



What A Rogue Desires

Caroline Linden

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A gentleman and a very improper lady are bound together by a passion that crosses the line between upper class and underworld in Caroline Linden's daring new romance...

After a wayward youth, David Reece, the youngest scion in a noble family, has been called one of the most scandalous rogues of the *ton*. What he wants to be called is trustworthy and a true gentleman. To prove he has reformed, he's agreed to watch over his absent brother's estate and signet ring. All is going swimmingly until highwaymen waylay his coach and steal that precious ring.

Street orphan Vivian Beecham has grown up a pickpocket, and a very pretty one indeed. Now she and her brother have reluctantly graduated to highway robbery. And handsome David Reece has become their victim—until he tracks her down and makes her his prisoner. Locked in a spare bedroom, Vivian vows to hate her captor. Instead she becomes a former rogue's greatest challenge: the object of a passionate seduction. But David and Vivian are playing a dangerous game in which forbidden love is a wild card.

What A Rogue Desires Details

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From Reader Review What A Rogue Desires for online ebook

Susana says

After reading the first book of this series What A Gentleman Wants i had really high expectations regarding this book. The first one was a truly original book with amazing characters, including David Reece, the hero of this book. David was such a character in the first book, that i was really looking forward to reading his book, and to see him had his just reward, after the stunt that he had pulled on his twin brother Marcus. Unfortunetaly, the book didn't work for me. Vivian character throughout the book just felt flat and unappeling. And on a number of times i would find myself thinking about Estocolm Syndrome...i did! He kept her imprisoned, and she stops thinking or worrying about her brother, and the situation in which he might be. She tells us on the beginning of the book, that the only reason her brother is a criminal _ and a lousy one_ is because of her, and then she is captured by David, and Simon is magically removed from her mind. From a point of view i understand: for the first time in her life, she's thinking about herself,for the first time in her life someone is taking care of her. But at the same time that factor took away her strenght as a character(for me, of course). She falls in love with her captor, who treats her well, and for once in her life she is well feed, and he is charming, and practically the only person to whom she talks to. On an on, i really expected more from this story.

Corrine says

This one had a lot of potential but never managed to be engaging. It was... fine. I didn't feel strongly about either character or the story.

Kusanagi says

Oui 5 parceque... David... et vivian.... mais David.

Ahlàlàlà, David.... pour mémoire, c'est le frère boulet du premier tome un peu responsable de la situation et qui se fiche toujours dans des situations pas possible.

Mais là, il a décidé qu'à 32 ans, les conneries c'est fini et il va s'amender. Si, si, il a décidé de devenir sérieux, au moins pour 3 mois. Vu que son frère Marcus lui fait confiance pour s'occuper du duché pendant son absence (pour cause de lune de miel).

Et comment dire.... c'est à la fois très drôle et adorable de voir ce grand garçon qui est....

- un peu effrayé par la somme de travail à fournir
- tout plein de bonne volonté pour y arriver.

Sauf que le destin tout ça.... bref notre ami David se retrouve dans une diligence qui se fait attaquer, il se fait voler son sceau (fraichement donné par son frère tout exprès pour lui), il décide donc qu'il va le retrouver, non mais. Et l'avantage d'avoir mené une vie de bâton de chaise c'est qu'on connaît pas mal de receleurs/prêteur sur gages. Et on peut tendre un piège au voleur namého!

Sauf que le voleur c'est une voleuse et une jeune femme qui était dans la diligence avec lui! Ciel une complice! Ni une ni deux, David décide de l'emmener chez lui pour l'interroger et il l'enferme dans une chambre, en se disant que ça va lui délié la langue, puisqu'il l'a menacée d'aller chercher la police.

Alors là, je fais une pause pour vous prévenir tout de suite.... ce n'est pas une romance mode années 80. oui, le sieur David séquestre notre voleuse Vivian, mais non il ne va rien tenter. Lui à la base, il veut sa bague. Bon après c'est David, il réfléchit pas toujours donc il ne veut pas la relâcher tant qu'elle parle pas.... mais rien, nada que dalle. Si vous voulez du syndrome de Stockholm, c'est pas là....

Donc Vivian notre voleuse elle vient de la rue, elle a été pickpocket, là elle bosse pour un bandit de grand chemin, surtout pour avoir de quoi bouffer pour elle et son frère. Et si au début elle craint un peu pour sa vertu (on ne sait jamais avec ces nobles pas si gentilshommes....) elle se rend compte que ben rien (ouf) et de toute façon elle décide de boudier son ravisseur. D'un autre côté, même si elle s'inquiète un peu pour son frère, manifestement il a pas prévenu les flics et en plus, elle est bien nourrie au chaud et y'a un grand lit confortable. Et pas de souris... autant en profiter tant que ça dure.

