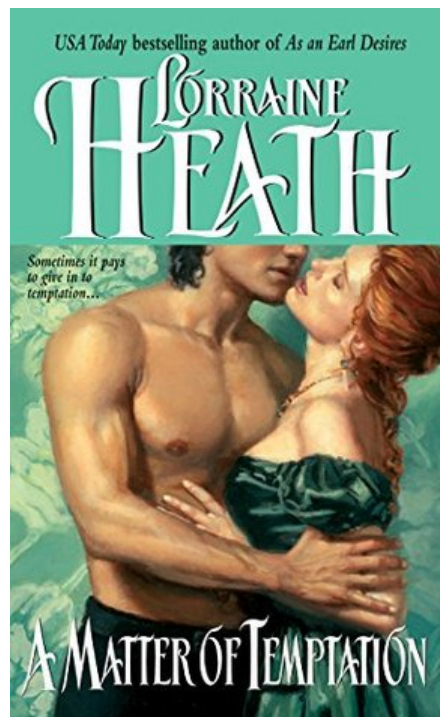




A Matter of Temptation

Lorraine Heath

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The handsome duke whom Victoria married is more deliciously exciting than the cold-hearted rogue she was engaged to . . .

How could he possibly be the same man?

A Matter of Temptation Details

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From Reader Review A Matter of Temptation for online ebook

Becca says

While I am the first to admit that I am a huge Lorraine Heath fan girl, this book, I'm sad to say, disappointed me :(

From page 1, this book had a decidedly gothic feel and I can't say I enjoyed it. The first few chapters have almost no dialogue and the central conflict felt contrived.

Robert, the true Duke of Killingsworth has been wrongly imprisoned for 8 years when his brother, John, duped him in order to take over the estate. Now, Robert is free and he is struggling to figure out how to prove he is the rightful heir and to pick up the pieces of his life. What he didn't expect is that the first day he wakes up in his new life, he is marrying the woman his brother selected as wife.

Victoria is an unspoiled young woman with a few anxieties about marrying a man she barely knows. However, after her wedding, she finds herself falling hard and fast for her new husband.

This book was slow; because Robert was keeping an enormous secret, there was a lot of internal reflection and not much dialogue. I didn't feel the spark between the couple and there was a lot of telling, not showing. Most of the story focuses on Robert trying to figure out how to fool everyone while being eaten up with guilt for marrying a woman who thought she was marrying his brother. As a side note, the hero is a virgin in this novel, but you wouldn't know it. There is nothing different in his characterization or how the sex scenes are handled.

I didn't think the brother's actions made sense, I didn't feel that enough time has passed for Victoria and Robert to fall in love, and I didn't understand why Robert felt guilty for marrying Victoria. It was just too convoluted for me to be fully involved. While I've loved several of Heath's novels, this was not a winner for me.

Beanbag Love says

This was actually more like a 3.75 for me. But I think it's more a matter of personal taste.

First the plot. Robert Hawthorne has been incarcerated in virtual isolation and total anonymity for eight years while his twin brother, John, assumed Robert's role as the Duke of Killingsworth ... as Robert. Sending letters back to himself from America from his "brother", Not-Robert AKA John, has managed to make everyone believe his ruse.

Robert manages to escape after eight long years and returns to take his place. Fearing a return to the 'new prison system' if he's discovered -- since it will be only his word against the guy who has had all of the *ton* believing he's the Duke for eight years -- Robert sends his brother back to the prison (with the dishonest warder who'd collaborated in Robert's incarceration) in his place rather than trying to make his case right away. He's a bit discombobulated, which is understandable. I'm discombobulated just trying to explain it, which makes Heath's abilities that much more impressive.

So, Robert wakes up the next morning in a nice, soft bed with clean sheets only to find out it's his wedding day. Holy moly!. Oh well, he assumes it's a typical arranged marriage and goes through with it, only to find

he's wed a lovely girl who seems to have stars in her eyes over him ... or his brother ... who was him when he asked her to marry him ...

It's all very understandable in the book, though, and Robert's dilemma is pretty clear. Except that he's feeling much more kindly toward John than I think is believable. He wants to find a way to prove his identity while not touching his new bride so she can eventually go to John, whom Robert believes she loves. Meanwhile Torie and the real Robert are falling in love with each other. She barely did know John/Robert after all, even though she liked him and had anticipated a lovely marriage, but there was no actual love involved in their courtship.

