



## Devil's Desire

*Laurie McBain*

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**Devil's Desire** Laurie McBain

**They called him the devil...**

With his seductive golden eyes and sin-black hair, it's no wonder Lord Alex Trevegne has earned himself the sinister title-not to mention his reputation as one of the most notorious rakes in England.

**And she's the only one who can conquer him...**

When fate throws Alex and Elysia into a scandalous situation, Alex suddenly finds it surprisingly difficult to tear himself away from her.

As an unexpected passion blossoms between them, Elysia begins to wonder if after a lifetime of heartache she's finally found heaven in the arms of the devil.

**What readers say about *Devil's Desire*:**

"One of my all-time favorite romances."

"I just love this book! Each scene keeps you turning the pages."

"What a pleasure to read an author I know will never disappoint me!"

**Praise for *Laurie McBain*:**

"McBain's skill at shaping characters and propelling the plot distinguishes her."-*Publishers Weekly*

"Well-crafted and wonderfully romantic. Readers are rewarded with teeming atmosphere."-*Romantic Times*

"Vivid sense of description, colorful characters... I found myself happily lost in the magnificence of the storytelling."-*Los Angeles Herald Examiner*

## Devil's Desire Details

Date : Published November 1st 2010 by Sourcebooks Casablanca (first published 1975)

ISBN :

Author : Laurie McBain

Format : Kindle Edition 296 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency

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## From Reader Review Devil's Desire for online ebook

### UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

What I most loved about this story is the mystery of the war-time smugglers. Alex and Elysia are wonderful, but the drama and angst and misunderstands due to lack of communication had me wanting to tear my hair out! LOL!

Ah, well. Still all in all a wonderful read!

Blurb....

They called him the devil...

With his seductive golden eyes and sin-black hair, it's no wonder Lord Alex Trevegne has earned himself the sinister title-not to mention his reputation as one of the most notorious rakes in England.

And she's the only one who can conquer him...

When fate throws Alex and Elysia into a scandalous situation, Alex suddenly finds it surprisingly difficult to tear himself away from her.

As an unexpected passion blossoms between them, Elysia begins to wonder if after a lifetime of heartache she's finally found heaven in the arms of the devil.

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### Gaby says

In Devil's Desire Laurie McBain is not afraid to have her romantic lead go through a tortuous path of trials and tribulations.

It opens with Elysia after she'd been orphaned and been taken advantage of by an aunt that she'd had no previous contact with. As the nonstop abuse is destroying her spirit, Elysia takes matters into her own hands and runs away. Her first attempt at freedom shows how unprepared she is for the world. But she's smart, beautiful and in the right place at the right time - and we all know how that last one is key. Alex, the man she meets during her first adventure has the worst reputation but he takes her under his wing, offers her protection.

They're both surprised at how quickly they bond. Although there are obstacles to their happy ever after, such as jealous former mistresses, the usual hurt feelings and misunderstandings, Devil's Desire is a fun romantic escape with its likable characters, plot twists and satisfying ending. I think it's a keeper.

ISBN-10: 1402242417 - Paperback \$7.99

Publisher: Sourcebooks Casablanca; Reprint edition (November 1, 2010), 312 pages.

Review copy provided by the publisher.

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### Noelle says

This is the first book by Laurie McBain that I have read. I had thought that this would be a great bodice ripper but I wouldn't category it as such, it's more of an old school romance. The writing was really good and the story flowed nicely.

Elysia (h) had lived the life of a much loved daughter until her parents were killed in a carriage accident. She then went to live with an aunt who hated her and treated her as a maid. The day she found out that the aunt was going to force her to marry an old man, she ran away....and ran straight into trouble.

Lord Alex (H) had to get away from London and all of the things he hated about it and spend sometime in his country estate. He had to spend the night at an Inn on the way and ran into one of his enemy's. He did realize how much this person hated him until he woke up from a drugged sleep with a naked innocent woman in his bed....who also appeared drugged.

