiful. Most of all, she wasn't afraid to call Dain on his bullshit. And while she was a virgin, she didn't act like a nitwit when it comes to getting physically intimate with her brute of a husband.

Their banter was hilarious. It was one of the best things of this book. I found myself giggling and sometimes outright laughing at their banter and their inner monologues. The wit and the humor was outstanding.

While this book was far from being perfect, I enjoyed it immensely. Loretta Chase's skill at making an



almost impossible character likable was truly remarkable. By the end of the book, I totally and utterly besotted with Dain and felt for him even though some of his thoughts were truly horribly misogynistic. The only explanation I could find for it, aside from her skillful writing, was the fact that Jessica was the best and the perfect heroine for Dain. Had she been paired with a far more classic hero who was so handsome and dashing, the outcome would have been different. As it is, Dain and Jessica were magnificent together.

I'll definitely be reading this one again on my Kindle because while I enjoyed listening to it, I would much prefer imagining Jessica and Dain's voice on my own in my head. Not that Kate Reading didn't do a wonderful job but I find her voice distracting sometimes especially while voicing Dain. But other than that, this was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

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

This is my favorite book of all time (well, tied with Jane Eyre). Great hero, heroine, story, humor, romance, angst. Perfect except I didn't want it to end.

I fell in love with Dain from the moment of his birth. He was an ugly baby, loved only by his dearest mother, who was taken away from him. He was horribly treated by others growing up because of his half-Italian heritage and his large nose and ungainly features. Not knowing love, he felt he was unworthy of being loved. As an adult, he lived a life of selfish pleasure, spending his time with women who he could pay for his pleasure, thinking no woman would want him voluntarily. How could I not want to know and fall in love with a hero who is so tortured?

Enter Jessica, the best heroine ever written (other than Jane Eyre). She is ruthlessly intelligent, and knows just how to handle Dain. And she pretty much loves him the first time she sees him. Although others think he is ugly, he is perfect to her. There's a statement made by Jessica where she thinks or says she cannot resist him, and he is baffled that she would feel that way, used to being considered ugly as sin. I am like Jessica. To me, Dain is gorgeous.

The chemistry between Dain and Jessica is better than any other book I've read, and I've read a lot. I've read books that were much more sexually explicit. The love scenes are not at all descriptive in this book. But they are incredibly effective, because of the passion between Jessica and Dain, and the deep caring and love they feel for each other. She knows of his flaws, but cares about him anyway, although she doesn't let him get away with anything. She even shoots him when he compromises her in the eyes of the ton but doesn't offer marriage. How cool is that? Dain cannot resist her, even knowing that she is much too good for him, and will change his life irrevocably.

The scenes between Dain and Jessica are so delicious, it's like eating a banana split with a cheesecake chaser. And I have read few books that could manage poignancy and humor so well. There are scenes that make me cry every time I read them. Yet other scenes cause the biggest smile to spread over my face. One of my many favorite scenes is when Dain acknowledges his illegitimate son, knowing he loves him, even though he is just as ugly as Dain was as a child, and is filthy and covered in vomit. My heart wept, and tears flowed from my eyes.

At the end of the day, it's really hard to describe why I love this book so much. But I do. I have absolutely no

reservations in saying, this is my favorite book of all time (or at least tied with Jane Eyre for favorite, which is nothing to sneeze at). If I ever meet Loretta Chase, I will thank her from the bottom of my heart for writing this book that has so enriched my life.

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## **Julianna says**

Reviewed for [www.thereviews.com](http://www.thereviews.com)

I absolutely loved *Lord of Scoundrels*. This was my first reading of a Loretta Chase novel, and I will definitely be seeking out other books written by her in the future. Jessica was an extraordinary heroine who had a near perfection that one does not often find in a romance novel. Independent heroines can often become irritating to me, but Jessica was a thorough delight, a wonderful mix of charm, wit, strength, and heartfelt devotion. In spite of his utterly debauched nature early on, I still found Dain to be a completely sympathetic hero. I thought it was really sweet that Dain could be so worldly and yet so insecure as to be reluctant to bed his new bride. I also loved the vulnerability he showed when he really started opening up to Jess. Jessica's grandmother, Genevieve, was a delightful secondary character who was full of wit and charm herself. The settings and characterizations were very well drawn, and the pacing was wonderful. *Lord of Scoundrels* is the third book in the *Scoundrels* series, and introduces us to Vere Mallory, the Duke of Ainswood, who becomes the hero of book #4, *The Last Hellion*. Comte d'Esmond, who is the hero of book #2, *Captives of the Night* also plays a small secondary role. I believe that *Captives of the Night* and *Lord of Scoundrels* basically take place simultaneously, but *Captives of the Night* was written first. The first book of the series is *The Lion's Daughter*. I found *Lord of Scoundrels* to be a thoroughly enjoyable book, that has definitely earned a place on my keeper shelf.

