



# Treacherous Temptations

*Victoria Vane*

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Victoria Vane

**Treacherous Temptations** Victoria Vane

*A reluctant heiress resigned to her fate...*

Mary Elizabeth Edwardes possesses one of the largest fortune's in England, but has no desire to leave her quiet country existence... and even less to acquire a husband she cannot choose for herself.

*A dissolute nobleman bent on retribution...*

Trapped in a duplicitous existence since scandal destroyed his fortune and family name, Lord Hadley Blanchard has spent the better part of a decade posing as a disaffected exile while spying and seducing in the service of the English Crown.

*A dangerous game of seduction, and intrigue...*

By employing the full measure of his seductive charm, he woos the ward of the man who destroyed his life, little knowing that winning Mary's fortune will mean risking his own treacherous heart.

\*\*Erotic content warning\*\*

2014 RONE Winner Best Historical post Medieval Romance

## Treacherous Temptations Details

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Author : Victoria Vane

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# From Reader Review Treacherous Temptations for online ebook

## Kathleen says

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

Story Rating-4 Stars

Character Rating-5 Stars

Romance Rating-4 Stars

Heat Level-3 Stars

Overall Rating-4 Stars

I **REALLY** enjoyed this book. Victoria has a wonderful way of writing, the flow, the words and descriptions are all **VERY** appealing to me.

This story line has been done before, but Victoria added her own twist to it and I was pulled into the story from beginning to end. This is a story set around a virgin heiress, which included a very sensual seduction, betrayal, secrets, jealousy, lies, greed and love. There were also some very dark situations as the story unfolded, keeping the story interesting all the way through.

The characters were well thought out. The heroine, Mary, was a very innocent and naïve character. She was also smart, kind and brave and I really liked her. The hero Hadley did **NOT** have good intentions towards Mary at first. He was not a good hero at the beginning of this story and had done **MANY** shady things throughout the past 7 years of his life. I loved how Mary's innocence during his seduction of her opened his eyes and made him a better person. Yes, he became the good hero, that I so want in my romances.

There were also 3 villains in this book that were very **EVIL**. The first one we meet is Sir Richard, and unfortunately he was Mary's guardian and had control of her money. He wanted to marry her off to someone, where he would profit the most. The second villain was Barbara, Hadley's step-monster, I mean step-mother! That woman was pure evil, and did awful things over the course of the book. The third villain was Barnesley, what a wicked man. Sir Richard and Barbara had picked him to be Mary's betrothed. He was a very dark character and added cruel element to the story!

So, I rated this book a 3 for heat level. Let me explain why. The fact that the heroine was a virgin had a lot to do with it. There were plenty of sensual interludes with Mary and Hadley, but the actual deed was not done until well into the story. We only got ONE real love scene and it was **FANFRIGGINTASTIC!!!** and well worth the wait!! Victoria sure can write a love scene that has me squirming in my seat, page after page and she doesn't hold back!!

The ending was very exciting, with the hero saving the day \*sigh\*. Then I turned what I thought was the last page and saw the word I most want to see at the end of my book...Epilogue! I was so **HAPPY** to see this and I was looking forward to reading about Mary and Hadley's future only to get one of the shortest and unsatisfactory epilogues that I have ever read. I don't understand why Victoria chose to end the book that way. A few more pages in the epilogue would have gone a **LONG** way. There was plenty she could have written about, and it might have added an extra 1/2 star to my overall rating. This is the only complaint I have for this book, everything else was very enjoyable. I hope that Victoria will take the time to elaborate a bit more when writing her epilogues in the future. I am a **HUGE** fan of Victoria Vane and I really hate mentioning any negative thoughts about her book, but it needed to be said. I think she is a **VERY** talented

writer and I plan to read **EVERYTHING** she writes.

*\*A copy of this book was Kindly provided by Victoria Vane in exchange for an honest review \**

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### **Lisa says**

Lord Hadley Blanchard should be an earl and have all the trappings and wealth that affords him but due to his fathers shocking death, he has been stripped of that right and it is his goal to get it back. He knows his father had nothing to do with the South Sea scandal that resulted in the loss of so much money and believes he was used a cover for the real villain behind the loss. Now, with years of spy work under his belt, he is finally ready to confront the man he knows is the real culprit and is met with a bargain...pay up for the title. Having no money, Hadley sets about to find some and the wealthy Miss Mary Elizabeth Edwardes happens into his life. Drawn to her before he knows her true identity, he sees it as the answer to his dilemma but finds resistance in his step mother, the woman who has taken Mary under her wing and has her own plans for Mary. As the feelings grow between Hadley and Mary, Hadley must decide if he tells her the whole truth about his past and future plans or if he just tells her bits and pieces and hopes Mary does not find out the rest. . .

