



The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall

Lauren Smith

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A thrilling gothic romance from Entangled's Otherworld imprint...

To defeat a dark evil, they must face his family's past...

Bastian Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth, doesn't believe in ghosts. Even though tragedy and mysterious hauntings have driven his family away from his ancestral home, Stormclyffe Hall, he is determined to restore the castle to its former glory. His plans are disrupted when a stubborn American shows up on his doorstep hoping to pry into his family's tragic history.

Jane Seyton, an American graduate student, is convinced there's more to the tragedy of Stormclyffe Hall than history claims. Ever the scholar, she is determined to discover the truth, even if it means putting up with the arrogant, yet sexy, Bastian.

Although Bastian wants nothing to do with the pushy American, it soon becomes clear that something evil is in the house—and that something is targeting both Jane and Bastian. The two must join forces to purge the ghosts of Stormclyffe Hall once and for all—even as they try to fight a physical attraction between them that grows more and more impossible to deny.

The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall Details

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From Reader Review The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall for online ebook

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

'The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall' by Lauren Smith is the story of Sebastian 'Bastian' Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth and Jane Seyton.

Jane is an American Historical Student who besides needing to finish a paper about Stormclyffe Hall also wants to do research for her on personal reasons. Jane has been taking with the Stormclyffe Hall for about six years. The dreams she has of Stormclyffe Hall have also caused a broken engagement for her. So she goes forward with getting close to Stormclyffe for her research. But Bastian is adamant about not having her look at the families personal papers.

Bastian has come to Stormclyffe Hall a few months ago to start trying to fix the home back up after such a long time of it being left alone. Bastian has been thinking of the Hall for several years but didn't move forward with going there until now. The town's people swear the house is haunted and Bastian has seen strange things happening there. When he learns that Jane is coming he set his mind to dismissing her and keeping the family personal things off limit to her. But from the start he finds he is drawn to her but still tries to keep with his plan.

The Hall is surrounded with mystery at what caused the death of Isabelle and Richard the original owners and family members. This was such an exciting story from the start...I couldn't put it down. Loved it!

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Susan K says

Gothic story with a sweet, sexy romance

The story starts out in 1811 Weymouth, England on a stormy night. Richard, Earl of Weymouth was awoken by a crash of thunder and realized his wife, Isabelle, Countess of Weymouth was not in bed. She was still recovering from giving birth to their son, Edward. Richard checks on the baby then proceeds to look for Isabelle. He spies her at the edge of the cliff in the middle of the storm. In the next moment she is gone. He runs out of Stormclyffe Hall only to see her at the bottom of the cliff. At that moment Richard knows he has lost his only love.

Now, we are in present day Weymouth, England. Jane Seyton is an American who is starting her dissertation for her PhD in History and who want to uncover what really happened to Richard and Isabelle. She is to meet

up with the current, ninth Earl of Weymouth, Sebastian Carlisle aka Bastian at Stormclyffe Hall.

The story takes off from there. I fell in love with Bastian and Jane. Some force is pulling Jane to Stormclyffe Hall other than gaining information for her dissertation for her PhD. Bastian has also been pulled back to his ancestral home.

Bastian and Jane, although reluctant at first, realize there is more to Stormclyffe Hall than just learning what happened to Richard and Isabelle. As the story progresses, strange things start to happen to both Bastian and Jane, including some sexy intervals, which neither can control. I enjoyed watching Jane and Bastian trying to fight their attraction to one another. It's a losing battle. You could feel the attraction right from the start.

If you are looking for a good gothic, Regency/Contemporary, sexy romance, ghost included, pick up a copy of **THE SHADOWS OF STORMCLYFFE HALL**.

I was given an ARC for an honest review.

Julie says

The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall by Lauren Smith- (Dark Seductions#1) is a 2014 Entangled Select Otherworld publication. I was provided a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Jane is hard at work on her dissertation which requires she study the Weymouth family history, a family riddled with untold tragedies since the 1800's. She is so excited to travel to abroad and to Stormclyffe Hall and uncover its sordid secrets. But, it's also a calling, something about the castle that Jane connects to, dreams about even. Unfortunately, Jane is going to have to deal with the Earl of Weymouth, Bastian Carlisle, who is adamant that the pushy American stay out of his family's dark secrets.