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## **Floripiquita says**

Me encanta este libro y esta pareja. Mi opinión sobre este libro la describen muy bien las haggards en esta crítica:

<http://alacamaconunlibro.blogspot.com...>

Sólo de pensar que me lo tengo que volver a leer para el #RetoRita, me puede la emoción. Pues leído otra vez y no puedo más que expresar mi amor de nuevo por sus protagonistas, me encantan. Libro 20 del #RetoRita

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## **Dinjolina says**

I hated this book. I hated the hero. I hated his brat. I hated everybody but the heroine, and her I pitied for having these other morons around.

Well. Now I feel like I kicked a puppy because everybody told me to read this book and that it would be wonderful.

It was beautifully written, sure.

And it had a lot of scenery change that consumed a big chunk of time, while other HR usually happen in a matter of days, or if they do not, we just get a FIVE WEEKS LATER insert and then the story unnaturally moves on.

But the characters! Ugh! And the plot! And most of all-the resolution in the end.UGH!

Jess was my favourite kind of heroine. Strong, older, witty, and beautiful. I loved her to no ends.

So why in Gods name did she want, and eventually love a moron that liked whores and had so much self issues it was ghastly?!!

He was not a tortured hero. He was a honest to God lunatic. I know all of his trust issues were 'explained ' by his mother. But they were so poorly portrayed I just saw a winy grown up man that didn't like or trust anybody and used his childhood as an excuse.

He had a few bright moments when he talked nice things in Italian or when he told Jess he would kill himself if she left him. But even thou that was cute, again I frowned while reading. I mean-what a drama queen! He would kill him self without her, but still he can not show her he loves her? What ever, mister!

Eventually he comes to terms with his mothers departure and his son. It was all so unnatural I wanted to scream. First of all the 'his mother-the hero' was such a stretch I could hardly see one bit of logic. She had a lover. She left her kid. End of story. Don't make it romantic by saying she knew he could have died. She was not a fortune teller. How was she supposed to know that she would die on that boat? But more ghastly than Dain's sudden understanding of his mothers (totally unrealistic) motives was the fact that even thou the whole book he goes on an on about how eeeeeeeeeeeeeeeevil his kid is (and between you and me the kid is kind of eeeeeevil) he just poof! Comes to care. And all that animosity turns out to be anguish over his own dejected destiny. I hate hate hate when authors just wrap it all up in a nice tight little bow. I could have stomached his gradual approval of the kid IF the kid became better. But him, the person that likes nobody just falls (literally) over the kid and ooooooh the love is in the air? And he loves him...why? I know people say 'you can not help but love your own flesh and blood'. I think this is KIND OF true. But not always. Here you have an ill mannered child that does nothing nice (he is 8 not 3,he could be less hostile) that you did not want. To add to the pile is the fact that he is a son of the woman you hate, a woman that had him on purpose without your knowledge. So, why? Yes, he is a kid. And all kids are kind of nice. But how can you just do this big jump start all at once, even thou it changes all your former beliefs? People just do not have these kind of epiphanies.

Ah now the kid. First of all I hate all brats in stories. So the whores take precautions when having sex for money? Dude, why not help her? Take your penis out. It's a stupid and partially ineffective way to stop pregnancies, but why not be on the safe side?

Sure, people can say that I am a girl an can not understand a man's need to take full pleasure. Well, all of our (girly) lives people say how men have needs. Sure, women have them also. Sometimes. Maybe. Not that men care. We do not talk about what women need. Well, why? Why do men have to have sex all the darn time?

Hormonally speaking there is nothing that can really pinpoint a man's superior need for sexual release. I think this is just one of those thing that are set in stone. A long time ago women were nothing more then possession. And even today we have a dogma that tells us males have to have sex or they die. So if you are having a bath ,or out of time to visit your grandmother the man can have sex with other women because he has urges. Yes, some men are fateful. But even if they were not it's not really their fault. And if they are fateful –God are you lucky! Huh? I'm lucky? Well I'm giving the finger to all your 'urges'.

