



One Little Sin

Liz Carlyle

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National bestselling author Liz Carlyle presents her most tempting romance to date -- a sinfully sensual tug-of-war between heavenly desires and earthly delights....

He was a scoundrel, a scamp, and a hopeless skirt-chaser. So it shouldn't have been so surprising when Sir Alasdair awoke after a night of debauchery to see a young lass on his doorstep...with a baby in her arms.

She was beautiful, brazen, and utterly bankrupt. So it shouldn't have been so shocking when Miss Hamilton accepted the rogue's scandalous proposal to move in with him...and become the baby's governess.

One little sin brought them together. But when one man's wicked charms are matched by one woman's fiery spirit, one little sin can lead to another...and another...and another....

One Little Sin Details

Date : Published October 1st 2005 by Pocket Star (first published January 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780743496100

Author : Liz Carlyle

Format : Paperback 355 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Fiction

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From Reader Review One Little Sin for online ebook

Susan Ross says

[The fact that Alasdair's best friend does not know him well enough to realize he's in love with Esmee and asks for her hand, and that Esmee accepts felt just ridiculous to me. (hide spoiler)]

Trewen says

I generally love Liz Carlyle, this book, however, flopped for me.

THIS MAY CONTAIN SLIGHT SPOILERS

This story felt disjointed, like LC never found her groove.

I didn't care about the characters and I had to make a lot of assumptions about a relationship developing between them because I was never shown.

I never got to really know Esme. She was supposed to be "a sensible girl" but between all her tears and histrionics, I didn't see it.

Alasdair was the worst kind of man-whore. In fact I had to witness him being with other women (plural) and I don't like that! It was never made clear to me that he stopped sleeping around once he met Esme.

Was he reformed by the end? I sure didn't feel it.

I will try the next in the series. Maybe this suffered from The-First-In-The-Series syndrome??

Keri says

Not one of my favs of LC. Alasdair was such an immature jerk in the beginning that I found it hard to believe in his redemption in the end. I also had a hard time believing in Esme's and his romance. Plus I never had enough background on him to understand why he was the way he was. Him or his brother. Because of my compulsive nature, I will finish the series, but I hope it doesn't end up going down like bad tasting medicine.

Kerstin (under_moonlit_skies) says

Alasdair is a hard-drinking, gambling womaniser who is living his life without a care in the world. That changes when Esmee and her baby half-sister turn up at his doorstep and Esmee claims the little one is his daughter. Reluctantly Alasdair takes them both in and realizes slowly that there may be more to life than whiskey, women and cards.

I really enjoyed this story, often smiling to myself while reading due to Carlyle's witty writing style. Alasdair started out as a right scoundrel but he grew on me throughout the book. It was lovely to see his

softer, caring side come out the more he bonded with the little "minx" Sorcha and acknowledged his budding feelings for Esmee. Esmee herself was a great, headstrong heroine who I liked from the beginning.

Dinjolina says

Ew.

It's weird. I found this book very wrong for me even thou I usually read anything from BDSM to gay HR all around to bodicrappers.

And still, the facts that:

a) The heroine is the half sister of the heroes child-There is something really wrong if you take a penis that was in your mother and you know..gave her a kid!

b) The hero has no recollection of the heroine's mother. The kid looks like his brother and wooho he kind of remembered something...uh...no, wait...lost it again-Talk about an ick factor. He banged your mother while drunk behind a red curtain. Very nice.

And the biggest problem was that I was reading this book at a family picnic. And all the time I just kept staring at my mother. I am 22, like the heroine. My mother is 10-15 years older than 37. She is pretty.

Imagine me, having sex with a dude that got to my mom. SHE'S MY MOM!! OMG! DON'T TUCH MY MOTHER YOU CREEPS! Ehm. See my point?

The book was also kind of boring. Nothing really happens. They just exist together and in the end have sex. So...not a good read.

Noelle says

This is the first book by Liz Carlyle that I've read and while I liked her writing style ,the story didn't really keep my interest. I'll probably read her again but I wont continue this series.

Alisdair (H) is as wild as many young titled young men.....maybe more so. He loves to drink, game and love the women. One day, as he's running from an angry husband, he and his friends hide in a fortune teller's tent. When the woman tells him his fortune, that "his chicks will come home to roost" ,he doesn't believe her. However , the next thing he knows a young woman shows up at his door with a baby girl claiming that he's the father.

Esmee (h) has no other choice but to seek out the man who her mother claimed was her baby sister's father. When her mother died, Esmee's stepfather, knowing the baby didn't belong to him,tossed them both out and with no other family other than an Aunt who was out of the country, she had no one else to turn to.

