



A Rake's Guide to Seduction

Caroline Linden

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Rake's Guide to Seduction

Caroline Linden

A Rake's Guide to Seduction Caroline Linden

He Must Rely On His Talents In The Bedroom...

Anthony Hamilton cannot help it. The way he looks, the way he lives, his past--it all conspires to make him a man men fear, women desire. His name fills gossip circles in a seemingly endless, lurid drama. But he's never forgotten the only woman he's ever truly wanted--yet could never have. . .

To Make Her Fall In Love. . .

Celia Reece knew Anthony well before he forged his scandalous reputation. The young man she remembers spoke kindly to her, made her laugh, and his devilish good looks always quickened her pulse. But Celia's mother had other designs--designs that didn't include marriage to Anthony. Now, Celia is widowed, and her mother is intent on finding her a new husband. Refusing to let any obstacle stand in his path this time, Anthony sets out to win Celia's heart by using the same skills that made him London's most irresistible rake...

A Rake's Guide to Seduction Details

Date : Published June 1st 2008 by Zebra Books

ISBN :

Author : Caroline Linden

Format : Kindle Edition 353 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction

 [Download A Rake's Guide to Seduction ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Rake's Guide to Seduction ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Rake's Guide to Seduction Caroline Linden

From Reader Review A Rake's Guide to Seduction for online ebook

Michelle Cunliffe says

Blurb

He Must Rely On His Talents In The Bedroom...

Anthony Hamilton cannot help it. The way he looks, the way he lives, his past--it all conspires to make him a man men fear, women desire. His name fills gossip circles in a seemingly endless, lurid drama. But he's never forgotten the only woman he's ever truly wanted--yet could never have. . .

To Make Her Fall In Love. . .

Celia Reece knew Anthony well before he forged his scandalous reputation. The young man she remembers spoke kindly to her, made her laugh, and his devilish good looks always quickened her pulse. But Celia's mother had other designs--designs that didn't include marriage to Anthony. Now, Celia is widowed, and her mother is intent on finding her a new husband. Refusing to let any obstacle stand in his path this time, Anthony sets out to win Celia's heart by using the same skills that made him London's most irresistible rake...

My Thoughts

This book was first released in 2008 and is being reissued, I have read many of Caroline's other books but this is the first time that I have read this book. I can recommend this book I found it a enjoyable read.

In society Anthony Hamilton is known as a rake and a gambler and sometimes he likes the wealthy widows and matrons. I found Anthony to have a kind heart and when he finds love he gives it wholeheartedly, its such a shame his father never saw any of this, to society Anthony's father never repudiated his wife or son, but in private it was a whole different story. Anthony and his mother spent most of their time away from Linley Court and Anthony was asked to leave three schools for fighting and once for cheating a professor at cards.

Throughout the book I was always routing for Anthony I could see the good in him, when most people was always trying to discredit him.

When we first meet Celia she is enjoying her season, gossiping with friends and dancing with young men. She has known Anthony before when she younger and he was friends with her brother David, but because Rosalind Celia's mother didn't like him, he wasn't allowed back at the family home. Then at the ball after Lord Euston made a rather impromptu offer of marriage, and Anthony comes to Celia's rescue.

So from here the story then changes Celia marries Bertie and for four years her marriage isn't what she thought it would be, especially when Bertie's friends visit and Celia is then left with her father in law, who only wants to have a grandson to keep the family name going. But when Bertie dies Rosalind brings Celia back to the family home.

Which is were she meets Anthony again, because Rosalind has arranged to have a house party. Rosalind comes across as very caring but she is trying to hard with Celia, and of course she still doesn't like Anthony.

But that does change and for the better.

There was one character that I did like and that's Lord Warfield Anthony's uncle. He is constantly standing up for Anthony much to Rosalind's annoyance. But in the end Rosalind agrees that Anthony is a good man, and even Rosalind and Lord Warfield start to like each other.

I would give this book 4/5 stars, and can be purchased at Amazon.

I received this book from Netgalley for a honest review.

Caz says

I've given this an A- at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars rounded up.

Caroline Linden's **A Rake's Guide to Seduction** is one of her earliest published titles, having originally appeared in 2008. It's now being reissued with a rather fetching new cover (in paperback), and as it's a book I haven't yet read, this gave me a good excuse reason to add it to my pile of review books. This, I quickly discovered, was a very good move, because it's a lovely, gently moving character-driven romance featuring a young widow who is given second chance at love and the man who has secretly loved her for many years.

