



## **The Hellion**

*Christi Caldwell*

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**USA Today bestselling author Christi Caldwell's Wicked Wallflowers series burns hot as two rivals meet in the flesh and feel the heat...**

Adair Thorne has just watched his gaming-hell dream disappear into a blaze of fire and ash, and he's certain that his competitors, the Killorans, are behind it. His fury and passion burn even hotter when he meets Cleopatra Killoran, a tart-mouthed vixen who mocks him at every turn. If she were anyone else but the enemy, she'd ignite a desire in him that would be impossible to control.

No one can make Cleopatra do anything. That said, she'll do whatever it takes to protect her siblings?even if that means being sponsored by their rivals for a season in order to land a noble husband. But she will not allow her head to be turned by the infuriating and darkly handsome Adair Thorne.

There's only one thing that threatens the rules of the game: Cleopatra's secret. It could unravel the families' tenuous truce and shatter the unpredictably sinful romance mounting between the hellion...and a scoundrel who could pass for the devil himself.

## The Hellion Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2018 by Montlake Romance

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Author : Christi Caldwell

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## From Reader Review *The Hellion* for online ebook

### Tracy DeNeal says

#### A New Series Begins

Christi Caldwell can tell a story like no other. As her Regency universe expands upon itself, she has taken her readers from the glittering world of the Ton with its incessant concern with propriety and scandal to Upper Ten Thousand house parties where ruin lurks in the next hallway to the agonies of wounded warriors returning home to deal with shattered bodies and shattered minds. But this multifaceted author does not stop there, no, Caldwell has ventured to take us on an imagined journey into the underbelly of London.

In the past couple of years, she has introduced us to a group of unlettered, unconnected and uncouth individuals and revealed their humanity and dignity. She has done the heretofore impossible and written brilliant love stories pairing these scarred individuals with the pristine, untouchable to them members of the Ton.

First there was the beautiful rogue and duke's heir, Robert and the horrifically scarred duke's bastard, Helena. Unlikely match up. Then a Tidemore virgin, Penelope with the hardened, gruff and silent Ryker Black. What next? The poor ruined Diamond of the First Waters, Diana with Niall Marksman. Followed by another duke's daughter, Evelina who, after a bit of comical subterfuge, marries her childhood friend and former pickpocket, Calum Dabney. Oh my!

As we enter this story, the Hell and Sin Club is no more. From as early as *The Scandalous Seasons* series, the denizens of Christi Caldwell's universe, #CaldWorld, if you will, have cavorted and gambled away fortunes in this St. Giles establishment.

In *THE SINFUL BRIDES* series, we became intimately acquainted with the men and women responsible for this establishment. But now, the Hell and Sin Club is gone, lost in a, fitting to its name, fiery conflagration.

The Wicked Wallflowers!

"The beginning of everything ... from drawing one's first breath, to getting on after tragedy, to finding a new family or building a new home was work. It was uncertainty and fear and the unknown."

Thus a new chapter in this story-forged in fire, so to speak, a new series begins, and aren't we just the lucky ones?

Adair Thorne, the final Hell and Sin Club brother, finds his own HEA with the tart-tongued Cleopatra Killoran. As he begins the process of resurrecting the club Phoenix-like from the ashes of its destruction, he also reluctantly grows to know and respect his pint-sized nemesis.

The conflict between the main characters was fun to read. I enjoyed the acidic banter and Cleopatra's stalwart personality. The theme of honor and keeping one's commitments was prevalent throughout.

I won't get into the specifics here, but anyone who has read *THE LADY'S GUARD* will be aware that certain commitments were made on the part of the Hell and Sin family in exchange for lifesaving information from the Killoran family. This promise extracted is the basis of the story.

The story devolves at one point into the feel of a St. Giles/Seven Dials Romeo and Juliet with the Hell and Sin brothers versus the Killorans as a Cockney-infused Montagues and Capulets.

The shadow of the evil Dickensian villain, Mac Diggory, continues to dog the protagonists of this story. Although long dead, he continues to cast a malevolent presence in the lives of our characters.

Sartorial Transformation Achieved

"Draped in sapphire silk, with understated butterfly combs in her black curls, Black's wife epitomized wealth, rank, and power." Brava!!! Lady Penelope Chatham has escaped the scourge of Mama Tidemore's bad taste in attire for her daughters!