Victoria Vane has such a way with words that she just immerses you in the Georgian time period and makes you feel like you are right there. The attention to detail, both large and small, is wonderful and exactly what I have come to expect from her writing. I will admit, I had a hard time warming up to the scoundrel Hadley, but in the end I did feel like his feelings for Mary were genuine and will last. His journey to redemption is slow and just a bit wicked but that fit with his character. Mary also grew as the story unfolded from a country girl to a strong, smart woman. The way she deals with Hadley was well done and I am glad that she did not just bend to his every wish. The side characters, from Hadley's step mother to Mary's guardian, add a nice layer of wickedness and evilness but their ending seemed a little easy for me. Overall, another strong writing effort from the talents of Victoria Vane filled with rich, lush detail, wickedness, action, love and trust. 4 stars

*Review copy provided by publisher*

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### **Stormi (BMReviewsohmy) says**

This was my first Victoria Vane novel and though I didn't care for it as much as I would have liked I would still try another one of her books.

My whole problem with this book was the Hero and his vial ways. I know that it is all about him redeeming himself but sometimes the author can make a character too vial for the reader to want to believe in him.

Lord Hadley was seduced from a young age by his stepmother who was not much older than him. The thought of Hadley and Barbara together was just gross and the thought that even though he found it vial he still kept going back. Not only does he have this on his conscience but he has a lot of other things. I won't say what, but it's enough to just make him not real likable to me. I do understand the fact that he feels a bit trapped between his stepmother Barbara and the man who holds the power to give him back his title.

Mary has a fortune that she can not do anything with unless she get's married or turns thirty. She is content with not being married but her guardian wants her money and what it can get him, so he is going to make her marry. She wants to marry for love not because someone wishes to have her fortune. She is taken right away with Lord Hadley. Mary is a bit naive as she seems to try and see the best in everyone. She to me is not a real strong character though in the end she does show a little spunk.

This book should be a quick read but for me it didn't read fast because I couldn't get into the main characters very well. I just thought the H was horrible, though by the end I found him moderately likable, it just didn't sit well with me.

This is my opinion though so give it a try and see what you think. I have seen a few reviews who loved it.

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### **Duchess Nicole says**

Mary is one of the richest women in England. Since neither of her parents are alive, her guardian is responsible for finding her a husband and has no qualms using her wealth as a way to buy his way into the good graces of men in high places. Mary's wants don't even factor in the equation. She is content living her simple country life but resigned to her fate of marriage to the highest bidder.

Lord Hadley Blanchard has been living a self imposed exile since the suicide and ruination of his father. Stripped of title, lands, and wealth, he has reveled in debauchery and vice for the last eight years, traveling throughout Europe. Now there is a chance to reclaim what was stolen by the very person that is now in control of Mary's life and fortune. The ultimate revenge for Hadley would be to have Mary as his wife, and in turn have her money and lands as well.

But Hadley has met his match in the shy, innocent country miss. Mary is a charming character. While she's not worldly like Hadley, she's not a doormat either. Despite the often used rake and virgin trope, Mary and Hadley's relationship didn't seem forced. From their first meeting, they seemed not only wildly attracted to each other, but comfortable enough with one another for their relationship to unfold naturally. Hadley is brought to his knees by a woman with no experience in the ways of the world and Mary is luckily matched with a man who is fascinated by her. Once again, Victoria Vane's love of the Georgian era shines through. She weaves a story filled with random historical facts, accurate social and material descriptions, and a romance that - while overused in Historical Romance, still has a magical fairy tale feeling.

Copy provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **My Book Addiction and More MBA says**

TREACHEROUS TEMPTATIONS by Victoria Vane is an exciting erotic Georgian historical romance. Another side to this author and another hit. Filled with treachery,danger,passion,betrayal,secrets,debauchery, lies,and love. Fast paced and a thrill ride you don't want to miss. Mary Elizabeth Edwardes,a heiress who has no desire to marry but her ruthless guardian has other ideas.Lord Hadley Blanchard,who has been spying for nearly a decade is looking for vengeance against his family. Follow Mary and Hadley as they navigate the waters of intrigue,and love. If you enjoy historical romance,the Georgian era,passion,intrigue,forbidden sex, the darker side of a financial scandal,and redemption you will enjoy "Treacherous Temptations". The

characters are not only engaging, but will capture your heart and hold you there. The plot is well written with vivid details, Ms. Vane's love of Georgian era shines through, as well as her knowledge of the era. I loved this story, it will captivate you as well as have you holding your breath, with the twists and turns of this story. A must read! Received for an honest review from the publisher. For more details, please visit the author's website, Entangled Publishing, Scandalous, an Entangled imprint, and My Book Addiction and More.