So in the Lord of Scoundrels we can not blame Lord Dein. He had urges. One of them was to ejaculate multiple times in to a woman from his village that he shared with a friend. You just have to like him, no? Well I don't!

But also, I don't like his brat.

Yes, you all gasped now. Here I have gone and done it. I said I do not like the boy.

Well he was horrible!!

Sure, the poor thing was unhappy and had an greedy mother.

Boooho.

Why didn't Mr. Dein, who does not know how to pull his penis out before ejaculating, put him in a safe little home? A school?

And no, I do not think he should have taken him in.

First of all he did not want him. I know you should want all parts of you...But kids are ultimately just dna splatters. And if you are tricked in to having a kid even thou it is not the kids fault-why should you be held responsible?

Back to Lord Dein's bastard. Why do authors think the only right thing is to take the kid in? WHY DO THEY ALWAYS TAKE THE KID IN TO THEIR HOMES? There are childless marriages out there between people that would want him! Sure, the kid is not the one whose fault this is. And at that my heart aches a bit. Because he was unwanted by his parents. But being a father is a feeling. A deed. Being a parent has nothing to do with dna. Nothing. People just kind of skip over this all the time.

All in all this kid was 100% bratty. The author tries to make a Oprah moment out of this saying that he was neither pretty by face nor by nature. Well, some people (even children) are just not lovable. This kid was not lovable. And he needed a good spanking. If they took him in the should have semi-killed him first. Yes, give him love. After he learned his lesson! And that lesson is -do not be a monster! He had an ugly personality and the authors nice little comment about how he will be clay in his father hands is disgusting!

Ugh!

UGH!!!

(I'm going to hug my nicely behaved little sister and have a little brake before i finish this rew. If I do not I'm just going to have a meltdown from all the frustration.)

Next we have the kids mother and her lover. The mother was given money and a chance to live again because she was just a kid herself. And Jess kind of pitied her.

Why? Why should anybody, even for one minute, like this girl? She was a moron, a whore (usually we have whores that did the whoring because they are hungry etc. She liked whoring and she was greedy. I have no nice feelings for her.) and a gold digger.

Her lover...loved her. I have no idea why. And I have no idea why the author made this man so stupid as to not see that this girl was a sly fox that liked only herself. And money. Let us not forget the money. So Dein is making her lover marry her. Well. What ever. The whole thing was so stupid I kind of just gave up. Why not? Let her marry her. Wooopie! What a super ending!

The actual ending I think is perfect btw. It so goes with the rest of this infernal book.

A book about a heroine who could have done so much better for herself.

We have the hero and heroine having sex. The hero tells his wife he loves her. All is well in a strange and sudden way (like all things in this book-we snap our fingers and years of emotional baggage are erased). But he has to leave his wife's bed so they can see the source of an infernal noise. Oh, it is the God awful bastard of his running naked around the place while trying to climb draperies (he is 8!!!!Where is this child's brain? Sure, he wants attention. Well get it nicely! What's next? Him burning the house down while his father, the one that miraculously wants to make him very happy after hating him for 8 years, smiles idly?).

He talks to his son man to man.

Hear me ROOOOAR!

Father and son are settled.

The son takes a liking to the bed in which his father and lady have constant sex. Why does he like it?

Because it's the same bed his father used to fu.k his mother and his mother told him so. The lady of the

house smiles while listening to the boy's funny little antics about his whore of a mother having sex with her

husband in their bed. His father tells him why yeeees, in this bed I fu.ked your mother until you were conceived, and yeeeeeeeeeeeeees my wife has conceived here also.  
Arg, arg, roar. I am a manly man. The happy end!

What? What? This is cute? I wanted to punch the kid and get the divorce started for the heroine.  
But I just...I give up. Still this book just was (definitely) not my cup of tea.

Over and out.

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## **MelissaB says**

Wow! This book was very good. For once I loved the heroine! Plus the hero had some very dark parts of his personality that needed to be worked through.

The book starts out explaining how the Marquess of Dain became the cynical rake he is today. His father was very cruel to him and his mother ran away leaving him all alone. He is half Italian, so he has a big nose and a very awkward body as a child for which he is tormented mercilessly while at Eton, where his dad sent him when he was eight. He learns to ignore his hurt feelings and strike out at others when he feels vulnerable. He learns how to make money very well and spends his time drinking, gambling and hiring prostitutes because he doesn't think a normal woman would be with him for anything other than his money and title.

