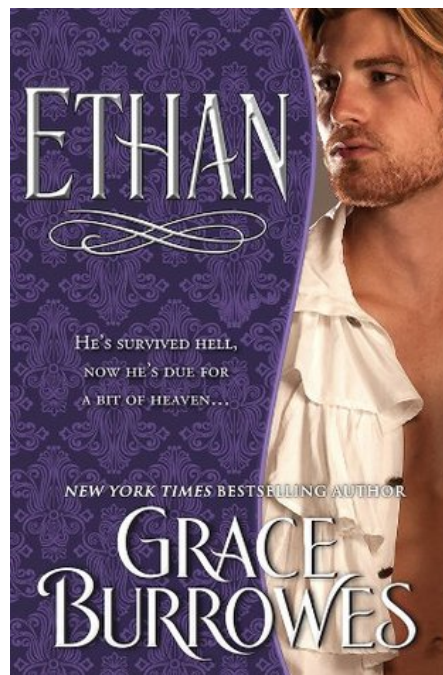




Ethan: Lord of Scandals

Grace Burrowes

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Ethan: Lord of Scandals Grace Burrowes

Ethan Grey's life was shattered...

Estranged from his family, widowed after an unhappy marriage, and weary from fighting his troubled past, Ethan Grey now has a chance for redemption. His son's beautiful and remarkable governess might help him battle his ghosts, but it's been a long time since he let himself get close to anyone.

Alice Portman has more in common with Ethan than she can comfortably admit. For now, she's satisfied with helping him rebuild his life and family. But the dangerous past is about to catch up with them both.

An unforgettable Regency tale of two wounded people who get another chance at love.

Ethan: Lord of Scandals Details

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Author : Grace Burrowes

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From Reader Review Ethan: Lord of Scandals for online ebook

Barbara Rogers says

I'll start by saying I really enjoyed the book. I'll also start by saying that I had to suspend my incredulity for some of the plot points. I guess I can't tell you those without revealing too many details. Anyway -- there are way too many coincidences in who was wronged by whom and who fathered whom, etc.

I really liked Ethan who is a sweet gentle soul who has been wronged by so many in his life -- those who should have loved him and cared for him.

I liked Alice too, but -- well -- her 'secret' didn't seem all that mind bending to me -- certainly not enough to have her becoming a governess and changing her name, etc.

So, Ethan is the brother of Nick Haddonfield (from Book 2 in the series). Actually, he is a half brother and by-blow of his father. Ethan and Nick were raised together until the age of 14 when the old Earl made some incorrect assumptions about the relationship between Nick and Ethan. The earl sent Ethan away and didn't let them attend any of the same schools, etc. again.

At that very first school, at the age of 14 -- a life altering event happened to Ethan. He never recovered from it and it tainted his entire life to this point.

Ethan meets Alice (who is a governess) at his brother Nick's house. Alice is just leaving her post because her charge has outgrown her. Ethan hires her to act as governess for his boys.

They each grow to care about the other and to sweetly heal each other. They conquer the bad buys and deal with two rambunctious boys at the same time. Nick and Ethan's relationship grows and starts to get back to what it once was.

A good read.

Theresa says

Disappointingly average

Having read four of the books in this series the author's formula, her 'go-to' plot and descriptive elements, are revealing themselves. For example, how each of the main character smells is described very early on. The Hero wonders at his attraction to a woman who hides the depth of her beauty in some form of drab dress. The heroine is dazzled by the Hero who is unutterably handsome and is to varying degrees, charming but also, with the exception of Nicholas (book2), reserved and to some greater or lesser extent, emotionally depressed.

With regard to the plot, both the H/h have incredible sexual attraction to one another which usually begins to be satisfied about 25-30% of the way into the story. Before that, however, there are allusions to BIG SECRETS in the past lives of both characters that stunts their happiness and maintains their resolve to NEVER MARRY. How the BIG SECRETS are revealed and resolved while the H/h get to know each other biblically is the primary plot element that drives the story. Of course, the H/h overcome the obstacles and marry. The author doesn't actually use the 'and they lived happily ever after' trope, but it's there nonetheless.

To her credit, Grace Burrowes' protagonists, one or both of them, usually have some element of their character that is distinctive. Ethan is no different and this difference is unusual for male characters in romance novels. Unfortunately, it isn't different enough to raise the level of this book above the dozens of other period romances you've probably read. It's just a typical romance novel that contains too many coincidences to be believable.