Bastian is trying to restore Stormclyffe Hall and doesn't have time to deal with the young American. She can't stay at the castle and she can't look at the family papers. Period. Until a strange bond with Jane occurs that leaves them both very sexually aroused and unsettled at the same time.

In the 1800's Richard married an innkeeper's daughter, Isabelle, for love. In the process, he deeply offended a woman who thought she was certainly the best choice for an earl's wife. From that point on the family suffers great loss, especially for the women who marry into the family. Now it seems the family line is about to fade out since Bastian is not interested in marriage.... or so he thinks.

Gothic literature is something I actually study. I am a huge fan of the genre, so these days when someone tacks the word Gothic onto their book description, my first thought is excitement, but skepticism follows quickly after that. Why? Many labor under the impression Gothic novels are supernatural in tone and usually this means vampires. Don't get me started on that misnomer. I won't give my standard lecture here, but suffice it to say it's a sore spot with me and I feel those novels should be labeled as Paranormal or Fantasy since they really do not adhere to the standard rules of Gothic fiction.

However, in this case, the author has followed the rule of Gothic fiction by setting the story in an old storied castle, the women are the target mostly, and the hero has a dark, brooding, and moody personality which is perplexing to the female protagonist. The supernatural elements to the story do not romanticize the forces

which are reeking havoc on the lives of the characters. Instead these forces are dark and sinister, if not outright evil.

The romance is woven through time with the present day Bastian and Jane and with Richard and Isabelle from the past. These passages are some of the most powerful in the book and I could almost feel the spirits of the past forging their way through to the present, to save lives and a family heritage, and using their strong love for one another to accomplish their goals. The intimacy is deeply sensual and has a strong erotic pull, although the scenes are not all that explicit. I was thankful to see that someone out there is still capturing Gothic elements and staying true to the genre while making the story modern and appealing to the contemporary reader.

Overall this is an excellent start to the series and I am eager to read more stories like this one. 4.5 rounded to 5

Nicola says

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews.

"Evil rules the castle. Stalks the halls and torments those who dare to live inside."

I was drawn to *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall* from the moment I read the synopsis. The mystery, the history, the ghostly happenings, the noble gent and the scholar - it appealed on so many levels and not for one second did it disappoint.

When Jane Seyton arrives at Stormclyffe desperate to discover its secrets, Sebastian Carlisle, ninth Earl of Weymouth is far from impressed; the last thing he needs is a nosy American woman prying into his family history when he is trying to restore his home to its former glory. The Carlisle name may have been plagued by tragedy, however he doesn't believe it to be anything more sinister than devastating bad luck. But Jane unleashes something from deep within the castle walls and from Bastian, and it soon becomes apparent that there is more to the bloody history of his home than he could've imagined. The past and the present collide.

This book is like nothing I've ever read. Lauren Smith has written an enthralling modern paranormal romance with a historical atmosphere and twist. Her words captivate, transporting you to idyllic Southwest England and to a castle which is as eerie and haunting as it is bewitching and beautiful. Every image and scene set is so visually descriptive that the reader will live and breathe Jane and Bastian's journey. They have a chemistry which is magnetic, and both were characters I adored.

"I've had the most wicked thoughts about you. I'm betting a few of them are illegal in some countries."

The romance seduced me, the paranormal spooked me and with flashbacks to the 1800's detailing the story of Bastian's ancestor Richard and his love Isabelle, the history and happenings of Stormclyffe Hall bewitched me. It's an extraordinary start to the *Dark Seductions* series and I can't wait to see where Lauren takes it next.

Essa Pamandanan says

The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall
by Lauren Smith

SPOILER HEAVY

To defeat a dark evil, they must face his family's past...

Bastian Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth, doesn't believe in ghosts. Even though tragedy and mysterious hauntings have driven his family away from his ancestral home, Stormclyffe Hall, he is determined to restore the castle to its former glory. His plans are disrupted when a stubborn American shows up on his doorstep hoping to pry into his family's tragic history.