Et puis bon même si il est bavard et un peu casse-bonbon, il n'est pas désagréable à regarder, le David (oui, c'est une pragmatique, la Vivian).

Et en plus il lui fournit de la lecture et Vivian découvre qu'elle adore lire du théâtre (même si au début c'est un peu dure de tout déchiffrer)

Bref on se doute qu'à force d'échangé nos deux amis vont se confier et puis voilà.... d'autant que David, qui reste plein de bonne volonté, se rend compte qu'avoir traité les responsabilités par dessus la jambe ne le place pas dans une situation très joviale dans la société. Et j'aime beaucoup les passages plus introspectifs...

J'aime aussi le fait qu'il change mais pas par amour, le processus a commencé avant.... bien sûr sa rencontre avec Vivian va l'aider à avancer, mais plus parce qu'elle le place aussi devant la réalité de la vie que parce qu'il change par la grâce de son amour.

Quand à Vivian elle est juste parfaite... et elle adore le Mariage de Figaro quand elle le découvre, et elle adore le théâtre, donc que dire de plus ^^

Ruth says

I really enjoyed this read. It probably wasn't the most original plot (hero kidnaps heroine and they fall in love), but there were a couple of things which, for me, totally overcame this, and made it a great follow up to What A Gentleman Wants.

I should mention that you do need to read What A Gentleman Wants before reading this one. It really won't make sense otherwise, and you'll miss a lot of the background to the plot.

Number 1 of things I really loved about it is that the hero and heroine stay completely true to themselves. They don't change, beyond the hero not wanting to sleep around. You can imagine the hero remaining a naughty boy, although faithful to the heroine, and getting into all sorts of scrapes, and still wondering whether he'll actually become reputable at some point in his life. Likewise, you can imagine the heroine keeping the hero on his toes by calling him all sorts of rude names and calling his bluff whenever he tries

something daft. You know she'll never leave her foul language behind, or really get used to chocolate.

Number 2 of the things I really loved was the class difference. This is the same as in *What A Gentleman Wants*, but even more so. It really works for me that the hero should find his soulmate in a thief, and she should find love with someone who would have been a nice mark. I also love that the heroine doesn't suddenly discover that she's the long-lost, much-adored illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Somethingorother. That would have completely spoilt it for me.

You know, even the kidnap plot thing is nicely done. The hero and heroine really don't much like each other at the start. He likes teasing her and prodding her to lose her temper, and she'd like nothing more than to land him a nice facer with a right hook. They also don't fall into bed with one another within seconds of meeting, and become friends before falling in love. I like that.

So, apart from the title, which has nothing to do with the story (but then, when does it ever in HR Land?), I loved it.

Megan says

I thoroughly enjoyed the previous book in this series, *What A Gentleman Wants*, but I connected less with *What a Rogue Desires*. Mostly, I was picky about an inconsistency with Vivian, the heroine, and that left me struggling to understand or believe in her.

The opening lines were delightful and put my trust in Linden's plan not to let David off the hook for his prior transgressions (he did some rather terrible things in *WAGW!*):

There comes a reckoning in every rogue's life when he will be called upon to give up his vices, repent of his wild ways, and become a respectable man. It is a known truth that scoundrels do not long survive the passing of their youthful looks and charms, to say nothing of their fortunes. David Reece knew this, had accepted it, and even told himself he was prepared to embrace it. He was lucky enough to have survived this long, and had decided it was best to stop thumbing his nose at Dame Fortune.

He just hadn't realized her vengeance would be quite so harsh.

I liked this opening because it set up David's unique character arc. He was game for atoning for his mistakes, but it'd be too simplistic of a story (and, let's face it, a stock romance plot device) for him to undergo a whiplash transition from rogue to respectable hero just on the account of meeting his true love. No, he'd have to struggle with earning respectability. As a rogue is not a rogue in a vacuum, and as his previous actions left lasting consequences, there were plenty of societal forces working against David. His poor reputation meant that no servants would risk being hired for him (no confidence in his ability to pay!), and his previous social circle was actively rooting against him, resentfully hoping he'd fall back to his old ways (he's the subject of many mean-spirited bets).

And let's be clear. At the book's beginning, David hasn't gotten a good hang of the respectability thing. Abducting a woman and locking her up under house arrest, even if she did steal a family heirloom of his, isn't a likely step forward in the path toward redemption. Really.

