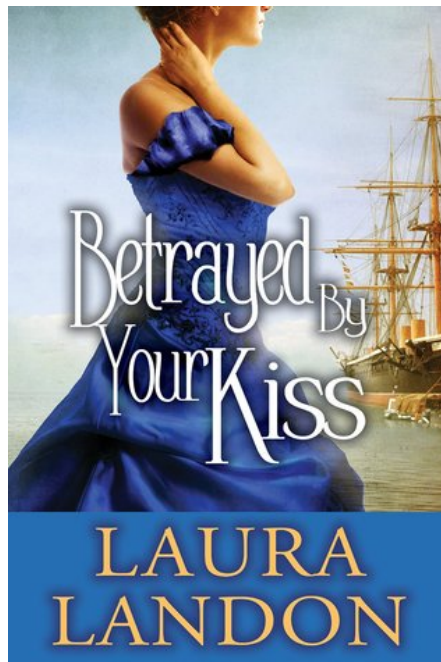




Betrayed by Your Kiss

Laura Landon

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It should have been the happiest night of her life...

Lady Olivia Sheridan knows one thing: she has loved Lord Damien forever. But when her beloved is accused of fathering another woman's child, Olivia's world is shattered in ways she never thought possible. Especially when Damien's accuser sets a huge price on his head, and Olivia discovers Damien's death will be the only outcome...unless she does the one thing he will never forgive her for doing.

When Olivia's plan to save him goes disastrously, dangerously awry, Damien doesn't think he'll ever see the light of day again and, with bitterness, he realizes that the woman he loves is capable of the ultimate betrayal.

Now, four years later, Damien has returned. His eye is on one thing: seeking revenge for what Olivia did to him. Only his heart may get in the way...

Because hell hath no fury...like a man betrayed.

Betrayed by Your Kiss Details

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From Reader Review Betrayed by Your Kiss for online ebook

Dana says

Stunning!!!!

Excellent book!!!! Highly recommend! Felt immediate attachment to both Damien and Olivia. Thank you for another wonderful heartwarming story.

Georgie says

I have to distinguish between books that are objectively dire, and ones that simply don't work for me: BbYK falls into the latter category. It isn't badly written, there is a clear plot line, the historical detail (such as there is) isn't glaringly anachronistic. But while the plot does its job, it's without any real sympathy for the characters - or the reader, for that matter.

For example, the plot demands the hero should under no circumstances forgive the heroine till the end of the book, therefore - regardless of probability or realism - he doesn't. He's not given any characteristics or effective back story that would account for his over-reaction, so he comes across to the reader (me, at any rate) as a macho, insensitive, short-sighted, unfeeling idiot. The heroine isn't much better, and their relationship descends into a series of stand-offs, punctuated by improbable "love" scenes.

Hidden in all the posturing and chest-beating is actually the germ of an intriguing story, as the heroine manages to run two estates and a shipping-company (or at least she does before the hero tells her she's not capable of doing so). Grr.

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

I really really enjoyed this book! And let me tell you, this was not an easy book. Betrayed by Your Kiss was about making some tough decisions and then accepting the consequences.. It was about love and forgiveness. It was about faith in that love.. it was hard and dark and oh so good.

Laura Landon tells us the story of two young lovers that have it all and then loose it and she does it brilliantly!

Lady Olivia Sheridan and Lord Damian have it all. A long lasting friendship that has blossomed into love, a betrothal that gives them both a chance at a true partnership and the blessing of her father. But when their betrothal party is crashed and Damien is accused of fathering another woman's child, things begin to crumble. Olivia stands by him, sharing her love but when the crazed father puts a hit out on Damien, Olivia chooses to send an unconscious Damien away.. Knowing he might hate her, Olivia chooses to accept that hate as long as he's alive. Only, Olivia soon learns that some plans just don't work.

Thinking Damien dead, Olivia hides the fact from the ton until both of his sisters have a chance to make a

match. Knowing Damien's cousin would basically toss them out leaving them homeless and penniless. So the farce continues for four long years, Olivia's father dies and still she goes on. Until the reading of her father's will and the return of Damien.. a hardened, bitter version of the man she loved.

