



## Touch of a Thief

*Mia Marlowe*

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London's most talented criminal is about to be fingered. . .

Lady Viola Preston can relieve a gentleman of the studs at his wrists without his being any the wiser and pick any lock devised by man in less than a minute. But she's careful to wear gloves when she steals jewels. Because when Viola touches a gemstone with her bare skin, it "speaks" to her, sending disturbing visions--visions almost as unsettling as the sight of the cool-eyed stranger who catches her red handed.

Now Viola will only be stealing at Greydon Quinn's behest. And even more daunting than the violent history of the red diamond he's after is the prospect of a night in the devastatingly handsome lieutenant's arms. Touch has always been Viola's weakness, and the full body-to-body contact Quinn has in mind is about to shatter her defenses and set her senses reeling.

## **Touch of a Thief Details**

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Author : *Mia Marlowe*

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## From Reader Review Touch of a Thief for online ebook

### Kathleen says

I loved this book and very much look forwards to reading more from Mia Marlowe.

The story grabbed me right from the start and the H&h were fantastic characters. There was a bit of a paranormal element to this story that I thought was it was extremely well done. The love scenes were really spicy and there were quite a few to kept you hot romances readers really happy.

The only bad thing I can say about this book is I felt it ended too abruptly. I would have liked a few more pages at the end to make it an even more HEA.

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### Pepa says

Altamente recomendable...

No me gusta hacer comparaciones, pero me ha recordado mucho el estilo de otra autora que me gusta muchísimo Jennifer Ashley.

Es una historia donde las escenas hot... abundan, pero no por ello menguan la historia, con aventuras... pero lo que más me ha gustado son los personajes. Ella principalmente, moderna pero sin pasarse, valiente, decidida... pero no por ello en contra de la sociedad... él, duro pero tierno, comprensivo.

Hay escenas muy cotidianas, y sobre todo, muy humanas, por ejemplo, la relación de él al enterarse de los poderes de ella, jajajaj

Y no cuento más....

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### AerinLuvs says

4.5 Stars Overall!

Plot: 5 stars

Character development: 5 stars

Character likeability: H, 5; h, 4

Erotic tension: 4 stars

Sexual Heat/descriptiveness: 5 stars

Word usage/ writing: 4 stars

Denouement: 4 stars

I liked this book a lot! I will definitely read books by Mia Marlowe, I am definitely a fan. The plot may have involved the Crown jewels, a woman with a psychic-type of gift, a man who studied the Kama Sutra in India, passionate love scenes, erotic love fantasy talk and danger! If I hadn't been so busy during the time I was reading it, I would have finished it much sooner, because the plot hooked me in, and I liked the details of the plot. There is a little bit of a paranormal element to the plot, but nothing involving half-human characters.

Very highly recommended.

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### **Laurie Evans says**

I don't usually read historicals, but I loved this book! I really liked the strong female character, and the unusual storyline about the gems.

Great back and forth dialog between Viola and Quinn, and several steamy love scenes in different settings. I really enjoyed their relationship.

I also liked the author's use of language and strong visuals. Great historical setting, with suspense and adventure. I'll have to read this one a second time. I have Mia's book Touch of a Rogue, I'll be reading that one soon.

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### **Marian Lopez says**

4.25/5

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### **Sheree says**

If you like your historical romance deliciously naughty then you'll love Touch Of A Thief. But there's more to this one than smokin' hot sex scenes; the characters are fully fleshed out, the plot is packed full of adventure, mystery and danger and loosely touches on aspects of British rule in India in the 1850's.

Lady Viola is a strong, sassy heroine, an impoverished aristocrat supporting her family through her aptitude as a jewel thief. Quinn is of the English ton, a lieutenant serving in India with an obscure past and some talent in Kama Sutra, making for the entertaining and provocative scenes I previously mentioned :)

With an opening scene designed to ensure a captive audience, the story progresses from India to England and France. Prince Sanjay of Amjerat is stripped of his Prinedom, a rare red diamond is stolen from an Indian temple and Sanjay, Viola and Quinn join forces in a quest for justice.

What I really loved (besides the sex scenes lol) was the psychometry element; gemstones 'speak' to Viola, an original and refreshing angle in a historical romance.

