



The Viscount's Addiction

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Murderer, convict, opium-eater...Jessie Braddock's husband has come home.

Jessie's stepfather, wanting to exploit the estate, had brutalized her into marrying his nephew by proxy. She soon realizes Ryder Braddock, the wickedly handsome Viscount Blackwood, is far from the criminal she'd imagined, but his prison years have left him with a hardened edge and a ravenous appetite for sexual pleasures. Now the only thing in danger is her heart.

The Viscount's Addiction Details

Date : Published December 8th 2015 (first published September 1st 2007)

ISBN :

Author : Scottie Barrett

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Regency, Erotic Romance

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From Reader Review The Viscount's Addiction for online ebook

Maureen Feeney says

Falsely accused of murder and left to rot in prison for 5 years, Ryder Braddock, Viscount Blackwood, is finally proven innocent. He returns to his estate a changed, embittered man with a craving for opium to learn he is married by proxy. Ryder has no memory of signing the contract as it was done when he was high or a forgery?(Im not sure). Determined to see this complete stranger pay for her trickery no matter how beautiful she is, he threatens her with arrest after he enjoys his conjugal rights. Ryder finds his Uncle, cousin and his "wife" living on his once great estate, an estate that has since been stripped and left in ruin. But first he must kick his opium addiction.

Jessies husband has come home. Brutalized by her stepfather (Ryders uncle) into marrying the dangerous convict and opium-eater, she soon discovers he is far from the criminal she had imagined as she helps him through opium withdrawal. And she quickly discovers the only thing truly in danger is her heart. With Jessies help, Ryder frees himself from the drug, only to find it replaced with a new addiction, his lusty need for his wife.

A quick enough read only 224 pages. Its unusual to get a good likeable Hero with a drug addiction thats well done in a hist/rom. Even though the book is short it is well written, and you can feel the attraction between Ryder and Jessie, and the scenes between them are very spicy. But in saying that, attraction and lust is all I felt between these two, definately not love!

Also, Would a rich Viscount have been jailed for the murder of a common prostitute?? Then 5 years later other prostitutes came forward to say it wasn't him. what kept them?? Why would the courts believe them and admit to putting a Viscount wrongly in prison for 5 years??? There is also a scene where Jessie gets grazed by a bullet, she is cleaning it when interrupted by Ryder to have sex, he dosen't notice her wound and not another word about it??

It is worth a read and I will try this author again, even though I found some elements of this book unbelievable.

ies says

[5th dalam penjara untuk sebuah pembunuhan yang tidak die lakukan, digebukin penjaga hampir setiap hari, dan die masih beringas sampe teriak-teriak merasa gak bersalah gitu, sampai suatu hari die ditusuk trs harus ketergantungan sama opium biar berusaha waras. Satu hari, tiba-tiba die dibebaskan karena ada saksi "misterius" yang m

Rachel says

As far as my M/F romance reading days go, I have read this one a few times, which warrants a five star for

grabbing my attention so, since most of them I read and then promptly tossed in the donation pile.

Ryder is a bad boy done right. He skirts the edge of likeable, but remains compelling enough to be intriguing, sexy and even play the white knight role at the end. Jessie's quirkiness and an endearing mix of youthful naivety with worldliness is endearing - her situation sucked, but she didn't. One of the few M/F romance heroines I actually liked.

The dynamic was the right amount of push and pull and the sexy ... whew! the sexy scenes were steaming.

Danny Jeffery says

I don't generally read historical erotica, however, I'd certainly be tempted to try more after this.

The synopsis tells you all you need to know about the story. I will say that I found this to be a quick enjoyable read that I'd happily call a page turner.

Ryder Braddock isn't your typical heroine, given his addictions but I couldn't help but like him. Jessie is also a more than likeable heroine who has a great sassy personality. I would liked to have seen their emotional relationship develop deeper but their sexual chemistry was great and led to some pretty steamy moments.

I enjoyed the darker elements of the story and reading about Ryder's struggle in prison and his battle with opium addiction. I would have liked the storyline with Ryder's uncle to have been expanded on and felt the author could have used this element of the story to tap into a lot more suspense and drama.

