



Indiscreet

Kasey Michaels

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Sophie Winstead: A spirited beauty with a mesmerizing figure and a perfect pout, Sophie Winstead had been well schooled in the art of dazzling gentlemen. Now with the London season just beginning, Sophie is determined to become a Lady--even if it means forgoing love to marry for wealth alone. If only her straight-laced sponsor would give her his approval--and stop weakening her resolve with his startlingly blue eyes.

Bramwell Seaton: The picture of propriety, he swore he could control the passionate appetites that were his late father's downfall. But from the moment Bramwell takes charge of the incorrigible yet irresistible Sophie Winstead, he is driven to mad distraction. Suddenly he and his lovely ward are waltzing ever closer toward scandal, and Bramwell must resist her charms to preserve their reputations--and his heart.

Indiscreet Details

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Author : Kasey Michaels

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From Reader Review *Indiscreet* for online ebook

Kelly says

Indiscreet is for people who...

...enjoy a strong-willed lady.

...don't mind when misunderstandings occur.

...like a lady who knows what she wants but is still innocent.

...enjoy friends plotting to help each other out of sticky situations.

...read the prologue and find themselves equal parts horrified and intrigued.

It took me a while to get into this book (blame it on my mood. I do.) but I ended up REALLY enjoying all the twists and turns it took. The secondary characters were marvelous (including the caustic bird and larcenous monkey) and I wouldn't mind seeing a bit more of them.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Sara says

Surprisingly fresh and enjoyable read with humor, wit, unexpected twists and well developed characters.

Connie N. says

I'd rate this 3.5 stars if I could, but I'll round it up since it was quite a nice Regency romance--fun and entertaining. A little different from the usual. Bramwell, the Duke of Selbourne, is trying to live down the scandal of his father's life and subsequent death in the arms of his mistress. Bram has become totally sober and serious, and is engaged to a strictly proper woman. But when the daughter of his father's mistress comes to him and asks him to sponsor her season, he realizes that he's been missing out on the fun and humor that used to be present in his life. Sophie is flamboyant, fun, and full of mischief. Although she learned to please men from her mother, while still remaining innocent, she doesn't believe in love or happily ever afters. They fight their attraction for each other. The characters are what makes this book especially fun. They get into unusual and entertaining situations, often because of Sophie's monkey and her talkative parrot. The book actually felt lighter as the problems were solved and their personalities grew more light-hearted. Great writing on Michaels' part to give that impression.

Dawn says

++Spoilers+

I liked this one more than I expected. It is unfortunate that at about 70% the story seemed to lose it's way.

The very beginning was a little confusing. It starts off with an older couple who are sneaking in a tryst at a ball. The woman, was not invited due to her reputation, so her lover had hauled her in through a window of a guest bedroom via a rope of sorts. Anyway, this couple decided to make a go of it on the very narrow balcony, and sadly fell to their deaths, naked and intertwined when a valet accidentally opened the doors of the balcony and sent them flying off. These two lovers were the father of the story's hero and the mother of the heroine.

The next chapter begins 3 years later. Hero Bram, a duke is a bit of a stick in the mud. He has been living his life in a very orderly fashion, avoiding anything adventurous, or daring, so as not to become like his father who's death left his family in scandal. The heroine, Sophie, a young french woman and daughter of the hero's father's mistress (who fell to her death) has arrived in London with her french maid, and deaf guardian for her first season..sponsored by Bram. Bram is obligated to give Sophie her first season due to a legal document made by his late father to do so.

Bram is betrothed to a very stuffy proper and well organized woman who would make an excellent dutchess. But when Sophie arrives in all her beauty and sensuality, Bram struggles with himself, and his fear of becoming like his father.

I really liked Sophies character. She was raised to "dazzle" people and to never trust men. She does not believe in love between a man and a woman. She was constantly told men don't love, they are incapable. There is only lust and desire. Love does not exist. Men only use and discard. Therefore Sophie has acquired through much work, the ability to turn the tables on men.. so to speak. She is very witty, clever, sly.. a master of her emotions, of her facial expressions and body language.

Bram is a stick in the mud for the most part. He is an honorable guy. Never discusses past women, or brags about past sexual exploits. He is very proper to his betroth and his betrotheds is very proper as well. Their relationship is dull and never crosses the line of impropriety.

Bram & Sophie are quite interesting. Both are pretending to be something they are not, and both are also bringing out the real person in each other. Very slowly.