Juicy Unveilings

So many new details about Broderick Killoran are slowly being revealed. His love of all things Shakespearean as evidenced by the names he personally gifted to his three "sisters of his heart" - Cleopatra, Ophelia and Gertrude being one of the most interesting and telling.

What ho... Broderick's cultured tones are not an affect of imitating the denizens of the Ton after all. He arrived on the streets of the Seven Dials fully formed - a gentleman amongst the rabble? Oh do tell us more, Ms. Caldwell.

Hmm... methinks he may be a little lost lord of the Ton. I can't wait for his story!

Conclusion

I loved everything about this story. The code switching amongst the characters was true to their stations and added flavor to the telling of the story.

I can't wait for the next installment!

I requested and received an ARC from NetGalley of this book. My review reflects my honest opinion of the material.

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**Joanna Loves Reading says**

DNF @16%

I decided not to leave a rating on this because I was not very far, and the writing seemed engaging. If you are new to Caldwell, do not start here. This is apparently a spinoff from another series. Despite it being a first in series, there were events and characters with back stories that left me confused and lost. If I ever get to those stories, I may come back and finish this. Part of the problem is that the world built here is not easy to fall into. It is a far fetched world with a rags to riches theme that would take quite a bit of selling for me to buy into, so I am not convinced it would be worth it.

\*I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review.

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## **Barbara Rogers says**

Series: Wicked Wallflowers #1

Publication Date: 4/3/18

I love Christi Caldwell's writing and I thoroughly enjoyed this book. That said, I really believe that this book should have been the final book in the Sinful Brides series rather than the first book in the Wicked Wallflowers series. It wraps up all of the loose ends for the previous series – including the final unmarried brother and it introduces the characters for the Wicked Wallflowers series. The characters from the Sinful Brides are heavily (almost exclusively) featured in this book – they are dynamic, interesting and you will quickly care about all of them. I believe the characters from the Wicked Wallflowers series will quickly become just as endearing.

Both of the series feature rivals on the streets of St. Giles. They are bitter enemies, but they are victims of the same monster – Diggory. The men from the Sinful Brides series managed to escape from Diggory's control, but Diggory was a hateful and dirty fighter and he declared war on Ryder Black and his 'family'. The ladies featured in the Wicked Wallflowers weren't lucky enough to escape Diggory's cruelty – until he was killed by a member of Ryder Black's family. Now, they are the Killoran's and still enemies with the Black's, just because it has always been that way.

At the end of the previous series, the two groups declared a truce after the Killoran's agreed to lead the Black's to where one of the Black's was being held hostage. Besides the truce, the agreement also called for the Black's (who all married into the aristocracy) to sponsor one of the Killoran sisters for a season. They still don't like or trust each other, but they are both honoring the truce – until . . .

Shock, despair, anger, bitterness all pass through Adair Thorne's heart, mind, and soul as he observes the burned out husk of The Hell and Sin Club. The Killoran's, he just knows they are the ones who did it. They burned his home, his heart. He has no proof, but he knows it in his gut.

Since the Black's can't prove that the Killoran's started the fire, they are honor bound to sponsor one of the Killoran sisters for the season. Broderick Killoran wants to ensure the safety and future of his 'sisters' by cultivating a tie with the aristocracy and to him, that means marrying one of the sisters to an aristocrat.

Cleopatra is the chosen sister – well – she actually volunteers because she is the protector of her sisters and would never wish that fate on them. Cleopatra is a true heroine – she is strong, smart and sassy and you'll love the way she shows up at the Black's townhouse – with a satchel full of weapons. For Cleopatra, it is like entering a war zone – Ryder Black and his brothers don't trust her out of their sight – or even within their sight. Everything she does is suspect. She will not have a pleasant time living with them. The only friendly member of the family is Ryder's wife Penelope.

Adair and Cleopatra are drawn to each other and they each hate themselves for that weakness. However, the more Adair is around Cleopatra, the more he discovers how smart and giving she is. They have been at war with each other their entire lives, so how can they become friends or begin to care for each other? Adair sees Cleopatra as a willing participant in all of Diggory's schemes and crimes – after all – if she didn't agree she would have left like he and his 'brothers' did. Can they ever come to the realization that they were both victims of the same villain?