Anthony Hamilton, Viscount Langford, was a scandal from the moment he was born. Almost certainly a cuckoo in the nest, he grew into a wild boy and proceeded to get himself thrown out of three schools, after which, having finished his education at Oxford, he embarked upon a life of debauchery in London, his reputation as a high-stakes gamester and seducer of wealthy widows and bored wives very quickly earning him the blackest of reputations while also rendering him utterly fascinating to the members of the *ton*. The fact that he is gorgeous, remarkably discreet and closely guards his privacy only increases his allure.

Anthony – who, owing to his estrangement from his father now chooses to style himself as plain Mr. Hamilton – spent many of his holidays from school at Ainsley Park, the home of his closest friend, David Reece. David's younger sister, Celia, remembers Anthony fondly; he'd been like another brother who helped launch her kites and tie her fishing lines. As he grew older and his reputation grew worse, her mother banned Anthony from visiting, although now Celia is 'out', she sees him from time to time and finds it amusing that he is now so very wicked that young ladies are afraid to do so much as walk past him alone. She has never believed him to be quite as black as he is painted; indeed, her own brothers have not exactly been pattern cards of propriety in the past and she can't really see why Anthony should be singled out for such gossip and censure.

Celia is young, beautiful, vivacious and, as the sister of a duke, much sought after. After interrupting her and an over-amorous swain one evening, she and Anthony have the first real conversation they've had in a long time and he is suddenly struck by an almost unwelcome realisation – that she's no longer the little girl he knew and that he's in love with her and has been for some time. But it's hopeless. No brother who truly cares about his sister is going to give her hand in marriage to a man with a reputation like Anthony's... yet her image is burned into his brain, her lemon scent haunts him and he can't forget their conversation:

“Anyone who took the trouble to know you would accept you,” Celia insisted ignoring his efforts to turn the subject.

“You’ve gone and ruled out every woman in England.” He leaned over the railing, spitting into the darkness.

“Except myself,” Celia declared and then she stopped. Good heavens, what had she just said?

The fact that she doesn’t see him as the decadent wastrel society believes him to be gives Anthony the courage to approach her brother to ask for permission to court her – only to be told that he has just sanctioned the betrothal between Celia and Lord Bertram, the young man who has gained her affections.

Four years pass, during which Celia discovers that the man she married was not the charming, solicitous young man she had fallen for, but was instead selfish, disgruntled, unfaithful and very quick to relegate her to the ranks of Things That Do Not Matter. His death from pneumonia sees Celia returning to her family, but she’s a very different young woman to the one who left amid such happiness and celebration. Subdued, quiet and depressed, Celia feels out of place and uncomfortable; everyone else has moved forward without her and in spite of her mother’s attempts to make it seem otherwise, Celia can’t pretend things haven’t changed.

Deeply worried about her daughter’s state of mind, the dowager decides to cheer Celia up by arranging a house party to which she invites many of her old friends. Her intentions are good, but being forced into company with these young women with whom she no longer has anything in common only serves to make Celia feel even more disconnected. The one bright spot is that her brother David has invited Anthony Hamilton to the party, and even though her mother is obviously not pleased that he is there, he’s the one person outside her family Celia is pleased to see and with whom she feels able to be herself. And Anthony, who is truly saddened at the change in Celia, determines to make her smile once more and, perhaps, to see if there is any possibility she could be persuaded to throw in her lot with the most scandalous man in society.

Caroline Linden has created a truly beautiful love story between two people whose lives haven’t been easy or turned out as they hoped. Celia’s depression is sympathetically and realistically presented, as is her growth from someone blinded by a childish ideal of love to a more mature woman who is able to recognise and accept real, deep love and affection. Her worry that because she made the wrong choice once she may do so again is understandable, but ultimately, she doesn’t allow that fear to control her and I found her willingness to open her heart again to be admirable.

As for Anthony... well, he’s dreamy. *sigh* He’s no saint, but he’s no rake, either; his reputation is largely the result of gossip and misunderstanding which, because of his reluctance to discuss it has become a self-perpetuating myth. Over the years he has learned to ignore what is said of him; as he tells Celia, even if he told the truth, nobody would believe him. One of the loveliest moments in the book is the point at which Celia realises he has never had anyone in his corner to stand up for him, and then determines she will be that person.