We have a nice slow natural relationship, no insta love. Well Bram has some insta lust, but the controlling stick tamps it down. There is some humor, a kleptomaniac aunt, a deaf guardian, a monkey, a parrot, an aging french maid/former courtesan, and a hypochondriac cousin. All this makes for an interesting story.

So why only 3 stars?

The story started out really good, but then petered off about 70% in. I became bored after the ILY's were said. There was an "adventure" to Sidmouths townhouse which could have either have been eliminated or spruced up.

The whole issue with the journals could have been put to better use as well.

The romance build was so slow, but the transition into love was sudden and abrupt.

I got a little more than irritated with the monkey and parrot thing, it became silly and juvenile.

There were some minor typos, more than usual but not terrible.

I was most annoyed with the heroine's ending every sentence with either "yes" or "oui"

I was disappointed that at 81% when the H & h finally make love, that it wasn't described, only cut to them afterwards. What a gyp! Then, as if an editor told the author to spice it up, there was some sensual love scenes, but nothing more than a hair over mild. It was more disappointing I think because here we have two sexually repressed people who are finally unleashing all their passion.. and we don't get a glimps of it.

The ending was all tidied up too fast.

In short there could have been better conflict, more excitement, more wit. But in the end it fell flat.

Overall, I still enjoyed it and the rating here is quite adequate. 3-3.5 is about right.

Samantha says

While Sophie has spent the past few years since her mother's death learning how to "dazzle" people from her mama's journals, Bram was being the best damn stick-in-the-mud he could be in order to regain respectability for his family name. And just when he thinks he's finally gained some respect back for the title, Sophie shows up on his doorstep armed with a monkey, a parrot, a grouchy maid, and the ability to "dazzle."

Sophie's "dazzle" sometimes drove me nuts during this story and her obsession with wanting to make everyone around her happy equally frustrated. The thing that saved her character from reaching Disney princess standards was that she has a temper and isn't naive. Despite the way she acts in public Sophie doesn't wear rose tinted glasses about her life. She doesn't believe in love, because she had to watch her mother weep after every one of her guys left. In turn Sophie doesn't think too highly of men, but she isn't a man hater. She likes them, she just doesn't expect much from them. Sophie's also probably one of the most sex savvy historical heroines I've seen in a while. She's a virgin, yes, but she's also read every single one of her mother's journals which apparently go into detail about what she did with all her guys.

I almost felt bad for Bram in the story, because Sophie has a kind of whirl wind effect. Here he is just trying to be the dullest member of the peerage and she just sweeps into his house with a couple of exotic pets, a man hating maid, and all her "dazzle." Then within five minutes of their meeting she warns him about her "dazzle" and tells him not to fall in love with her.

Anyway, this story would've been incredibly boring if it hadn't been for how Constance and Bram's father died, because that part of the plot was the launching pad for pretty much everything that happens. I loved that it was made into the foundation of the story, because Michaels could've just used it to throw the characters together then pushed it into the shadows in favor for something else..... You know, at the end of this I was almost wishing that Michaels had a prequel to this story, because I loved Constance and Bram's father and the stories of some of the odd things they pulled were great.

Danae says

Starts with a rib tickling chapter that sets the context to the story of Bramwell Seaton, 9th Duke of Selbourne and Sophie Winstead. His father and her widowed mother's prolonged and very public love affair had upset the ton and their spectacular scandalous demise hangs over their progenies future like a dark cloud.

Subterfuge by Sophie's ex-courtesan now mentor and maid, lands Sophie a first Season under Bram's care. He's Mr. Sobersides and betrothed to a virtuous woman, and Sophie's vivacious flirtatious presence is a hurdle in his avoidance of scandal efforts. Ably assisted by his two cronies, his Aunt Gwendolyn who has a pilfering habit, butler Bobbit who rakes it in with both hands, and Sophie's felonious monkey, abusive parrot and mother's scandal full journals, the story jumps forward and then meanders through wordy passages. Can true love trump untrusting hearts? Can propriety and popularity mix? Can staid and steady turn into impulsive and adventurous? The story addresses these questions and more in partly humorous and partly boring ways. Ms. Michaels has written much better fare; promise of that lurks amongst the pages of this book.

Germaine says

All things being equal, I would have called this effort "a solid C". Except for the opening, there's absolutely nothing original in it, but it's well written and there's some good dialogue. The H/h are interesting, and I actually liked them quite a lot. However, once they have sex, the prose escalates beyond purple to ultra violet in its description of the characters' emotions. It was so bad at around 80% I couldn't read any more, so I skimmed ahead to check out the HEA and then quit. I'm not sure if I'll read any more of Kasey Michaels.