I did think, right away, of a few ways Robert could prove his identity, which was a bit annoying since he couldn't come up with anything and it kind of went on and on. In fact, we got fully through 60% of the book and nobody else knew his story. Which is where my grumble comes in. Because he was the only person who knew his problem, there was a lot of introspection going on. And since he was trying not to give himself away, Torie's part was mostly isolated as well. I'm kind of an action/dialogue girl, and that's why I say my problems with the book most likely have more to do with my taste than with any real gripe about Heath.

As always, her writing is engrossing. The characters are interesting. The chemistry works. But I felt throughout that things really couldn't happen until SOMEBODY knew his secret and I feel I was right. When someone figures it out, things really do start to take off. But that's after 60% of the book is gone.

The ending is quite nice and the couple is lovely. I don't know if they appear in any other stories, but I'd like to know more than the epilogue told me about their ongoing life and what happens with John. Like Robert, I never understood why John hadn't just killed him.

So, Heath comes through in the end, but I would have preferred 'sunlight' earlier and a more thorough resolution. But the characters and romance are good, as one can expect in a Heath novel, and there are a couple of laughs as well -- even with the sometimes dark subject matter.

Becky Jordan says

Overall I found this story quite different from the usual plots. The book begins with twin brothers Robert and John having a one sided discussion (as one is bound and gagged) over the others unjust imprisonment for EIGHT years and his brothers subsequent thief of his identity during that time. Very "man in the iron mask", which I loved.

We also have....a virgin hero!! I do believe this is the first virgin I've found as a hero. I do wish it had been done more...virginly though. Yes I'm just totally making up words. But the fact that he was a virgin didn't seem to change much of anything as the scenes read like many others, in my opinion.

Definitely not an action packed story. Lots of internalizing of feelings, wondering, thinking, lots of guilt...most of the action happens right at the end.

I feel like this could have been such a good heart wrenching love story but it juuuuust didn't reach it for me. Overall I liked it. 3.75 stars. There were a couple parts that I laughed out loud at but it's by no means a light hearted, funny story. Enjoyed her writing and will like to try more books by this author.

Charlotte says

This book had two major flaws: the writing and the central conflict.

The writing had way to much telling and too little showing. Sometimes the author would even lead up to a scene and then cut away from the significant event to have a character think back on it instead. Other times, buried in middle of the infernal internal musings suddenly we would be having breakfast. There were no sense of time and place in the constant introspection, so suddenly I would be in a scene and not know how I got there. This also made it difficult to connect to the story, because I wasn't actually there. Even at the climactic confrontation with the villain (view spoiler) Instead, it was pages and pages of the characters thinking.

And what they thought about was boring. The central conflict of this story - which has twins exchanging place, a devious betrayal, a husband deceiving his wife, a tormented hero - is whether or not they are having sex. To boink or not to boink. That's it.

Even after the everything is revealed at the end, what does the heroine worry about? That the hero is no longer boinking her. Argh! Her husband has lied to her about some very salient facts and all she is worried about that he has stopped boinking her.

And the hero - who has been locked away under horrible conditions for eight years - he shows absolutely no effects of the trauma. Although he does think about it a lot. Long, long pages of introspection. But no actual conflict between the hero and heroine comes from this fact. No, he just wants to boink her.

And since the book is about twins in the epilogue we of course get... triplets!

This author has written some amazing books, but here she committed some very basic mistakes. Despite good prose and the fact that I actually finished the book, it still only gets one star. Consistently violating the number one rule in writing - show, don't tell - deserves no more.

Angela says

This is a super wordy book. With a lot of inner monologue descriptions. The premise for the story has merit, but gets lost in all those words. Also, the end wrapped up a little too quick and tidy, considering the complexity of our hero's situation.

Sonyreader says

Sin duda leeré más libros de esta autora. Su prosa me ha enamorado, tanto como sus personajes y su historia de amor. Recomendada.

kris says

Robert Hawthorne, Duke of Killingsworth, escapes the prison his twin brother has had him locked up in for the last 8 years on the eve of the "Duke's" wedding to Victoria Lambert. He goes ahead and marries her otherwise this would be a very short book. Then there's ~tension because he won't get his dick out and she

wants his dick out. Also the whole "reclaiming his identity" thing or whatever.

1. The writing just did not work for me. It's so very ... *soft*. Miles of introspection; lots of telling; very little *verve*. It wandered. Hither and thither and without much force to it. Just not something I liked.

2. The whole "my twin stole my identity for EIGHT YEARS" was very...untraumatic for Robert. He was more worried about going to bed with Torie instead of his brother's perfidy, the likelihood of going back to prison, none of it.