Touch of a Thief is a fun, sexy read with trademark witty dialogue.

Mia wrote several novels as Emily Bryan and many of you know how much I love her work. Touch Of A Thief is no exception.

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## Anne says

3.5 stars

This was a pretty fun book, and quite different than I originally thought it would be.

Yes, it's a Trashy-Romance Novel, but it had a nice little adventure story to go with it. I've never read anything about a person with the ability to *read gemstones* before, so that was a nice surprise, as well.

It also has the distinction of having one of the Worst Lines Ever in it. I mean it.

*Could Quinn's servant scent a whiff of her arousal over the yeasty aroma of bread and cheese?*

See? I wasn't kidding. *Arousal* and *Yeasty* are two words **never** to be used in the same sentence. Ever.

\*shudder\*

Other than that, this was a good book to kill the time with!

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## Marta Fernández says

¡Qué novela más refrescante! Por fin, una protagonista con garra, que cuadra dentro de la contextualización de la época, a veces, algunas autoras pretenden modernizar demasiado el papel de la mujer dentro de estas épocas históricas, y roza lo absurdo, por no decir que queda fuera de lugar totalmente.

Lady Viola es una mujer de armas tomar, no se deja amedrentar por Quinn, y le deja las cosas muy claras, tampoco se avergüenza de querer vivir entre la alta sociedad, aunque no se lo pueda permitir, y tener que robar a algunos ricachones que presumen donde no deben de lo que tienen.

Quinn lanzó el guante y Viola lo cogió, aunque no se dio cuenta, cayó en la trampa del noble, y al final la muchacha se ve obligada a participar en una misión muy arriesgada y sumamente importante. Y peligrosa.

La joven posee un extraño don que nadie debe conocer, y además le permite robar con facilidad, pues gracias a él conoce cuándo una piedra tiene valor o no, cuándo es una copia barata o cuándo no. pero esa extraña facultad no le servirá para proteger su vida, ni su corazón.

Quinn no tenía pensado enamorarse, y menos de una ladrona, su misión principal era recuperar el diamante rojo pero al final, su único objetivo es proteger a la que le robó su razón.

Una novela muy bien escrita, original y con unos diálogos muy divertidos gracias a los caracteres tan dispares y explosivos de sus protagonistas, pero sin lugar a dudas, el pilar más importante es Lady Viola, una mujer astuta y deslenguada que no se amedrenta ante nada ni nadie.

Espero leer algo más pronto de esta autora, ojalá tenga libro un principito que sale en esta novela ¡me enamoré de ese personaje!

Muy buena.

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### **Caroline says**

Pity about the historical goofs. I was excited to find the first few pages set in one of my favourite historical periods: Victorian India. But the bubble of excitement popped the moment the author introduced the fiendish thugs and exhibited a complete ignorance of their history, practices and beliefs.

The stolen gem could have come straight from Sax Rohmer, and the aristocratic lady thief from a dozen other sources.

And when Ms Marlowe spelled 'Eton' as 'Eaton', well, either she's too busy to do her own research or she has a very sloppy editor.

Three stars for being otherwise well-written and well-paced. The touch of paranormal gem psychometry was original.

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### **Minna says**

Very, very, very good; 4.5 Stars.

The dialogue in the beginning was SO snappy I felt like I was reading a book version of James Bond. You know, the James Bond movie where Daniel Craig plays opposite Eva Green, and they have a snappy snarky dialogue in the train? And you watch it thinking, Hot Smart Guy, Smart Hot Lady, why aren't THESE kind of people the ones having a gazillion kids and turning out more smart hot people?!?!?

Anyways. I digress.

(Lady) Viola Preston's father, an Earl, died leaving her, her mother, and her sister broke. To support them, Viola has been stealing jewelry and fencing it. This talent is augmented by a gift of another sort: jewels "speak" to her. She can tell if they're fake, what they are, and what their history is. And a large bag of uncut jewels has arrived in London in the hands of one Lt. Greydon Quinn...

Quinn is in town looking for the thieves who stole a malevolent red Indian diamond out of a Shiva statue in India, along with his friend Prince Sanjay who masquerades as a servant. He figures he could recruit the Mayfair Jewel Thief to help him, never dreaming that the MJT is a *lady*...