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### Bü?ra Bal says

Ba?lar? cidden s?k?c?,zaten k?zla-üvey teyzesi midir nedir onunla aras?ndaki ili?ki bildi?in kül kedisi masal?.ama nedensizce uzat?lm??,insan eee hadi ne zaman ba?l?yor falan diye dü?ünüyor.Tam esas çocuk ç?k?yor hareketlenir ortal?k diyoruz,çocu?un da babas?n?n arkada??yla bir muhabbet etti?i sahne var ki içim bay?ld? ve neden bahsettimlerine dair en ufak bir fikrim bile yok.Bo?una yaz?lm?? en az 60 sayfas? var yani yazar?n,ilerleyince pek be?enece?imi sanm?yorum ama neyse.

Evet kitap bitti.yazarda judith havas? sezdim ben,tabi yan?na bile yakla?amaz ama olaylar aras?ndaki benzerlik bu sefer a??r? benzerdi.Gerçi hangi hist di?erine benzemiyor ki ?  
?lk ba?larda tutuktu ama sonradan aç?ld?.K?z?n hala süzme salak oldu?unu dü?ünüyorum,s?rf bu k?zlara inat bir tane zehir gibi k?z yazacam görecek bu yazarlar.Bundan sonra okunacak yazarlar listemde,kitab? ç?k?nca sevinçten kafay? yemem ama aa laruie kitap yazm?? bir bakay?m vs derim.

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### April says

DEVIL'S DESIRE by Laurie McBain is an exciting, thrill ride of historical romance/suspense set in Regency England. It is a reissued work from 1975. It is well written with details, depth, fast paced, twists, turns and thrill ride to be sure. It has romance, deceit, betrayal, passion, spies, smugglers, defiance, stubborn-willful woman, a determined, arrogant man, adventure, intertwined story throughout, colorful characters, and love of country. The hero, Alex, is arrogant, seductive, a rake, considered the Devil himself, lucky at everything he does and about to meet his true love. The heroine, Elysia, is beautiful, penniless, strong willed, independent, hair red gold, and about to meet Alex, the Devil himself and her true love. Alex is bewitched by Elysia. They are thrown together a scandal together. Alex determined to marry her for he has ever meet anyone so bewitching. They marry, out necessary for Elysia, but sparks fly, wits matched. What Alex believes is betrayal does and say hurtful things to Elysia, who has fallen in love with him. Things are amidst, as a smuggler ring is close, Elysia's brother who she believes is dead is not. He is actually undercover to capture a French spy. Alex knowing little of Elysia's past, feels betrayed, distance himself from her. Elysia, believes Alex is in love with someone while Alex believes she has a lover. This is a wonderful, compelling story of

how to learn to trust, love and find true happiness. This is the first of this author's books I have read, and I will be looking forward to her next. I would highly recommend this book especially if you enjoy a happy ending, adventure, suspense and finding yourself. You will laugh, cry and set on the edge of your seat hoping everything will work out for this wonderfully matched couple. This book was received for review from the publisher and details can be found at Sourcebooks and My Book Addiction and More.

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## **Sarah Mac says**

Well, this was...painful.

I'm well aware that *Devil's Desire* is the great-grandmother of many historical romances today, so I'm willing to let the predictable plot & cheeseball suspense slide. But the flat characters & terrible writing are inexcusable. This author is labeled one of HR's *grande dames*, yet I saw nothing to earn that title aside from the mid-1970s publishing date. The bulk is a mash of clunky infodumps, adverbial orgies, & sloppy writing with a wallpaper-thin Regency backdrop. Backstories are repeated ad nauseam -- except when key points are never explained at all, or other characters plop in with no prior histories whatsoever. Minor personages are abruptly dropped when no longer needed. Everyone stands around yammering for 95% of the book before some crazy frothing-at-the-mouth villain takes over in a scene straight out of *Scooby Doo*. The hero was a paltry rake who's one step away from stompy-ass Harlequin Presents idiocy, & the heroine was a standard "spunky" Regency miss who feels oppressed by "normal" feminine activities but loves to read & ride horses (still the favored template in genre HR).

Blech.

And so, I present...

### **DEVIL'S DESIRE; or, MY MISUNDERSTANDING IS BIGGER THAN YOURS.**

*-a parody in screenplay-*

(Includes spoilers & swearing, of course. :P)

ELYSIA: Boohoo, woe is me. I'm the heroine. I have flaming red hair & shining green eyes. I used to have a mother, a father, a brother named Ian, & a white horse named Ariel. I raised Ariel since he was born & he let nobody ride him but me.