Jessica Trent and her grandmother travel to Paris to rescue her not-so-bright younger brother Bertie from the bad influence of Dain. Bertie sees Dain as a hero and tried to emulate all of his bad habits, to the point of financial ruin of his family. Jessica knows she has to put a stop to this, so she goes to confront Dain. Once she meets Dain, to her horror she falls in lust with him. He is very rude to her as he does not spend time with ladies (other than prostitutes) after one tried to trap him into marriage years ago. Jessica and Dain set off sparks between each other in a set of high profile encounters. They get caught in a compromising position at a ball but instead of protecting her honor, Dain just walks away because he thinks she is trying to trap him into marriage just like the other girl. His parting shot to her was "If you don't like it, then just shoot me."

Well, Jessica does not take the destruction of her reputation and chance of a future lightly. She goes to the gambling hall where he is spending the remainder of his night - and shoots him (only in the arm though and she is an expert shot)! Then she sues him for the fact that he has ruined her chances of marriage and a decent business (she was going to open a shop). He offers to marry her instead. She agrees because she really does like him and would rather be a rich wife to a Marquess than exiled to a small house in the country for the rest of her life (take notes other historical authors - it isn't resonable for a regency heroine to turn down an offer of marriage and live the rest of her life destitute simply because a man didn't say he loved you).

Jessica realizes that Dain has quite a few personal demons. He believes he is an unattractive, over-sized brute. She also realizes he has never known love in his life. She sets out to break down his barriers about love and show him that she loves the way he looks. The process is not easy and he has a lot to learn. He needs to face the child he was (he literally does this with his own illegitimate child) and overcome his feeling of inadequacy. Jessica was such a good strong heroine who knew what she was getting into but decided it was worth the effort because she loved Dain.

Parts of this book were hilarious. I love the fact that she shot him after he did her wrong and flipantly told her to shoot him if she didn't like it! Then he decided she was quite right to shoot him because he knows he

acted like a jerk. Dain does think through his actions after the fact and usually realizes when he was wrong and apologizes. I enjoyed how in the story we actually see Dain's progression from a cynical, out-of-control rake to a better man, husband and father who learns how to love. He is still a rascal at the end but he was redeemed.

I am not a huge fan of regency novels, but this one was very worth it. Check it out if you haven't read it yet!

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## Ingela says

*Written December 13, 2014*

### **5 Huge Stars - Hilarious chuckling fun audiobook listening. - Great plot, amusing banters and wicked characters**

A by many readers highly beloved historical romance. The hilarious enjoying story about *Sebastian Ballister, the notorious Marquess of Dain and Lady Jessica Trent*. Written already 1995.

I've listened to the 11:39 hrs audiobook narrated by Kate Reading.

“You'll want all your strength for the wedding night.”

“I cannot think why I should need strength,” she said, ignoring a host of spine-tingling images rising in her mind's eye. “All I have to do is lie there.”

“Naked,” he said grimly.

“Truly?” She shot him a glance from under her lashes. “Well, if I must, I must, for you have the advantage of experience in these matters. Still, I do wish you'd told me sooner. I should not have put the modiste to so much trouble about the negligee.”

“The what?”

### **Charming from the very first chapter...**

Don't mind the cheesy kindle or paperback cover. This is not a silly sugary damsel-in-distress historical. This 'Regency' story doesn't have the standard topic, or the ordinary lovely goodlooking larger-than-life Lord.

*Lord of Scoundrels*, by my meaning, **is a wonderful memorable romantic HR comedy**. A witty smart story in the oldish lovely, so brilliant, “Austen” spirit (...with more hot bedroom steam of course). ~ Very much worth to pick up at once.

Add to that; Without the slightest remark grandly good narrated. Ms Reading was perfect here.

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*Paris and later Devon 1826*

*Lord of Scoundrels* - in many ways a tender and soft kind of '*Beauty and the Beast*' story. **Sebastian**

**Ballister, Blackthorne - Marquess of Dain** seen by the noble society, including himself, as the darksome and black eyed very ugly, unattractive devil himself.

She, the very sharp and witty **Jessica Trent**, just wants to save her silly younger party-brother from this devil and his "badboy" gang there in *Paris*. The trouble is, the devil in question is so shockingly irresistible, and the person who needs the most saving is, in the end - herself.

A storyline as done for funny giggling banters, amusing talk and gossip in the fine salons in Paris, and a angry snorting sniffing depraved English Devil-Marquess.

