



Ten Kisses to Scandal

Vivienne Lorret

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The Bourne Matrimonial Agency has one rule—*never fall in love with the client*. However, they never said anything about kissing a rake...

Briar Bourne's matchmaking career could be summed up in two words—*comic disaster*. Unless she can learn about the irresistible forces that draw men and women together, her professional future looks rather bleak. But Briar has an intriguing plan—enlisting London's most irredeemable rake to teach her everything he knows about attraction. Given his notorious reputation, it's no surprise that Nicholas Blacklowe, the Earl of Edgemont, requests one thing in exchange for his tutelage. For every lesson, he wants a kiss in return. And what harm could there be in a simple kiss? After all, Briar would *never* fall for a scoundrel...

Nicholas has no romantic notions about love, and no intention of changing his ways. He's only helping Briar so that she can find the perfect bride for his jilted cousin. Yet Briar is so clever, so curious, so candid—so blasted tempting—that soon, Nicholas can't stop wondering what it might be like if *he* was irresistible to *her*.

Ten lessons. Ten kisses. And a million ways to fall hopelessly, scandalously in love.

Ten Kisses to Scandal Details

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Author : Vivienne Lorret

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From Reader Review Ten Kisses to Scandal for online ebook

Lubnaa says

3.25 stars

I received an ARC from Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.

I mostly enjoyed my first Vivienne Lorret book. *Ten Kisses to Scandal* drew me in despite the clichéd premise that has been retold countless in the historical romance genre. In fact, it is the retold premise that motivated me to read the book because it felt familiar and comfortable: this is a story I am familiar with, a story that I find predictable, and a story that I have loved and enjoyed in the past. I enjoy romances that are based on a retold premise because I like being familiar with the story and its tropes. However, keeping all of that in mind, *Ten Kisses to Scandal* pales in comparison to the non-conforming historical romances I've been reading lately. That being said, I definitely recommend this book if you are looking for a lighthearted, funny, and fluffy historical romance. Nicholas and Briar are just so darn cute together and the romance is 100% worth it!

Onto what I loved and what I did not necessarily enjoy. Let's begin with the meet cute: I was not a fan; I personally found it a bit distasteful for one particular reason that I won't go into (you can read it and judge for yourself). Fortunately, the meet cute did not taint my enjoyment of the story. I adore the hero and heroine. Briar is very naïve, but she is so lovely, bright, quirky, and charming that it is practically impossible to chide her for making dumb decisions. Surprisingly, she very rarely made dumb decisions. In fact, I thought she was very mature in the way that she dealt with her budding relationship with the hero. Nicholas did not leave a good impression on me because of the meet cute, but he inevitably grew on me. I ended up loving him so much. The dynamic between Briar and Nicholas is honestly the best thing about this book: Briar, the sweet, dramatic, and optimistic heroine paired with Nicholas, the jaded and cynical rake. Briar and Nicholas made me laugh so much with their antics and I adore every single one of their scenes together. Briar was perfect for Nicholas and motivated him to be happier and more optimistic. On the other hand, Nicholas was perfect for Briar by bringing small doses of reality into her rose coloured view on life and love. They perfectly balanced each other and their relationship had the most adorable quirks that constantly made me smile (hello, rhinoceros lol).

My low rating doesn't have anything to do with the romance, but rather with the alarmingly *multiple* plot points in the story, some that were left unresolved. The romance between Nicholas and Briar was the central focus of the story, but there were too many things happening outside of that circle:

- Briar's relationship with her sisters (somewhat resolved)
- Their father's other family (somewhat, but not really resolved)
- Nicholas's first wife and how this impacted his relationship with his mother (not resolved at all – huge miss from the author here)
- Nicholas's guilt regarding Daniel (100% resolved)
- The challenge (100% resolved – converges with the plot point above)
- Temperance and her infatuation with John and how that made her completely blind to Briar's troubles (not resolved in my book, no offense to Temperance)
- The weird Mrs. Teasdale (what even is the point of this woman? (view spoiler))

I also didn't understand why Nicholas had to grovel when he didn't even do anything wrong. I love a good groveling, but I'm not sure it was necessary in this instance.