2. In fact, the whole "EIGHT YEARS in prison" thing was straight ignored once Robert escaped. Like, he has no lingering effects of being kept in isolation for EIGHT YEARS. He's healthy; he's strong; he's *fine* except he's slightly pale OH NO. I mean, the description is pretty much straight psychological torment but it's handwaved away because that doesn't make any sense in the scope of the romance. Robert's just A-OK, ready to have sex now!!

4. Also, allegedly Robert's a virgin but he's VERY GOOD AT IT because he's been imagining it for EIGHT YEARS so. Take that with however many grains of salt you need to make it tolerable.

Sandra says

trama molto buona come anche la scrittura, protagonisti ben delineati e inusuali.
letto con vivo piacere.

Kathie (katmom) says

This book, A Matter of Temptation, is inspired by "The Man in the Iron Mask."

For years, Robert, the Duke of Killingsworth has been imprisoned. His twin brother, John, had him drugged and placed in the prison. It's not for a couple of weeks after Robert's locked up that he finds out that John did the deed.

Eight years later he escapes and sends his brother back to the prison.

Robert is planning how to spend his day. That plan includes wine, good food, a BATH and finding a woman. Imagine his surprise when he discovers that it's his wedding day! He dithers a bit, should he let the wedding go forward? Why not, since most marriages are only to further the name and to get heirs and to climb the social ladder. Surely the bride can't be in it for love, right?

Well, the bride, Torie, is in it for "like" at least. He is blown away by his new wife's smile.

Torie finds her new husband to be different that when they were courting, but it's different in a good way, she thinks. He blows rather hot and cold and she is continually left wondering just what he thinks and how he feels about her.

I enjoyed how these two learn about each other. And a virgin hero? Yes, I liked it!

Then the other shoe falls, as we knew it would. Because if Robert could escape from the prison, you know that John can, too.

Lots of great moments in this one. Had me clicking through on my kindle just as fast as I could!

Sombra says

No es la serie del año, pero a mí me está gustando. La pluma de la autora hace que las historias, aunque con tramas bastante sencillas, tengan un toque de originalidad y unos personajes que hacen que la historia prácticamente la haya leído sola y en apenas un día.

En esta ocasión los personajes no guardan ninguna relación con los del primer libro y mucho menos con los del segundo, pero aún así, ha tenido una trama bastante original en una novela de este tipo

Al más puro estilo de "El hombre de la máscara de hierro", nos encontramos con dos hermanos gemelos; uno bueno y uno malo que harán que Victoria, se encuentre envuelta en una venganza que hará que se case con el hombre que no es su prometido, pero que será su alma gemela.

El romance ha sido bonito, Robert es un amor y todas sus escenas con Victoria han sido muy dulces y a la vez desgarradoras, porque no se cree merecedor de ninguna migaja de un cariño que él no considera suyo.

Pero la historia no es perfecta, cierta situación que implica a John, el gemelo malo se ha arreglado muy fácilmente y tanto Robert como Victoria han sido demasiado buenos y la trama no avanza mucho hasta casi más de la mitad del libro, por lo que a veces resultaba un poco plano. Aún así, es una historia bonita, con un romance muy dulce y con un poco de acción e intriga.

Ahora a leer el tercero y último de la serie.

Midniteillusion says

2.5 blurb let down stars

The blurb on the back was not accurate.

It seems to take forever to get into the story and the hero was super rude and disrespectful to the heroine because she was in a situation through no fault of her own. It made it hard to like the hero after this though in the beginning I wanted to love him because the idea of the story was great.

I'd say skip this one, the series is not linked to the others in the series or the other two series that are linked to the first book in this series. Lorraine Heath has much better books out there.

Ann Keller says

What began as a lark and an initiation into manhood took a terrible turn when young Robert Hawthorne, the Duke of Killingsworth, was unjustly imprisoned by his twin brother, John. For many years, Robert lived in almost complete isolation, cut off from his fellow man in every way possible. Madness beckoned and Robert

fought against the beast inside him.

The opportunity to escape finally presented itself and Robert fled. Robert confronts his evil brother, neatly turning the tables on him and imprisoning John instead. Robert has so much catching up to do. The simplest experiences now delight him. What pleasure there is in simply resting his body in his own bed and traveling in a carriage. Breathing the fresh air is pure ambrosia and every morsel of food seems like a banquet.