Jane Seyton, an American graduate student, is convinced there's more to the tragedy of Stormclyffe Hall than history claims. Ever the scholar, she is determined to discover the truth, even if it means putting up with the arrogant, yet sexy, Bastian.

Although Bastian wants nothing to do with the pushy American, it soon becomes clear that something evil is in the house—and that something is targeting both Jane and Bastian. The two must join forces to purge the ghosts of Stormclyffe Hall once and for all—even as they try to fight a physical attraction between them that grows more and more impossible to deny.

Lauren Smith's *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall* begins in Regency England, where Richard, the handsome Earl of Weymouth, wakes to find his weak bride out of bed during the rampage of a storm. Concerned, he checks on their month-old son, Edward, and tempers the little heir's sounds of distress. Not long after, he spies his much beloved bride standing in the cliffs near the castle, braving the weather, and in her apparent suicide. Heartbroken beyond repair at his Countess's, Isabella's, untimely passing, and confused by her reasons (or lack thereof), the Earl falls in a drunken stupor for months before succumbing to his death.

Thus so, we find ourselves at present day England following American grad student Jane Seyton. After years (6, to be exact) of horrible nightmares all regarding her fascination with the dark and imposing Stormclyffe Hall, estate of the Earls of Weymouth, and home to many paranormal-loving fans tales and urban legends, her academic life reaches its pinnacle when the current Earl of Weymouth allows her access to visit his family's haunted manor, and so allowing her to make a detailed and researched dissertation on her topic -- The tragic stories of some of Britain's ancient castles and manor houses with a particular emphasis on Stormclyffe Hall and its effect on modern day Weymouth England. His sole condition was for her to wait until renovations were completed. Jane, having estimated that 4 months is time enough, decides to brave the lion's den and heads on over to the feared hallowed walls of the castle.

Here she meets Sebastian Carlisle, Earl of Weymouth and playboy-academe extraordinaire. Having long since forgotten about his promise to the American scholar, Bastian is not thrilled to find himself having to deal with a nosy American chit hellbent on exposing his family's dark secrets and tragic pasts, on top of personally overseeing a renovation to a cold manor home with seemingly insurmountable problems (and

plumbing), and managing a staff that trembles at the mere sight of their own shadow.

At wits end, he comes face to face with his great great grandmama's spitting image in his drawing room. Great. Rankled and with no good humor in the near future, he girds himself to kick the striking scholar out of his home and away from his family's private business. With a heart broken from her months-long failed engagement, the firecracker of a miss is determined to see her research through and refuses to kowtow to the arrogant Earl's demands that she leave. Sparks immediately fly between the two and both are left to wonder if it was just an immediate case of lust that threatened their just-promised co-existence or if something otherworldly permeates the air.

Without giving too much away (as well as the various plot twists!), I bow down to Lauren Smith's amazing aptitude for spinning words into tales that enchant and ensnare the reader in its trap. The chemistry between our h/h is sizzling at its lowest and scorching at its best. With none of the propriety strictures of Regency England between the two, we are instead given a realistic take on two people determined to avoid each other fall prey to their strong attraction.

Jane is no milk-and-water miss and isn't afraid to go out there, guns blazing, for what she wants. It must be the American in her. Bastian, on the other hand, is every girl's dream come true. A dark and brooding hero one moment, and a charmingly teasing rake the next, he embodies the term dreamboat. A perfect blend of what we love with the arrogance of regency england's titled peers mixed with a modern day playboy, he hits every fantasy come to life. The good, the bad (and I mean baaaaaad), the beautiful, and the ugly. A real man with real concerns and burdens.

As the two explore the inexplicable pull they have for one another, they also explore the manor's history and secrets. It is no surprise that with so beautiful a setting, the two find themselves falling deeper and deeper in its trenches, as well as each others'. That is exactly what TSoSH does to the reader. It takes you to the edge of your seat, fingers locked in a death grip, and you feel yourself getting lost deeper and deeper in Smith's work.

A truly wonderful read, you can't help but be glad you picked up Lauren Smith's gothic romance. And like the winds whispering, calling your name, you follow gladly. And you will be all the better for it.

Tracey says

This is a cleverly intertwined romance of today, but also set in the past too.

Bastian comes from a weathy family his an earl, unfortunately his family has a lot of bad luck, some say his family is cursed.....