The romance between Celia and Anthony is beautifully developed, and there’s never any question they are perfect for one another and that their love for each other is genuine. The author writes with insight about society marriages of the time through the words and attitudes of Celia’s friends who have become bitter and bitchy; and I rather liked the hint of a romance blossoming between her somewhat starchy mother and Anthony’s big, braw, Scottish uncle.

The book’s one flaw is in the sudden plot twist thrown in near the end, which is why I ended up not giving it

a straight A grade; the story doesn't really need it, although I did appreciate it as an opportunity for Celia to show her faith in Anthony in the face of the doubts exhibited by everyone around her.

Caroline Linden is a 'must-read' author for me these days, and she's one of a handful of historical romance authors who is able to craft a satisfying love story that functions within the social conventions of the time and in which the characters are believably rooted in the nineteenth century rather than being a group of twenty-first century people in period dress. Finding time to read favourite authors' back-catalogues is difficult given the number of new books I read and review, but I'm really glad I made time for this one. **A Rake's Guide to Seduction** is highly recommended.

Steelwhisper says

This is my 6th Caroline Linden book, and like those before I liked the plot, the setting, the attention to historical details, the adorable hero and the strong heroine.

However, once again the sex scenes were a few too many, and the sex too samey and slightly too modern. Apparently it is "the thing" lately to write lots of clit-centric sex, even into historicals. Given that a mere 50 or so years ago the average male (and female) didn't have much of an idea what a clitoris was and to which use it could be put, it felt strange reading about a man who constantly kept returning to the heroine's clit during sex (oh, and any guy doing that to me during sex would earn himself a swift clout to the back of his head: not all women are clitcentric!). That's what cost this one a star.

Nanou says

Aaaaaaawwwwww Anthonyyyyyyyyyy *dégouline de coeurs* *craque des tablettes de chocolat* soupirs.....

Anthony est parfait, du moment où il se rend compte que Celia n'est plus "la petite soeur de David" jusqu'à la 2eme balade en bateau, en passant par les lettres anonymes, et les conseils conjugaux donnés à Percy xD

Il fait partie de mes héros doudous lui !!

Dans les deux premiers tomes j'aimais beaucoup la maman de Celia mais là je l'ai trouvé too much... Et heureusement qu'il y avait lord warfield pour la calmer un peu (c'est le scotch power). Molly toujours génial. On perçoit aussi très bien le changement dans l'esprit de Celia, le désenchantement au début et petit à petit la vie qui revient en elle grâce à Anthony...

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Fabulous steamy historical romance from Caroline Linden. "A Rake's Guide to Seduction" explores the story of a woman who learns the difference between infatuation and love. The hero is strong, complex, and misunderstood. The heroine grows into a woman who learns her own strength and stands up for and by her man. The plot flows as smooth as aged whiskey, and the ending will put an ear-to-ear grin on your face. Now, I'm off to make sure I have copies of Linden's other books to put on my keeper shelf!

Amanda says

*“Celia realized what had brought her to Anthony’s room tonight, what had made her stay when he told her to go: **it was love**. Not the giddy, effervescent infatuation she’d felt before, but real love, the deep, true feeling for another that didn’t need poetry and flowers to thrive. It was not the hothouse plant her affection for Bertie had been, but a strong and vibrant thing. It hadn’t withered and died at the first storm but had grown stronger with each trial it endured, until the roots of it spread through her entire being. She could never rip it out without ripping out a piece of herself.”*

A Rake’s Guide to Seduction was ALL of my catnip: pining hero, strong willed heroine, excellent display of character growth, passionate romance and much, much more. There may have been a few hiccups along the way, but none of it detracted from the beautiful love story that left me in a puddle of intense feels.

A slow burner to the core, the book begins in London during young Lady Celia Reece’s coming out. At the tender age of nineteen, Celia came across as idealistic, romantic at heart and, not surprisingly, more than a little naive. She quickly becomes the toast of the season, with many eligible gentlemen vying for her attention. Most especially taken with her was her brother’s longtime friend Anthony Hamilton, who was already on the receiving end of the ton’s ire for his supposedly scandalous reputation. His rakish moniker didn’t keep Celia from his company however and after renewing their childhood acquaintance, Anthony longs for nothing more than to have Celia by his side. One huge problem though: Celia marries someone else. OUCH. But never fear dear readers! All works out for the better, I PROMISE.