The characters were extremely well articulated; they almost always acted consistently with their personalities and established habits. I almost downgraded this book to four stars when Viola briefly (thankfully, VERY briefly) flirts with TSTL behavior. Really, she was much too smart for that. The dialogue was, as I said, absolutely snappy and fantastic. The sex was initially a little strange: apparently, Quinn has been tutored in the Kama Sutra by an Indian courtesan named Padmaa. He therefore refers to his and Viola's parts in what I am assuming is Hindi or Sanskrit. It was weird. Viola's "mental descriptions" were much less awkward, and I appreciated that she referred to the parts in question by their ACTUAL names (Hello, we are all adults here, we do not need to say "down there").

(view spoiler)

The paranormal aspects were minor enough, and handled so smoothly, that they did not detract from the story.

I rounded up to 5 stars for the Goodreads rating simply because dialogue like this just does not happen every day.

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### Katherine ??? says

Penggabungan cerita supranatural dan historical romance biasanya membuat jalan cerita menjadi rada aneh dan membingungkan. Demikian pula dgn novel ini. Si heroine, Viola memiliki kemampuan merasakan kekuatan batu permata asli, sekaligus jd pencuri ulung perhiasan. Sayangnya author kurang bisa menggambarkan kelihaian tangan Viola, alih<sup>2</sup> malah lebih mendeskripsikan kepiawaian seksual Viola di atas ranjang.

Sebenarnya agak mengherankan jd dgn kecerdasan imajinasi Viola dlm ber-kamasutra sebab dia digambarkan sbg heroine yg sudah tidak virgin lagi tetapi minim pengalaman seksual. Jadi hebat sekali tanpa pengarahan dari Quinn (hero di novel ini), serta merta Viola bertransformasi menjadi dewi seks.

Gangguan yg paling berat lagi adalah terjemahan kalimat ini, "**kantong kejantanan Quinn terkepal.**" OMG setahu saya terkepal berarti tergenggam yg diasosiasikan dgn menggunakan organ tangan, dan bukan kantong kejantanan. Saya jadi gak napsu bacanya gara<sup>2</sup> kalimat tsb lumayan sering ditulis.

Quinn jd digambarkan sbg hero dgn *over qualified* di bidang sanggama. Kecerdasan di luar bidang tsb, agak meragukan. Bagusnya Quinn ter-gila<sup>2</sup> dgn Viola walaupun dgn alasan super payah, kompetensi Viola di atas ranjang Quinn memang sangat mumpuni.

Dari segi adegan hot, walaupun agak tidak masuk nalar, lumayan menggugah walaupun terganggu dgn kata "terkepal" tsb. Dari segi plot cerita, super enteng dan sangat dramatis. Tetapi baca novel ini tidak membosankan. Pilihan masing<sup>2</sup> di tangan pembaca.

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### Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

A man on a mission to recover a priceless red diamond and pacify a restless nation. A woman with a talent for liberating the Ton's jewels and a gift that often feels like a curse. She is Lady Viola Preston aka the Mayfair Jewel Thief. He is Lieutenant Greydon Quinn and is on a quest to fulfill a promise to friend, but will Quinn ultimately lose his heart to one "Lady Light Fingers"?

From the talented imagination of author Mia Marlowe comes a page turning adventure that crosses the continent and back in search of the Blood of the Tiger, a rare red diamond stolen from the principality of Amjerat. The gem has a history of causing death and destruction when it's not in the temple of Shiva. As Quinn's friend Sanjay puts it, "Only in the care of Shiva can its evil bent be tempered".

I honestly couldn't put this book down. Ms. Marlowe captured my attention on page one with a sensual opening and held it captive through fight scenes, a spoiled break-in, a provocative steamer crossing the Seine to Paris and further into Europe before arriving back in England for an exciting conclusion.

Lady Viola was a beautifully crafted heroine for this novel. Ms. Marlowe paints a true depiction of the life of a female during the 19th Century. They have few rights and can not inherit when the male head of the house

passes away. This has left Viola, her mother and sister to rely on the kindness of others to sustain a very mediocre living. When Viola realizes a talent for breaking and entering, she assures herself and her family a way to survive when her only other choices for work would surely bring disgrace to the Preston name. Obviously, it's not a known fact that the Mayfair Jewel Thief is a woman; who would believe it anyway, right?