Bottom line: both characters are likable, but not terribly interesting. The writing is okay, but not moving or exciting and the action is slow even through the big kidnap scene. My best advice? Read Book 9: David. That's where I started before I circled back to read the series in order. Since 'David,' it's been a long, disappointing slide to 'just average.'

HJ says

reread 2/2015

3.5 I'm not 'into' historical romances, but I have to say that Grace Burrowes writes a pretty good one. I have no idea if there's any historical accuracy in her books, and I'm pretty sure that quite a bit of the 'sexual/seduction' scenes would be considered atypical for the time period, but that's okay. I prefer a bit more contemporary-ness in books I read.

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

ETHAN: LORD OF SCANDALS by Grace Burrowes is another exciting Regency Historical Romance set in England. Book #3 of the "Lonely Lords",but can be read as a stand alone. See,"Darius",and "Nicholas". Can a two wounded souls finally find peace and happiness? Follow Ethan Grey,estranged from his beloved siblings for years and Alice Portman,a governess and so much more, on a journey of healing,forgiveness,secrets,and love. While, Ethan has been widowed for a few years,with two adorable sons to raise,he is lonely,secluded,wounded deep in his soul,until,he meets the straight laced, no nonsense governess,Alice,who has deep wounds herself and a secret. An epic tale of two wounded souls finding love,peace,and happiness after so many years of solitary. Danger lurks in the shadows for both Ethan,Alice and Ethan's young sons.Ethan and Alice both find healing and forgiveness in each others arms. Passion sparks off the page as well as the struggles of two adults, whose lives where changed forever in their youth by the same careless,reckless,evil teenager who grew into an even worst adult. A must read for historical romance readers,who enjoy a plot with a few twist and turns as you cheer Ethan and Alice toward their HEA. Love this author,her stories are not only intriguing,fast paced,filled with passion but also have the human side that only a talented author could provide. Well Done! Received for an honest review from the publisher.

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: MILD

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Review courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Secretly Reading says

Originally reviewed for The Book Vixen

In a Nutshell: Lovely, gentle book about the healing power of love and the emotional bonds that can form between people who are haunted by abuse.

The Set Up: Ethan was fourteen when he was ripped from his siblings and tossed into a hellish school. Now Ethan is a lone widower unable to connect to people around him until he meets Alice, the governess he hires for his two sons. But Ethan and Alice are both haunted by their pasts and must overcome them for a chance at life together.

Why I Read this Book: I'm a Grace Burrowes fan and have enjoyed many of her nuanced historical romances.

What I Liked: I love both Alice and Ethan. They're not flashy people but they have cores of strength which I loved. Alice has built a life for herself and battles her anxiety like a warrior. Ethan's past has scared him to the point where he desires connections with others but can't seem to reach out to them. This character based romance works so well because of these two deeply injured characters and how much I cared about them. Burrowes successfully shows the inner strength of both Alice and Ethan even in the face of their pasts and she does this without maudlin sentimentality. I love damaged leads in my romance and both Alice and Ethan fit this model but do so with emotional balance that didn't just play on my sympathies.

The sexual and emotional intimacies are brilliantly interwoven in Alice and Ethan's romance. Given their histories, neither jumps into bed or throws open their hearts but their steps toward intimacy is captivating because of this. I love the many conversations between Alice and Ethan as they build their trust in each other.

What I Also Liked: I love both Ethan and Alice's families. Ethan's are the series focus, I think, so they play large roles, especially Ethan's beloved brother. Alice's brother is a great addition as well and her other siblings though never in a scene still come through as characters. Ethan's charming children are super adorable plot moppets, especially at the end when Alice and Ethan need them to bring them back together again.

The plot of Ethan and Alice's tormentor feeds into the character-based feel of the novel but also provides the sinister element to the plot. He's perfectly creepy and the villain historical romances need.

What I Didn't Like: I pick up Grace Burrowes' books based upon the romances so I've missed a few that didn't appeal to me and I think these couples whose stories I'm missing play big roles in Ethan. I felt a little lost by all of Ethan's neighbors who I think were featured in previous books. They were very nice couples but the volume made me struggle to keep them all straight. I suppose readers who knew all the couples would love to catch up with them here but I was a tad overwhelmed by all the happy couples.

Second, Ethan's brother plays a huge role in this novel. I should probably go back to read his story because he frankly came across as an asshole who slept with any woman and never thought about the consequences. He grovels here I suppose but his past atrocious behavior and his current flirting didn't endear his character to me.