Damien is one pissed off man. Sent away to look a coward, burned and scarred in a ship fire that took him 2 long years to recover from and now he's back. Wanting all that he had lost. But not willing to give anything of himself. Olivia is in a position that all she has will go to Damien if she doesn't marry him. And she has to decide, should I? Is it worth it? Can I live with the rage and the anger?

What Damien has to learn is he's not the only one who changed. No longer is she a naive young 19 year old. She's run estates and businesses, watched her father die and survived what she thought was Damien's death. This girl is not a push over.

On top of that.. someone is trying to destroy the shipyard and Olivia is in danger.

Oh this was good!! I was so proud of Olivia and her choices! This girl had a spine of steel and nothing was going to break her. Even the hate of the man she has always loved.

I seriously recommend this book!

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Betrayed By Your Kiss, provided by netgalley and is scheduled to be released on March 24, 2014

Widala says

Oh, the angst!

I braced myself, but still this book took me through emotional roller coaster ride.

The journey to find true love that's buried beneath pride, hurt, misunderstanding, unspoken truths, spoken lies, selfishness and reality of life was not easy. Damien and Olivia fought the battle against each other and against themselves, but in the end love prevailed.

Sonya Heaney says

This was an action-filled Victorian era romance (though, frustratingly, the author didn't bother to give an era or date and I had to work it out by the opera they went to see). It might verge on the overly dramatic, and the hero took a bit too long for my liking to come to his senses, but nobody could say it wasn't an exciting read.

I like reunion romances, and this book begins with our couple not only madly in love but also engaged to be married. However this all falls apart when the hero, Damien, is falsely accused of fathering the baby of a woman who died trying to abort it, and is challenged to a duel. The heroine, Olivia, tries to save his life, and this results in him being sent off on a ship and her believing him to have been killed on the journey.

When Damien comes back from the dead it's with revenge on his mind and to a whole lot of danger. Someone wants the family's shipping company.

Now, I liked the angst and the dangerous situations, even though by the end I thought there were a few too many similar situations strung in a row. I liked could see both main characters' point of view and I enjoyed the fact they didn't just fall into bed with each other, though there were a few too many "punishment kisses".

Yes, occasionally the language became too American, some of the names of the made-up titles verged on the silly, and there were some odd mix-ups with dates (the heroine's age seemed to keep changing!). But overall I thought it was a solid read.

If you like some suspense in your historical romance, this wasn't half bad.

Review copy provided by NetGalley.

Mia says

This would have been three stars, but there were two scenes between Damien and Olivia that were supposed to be ~romantic~ but that I just could not stomach...

SPOILERS AHEAD

Anger flashed in his eyes and without warning, Damien reached out and grasped her shoulders. "You won't marry anyone but me, Olivia. You're mine. Mine!" Olivia tried to twist out of his arms, but he held her tighter. She opened her mouth to demand he release her, but before she could utter the first word, his mouth came down on hers. His kiss was hard and demanding, his lips grinding against hers with unyielding fierceness. Olivia tried to turn her head, but he refused to let her go.

I'm sorry, but this isn't 'hot' and it isn't 'romantic' - this is **abuse**. BUT NO, the domineering and toxic masculinity doesn't stop there, kids! Because just a few chapters later he forces himself on her again!

His kiss was harsh and demanding. As if he were punishing her for another injustice he thought she'd committed... His kisses contained no passion, only dominance... As if he wanted to destroy her independence and the woman she'd become.

Seriously? This is disgusting. And how does Olivia feel about allowing herself to be used and abused not once but twice?

Olivia hated herself for her weakness. Hated herself for yielding with such abandon.

Yah gurl, I hate u too. -_-

Overall, I honestly liked the overall plot of two people who loved each other and lost that love only to be reunited years later. I really did. But the actual characters are horrible, weak people. To top it all off, that ending was so unsatisfactory and there wasn't even an epilogue that could have salvaged the book. Sigh.