All in all I enjoyed this read - 3.5 stars

I was gifted a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Betsy says

I'm not sure what to make of this. I thought I was reading a historical romance and someone I got sidewinded into a historical erotica? It was confusing for me. It was also an interesting premise, with both a compelling heroine and hero, but it lacked in both length and level of in-loveness of the two main characters. There was a lot of hanky panky but not a lot of relationship building.

Debbie DiFiore says

Deliciously Wicked

The h in this is innocent but wicked in her love for her man. I loved the story. She was such a great heroine and I adored her. The H was so tortured and wonderful and bad and I wish I could find me one of those. He had violet eyes and he sounded beautiful. I could picture him very clearly. Her too. Author was very good in describing them. Very unconventional book with an H who is struggling with opium addiction and wrongful conviction. heroine was mistreated by her StepFather but she was so strong and unusual. I really liked the

book if you couldn't tell already. Just wish it wasn't over. Lol.

T.R. says

If you love Steamy Hot Historical Romance this book is for you. Ryder is in jail for something he didn't do, but when he gets out, he learns the real reason why he has been suffering in the jail for years. Little does he know that a family member was behind everything. Jessie was married to falsely because her stepfather tricked her. Together these two find each other in way that you would think is unlikely. Can Ryder believe the that Jessie is really telling him the truth? Will they ever find love? Ryder has to straighten himself up and overcome the drug that was forced on him while in jail to truly see what he needs to do in his life. Will this drug break him completely or can he fight his way from the addiction? This book has so much going on that you will want to read it from the beginning to the end.

Andrea Huseman says

I am so glad I stepped outside my comfort zone with this one. Historical romance isn't usually my genre of choice. Thrilled I was given the opportunity to read this 5 star ARC. Storyline is entertaining and fun. Packed with unique characters and themes. The writing was free of excess detail and "fill in" material. I felt accurate portrayal of lifestyles, environments, dialogue, and era.

I feel like a warning is needed.. you may have lots of emotions. Characters are so well written you feel like your next to them. It isn't always a positive feeling either. I had moments of complete anger.

There may be moments of questioning to a character's behavior, action, event, etc..just remember your reading fiction. Everything isn't going to be perfect or exact.

I am so looking forward to any other books I can find with this author's name. I highly recommend this quick read. AndreaGAH

Georgie says

I liked the way this story tackled a couple of subjects that had real potential - opium addiction, and a wife running her husband's estate (a favourite trope). Unfortunately, although this was competently written, I found myself unable to engage with the story.

This was in part because of the plot - the heroine has been married by proxy to a man in gaol (without his full knowledge). Everything I have read suggests that marriage by proxy was not legal in England (royal brides married in their home countries by proxy remarried in church as soon as they arrive in the UK), so it's hard to see how this particular marriage allowed the heroine to take over her husband's estates. But everyone accepts it as fact. What annoyed me was that - contrarily - if the heroine is nominally in a powerful position running the estate, she does nothing to capitalise on that fact, and allows herself to be in the power of some dastardly relations. The author seems to be doing everything in her power to make the heroine into a victim in spite of the facts.

The other reason I had problems with the book is the relationship between H& H - he has every right to be annoyed at the fake marriage, but he seems to want to have his cake and eat it. "The marriage isn't real, so I can threaten you with the law and Durance Vile" - and also - "the marriage is real, so I can bed you whenever

I want". So, between an unpleasant hero and a victim of a heroine, I didn't enjoy this particularly.

Lily says

Steamy hot erotic historical fiction is one of my favorite genres and Scottie Barrett does it well. She creates a dark and tortured, but oh so appealing character in Ryder. I loved how the book opens with him in prison and it's not clear where things go from there. It gave me a sense that this was not going to be the average predictable historical romance. Ryder had a lot of depth to his character and I could feel his pain. When Jessie comes into the picture, their chemistry explodes and the sex is off the charts hot. At about 3/4 of the way in, I thought things dragged a bit as they were both reluctant to disclose their feelings for each other and their lack of communication became frustrating. Hence the 4 star review. Otherwise, I thoroughly enjoyed this entertaining tale. This is my second Scottie Barrett novel but it will not be my last!

Jennatoo says

Plot: Different. Dealt accurately with opiate addiction and it's physical/mental withdrawal manifestations and managed to stay true to the times. Kept the story moving at a fair pace even with the heavy subject of addiction.