‘He pulled away the glove, and at the first glimpse of her fragile, white hand, all thoughts of negotiation fled. "I don't see how matters could become worse," he muttered. "I am already besotted with a needle-tongued, conceited, provoking ape leader of a lady."  
Her head jerked up. "Besotted? You're nothing like it. Vengeful is more like it. Spiteful.”

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**Jessica is strong, quick-witted and fearless. Dain is angry, bitter** and don't like young elegant ladies of good family. Nor, if the women in question is more of the unmarried, a bit older, variety. Independent ladies that for anything in the world do not want to be married by a dominant tall, dark-eyed scary man.

...The war for love, pride and the last word starts in Paris.

*‘Ti desideravo nelle mie braccia dal primo momento che ti vedi.’*

‘I’ve wanted you in my arms since the moment I met you.’

### **What was it that made "it"?**

Those sexy Italian husky whispered words and love statements? Haha!! ~ No, it was rather everything that made this book into something else. ~ Historical heroes and heroines with (quite big) faults and shortcomings, yet so easy to love. A lot of gossiping, wacky characters, hilarious remarks, indescribably funny critical self-analysis and a lighthearted tone of the whole.

**An exquisite storyline with a hero** with an heartbreaking poor self-image and sadly ruined childhood. A hero who gets and a sudden chance to affection, love, desire, a warm bosom and something unexpected amazing: *A Spiritual Sweet Stunning Sexy Smart wife!!*

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### **A triumph for this genre!!**

A future romance-favorite to read (or listening to) again and again. Perfect to pick up when I need to get a good laugh and be reminded of why I like this old style of light-hearted historical romances so very much.

**RECOMMENDED!**

**Didi says**

**4 STARS**

This book has been sitting on my trb shelf for a while now and I was only reminded of it by other GR friends reading it. Well, I'm glad I did! It was very well written and featured one of the most compelling Hero's I've ever read.

Lord Dain, or Sebastian Ballister, is probably the most tortured, most interesting yet one of the most singularity attractive and sexy male leads around. Even if this is HR, his characterization is timeless. His upbringing was tragic, what, with a distant and ruthless father who hated his sons very presence, to a young and tormented mother who felt the need to abandon her child to save her own sanity.

Being made to feel different and odd, being made to feel unworthy for his mixed heritage was daunting at best. Never having someone to show him love and tell him it's okay to be different was unforgivable. Then to be shipped off to boarding school and be shunned by his father and bullied by his classmates...it's a miracle he didn't turn out worse than what he was. But Dain, as he was often called, had the backbone of stone, he didn't wither and perish, but grew stronger in the face of hate and carelessness. His heart was only buried beneath trauma, buried beneath a desire to protect oneself. Until the intelligent and beautiful Jessica came into his life.

Jess was a fantastic heroine. She saw the beauty and strength of Dain right away. Beauty and the beast indeed! I loved how Dain was stunned to learn how she saw him: as a strong and virile, gorgeous male. That's fate right there. This was a very good HR, and despite Dain's despicable behaviour at times, I never hated him. I loved him through and through and felt he deserved his HEA more than the average guy. So glad he got it and to the most worthy of women! Everything really came full circle and I loved the ending.

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**Bibi says**

**5 stars for the first half, 2 for the latter. Overall, 3.5 stars**

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**Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says**



I read this book for the Unapologetic Romance Readers' New Years 2017 Reading Challenge. For more info about what this is, [click here](#).

LORD OF SCOUNDRELS has been on my to-read list for five years, so I was delighted when it was selected as the book of the month for the Unapologetic Romance Readers monthly read. One of my favorite romance pairings is the no-nonsense shrew with the duke of slut. I was expecting something along the lines of Anne Stuart's RUTHLESS or Elizabeth Hoyt's DUKE OF SIN. Until about 30% of the book, I got exactly what I bargained for. Jess is a spinster considered by many to be a bluestocking who is firmly on the shelf. Sebastian, Marquess of Dain, is a half-Italian man of unconventional appearance who has been shamed since childhood on account of his large nose and flighty mother who ditched him as a young boy to go live with another man.

Dain is used to purchasing the affections of women with coin, and sees many of them as opportunistic whores (and says as much, projecting many of his mother issues onto the females in his acquaintance). He is also used to controlling others through fear, intimidation, and - of course - money, and has made a name for himself with these horribly improper behaviors. Which is why it's so funny, then, when he finds himself completely blindsided by Jess, who bamboozles him with her sharp tongue and irrefutable logic, as well as her beauty and her inherent goodness.

