



A Most Dangerous Profession

Karen Hawkins

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Mysterious, elusive, unforgettable. The Hurst Amulet continues to lure lovers into peril as New York Times bestselling author Karen Hawkins spins her newest scintillating tale of danger and desire.

AN ENTRANCING THIEF

For beautiful, seductive Moira MacAllister, the stakes have become terrifyingly high. Her daughter has been abducted and a priceless ancient relic is the ransom. Moira must acquire it at any cost, even if it means confronting the man she once duped and left, a man who still doesn't know she has a child . . . and that he is the father.

A DASHING RAKEHELL

Robert Hurst, an operative in the king's service, has never forgiven the mysterious spy who seduced him into marriage and then disappeared without a trace. Now, as he pursues the onyx box that will save his brother's life, their paths cross again. But Robert isn't sure which he longs for more—to satisfy his lust for revenge or to quench his relentless hunger for this bewitching woman.

A PERILOUS MISSION

When Moira reveals to Robert her long-kept secret, however, he realizes his burning desires must wait as a treacherous foe closes in, threatening all they hold dear . . . and their second chance at love.

A Most Dangerous Profession Details

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Author : Karen Hawkins

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From Reader Review A Most Dangerous Profession for online ebook

Evie says

I always enjoy reading Karen Hawkins books. This installment was certainly fun to read. It had laughter, blackmail, spies, a bit of tragedy, sensual tension, it was pretty good.

Moira and Robert once loved each other, but due to their lines of work they were separated. After years of silence, and not knowing what had become of each other, they cross paths again. They're both after the same thing, and lives are at stake. They claim to not want to be around each other, but the spark from years past is still there, tempting them at every turn. Daring them to take a chance. They finally figure out, in order to succeed they must join forces, or no one will get what they need and the lives at stake could be lost.

I liked that the heroine, Moira, always outsmarted everyone that tried to cross her, especially the hero. But once the hero caught up with her and her ways, it was fun to read how she couldn't easily go around him anymore. She still did, but it was harder than before.

I do have to say, it would've been nicer if there had been more of how Robert and Moira had previously met. The story does say so, but their meeting years ago sounds like too much fun to not be in the story. Perhaps it is in a previous book (I may have to search thru my KH's books and see if their first meeting is in one of them.)

Overall I had fun reading this book. It took me longer than expected to read it and that was only because there is something in it that I personally don't like in stories (it kind of breaks it for me); however, in this one it did work out nicely.

Blurb:

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treacherous foe closes in, threatening all they hold dear . . . and their second chance at love.

Rebecca says

You can also read this review at [Reflections on Reading Romance](#)

Karen Hawkins is one of my favorite historical romance authors, and I love to recommend her books, because they're always funny and appealing. You can imagine my excitement, then, when I discovered an early copy of *A Most Dangerous Profession* at the Barnes & Noble this weekend. This is the third book in the Hurst Amulet series if you don't count the prequel, *Much Ado About Marriage*, and even if you haven't read any of the other novels in the series, you'll be able to enjoy this lighthearted romance without difficulty.

Moira MacAllister has a long-standing history with Robert Hurst: she tricked him into marriage more than five years ago when he was investigating her at the behest of the Home Office. She's joined the search for the three onyx boxes that will lead Robert's family to the Hurst Amulet, but her interest in the boxes is fueled by desperation rather than avarice. Blackmailer George Aniston is forcing her to recover the boxes by holding captive her five year old daughter, Rowena. What Robert doesn't realize is that Rowena is his daughter and the reason Moira tricked him into marriage all those years ago. Since Robert's brother Michael's safety depends on his recovering the onyx box, Robert can't allow Moira to abscond with the relic, but he also finds it harder and harder to resist her charms. When the two decide to work together, sparks fly, giving Moira hope that the two can reunite, but as time progresses she begins to wonder if Robert will ever be able to forgive her original deception.

One of the reasons I enjoy Ms. Hawkins' books so much is that she writes characters who aren't aristocrats, and *A Most Dangerous Profession* is no exception. Her female characters are interesting and complex rather than insipid debutantes sipping tea and making social calls. Moira was born into the working class, but was raised by a gypsy, which makes it easy to understand Robert's fascination with her. He, too, is not from the aristocracy, since he's a son of a vicar, but he makes a living selling the artifacts that his explorer brother Michael unearths during his travels. Robert's work as a spy also gives his character a dangerous edge, an aspect that appeals to Moira's sense of adventure. The sexual tension between them smolders and adds some sizzle to the already fraught situation with their daughter.