Terric853 says

Sophie Winstead's mother, Constance (The Widow) Winstead was mistress to the 8th Duke of Selbourne. They died together, literally, when an inept servant opened the doors to the balcony where they were making love and shoved them to their deaths.

Four years later, Sophie shows up at Bramwell Seaton's, the 9th Duke of Selbourne's house. It seems that his father promised to sponsor Sophie for "a Season" and Bramwell feel obligated to honor his father's promise. Sophie, almost 20, arrives on the scene and promptly "dazzles" everyone she meets. Having been raised by her mother, a serial mistress, and her maid, a former courtesan, Sophie knows all there is about womanly wiles and pleasing people, but is curiously naive about sex and love.

Suffice it to say that Bramwell falls, quite reluctantly, for Sophie. Sophie, on the other hand, is confused by her feelings for Bramwell, as her maid has drummed into her head that all men are shallow and only think with their penises.

It should have been a cute, fun story, based on the initial premise, but I found it borderline tedious. Bramwell is uptight and stuffy (an overreaction to the disgrace the circumstances of his father's death brought to the family name) and while he's attracted to Sophie, I couldn't quite see how he decided he was in love with her. Sophie, while "dazzling," was one-dimensional. Not Kasey Michaels' best work.

Alison says

Reminded me somewhat of Georgette Heyer's *The Grand Sophie*.

Sophie and Bramwell's parents died tragically whilst having an affair AND illicit sex on a balcony at a house party. Each has learnt very different lessons from the experience.

Sophie has learnt never to give her heart to a man - her plan is to marry an elderly, rich nobleman then take a lover.

Bramwell has learnt that sobriety and calm are paramount - he abhors his father's excesses.

But, Bramwell receives a letter explaining that his father had agreed to present Sophie at Court and help her find a husband - he is duty bound to fulfil his father's pledge.

Sophie and Bramwell are attracted to each other but resist, not least because Bramwell is already engaged. Sophie also has her mother's explicit diaries which detail her dalliances with several noblemen - her 'uncles'.

Like the Grand Sophy, her namesake wants everyone to be happy and manoeuvres everyone until they are.

Bronwyn Rykiert says

This was an interesting story a love match between a courtesans daughter and an duke - their parents died together in a rather scandalous way.

The french companion of her mother forged a way for Sophie Winstead to be given a London Season by the Duke. It was to turn the Duke's world upside down - when Sophie came to town with her deaf guardian (who is hired just for this trip), her French maid (or organised it all), a parrot & a monkey.

For me this book did not quite live up to the cover story - I did think it would be more lively. It was still an enjoyable read.

Becky says

Full disclosure: I did not finish this book. The heroine is being manipulative on purpose and she knows it and the hero knows it (and sees through it), so you know they're eventually going to break down those walls of why and see each other for who they are. However, I just couldn't get on board - all the simpering & making people like her (even if she and I both know it's deliberate) made me want to puke. Own who you are, woman, and don't rely on man to draw it out of you. (Again, I did not even come close to finishing this so that might not be what happens). It just seemed too forced and I couldn't let go and enjoy the story, so onto the next book!

Tonileg says

Historical English romance with a young lady coming out and looking for a rich husband. Everyone needs a special invitation to enter high society in London and Miss Sophie Winstead gets that door opened by the infamous Duke Bramwell Seaton which is a blessing and a curse. Sophie's mother and the previous Duke were infamous scandalous lovers which ended in the most scandalous double death that I have ever read... So great opening chapter which I totally didn't expect but does set the scene between the two strangers Bramwell and Sophie without meeting them until later.

There is something about that saying 'Sins of the father...' which is just another way of saying to watch out for the Karma police because it is coming to get you when you least expect it.

So well written that it reminds me of when Lisa Kleypas was writing English historical novels (if you don't know her work, go out right now and read Devil in Winter or any of the Wallflower series!).

So there is humor and some damaged but innocent lovers because Sophie and Bramwell have never been loved, perhaps least of all by their own parents, but that was very typical of the period.

This was a good story about lonely people finding happiness with the help of one sweet caring (some what unscrupulous!) young lady.

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3 stars

Ivy H says

The first two thirds of this story was fabulous but then things got a little serious and mellow; that sort of almost killed the buzz from the first part. But overall, this was laugh out loud funny. There were some great main characters, an eccentric kleptomaniac old lady, an OW who was so frigid that her vagina is probably a freezer filled with dry sawdust, a delightfully wicked lady's maid, a talkative parrot and a mischievous monkey. All that was missing was a cute dog.