Celia marries for what she thinks is love, and maybe it was, but suffice to say, it doesn’t end well and Celia soon finds herself a widow at only twenty-three. Worthy of mention is the diary she kept during those four years which gave us a window into what marriage is really like for those who discover all too late that they have not made a worthy match. It’s fascinating and sad and poignant all at the same time and I was glad to have had this glimpse into Celia’s first marriage as it was a great show of how much she grows as a character over the course of the book. Anyway, at the end of her mourning period, Celia’s mother Rosalind (more on her later) convinces her to attend a house party at her family’s country estate in hopes of it lightening up Celia’s melancholy mood as of late (dead husbands tend to that). Celia reluctantly agrees and soon finds herself unexpectedly reunited with one, you guessed it, Anthony Hamilton, who had never forgotten her, nor she him. This is when all the good stuff happens, trust me. All that pent up *longing* I’d been reading and feeling comes to fruition in the most amazing, life ruining way. I’m still not over it.

Anthony was what I like to call a huggable hero. HE WAS SO SWEET AND LOVABLE AND PERFECT IN HIS IMPERFECTIONS. I just loved him. Sadly society and his peers didn’t share my opinion. Misconceptions and gossips regarding his private and public life led him to being virtually shunned and everyone believing the absolute worst in him. Except one (well two if you count me). Celia, having grown into a thoughtful and mature woman post-marriage, didn’t let the scandalous accusations labelled at Anthony color her own good opinion of the man who had always been a dear friend to her and was soon becoming something much more. Anthony’s attentions in the form of honest conversations and easy rapport, eventually morphed into a mutual attraction, also aided in part by a series of love notes he sent clandestinely to Celia. LOVE NOTES GET ME EVERY TIME. And it’s through those letters that Celia sees in Anthony something he had thought he’d kept very well hidden, but something she knew had been there all along: a tender, loving

man more than worthy of giving her heart to. Celia does struggle doing just that, though. And after her first marriage ending in the way it did, it's not much of a surprise that she didn't 100% trust herself, much less her own heart. But falling in love with Anthony gave her confidence and assurance that had been missing in her previous marriage. As a result, she never doubted Anthony, or herself. Not once, and that made all the difference in the end.

"I love you," he repeated. His grip tightened on her hand. "I love you."
Celia smiled. If she didn't smile, she might cry. "I know," she told him softly. "I've known that for a while now."

Anthony's own personal struggles were a bit different from Celia's. From the moment of his birth, he was seen as less than. And that feeling of inadequacy carried on into adulthood when he was left on his own with no money, no family, nothing. But Anthony strove ahead, making his own way in this often cruel, unforgiving world. His methods to self sufficiency may not have been entirely of the honest variety and he wasn't perfect, not by a long shot, but he certainly wasn't the monster rogue everyone thought him to be. Can you imagine how hard that was for him? Hearing strangers and even supposed friends see the worst in you no matter how much you try to prove otherwise? It was a lonely, miserable and solitary existence, made worse when there came a time when Anthony didn't even bother fighting back or standing up for himself anymore. He thought, what was the point? People would say what they wanted, believe what they wanted and there was nothing he could do or say to change their opinions. But Celia would have none of that nonsense. She saw right through it all directly to Anthony's sincere heart and never once questioned his motives and that was a first for Anthony. FINALLY, someone who saw only good in him. Even after exposing all his flaws to her, she wanted ALL of him.

"All that you are, I am, too," she said.
He turned their linked hands over, raising her knuckles to his lips. "No, my dear, I think you are much better."

This soulful understanding and deep trust between them damn near broke me, okay? Because I loved Anthony so much and I wanted him to be happy and Celia made him so, so, soooo happy and Anthony made her very happy in return which made me VERY, VERY HAPPY. I'm about two seconds away from sobbing all over this review.

There was a a loveliness and an ease to Celia and Anthony's romance that I just loved. Two halves of the same whole finding each other and that feeling of utter completion and peace came right through the page. I've been finding a lot of couples lately that fall into a similar category and it never gets old. It's like Celia's quote at the top says, love doesn't have to be all bright lights and blazing heat, it can be a slow and steady fire that gets stronger over time and never dies out. Real relationships take time, hard work and are worth fighting to hold on to. It was only after coming together that Celia became braver, gutsier and less prone to adhere to anyone's bs, while Anthony finally realized that he didn't have to be who society, his douche of a father or anyone else thought he had to be, he only had to be the all around good person that he was because that was the man Celia fell in love with. Essentially, they made each other stronger and BETTER!!! Aww man, I'm getting choked up just writing this out. I love couples who have that effect on me. It's the best feeling in the world. And I haven't even mentioned the library sex, midnight foot massages and reciting made up on the spot poetic verses while he went down on her...oh wait, I just did, didn't I? YOU'RE WELCOME.