Jane is a major in History, she is drawn to a country house in Weymouth to do some extra research, not expectintg the earl to be so hot!

Almost immediately there's a pull between Jane and Bastian, a passion that they can't seem to control..... The pull between these two grows fast, but should it, is it safe? Some very strange things are happening.

Bastian has a hard outer, but inside his just a dream. Jane is American, but loves the uk history and feels very at home, she's an open book, what you see is what you get, that means you get an intelligent, bubbly, loving

woman. I thoroughly enjoyed these characters and their story, there was love, passion, danger and ghosts!

I read this book in one sitting, I had to finish it. Bastian really met his match in Jane.

5 sexy and spooky stars

i was gifted a copy of this book for an honest review

Nicole Laverdure says

My review: Spellbinding! 6 stars

OMG I just finished, a modern Gothic romance, *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall*, written by Lauren Smith, her first book in the Dark Seductions series. This novel completely captivated me! Even, if, it's a dark novel, tenderness and seduction were still very present. It's a real page turner, couldn't stop myself from reading it, I'm still mesmerized and under the spell of the dark and sensual chemistry of her characters, Sebastian and Jane. The words that this author used were so poetic that I fell under its spell. The pacing was at the right rhythm to get me in the right atmosphere, gradually pulling me in and getting me sitting at the edge of my seat. I read it in one day! A young woman, named Jane had a fascination or obsession about the Weymouth family's ancestors. So she decides to meet Sebastian Carlisle, the ninth Earl of Weymouth to write a dissertation about the strange events that occurred at his castle. As soon as she meets him, a strange feeling of déjà-vu haunts her! Sebastian is a strange man hiding dark secrets that he doesn't want to share, not, even with Jane. The man, is dark, sexy and fascinating! While researching his family, she discovers that the unexplained occurrences seemed only related to the women who had married into the Weymouth family. Where these brave souls cursed? Was there evil lurking in his castle or was her mind playing tricks on her? Her obsession grew to the point; she had to find the answers about Sebastian's dark secrets. But, was she falling for him? Was he falling for her too? Can she save him from evil? Does she really have a connection with him? If you love a modern Gothic romance with a touch of paranormal, then this book is perfect for you! I can't wait to read Ms. Smith's next book in this new series. I strongly recommend *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall* for having me discover what modern Gothic romance is really about. Even, if it's a dark novel, tenderness and seduction were still very present. I can't wait to read Ms. Smith's next book in this new series. Thank you Lauren Smith for your excellent novel!

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

In the early 1800s, Richard Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth, shocked all when he married an innkeeper's daughter, Isabelle, & a local woman, Cordelia, was insanely jealous & felt scorned, so she cursed all Carlisle males. Their pure love was so powerful, all encompassing & unbreakable, but after Isabelle gave birth to their only child, she mysteriously jumped over the cliff & Richard felt his heart ripped out his chest, drank 24/7 & then he disappeared with only a shattered left in his place.

For 6 long years, sassy southern grad student Jane Seton has lived, breathed, ate & slept all the things Stormclyffe Hall. She has study the tragic history of Stormclyffe Hall & how it affected the village of Weymouth for her PhD dissertation. Once she looked at an old photo of Stormclyffe Hall, she felt this invisible pull & became so obsessed with it, that her fiancé ditched her & her nightly terrors started. Now all

she has to do is get the Earl of Weymouth to open the Hall & family history to her!

Sebastian, Bastian, Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth, hides behind his scandalous rogue reputation for fast cars & even faster women, but he's actually lonely, super intelligent & over the last 6 years has felt compelled to bring the Hall back to it's original glory. He is also honoring his dead grandma's words, "What once was broken must be mended!" & no more so called family accidents. So that is why he is living in absolutely REMOLDING HADES & everything that could go wrong has gone wrong, so when an American historian shows up uninvited, he gets PISSED & can't wait to toss her back across the Atlantic!