This story wasn't anything new, just kind of the same old thing I've read before. Alissair fights his feelings for Esmee because they are new and so different from what he is used to. Esmee fights her feelings for Alisdair because she fears she's like her mother and because he's her sister's father.

I guess I was just looking for something fresh....new. :-/

Suzie Quint says

Okay, so I only gave this book 50 pages. I didn't like either of the main characters. The hero is a rakeshell--not that I haven't read and liked others of that ilk--but he also came across as, well . . . how to put this. Not so bright. I also had credibility problems with the heroine. She's been taking care of her half-sister for a while but she doesn't seem to know anything about what she should do with the kid or what the kid needs. There's also the ick factor that the "hero" is her half-sister's father. Eww. Just no.

I think I'll reread a Merideth Duran novel.

Emanuellen Trizi says

Sweet Esmée! And I just loved to know better Sir Alasdair! Oh, my heart almost broke when Uncle Angus arrived, somehow I just knew something like that would happen! But, the book is beautiful and we can feel the sedate pace that Esmée life gets after she moves to Grosvenor Square.

Mandy says

[they had sex believing the entire time that he had screwed her MOM. (hide spoiler)]

Ilze says

(Second reading 2019) Wonderful story! I was smiling all the way through it. Many laugh-out-loud scenes, Alasdair and Esmee are both delightful, and the toddler Sorcha is just priceless (very well characterized). Esmee grows up fast and has a lot of wisdom despite her young age and inexperience. Highly recommended.

(First reading 2012) The book has its moments, but in the end it did not fully gel for me. The hero Alasdair is supposedly the rakish father of the heroine Esmee's baby half-sister, conceived during a drunken New Year's Eve ball, and the story takes place because Esmee and the baby were kicked out of her stepfather's house after Esmee's mother dies. Esmee decides her only option is to find the baby's father and have him take responsibility for the child. When Esmee and the baby show up on Alasdair's doorstep, Alasdair agrees to take them in, and gradually falls in love with both the baby (as a parent) and Esmee (as a lover).

The whole aspect of Alasdair falling in love with his own child's half-sister was a bit squicky for me and I wish that the truth about the baby's father had come out a lot earlier, but then there wouldn't have been much of a story to tell ... The difference in age (14 years) and life experience (huge vs none) between Alasdair and Esmee also posed a difficulty for me in believing that the two of them could come together as equals in a relationship.

Readitnweep says

Homeless and penniless, she brought her baby sister to the hopeless scoundrel who had fathered her - except things don't go as planned. Sir Alasdair MacLachlan is shocked to find the woman, Esme Hamilton and baby sister Sorcha on his doorstep.

This was one of the best romances I've read in a while. I liked both protagonists: both were flawed with strengths underneath and yet neither were overdone, as is the case so often. The story offered a few interesting twists - nearly all of which were predictable but enjoyable nonetheless. This author has obviously read Austen; there were Austenesque turns to the plot and even the mention of an attorney in Gracechurch Street - another hint of Austen. There were the hint of ridiculousness in some characters, but none of them were overblown or without depth. This was especially true with Esme's Aunt Rowena, who, though overbearing, truly did want happiness for her niece - a trait that was not obvious earlier on.

Alasdair's change and maturing was well paced and reasonable. Layers were exposed as the story progressed and not all upfront.

Aside from all this it was a fun read I had a hard time putting down - especially as the ending didn't come until truly the end, which kept the angst level notched up. I really enjoyed this overall. Also: well balanced descriptions.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

This is my first Liz Carlyle book and I have very much enjoyed it, and will be looking for the next book in the series.

Sir Alasdair MacLachlan is very much a rakehell, he drinks too much, cuckolds more husband than he remembers and gambles excessively. However, that soon changes when Miss Esmee Hamilton shows up at his door with her younger half sister, Sorcha, who she claims is his. After her and Sorcha, her illegitimate baby sister, are thrown out of her step father's house after her mother dies, Esmee sets off to London to give the baby to her father so Sorcha can live the life she deserves. But when Alasdair makes a bargain with Esmee to stay as the child's governess/nurse she doesn't expect him to worm his way in to her affections by his care of Sorcha and his wicked touch.

The prologue of this book captured my attention straightaway, it shows MacLachlan as a complete scoundrel running away from someone's husband after he is caught with his pants, quite literally, down. I don't normally like books that feature such out and out rakes, which MacLachlan is quite thoroughly, so I was quite surprised that I did want to read on. I think this may be in part due to the writing style, it is very engaging and although this isn't a funny book per se, it is written in such a way that whilst reading I would always have a smile on my face over a certain turn of phrase or what a character has said. Also as I read on, it slowly shows the hero growing up a bit, and taking responsibility. So I found as the book progressed that my affection for Alasdair increased along with Esmee's as he slowly showed himself to be a loving father, and able to think of more than just the joy of the moment.