The entire prologue had me laughing even though it featured only the H's dad and the heroine's mom. The H's married dad and the heroine's mom were lovers and had been blazing a scandalous trail throughout the country wherever they went. In the prologue, the H's parents are invited to a house party with some friends and the dad has started to miss Constance (his mistress and the heroine's mother) who hasn't been invited because she's not seen as acceptable company. Constance Winstead comes from an aristocratic background and was married once to a nobleman who was Sophie's father. However, it is her rather promiscuous lifestyle during the era of her merry widowhood that makes her so infamous. She's managed to have been the mistress of a variety of rich and powerful men. Her life as a "professional mistress" has also made her very wealthy. The H's dad is her newest guy.

In the prologue, the H's dad has managed to create some sort of swing/pulley rope thingy that he ties to the balcony of his bedroom and uses to pull Constance all the way up. That was a ridiculously hysterical scene for this reader. I couldn't stop laughing at the way Cecil (or Cessy as she calls him) huffs and puffs because he is nearing 60 and trying to use a rope to pull this woman all the way up to the second floor. When she does reach the balcony they fall onto the bed and she is slobbering him with kisses and grabbing his penis while he keeps gasping for breath. Then Constance suggests they have sex out on the balcony. Apparently they've got a fetish for fornicating in forbidden places. She's sitting on the narrow rails of the balcony stark

naked while Cessy moves between her legs to have sex. Then in the middle of their rigorous copulation, his valet opens the door abruptly causing it to hit Cessy and push him against Constance. They both topple off the balcony, stark naked, and fall to their deaths. This leads to a huge scandal of course.

Then the novel moves forward 3 years into the future (or present as is the case) and the hero whose name is Bramwell (and yes he is as stuffy and filled with self importance as his name suggests) is a bit angry that his father's will forces him to be a sort of patron for Constance's daughter's first London season. This is so that Sophie will be able to find a titled and respectable husband. The H's aunt Gwen (who is a habitual kleptomaniac that loves to "borrow" shiny trinkets and other people's collectibles) is horrified because she hated Constance and vows to hate Sophie too. Bram is very stuffy and ultra conservative because he feels he must live a life that's the total opposite of his father's. He's even got himself engaged to the most prudish, prim, self important, and frigid lady who loves the sound of her own voice. She's the most boring annoying OW ever. All she ever does is talk down to Sophie and try to show her how much better she is than every other woman in the world. I really wondered how the H would ever hope to have kids with Isadora because the woman doesn't even let him kiss her. She makes cold fish seem sexy but Bram thinks she's ideal duchess material because she hates scandal of any kind and her image is the most important thing in her narrow little world.

Bram is stupefied with lust when he sees Sophie for the first time. It was so funny. He felt as if his brain had turned to jelly and had thoughts about spending a lifetime kissing the cute little mole on her cheek. His instant lust is so profound that he is dumbfounded for a couple minutes and it is Sophie who is the first to speak. Sophie was great ! She was a fascinating heroine. She knows nothing about sexual intercourse but knows everything about flirting with men and "dazzling" them. Her mother and her maid had both taught her all the various ways to flirt with men by using subtle body language, facial expressions, and even laughter etc to "dazzle" men. And that's exactly what she does to the hero. Before he knows it, he's caught up in her web and has to force himself to remember that she's the enemy's daughter. Sophie is also a sad young lady because her mother's lifestyle and the things she read in her mother's diaries have made her very cynical about men. All she wants to do is to marry a rich old titled man who will give her a baby (hopefully) and then die quickly of natural causes, leaving her free to live peacefully and man free with her child. There were many moments where the latent sadness within Sophie came to the fore, even though she tried to hide it by "dazzling" everyone and being charming.

Sophie manages to win everyone around to her side eventually - even the frigid Isadora develops a sort of impasse/peaceful co-existence with Sophie. This happens because Sophie manages to give everyone what they want. Her funny advice to one of Bram's male friends worked wonders for that guy's personal life and she even becomes best friends with the klepto aunt Gwen. Soon aunt Gwen is dressing up in fashionable clothing and enjoying life as if she were a young debutante. It was great to see how much joy Sophie brought to these people's lives. Aunt Gwen even ends up with an elderly gentleman suitor who might end up proposing marriage to the dear old lady ! Sophie even enables Isadora to discover that she would be happier being married to a middle aged widower with 6 kids, instead of to Bram ! I think it's more that Isadora is frigid and probably finds an older husband who already has kids to be an easier task when compared to a young man like Bram who might possibly have inherited his dad's lustful tendencies.