I loved both Adair and Cleopatra and their stories are compelling. Their journey to an HEA is a wonderful experience and you will learn to admire both of them. The arsonist will surprise you (or not). One thing that bothered me was that there was no punishment for the arsonist. I agree that the arsonist should not have gone to prison, etc. but there were livelihoods lost, people were injured, etc. because of what that arsonist did – some punishment would have been appropriate.

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"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

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## **Clare says**

I was so excited to get to read my first Christi Caldwell book and after reading the blurb I thought that this would be just up my street but unfortunately for me this was nothing like I was expecting. I really had high hopes for this book but what I found was that it was very hard and slow to get into with too many characters in the first few chapters that caused me a lot of confusion. As this is the first in a series it felt like that I was missing out on something and that I'd started in the middle of a series that are not standalone.

I did keep reading thinking that maybe as im new to this author's writing style that it would get better and it did, but I was around halfway through the book before I was comfortable with what I was reading. The story was ok in the sense that I wanted to finish it to see what happened but it was far from the excitement that the title lead me to believe would be contained within the story. I didn't ever really feel a connection to either of the main characters of Adair Thorne and Cleopatra Killoran. In fact they drove me nuts with their sniping and distrust of each other, to go from being so venomous toward each other to then suddenly change to be so intensely over protective of each other in no time at all was utterly ridiculous. I'm a big fan of enemies to lovers but this just didn't tick the boxes for me at all.

I do hope to try another book by this author in the future as every book can't be a big hit and suit everyone ones tastes.

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## **Debby "Piene Raven" says**

(Audiobook Review)

This is sort of a new series by Christi Caldwell spinning off one of the characters in the Sinful Brides Series. The author is reuniting the Black Family proprietors of the Hell and Sin and the Killoran Family, their arch enemy. It introduces the story of Adair Thorn who is the brother of Ryker Black.

The plot of the story is about the truce or pact made between the two families in the last book of the Sinful Bride Series where the Ryker agrees to help introduce one of the Killoran sisters into society by marry a proper Lord of the Ton.

As it happens, Cleopatra Killoran volunteers herself to do the marrying but Adair has a different opinion on the matter. The story moves very slow and the hated banter between a very strong-witted Cleo and bull-headed Adair goes on way, way too long for my taste. It has too many holes to be believable and it takes too long for the two characters to become the loving couple that is very predictable from the get-go in chapter one. The characters seem a bit immature for adults.

I think this should have been the last book in the Sinful Brides Series. It was not one of CC's best works for me. It needed more sexual tension and compassion between Cleo and Adair and not the hotheaded banter that made their hatred so terrible that I found it hard to believe the subsequent attraction. The story felt a bit forced and in order to better understand this book, you would need to read the prior series that introduces these characters. This fell short and a bit unbelievable.

Only nice side of this was the narration done by Tim Campbell who pulls off the many voices of the characters very well.

2.5 Stars

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### **Lubnaa says**

*I received this ARC from NetGalley and voluntarily chose to write a review.*

This is the first book in a series, but it didn't feel like it. It felt as if I was reading a book in the middle of a series. I'll confess it was hard to orient myself because there are so many characters and there's so much history between the two rival families. I was lost in the beginning and it took me a while to get a strong grasp on who was who. Even after I was able to clearly put together the families and the husbands and wives, I started getting even more confused as Penelope later on talked about her family. It kind of felt like an information overload and an advertisement to read about Penelope's siblings' stories.

The story itself was a little slow, but I did like Cleopatra and Adair together. I found the whole sacrifice-for-my-sisters thing a little tiring and repetitive. The distrust between the hero and heroine and how that slowly transformed into love and trust was well-written and I enjoyed the journey getting there. Like I said, I liked the couple, but I was not wholly entranced with the plot itself nor did I really care so much about the families. I am curious about the other Killorans though and I suspect that (view spoiler).

I absolutely love the cover! It's clean, pretty and simple. The model looks exactly like Cleopatra.

Finally, I really wish the author had written an epilogue!

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### **Paige says**

This is such a great first book to kick off the Wicked Wallflowers series! I enjoyed this tremendously! One of the things that I especially enjoyed was that while it is set in the popular Regency period, the hero and heroine are unique in that they both grew up on the rough streets of the worst part of London. They have each adopted a street "family" and the two families are declared enemies.