Characters: Unique. Main characters were likable even in their angst.

Sex: Explicit, erotic, hot, masturbation, oral, lots of it. I actually found myself skimming over the later sex scenes as the story went on; sure they were steamy but I found myself tired of the lack of depth between the characters--sure it's fine with me if you two don't want to admit to each other the true depth of your feelings but dam-nit at LEAST let US know in the read that he/she not only rocked your world but shook you to your SOUL!

What I would change: The banter of withholding between the characters was close to beating a dead horse. If I didn't like the individual characters for their openness to me the reader vs being open to each other, I probably would've given this only 3 stars. Let me also add (warning possible spoiler...) since pulling out was such an issue and you two were married-- the reader probably would've been 10 times as satisfied if in one last sex scene for her he would've left it IN--it was important to her and I felt bad for the girl!

Adrienne says

Oh this one crept up and surprised me!

A nice straight forward story of deception (Ryder has been falsely accused of a murder and to ensure his assets are not seized by crown married off to Jesse(his uncles step daughter) without him knowing. Fortunately for Ryder he receives a pardon (given by legitimate means) and returns home to find his estate in wrack and ruin and wife he knows nothing about. Assuming that his wife is part of the deception he decides to seduce then dump her as damaged goods.....however as the relationship develops he starts to fall in love with her and vice versa. However until the truth surrounding the deception is revealed Ryder keeps his cards close to his chest leaving Jesse to worry about finding a life away from him.

The whole story is laced with hot erotic sex, there are stories to be told, a hot carriage ride and sex outside in the garden:)

All in all this was a great quick read. So if you like a nice story, simply told, with hot little sexual vignettes this may be one you'd enjoy.

Kim says

Loved this book!! Ryder starts off as an ass but a yummy one you can't help but be attracted to. He's a rough and tumble kind of guy with his share of demons. He kicks them to the curb and falls in love. By the end of the book I was totally in love him. Read the whole book in 2 hours because it was so good, I couldn't put it down even for a potty break!!!

⌘???? [Punya Reviews...] says

My review contains spoilers and they're mostly my thoughts as I went with the book...

Edited (February 2017): I reread this story. It still was an uneven read, not as good as some of the author's other books that I recently read so my rating remains the same...

Well, this was by no means a great book but erotica-wise not bad. Sex scenes were steamy but overall, a very uneven read. Not much was happening; I liked some of it while the other... bleh! Although it started out quite well, kinda fell flat after sometimes. I wanted to try a new author and reading Charlotte Featherstone's Addicted (the hero being an opium addict- a 5 star from me), I was very interested in this one. Sadly, it didn't live up to my expectations.

We don't really get a lot of background on what happened to Ryder. Even though a Viscount, he was imprisoned as a convicted murderer of a tavern wench (and a prostitute) near his country estate. This backstory is not shown in details, just came through hasty some narratives. Ryder has been in Newgate for the last 5 years and after I got to know his greedy uncle and cousin, I understood they were the reason behind his conviction. But, the law couldn't really prove it and a recent statement given by some other wenches from the same tavern, Ryder is finally being freed. We get to see his life in the prison and I have to say, it was creepy as it should've been and done well by the author. He's also being physically abused by the guards (I mean beatings and stuff) but he's long since learned how to cope and being a big bear of a man, he can take in much more than normal men. Also, he'd fight back and get more from the guards. Anyway, he's freed and gets back home. Before that, he goes to a brothel and shags two prostitutes (yah at a time) but can't remember a thing since he's taken his opium dosage. Gotta say, an information about him that didn't really impress me and it did itch from time to time throughout the story because before his imprisonment, Ryder was a rakehell, a reputation well earned. So, no I wasn't impressed at all. Anyway, I didn't have trouble getting into the story when he finds his cousin, Lewis, pawning his father's watch. Ryder follows the man to the gaming hell, bets (money borrowed from someone) and wins from him, goes back to the pawn shop to buy the watch back. Then he rides back to his country manor to find his uncle almost deranged, his cousin he already knew a gambler and wow, a wife... a situation he had no idea about!