Finally, horrible cover in my opinion!

IMO: This is a lovely story about healing for both the hero and heroine that I highly recommend for historical readers.

review copy from publisher via NetGalley

Mary says

This was a wonderful book! One of my favorite themes is when both main characters are emotionally or physically scarred and end up helping each other to "heal". It has often been a theme in books by my favorite author, Mary Balogh, and she is the mark by which I measure all other authors. This book definitely hits that mark! I didn't want the book to end.

When Alice and Ethan meet, there is an immediate connection. It wasn't an immediate "sexual" connection with fireworks and lightning. Instead it is something more subtle and allows the reader to witness a gradual growth of that connection. It is a beautiful relationship to watch "grow".

This is a book in the "Lost Lords" series, and while some of the characters from past books are featured in this one, it was fine as a "stand alone" read. It definitely has made me want to read the rest of the books in the series.

The other characters, including the other "Lost Lords" as well as Ethan's two young sons are all wonderfully written characters. I found myself smiling as I read certain scenes.. always a good thing when reading a book. The style of "banter" between characters reminds me of the style of Julia Quinn banter.. realistic, snarky and caring.

All in all, this was a beautiful, tender, sometimes heartbreaking love story.

Epilogue Whore Alert: There was no epilogue (booo!) .. but since Ms. Burrowes includes the characters from other books in this one, I'm assuming that we will get a glimpse of Alice and Ethan in future books in this series.

Melann says

Alors... Comment dire... C'est une lecture assez dérangeante pour un A&P, pas du tout ce que je recherche ! Je pense que les coeurs sensibles peuvent s'abstenir sans problème...

Je n'ai pas lu les 2 premiers tomes car les avis n'étais pas très bon. Le résumé de celui-ci m'intéressait donc je me suis lancée. Mais j'aurai pu m'abstenir je pense.

Après, 3 étoiles quand même car le héros reste un personnage intéressant.

Lady Wesley says

Grace Burrowes has upped her game with *Ethan*, giving the reader an intriguing plot with surprising twists populated by fully-developed, complex characters. Actually, there are two not so fully-developed characters

– Ethan’s sons, Jeremiah, age six, and Joshua, age five. Be warned – if you don’t like children in your historical romance stories, this book is not for you. Me, I like adorable children mixing it up with the adults, and for sure these two boys are adorable.

Ethan Grey is the eldest son of the Earl of Bellefonte, but he is not the heir, as his mother was not married to the earl. Nevertheless, he grew up in the Bellefonte home with his eight half-siblings, one of whom, Nicholas, is the heir and the hero in Burrowes’ previous novel in the *Lonely Lords* series. At age 14, Ethan was sent off to a harsh public school and then to Cambridge. He married a woman who was his mistress, but she died after giving birth to the two boys. Ethan threw himself into his business ventures, and his successes have made him quite wealthy. He and the boys live quietly at Tydings, his Sussex estate.

As the story opens, Jeremiah and Joshua are visiting at their Uncle Nick’s Kent estate, Belle Maison, along with various other children and their parents (don’t even try to figure out who they all are; this is Grace Burrowes, so you can never quite know who all the players are). The children are in the charge of governess Alice Portman, who looks like every other governess – shapeless grey dress, severe bun, and spectacles. As it turns out, Alice is looking for a change in position, and Ethan needs to replace the boys’ recently departed tutor, so Alice returns to Tydings with Ethan’s family.

Alice quickly realizes that although Ethan loves his sons he doesn’t actually show them love. He devotes himself to business and lets others tend to the boys. Alice insists, however, that Ethan take more interest in his children, and he begins to enjoy being a father. He also begins to enjoy being in Alice’s company.

Alice may be the one who looks wrapped up and closed off, but it’s really Ethan who has shut himself off from the world. He is somewhat estranged from his siblings, even though he and Nick were very close as children. Nick, who has succeeded to the earldom, has been trying to rekindle those feelings, but Ethan remains aloof.

There is a lot going on beneath the surface. In addition to suffering from being a bastard son, Ethan endured horrific bullying at school, a trauma that still haunts him. Alice also endured heartache and physical injury in her teenage years; she has dealt with her trauma by leaving the family home and working as a governess even though her family is well off. Years later, both Ethan and Alice still are grappling with tremendous feelings of unresolved guilt. (It is rather too neat that both of them were tormented by the same man.)