The circumstances which bring them together are also unique. The families operate rival gaming establishments. Adair Thorne's "brothers" have married into the ton and he has just lost his gaming-hell to a fire. Cleopatra Killoran finds herself in the unwanted situation of needing to marry into the aristocracy in order to benefit her "family." These two sworn enemies are reluctantly forced to honor an unsteady truce. As they are required to spend time together, their attraction is undeniable. This couple was one to root for. They each had admirable grit and there were serious problems for them to overcome.

I will say that it took me a couple of chapters to sink into this story because it is a spinoff series and I was not familiar with the back stories of previous books. However, I was able to follow along and it was not an issue for long. I recommend this for anyone who enjoys historical romance. I am thrilled that there will be more related books in a series.

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## **Susan says**

This reader prefers a short review, and that is what was intended, short and sweet. Hmmm, not this time. ??

Previously, in Christi Caldwell's Sinful Brides Series readers met a family unlike any other. A band of street brothers who owned and operated one of St. Giles biggest gaming establishments, the Hell and Sin Club. The bigger than life, Ryker Black, was the leader and head of that family, and what an awesome world filled with unforgettable characters this amazingly talented author gifted to the regency genre lovers. This family would overcome many challenges (some lighthearted, some dark), and meet and establish connections in Society, growing in wealth and power.

With the first in her newest Wicked Wallflowers series, "The Hellion", the focus shifts to yet another intriguing and unique family, the proprietors of the Devil's Den. This rival club and family, also coming from a life on the streets, is led by Broderick Killoran, a brother who wants better for his siblings and is driven by "a lust for respectability". Broderick believes to secure noble connections and acquire entry into Society will ensure their strength and power, thereby providing a lasting security for all the group. When his sister, Cleopatra was instrumental in saving one of Black's family from the evil clutches of a horrid, vicious thug, in return the Blacks entered into an agreement to sponsor one of Killoran's sisters for a Season.

This book can be read as a stand alone, but it does serve as a link between these series: Adair Thorne, brother of Ryker Black, and Cleopatra Killoran, sister of Broderick Killoran.

As his siblings have found love, and their paths are taking them in new directions, Adair is feeling alone, being left in charge and given the primary responsibility of the Hell and Sin Club. This story begins with the destruction of his club by fire, bringing with it similar memories of his past childhood. Of course, in his mind the only possible cause for this loss would be the Devil's Den.

Cleopatra Killoran is unlike any other heroine. She's stubborn, strong, and smart; a bespectacled lady, with a pistol in her pocket and a dagger in her boot, she can hold her own with most any man, brains or brawn. But underneath this rough and tough girl, there are heart-wrenching secrets and fears tucked away and buried.

When the Blacks take Cleopatra into their home, Adair is assigned as her escort and guard. The plan is to introduce her into Society where she'll find a nobleman for a husband, and the agreement will be honored. As Adair battles inwardly over his hatred of the Killorans and an unexplainable draw and sudden pull towards this bold and headstrong girl, things become quite interesting. Cleopatra starts to realize the man of



honor and kindness Adair truly is, and begins to doubt her self-sacrifice for her family's good. A bond begins to form as they share interests and ideas for the rebuild and management of his club. Will Adair and Cleo also share the secrets of their pasts and open their hearts to one another? Who started the fire at Adair's club, and what will happen to the Hell and Sin Club? Theirs is a must read!

With a mix of familiar and new characters, this writer once again builds a series that promises so many adventures, challenges and opportunities waiting to be explored and enjoyed for months to come. While it's always sad to see one series end, there is always the assurance that Christi Caldwell's amazing characters are never left behind. They always live on in her readers' minds and hearts, and may reappear yet again on the pages of a new story yet to be told.

I received an arc of this book for my honest opinion. I highly recommend.  
Can't wait for more of the Killorans!!! Awesome!

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### **Dee Deacon Foster says**

Two rival families

One bargain

One world destroyed

Adair Thorne, the last single owner of the Hell & Sin Club, is certain of few things in life. The top of the list – the Killoran's will forever be the enemy. The second – he will never, ever, give his heart to another.

Cleopatra Killoran will 1) never trust a member of the Black family, they will be bitter rivals to the end; 2) do anything to protect her family; even if it means sacrificing her own happiness.

A family debt of gratitude and a common fear bring these two scarred souls together, but will a perceived betrayal tear them apart?

Christi Caldwell continues to amaze me with the depth of emotions she puts into each character; slowing peeling back each layer to reveal the person behind the mask he/she portrays to the world.