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: Wild Ride

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, My Book Addiction and More/My Book Addiction Reviews

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### **KatLynne says**

*Treacherous Temptations* opens with a prologue that had me intrigued and kept me quickly turning the pages for more. Victoria Vane has given us a truly bad boy, Sir Hadley Blanchard. From an early age his nights are spent delving into all levels of debauchery while his days are spent in fraudulent dealings steeped in dishonesty and treachery.

He's come a long way from his early days of despair and idleness. Now, his main goal is exacting revenge on the man whose betrayal robbed him of his title and fortune as well as obtaining the means of restoring all that he'd lost.

Penniless he seeks the innocent heiress, Miss Mary Elizabeth Edwardes, and plots with another to ensnare her in his plan of retribution. Nineteen year old Mary is a complete innocent and soon falls prey to Hadley's charm. He's a master in the art of seduction and poor Mary doesn't stand a chance. But one thing Hadley didn't count on was his reaction to Mary.

Mary's simplistic lifestyle has not prepared her for the devious manipulation of those that are now major players in her life. Her honesty and trusting nature soon touches something deep inside the hardened Hadley. I found myself rooting hard for her on many occasions while at others I became frustrated at her lack of maturity. I enjoyed watching this young woman evolve and take a stand for herself.

With a trope that doesn't normally appeal to me, I picked this up with misgivings. But loving Victoria Vane's writing, I took the plunge and wasn't disappointed. Hadley and Mary's journey is filled with heartache, villains, and deception. There's also that sultry, erotic heat factor that this author does so well!

The only minor quibble was the ending felt a little rushed and I wanted to know more of the villain's punishment. However, this in no way detracted from my overall enjoyment.

One of the things I enjoyed most was watching the healing and awakening of Hadley's emotions as an innocent country girl brings this worldly rogue to his knees.

As always, Victoria Vane captures my attention with her rich prose, historical details, and her unique writing style. If you've not had the pleasure of reading her books, I recommend them all!

*\*\*\*Arc kindly provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you Ms. Vane. It was a pleasure!\*\*\**

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## **Wendy says**

This enjoyable, well-written, wickedly sexy Georgian romance has a sweetly innocent heroine and a charming, dissolute rogue at its centre and - to add some extra intrigue - a malevolent, conniving stepmother.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Edwards finds herself an unwitting pawn in a dangerous game. She is a country girl, and though gently raised and very rich, she is no sophisticate and therefore ripe for manipulation. Lord Hadley Blanchard, the son of a disgraced earl, has been living a hand-to-mouth existence on the continent since his father's suicide seven years previously. Whoring his way through life and also spying for the crown, he is decadent, charming and dependent on his step-mother, Barbara, Countess of Blanchard, for pin money in order to be able to continue his dissipated life style. She summons him back to England with a proposal that will make them both rich; he is to seduce and marry the unworldly Mary, the idea being that he and Barbara will carry on their torrid and incestuous affair while they live off Mary's money. Hadley has grown tired of his uncertain, Tom-cat lifestyle, and wishes to cut his ties with Barbara and see his father's name cleared, the Blanchard estates returned and his title re-instated.

Hadley's puppet master, Sir Richard, was also the instrument of his father's downfall and now a spymaster with his finger in many pies, he holds Hadley's life in the palm of his hand and constantly tweaks the reins. He is also Mary's guardian and in control of both her fortune and marriage prospects, with no intention whatsoever of allowing the disgraced earl's son access to his ward. As well as controlling both Mary and Hadley he is also lover to the devious and depraved Barbara, Countess of Blanchard.

In this way, Victoria Vane has cleverly intertwined the main characters into a clever and plausible plot in this rather witty and risqué romp.