These plot points are all connected, some have stronger connections, others have a weak connection. Regardless of these connections, I don't understand why there was a need for this much drama. The author could have easily just focused on the romance and the familial strains in both Briar and Nicholas's lives. I think this would have made the story stronger and brought more substance to the plot overall.

Anyway, I am extremely excited for Ainsley's story. She's very different from Briar and I love the dynamic between her and Reed! The next book seems like it'll be equally fun! Hopefully there won't be too many supporting characters and their drama suffocating the story.

Blodeuedd Finland says

Oh you fools who think you can escape love. Haha, one have to enjoy it. Plus this was so Emma inspired!

Briar work at her family's matchmaking agency, but they have her serving tea, and she wants to make people fall in love! Briar was a real sweetie, so cheerful, witty and kind. Yes she has bouts of naivety and recklessness, but she is so fun that you have to go along with it.

Nicholas is a rogue, made so by a past better left forgotten. And he will never ever fall in love or get married. Oh he was snarky and he made the worst deal ever, teach Briar to see what people want and he will get kisses in exchange. That is how people fall in love man!

Briar has Emma by Jane Austen as her matchmaking bible. And there are things from Emma here and there. Briar is young, Nicholas is much older. No mother. She is trying to find a match for her friend and well spoilers! I loved those Emma glimpses.

There will be stolen kisses, banter, hidden secrets which brings the drama and happily ever after. Plus lots of scones that will make your mouth water and Briar's vivid imagination.

Fun times

Narrator Justine Eyre

Oh she is great! She brings such emotion and fun to books and it is a joy to listen to her voice

Under the Covers Book Blog says

I received this book for free from Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Briar is the youngest sister and working at the family business, which is a matchmaking firm. She wants to prove to her family that she can handle being a matchmaker and not just the tea girl in the office. While she's not the greatest at her job, I found her incredibly adorable!

Briar and Nicholas meet under some unconventional circumstances and then they strike a bargain. He will teach Briar important lessons about attraction, body language and anything that can make her job easier and for every lesson she has to give him a kiss.

TEN KISSES TO SCANDAL was fun from beginning to end. I picked it up on a whim and out of order, which I try not to do, because the first book is still sitting on my TBR of overdue books for this year. I'm so glad I did! I can tell this is a cute series that's right up my alley of historical romance. I can't wait to read more.

*ARC provided by publisher

Reviewed by Francesca♥ ? Don't want to miss any of our posts? Subscribe to our blog by email! ? ♥

Karina Read says

A generous 2.5 i think. Unfortunately, I found the heroine a little too immature and the constant mention of cup of chocolate kisses was tiresome.

Sophie Barnes says

Every author should aspire to write with the same degree of thoughtfulness as Vivien Lorret. Her metaphors are brilliantly crafted, her characters wonderfully compelling and her dialogue so entertaining it will leave the reader enthralled.

Briar Bourne needs a win so she can prove to her sisters and to her uncle that she's just as capable of being a successful matchmaker as they are. Especially after her latest disaster where she accidentally paired a mother with her son, for it did not reflect well on the Bourne Matrimonial Agency. But when she meets Nicholas Blacklowe, the Earl of Edgemont, a daring plan starts to form in her head. What if the notorious rake could help her better understand what draws men and women together and how to determine compatibility? What harm could there possibly be when he's not at all her type?

Briar is about to find out when he accepts her proposal on one condition: with each piece of advice he gives her, she must submit to a kiss, causing her to realize that she's flirting with the risk of scandal and the very real possibility of losing her heart to a scoundrel.