I won’t go into the details of the plot developments because there are some well-done surprises, including a story line that I have not seen in historic romance before. Of course, there is growing affection between Ethan and Alice, and between Ethan and his boys. Various neighbors and relatives pop in from time to time – some of them from previous books and some from books yet to come – and some play an important role in unfolding events. The villain makes his appearance and get his comeuppance.

The real beauty of this story, however, is in the exploration of the effects of traumatic experiences on these two people and the exposition of how they begin to heal. As I’ve always said, Grace Burrowes is a wonderful storyteller, and in *Ethan* she tells a story of abuse, escape, healing, reconciliation, and love – both romantic and familial.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and highly recommend it. One need not have read any of its predecessors to get pleasure from it.

Caz says

Grace Burrowes never ceases to amaze me. How on earth she manages to be both prolific AND so damn good boggles the mind. I haven't yet read all of her books (I have to catch up with the earlier Windham stories) but everything else I've read of hers has been a 4 or 5 star read for me, and *Ethan* is no exception.

Reclusive Ethan Grey is almost the exact opposite of his garrulous, younger half-brother Nicholas Haddonfield, now Earl Bellefonte. Where Nicholas is lively and open-hearted, Ethan is guarded; where Nicholas loves, he shows it, while Ethan does not. Both blessed with above average height and build and the golden good-looks that mark them out in any crowd, in terms of their respective personalities, the brothers are like chalk and cheese.

Ethan is a widower with two young sons, Jeremiah and Joshua. At the beginning of the book, the boys are staying with their uncle Nick and his wife, various members of the family and other houseguests and their children who are all in the care of governess Alice Portman. Alice currently working as governess to Priscilla Belmont, but as the girl has reached the age when she needs more than Alice can teach her, Miss Portman is looking to change her situation.

While it's clear that Ethan adores his children, it's also obvious that he has difficulty communicating this fact to them. He was miserable in his marriage and so buried himself in his work and looking after his estate, content to let others care for his boys.

But when he discovers that Joshua was regularly beaten by their former tutor, he realises it's time he took more of an active role in their upbringing. Having met Miss Portman and seen how good she is with his children, he offers her a position as governess. She is a shrewd woman – and accepts the position on a trial basis, having gained from Ethan an undertaking to spend more time with the boys so that he can re-connect with them.

I've said elsewhere that I'm not normally a fan of children in romance novels, but there are some stories which make me disregard my own prejudices, and this is one of them. Both Jeremiah and Joshua are beautifully characterised; boys who crave their father's love and attention while trying not to show it because men don't wear their hearts on their sleeves. Their interaction with Ethan is just lovely to read, as is the delight he finds in being a father to them, and Ms Burrowes skilfully creates a real and loving family unit with Alice as the catalyst to bring it all together.

A genuine friendship quickly develops between Ethan and Alice, and before long, a romance, which is also a delight. Both Ethan and Alice have suffered trauma in their lives (although we don't find out exactly what happened to them until quite late on in the book), and have retreated into themselves as a way to be able to cope with it. Alice comes from a wealthy and loving family, yet because of an old family scandal and the huge weight of guilt she bears as a result, she has chosen to live apart from them and earn her own living. Ethan, too, shut himself off from his family, believing himself to be irretrievably damaged as the result of the abuse he suffered at the school he was sent to aged fourteen. This was initially alluded to in *Nicholas: Lord of Secrets* – even though he was illegitimate, Ethan was brought up with the Haddonfield children and was especially close to Nick until their father separated them because of a misunderstanding.

Emotionally scarred so young, Ethan is convinced he is worthless, and furthermore, the abuse he suffered almost completely killed his interest in sex. When he found a woman who actually stirred his interest, he made her his mistress and then married her when she became pregnant. Deliberately, as he discovered later. The marriage was awful and his wife was unfaithful, throwing her infidelities in his face and blaming them on Ethan because of his dwindling interest in her. Ethan knows that Joshua is probably not his son, but that in no way alters his attitude toward the boy, which makes it all the more poignant when, near the end of the

book, we discover the truth.

I absolutely loved this story, but if I had to say which was my favourite element, then it would have to be the continuation of the development of the relationship between Ethan and Nicholas that was begun in the previous book. Nick is a force of nature, huge in stature and huge of heart who desperately wants to regain the closeness he had shared with his brother when they were children. I adored the way that Ethan gradually opened up to let Nick back in, and the way that Nick never gave up on him even when he was rebuffed.