Sylvia says

Lady Olivia Sheridan could not wait to marry her childhood friend, Damien Bedford, Earl of Iversley. Damien is accused of fathering a child with a lady who committed suicide over the affair. With some doubts in the wind and Lord Damien's life is threaten. Lady Olivia believes it is in his best interest to be shipped abroad. A man's pride is a mighty thing. He had remained steadfast on having revenge on Lady Olivia for his version of betrayal. The author's writing keeps your heart clinched with so many emotions. You will swing from argue and to heartache. Lady Olivia knew the consequences of her actions, but she did what she thought was best. Her heart was pure and filled with sorrow. I always enjoyed Ms. Laura Landon's books. I received a complimentary copy from the publisher thru NetGalley for an honest review.

Ane Margaux says

I was given a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review via NetGalley.

It's the biggest night of her life. Olivia Sheridan is attendance at her very own engagement party to Lord Damien and they both couldn't be happier. That is until the night is ruined by an irate father accusing Damien of fathering a child by his daughter causing her to take her life. The chain reaction of events that ensued within the next several hours would change both their lives.

Four years later, Olivia is not the same woman. Life has hardened her and she feels regret for sending a wounded Damien away even if it was to save his life. Olivia is a headstrong and stubborn woman. She is determined to run her father's business and take on others tasks and prove that she is capable despite her sex. The reader can feel pity and sympathy for her throughout the novel. She did and does what she thinks is best and all of it seen in a negative light. Her attempts at happiness are constantly shot down.

Damien was lovable in the beginning of the novel. The perfect gentleman and fiancée. But the Damien four years later easily gets under the skin. He's hard and cold and extremely stubborn. He refuses to see what Olivia did for him in a positive light. His pigheadedness creates a rift between the two. So filled with resentment he can't see that Olivia still loves and doesn't care about what happened in the past or the scars that are proof of the hell he endured. By the end of the novel, I got the feeling that Damien only said he loved her because he wanted to possess her. He seemed to hardened by the ordeals, for which he blamed her, to actually forgive. He used the declaration as a last resort. I don't think he deserved Olivia anymore. Which is sad because her only other option Rolland had moved on.

Their relationship, I'm glad to say, wasn't cliché for a historical romance. Their storyline was slightly different which added for more possibilities.

I'm glad they had moments where it was obvious they wanted to be intimate but we never got to experience that intimacy to its full extent. It made their story sweeter.

This is my first read by Laura London and I'd love to read more!

Gilgamesha says

Insecurities, pride, doubt, ego, betrayal, anguish, hurt, angst, pain, and lies....love can conquers all....atleast in

theory....in fiction....when at the swish of your pen you can seal someone's fate and finalize their destiny. It is a well written book that will reflect the pain and agony of all star-crossed lovers and provide them the happy ending only possible in fiction.

Isha Coleman says

I was gifted a copy of *Betrayed by your Kiss* for an honest review. Action, romance and suspense are elements of a good story. There is a twist at every turn. Good work, Ms. Landon.

Cee (The Mistress Case) says

ARC received from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to the publisher and author!

Damien isn't willing to let Olivia have power over him again. Not after her "betrayal." His pride stands in the way of true love, and no matter what she does, he won't ever forget and forgive. Most of all, he won't give her what she wants: his heart. It's going to be torture when her heart has always been his.

If you're a fan of Lisa Kleypas's *Again the Magic*, you may enjoy Laura Landon's *Betrayed by Your Kiss*. While they have their individual charms, both share similarities:

- Main characters grew up together on the same estate.
- Two old flames separated and hardened by the struggles of life.
- The hero returns to England and reunites with the heroine. Together, they face the consequences of their choices. Betrayal, lost, hopelessness, demons etc.
- The hero in *Betrayed by Your Kiss* is scarred from a fire incident. The heroine in *Again the Magic* is scarred from a fire incident. Both of them are insecure about their ugly burns, but I feel Lisa Kleypas dealt with her heroine's insecurity more emotionally.
- The heroine contemplates to marry a good friend for an advantageous and content marriage.

There is one major difference for me though: I did not want Damien and Olivia to end up together. No. Just no. I know. I surprised me too.

(Beware of upcoming spoilers.)