While the first half of the book seemed to drag a little, the action and chemistry definitely picked up in the second half. Once they arrive at Balnagown castle to retrieve the third onyx box, Moira and Robert work together, and the book is irresistible from that point. The two work together effortlessly, and you'll enjoy watching Robert learn to appreciate Moira's abilities as a spy, while they grow closer together as a couple emotionally and physically.

I do have a few criticisms of the book. My first is that initially the book shares a few similarities with the second book in the series, *Scandal in Scotland*. Both Moira and Marvail betrayed the Hurst brothers, were quite improper, and are reunited with the brothers because of secrets in their pasts. Once I read farther into the third novel, however, the books differed enough that it didn't bother me as much as it had at first. Another minor complaint has to do with Rowena, Moira and Robert's daughter. She barely appears in the book, which is fine, but in the epilogue she addresses her mother in a manner that seemed completely unlike a five year old, which had me checking back to see if she was actually older than I originally thought.

My most serious complaint, however, is that I want MORE!!! And I don't mean more novels (although I definitely want more of those as well); I mean the font is so large that the book seems really, really short. I think Ms. Hawkins could have easily extended the book by including flashbacks to Moira and Robert's time together, plus the final confrontation with George Aniston went by far too quickly, ending the book abruptly. I don't want to mislead you into thinking that *A Most Dangerous Profession* is not a complete book, because it is (and it's completely enchanting), but I'm bothered that publishers seem to be making historical romances shorter by enlarging the font while keeping the page count the same.

That said, Ms. Hawkins is always an auto-buy for me, and this is another keeper. I really enjoy the excerpts from letters and diaries at the beginning of each chapter, since they advance the overarching story of the series. If you enjoy engaging historical romances that focus on characters not from the aristocracy, I definitely recommend *A Most Dangerous Profession*.

Iza Soares says

Rating 6 of 7

I'm annoyed with all the things left to say about Moira. Was she a spy then? So she was supposed to be in prison for treason? Or just bc she's married to Robert (for years btw) it will all just be forgotten? And ok, I get all the *not having a child out of the wedlock* thing but why exactly did she marry him? She didn't want to live with him or tell him about Rowena so...??? The way I see, it would be easier to forge a wedding certification than the whole wedding, no? So why?

On a side note, I thought special licences made calling the barns useless???

Susan says

Really fun book. Both Moira and Robert need the artifact. Moira needs it to rescue her daughter from a man who kidnapped her. Robert needs it to fulfill another step in finding the Hurst Amulet. I loved the beginning where they kept getting the better of each other. It was even better when they started working together. They had trust issues with each other that had to be overcome, as each one expected the other to run off with the item once they got it. Robert was upset that Moira hadn't told him about Rowena, and he wasn't sure that he could believe her when she told him things. Moira was still angry that he'd had her arrested at one point. She also didn't like that he kept trying to protect her, rather than believe she could take care of herself. I loved some of the situations they were in and how they took care of them. I also liked the letters that began each chapter, giving insight into the background of the story and the characters. I can't wait for the concluding story.

April says

A MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION by Karen Hawkins is an exciting historical romance set in 1822 Scotland. It is the third in the "Hurst Amulet" series, see "One Night in Scotland" and "Scandal In Scotland", although "*A Most Dangerous Profession*" can be read as a stand alone. It has everything a historical

romance reader could want, romance, mystery, suspense, sweet sensuality, misunderstandings, a perilous mission, a dashing rakehell, and an entrancing thief, who was once and still is briefly married to the dashing Robert Hurst. Moria MacAllister, is seductive, a thief, her daughter has been abducted and being held for ransom for a priceless ancient relic. Robert Hurst, an operative in the king's service, Moria's husband for a night, doesn't know he may have a daughter, and pursues an onyx box to save his brother's life. This is a fast paced story with a few twists and stories that will have you turning pages from the beginning to the end. I can hardly wait for the conclusion to the story of the "Hurst Amulet". This is an amazing family. This author has done it again with "A Most Dangerous Profession". A must read that will appear to any historical, romance, reader. It is a charming, and witty, but serious story that will surely capture your heart. Received for review from the publisher. Details can be found at Pocket Books, a division of Simon and Schuster and My Book Addiction Reviews

Sandra Walker says

Very good, I liked how Robert played the foppish gentleman for Ross. It was a very good story line.

Rachel says

London 1822

So delightful! I think Robert is my favorite being how dark and mysterious he is under all that fop! And when he injures Ross all for Moira, I was just taken! I am super excited to see what is going to happen to Michael and the amulet in the final installment. Anyone know when it's coming out????

Julie says

Another delightfully fun installment in the "Hurst Amulet" series by Karen Hawkins. I just love this author and can always count on her stories to be adventurous and entertaining. It's hard to be disappointed by anything Karen writes. Although some of her other books have proven to be more humor filled, the hero and heroine of this story are to be just as memorable with their intelligence, daring, and seduction. If you like a fast-paced story, adventure mixed with steamy romance, and a couple of heart-breaking moments, this is the book for you. Definitely put it on your list for when you are in the mood for light reading.