Even so, I liked David's character arc, and I was pleased that it wasn't an easy one for him. Vivian, heroine and thief, didn't work for me, however. My biggest complaint was that she didn't fight for her brother. See, she's a thief because she had to take care of her teenage brother, and he's not as smart or clever as she is, and in the first scene from her point of view, she even acknowledged that, without her and her talents, the band of thieves the siblings run with would probably abandon her brother (or worse) because he's so useless in their thieving endeavors.

And yet, when she gets locked up in a strange man's house while he tried to force her to tell him what happened to his family ring, Vivian barely worried about her brother and didn't think of compromising to try to protect him. She's supposedly smart, so why didn't she think to lead David to the band of thieves but also have a plan to save her brother? If I was supposed to think of her as someone noble who cares for her brother, I would have preferred to have read her consistently caring about and actively plotting to protect him, even under hopeless circumstances. When her circumstances turned less hopeless (she and David fall in love, she has opportunities to escape, her life takes a *Pretty Woman*-esque turn with new clothes and opera shows!), I felt even more annoyed by her inability to put her brother above her own comforts.

The brother only regained importance for the final external plot, which I did enjoy. I loved how Linden's climatic scenes worked in both WAGW and WARD. They're very plot oriented, but they required the heroine and the hero knowing each other well and having to work together, without direct communication. It was a treat to watch them cooperate and demonstrate a good partnership.

I liked Linden's prose a lot, finding it charming without being ostentatious or too clever, and her dialogue and action were equally smooth. And, really, I loved that she made David's eventual redemption and heroic actions truly sincere and believable. But I couldn't handle Vivian forgetting her goal to protect her brother.

Nanou says

aaawww David ♥

le pauvre bichon, il veut faire les choses correctement mais le karma est contre lui. il n'a pas tout le temps les meilleurs actions pour ses bonnes intentions, mais il arrive quand même à trouver des astuces pour retourner des situations où ça semblait mal parti xD

j'ai beaucoup aimé le voir s'attacher à Vivian petit à petit, il est d'abord soulagé de pouvoir lui raconter son passé sans la choquer (elle en a vu d'autre) et surtout sans être jugé et ridiculisé. Etre avec elle lui donne "un bol d'air frais" avant que ses sentiments n'évoluent vers plus de romantisme ^^

d'autant que sa vie à elle lui fait prendre conscience qu'il ne veut plus l'enfermer, mais aimerais de tout coeur qu'elle reste avec lui parce qu'elle l'a choisi (re aaawww).

en plus il a une arme secrète : le chocolat xD.

Nadine Jones says

It seems my library does not carry #1 in this series, and that's too bad, because the first chapter or two are devoted to rehashing events in the previous book. Very annoying. Maybe it'll get better.

*

It doesn't get better.

It compares rather poorly with Meredith Duran's *A Lady's Lesson in Scandal*, which ALSO involves a sexy "guttersnipe" gamine stealing from the rich boy and then being imprisoned in said rich boy's mansion. Duran really did her research on class differences and ways of life in London. Linden, not so much - in Ms Linden's world, the only difference between the rich and poor is that the poor live without luxuries. Apparently you can give the poor some luxuries and they are just like the rich, except maybe they say "aye" sometimes instead of "yes."

Aside from that, I find it extremely unappealing (to say the least) that the man is the one in a position to offer everything: charm, wealth, social position, theater, gifts, captivity, freedom ... and the woman offers ... beauty. Yes, I know it's a romance and they tend to be rather ... gender-non-neutral ... but this was above and beyond anything I find acceptable.

Anne Ardeur says

I didn't like this book as much as I did *What A Gentleman Wants* and *A Rake's Guide to Seduction*. I love the idea of the heroine being a thief, and was looking forward to see David fall in love, but there were a few points that stretched my suspension of disbelief, and I wasn't at all comfortable with the major plot point of Vivian being kidnapped and held against her will by the hero, who she's supposed to fall in love with.

Vivian's relationship with Simon was interesting, and I would have liked to have seen more of that, and more of Vivian and David interacting with David's family and acquaintances. Or anyone, really, apart from David's butler.

Overall I enjoyed this book. It was well-written and I liked Vivian and felt that she and David had good chemistry, but I'm not at 'into' the kidnapping and imprisonment aspect of the plot, and the ending seemed a little too conveniently wrapped up.

A more detailed review can be found on my blog.

Jacob Proffitt says

At 80% in I hit a roadblock that just *killed me*. I was clipping along, loving the story, loving David and Viv and it was just *so sweet* in the best possible way. I wanted those kids to get together and their relationship was so fun to watch that I was all-in. And then plot happened and I can't bring myself to pick the book up any more.