I envy Olivia's strength and abilities to be her own woman. Damien is a whole different story. I can't look passed my anger to forgive him. I've dealt with worst heroes, who are more dominant and possessive, but Damien landed on my bad side. *To the very, very, very end*, he remains a prideful coward, a stubborn ass, an unforgiving fool, and a blind man. He hurts Olivia over and over again to where enough is enough, and I wanted the goddamn woman to be done with him and marry someone who deserves her. Damien doesn't gratefully acknowledge everything she did for him during "his death" and instead treats her with disdain. It does not help that she retaliates, but what else is she going to do? She isn't the young, naïve girl she used to be and can't break through the barriers around his heart. While she knows their possible marriage will be passionate, it won't ever be blissful and he is determined to make her suffer until literal death do them apart. Towards the end of the story, she sails away from England.

This is where I stepped in and sighed with relief while fighting back tears. Tears of joy and pain for Olivia. Forget Damien. I was glad he lost her and I WANTED HER TO LEAVE HIM FOR GOOD. It was one of

my "You go, girl" moments and I thought the story would end with her departure and it would've been the best ending ever. Truly, the best. But, no, to my disappointment, the next chapter fast-forwards to two weeks and three days later and I discovered Damien had drank his ass off and fought in brawls for the purpose of battling his sorrows. He "earns" his happy ending without a fuss when Olivia comes back. Did I forget to mention SHE TOOK A BULLET FOR HIM? The ending wrapped up too nicely for me. I didn't get to see Damien's terror and raw emotions from losing Olivia, only his fury directed at her up to this point, and I wanted *more* from him. An explanation of how he reacted in her two weeks' absence didn't cut it for me. I hate things to be rushed.

So yes, even though I'm happy for them, their reunion is unsatisfying for me. The HEA is a disappointment. The couple is a disappointment. Damien is a disappointment. Olivia is a disappointment.

What is the point of my rambling? I wasn't compelled to root for the couple. That's my problem with this book: I didn't care.

Overall: *Betrayed by Your Kiss* isn't bad at all (as in it's not dreadfully boring) and I give it 3.5 stars. It is my first read by Laura Landon and I look forward to reading more of her books (:

Jenni Schell says

This was an amazing, wonderful, very well written historical romance. I loved the characters and the story. Great job.

Zoe says

I want to start this review with a warning: this review is very personal. Please expect biases.

This book, is why I read romance novels. It mirrors a personal experience that is buried deep and it is my sincere hope, that it will never see the light of the day again. I will attempt to describe the story for those who want to know what the story is about. Then I will explain why this book moved me so. That would be where the review gets personal.

Damien and Olivia were all set to marry. Both were so in love with each other and could not wait to be married to each other. At their betrothal ball, an accusation was made against Damien. He was once associated with another young lady, with whom he had severed all ties before he started courting Olivia. The young lady in question, died. Before she passed away she told her father that Damien was the father of her unborn child, which was a lie. Why she uttered such vicious a lie, was never explained in details in the book. The grief-sticken father came to Damien and Olivia's betrothal ball, wanted revenge for his daughter. A duel was to follow. Despite their love, Olivia being the young and innocent girl that she was, showed doubts against Damien's innocence for 1 second. Damien was deeply hurt by her lack of confidence in him and their love. There, began their suffering.

The duel was naturally a disaster. Damien was hurt. Olivia received information that the angry father had put a fortune on Damien's head. In her desperate attempt to protect the man she loved, she decided to send him away on a ship with a trusted family friend while Damien was unconscious. It was a very questionable decision and irrevocably changed her and Damien's lives. But there it was. Olivia sent Damien away to save him, only to hear 2 months later, that Damien had died during the sea journey. She was of course, devastated

beyond reason. But she had to live with herself. She then went on to hide the news of Damien's death, managed Damien's estates in the background so that his mother and young sisters would be provided for. She was going to do it until she was sure that Damien's family would be safely taken care of. Then she would announce the news of Damien's untimely death.

5 years later, Olivia now without her fiance and her father, she is managing her father's shipping company, Damien's estates and her own estates. She is not the "strong" business woman, but she is capable. She does it because she must and she does a good job of it too. At the reading of her father's will, she gets the surprise of her life: her fiance Damien, is alive, only scarred and injured. He is cold and full of fury. What makes things worse is her father's will, which binds her to Damien in marriage or she would lose all of her inheritance.