Cruth says

Author: Karen Hawkins

First published: 2011

Length: 3383 locations

Setting: Scotland, 1822

Sex: Explicit. Not frequent.

Hero: Collector of antiquities and sometime spy.

Heroine: Spy, Assassin, Con-woman.

Includes: excerpt from The Taming of a Scottish Princess by Karen Hawkins.

A rather fast read (a shorter book?) with engaging characters and clever plot. Easy to read and easy to enjoy.

Hurst Amulet:

Prequel Much Ado About Marriage - Fia MacLean and Thomas Wentworth

Book 1 One Night in Scotland - Mary Hurst and Angus, Earl of Erroll.

Book 2 Scandal in Scotland - William Hurst and Marvail Beauchamp

Book 3 A Most Dangerous Profession - Robert Hurst and Moira MacAllister

Book 4 The Taming of a Scottish Princess - Michael Hurst and Miss Jane Smythe-Haughton

The Hurst Sisters:

Sleepless in Scotland (MacLean Curse) - Catriona Hurst and Hugh MacLean

The Laird Who Loved Me (MacLean Curse) - Caitlyn Hurst and Alexander MacLean

One Night in Scotland (Hurst Amulet) - Mary Hurst and Angus, Earl of Erroll.

References:

Author's website: <http://www.karenhawkins.com>

(ISBN 978-1-4391-7602-3)

-CR-

Michelle says

This is another great historical romance series dealing with a family. I always love how these give readers a chance to see love grow not just between the most beautiful girl of the season and a duke, but the "regular" people of the period as well. This is not the final book in the series but a great mystery has been unfolding over the course of these novels. Each has just one more piece to the puzzle but a great romance develops each time.

In this story we follow the story of Robert and Moira as they meet together again years after they were married. Initially Robert didn't believe his marriage to Moira was valid but after she disappeared he discovered their marriage was legal but he did not pursue her. He kept his eye on her but had no need to approach her until it was discovered she had the next piece of the Hurst family amulet puzzle. These two had great chemistry that sparked when they originally married and continues now as they make their way through not only the twists and turns of getting their hands on the next puzzle but of realizing that they were meant for each other.

I am very excited about the next books in the series because we have been following the brother's story for so long in letters that it will be great to finally see his Happily Ever After.

Sababa says

So what can I say about this series?

After how the last one ended, you can only imagine how thrilled I was to get my hands on this one. Although

I had to wait two days to satiate my curiosity about Robert and Moira. But thanks to Goodreads which has introduced me to my book-pals, I finally had the pleasure of reading it. And yes, it was a pleasure reading it!

Of all the Hursts, Robert always seemed to me a bit proud and distant. I mean there is something about him that just made him stand apart from his loving family. But in this novel, I came to see him in a very different light. It's not that he is pompous, but being a fop is a part of who he is! Ok I just muddled up summing him in the right words.

When I read the first novel where I came to know about the Hurst family, Robert seemed like a very intelligent boy but always trying to look better than his siblings. A modern day, teacher's pet kind of person. And later through the series, I hardly read any letters by him sent to his family. And no one in his family even knew much about what he did for a living. They had a rough idea, but he was so distant. But in this novel I realised he was just very private. It's not that he didn't love his family, but he couldn't show his feelings. This was specially true in Moira's case. Whatever he felt, he kept it inside, which is why even until the last page, Moira was not sure what to think of him. I really fell for him, although he is not a rake-rogue kind of person!

Moira was intriguing and funny and just what I expected her to be! OH to be such a daring woman...

One complaint I do have, and that is, they didn't show Robert's relationship with Rowena. I mean he just ties her shoes and realizes he is her father?? Really? I wanted to read something profound that connected and made their father-daughter relationship strong. Well, I have yet to read a book which gives me that.

But other than that... Michael you do realise, right, you love Jane Smith-Haughton???

Kimberly says

Blue Ribbon Rating: 5 out of 5

[Original Review Link](#)

Moira MacAllister has been a spy, a thief and a con artist, but never before has a job been so important. An enemy has kidnapped her daughter, and to get the child back, Moira has to steal an ancient onyx box. But someone besides her unwanted employer is also looking for the box...a man Moira fears she cannot outwit; her husband.

Robert Hurst has never forgiven Moira for tricking him into marriage. Unfortunately, he also has never been able to get Moira out of his mind. While searching for an onyx box that holds the secret to finding a family heirloom, Robert's path crosses with Moira's once again. This time, however, Robert is not about to let his wayward wife go. She's hiding something from him – something important. But will Moira's secret be the thing that brings them together? Or will it be the final straw that breaks their marriage apart?