To begin with, Hadley's charming exterior is artfully manufactured for the sole purpose of catching and ensnaring the innocent Mary, but soon he becomes enchanted with her innocence. His ennui and cynical attitude begin to drop away and the kind and generous young man who existed before his father's disgrace and his own exile starts to re-emerge. Mary, although no fool, is nonetheless dazzled by the handsome and debonair nobleman.

The story takes a dark twist and suddenly Mary's very life is in danger. Always having an eye to the main chance, her guardian has a list of influential men drawn up as possible candidates for her hand with no care for how sexually deviant or elderly they may be. All he cares about is that they will further his own political career, so Mary will go to the highest bidder.

With the developing - but secret - romance between Mary and Hadley kept under wraps, they tread a dangerous path while Hadley attempts to keep Mary safe. Certain revelations about Hadley's past throw her into a dilemma, and she has nowhere to turn; no one to trust. Hadley has been hoist by his own petard. Now that he has found and recognised his love, and realises he wants nothing from her other than herself... ..she does not believe him.

The narration by Stevie Zimmerman is really quite well done. She handles the large cast with confidence,

portraying the devious and dastardly Barbara and the oily, corrupt Sir Richard particularly well. While Hadley is masquerading as a primped, powdered and pomaded Italian nobleman, she effects drawling, bored aristocratic tones, but as Hadley returns to his more honourable self, she effects a subtle change and adopts a pleasant, manly voice with just the right amount of inflection to render him more likeable. I didn't really connect with her portrayal of Mary, however, who at times comes over as whinny and a bit pathetic, although Ms. Vane has written her as a strong, sensible character. My main complaint though, is with the production quality. There is a tinny, slightly echoey background, as if Ms. Zimmerman was recording in a tunnel and I found it quite disconcerting. I listen to a lot of audiobooks and I rarely come across this problem.

On the whole, I enjoyed this audio version of **Treacherous Temptations**. It has a well thought out, plausible plot line and expertly captures the outrageously decadent and opulence of the Georgian era to a tee with sumptuous descriptions of the fashions, wigs, powders and patches of the times.

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## Wendy says

Mary Elizabeth Edwardes an heiress to a very large fortune must take on a husband. But unfortunately she must marry someone not of her choice. A young girl that adores the simple country life, she is resigned to her fate. Until the charming nobleman Lord Hadley crosses her path.

Lord Hadley Blanchard has lived a life of deceit. He lives the carefree life of a rogue, whilst serving the English Crown as a spy. His family name and fortune have been destroyed after a scandal and tragedy is exposed. Hadley is out for vengeance and he intends to woo the young heiress Mary, who happens to be the ward of the man that has destroyed his life.

My favourite quote:

*"I only know that you are perhaps not the brute you pretended to be." All men are brutes, my dear," he answered with a cynical twist of his lips. "It just takes different circumstances for the beast to emerge."*

When it comes to setting the scene of the Georgian Era, no one does it better than Victoria Vane. This is a lush, engaging read with a plot that is totally wicked. The writing is flawless the setting superb. Treacherous Temptations is a must read. Enjoy!

*Copy generously provided by Victoria Vane for an honest review. Thanks Victoria!*

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## Victoria Vane says

Now available from **ENTANGLED Publishing**  
**AUTHOR'S NOTE**

*TREACHEROUS TEMPTATIONS* was very much inspired by the dark and romantic novels of the 18th century in which virtue vs. vice and plots to despoil virgins were very popular themes, books like *Clarissa Harlowe* by Samuel Richardson or *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* by LaClos. Similar to these classic tales, my story features an innocent country girl who, unlike the former heroines, is neither insipid nor naive, but still inadvertently becomes a pawn in a deadly game of revenge and intrigue.

### **EXCERPT**

*Blanchard House, Hanover Square- 1728*

As the solo harpsichord began a Corelli air, Mary watched mesmerized. In flawless synchrony with the music, and bodies posed in perfect symmetry, the couple performed the intricate figures of the dance with fluid grace—ebbing and flowing in an elegant wave, moving in absolute harmony with one another. Rising and falling in gentle rhythm, arms gracefully rounded, reaching, touching, and turning, they seemingly floated across the floor.

It was lovely beyond description.

Monsieur Gaspar had rightly described the stately minuet as the perfection of dancing and Mary was entranced. But lost in her admiration of the dancers, she forgot she was supposed to be studying their intricate steps and patterns, until the couple executed the final two hand turn and then faced her with the final elegant dips to honor their audience of one.

The dancing master raised Lady Blanchard's hand to his lips. "Vous êtes toujours incomparable, Madame la Comtesse."