Um, negatives? Because of course there were some, there always are. Thankfully there was very few. The

main one being the last minute drama that left me scratching my head if I'm being honest because it came out of nowhere and made absolutely no sense. It didn't ruin anything, but I definitely could have done without it. Then there was the fact that Celia had virtually no lady friends at all, unless you count her mother, young niece and sisters-in law. Her so-called 'friends' were catty and juvenile and I just wish Celia had been given a bit more support on that end. The pacing was also off in places, especially in scenes when Celia and Anthony weren't together, but that's the case with most books. And this really wasn't a negative per say, but the background romance between Celia's mother Rosalind, the dowager duchess, and Anthony's uncle Lord Warfield, who also happened to be Scottish!!!, was so good that I really wish they had been given a separate story all their own. There should be more later in life romance!

Yeah so, that's it. I think. Geez, that was a lot wasn't it? Kudos to anyone who read everything and understood any of it. Just read the book, please???

Jacob Proffitt says

This is part of a series and characters from the others feature prominently here. I recommend reading the others first, though the second, David's story, has some problems.

I was looking forward to Celia's story as I enjoyed her naïve, lightening presence in the other books. Her brothers were so serious and had weighty issues to overcome and I looked forward to the more lighthearted story I thought this might be. Only then Linden took the story off the rails a bit early on when Celia marries someone not the hero. This part is wrapped up in the first three chapters, that were only a little bit awkward, so I don't think I'm spoiling much in mentioning it, here. This sets Celia up to be much more serious and I thought I'd hate that only I totally didn't. I won't say I liked the leavening of her character, because it was such an unexpected development, but it made it so much easier to take her seriously and set her up much better to be a companion and friend with Anthony so it really was a nice twist for her story once digested.

So I enjoyed this story and loved seeing Anthony and Celia coming to know each other and their relationship was outstanding. I liked their friendship and understanding and that Anthony was so good at noticing the little things that brought her joy in her loneliness. This turns out to be my favorite relationship of the series and thus my favorite of the three books.

That said, I kind of hate Linden's awkwardness with action plot elements that serve only to intrude and disrupt the things I actually care about. It was so prevalent in David's story that I couldn't finish it and while the intrusion was much, *much* lighter in this one, it still dropped my enjoyment nearly half a star. It was an intrusively stupid distraction and I'm only glad it lasted a mere few chapters before the right people were shot and we could move on.

Anyway, it was a solid four stars for the whole book and I'm rounding it to that even with the late-game fumble. Anthony was just awesome and I really enjoyed Celia's depth and eventual resilience. It's a good ending for the trilogy, though I'm not sure I'll seek out other books by Linden as she seems smitten with these intrusive action elements I find so awkward.

A note about Steamy: There are three explicit sex scenes and they're not short. The last one is completely unnecessary so I feel like this is edging out of the middle of my steam tolerance, even if it isn't really. Frankly, the sex was kind of extraneous as all the emotional intimacy was already adequately on display and the physical depictions were more distracting than supporting, I think.

Kusanagi says

C'est même plus 4,5

J'ai bien aimé cette romance, la façon dont cela se met en place, le côté un peu mélancolique à un moment. C'est une romance mais c'est aussi, un peu, un roman d'apprentissage.... on a Celia, une jeune fille de 17 ans qui a sa première Saison et qui, joie bonheur trouve un époux dès cette Saison. Le jackpot. La Celia du début est l'archétype de ces jeunes filles qui débutaient, mignonne, enjouée, pleine de rêve, d'espoir et.... il faut bien le dire un peu vide.

Et puis 4 ans plus tard, on retrouve une Celia jeune veuve, beaucoup moins naïve sur la vie, le mariage, l'amour toujours.... une Celia éteinte presque.... On a suivi sur un chapitre l'évolution de Celia pendant son mariage, donc pas de surprise.... C'est une Celia qui se pose des questions sur elle-même mais aussi la société que l'on retrouve ensuite pour le reste du livre.