EVIL AUNT AGATHA: Muahahaha!

ELYSIA: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

EVIL AUNT AGATHA: I'm your evil aunt, & I loathe you with the unreasonable passion of a thousand fiery suns!

ELYSIA: But I don't understand why.

EVIL AUNT AGATHA: Blah, blah, blah. Here's a long-winded backstory about how I'm a psycho bitch who holds grudges for thirty years. And by the way, I've arranged a marriage for you.

ELYSIA: Oh noes!

EVIL AUNT AGATHA: Yes, he's a lecherous fat guy with three shrewish daughters. Enjoy yourself.

LECHEROUS FAT GUY: Muahahaha! You haz boobies.

ELYSIA: I shall run away so none of these people can find me again.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Is it too early to be gripped by a nebulous sense of doom? Because this prose is terrible.

(Meanwhile, somewhere else...)

ALEX: I'm the hero. I have hawk-like features & fierce golden eyes. I'm unobservant as hell. I'm a devil. I hate women.

PETER: Damn, bro. You're awful harsh about stuff. And apparently you've killed people with pistols.

ALEX: You forgot how much I hate women.

PETER: Yeah, what's up with that?

ALEX: I dunno. It's a big freakin' mystery that I might not bother to explain, like, ever. But it makes women crave my peen, so there you go.

EVIL GUY NAMED JASON: Muahahaha!

ALEX: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

EVIL GUY NAMED JASON: My name is Jason, Lord WhoGivesaFuck. I'm planning to sabotage your social standing because you thwarted my marriage to some chick who was your ward for reasons that nobody bothered to explain.

ALEX: Huh? Oh, that's right...she's not in this book. What's her name again?

EVIL GUY NAMED JASON: Die, damn you! Or at least be ostracized from Almack's. I loathe you with the unreasonable passion of a thousand fiery suns!

ALEX: Of course you do, moron. Thanks for dropping this pretty girl in my bed.

ELYSIA: Oh noes! Someone drugged my rum toddy.

ALEX: Do I frighten you?

ELYSIA: Yes.

ALEX: Good, because I hate women. Let's get married. It will solve a bunch of nonsensical plot issues.

ELYSIA: You're a devil! And I wanted true love. Boohoo, woe is me.

ALEX: True love is for pussies.

ELYSIA: Well, I suppose marrying you is better than having to work for a living.

ALEX: Put your fugly dress back on. We're hittin' up the parsonage.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Woah, spare my sensibilities & slow this wacky clown car! All these infodumps are giving me motion sickness.

(A couple weeks later...)

ELYSIA: I think I'll take a horseback ride. Alone. Through unfamiliar lands. Just like Alex told me not to do, because reasons.

WISE OLD STABLEMASTER: Hey, you're that girl I used to know. Go figure.

ELYSIA: I'm married to Alex now. Woe is me.

WISE OLD STABLEMASTER: Here, this will cheer you up.

ELYSIA: Why, it's Ariel! This is the horse I raised since he was born & who won't let anyone ride him but me!

ALEX: I'm not excited that this pleases you. Because I hate women.

ELYSIA: And I'm not excited that you're not pleased to have pleased me. Because you're a devil.

ALEX: Well, whatever. Now that you're happy here, my hawk-like features & intense golden eyes demand that you put out.

ELYSIA: You're a devil!

ALEX: Yeah, but you like me kissing your boobies.

ELYSIA: This might be true love.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Huh?? Two pages ago you hated the guy!

(The next chapter...)

ELYSIA: Men keep their wives chained by social requirements & marriage because they fear us being their intellectual equals.

ALEX: Whatever. I hate women.

ELYSIA: You're a devil!

ALEX: Let's go enjoy more antagonistic sex.

ELYSIA: Woot!

PETER: Whassup, everyone?

ELYSIA: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

PETER: I'm Alex's brother. I'm not a devil. And I killed that jerkoff Evil Jason in a duel nobody saw but me & my buddy Charles.

EVIL GUY NAMED JASON: Muahaha! I died cursing your face, Alex.

ALEX: U dead, moron. Shut up now.

PETER: You're a devil.

ELYSIA: But I like kissing him anyway.

CHARLES: Hey, guys!

ALEX: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

CHARLES: Nothing, really. But I'm more interesting than everyone else because I'm the foppish comic relief.