As Bastian walks into the drawing room, he sees the portrait of Isabelle & when Jane turns around, it like looking at Isabelle's twin & Jane seems just as shocked at the resemblance. Bastian has no time for her nonsense & he refuses her request to stay, but Jane pleads with him & offers to help in any way she can. As they stare at 1 other, a strange blinding light fills the room & they just attack each other, like they are on a powerful aphrodisiac on steroids, as Bastian slams her against the wall, his pantie dropping kisses make her girlie parts explode, as his strokes her to ecstasy & the next thing they know they wake up on the floor. Bastian & Jane felt possessed, helpless & living out someone else's memories, so instead of a sexual harassment case, Jane is welcomed into his cursed home, but the family archives are off limits, so when Richard's mystical diary seems to mysteriously FINDS her, her lips are sealed.

Supernatural mayhem erupts, as the restless spirits seem to influence the shadows that invade the eerie Hall, otherworldly happenings go on overdrive, Jane's nightmares seem to be saying something & Richard's mysterious diary acts like a dusty Fairy Godthingie, as it continues to pop open & change its locations. Destiny gives them both a much needed beotch slap, their self-restraint crumbles, Jane wants to lick Bastian like a lollipop & Bastian keeps igniting an uncontrollable forest fire between her legs! Can they solve the curse before it's too late? Will Jane's nightmares hold the key? When will Bastian accept that Jane is his 1 & only? Can they keep their clothes on long enough to drop kick evil's a\$\$? Is their love strong enough to banish the evil in Stormclyffe Hall? Most importantly, can I kick the witch's bootie back to hell?

I have been a huge fan of Ms. Smith since I read the 1st book from her League of Rogues series, Wicked Designs. She hooked me with that hilarious historical romance, so I was scared that this gothic read wouldn't work for me, but she still made me leap before I looked with this paranormal ride. Jane was a true southern girl with her sassiness, determination & her need to take each challenge by the horns, until it submitted to her will. Jane did have an inner BAD GIRL, but the inner Jane finally got to play with sex-on-a-yummy-stick Bastian. Bastian had an inner Knight-in-shining-armor that was tarnished due to lack of use, but Jane made him want to be whipped out the Brasso (with a lot of help from Randolph) & polish it until it shined! I also love the dusty Fairy Godthingie, Richard's diary, & I mean is that a original, kooky & strange character, but also adorable on so many levels! This book also had my 1st ghostly possession pantie dropping scene, so thanks for popping that cherry for me, Ms. Smith! The utterly decadent, hard up against many walls & passions erupting like a geyser made my tablet spark, sizzle & I am so glad I restocked my FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, before I cracked open this romance of NAUGHTINESS! Bastian & Jane were COMPELLED to go to Stormclyffe Hall & didn't know why, but they had to go there so they could freely breathe! Ms. Smith also made me insanely obsessed, while I read this tale & I couldn't put it down, so no potty or snack breaks! Ms. Smith can weave a spooky tale filled with things that go bumping down the castle halls, creepy shadows so real (my nightlight was on, but rat me out) that send chills down my spine, dragged me (out from under my blanket) into the ghostly quest! Ms. Smith totally earns my top score of 5 fingers up & 10 toes for a paranormal ride filled with intrigue mysteries, some evil a\$\$ kicking, many orgasmic moans galore & I so WANT more of these Dark Seduction books, ASAP!

This ARC given for my honest review.

Lesia Chambliss says

This is an amazing love story that expands time. Yes, most of the story takes place in this century, but it really does NOT feel like it. It is about romance, timeless love, tragedy, mystery, and yes a ghost or two! Take it from a die-hard historical romance reader and just try this book out. I am SO glad that I did! I haven't been this absorbed in a book from beginning to end as I was with this book. The book begins in 1811 England, and introduces you to the history of Stormclyffe Hall and the tragedy that begins it all, with Richard, the fifth Earl of Weymouth and his Countess Isabelle, then we go to current day England, with the ninth Earl of Weymouth, Sebastian "Bastian" Carlisle. For more than 200 yrs bad luck and tragedy have struck Stormclyffe Hall and those who call it home. The villagers of Weymouth call it haunted and want nothing to do with it or its Earl, but Bastian just wants to call it home, and has set out to fully restore Stormclyffe. An American Phd. student at Cambridge, Jane Seyton is writing a paper about Stormclyffe Hall and hopes to uncover all its secrets, that is, if the current Earl will let her. Bastian decides to let her into his library and those books it holds, if it will keep her out of his hair, and out of the way of the workmen. However, he makes it clear that any and all private documents are off limits to her. Well, soon enough things begin to occur at the Hall that defy explanation. Jane herself sees the mysterious lady in white that villagers have claimed to have seen for many years now, and even Bastian himself can't claim that there are not strange things happening. Soon he finds himself spending more time with her and the more time they spend together the more strange things happen. It's not so much seeing things as it is feeling and hearing things. It's as if Richard and Isabelle are speaking to them, and maybe guiding them to find the answers they seek, but danger seems to be around every corner. I just can't say more. Honestly, I don't want to give anything away, I want you to read this story and experience it for yourself! Thank you Lauren Smith for a wonderful not-historical romance.....(I am laughing at myself. Never say never!)