I adore Cleo's spine of steel and Adair's gruffness, hiding the vulnerable child within. Each desperately wanting the security they never had. Including members of previous books adds to the overall dynamic while giving a glimpse into how Adair and Cleo feel like outsiders within their own family. A truth that happens in families even today.

Cheers to another 5+ star read Ms. Caldwell.

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### **N.N. Light says**

I share a love of historical romance with my sister-in-law so when she told me I had to push everything aside to read *The Hellion*, I wasn't sure what to make of it. But I trusted her and read it over the weekend. WOW!

What a terrific historical romance. I love the combative dialogue and sizzling chemistry between the characters. There's so much to this story than just romance, though. Pacing was fast but gave me time to savor the time period. Psst, I'm a reformed wallflower so I loved this one!

My Rating: 5 stars

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## Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says

Romeo and Juliet, Heathcliff and Catherine, and now Adair and Cleopatra can be added to my list of favorite star crossed lovers. I love stories of seemingly insurmountable conflicts between families. Like love, feuds create a parallel universe where normal rules don't apply. And when love defies the conflict, it makes for some very compelling reading.

Adair Thorne had been orphaned by fire as a child and now his home, his livelihood, The Hell and Sin, had been reduced to ashes. He felt like that child again. Scared and wading through an uncertain existence. The club had been his dream, his home, all he'd wanted in life. Now it was gone and Adair was certain it was all due to Broderick Killoran, owner of The Devil's Den and their rival. He'd been trying to ruin Adair and his brothers for years. Ever since Killoran inherited from Mac Diggory, the man who'd made their lives a living hell. Broderick Killoran had vowed there would be peace between the Killoran and Black families. A truce. His sister, Cleopatra, had even aided in saving Niall's wife. In exchange, he had asked Black, with connections to the ton, to introduce one of his kin to Polite Society. Though Adair and his brothers mistrusted Killoran, they had no proof yet who started the fire. Until they did, they would have to honor their promise. Cleopatra Killoran would have her season. As second to Broderick, Adair had marked her as trouble the moment he'd seen her. Now she would be in Black's home where Adair himself was residing since his home was gone. She'd be a guest but one he'd watch closely. "The day a Killoran was anything but an enemy of the Hell and Sin family was the day the world ceased spinning."

Cleopatra was known to be bold, confident, and fearless. But as she packed to stay at the Black household, she felt a fear and panic she'd not felt since she was a child under Mac Diggory's control. Until Broderick Killoran had come into her life. He'd protected her and her sisters and she loved him for it. Broderick wanted them to have a better life. Respectability. And to do that, they needed noble connections. Those connections would mean never having to worry about losing everything and living in squalor as they had before. Cleopatra knew her brother was right, but that didn't ease the fear and panic of leaving her life behind. She could have let one of her sisters go but, though the youngest, Cleopatra was the strongest. Both the Killoran and Black families had been raised as gang members on opposite ends of London. Then they'd been hated rivals. And now they were honoring an agreement. The same people she'd been taught to hate she was now expected to live with. "To live under Black's roof, make a match with a nob and forever be crushed by that lord's spirit." "To humble herself before a world of people who she'd spent her life hating but worse, severing Cleopatra from the only life she'd known." Cleopatra was afraid but determined not to let it show. She'd do this for the sake of her family. She could handle living among society, living with Black and his brothers. She was Cleopatra Killoran. Named for a queen. There wasn't a man of any station she couldn't control.

Cleopatra received a warm welcome from the wives of the Black family. But the brothers were a different story. She felt more like a guarded prisoner than a guest. Especially with Adair Thorne who stalked her every move. The hatred in him was palpable which only made her more determined to bait him. He was arrogant and it was easy to get under his skin. It was clear he didn't want her here and for that, she admired his genuineness. She didn't want to be there with him either. Something about him made her feel peculiar. "A damned unwanted fluttering that didn't have anything to do with hatred or danger, and all the more unnerving for it."

Adair felt conflicted as well. This small, bespectacled creature was misleading. She was a fearless and sharp tongued hellion. Within moments of meeting, she called out his family's honor, laughed at him, and questioned his courage. No one had ever dared to speak to him so. She made him lose control. He'd have admired her if she wasn't a Killoran.