ALEX: Nice to meet you. Stay for dinner. I hate women.

ELYSIA: Have you met my white horse? His name is Ariel & I raised him since he was born, so now he won't let anyone ride him but me. I also had a brother named Ian, but he's dead. Woe is me.

LOUISA: I inexplicably crave your friendship because it serves future plot devices. Also, I'm in love with some mystery man that roams around the moors. He might be a sailor & thus totally unsuitable for my station.

ELYSIA: Yay, I has a bestie!

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Headdesk. Headdesk. Headdesk.

(A few minutes afterward...)

EVIL EX MARIANA: Muahahaha! I've arrived to ruin your tenuous hold on marital contentment.

ELYSIA: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

EVIL EX MARIANA: I want Alex. And his money. And his title. And his man-bits. I loathe you with the unreasonable passion of a thousand fiery suns!

ALEX: Go rot in a hole, you stupid bitch.

EVIL EX MARIANA: You're a devil!

ALEX: I hate women. I want to bone my wife.

EVIL EX MARIANA: Alex would rather bone me, you know.

ELYSIA: For some reason I trust that your words are totally accurate. Boohoo, woe is me! But if I continue to pretend that I hate this man, perhaps he will reward me with everlasting true love. I've reached this important life-changing decision based solely on a single conversation with someone who hates me, so it's vitally important that I not speak to my husband & clarify the truth.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Oh, dear god. Not the Big Mis.

(Several chapters later...)

ALEX: I think I'll hang out with my Evil Ex Mariana, because reasons. But don't worry. I'm still faithful to my wife, even though I hate women.

ELYSIA: You're a devil! ...Oops, I've been shot.

RANDOM GUY: Omg, Elysia! You're bleeding! Someone has tried to kill you!

ELYSIA: Ian?! Wtf are you doing here??

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: Yes! 'Tis I, your brother who was long dead!...Except not really.

ELYSIA: Look! I also found Ariel, the horse that I raised since his birth & who won't let anyone ride him but me.

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: Cool beans. So guess what? I'm a spy. And I'm in love with Louisa, but I told her my name was David. It's part of my super-secret spy routine to defeat smugglers. Just remember, on no account can you speak of any of this to anyone. My presence must remain a secret, especially from Alex. Because, y'know. Spy stuff.

ELYSIA: Yes, my husband is a devil.

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: I hear he also hates women.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: ...These people need to die in a fire.

(A few days after...)

ALEX: You are boning this mystery man whose name is Ian! I've deduced this because you refuse to tell me anything about him, therefore you're obviously a faithless hellspawn whore!

ELYSIA: I'm not a hellspawn whore, thankyouverymuch. But you're a devil.

ALEX: I hate women. And I hate you too. We'll never have hatesex again, dammit!

PETER: Da fuck is wrong with you morons?

ELYSIA: Woe is me! Mariana was totally right. Alex hates me. I am *like a bud that had begun to open & flower, half-opened by the first warming rays from the sun & nourishing drop of moisture from the rain, but it would now wither & die from neglect.*\*\* [\*\*direct quote]

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: Muahahaha! I loathe you with the unreasonable passion of a thousand fiery suns!

ELYSIA: Who are you & what is your function in this story?

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: I'm some resentful nobody that hates you because reasons. I've created the most dumbfuck Cunning Plan that ever existed & set an obvious trap to cause you harm.

ELYSIA: Duuuuuur...

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: Look, your precious husband is injured!

ELYSIA: Where?!

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: I lied. Now I've shoved you down some stairs in a secret passage.

ELYSIA: Woe is me!

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Words cannot convey how much I hate y'all.

(And finally the climax arrives...)

LOUISA: Look, it's Ariel, the horse that Elysia raised since he was born & who won't let anyone ride him but her. My dear friend is in danger! Why are my parents so evil?!

ARIEL: I'll let you ride me, because whatever. I'm just trying to bring this soggy drama to an end.

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Thank god *somebody* is on my side.

SMUGGLERS: Woohoo, gunfight!

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: Taste my pain, assholes!

ALEX: I hate women! Where's my wife, dammit?!

LOUISA'S EVIL FATHER: I died. Not that anyone cares, since I only had, like, four lines.

ELYSIA: Gosh, I hope Louisa's mother is okay.