Et de l'autre côté nous avons Anthony Hamilton, un personnage discret mais avec une réputation sulfureuse, ami d'enfance d'un frère de Celia, ami aussi de Celia, qui avait commencé à la voir autrement (mais trop tard) et qui la retrouve là....

J'ai vraiment bien aimé le côté lent, introspectif de cette romance.... oui, Celia est une héroïne calme, elle me fait presque penser à Elinor dans *Raisons et Sentiments*.... j'ai aimé aussi qu'il n'y ait pas de quiproquo, pas de claquement de porte, pas d'incompréhension (même quand les situations auraient pu pousser à.... correspondance secrète, rendez-vous caché, épouse qui sort de derrière les fagots...) On a affaire à des adultes et c'est reposant.

Bon par contre je blâme Milady qui sort un tome 3 comme ça sans prévenir.... ce qui fait que je vais devoir lire les histoires des 2 frères Reece maintenant...

Shannon (Giraffe Days) says

Lady Celia Reece is enjoying her Season in London and her many admirers. She also encounters her brother David's old friend, the notorious rake Anthony Hamilton, estranged son of an Earl. When Lord Andrew Bertram proposes though she's swept off her feet and believes herself in love. Four years of bleak, disappointing, lonely marriage later and Celia is a widow. Yet she feels empty inside, hollow and sad. Although only twenty-two and just as beautiful as before, her melancholy casts a shadow. In an effort to lift her spirits, her mother, the Dowager-Duchess, Rosalind, throws a house party at the family estate, and David invites Anthony.

Anthony has always wanted Celia but was too late the first time. Now he's determined not just to make her laugh again but to make her his - if she'll have the most scandalous seducer in London.

This book was a delight to read and more realistic than the usual historical romances. Firstly, her prose is effortless, completely lacking in pretension and manages to capture the tone and style of early 19th century prose without the stuffiness, and without trying too hard. There's a grim grittiness that doesn't normally work

in historical romance but the way both Celia and Anthony mature and harden from their experiences, really spoke to me. They felt very alive.

Also, the premise and plot weren't contrived or silly. Often it's fun to read these outlandish premises that throw the hero and heroine together, but it's also nice to read one that seems perfectly natural - and less impossible. I found Anthony to be a very intriguing character, and Celia too was engaging and interesting. Linden had a superb hold on their characters and was able to achieve a lot within the parameters of the period.

The only thing that I thought Linden should have taken more care with was her titles - Because Celia is the daughter of a Duke she is automatically "Lady Celia" and will be all her life. When she married Bertram, she would still be "Lady Celia" not "Lady Bertram". Marrying Mr Hamilton wouldn't change that either. She never loses her title, she just can't transfer her title to her husband. It's a small quibble but for a book with such a subtle grasp of historical accuracy - by which I mean to say you never feel like Linden is a modern writer - it stuck out.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Book Review For: A Rake's Guide to Seduction by Caroline Linden ' A Rake's Guide to Seduction' by Caroline Linden is book Three in the "Reece Family' Trilogy. This is the story of Anthony Hamilton and Celia Reece. I have read the other books in this series but feel this can be a standalone book. Also please note that this is a re-release with a new book cover, the first release was in 2008. Celia once thought of marriage with rose colored glasses but after her marriage with her first husband those glasses are off. Now as a widow and a sister of a Duke she has some freedoms but is also much sought after. Anthony who has always been a friend of Celia brother David always seem to live a crazy life and only had peace when he was with David's family. Now all those years later when he sees Celia again and they actually speak and get to know one another again it brings back feelings for both of them. Loved this second chance at love story along with this getting a second chance with readers!"My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."<https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2H...> <https://twitter.com/soapsrus68> <https://www.facebook.com/RomanceBookR...> <http://booklikes.com/bloghttps://roma...> <https://www.tumblr.com/blog/romancebo...>

Sonya Heaney says

Originally posted **HERE** .

What's with the ridiculous way historical romance is marketed? This book isn't about a "*guide to seduction*". I question whether it's even about a rake!

In all the years he had known her, he had never once touched her except very properly on the hand, on the elbow, and once on the back, when he had helped her into a carriage.