Nicholas is intrigued by Briar. She is the light to which he is drawn, and although he knows his judgment is skewed where she is concerned, he cannot seem to stop himself from seeking her out. As the two form a closer working relationship, Briar's kisses becomes something more than a payment, leading Nicholas to realize that he must risk being honest about a past transgression, if he is to save the one good thing in his life.

A brilliant page turner. Regency romance lovers are bound to devour this story!

Ang says

Originally posted on my blog Read|Escape|Repeat.

5 Amazing Stars!!

I really liked this book. I liked it so much that I really hesitate to share how much I liked it because then it will be placed on this pedestal and I fear everyone will then measure it up against an impossible expectation and be disappointed. But I will take the risk because this was, in my opinion, one of the best Historical Romances I have ever read!

I am sure it has to do with some personal reasons such as the fact that I've been reading more contemporaries because I was bored with the HR genre. Every single book is about a duke lately - ugh! So I came to this one fairly fresh. But I think that it mainly has to do with Vivienne Lorret's writing and this story. It reminded me of "Nine Ways to Romance a Rake" by Sarah Maclean at times and that is one of my all time favorites.

This is the second in the Misadventures in Matching series and can be a standalone. There is reference to one of the other sisters whose story was the first book, but it is not necessary to have read the first one to get started here. Briar Bourne is the youngest of the matchmaking Bourne sisters and the most spirited, vivacious, refreshing heroine I have read about in a long time.

Briar's optimism and view in life and romance is infectious. She really lights up a room and has idealistic views of romance. However, as the youngest, she has been sheltered and protected and frankly, doesn't get out much. This leads to her wanting to experience more of what life has to offer so she can then be a better matchmaker as her life's goal is to be the best. She encounters Nicholas, the Earl of Edgemont, on one such adventure.

Nicholas is a rake but he loves his family and hires Briar to make his cousins matches. He realizes though how naive she is and because he is attracted to her, offers to give her "lessons" in exchange for "kisses". A hard and fast rule though is not to fall in love with him.

This develops so well. Nicholas is curious and patient and because he is bored with his life, gives in to following whatever lead Briar takes. Briar has a strong sense of self and realizes that she could possibly fall in love with Nicholas, but I like how she is no wilting flower or simpering miss. Whatever obstacle she faces she just shakes it off and keeps forging ahead. When Nicholas enforces space, she's fine and she even takes herself away from him at times which could be playing hard to get if she were playing games, but she isn't.

This is a real love story where we see if the rake can truly be redeemed and if the heroine can find love. It's sweet and hot at the same time. The lessons are not the most structured, but whatever gets him a kiss seems to be his goal. And while it did remind me of "Nine rules..." it's not the same. Briar doesn't have a list to check off but she does have a partner in crime in Nicholas.

Hope you enjoy this as much as I did!

Digital ARC provided by the publisher. Thank you!

Gaele says

Briar Bourne is the youngest of the three sisters, tired of being the 'trained monkey' of the bunch, serving tea and scones and handling the filing. With an addiction to Austen's Emma and an imagination that is as

engaging as it is wildly romantic, she's determined to make her mark for the agency and gain an elusive, if well known, client to add to their rolls. She's hopeful and optimistic, if a bit unworldly, but none of that is going to stop her from accomplishing her mission, and her habit of jumping first before considering consequences could prove to be a downfall to the agency and her reputation. Fortunately, her heart is in the right place, always, and she's truly very invested in seeing everyone finds their 'happily ever after'.

Nicholas, Lord Edgemont is a dedicated and confirmed rake, with zero intentions of ever changing or making another foray into marriage after his first ended with him horribly damaged and hurt. He is, however, determined to see his younger cousins, Daniel and Temperance married and happy as well. While Briar would not normally take on a rake with no redeemable qualities, she's learned that Edgemont is kind and loyal to his family, and fortunately his cousin is also Briar's best friend. While Nicholas is averse to any and all mentions of debutantes and marriage, he's intrigued by the boldness and temperament of Briar, and he's drawn to protect and shield her, amused by her antics, rather than do what comes naturally to a rake.