Lady Blanchard answered the compliment as if it were her due, with an elegant inclination of her head and only the merest hint of a smile.

"It is true, my lady," Mary gushed. "I've never beheld anything so lovely."

Lady Blanchard turned to Mary and smiled archly. "Dancing is the premier mark of gentility in any woman, my dear Mary, and the minuet is foremost amongst the dances. Thus, you must master it—along with the sarabande, gigue, bourée, and gavotte, before you may attend any of the balls."

Mary's stomach dropped. "All of them? But I have no experience of this kind of dancing."

Lady Blanchard regarded her with raised brows. "Do you mean to say you've never danced?"

"Only country dancing, my lady. Never like this. I fear it is well beyond my ability."

The countess waved her hand. "Nonsense, child. You have the benefit of a master's tutelage and must simply apply yourself." She glanced to the clock with a frown. "I am expecting someone. I leave you now in Monsieur Gaspar's capable hands."

In dismay, Mary watched the countess depart.

"Mademoiselle?" The dancing master flourished a bow and then offered his arm and an indulgent smile on painted lips. Yet an hour later found him tearing at his periwig and Mary near to tears.

"Non! Non! Et non!" cried the Frenchman. "You must rise on the toe and sweep the foot. Thusly." He demonstrated with exaggerated patience. "And the arms, they are too stiff!"

"Like this?" Mary rounded her arms and began the steps again.

"Par blue! Elle se deplacer comme une vache! You move like the cow and the figure, it is all wrong! It is zed."

"Zed?" Mary repeated blankly.

"Oui, zed!" he insisted.

"I don't comprehend you, monsieur," Mary cried in growing frustration. "I've told you already I have no French."

Throwing up his hands in Gallic fashion he shouted, "Zed! Zed!" as if bellowing would bring enlightenment. "Etres vous simple? It is the last letter of the English alphabet! Comprenez? Zed! S'il vous plait dancez la figure maintenant."

"I'm sorry, Monsieur Gaspar. Would you please show me once more?" Mary asked, flustered beyond despair and on the verge of tears.

"Perhaps, monsieur," a deep-timbered, cultured, and slightly accented voice arrested the dancing master's

impending tantrum, "the difficulty lies not so much in the student's lack of aptitude, but in the instructor's method of tuition."

Mary turned to face her would-be rescuer, a vision that stole her breath. Tall and elegant, he was dressed in hues of richly embroidered satin, bedecked with yards of frothy lace, and jewels that would be the envy of any woman, yet paradoxically, there was nothing effeminate about him. He advanced into the room with a languid gait to halt before them, flicking over the Frenchman with inscrutably dark eyes and an expression of frigid hauteur.

It was his eyes that first entranced her, deep-set and piercing indigo-blue beneath straight, dark, brows, that seemed starkly incongruous compared to the fashionable white powdered wig. To Mary, his face was a fascinating study of contrasts, at once strong, proud, and distinctly aristocratic. Yet, the imposing vision he presented was somehow softened by a generous mouth and the most fascinating dimple in his chin. Mary was next riveted to that dimple, and then lastly to the softening curve of his mouth when the stranger inclined his head to her alone, as if the dancing master were completely beneath his notice.

It was an intentional snub that made the Frenchman tremble with indignation. "I will have you know, monsieur, that I am le maitre-de-dance to the very Princesses Royales!"

"I should never make such a confession, were I you," the stranger drawled.

The frenetic little Frenchman puffed his chest. "You think it an idle boast?"

The gentleman chuckled, a low, warm, rumbling sound. "No indeed, monsieur, for I have seen how execrably they dance!"

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## Georgie says

Well-written story of a rake falling for innocent wisdom. The plot is clearly laid out, and there's a satisfying focus on H & H, bracketed by a suitably conniving Villain & Villainess. I liked the way Hadley is slowly captivated by Mary's straightforward reactions, in spite of his worse self.

*"Nevertheless, you cannot convince me that the mere joining of two bodies is love."*

*"No? Is not worship a display of adoration, Mary? Even the holy mother church would agree with that. And is not adoration one of the many facets of love? Sexual congress is the highest possible form of worship between a man and a woman, and is therefore indisputably an act of love."*

*"I'll allow that you display an impressive talent in the manipulation of words."*

*"What else would you have me call it, Mary? Fornication is such an ugly term."*

*"But a spade is a spade after all," she retorted. "I would rather have honesty. If it is purely physical pleasure, call it thus. I would rather you spoke truth with candor than your perfidy with pretty lies."*

*He laughed outright. "You would have honesty, sweet Mary? Most women prefer nothing better than wicked whispers and pretty lies. Playing along with a seduction is a widely accepted pretext for forfeiting virtue."*

Less engaging is the see-saw of Mary's progression to trusting Hadley - each step forward is countered by her discovery of yet another of his secrets, leading to her progressively predictable rejection of him. It's not that each scene is badly written, just that there are too many "betrayals". The emotional effect is dissipated as a result.

