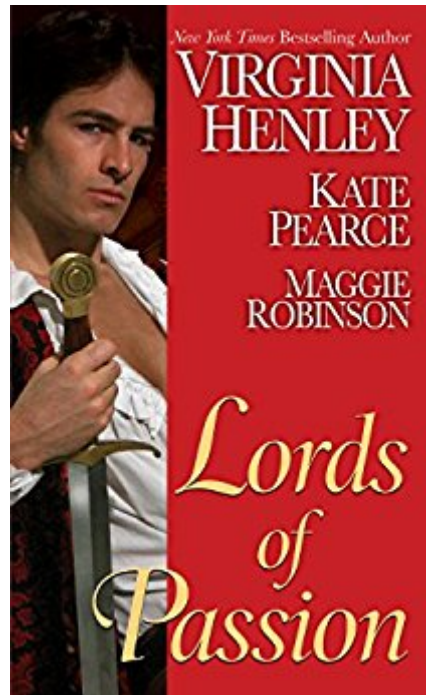




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Lords Of Passion



Synopsis

Readers will float away on the literary flair of these escapist tales, each touched with just the right amount of eroticism.--Publishers Weekly
"Beauty and the Brute" by Virginia Henley
It's been three years since Lady Sarah Caversham set eyes on arrogant Charles Lennox--the husband her father chose for her to settle a gambling debt. Now Charles has returned, unaware that the innocent ingénue he wed is determined to turn their marriage of convenience into a passionate affair. . .
"How to Seduce a Wife" by Kate Pearce
Louisa March's new husband, Nicholas, is a perfect gentleman in bed--much to her disappointment. She longs for the kind of fevered passion found in romance novels. But when she dares him to seduce her properly, she discovers Nicholas is more than ready to meet her challenge. . .
"Not Quite a Courtesan" by Maggie Robinson
Sensible bluestocking Prudence Thorn has been too busy keeping her cousin Sophy out of trouble to experience any adventures of her own. But when Sophy begs Prudence's help in saving her marriage, Pru encounters handsome, worldly Darius Shaw. Under Darius's skilled tutelage, Pru learns just how delightful a little scandal can be. . .
"These three talented authors show the many sides of desire. . . enough to please any reader seeking pleasure."--Romantic Times, 4 Stars
"Readers will delight as fantasies are played out and passion is given free rein." --Romantic Times, 4 Stars

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Customer Reviews

The last story was so sweet, I wish it was a full length novel, I absolutely love Darius! I got this for the Kate Pearce story, and I wasn't disappointed in that story either, I thought the main characters were good. But I did not like the first story at all!!!! I though the heroine was annoying and immature, and the writing style was hard to terrible, sometimes I couldn't tell if they were talking out loud or in there heads! Which is why it's only 4 stars and not 5. Will definitely be reading some more Maggie Robinson!

Very enjoyable, light fare. There was something I particularly enjoyed about each of the stories but Maggie Robinson's "Not Quite A Courtesan" was delightful! I wasn't familiar with her work but will remedy that immediately!

I have to agree with the reviewer who said two hits and a miss. A wide miss. Virginia Henley is one of my favorite authors, but it's time to let her heroines grow up. A sexy read, with a sixteen year old heroine, is just creepy. It may be historically correct, but it's still creepy.

All three stories in this book were good. Writing, characters, and happy ever after storylines. I enjoyed every one, and think you will too!

I love all of Virginia Henley's books.

"How to Seduce a Wife" by Kate Pearce Louisa (the heroine) is from a wealthy family but not from nobility. She is intelligent and loves to read. Although Nicholas (the hero) married Louisa for her quiet demeanor, obvious intelligence, and huge dowry rather than for her looks, he thinks her smile is lovely and likes her warm brown eyes. Nicholas was a notorious rake in his early days. However, after watching his wastrel father destroy himself and those closest to him with his gambling and flagrant womanizing, he vowed to be nothing like him. He aims for stability, both financially as well as personally. His wife is very unhappy with their unsatisfactory sex life but is unsure how to

communicate that to her husband so she sublimates her desires by reading gothic romances. Nicholas thinks that he is doing right by his wife by not ravishing her and overwhelming her with his masculinity and sexuality. It is somewhat of a shock to him when Louisa first tries to clue him in. However, after talking to others, he quickly realizes that he needs to figure out how to fix the situation and take action. I like that it didn't take him long to figure things out. I also liked the gradual seduction of Louisa's sense - given the time restraints of a short story. I also liked the fact that Nicholas read one of his wife's romances to see what some of her erotic triggers might be. I also love that he made one of his wife's favorite fantasies come true in a very real and vivid way. This is the first thing I've read by this author and have been reluctant in the past to try some of her books based on the content but I liked the focus in this book on the hero & heroine.