That is, about 30% of the story. It maps the backdrop of this love story, where 2 people, who have made huge mistakes in love, committed questionable actions against each other, slowly and very slowly drag themselves to each other again. The book takes off when Damien and Olivia meet again in the solicitor's office. To face each other again, after they have both suffered so many losses, heartaches, much anger and frustration, that was the meeting of a lifetime.

I read this book in 4-5 hours, with my hand either on my mouth or my heart most of the time. It made me smile because I know they love each other. I feel them. It made me cry, because I know what it is like, to not be able to stay because of wounded pride. Damien's pride was hurt. He suffered severe bodily harms on the journey and lost much. He resented Olivia for taking his choice away, for making such an important decision for him without his consent. He came back thinking that he wanted retribution. Olivia had no defense. She did what she did out of love. She would rather send him away than let him face life-threatening dangers. She would rather that Damien lived to hate her. She would not let him die. The entire book, is about how they grapple forgiveness, pride, faith, passion and love. There is not one sex scene. There were a few hot kisses where they came close, but they never once, slept with each other in this story. There are no descriptions about Damien's "male prowess" or how the ladies flock around him. I also imagine Olivia was portrayed as a virgin at the end of the book in Ms. Landon's mind. But you never, never, never not feel that sexual tension. The amazing thing is, it does not matter. This story is so much more about emotions and tender feelings than desires. Damien and Olivia are the most heartbreaking couple I have read about in a long while.

This book pulled my heart at all the most painful places. I do not think it is a book that would accumulate a huge group of supporters. But if, if you have been in love, where you were forced to do something that pushed the other person away; where all that you needed was a feeble sign that he/she cared; where you were hurt because you loved so much; where you wanted to reach out but withdrew for pride, for fears of rejection and betrayal; where you knew, you were both waiting, waiting for the other person to give you a reason to stay, then you would love this story. It is about 2 people, who suffered great losses in life and in love. Some reviewers said Damien did not love Olivia. I beg to differ. How can he not love her? A man, who does not love, will not come back. He did not come back to claim all the properties and wealth, or even Olivia as his wife. He came back because he loved her, no matter what he said. It is what you do, not what you say that matters. Damien denied and fought with himself, he was angry and suffered great physical pains from the injuries, even 5 years after Olivia sent him away. A vindictive man, will not come back to marry the woman who he believed was responsible for his misery just for revenge. He needed an excuse to come back to Olivia. His pride would not allow him to do it any other way. He did not want Olivia to suffer. He was however, very very angry at Olivia for making the decision for him.

Olivia, is a graceful heroine. She learned to be strong and took matters into her own hands when she believed that her loved ones needed help. She is soft but strong. Not Xena the warrior princess type (thank God). She was determined but not stubborn. She did not give in when Damien forced her to marry him. She needed to know that Damien did not come back for money or revenge. She just needed to know that Damien wanted her, to know that he felt for her, even just 1/100th of what he used to. And she did that to the end by walking out on him on their wedding day. She would rather lose him, than have him without love.

I imagine some readers would be very upset about how late in the story their resolution came. Damien and Olivia both stuck to their guns till the end. They both showed that they cared about each other multiple times in the story. Their love for each other was evident. But neither would concede. Sometimes when the love is so consuming, you just have so much to lose if you concede. Your only choice is to walk away from the negotiation table. I know exactly how that feels like. It is either 100% or nothing at all. I think this is what most romance writers miss. They spend paragraphs after paragraphs on how the characters "love" each other without realizing that love is sometimes not pretty but all-consuming. Don't write that they love each other. Write about how they rush to each other's side, how they could not help but let a glimpse of tenderness show through the cracks on their armor, even when they lash out hurtful words. Don't write about passionate encounters. Write about the pull between them. We readers are not idiots. We have imagination and can often paint a even more romantic scene if we had the right story. A gesture, a look, sometimes, that is all it takes to make a story.