Jessie is Ryder's uncle, Henry's 3rd wife's daughter from previous marriage. She's very beautiful and her parents were good to her. Still, Jessie always adored his father, who was a naturalist, an adventurer. She has been around the world at the young age but her mother never liked so much traveling so they came back to settle in England. But, not Jessie's father and one day, the news arrived of his death in Africa. Her mother didn't take time to remarry, to a man total opposite of Jessie's father; crass, nasty, greedy and would never wanna venture out of where he stays. But, Henry does some studies on witchcraft and gradually, his mind is slipping away. Either way, both her step-father and brother are abominable. Jessie's mother died a few years ago and after that, Henry beat her into submission to agree to a proxy marriage to his imprisoned nephew. He lied to Jessie by telling her Ryder (whom, of course, she never met before) wants someone to take care of the estate and Jessie was a good choice. That Ryder really wanted this marriage. So she marries him by proxy and been taking care of the broken down estate ever since. She didn't know what to think of Ryder's conviction, seeing the two men she lives with are no good. Since she has no other option, Jessie lives on. Then, I don't know why, she made good friends with one of the tavern wenches named Lucy and gives her food and other helps when the tavern keeper isn't looking. The man is an a-hole and abuses the girls. He doesn't like Jessie coming here. Apparently, Jessie is trying to convince the girls to come out with the truth, as all of them knew it wasn't Ryder who was with the murdered woman that day.

So, today she was visiting Lucy and in turn got a shot from the tavern keeper, who managed to graze her elbow. It was raining heavily and when she comes back home, she finds this big, handsome (albeit pale looking) stranger in her house. She doesn't recognize him but soon, they resolve that with Lewis's help. In between, Ryder faints from cold and opium withdrawal. He bought some laudanum from an apothecary but it wasn't helping. What Ryder can't believe this beautiful woman is real and his wife to boots! He immediately assumes she's in league with his uncle and cousin to grab his estate. Time to time, when Ryder wasn't trying to show himself a rough-around-the-edges type, we get to see that he's vulnerable inside and wants to be accepted. He also wants to give up opium because he knew he needs his wits about to take care of his estate and other duties. It's also narrated that his addiction started because of Lewis and Henry, who paid the security guards ply him with opium to keep him subdued. But, on the outside, Ryder is callous and pretty blunt with his words. And he wants Jessie. He says her as much, that she'd be doing her 'wifely duties' for about a month (because he says so) and then he'll *take care* of her and his own relatives.

Their first meeting and then, for a few pages, their banters I really enjoyed. Jessie seemed like a smart girl and could talk back to Ryder's insensitive words. Though I liked Ryder's dirty talk and use of f-words for a while, after sometimes it felt wrong and utterly rude! Jessie was already falling for Ryder, no matter how he treated her. She gets wet and squirmy seeing him. Ryder doesn't believe Jessie is a virgin because some of Henry's cruel insinuations and also, Jessie herself, in a fit of rebellion, let him believe (trust me she said some stuffs to him to make him believe that) she isn't one. There were distrust from both sides and a lot of misunderstandings; misunderstandings I thought totally stupid and could've been solved only if they stopped acting like two angry kids and talk like adults. Anyway, Ryder asks for Jessie's help to get him out of his opium addiction. It wasn't done as good as Addicted, not much detailed and it seemed he was breaking off of it much sooner than I would've expected. Jessie does all to keep him away from the gatehouse that held his materials and so on. I liked some of those scenes a lot (remember, I said, I liked it in the beginning); one would be, when Ryder was in a bad state with his opium withdrawal, Henry comes out of his rooms where he stays day and night studying witchcraft and tries to convince Ryder to commit suicide. Ryder was out of his mind, enough to act on it. Jessie, fortunately comes in with his food or something to find them like this and throws herself on top of him, asking him not to do this, that she'll do *anything* if he surrenders the gun to her. He does that. But this scene also revealed that Henry might have something to do with Ryder's father's death since he had his own vices to deal with.