There's also a weakness in the resolution of the story: Mary is confronted by the unholy triumvirate of Villainous Guardian, Even More Villainous Spurned Mistress of the Hero, and Sadistic Wannabe Husband. Yet everything needs to be resolved into a HEA. I've written in other reviews of the difficulty of getting the balance right between the heroes and the villains, and making the villains credible without tipping the scales so far their way that the HEA feels contrived. I don't think Victoria Vane has succeeded in that here, but it's a

relatively minor point in what is, overall, a decent HR.

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## **Tash says**

Reviewed for Confessions From Romaholics

To see review at Confessions

Let me just say that Victoria Vane has done it again and provided us with another rogue who can equal the Devil. I can't remember when I first started reading Vane's books but I have become a fan and was excited to read her latest book, Treacherous Temptation. This book follows another wild rake who honestly takes the cake of all the characters that Vane has ever written because of his actions as a young man and his antics to get back his title.

Lord Hadley Blanchard is known for seducing and you could say that he was responsible for his father's death, which led to a series of events wherein he lost his estate and title. Forced into exile as the family name is now in ruins, he roams the Continent as a rake, but he is actually an agent for the Crown, a position he took to fund his fun at first. He has, though, grown up since taking the job and he's not the young man he used to be. He realises that he needs to make something of his life instead of wasting it away and he has to because he has no plans to get married.

It's been seven years since he has been in England but news comes that he can potentially gain back his estate and title so he hurries back, as he has been trying for years but with no success, because honestly the family was a scapegoat for the South Sea Scandal. He has to get Sir Richard, the man responsible for his ruin and now his employer, to help him, but Richard has more pressing issues dealing with his guardian.

Mary Edwards is the heiress to a vast fortune, and at nineteen she is a perfect marriage candidate for some impoverished gentleman, except she is not worldly like her guardian wants her to be. Therefore, she is taken to London and handed over to Lady Barbara, Hadley's stepmother, to prepare her for the season. Now Barbara is little better off than Hadley as she is the lover of Sir Richard and was able to keep her house but she is lacking capital and she needs money. Therefore, Barbara forms her own plan to control Mary and her fortune by bringing Hadley into the picture. Needless to say that Richard plans to take advantage as well because she is rich and he wouldn't be a politician for nothing. He leaves Hadley to try and regain his title and maintains his disguise as Italian nobility while pursuing Mary because Barbara wants her money and her plan is to marry her to Hadley. Should I say more? It's shaping up to an eclectic cast of characters who all have plans for Mary including Mary herself.

This is the first novel from Vane, and I have enjoyed this new book loaded with characters that you will fall in love with are not drama free and will keep you entertained until the very end as the pages are filled with mysteries and trouble. Hadley and Mary, I love this couple; two people who are total opposites who fall in love despite the deceptions and villains in their way. Mary was the perfect foil for Hadley, she just wants to run the estates, she's not interested in marriage so when she makes the move after finding out the truth I was surprised at first but then he reasons that the girl has a good head on her shoulders. Poor Lady Barbara! She was so determined to be the instigator for Mary meeting Hadley and setting them up.

Hadley, his past few years have been dictated by others because of his father actions and he's not interested in marriage because of what happened. It seems Lady Barbara is going about it all wrong trying to get him

interested. But never doubt a scheming woman as she will be thinking of something to make up for her disappointment in order to succeed. I thought Sir Richard was going to be the villain to watch out for as he already invested so much but I was surprised as I read on that it is Lady Barbara. It's a nice turn of events with villain against villain to sort who will succeed at controlling the girl and Hadley too.

Vane knows how to write a book and once again made sure that all characters have meaty roles and solid places in the story. She knows how to develop a character and a story to the point that leaves a reader satisfied and not wanting more. 5 couples. You don't want to miss this story. Vane knows how to write a historical that is naughty as well as a delight.