"Beauty and the Brute" by Virginia Henley

The hero & heroine in this story went through with an arranged marriage in name only when she was 13 and he was 18. The main story takes place 3 years later when she is 16 and he is 21 and they have been apart for those 3 years. Some readers had a problem with the ages of the main characters but I didn't for a few reasons. First, I realized that back then (circa 1719) & with lifespans being what they were, that was the norm. Comparing people that age then with people that age nowadays is like comparing apples and oranges. Also, the age difference between the two was only 5 years - for me that's different from an old man deflowering a young girl.

After exchanging wedding vows, he goes off on his Grand Tour and she goes to a London academy for young ladies. Sarah can't get over the very bad first impression of him. Charles was a typical thoughtless 18yr old boy and said some insulting, snarky things to Sarah when he had just met her. Perhaps an older, more mature woman would have either brushed off his comments or else set him straight, but for a young girl those comments stuck with her. During their time apart, they both matured, physically and in all other ways. Sarah's figure became more womanly and less girlish. She also gained more self-confidence and became very intelligent and known for her fine wit. Charles likewise became more manly in appearance and, after traveling, sickness, and being exposed to different cultures, gained an empathy for others and depth as a person. Charles is captivated by Sarah when he first sees her after 3 years, not realizing she is his wife. When he does find out who she is, it only strengthens his resolve to win her heart. Sarah, by comparison, is intent on plotting revenge for the way he acted toward her when they were younger. Her plan is "love'em and leave'em". In the end, of course, she falls for him just as much as he fell for her. I was very happy that, perhaps because of the story length, there was not a long estrangement at the end.

"Not Quite a Courtesan" by Maggie Robinson

Prudence Thorn is a prudish widow of 10 years. It takes collector and auctioneer Darius Shaw to awaken her sexuality. I liked the hero in this story much more than the heroine.

Lords of Passion by Virginia Henley, Kate Pearce and Maggie Robinson Historical Romance -Nov. 30th, 2010 4 stars

Lords of Passion features 3 historical romance romances. In the first story, *Beauty and the Brute* by Virginia Henley bring together an arranged match between a very young girl named Lady Sarah and a young cocky man named Charles who happens to be the Earl of March. They are shocked when their fathers surprise them with a quick, forced marriage. However, the young, brash and arrogant Earl is harsh to Lady Sarah who is rather plain. Charles immediately leaves Sarah after their marriage. But his hurtful actions carry with Sarah. Years later, Sarah has grown into a beauty and the earl has returned. But the earl has changed. When he spies the young beauty and discovers she is his wife he sets out to seduce her. But can Sarah forgive his past behavior or will she have revenge of her own? This was a solid and well written novel. But I feel it could have been expanded. Because the Earl's and Sarah's sudden transformations are just told by the author stating it. I felt I missed their transition period and never felt I got to know them as well as I could have. So the story felt a little short and incomplete. I really would have liked to know how they both evolved. But overall, it was a quick and light read. 3 1/2 stars

In *How To Seduce a Wife* by Kate Pearce I found an enjoyable story with fun characters. I especially liked the fascinating premise. Nicholas, the dashing rake and Earl of Stortford chose his lady wife carefully. For her money, her personality and for being what he envisioned what a wife should be. His father was a wild man who flaunted his mistresses in front of his poor mother and brought shame to Nicholas and his sister. Nicholas, although much in demand with women decides once he marries to be faithful and treat his new wife respectfully. But he is shocked to discover his wife Louisa does not appreciate his consideration! In fact she considers sex with him a dead bore and rather read a gothic book! Insulted by his implied lack of prowess Nicholas is determined to seduce his young wife and bring her all the pleasures he has denied them both. This was such a wonderful story to read. I really enjoyed the 2 main characters and felt I really got to know them. I loved the premise of a renowned rake who is accused by his wife of being boring in bed. When Nicholas sets to prove her wrong...boy does he show Louisa how to 'enjoy' sex! (Note: this story isn't quite as racy as her single novel Regency romances) 4 1/2 stars

In *Not Quite a Courtesan* by Maggie Robinson, the author brings together 2 remarkable and responsible individuals. They are brought together by their wild and somewhat irresponsible and flaky relatives who beg them to help them. Their young relatives married young and are now in a lover's spat. Prudence Thorne goes to the infamous lodging of her young cousin's husband, Cyrus (where it is rumored he is living with an older courtesan) to try to reunite Cyrus with her cousin. Meanwhile, Darius has just returned for a voyage

where he has collected rare artifacts to sell when his young brother Cyrus pleads with him to help him solve his problems with his estranged wife. Darius see no choice but try to help him. On Prudence's and Darius's way to help their relatives they meet and they find instant respect and enjoyment in each other's company. I really enjoyed this story because it was so refreshing to have such worthy main characters. Because they have always had to be the 'responsible ones,' I loved that they were able to find someone who appreciated them. I was so happy they each found a person they could count on instead having to be the one to always shoulders all the work! 4 stars This anthology has something for every reader unless they don't enjoy historical romances. My favorite is Kate Pearce's just because I loved the premise and the story was just so entertaining and sexy to read. Reviewed by Steph from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

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