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: I'm the *attacker*, you moron! How is it you're not dead yet? You are my nemesis that refuses to die! Burn in hell, you beauteous bitchwhore! That's for stealing Alex & ruining our plans for increased social standing by browbeating Lousia into a marriage she'd hate!

ELYSIA: Woe is me.

LOUISA'S EVIL MOTHER: STFU & listen to an epic infodump about how I'm an criminal mastermind. Look how insanely evil & awesome I am! See, I'm literally frothing at the mouth. Fear me! ...Oops, I fell on some pointy rocks.

SMUGGLERS: We're all dead, too. Does anybody care? Nah.

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: Louisa! I love you. I'm sorry I had to lie about the spy stuff. I'm actually a respectable lieutenant in the British navy.

LOUISA: I love you, David! Or Ian. Whatever your name is.

ELYSIA: Yay, now we'll be in-laws!

ALEX: How dare this man hug another woman when he's boning you! Elysia is mine! Mine! All for me! Nobody else will ever touch her, you wife-stealing bastard! My toys are my own! Waaaaah!

RANDOM GUY WHO IS IAN: For fuck's sake, dumbass. She's my sister.

ALEX: ...Oh. I feel stupid. Maybe I should've, y'know, asked some logical questions instead of charging around like a wanky dunderhead.

ELYSIA: That's just how you are, darling. You're a devil.

ALEX: But I love you.

ELYSIA: D'aww! You're so cute. ^\_\_^

SARAH WHO IS READING THIS: Can't breathe...book...smothering...will...to live...

THE END.

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### Laura says

Devil's Desire was a wildly popular romance novel that was first published in 1975. It was author Laurie McBain's first novel, and she continued on to have a very successful career as a romance novelist in the 1970's and 80's. Sadly Devil's Desire had gone out of print, but Sourcebooks has published a new edition of this novel this month.

Elysia Demarice is the beautiful daughter of aristocratic parents that has fallen on hard times since her parents' untimely death in Regency England. When Elysia's evil Step-Aunt tries to force her to marry an odious man, she runs away to London. On her way, she crosses the path of Lord Alex Trevegne. Known as "the Devil," Alex has a temper and is a known seducer of women. Elysia is not impressed by Alex, and he finds himself attracted by the only woman who dares to talk back to him. When scandal forces them together, will Elysia and Alex be able to find true love and happiness?

I liked the Cinderella aspect of this story and loved heroine Elysia. She has grit and beauty. Elysia starts the book with nothing but the rags on her back, but is able to rise above it all to find love.

My only problem with this novel is the hero, Alex. Alex is a vintage 1970's hero that takes what he wants and is not a very nice guy. He is handsome, but he spends his time misunderstanding Elysia and being cruel to her all in the name of love. I just wanted to yell at Alex, "Just talk to her you idiot!"

Devil's Desire had romance, adventure, a great heroine, and a fantastic secondary romance story (Louisa and Ian). The only drawback for me was that I didn't really like Alex and I also thought the ending was a bit abrupt.

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### **Tracy T. says**

An oldie but goodie! Very good audible narration.

I really enjoyed listening to this story. I do believe I read this book back in the 1970's. But wanted to give the audible a try. I liked the characters, and character development. I did think that Alex the hero of the story was a bit too hard and cold, but still likable. Elysia, the heroine, was a strong for the most part, she had her stupid moments though.

The story had a little mystery, deceit, smuggling, and romance.

There was not much dialogue in this book and would have liked more, but the story was good.

Historical romance stories and writing sure has changed since the 1970's. There was sex in the book, not graphic in anyway but it was there.

For a book written almost 40 years ago it was enjoyable and entertaining.

As for the narration, she did a great job. The men sounded like men, and everyone had their own distinct voice. Marian Hussey is very pleasant and relaxing to listen too.

I got this book on my KU for free and paid 3.49 for the audible. So yes it was worth the money for sure.

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### **Giselle Bradley says**

DNF'd 10% in. This book was just really boring to me and I didn't enjoy the writing or characters at all.

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### **Jessica B says**

This was either a free or very cheap read on the Kindle. While it wasn't the best story I have ever read and it was a little slow to get going it was still entertaining. The first half of the book was for around 2 stars and the second half was probably closer to 4 stars. So I met in the middle with 3 stars.