When Briar puts it together, that Nicholas is her best friend's cousin, a fortunate circumstance as she's been 'hired' for the princely sum of fifty pounds to find him a wife, unbeknownst to Nicholas and from some rather shady (and self-serving) woman. But, intrigued by Briar, he's amused by her unworldliness and makes a deal to 'teach' her how to best discover innate clues to thoughts in her proposed matches for the sum of a kiss. One new insight for one new kiss – the only rules- no falling in love. Of course, that's not going to happen as slowly but surely Briar's own nature works as a balm to Nicholas' and the wall he built around his heart, and soon her presence becomes as dear to him as air, despite his stubborn determination to ignore all of the signs, signals and changes in his own behavior. Briar makes him want to be worthy of her: and when he shares his biggest regret and how he hurt Daniel, treating him as someone incapable of making decisions – a situation Briar rails against daily with her own sister's determination to shelter her and her feeling 'set aside' from the real business of the matchmaking, she's hurt and angry – and it will take monumental effort on Nicholas' part to get her to listen and to understand.

These two are perfectly suited as Nicholas truly enjoys Briar – her imagination, questions and joy for life – she brightens every room she enters and gives him a view of the world as she grabs it by the handles and dives in. From deciding to stay away and forget her, to discovering that he craves her in every way possible, and can't help but see just how she works her magic on everyone she meets. And she'll work that magic on readers as well – bright, funny, sweet and with just enough angst and confusion thrown in for good measure, this is a series, and a story, that is unlike other historicals out there, and sure to be a favorite of many.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via Edelweiss for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Review first appeared at I am, Indeed

Pavlina [Read more](#) [sleep less blog](#) ❤️ ❤️ says

<3 5 Heartwarming stars <3

I devour it in one sitting, such a lovely story! I adored Briar and Nicholas , their story is cute! A slow burn romance with angst and the great amount of steamy moments to keep your interest!

My heart was aching for these two! They have an amazing chemistry, I loved their banter! They were intense and sweet and also hot!

Briar is the cutest heroine, she is romantic and lovely! Nicholas is swoon worthy! I could understand him and why he was like he was! I loved their moments together!

This is a great story! I can't wait to read more books from this author!

Joana V. says

I have received an eARC in exchange for an honest review.

I absolutely loved this book! While reading it, I had a happy grin on my face the whole time. It just made me laugh and tingle, and it gave me butterflies – what more could I ask for?

Briar is so adorable! She's a romantic and, yes, she is also a bit naïve but she is so sweet! Some heroines can be a bit annoying when they are too unaware of the world, but Briar is so lovely, she made it so easy to like her, I just adored her. She has suffered her fair share, but we only know how everything has affected her almost at the end of the book, which was fine by me.

Nicholas was... so sexy! I mean... don't ask me for a physical description because (with the exception of his nose), I probably can't give you one. Why? Because characters in my mind, even the ones heavily described, don't actually have a defined face..? There's always somewhat of a blur. So no, it's not their face/body that makes them sexy (it helps, of course!), it's how they act, and how they can make you feel like all their attention is on you, in a good way. And that's how I felt Nicholas was about Briar. He has other great qualities, naturally: he's very loyal and protective of his family (like Briar), he's been hurt before (haven't we all? and almost every single book character?), and he's a rake. But, who would have guessed? He's a rake with a good heart.

Their chemistry was, at the same time, so strong and so subtle. The teasing, and the friendship, the alone moments... Everything made my senses as a reader tingle and be on the lookout for another wonderful scene.

The secondary characters help set the scene: Briar and her family have a matchmaking agency. Her friend Temperance and her brother Daniel, are looking for fiancés. And their cousin is... Nicholas, Lord Edgemont. I don't want to give too much of the story away because it's their adventures that keep us readers paying attention. Suffice to say, Briar needs help with her matchmaking skills, and Nicholas is more than happy to help – in exchange for a little something, as one would expect.