Soon, when Ryder is well enough, they consummate their 'unwanted' marriage. Ryder is stunned to find

Jessie a virgin. He's also now feeling protective of her, though unwillingly. And off they start going like bunnies! But that didn't mean they were matured enough to work with their mutual problems! They would argue/quarrel about things this moment, the next would either make out or completely forget what they were saying, the other times would just stop communicating, with mainly Ryder stomping away afterwards. Jessie, well, after they started having sex, she lost her voice and wouldn't talk back at Ryder. Umm, she may have tried once or twice but her performances weren't convincing! Then she would compliment Ryder (on how handsome he was or how good a lover he is) even while he was being a complete jerk to her. This pissed me off bigtime. I mean, the only time he'd compliment her when he was in lust and wanted to shag her (when he wasn't narrating about how much he wants to f*ck her, that is). As I said, at first I liked it because I felt, underneath he feels something different for her and he never hurt her or forced himself on her. But when he, at one point, used something special she did for him to humiliate her, I wanted to strangle him and lost all my respects for him. After that, I didn't really care what happened to any of them since Jessie just gulped it down and didn't kick him in the arse as I would've done!

On 2nd thought, maybe I should give some examples after all. To show his gratitude, Ryder tries to talk to the prostitutes who helped him out and do something for them. When he's at home, Jessie thinks he was shagging one of them, calling him a cheat, an adulterer (at that point, she was denying Ryder because of some earlier misunderstandings). I would've been impressed if he really was cheating. Then, she was constantly afraid of him kicking her out as he'd said in the beginning (but didn't really mean it) and was pretty sure Lucy would replace her. Though she considers Lucy as her friend, she can't help but be hurt and jealous. And, Ryder would see her with two twin brothers close to her age (BTW: people of the village still don't know that she's married to Ryder as it was done secretly), her good friends and would start being crude and insulting because he was jealous but won't acknowledge it! Oh but it grated on my nerves like nothing else! Even when I really liked some of the sex scenes, their stupid behavior towards each-other marred my fun, behaviors that don't at all go with their sex life.

Ryder brings Lucy into their home, gives her shelter and deals with her keeper. There's also this man, William, who was Ryder's buddy in prison, comes to stay and help Ryder out with the repairs of his manor house. I thought there might be something with William and Lucy but nope. It seems like Lucy has a very different kind of *liking* for Jessie, of which she is blissfully unaware. But Ryder understands this as the fact comes out in a very creepy situation. I have no other way to explain it, it made me uncomfortable. And Ryder feels jealous of Lucy! I mean, I thought he'd do something else... I don't know what but something else and he feels jealous? What? *blinks* Jessie never knew about it of course and kept thinking, now that Ryder brought Lucy in the house and their one month is almost at an end, soon Lucy would take her place. Ugh! *headache alert*

The truth about the murder is solved in a very unlike situation, a setting I would've never imagined. It was solved very easily and the murderer didn't surprise me. Then ending was odd and abrupt. But by then, I wasn't interested. I realized, these two just don't communicate well enough so I didn't really feel any connection between them; certainly not to believe in their HEA and exchange of ILUs. Ryder was still insensitive (for all his possessive attitudes and musings about Jessie) and Jessie was still a doormat when it came to Ryder. When I started the story, I was hoping that I wouldn't have to agree with a bad review I read about this book (there aren't many of those). But let me clarify first, that review DID NOT influence my own. The reviewer graded this book worse than me. Yet sadly, I have to agree, at least to some points. So it's 3.5 stars. I'm still keeping Ryder in my 'Sexiest Dirty Talker' shelf because I think he earned it. Now, if only... *sigh*

Monica says

I really quite enjoyed this story. After being falsely imprisoned Ryder Braddock Viscount Blackwood finally gets released after five years of pure hell. He returns to his home only to find his house falling apart, his uncle and cousin residing in it and his household materials have been sold off on account of his cousins gambling addiction, but the biggest surprise is that his uncles step-daughter is residing at his home too. He finds she is the most captivating woman he has ever encountered. After thinking this woman is somehow married to his cousin it comes out that she is really married to him. He wonders how this illegal marriage came about while he was in prison and he feels that he cannot trust Jessie for that she must be a gold digging liar, but he cannot resist the pull his body has to her and he cannot resist the temptation of consuming everything about her. Ryder does have a horrible addiction to opium that he acquired in prison, though it was hard to see Ryder's addiction to opium play out and through the struggles he had with it I felt myself wanting him to overcome this addiction. He finds that his addiction to Jessie is more powerful than anything else if she could just love him and if he could just trust her. Overall this was a great story and I really enjoyed it. Because of the sexual content I would recommend 18+ on this one!