Then around 34%, she shoots him...to save face, I think, and allow the two of them to wed. I forget why. It was very strange. But anyway, to the shock of the ton, the two of them are married and that's when things fall apart because there's no longer any will they/won't they, no, it becomes a question of *when*. Within the context of their marriage, the witty banter of the first segment gives way to petty arguments, sulking, and slut-shaming, which is unfortunate because it's made clear from the very beginning that Jess is a force to be reckoned with and I didn't see the need for her to drag other women down. Dain, by contrast, becomes a sulky child who pouts and throws fits when he doesn't get his way. This is a far cry from the imposing, dangerous figure he's presented as from the beginning, and while I appreciated the author's attempts to make him vulnerable, it didn't really pan out. I think she could have conveyed his fragile emotional state without making him such a shit. Some of the things he said about his *own son* were just totally repulsive.

Also, the sex scenes were not noteworthy. There's the typical jack-in-the-box peen action, where the peen springs out of trousers like a wind-up toy, and talk of feminine curves and sleek curls, but there's also a few retroly bizarro lines like this: *He trailed his tongue over one sleek eyebrow* (67%). Which is very strange, although not quite as strange as the "arousing" eyelid-licking scene in FOREVER AND THE NIGHT. It's worth noting that both of these books also have a very odd scene about desperately having to go to the bathroom and also desperately needing to *talk* about it, as at one point, Dain tells Jess that sex will have to wait because he needs to drain the main vein: *"I can't wait around to pick you up. My bladder is about to explode"* (65%). Thanks for sharing.

I'm very disappointed not to have liked this more, because many of my friends raved about LORD OF SCOUNDRELS and it's on all *the* romance lists of note and I'd been lusting after this book (and that cover) for years, desperately hoping that it would live up to all the hype. Sadly, it did not. It's yet another 90s romance novel making the awkward transition from bodice ripper to modern historical romance, and it falls into one of those awkward trenches of fail where it has the worst attributes of both. Perhaps you will enjoy this more than me - especially if you love Beauty and the Beast, and find the plot of an intelligent woman being saddled with a sulky, miserable man appealing.

2 stars!

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## Mo says

*Damn the minx for tempting him, kissing him ... and then forcing him to salvage her reputation! Lord Dain can't wait to put the infuriating bluestocking in her place --- and in some amorous position, And if that means marriage, so be it! --- though Sebastian is less than certain he can continue to remain aloof ... and steel his heart to the sensuous, headstrong lady's considerable charms.*

I really enjoyed this book.

Sebastian, tortured, shunned by his father.

Jessica, sweet, independent, proud.

**"I love these pet names," she said, gazing soulfully up into his eyes, "Nitwit. Sap skull. Termagant. How they make my heart flutter!"**

There is something deliciously decadent about Historical romances. A look, a touch, they are all forbidden and dangerous.

**"Jessica swallowed. "I think you had better stick to English."**

**"But Italian is so moving," Dain said.**

**"To ho voluto dal primo che ti vedi." I've wanted you from the first moment I saw you.**

**"Mi tormenti ancora." You've tormented me ever since."**

Dain, Dain, Dain ... I just wanted to take you and hug you and tell you that you were worthy of love.

First time reading this author. I think the book has been on my kindle for over 3 years. Not sure why I hadn't read it prior to now.

I even woke up the other night talking about the Duke (or the "Dook" as Himself called him) - Himself asked me what I was talking about and I said it was the cows.... LOL, you will have to read it to get it. Just as well he gets my obsession with reading!

This is probably my last read of 2014. 222 books. Bloody hell, that's a lot of books. Maybe need to ditch the reading for a while and start on the exercising a bit more!!!

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### **María Ángeles says**

{Lo leí hace más de un mes y se me olvidó ponerlo!!}

Es MUY, MUY bonito. Sobre todo el inicio:

- Un prólogo de cuento escrito magistralmente.
- El primer encuentro entre la pareja: divertidísimo.
- Los diálogos entre ambos, los rífl-rafes, las ironías... Ainss.
- El "a fuego lento" de ese amor.
- Un prota desestereotipado. Una prota impresionante.

Se lee del tirón.

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### **Patricia Marin says**

Maravillosa historia, personajes muy fuertes, que destacan por su manera de ser y que se combinan a la perfección. Creo que esta historia funciona gracias al personaje femenino, que no tiene la piel fina, es una mujer con arrestos y siente debilidad por Dain, cuyo temperamento es muy complicado y ella sabe llevarlo. He disfrutado cada página :)

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