The one thing – and, let's be honest, it's a small thing – that could have made this book even better, was to make the ending a bit more climactic. And I think this was lacking a bit because what was preventing the happy ending was such a small thing that seemed almost... not credible. I really liked Nicholas' dedication to try and talk to Briar, and I have to admit I was a bit disappointed that she didn't even give him a bit of credit – I know, she felt hurt and deceived, but after her time spent with Nicholas, I hoped she knew better. But, alas, miscommunication got in the way.

In the end, it was a great book, with only a small thing to point out. Can't wait to read the next book in this incredible series.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Ten Kisses to Scandal by Vivienne Lorret is book Two in the Misadventures in Matchmaking Series. This is the story of Nicholas Blacklowe, the Earl of Edgemont and Briar Bourne. I have read the previous book (and Loved it), but feel you can make this a standalone book if you wish to do so.

Briar is the youngest sister in the family's matchmaking business and seems only to be good for serving and welcoming clients. Briar family is also very protective of her due to how they grew up. When Nicholas steals her cab she has gives him a good dressing down. Nicholas taken by her outrage and is intrigued by her outburst. This leads to them striking a deal that he will help her with her matchmaking efforts but in return she is pay in kisses. Nicholas isn't one for love but there is something in Briar that calls to him.

This was just a wonderful story...which I could give it 100 stars...loved it!

Samantha Brody says

4.5: This was as delightful as expected and lots of fun (I am HERE for rakes with hearts of gold, always). I wish the ending had had about 50 more pages, just to see more of Briar's relationship with both her sisters (Jacinda felt very forgotten) and a stronger resolution re: her brother, but that's my only complaint!

AnnMarie says

Ten Kisses to Scandal is the second book in the Misadventures in Matchmaking series by Vivienne Lorret. You can read this as a standalone, but if you haven't read the first book then I am sure you will want to when you have read this one.

If you have read any of my reviews before you will find that occasionally I will say how it annoys me that I can't put into words sufficiently how much I enjoy a book. This is one of those times. I loved every single thing about this story. It had me running the gamut of emotions, but most of all I laughed and smiled. This is definitely a feel-good story that will lift the spirits of anybody who reads it.

Briar Bourne and her two sisters work at their Uncle's matchmaking business. Being the youngest of the three sisters she finds herself relegated to making tea and welcoming potential and current clients. She would much rather take part in the matchmaking process and is frustrated that they don't think her capable of it. Taking matters into her own hands, in a bid to prove to them that she can indeed make a match, she endeavours to convince a very influential bachelor to join their client list. Things go terribly wrong when she

sneaks out of the house to try to catch him in a cafe for her clandestine mission. She hails a cab only to have it taken by somebody else. Somebody else who is wasting time in a shockingly public display of kissing before deigning to use the cab she is so desperate for.

Nicholas Blacklowe, the Earl of Edgemont is that man. A man with a well-earned reputation as a rake. After seeing off his lover, Briar has words with him. She is fuming that he took her cab, and he is absolutely delighted with her outrage. She is like a breath of fresh air and when given an opportunity to spend some time with her he takes it. In order for making up for taking her cab and possibly making her late for her meeting, he promises he can help her with her endeavours of matchmaking. For every lesson that he gives her though he expects payment with a kiss. But only if she promises not to fall in love with him. Briar agrees as long as he keeps his hands to himself, she has seen first hand where his hands wander when he is kissing.

So begins the wonderful story of how Nicholas firmly entrenches himself into Briar's heart despite promising she wouldn't fall in love with him. The lessons he teaches her and the payment he receives make immensely enjoyable reading. Will she soften his heart enough for him to see that they could be a perfect couple, or will his past always make him keep up his barriers. Hurt in love, his wife no less being the culprit, he never wants to be in that position again.