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## **Arlena says**

Author: Victoria Vane

Published By: Entangled Publishing

Age Recommended: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: 5

Review:

"Treacherous Temptations" by Victoria Vane was another one her wonderful historical erotic romances. I have read all of this author novels and again this was a home run....definitely this one was a hit out of the ball park. Ms. Vane is well known for her writing that only flows so smoothly with such description that will appeal to all of her readers.

There were two main characters in this novel: Mary Elizabeth Edwardes and Lord Hadley Blanchard. Mary was a heiress (riches woman in England) with a large fortune that had to take a husband as Sir Richard, her ruthless guardian was forcing her leave her country home in Welham Grove and go to London, but why was this? Lord Hadley's father the Earl had died with a scandal that only changed his life and definitely his entitlements...only leaving him to 'live the life of a footloose rogue...being a spy secretly for the crown'....and just who had been responsible for all of this?

Ms. Vane will take the readers on a real roller coaster ride in how she brings all of this out ....with Hadley trying to return his family's name and even trying to win Mary's heart..what will come of all of this?

The characters were are very interesting and very well developed that they captured you with such interest keeping this story moving from Mary, Hadley, Sir Richard, Lady Barbara Blanchard, Jenny, James, Nanette, Lord Barnesley only presenting a well rounded read.

Be ready for a story that is filled with 'financial scandal, sex, secrets, danger, treachery, lies, debauchery, betrayal and even love with historical facts that only added such a believable well written read. Now, I will say to fully understand all of the what, where, when and how you must pick up "Treacherous Temptations" to see what all this author has in store for us ...the reader. In the end we all get to see just how this wonderful love story will end...and oh, what a ending!

I thought this was another one of Victoria Vane's well written "Treacherous Temptations" that I would recommend and just say to this author ...very well done.

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## **Jill says**

### **4.5 stars**

When Hadley's father, the Earl of Blanchard died, he should have inherited the earl's fortune and title. Ruined by the South Sea scandal, the late earl was used as a scapegoat, with Hadley consequently losing the right to his title, his lands sold. Over the next seven years, Hadley becomes involved in working for the Crown in exile. When an opportunity arises for him to return to England and perhaps reclaim his fortune he doesn't hesitate. The loss of his heritage has seen him determined to recover what has been stolen.

Mary Elizabeth Edwardes at nineteen is a wealthy heiress. Her guardian deems it necessary for her to now marry and brings her to London to be introduced to society and arrange a suitable match. But Mary has no desire for an arranged marriage, nor inclination to leave her country estate in Leicester.

*Treacherous Temptations* is Victoria Vane's first full-length historical romance. Her previous novellas, especially her popular *The Devil De Vere Series* have been impressive and *Treacherous Temptations* is no exception. An innocent, country heiress and a worldly, impoverished aristocrat are brought together in this glorious Georgian that's filled with romance, intrigue, adventure and villainy.

Hadley, once a feckless youth with little moral restraint has been tamed and molded by his time as a spy, into a cautious and discerning man. Mary is an unworldly, countrified young lady, who has the experience and ability to oversee her late father's estates, but with little knowledge and even less experience in the ways of men and society.

Ms Vane introduces a number of forceful characters and convincing villains. None more so that the delightfully wicked and scheming shrew, Lady Barbara Blanchard, Hadley's stepmother who has played a pivotal role in Hadley's life and fortunes.

Victoria Vane's meticulous research of the Georgian era yields her impressive results in this romance. With lush, flawless prose and a plot steeped in rich, historical details, Victoria Vane owns the Georgian era. Highly recommended.

**Steam:** 3.5

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## **Carol \*Young at Heart Oldie\* says**

**Treacherous Temptations** is Victoria Vane's first full-length historical erotic romance. Having read and rhapsodised over her **The Devil De Vere** series, I couldn't wait to read this 'Dangerous Liaisons' inspired

book. Ms Vane never disappoints and this book was no exception. She weaves a sensual tale of scandal, treachery, intrigue, love and redemption.

Once again, I was swept back into the Georgian era with all its elegance, opulence and decadence which she captures so perfectly. Her writing is always evocative, emotive, sensual and delightfully wicked. I chose this excerpt because, for me, it perfectly illustrates her descriptive flair.