There are lots of funny happenings in this novel. Sometimes the funny stuff borders on slapstick comedy and sometimes that does detract from the actual romance between Bram and Sophie. But I loved seeing how Bram grew to care for Sophie. In fact, the closer it got to him setting a date for his wedding, the more miserable he became. He also couldn't stop himself from lusting after Sophie and both fought hard to deny their feelings for each other. Sophie couldn't bear to think of him wasting himself on such a bore as Isadora and he didn't want Sophie to marry any of the older gentlemen that Isadora had suggested as husband

candidates. There's also another story line that's linked to Constance's diaries and all the ex lovers whose secrets are revealed. Things almost turn out badly because one of Sophie's former "uncles" wants to kill her to keep those secrets buried. It was up to Bram and his friends to save Sophie from that particular villain and they even had to banish the poor parrot to the house in the country, because the bird kept repeating some of the villain's secrets too.

Towards the end it was revealed that Sophie knew nothing about the circumstances surrounding her mother's death. The French maid had kept it a secret by lying and saying that Constance and Cecil had died in a carriage accident. When Sophie discovered the truth, she was shattered because she finally knew why a lot of people would giggle at her behind their hands at parties. It was Bram whose kindness and love helped her during this period. I enjoyed seeing Bram come to realize that Sophie was his one true love but I wished the author had spent more time on this aspect and a little less on the other parts of the novel. At the end of the story Bram has changed for the better. He is not so stuffy and he marries Sophie plus he is willing to engage in sex on their balcony ! (not on the actual balcony railings but on the balcony's floor, but that's a huge improvement for this guy who had previously vowed never to do anything that would be so demeaning to his ducal dignity).

Sophie was the star of this novel. She truly "dazzled" everyone she met and made each person's life better after they became her friend. She turned a cold boring household into a warm home filled with laughter and love and her pets were fantastic too. And I loved the advice she gave to everyone ! For a girl that young and innocent, she was very wise too. Bram was lucky that she glided into his life in her slinky gowns with (as he often fantasized) her sultry smile, her brown curly hair, her cute little butt and her tempting cleavage. She was his own little pocket Venus. This was a definite winner in my humble opinion. If the hijinks and craziness had been reduced and the romance factor upped slightly, then it would have received a full 5 stars. It was nice to read a novel with a strong heroine who was in touch with her feminine power without resorting to sluttiness. Plus she could run rings around all the other characters with her subtle manipulative skills. And I did enjoy seeing Bram's staid stuffiness melt away as time progressed. He was a hot guy who didn't truly appreciate just how sexy he could be, but once Sophie got her hands on him, he certainly warmed up ! Best of all: his penis gets saved from the possible injury of entering Isadora's sawdust filled freezer vagina and he never has to hear her overuse of the word "lud" every time she opens her mouth.

Mem says

The book blurb is wrong: Sophie is not the illegitimate daughter of Bramwell Seaton's father.

Bramwell Seaton father, the 8th Duke,, died falling off a balcony with his mistress. Bramwell has lived a ridged life to overcome the gossip that went though the ton after that happened.

He is engaged to a very proper woman, when the past, in the form of Sophie Winstead drops into his life and home. Sophie is the daughter of Constance Winstead, the 8th dukes mistress.

Cathy says

I read the large print hardcover edition of the book, which has a fairly major misprint on the dust jacket. It claimed the heroine as the hero's deceased father's illegitimate daughter, which NO. This is not an incestuous

romance. She's the hero's deceased father's deceased mistress's perfectly legitimate daughter from her prior marriage. (The father and the mistress died together in the opening of the book in the most ridiculous manner. I mean, seriously?! That's the absurd love story the author should have written! Middle-aged people in love for the first time frolicking nakedly on balconies? I'd read it to bits if it didn't end tragically.)

The main pair of this book were mentioned in *Someone to Love*, with the heroine's pet monkey and parrot having caught my interest in that book. Unfortunately, she and her own book didn't live up to my imaginings. (Lesson learned: Don't be fooled by the promise of wacky animal antics.) The heroine's too perfect. When the text keeps outright repeating that she's perfect, perfect, perfect, without irony, I get kind of annoyed with it.

The age differential and the power dynamic just didn't work for me this time either, even though I've had no problem accepting guardians and wards becoming lovers before. The leads lacked depth and I never bought into the buildup of their relationship.