The story doesn't only focus on the budding romance between Briar and Nicholas, we also see how Briar comes to terms with and learns why her sisters have always been so protective of her. We see her meeting with her half-brother for the first time where more secrets are revealed to her. Nicholas has a secret too, one that he knows will estrange him from his brother if it were to be known. One that would also stop any hope he might have of a future with Briar. Will the secret be told, undoubtedly, but will he ever be able to make amends?

I honestly can't express just how much I loved this book. I absolutely recommend it, it's a perfect feel-good romance that will have your heart melting and you smiling from ear to ear. I definitely recommend it.

Cyndi Becker says

A new to me author, Vivienne Lorret delivered what have been my most favorite Regency Romance reads all year. The appeal of the matchmaking family trope pulled me in, but it was Briar and Nicolas' dazzling dialogue and their slow burn sizzling connection that totally captured my heart. I'm elated to find an author with a vast catalog that I can set my sights on for future "to reads".

Ten Kisses starts with an unusual meet-cute as Brian happens upon the Earl of Edgemont seducing a women in the early morning hours

"Shouldn't all rogues and roués be abed by sunrise?"

"Only the fortunate ones," he said in an even lower tone that altered the meaning of her statement, turning it decidedly risqué. "Men such as I, however, never sleep. It's just a constant parade of sin all day long."

Part of her—and she would reprimand herself for this later—wondered what a parade of sin might look like. With such limited knowledge, her imagination didn't even know where to begin. The notion was intriguing to say the least.

But Briar had no time for murder or for random titillation."

Yes, Briar was a mission and when the two later discover a connection that keeps them in each others orbit, its a pure joyous read. Being in Briars' head, spending time with her as she cultivates her families matchmaking business, and later being privy to the deal these two strike made for one of the most pleasurable reads. Everything just flowed so well.

The slow-burn frenemies to HEA love story plays out over a few months time and the buildup of their alliance to a dalliance seems ill-fitting and at times I felt bereft that perhaps they weren't meant to be. Maybe she was immune to his charms and vice versa. Nicholas has built a fortress around his heart but he does seem to come around as Briar unwittingly charms the man who has been burned by his own naivete at a young age. But when shocking revelations about Briar's family threaten her heart, Nicholas steps up for Briar. And when secrets that Nicholas have been guarding come to light, the depth of their connection is tested. However, adversity often leads to clarity leading to a wonderful love match for this matchmaking

I highly recommend this story as it's built with characters that are charming and complex. What also makes this an interesting and fun read is the correlation of Jane Austen's "Emma" to Briar's matchmaking business and sense of purpose. Every chapter begins with a quote from the story that often reflect scenarios that motivate the union of Briar and Nichols, after all some lessons need to be repeated in order to stick.

Elley Murray says

It's astonishing how quickly Vivienne Lorret has become one of my favorite historical Regency period romance authors. If you twisted my arm and forced me to choose my top 5 (which would be terrible cruel, so don't do that), she would definitely be on the list. After reading *Ten Kisses to Scandal*, I can safely say she'd be on the list even if you limited me to choosing my top 3. (But, again, making me choose would make you a monster!)

I adore Briar and her lucky [insert item of clothing here]. I like that she steps in a pile of horse poop and just figures out how to pull her foot out with the least amount of damage, and if that doesn't work, she figures out Plan B. And then, if necessary, Plan C, Plan D, and right on down the list. Her family thinks she's frail, but she's determined and driven and at the same time optimistic and hopeful. Here she is just setting out to accomplish something - this is a line from the beginning of the book, before she even meets Nicholas. She's literally going out to try to meet up with a client for her matchmaking agency.

She'd swallowed ten thousand stars, whole, and they were shimmering inside her. Never mind the frothy layer of fog hovering inches above their street in St. James's. She was a light. A force. Nothing could stop her.

I don't know about you, but this is someone I want on my side; someone I definitely want for a friend, which for me is how I connect to characters in books.