Nancy says

Jayne Seyton, in her quest to become Doctor Seyton, PhD History/Cambridge, embarked on a sojourn to Weymouth England. She will do her dissertation on the myths, or was it curse, surrounding Stormclyffe Hall, family home of the Earl of Weymouth. She was introduced to this particular subject matter when, in the stax at Cambridge, a book fell and opened to a picture of the castle. Further research piqued her interest.

In 1811 the Earl of Weymouth, Richard Carlisle, fell in love and married Isabelle Braxton, the local inkeepers daughter. This was viewed as beneath his station. They had one son, Edward. Shortly thereafter Isabelle died under strange circumstances as did Richard, and a family friend Cordelia Hawthorne, a couple of months later. Since then the wives of the Earl of Weymouth have died under similar questionable circumstances.

Upon intruding on the restoration of the castle, she meets the outstandingly handsome, charming and uber-rich playboy Earl Sebastian Carlisle. He was not open to her coming to do research, hoping to get access to family documents, but a couple of chance encounters convinced him she...no they...are in danger. The attraction between Jane and Bastan was immediate and passionate, as were his efforts to quell in interloper. Instead they fell into one another's arms and made love on their first meeting. It was as if they were inhabited by other beings. Bastian was resistant to the possibility ghosts were involved, let alone witchcraft. The repeated appearance of Richard's journal, opening to specific pages the provided clues to free the castle of

the curse. But their journey doesn't stop there because they also had to rid the castle of the spirit that made the curse.

Initially, I thought I had the next chapter figured out but the twists and turns surprised me. Richard's journal added the intrigue. The relationship between Jand and Sebastian guided each to answers about their families and the constant danger developed their guidance to save their lives and the memory of their ancestors. The constant danger and Hane's willfulness to find the answers kept me turning the pages. I read it in two days.

*NOTE: I was sent this manuscript by an outside source to review only. I received no favours or compensation. The review is my true opinion.

Nancy Qualls

Sara Miller says

Like the mist off of the sea this book is a breath of fresh air, I love the blending of the regency with the paranormal, this one was deliciously intense, not only with the romantic story but the creepiness factor. Without giving away too much because the finding out the plot twists is half the thrill ride in this book! You will root for the characters, feel like you are in the room with them, the writing is very descriptive so you can almost feel the wind on the cliffs or see the lights when a spirit is close. I thought the pairing of the 2 main characters was very intriguing, I kept picturing Bastian as Daniel Craig, (could be the Aston Martin) and Jane as Olivia Wilde if that helps anyone's mental picture. Just two magnetic people, you know there is gonna be some steamy, romantic moments between these 2 from the get go, but the reader never feels like the rest of the book falls away just to get to those moments which is where it is a breath of fresh air from other romance novels. I loved it!

Claire Robinson says

3.5 - **"What once was broken must be mended."** Stars.

Entangled Publishing seems to have hit a rich and diverse seam of talent lately with regards to their current PNR releases. The last couple of months have been a veritable buffet of tempting treats for the discerning reader!

The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall is no exception, and what makes it even more appealing to me is that it is the start of a new series (Dark Seductions) as well. Lauren Smith is a new author to me, but after finishing this book I would happily pick up anything else she has written without any worry about its contents or the quality contained therein.

"Any woman who dares to love a man of Carlisle blood has met a bloody end."