Esmee was also a strong female lead, rejected and thrown out by her step father she trekked from the Highlands down to London to the house of a notorious rogue, just to give her sister a chance at a better life. So she wasn't your typical virgin debutante, she most definitely had spirit.

The other cast of characters, such as Lord Wynwood and Alasdair's brother Merrick MacLachlan, were also intriguing and I look forward to reading their books after this as well. Sorcha also is worth mentioning, she was rather sweet, although a complete hellion (as they said in the book) but there were some lovely moments with Alasdair and Sorcha especially toward the end, which show exactly why Esmee fell in love with such a wicked man.

So I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a bad boy/rake as a hero and those who love Historical romances.

Dawn says

I picked this up in a Longs as a Last Resort during a Lunch Hour where I had forgotten any book. And I hadn't received Robini's shipment. This was the least offensive and most intriguing cover there was.

This book was seriously okay. It had some good moments and some terrible ones. There was a lot of convenient plot devices, though thankfully the child (not the heroine's daughter, her half-sister and by-blow of the hero) was not one of them. The child was actually willful and two-year-old, which was nice. However, the book was highly predictable.

There was some squick for me when the hero & heroine got together. I mean, this man was her mother's lover (for one night, that he doesn't even remember). ICK! Of course, all turned out alright (view spoiler). The romance was cute, the scenes were sweet, but there was almost like a checklist going on. And by checklist I mean the type of "H&H must kiss by page X, fight by page Y, have sex anyway by page Z, etc." The "misunderstandings" suffered by the H&H in this book were pushing my limits of "WHY DON'T YOU ASK RATHER THAN ASSUME!" This is the first book in a series, but I don't think I'll read the next one. This was the first book I've read by Liz Carlyle, and I thought I had recalled good reviews of her from SBTB, but I can't find any.

Julie says

Sir Alasdair MacLachlan is a rogue of the worst sort. A man who lives from night to night, drowning himself not only in drink, but whatever illicit activity he might find, the worse the better. It hasn't been the harsh cruelties of the world which have driven him to these ends, just the contrary. Alasdair knows he can make no complaints, by any stretch of the imagination, when it comes to the love of family and the protective folds of fortune. He has never wanted for anything, and his "comeuppance" Granny MacGregor had always promised still eluded him. Cards and women have been his constant companions these many years with no thought to consequence. Therefore, when a young woman appears on his doorstep, small child in hand, all his hard-won experience betrays him and leaves his head spinning in utter confusion and disbelief. The infamous Alasdair MacLachlan has been reduced to a gawking mute! The small woman standing in front of him is anything but mute.

Esmee Hamilton can't believe this disheveled, very used-looking aristocrat in front of her is the sire of her

dear, wee sister! However, nothing should surprise her at this point when it comes to her mother's fickle choices and activities. God forgive her for speaking ill of the dead. Esmee will see her sister settled and secure, and this person before her will take up his obligation on every level. This she will see done, if it takes the last breath from her dying body. However, the last thing Esmee expected was the offer made by this scandal-seeking rogue. Although all her wits tell her it's a deal with the devil, it's a sacrifice she is willing to make to be able to be by her sister's side. Even so, she has wit enough to finagle an insurance policy from the desperate reprobate. Esmee has yet to see that there are things far more dear to protect and secure than a financial future.

After reading this thoroughly entertaining romance, I am reminded how much I enjoy the writing style of Liz Carlyle. She imbues her characters with so much humorous wit that the tone of her stories make reading them so enjoyable. So many chuckles throughout the book, it is easy to turn page after page. It is a real talent to be able to weave such humor with a lustful, romance between characters that burn the pages with their intense passion. A sure 4.5-star rating! Liz Carlyle is truly one of my favorite historical romance authors.

Emily says

I got about halfway through this one. I don't usually quit so far into a book, no matter how much I'm not enjoying it, but this time I couldn't do it. It was clear that this was going to be one of those going-nowhere books in which one hundred or so pages of angst and miscommunication could be replaced with two or three pages of straightforward conversation (there are too many books that rely on this non-plot! Who enjoys them?). I couldn't make myself care enough about Esmee or Alasdair or Sorcha -- especially not Sorcha -- and their horrible brogues and illogical behavior to slog through another two hundred pages. How does this story keep getting published?

On the other hand, I thought the writing was clever and funny and very readable, so I won't write this author off entirely.

It's just getting so hard to find a romance that really clicks!

I guess I should at least have known that babies, to me, are the anti-romance. Blech.