I also really appreciate that Nicholas is (for once!) NOT extremely handsome, and that at first Briar comments about his too large nose and rather craggy features. However, later (after they've gotten to know each other) when they're talking about looks and he's giving her a "lesson" that attractive men aren't as good in bed because they don't have to work as hard for it, while unattractive men go out of their way to get better

at pleasing women so they seek them out, she's like "But how would you know that?" Because she truly doesn't get that he's speaking from experience and talking about himself, **because she doesn't think he's unattractive**. And since even he thinks he's not attractive, he gets that she's genuinely clueless and is floored. There are a million little tiny cupid arrows like this, and by the end of this book I was a pincushion or a hedgehog or something equally just stuck all full of of these tiny arrows of "ARGH! That's so cute, I can't even!"

The chemistry between Briar and Nicholas is also just amazing. They're so playful together, but at the same time supportive. When Briar gets a crazy idea into her head of something she wants to do that her overprotective family would *never* allow her to, Nicholas makes it happen (even though he spends the entire time gritting his teeth and swearing up and down *never again*). And even when their sexual tension is explosively hot, there is still an element of fun and silliness in it that is so unique to them as a couple and I just *adore* it.

It seemed an eternity before the barest contact. More whisper than kiss. A featherlight back and forth sweep without the slightest bit of pressure.

"See here. That isn't a proper kiss," he rasped, disgruntled and more than half aroused.

"Hush." Her chide was a soft caress, the dark golden fan of her lashes resting against her cheek.

"Such a disagreeable cup of chocolate. I told you before that the froth is the best part."

Of course, their relationship exists bases upon a set of rules and boundaries, namely it's supposed to be about lessons in reading people and their emotions for the purposes of matchmaking in exchange for kisses and in exchange for Briar finding matches for Nicholas's cousins, so there are plenty of obstacles thrown into their way (many of them of their own making). And *of course* Nicholas has A Dark And Tragic Past that makes him heartless and incapable of love (or, you know, just scared silly of it), so that takes some working to get through. So remember all those arrows Cupid shot into me earlier? There's a fair amount of Vivienne Lorret grabbing the ones stuck into my heart and giving them a good *twist*, especially in the last quarter or so of the book. But much like a bite of bitterness in your drinking chocolate, needing to work through adversity makes that happy ever after all the sweeter in the end.

This is the second book in the *Misadventures in Matchmaking* series, but can be read as a standalone. Briar's sister Jacina, who was a lead in the first book in the series, makes a few side character appearances in this book, and there are some minor spoilers for that book about on the same level as if you'd read the blurb on the back cover. That being said, *How to Forget a Duke* is a really good book in its own right, so it's definitely worth reading if you want to start with book one, if you want to go back and read the first book after you read this one! You'll be fine if you decide to start with book two (this one), and I LOVED THIS BOOK and did enjoy it more than the first in the series.

Worth noting: I can't wait to read the next in the series, *The Rogue to Ruin*. It's an enemies to lovers *and* fake romance about the third sister, Ainsley, and Reed Sterling, the owner of the gaming hell across the street - and the tension between them has been building in the background through the past two books, and I CAN. NOT. WAIT.

Stacee says

I loved the premise of this story and just couldn't resist it.

I love love loved Briar and Nicholas. She's so sweet and he's so charming and their banter was perfection. Their chemistry jumped off the page and I absolutely enjoyed all of their scenes together. I'm guessing the other books will be about Briar's sisters and I am definitely intrigued.

Plot wise, it was good. Even though some of the settings were repetitive, it didn't feel that way. I loved how hard Briar worked for the agency and the seemingly random characters who wanted a match. Of course there was a dramatic break-up of sorts, but the grand gestures were worth it.

Overall, it was a delightful and fun read, one I'm sure I'll be reading again. I look forward to reading other books from this author.

Huge thanks to Avon Books for providing the arc free of charge