I loved this story, in the modern day you have Bastian Carlisle, current Earl of Weymouth, and Jane Seyton, the American Graduate Student who is trying to access his private family archive in order to finish off her

dissertation. Bastian is disinclined to allow Jane the access she requires and even more reluctant to let her spend time at Stormclyffe Hall, in view of the rumors circulating about everything that may or may not have gone on there in the past and currently.

It becomes clear very quickly that the Hall itself and the spirits and secrets contained in its walls and grounds have very different ideas for Bastian and Jane.

"I've lived my life on bad ideas, and it hasn't failed me yet."

There is a concurrent running love story and familial mystery running through Bastian and Jane's tale, and we are transported back to the early eighteen hundreds regularly, to follow the coming together and falling in love of the previous Earl; Richard Carlisle and his Isabelle, their story is one of death, witch-craft and tragedy, and it had this reader sniffing into a tissue a couple of times as well. I loved how the past and the present comingled to produce this unique and absorbing book. I haven't read anything quite like it before.

"Surrender to me, love. Ease this ache of mine, my broken heart."

If you are looking for a love story, with a little intrigue, a lot of emotion, and you aren't afraid of the dark, things that go bump in the night and some general hocus pocus. Then I urge you to give *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall* a try.

"Brave little bookworm."

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Aimee says

Wow! It's been a while since I read an awesome Gothic romance like this! A family curse, a haunted man, a broken woman, ghosts . . . or are they? Fantastic. I sat on the edge, waiting and watching. This isn't just a modern day love story but one that spans centuries--one that breeds from tragedy. Ugh! Slay my heart! I seriously get goosebumps thinking about it.

Bastian, makes for one super hot and dominant hero. He is an Earl after all. I loved him one minute and wanted to throttle him the next, but don't get me wrong I fell for him every second. Sometimes, he even took me by surprise and well *fans myself* . . . you have to read it for yourself. ;) I loved Jane too. She was real with natural flaws. However, she was still determined, intelligent, and strong willed. But, the way they found out the secrets to Stormclyffe . . . well, let's just say it's quite eerie and brutally steamy at the same time. ;) That's my Bastian. :)

I'm so excited that this will be a series. The incredible writing combined with the beautiful prose was very moving. It was almost like a PNR and Historical wrapped up in one package. Awesome! Can't wait to read the next.

JoRead says

This story truly has so much to grab your attention and keep you turning the pages. It has your usual elements of your typical romance story but with enough twists and turns to keep you guessing what's going to happen next. For a while I wondered how the story would find a happy ending or if there was going to be a happy ending at all.

We have our heroine Jane Seyton, an American graduate student tormented by nightmares of a place in ruins that seems to call her name and of a woman in white seeking her help. She knows she has to find out more about the place but when trying to do so her love life takes a turn for the worst and she feels she may not be able to trust her heart to another for a long while.

Then we have our hero, Bastian Carlisle, the Earl of Weymouth and the owner of Stormclyffe Hall, trying to reestablish the glory of the place and peace to his family while battling rumors of a curse and haunting spirits. He has not been able give his heart to anyone and feels there is no need to.

The chemistry of this couple is amazing from start to finish. There is no rush in their story. There is insta-attraction obviously, but there is a clear explanation as to why. Their connection goes more than just the physical, it's emotional, intellectual, and good old I-got-punched-in-the-face-for-you, and put it all together made it more than great. It was perfect

Kat Valentine says

What a fabulous gothic romance!!! Gothic romances are some of my fave romances and I love them so much!!! Lauren Smith's *The Shadows of Stormclyffe Hall* is a sensual odyssey with awesome characters and just the right amount of mystery and ghostly lovers kept apart by a witch's curse that has brought nothing but tragedy to all the males of stormclyffe, but when Jane Seyton comes to stormclyffe to finish her dissertation and meets Bastian the earl of Weymouth it sets off a chain of events and a hunger for each other that is building into a glorious and passionate, soul burning love that even time and a curse could not destroy!!! I love a good paranormal romance and Lauren Smith delivered! I have not read a book by this author that wasn't amazing!!! She's a awesome storyteller and I hope theirs more gothic romances to come!??