Elysia had a good family and a good home and a really good life until her parents die and her brother is missing. Her evil aunt takes her home and treats her horribly making her clean and sleep in the freezing attic room. When her aunt tries to force her to marry Elysia decides she will run away.

Alex is an arrogant rich marquis. When he is caught in a bad situation with Elysia he decides he will marry her but man their relationship is anything but good.

The side story of the smuggling and how the author intertwined at the end was probably the most entertaining bits of the story. Loved Ian and Louisa!

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## Karla says

Elysia Demarice is a poor wee orphan who is abused by her evil step-aunt one too many times, so she grabs a bag and runs off to London. A chance stop at a roadside inn puts her in the path of a nasty little lord who has a grudge against a devil rake by the name of Alex Trevegne, also at the inn. Elysia and Alex are manipulated into a compromising situation and he decides to marry her after all because she looks like a good breeder. Elysia gets dragged off to his estate where she hates her husband at first, but eventually sees that there's a caring (albeit possessive) heart deep down inside. A moment of danger provides love epiphanies for all.

I really wanted to like this book, and for the most part I did. Elysia was a character who garnered my sympathy early on and held onto it. Of course she jumps to some weird conclusions about stuff and decides to not be vulnerable to her husband, which creates The Big Misunderstanding for far too long. (Though it wasn't as protracted and obnoxious as McNaught's habit, however. Thank God for that.) So she has the usual bouts of idiocy one can expect from a heroine, matched by the spazzchismo of her dear hubby.

Alex was pretty underdeveloped, IMO. There's alpha and then there's cardboard-thin callous asshole. He was the latter. I didn't see his appeal much at all, and I can love me some real troglydyte alphas. There wasn't much to him beyond attitude in fancy clothes.

Overall, the entire book felt like there should have been more. More to the characters, more to the action, more to the atmosphere. There was some, and I daresay enough, but throughout the entire book I felt like the writing hadn't even come up to the line, let alone crossed it. I read it easily and with pleasure, but I wasn't nearly absorbed by it. I wanted the characters to move somewhere, sail a sea or get thrown into another locale. Be more bodice-rippery. *Something*.

What really annoyed me about the book was the final climax in the smuggler's cave. I won't say more, but if you've read *Ashes in the Wind* by Kathleen Woodiwiss, suffice to say that the scene is pretty much the same with an insane, frothing villain and sudden deaths. I really, *really* hated *AitW* for many reasons, but paramount was the OTT mwahahaha-ness of that climax with the smugglers' cave and the villainess being revealed. Once I got to the part in *Devil's Desire*, all that bad juju swarmed on me and I was tempted to throw the book across the room.

However, my pique has backed off a bit because after looking up copyright dates, I see that McBain wrote it first and KEW appears to have copycatted it and wrote the same lame thing in far, *far* more pages. There were many similarities: an underground smugglers' cave that is reached by a secret passage on the estate grounds, a villain who plots murder to reclaim what they believe is rightfully theirs, an insane rant by the villain laying out what their DIVINELY EBIL plan is. My estimation of Woodiwiss could be better, but seeing how she ripped off a very bad ending dumped her a bit lower. Even if the similarities weren't intentional, both endings read like the authors threw a bunch of crap into the blender at the very end and hit the "RESOLVE OR BUST" button. Unfortunately the cover flew off and now plot and coherence is all over the walls.

I still give it three stars because the majority of the book was pretty good and succinct, but it is obvious that it was a first novel. There were swathes of expository and ranty dialogue throughout, and the first chapter or

so was nothing but backstory. A positive is that the secondary romance wasn't extraneous to the plot. That's a rare thing. All in all, it was a rocky start, but I eventually got into it and was pleased with this rather good little sundae -- until the final bit, which was like someone dumped "chocolate sauce" from a chili-eating contest Port-o-Potty all over it.

Looking forward to more McBains, though I might not sound like it.

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### ????nı?ı says

Bi ?eyler eksiki beni içine çekemedi kitap bitsin diye sayfalar? h?zl? h?zl? çevirdim diyebilirim.