Likewise, Quinn was the perfect hero. He has a heart for the people of Amjerat when the throne is supplanted by the East India Trading company using an outdated doctrine. Quinn also has a lust for learning all things concerning pleasuring a woman. Luckily for Viola, Quinn has no objection to practicing his skills on the lovely thief. Regency romance has always been one of my favorite genre but the books I read in my youth were never quite like this. The chemistry between Quinn and Viola is palpable and breathtakingly sensual. Viola puts effort into denying what she wants and feels for Quinn but in who could really resist a persistent gentleman.

Do yourself a favor and pick up a copy of *Touch of A Thief*. The dialogue and vivid language will keep you turning the pages. I can't wait to see what Ms. Marlowe has in store for us next.

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

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### **Elis Madison says**

P 77: "She bit her lower lip. His butt cheeks were lightly dusted with fine dark hairs...."

Sexy, that.

Greydon Quinn needs the services of the Mayfair Jewel Thief to retrieve a red diamond stolen from the Temple of Shiva in India. The stone is on its way to be gifted to Queen Victoria, but Quinn objects. His people have stolen enough from India, and he means to restore the stone and maybe some power to a good friend, Sanjay, who should have been a prince but he lost his throne to the British Doctrine of Lapse. So Quinn sets up a sting—lets it about that he has a bag of uncut jewels and waits to see who turns up to steal them.

To his surprise, the thief turns out to be a woman—Lady Viola Preston, the daughter of an earl. When Viola's father died without making provision for his widow and daughters, the cousin who gained the title and inheritance didn't bother to provide for them either. Viola has turned to lifting jewels here and there among the Mayfair set to make ends meet. This is not a crime of desperation, though; she and her mother and sister could sell their townhome and live on its proceeds nicely, if they stayed in the country. Viola is just not willing to let go of what should have been hers.

Viola has a weird talent when it comes to gemstones—the stones speak to her if they touch her skin. She sees flashes of their history, and that of their owners. I'm tempted to say that if she gets her hands on a man's stones, she knows everything about him. But I won't. Anyway, she doesn't like to touch gemstones much, because they often have terrible stories to tell.

Coincidentally, the red diamond is reputedly cursed, and it has a long and bloody history.

Posing as man and wife, Quinn and Viola make their way through Europe following the diamond. There's some built in adventure in the quest. As for the romance, well, it had its moments. But I think hairy bottoms might be an acquired taste.

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### **Nuria Llop says**

Impecable. Un equilibrio perfecto entre narración y diálogo, entre acción, misterio, aventura, amor y pasión. La ambientación justa, sin exceso de descripciones, nos sumerge de inmediato en la época y los lugares en los que se desarrolla la trama, cuidada hasta el último detalle. Quizá los protagonistas pecan de una cierta frialdad aparente que nos impide que vibremos con ellos o nos emocionemos, pero son personajes muy bien desarrollados y cada uno encaja a la perfección en su papel y en la época histórica. Incluso al extraño don de la protagonista llega a resultar totalmente creíble. Si te gusta la romántica histórica, no te la pierdas.

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### **Karla says**

4 ½ Stars. Engaging story about a feisty, honorable thief, Viola, and the man she preys on, the charming and delectable Quinn. You could feel the undeniable chemistry between them from the moment she stole into his home to lift his gems, but she ended up stealing his heart. Although they just met, it felt as if they had known each other forever. Their relationship felt comfortable and not strained.

This book had smart dialogue, an intriguing mystical story, and smokin hot sex scenes that were filled with desire and passion. “You’re good at being bad”, and Quinn wasn’t just talking about Viola’s life of crime...but he also gave as good as he got, so to speak...and then some! YOWZA!! Did not want to retract a star, but I was disappointed with the end, so only a ½ star. Way too quick and it would have been sweet to have an epilogue. I felt there was some unfinished business, especially where Quinn was concerned. My only hope is that this looks like a continuing series and hopefully we get a taste of what Quinn and Viola are up to in the next book.

All in all, a great book from an author that I look forward to reading more from.

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