However, no sooner does Robert arrive home than he suddenly discovers he is to be wed! The lovely Victoria Lambert is beautiful and gracious, the stuff of dreams - apparently, John's dreams. How can Robert marry her when she'd already apparently fallen in love with his brother, John? Perhaps, Victoria is simply wedding the title. Assuming that must be the case, Robert goes through with the ceremony and they begin their lives together under false pretenses.

Little by little, day by day, Robert falls madly in love with his beautiful wife, but does Tori return his affections? If Robert reveals who he really is, will he lose her? Yet, how long can he continue to live a lie? Ultimately, the decision is taken away from Robert when John suddenly returns, to claim the dukedom to which he is not legally entitled and his lovely bride, as well. In this contest of wills and love, which man shall arise victorious?

Lori McD says

3 - 4+ stars

This book is difficult for me to rate... Overall, I enjoyed the story and was pleasantly pulled in and "hooked". But there are several things that, if I take time to think about, spoil the overall book.

For example, we never do find out why Twin John became "evil" and decided to assume his older brother Robert's identity... why it was necessary to imprison Robert and murder their parents just to become the Duke. We never do know if John really did care for Torie (Victoria) or if it was just about her dowry of money and lands. We never do know why John practically bankrupt his holdings - was it just to live the lifestyle he wanted? Or was it to purposefully do things that made his brother's name (Robert, the real Duke) look bad? Besides which, all Robert had to do is what he eventually did: put John in an insane asylum. Why he couldn't bring himself to kill his brother or have him killed is beyond me; yes, that's the mercenary in me. But if Robert really believed (as he had every reason to do) that John would stop at nothing to get his way, only his death would completely resolve the situation, as unpleasant as that might be. But we're to believe that our Hero has more scruples, conscience, and honor in his noble soul, so murder is out of the question.

And those questions without answers or even hints of answers make this book very unsatisfying.

I also felt Robert's sense of honor was overdone. Withholding himself from a true marriage with Torie... OK, so Robert was concerned that Torie had fallen in love with John. But everything Torie said and did pointed otherwise. Without the help of his long-time friend, Weddy (Weddington), would Robert have ever realized that Torie had grown to love and know him, the real Robert?

And I wasn't quite sure what the big deal was about having to prove that he was Robert. I suppose because John had done such a good job of assuming his brother's identity, that Robert felt he had to prove that he was Robert and not John? And at the end of the book, it seemed to make more sense. But even so, to be able to prove that his brother (regardless of WHO he was) had imprisoned his twin without trial or cause for 8 years! Wouldn't that be a sign that whoever that Duke was, he was insane or greedy or something? There's no cause

to do that.

And suddenly for John to decide that Robert posed too great a danger to him alive... altogether too convenient. Were we supposed to believe that because John thought Torie really cared for Robert that now John had to kill him?

A sweet story filled with pain and questions... and tragedy. With a few more answers or hints, perhaps I could rate this book higher. I'm almost afraid that the end of the book portends the next in the series, that is, Diana (Torie's sister) falling in love with John, now safely in an insane asylum.

Sophie ♥ says

Absolutely adored this book. Another winner from Ms Heath - don't be put off by the low average rating and lack of popularity!

Clare says

Robert Hawthorne (the Duke of Killingworth) lies in a prison cell in Pennington Prison. His crime? Trusting his twin brother, John - who drugged him, dumped him in the prison (to be incarcerated without deployment to Australia). Following that, John takes over the place of Robert and assumes the role of Duke (after he poisons off his parents of course).

Living in a cell full of shadows and darkness, the REAL Robert Hawthorne eventually escapes - and this is where our story begins.

He imprisons John in his stead and plans to live a life of revelry, reclaiming the many things that had been denied him, including the shedding of his virginity.

Insert Obstacle Here - he is informed by his valet when he wakes up the day after he escapes that -TADA- it's his WEDDING DAY! Realizing that throwing off the wedding would not do because of the many questions he'd have to answer (and panicking), he decides he must go through the wedding... after all it's most likely that his new bride had picked his brother because of the title and not because she (Victoria) has feelings for his brother, right?

Yup, you spotted the misunderstanding right there. Turns out the young miss is looking for love (although she hadn't known John quite so well before they got married). Robert assumes this means however, that she had chosen John because she liked him. Robert then uses an array of hilarious circumstances to put off bedding her ("I have the pox... no wait I want to hunt a fox!", "We can't do it in a carriage", "We can't do it in the forest!"). All in all a pretty funny read until you've reached halfway through the book and realized that he seems nowhere near close revealing the truth to her than he was at the start.

This book was definitely better than the first - though still, nothing special. The premise was definitely an original one however, and is the reason why this book merited 4****.