As the weeks progressed, Cleopatra and Adair started to see each other in a different light. They shared a passion for gaming hells. Cleopatra made suggestions for his new club. Her logic made sense and Adair

appreciated her insight. Cleopatra began to feel more at ease. At each dreadful ball, she was glad of Adair's presence. She tried to tell herself it was only because he was from her world and it gave her comfort. They were slowly evolving from mortal enemies to uneasy friends. But just when they'd seem to reach an accord, something would happen to shatter it. Both adept at masking their emotions, they'd often cover their feelings with hurtful and hostile remarks. In one such altercation, Adair lost control, like he was wont to do in Cleo's presence, and kissed her. That kiss was just as intense and passionate as their arguments. And it completely left them confused. Too much divided them and had divided them all their lives. The hatred they felt for each other's families was more familiar and safe than the burning longing they felt for each other. Try as they may to deny it, the connection between them was deepening and growing stronger. They valued each other's opinions, recognized each other's worth. They shared agonizing memories with each other. Secret parts of themselves. Neither had believed themselves capable of the trust and closeness they felt with each other. But their families would never see the other as they did. What kind of future could they have with such hate between their families? It may not matter, for as secrets come to light and more danger threatens, the only dreams they'd had all their lives and their only hope for the future could be gone.

Just when I think I've found my favorite hero and heroine, Christi Caldwell gives me another couple to fall hopelessly in love with. Calum has long been my favorite but I have to say, Adair made me question that. And Cleopatra couldn't have been more perfect. She proved to be even more wonderful than I imagined. I fell in love with her the moment she packed her weapons right along with her underwear. For Adair, I think I fell in love with him up on that rooftop. Just as Cleo did. They definitely were the most perfectly matched couple I have read in a long time. Both had a deep love for and loyalty to family. Both hated society and loved the gaming hell world. Both had been hardened by horrid beginnings and suffering. They understood what each other had endured. Both feared entering a new life and the uncertainty that came with it. They were leaving behind what they knew. And though both seemed bold and confident, they were vulnerable. Adair was uncertain going out on his own. Each of the brothers were contemplating new endeavors and Adair felt like decisions were being made without him. Cleopatra held her head high and masked her emotions when the ton, who'd thought her good enough to lose their fortunes to, found her shameful for anything more.

These wonderful characters were all introduced in Christi Caldwell's Sinful Brides series. If this story is any indication, The Wicked Wallflowers series may be even more spectacular. There's so much I'm looking forward to in this series. I hope Cleopatra's sisters have their own story. They are just as feisty as their younger sibling. Lord Landon intrigued me as well. I'm anxious to read more of him. And I am chomping at the bit for Reggie and Killoran's story. I knew Killoran would be so much more than he seemed and I can't wait to find out what's in store for him.

This story stands out in so many ways. The strength of characters, the complexity of the plot, the authentic dialogue, and the beautiful love story are all woven together so perfectly. The evolution of Cleopatra and Adair getting to know one another and themselves better is beautiful, amazing, funny at times, and other times will bring tears to your eyes. While this can be read as a stand alone, I can't imagine reading this story without having read the Sinful Brides series. It just made the story even more moving knowing what brought these characters to this point. Thank you to Net Galley for allowing me to read this book. And thank you to Christi Caldwell for writing characters that have taken a place in my heart. A Book Obsessed Chicks Review Team Selection

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## Tracy Emro says

I want to start this review by stating that I requested this book because it was touted as the first book in a new

series. I would disagree - I did not read the previous Sinful Brides series, but every single person in this book (save one very minor character) is a character from that series - the hero in this book is a "brother" to the previous series heroes and the heroine is the "sister" to the villain in that series. I am all about authors bringing back previous characters for cameos - but this was more like a continuation of that series, so many references are made to prior events that I really didn't understand the significance of in this book - that said, it is not a bad book - but if you haven't read Sinful Brides, be prepared to feel a little lost.

Adair Thorne has lost everything to fire twice, first his family when he was a boy and now as he watches the Hell and Sin Club burn. He is filled with rage, the club is everything to him and now it is gone and he knows exactly who is to blame - the Killoran Family. He and his brothers had formed a truce with them and even promised to sponsor one of his sisters for the season - but after this, there is no way they will honor that promise.

Adair and his brothers will rebuild, but first they need to deal with Broderick Killoran. Broderick, his guard and his sister Cleopatra are summoned for a meeting. Thinking it is make arrangements for the season, they willing attend. They are floored that they are being accused of arson and vehemently deny any part in the fire and without proof to back up their accusations, Broderick demands they honor the agreement. Ryker's wife concurs and plans are made.