Caroline Linden is one of my favourite authors in this genre because she is one of the few who actually

captures what life was like back in the Georgian/Regency eras. There're very few who can do what she does (Madeline Hunter being another), working with the social rules of the time to create conflict and romance rather than throwing it all away and writing a contemporary story in pretty dresses.

This is the third book in a trilogy and I've not read the other two yet (but I certainly will). *A Rake's Guide to Seduction* is about growing up and changing and losing your silly childish dreams. There're so many wonderful references to the realities of upper class marriages of the times. I know readers who prefer anachronistic fluff have criticised the book for the more serious tone, but I **can't read** anachronistic fluff, so I loved it.

The more time she spent with Jane, Mary and Louisa, the more she realised her marriage had not been the only one made on short acquaintance and uncertain affection. Louisa liked being a viscountess, but otherwise had little fondness for Lord Elton. Mary's marriage had been arranged by her parents, and she made no secret of being resenting being treated like a child by her elderly husband.

The attitudes to physical contact between the genders is also much closer to how it would have been – making the anticipation much better.

Celia sat beside him on the sofa, where he could touch her hand discreetly from time to time to make her cheeks turn pink.

Our hero, Anthony Hamilton, misses the boat by only moments at the start of the story. He has just made up his mind to ask permission to court our heroine, Celia Reece, when her engagement to another man is announced. Things don't work out the way anybody planned, and when we catch up with Celia again she is isolated, disillusioned, depressed and widowed. Her family plans a house party to try and bring her back to herself, fearing for her life. Our hero is only a rake in name; his reputation has been built by the cruelty of the gossips.

Depressing plot? Well, no, actually. Things change and our now more mature heroine learns what true love is as she grows and changes. I was so happy to have some real evolution for both main characters. I was thrilled that all the social restrictions of the time were shown more realistically. I loved the whole concept of the book.

Another great thing about this one was the subtle secondary romance involving "older" characters. Remembering how young everyone married and reproduced in the past, I don't see why we couldn't have more romances like this one. After all, these "older" characters would be considered pretty young these days!

I was also overjoyed that this heroine seemed to love the colour blue as much as I do!

There're very few complaints I have about the characters' actions in this one (though why US editors insist on including the term **gotten** nonstop in their historical romances is beyond me). There were the usual niggles: only in American English will you hear anyone calling autumn *fall*, or saying *write me*.

This is a brilliant author with a firm grasp of the past. I wish there were more like her.

willaful says

4.5 stars. An excellent character-driven Regency romance, slightly marred by an improbable villainous plot stuck on at the end. Anthony, though no real fault of his own, has a terrible reputation amongst society; Celia married for what she thought was love and discovered she and her husband actually had nothing in common. When Celia is widowed, the two old acquaintances have a second chance to find happiness. The characters are both sympathetic and interesting and I would have been happy to read about the progress of their relationship without any additional plot elements.

Lady Wesley says

Delightful story!

What I Liked

*Anthony! Not exactly a tortured hero, but certainly a mistreated and misunderstood one. Yes, a rake, but also honest, caring, and proud of accomplishing so many things without the love and support of his mean earl of a father. He longs for Celia for years, but thinks he's not worthy of her love.

*Celia. Although she starts out as a typical girl having her first season, her unhappy first marriage matures her. She takes a little too long to come around to accepting Anthony, but once she does she's loyal to the core.

*Celia's diary. The diary covering Celia's first marriage is well done -- heartbreaking, really.

*Celia's depression. Well, I didn't *like* her depression, but I admired the author's ability to depict her feelings of hopelessness and helplessness. I don't really understand the reviewers who said the book was too depressing; that's really just one small part of the overall story.

*Great sex! But what else would you expect from London's most accomplished lover?

What I Didn't Like

*The murder/kidnapping/wife plot. This felt tacked-on at the end (much like the counterfeiting excitement in *What A Gentleman Wants*). What was the purpose, other than to show that Anthony and Celia were willing to risk their lives to save the other.

*Rosalind. She verged on becoming as annoying as Mrs. Bennett.

*The rest of the Reece family. I would have enjoyed seeing a bit more of Celia's brothers and their wives. I expect it's hard for authors writing a series to get the right balance of old and new faces, but Mary Balogh has perfected the art, IMHO, in the *Bedwyn* series.

Overall, I enjoyed this book a lot and recommend it. It works just fine as a stand alone (and is by far the best of the trilogy, so you needn't bother with the first two).

Ruth says

I loved this book! The plot, the characters, the darkness.. It was wonderful!