K?z?m?z?n anne babas? fayton kazas?nda ölüyor abiside donanmadayken gemisi bat?yor ölüyor(en az?ndan öldü san?l?yor) bunun üzerine üvey teyzesi k?z? al?yor anne babas?na garezi varm?? geçmi?ten k?za kötü davranış?yor istemedi?i biriyle evlendirecekken k?z kaç?yor marki ile kar??la??yor sonra markiye garezi olan birini oyunu sonucu markiyle evleniyor falan ilk yar?s? cidden çok s?kt? beni ikinci yar? daha iyiydi ama ordada tam yakalamam??t? frans?zlar? napolyon kaçakç?l?k falan soktu i?in içine yazar tamam da ben birde üvey teyze olay?n?n devam etmesini bekliyordum ordada bi?ey olmad? ee o olay devam etmeyecekse o kadar ba?ta sayfalarca ?ey yazmana ne gerek vard?

Neyse kötü de?il okunur bir kitap ama aman aman bi?ey beklemeyin bence..

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### Eastofoz says

Well this book wasn't for me and for *soooo* many reasons. For the record, I really, really, *really* tried to like it but it was a no go. Now I know it's a bodice ripper from the 70s and there was a certain "style" to those romances that doesn't really exist in today's romance novel, but this one I thought was not only poorly written, it had the most unlovable and irredeemable historical romance hero imaginable (ugh, eesh and \*\*shudder shudder\*\*).

It has a very Gothic feel to it –creepy castles/manors/houses on rocky crags, lots of rain and foreboding weather etc etc, but there is an endless amount of beyond irritating narration, we're talking five pages straight of droning narration, enough to kill even the very patient reader. Reminded me of Lolah Burford's painful novel *Alyx* where there was barely a hint of dialog what for all the telling and not showing as the saying seems to go. The h/h don't even meet until around page 113 which is insane. I'm all for building tension but if you don't give the reader even a little morsel they'll get fed up fast –at least I do.

The hero is an ass. He's totally into the "you are my chattel" thing and "you will obey me". You can have a hero like that but the heroine has to be his foil, well no such thing existed here. He actually hurts the heroine physically, he's not beating her or anything but he flies off the handle for no real reason, apart from the fact that he's a boor and Class A jerk, he likes to shake her hard or squeeze her arms or waist until it hurts. I don't know but I can't like a guy like that. I love the rake and it's impressive really how an author can make a true s.o.b into a great guy underneath it all but this guy needed a smack-down :-o He even has a "dalliance" with an ex-lover knowing that the heroine is hiding in the room –like, ew! That's not forgivable even if you are trying to get revenge. The guy is so arrogant and full of himself that it's a wonder that anyone can stand to be

in the same breathing space as him –and that’s man or woman. There were the odd moments when you thought he may be turning over a new leaf but then BAM! He goes nutso! Freakin’ out like a crackhead! The hero reminded me of Anne Stuart’s hero James Killoran from *To Love a Dark Lord*, no doubt written around the same time period.

As for the heroine, the author tried to have her hold her own but I guess she was a victim of her times and just “forgave” and “understood” –blech! She should’ve shot the bastard when she had the chance if you ask me :/-

There are also way too many sub-stories, (think Patricia Gaffney’s *Lily* --everything and the kitchen sink). The dead guy that comes back to life right where the heroine lives to boot, the long lost horse that turns up right where she is too, smugglers who deal in human trade, the crazy broad that no one suspects to be the villain, French spies, a clandestine love affair, you name it, it’s in here. All of this “filler” detracts from the h/h and their “relationship”. I was skimming all this stuff towards the end in the same way I was skimming over the excessively annoying parts about the Lessers in JR Ward’s *Lover Avenged* --enough already, let’s get back to the main story (!). Elysia and Alex rarely spoke because he was always in a mood or downright raggin’ at her and then shazam they’re in love! They hardly spent any real time together how can they be in love????

Now maybe I’m being harsh (but I don’t think so—lol!) maybe if you’ve read a lot of these kinds of romances and you’re used to them you might think they’re really good but I for one prefer my romances post-1990 it seems where the author has dialog, interaction between the h/h before the reader falls asleep, and a believable story –well in an escapist romantic kind of way that is (lol!) For all you insomniacs out there, this one’s for you :D

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### **Robin Dilks says**

Beautifully well written. A trip in time with characters that she brings to life with passion and character.

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### **Desi says**

leído en Junio 2012

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