Cleopatra aka Cleo, thinks Broderick's dream of having his sisters marry nobility is stupid, but rather than make one of her sisters sacrifice themselves, she insists on being the one sent.

Adair is assigned to "watch" her and doesn't trust her at all. This is reiterated over and over and over. Finally he begins to lighten up a bit and the two form a friendship of sorts - she sees the plans for the new club and offers suggestions, which at first he scoffs at, but then begins to see the merits of her suggestions.

When her season starts, she is not interested in any of the Lords paraded before her and she is largely ignored. Adair is the only bright spot in any of the events she attends. She makes a wager with him and they end up alone in the host's billiard room, they are kissing when Adair hears someone approaching, he goes out the window and the door opens before she can follow him. This is when she meets the Marquess of Landon. He flirts with her and then asks her to dance with him. She is a bit disappointed, she has been waiting to dance for weeks and was hoping Adair would be her first dance. Adair watches from the side of the dance floor and is filled with jealousy.

Later, they meet in his office and dance and then he takes her to the club. They make love and she knows she loves him. She feels the need to honest with him and shares a secret that could destroy any hope of a HEA. Adair is stunned by her revelation and she flees.

Belatedly, he comes to his senses and goes after her, but she is gone. He returns home to find out that she is there and has a caller, Lord Landon. He finds out that Landon asked her to marry him and tells her he loves her and asks her to marry him instead, but before she can answer, Ryder comes in and has information that obliterates any hope of them being together.

This was a well written book, but the first two-thirds of the story dragged and was repetitious, but once she actually starts her "season" the story takes off and is fantastic. It also ends a little abruptly with no setup for the next book in the series - which is another reason this felt more like an installment of the Sinful Brides instead of new series. The love scenes were on the warm side, the ending was dramatic and I really believed the love between Adair and Cleopatra. I would say if you read the Sinful Brides, you will definitely want to read this book and will enjoy it. But speaking for those readers who haven't read that series, this was not the

easiest book to follow, it felt like I was reading a book in the middle of a series and didn't know the characters.

\*I am voluntarily leaving a review for an uncorrected eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher\*

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### **Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says**

The Hellion is the uniting of the Black family owners of the Hell an Sin Gaming Hell and the Killoran family of the Devils Den Gaming Hell. Two rival gangs that hate each other are untied in a cause to make the Killoran's expectable in the eyes of the Ton. The Black family has already made this transition so to make a peaceful truce they will help the Killoran's. They will bring out Cleopatra Killoran and help her find a proper Lord to marry. Oh but not so fast Adair Thorn who is brother to Ryker Black and runs the Hell and Sin club might have a different opinion.

The story moves very slow. The hatred of Cleo and Adair have toward each other goes on far to long. There love story is not believable!! It just takes too long for the couple to become a loving couple. Sorry this is not one of Christi Caldwell's best works. It needs more sexual spice and more companionship or love adventures between Adair and Cleo.

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### **Cyndi says**

I knew I would love this book when I saw it on Netgally. And I was so right! This book is the beginning of an offshoot series from Christi Caldwell's Sinful Brides series.

Our hero has clawed his way up from the streets of London with his 'brothers.' Although not related by blood they worked together to become successful. Now all of his brothers have married into the aristocracy and Adair just wants to keep running his gaming hell. But then the fire happened. Now our hero is forced to help the sister of his enemy find a husband among the aristocracy in need of her wealth.

Our heroine doesn't actually want to land a husband among the hated elite. But, her brother knows that a title will keep her safe. Will the members of the ton look past her parentage, background, and even glasses to see what a gem she is? Even if she comes with a substantial dowery?

Excellent romance with great characters. ?

Available from Amazon April 3, 2018.

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### **Kathryn Bullivant says**

Another amazing read. Great to see much loved characters from the Sinful Brides series again, and to enjoy the journey to happily ever after of the final Hell and Sin brother. Saying that, however, the story comfortably stands alone. The story is an enemies to lovers one, with both the hero and heroine staunchly belonging to opposing sides. There are several twists and turns which take the reader on an exciting journey and make The Hellion incredibly difficult to put down! Absolutely loved it, and can not wait for the next instalment.