It is a story about self-worth, depression, abandonment, and yes, finding the one person who really understands you and loves you. It looks at what can happen when marriages go wrong, and I particularly like that there is no one really to blame - the heroine and her first husband are not suited and not in a position to cope.

The hero is wonderful. I loved him within the first two paragraphs and just loved him more and more right through until the very end. He has built a life for himself, suffers cruelly at the hands of gossips and has little self-esteem.

I've read some reviews about how this is a dark story (the heroine finds herself trapped in the wrong marriage, and falls into depression from which she can't escape) and, it's true this isn't a galloping Regency romp, but I LOVED the darkness. The author's descriptions of how moderate depression (non-suicidal) feels are absolutely spot on. It really is the best characterisation of what it looks like for the sufferer I've seen. Likewise her descriptions of the hero's insecurities are excellent.

So, from the caring, but extremely irritating mother, to the gossipy, obnoxious friends, I really enjoyed it.

OK, the last little plot twist was a bit unnecessary, but it didn't annoy me either.

5 stars, all-time-favorites list. This author is now an auto-buy for me.

Vintage says

Oh well.

A Rake's Guide to Seduction is a ridiculously silly if not eye-catching title to this spicy Regency. Yes, the H is a rake but more through gossip and circumstances. When it comes to his behavior he's quite the honorable Sir who wants to do what's best for the heroine even if it means denying himself. The H and his Scottish uncle won my heart.

It starts out where our sweet, kind and winsome virginal heroine is testing the bounds of propriety by walking unchaperoned in a garden with a real lunkhead. He pops out an awkward proposal when all she was thinking of was m-a-y-b-e a kiss. The H swoops in and chivvies the suitor away. The H is close friends with her brother. They both have terrible rakish reps, but the H is shunned by his father as a cuckoo in the nest and *his* rep is almost beyond the pale.

The h is very fond of the H as he's always been kind to her. She's known him since she was a child and has

never seen any aberrant behavior not that she would know what aberrant behavior is. She's a real sweetheart, and it disturbs her so many people shun him including her rather irritating mother. Over the next few weeks, the H realizes she is what he needs and approaches her older brother to court her. He has more money than people think and pledges to make her happy. Ack. Unfortunately, the h was now engaged and the H leaves. Sad. Sad. Sad.

The h's marriage is not quite the love match she thought, and via diary entries we see a lonely life. Her husband conveniently dies, and the h makes it back home to mama. She's sad and disillusioned by the concept of love which is worsened when she meets up with friends. Their unions are no happier than hers was and she's emotionally exhausted and cynical. She's 22.

Her mother, who vacillates between being a loving and concerned mother and a Managing Martha, thinks the best thing is to get her married off again so a big house party is arranged with the h's now annoying friends and tons of single men. The h eye-rolls herself as single man after single man is trotted out. The only one she's remotely happy to see is the H. Her mother is furious he was invited, but her stepson insisted. The mother is further aggravated as his rather large Scottish uncle was invited as well, and he calls her on the carpet for preferential treatment of the other single men while snubbing his nephew horribly. This is a brief moment, but I enjoyed it immensely. The Uncle really ruffles the mother's feathers, and who doesn't love a Scottish accent.

The h is glum; her friends gossip non stop and most of it is about the H and his dastardly reputation: *he beds anything that walks, he cheats at cards, he killed a man in Reno just to watch him die*. No actually it was Bath, but the rumors are rampant. One of her friends even plots to get him into bed.

Suddenly the h starts getting little notes on her morning tray. They amuse her and she responds. She gets out of her funk and figures out the H is really the only one that could have written them. She asks him to meet her in the library. She rationalizes that if it's one of the other suitors, she'll tell them to stop writing, but if it's the H who knows what will happen. It is the H who struggles with going to the library. Of course he does go. They get really cozy, and I need my fan whew, and they get caught. Yikes.

The onus falls on the H despite the fact the h was the one that invited him. Here is where the seduction kicks in. The H is still on the fence as to whether he's worthy or not (he is), and his waffling drops the story a star, but he loves her and wants her.

There is more to the story, but it falls into spoiler territory and I have certainly written enough.

Secondary characters I **really** want to read more about are the stable boy who is quite the charmer in the little that we see him as well as the aforementioned uncle.

Not the most historically accurate Regency, quite steamy, but very enjoyable.