Which is fine, really, because the relationship bits already culminated. They haven't *said* they love each other, but I can't help feeling like Linden is putting that off so it can happen with the climax of the stupid parts. So for me, and my engagement in the story, I'm already finished. I particularly liked how David reacted when he finally learned that Viv has been protecting her brother all along. He didn't bat an eye. He's all like "Ah. A brother. Right. Of *course* I'll do everything in my power to help your brother out." So sweet.

And the problem with the plot is that it's like David suffers a stroke of stupidity right there on the page. (view spoiler)

So I'm done. The book was sailing on a four-star rating with potential for higher if Linden managed something amazing or poignant or even just made me laugh a bit. I'm going to give it an unusual (for a DNF) three stars, though, in appreciation for the story to that point.

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

David Reece, twin brother to Marcus, the Duke of Exeter, is a wastrel, a gambler, a drunkard and a hopeless younger brother. Now determined to become responsible and respectful, he takes over the duties of running Marcus' estates while his brother goes on his honeymoon. Nothing goes right, though, beginning with an ill-fated decision to take the public stage to London when one of his own horses nearly goes lame. Not even the delightful young widow seated opposite him can distract him from the other passengers, the rough roads and rocking carriage, and a robbery.

The stage is held up by highwaymen and his signet ring, which Marcus had given to him only hours before, is stolen. Upon finally arriving in London, he visits all his old friends the pawnbrokers and offers a reward for his ring, should it turn up. He's in luck: not only the ring but the thief is within his grasp, but imagine his surprise to discover that the person trying to pawn his ring is none other than the beautiful widow from the stage coach.

The thief, Vivian Beecham, doesn't have his ring when he catches her and refuses to tell him where it is. Acting on impulse, he locks her up in a spare room in his house. It's the first time in her life Vivian has eaten good food or slept in a real feather bed. Her kidnapper and host is handsome and friendly and never once threatens her or harms her. As David finds himself doing everything he can to make her smile, talk, laugh, Vivian finds it harder and harder to resist his charm.

This book comes before *A Rake's Guide to Seduction*, featuring David's sister Celia, but there's no real need to read them in order. *Except*, this does reveal the ending to Marcus's story in *What A Gentleman Wants*, so I'd read that one first. I didn't, and it didn't bother me, but if you care about reading them in order, start with the latter.

While Linden's historical authenticity can at times be a bit iffy, she wins you over with her delightful characters and engaging premise. I really liked David, and felt for him, and Vivian was bracingly honest, quick, intelligent, fun-loving and vastly interesting. There's no big mystery in her background, no hidden nobleman-for-a-father type twist - and no need for one either. That's what was so refreshing with this book: it was a simple story about two people from vastly different walks of life getting to know each other and, yes, falling in love.

It was also about David growing up and growing into his own, and Vivian learning to trust and love. It's a

very *human* story, simple and unaffected, and I enjoyed it for that. There's a great deal of soft humour - not gags or comic relief, just gentle banter and the humour of the situation. While *A Rake's Guide to Seduction* was quite dark at times and definitely sombre, *What a Rogue Desires* was full of life and laughter.

I was impressed with how well Linden pulled off the premise, considering. It's a great deal of fun, and not entirely predictable.

Lynn says

A delightful romp.

Lorka says

The premise of this story sounded cute enough, but too many things just didn't click together for me. I would have to agree with most of the other 3-star reviews here. First off the hero came off as just a big loser. I can't remember if I have read book #1 in this series or not, but supposedly he was a real bad boy in the first book, and this story here starts off with him trying to straighten himself out and become respectable. Without me knowing what his previous troubles were, I felt that he came across as a mess, supposedly couldn't hire servants because he had a past of not paying his employees and now no one wanted to work for him, etc.... So a big Ew from me. Then the heroine completely forgets about her brother and his safety while being with a gang of criminals as soon as she is kidnapped and held captive. I know it was described as she was trying to protect him by not leading the hero or authorities to her brothers whereabouts, but as other readers said, it just didn't ring true or consistent and I felt she could have handled it differently and readers would have been more endeared to her. (I stopped half-way thru, I sadly lost interest and found myself either not picking it back up to read, or would read a few paragraphs and fall asleep)

Gwen (The Gwendolyn Reading Method) says

Eh a bit of a contrived storyline and the whole locking her away thing is a bit fetishy for my tastes, but the characters were quite good!

Tory says

Somewhat far-fetched but still fun romance pairing a ne'er-do-well second son trying to straighten up, with a reluctant thief who is part of a gang of highwayman.

Steelwhisper says

Absolutely delightful!