*With the arrival of dusk, however, the true Venice awakened. Donning her gilded and be-jeweled bauta, she revealed her soul beneath a thousand torches lighting the canals with sputtering brilliance over shimmering waters. With countless covered gondolas affording floating places of refuge for sinful delights, she reveled in all of her concupiscent glory.*

Ms Vane did an excellent job of showing Hadley's gradual journey from a man whose life had degenerated into an endless pursuit of every excess and dissipation to someone who regains his honour, his ideals and his self-respect. I think I saw redemptive qualities in Hadley from the moment he interrupted Mary's dancing lesson with the obnoxious French dancing teacher, Monsieur Gaspar, and sent him off with the proverbial flea in his ear. He was unaware of Mary's true identity and simply championed a young lady being bullied.

When he discovers who Mary is, he initially sees her not only as the means to a large fortune but also a instrument of revenge against her guardian, Sir Richard, the man he holds responsible for stealing his inheritance. I loved watching his confusion when he finds himself developing feelings for her. Lust he can understand, but love is something that is completely beyond his comprehension.

*She brought his hand to her mouth, kissing his palm, an artless act that had a startling affect. Feeling unbalanced and terrorized, Hadley closed his eyes in an effort to shut her out, but the insidious and unwanted flare of feeling would not be ignored.*

Hadley is the perfect hero (maybe not quite up there with De Vere, but then who is!). He's charming, thoughtful, charismatic, seductive and protective.

Mary's warm, engaging, headstrong and witty; a country girl at heart who prefers reading a book or long walks rather than the superficiality of London. I love her astute observation of society.

*"I will never comprehend the fashionable people. They resemble nothing more than a muster of peacocks—preening, strutting, and gawking at one another. They smile and croon but few of them ever have a kind or sincere word."*

A complex mix of wisdom and innocence, she understands estate matters but is completely inexperienced when it comes to men. So it's no wonder she can't resist Hadley's seductive ways.

*The warmth of his hands seemed to permeate the many layers of silk and linen that separated them as if the barriers didn't exist. His voice, his touch, his subtle masculine scent combined to fill her senses, making her almost giddy. It was lovely. It was also terrifying.*

I loved the villainous secondary characters; the conniving, vindictive and depraved Barbara, Countess of Blanchard, Sir Richard, the fat, flatulent fool and Lord Barnesley, the libertine with his little idiosyncrasies. Their machinations certainly provided some interesting twists and turns.

**Treacherous Temptations** is definitely a worthy addition to my keeper shelf from one of my favourite

authors.

**RATING: ★★★★★**

**SENSUALITY RATING: SIZZLING**

**This ebook was kindly provided by the publisher Entangled in return for an honest review.**

This review has also been posted on my blog:

<http://rakesandrascals.wordpress.com/...>

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### **Keri says**

3.75 Stars. I had to revise down my original stars and I will explain why. This is a tale of bad boy...very bad boy meets sweet innocent girl and begins to use his seduction powers for evil, as he has a plan to compromise Ms. Innocent so she will have to marry bad boy and thus bad boy controls rich innocent girls money and he therefore gains his title back. The End. Wel, not so fast. Hadley, whom as everybody knows I hated at the beginning, is at the lowest, debauched point of his life. This is where we enter the story and don't know that he is ready for a change in his life. We know he has done bad thing, but we don't yet have the entire back story, we just know at this point he is a dark character. Hadley is forced to become a spy, as the man that controls his fortune for the moment also controls his life. But 7 years have passed and he isn't taking it anymore. He has learned through his vile and evil stepmother a way to get out from underneath all of it. All he has to do in seduce sweet innocent very rich Mary and he will have it made.

But for some reason he can't take that final step when he looks into Mary's pretty eyes, something keeps happening to his chest and he has trouble breathing. We follow as Hadley against all odds falls for Mary and in doing so can't follow through with his nefarious plans. Barbara, Hadley's evil stepmother has no problems following through with hers, and she has no qualms about calling out the dogs as the noose tightens around Mary. Pretty soon the decision is taken out of Mary and Hadley's hands as they flee to keep Mary out of the hands of perversion personified.

Ms. Vane did a wonderful job of turning Hadley into a good guy for me, but why I had to revise my score was nobody really paid for their deeds, at least if they did, I didn't know about it. I needed to read that Barbara and Lord Perverted and Mary's guardian paid for their sins. I needed Barbara to realize truly what she had lost instead of her just leaving the room and laughing. As well as for me, the epilogue was too short. I needed a little more time with Hadley and Mary just being in love and no one trying to get them apart. Don't get me wrong, this was a truly engaging read and I enjoyed it, just that the ending just didn't quite work for me, as reflects in my rating.

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