I have a new favorite Karen Hawkins book; *A MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION*! There's an energy in *A MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION* that buoys the book along at lightning speed. The sources of that energy are Moira and Robert. I love nothing more than a great thief meeting her match, and Moira definitely meets her match in her husband. Individually, both Moira and Robert are lively, endearing characters. As a pair, they have a reckless, wild passion that, when paired with their intelligence and kind hearts, make them impossible to resist.

Ms. Hawkins delivers one heck of a ride in *A MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION*, and I did not want to put Moira and Robert's book down. In the engaging *HURST AMULET* series, this book stands out. And given the teasing glimpses Ms. Hawkins has given regarding Michael Hurst and his heroine, I am excited as all get out to read the next *HURST AMULET* tale!

Note: My review was written for Romance Junkies and is cross-posted here courtesy of Romance Junkies.

Steve Bender says

Fun Historical Romance. Quick paced.

Lover of Romance says

Moira MacAllister, knows that she has no choice but do what she is told because she is being blackmailed with the only thing that truly matters to her...her daughter is being held captive by the ransomer, and the father of her daughter who has no idea he is a father is the one who keeps chasing her and trying to keep her from the goal. However when she keeps bumping into Robert, she knows that she will eventually have to tell him the truth....and when the truth comes out Moira wonders that when he does know the truth if he will then take her daughter from her when she has been fighting for everything she has to get her daughter back into her arms...but the passion that she and Robert share is unquenchable, and when danger closes in only when they embrace the love they share for each other will they be able to conquer the perils they face.

A Most Dangerous Profession is the third installment in this exciting series by Karen Hawkins. I have to say this would have to be one of my top favorite series done by this author. There was such intrigue, passion, danger and excitement and fully packed with enough love story to last one quite some time. The one aspect that I truly enjoyed was the 'secret baby' theme, I just love reading those theme like romances, especially it exceeds your expectations....Moira has just cracked me up through the whole book, and Robert was pretty swell....and the little daughter was as cute as can be....I found myself totally engrossed in the story and the details painted so vividly that one couldn't help but fall in love. A Treasure to be savored and enjoyed.

SidneyKay says

When does a five year old magically become a nine year old? When they live in Romanceland.

Somewhere along the line I skipped one of the books in the series, *Scandal in Scotland*. However, I don't believe I missed any plot-line; *The Most Dangerous Profession* seems to be a stand-alone book. I am going to admit right up front that this book was ok (cringe). I don't like to use that slang in conversation when speaking of my beloved romance books, but in this case I felt I had to. *The Most Dangerous Profession* was not the best or worst book of Karen Hawkins' that I've ever read. It just seemed to be a little rushed and lacking some of her fire. There were moments where I thought the two characters in the book could have been fantastic, but mainly I didn't care for either one of them.

Moira was a secret keeper, a big secret keeper although I guess I understand the reason for her remaining silent. I would have liked to have a bit more of the background story in order for me to decide whether her

reasoning was lame or not. Moira has moments of TSTL heroine stamped all over her forehead. She's is trying to rescue her daughter, or let's say she is letting her husband rescue her daughter, but she still manages to barge in and in the process endanger all their lives.

Robert, on the other hand, seems to be content not to confide what he's doing to his wife even when their daughter's life is at stake. And, let's explore that daughter shall we. Being held prisoner by a psychopath is one of the problems I had with this book. First of all, I'm not too keen on children-being-kidnapped stories. Secondly, before this couple could format a plan to rescue their daughter, Rowena, they had to get the Hurst amulet. **What?** You see, Robert's idiot brother is being held captive and the only thing that will get him released is that amulet. However, he's been held captive a long time; I would think that a five-year-old child would come first. The other thing that bothered me (**and this isn't the first time**) is that I wonder how many mothers can have the hots for some man while their child is being held at some unknown location? How could any woman ever concentrate on falling on top of Mr. Toad when her child is in danger?

And, then there is the amazing aging process that Rowena goes through. We do get to meet her in the beginning and her language at that time seemed to be that of a five year old. However, when she is rescued, I had to turn my pages back to see how much time had elapsed because she now had the syncopation of a much older child. It was rather jarring.

I did enjoy the valet.

I've always been a big Karen Hawkins fan - she's an auto-buy for me - but this book fell flat. I am probably in the minority here, because it was just ok for me. Everything had a rushed feel about it. I would have loved to see some flashbacks of Robert and Moira because their characters just never had any life.

I will be buying the next in the amulet series, which is Michael's story. You remember him - he's the one they've been trying to rescue in the last three books.