Damien and Olivia's happy ending came only in the last few pages. And Damien did it I think on the last 2. Oh I cried when Damien finally said he loved Olivia. I remember how I was waiting too, how I knew the other person was waiting for me to say anything, anything at all. And I walked away, hoping that he would come, liked Damien did. I was happy for Damien and Olivia. At least, at least in a romance story, people do manage to put their pride aside.

I think this is a horrible review. I do apologize. I can only say that if you have lost someone in love, because pride blocked your way, you would resonate with this story. In real life, in the end pride does not matter, we go on to marry that person who stuck by us. And that is the definition of love in reality. But in those tender moments, when you struggle and wrestle with yourself, where what really stood between loss and gain, is just your pride, when you experience hope and suffer anguish in love, you get to relive those moments in this book. And you get your happy ending, which happens so very rarely in real life.

Chu says

What will you do to protect the one you love from harm? Up to what extent?

Lady Olivia Sheridan is lucky to have a love match, and to wed Lord Damien is her ultimate wish in life. A few more months of waiting and she was officially going to be his. However, just as when her happily-ever-after is within her reach, Lord Damien was accused of fathering someone else's child.

Her initial reaction have hurt Damien, they have been together for a very long time since they were a child, and she knew how much he loved her, but still there was that lingering doubt in her eyes when the accusations were brought to light. But heck, it's just a natural reflex for someone who has given her whole heart to someone.

But when his enemies put a price on his head, she did something to save him and for him to hate her forever...

When her plans didn't go as plans, Damien thought he'd never see her again. He didn't realize that the only woman he has ever loved and adored was capable of what she did. Four years later, he was back, but he was no longer the same as he was. Love was not on his plate now – one thing is for sure though – he will have her.

He was in for revenge, and all she wanted was the man he used to be. She was not going to settle for

anything less. She wanted to explain, but he had made up his mind about her. Will they be able to get their second chance? Or will they let their past get in the way?

Both of them have been hurt by their past one way or the other, and they have some baggage to go along with their present problems. Despite the fact that Damien wanted to forget about love, he couldn't help but care about the woman who had stolen his heart ages ago. Lurking dangers, unknown enemies, new rivals and heartbreaks – this one will surely keep you on your seat.

This is my first Laura Landon book, and indeed, I was thoroughly hooked, and got a little teary-eyed somewhere. Love can make you do things you never thought you are capable of. True love doesn't die – it forgives, it survives all the odds, time and distance.

Review originally posted on my blog

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•Complimentary Copy was given in exchange for an honest review.•

More of my reviews at <http://reviewsofabookmaniac.blogspot.com>

Brooke Bryant says

After going back and forth, I have settled on 3 ½ stars for this book. I did enjoy it. I was greatly intrigued by the storyline. Two characters betrothed and madly in love with each other when one is accused of doing something. Thinking that she is saving his life, Lady Olivia sends away Damien, Lord Iversley. Naturally, he is very angered and feels betrayed by the love of his life, and so everything is set in motion. What could have made this story magnificent was more depth. I felt like we were being treated to Olivia and Damien at just surface level. The story started at their betrothal ball, but I would have liked to see more of how their romance developed. Damien had come to live with her father at sixteen but we aren't treated with glimpsed of how their love blossomed. Then, suddenly, we fast forward four years and Olivia has been managing not only Damien's estates, but hers as well and her father's shipping company. We don't get to see how much she's changed over the intervening years, and the same goes for Damien. He was dealt an excruciatingly blow but we don't get to see how his anger simmered over the following four years, the pain he went through trying to recover and then his decision to return home. Once he is own, both Olivia and Damien are very cold towards one another and Olivia just became downright hostile at the end. I found myself skimming over the parts where they were recollecting because it had been repeated over and over again throughout the story. They just clashed and clashed with one another, with bits of kissing thrown in, and didn't really soften towards each other as the story progressed. I found the ending a little surprising but given the harshness of both of the characters, I could understand why Olivia did what she did. All in all, the story was a nice concept and I was entertained the entire way, but it would have been a knockout had we been able to delve a little bit more deeply into each character.

I received an ARC copy in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!