As I've come to expect from Ms Burrowes, the romance was tender and sweet and beautiful – two lonely, emotionally scarred people come together and learn that yes, it *is* possible to leave the past behind and stop letting what happened in the past govern the way they were living their lives in the present. It's ultimately a story about healing, I think, with Ethan repairing his relationships with his brother and his children, as well as the way in which Ethan and Alice come together to help each other and along the way discover that there is someone out there who is *worth* healing *for*.

The one negative thing I have to say is that it is rather too much of a coincidence that both Ethan *and* Alice suffered at the hands of the same person, but that really is all I can find to criticise.

I'm also growing to love the world Grace Burrowes is creating with these books. In *Ethan* we meet a number of characters who will be appearing in future stories (notably Gareth, Marquess of Heathgate who is Ethan's neighbour and the only person who knows exactly what happened to Ethan at school, because he was the one who put a stop to it), as well as those who have appeared in her other books, such as Ben Hazlitt from the Windham's series, who turns out to be Alice's brother.

Each of the *Lonely Lords* series is designed so it can be read as a standalone, but I think that there is much to be gained by reading both this and its predecessor (Nicholas: Lord of Secrets) in order, to get the full effect of the wonderful relationship Ms Burrowes has written between the half-brothers.

Highly recommended.

Kathie (katmom) says

This pulled me in from the very first page. All of Ms. Burrowes LONELY LORDS books have characters that pop up in each book. It's always a JOY to see them. While this is Ethan's book, Nicholas is everywhere in it. I keep having a hard time deciding which Lonely Lord I like the best. Darius, Nicholas...or Ethan. Each book stands alone, but reading them as a series is a joy.

Ethan is wounded in spirit. We get little peeks into what caused his trauma. And it's scary.

Alice has physical and mental issues as well. Her hip was badly damaged at one point and as we get teased with how that came to be, I began to have a sneaking suspicion of who lay at the base of both of their hurts.

There's a BAD GUY. Yes, I'm putting that in all caps. The BAD GUY was very adroitly inserted into the narrative and my anxiety over him just kept growing. He was truly evil and his intentions made me shudder.

The journey of our H/h was a lovely one. I love that "governess and the lord finding each other" trope. There's just something about that one that appeals to me. Both Ethan and Alice need someone to love them,

to hold them, to care. My heart clenched a few times over their path. I also laughed, out loud, a couple of times! I love when that happens in a book.

Add in two adorable little boys, Jeremiah and Joshua, and quick visits by Nicholas, and that makes this a very fine read. One of the best parts is that there are other siblings in the family, and I hope I get to read about each and every one of them.

FIVE BOOKMARKS!

This one made my heart clench...

*Thank you, NetGalley and Sourcebooks, for the opportunity to read ETHAN.

This review can be seen at my blog:
www.firstpagetothelast.com

Awallens says

I am making a conscious effort to read more romances. This one was excellent! That romance was sweet, and there was enough tension going on externally that it was believable. I really liked it! Can't wait to read more by this author

Betty says

While visiting his brother, Nicholas, Ethan Grey met Alice Portman who was the governess to a child staying with Nicholas and his family. Ethan learned that his two young boys who were also visiting Nicholas, had been abused by the teacher that he had hired for his two boys. He also learned that Alice was to leave the employment there and be looking for a new position. He offered Alice a position teaching his two boys which she decided to accept.

Both Ethan and Alice had traumas from their childhood that are keeping them from living happy adult lives. As they learn to be more comfortable with each other the story starts to unravel.

The main characters are both likable although damaged. The supporting characters are delightful and most are recognizable from other Grace Burrowes books. This is well written with an interesting story line. Like other Grace Burrowes books, it was hard to put this book down once I started reading it. I am looking forward to the next book in this series, Beckman.

Catherine says

This one was much better than the second book in the series. I liked both Ethan and Alice but the whole feel of the story didn't really translate as historical romance. It felt a bit more contemporary romance playing dress up on horseback. Maybe the language, maybe the ease the characters had with each other, status, sex...

It's not bad, for sure, and it's got a lot of high ratings. I've just read other HR that I loved way more than this

one.

Sharon Redfern says

I love Grace Burrowes' books and her latest book, Ethan, is no exception. This is a story of two people carrying heavy burdens of guilt and who find in each other the key to their happiness. Ethan Grey is the illegitimate oldest son of the late Earl of Bellefonte. Due to a misunderstanding, his father sent him away to school when he was in his early teens. Ethan's experience there was what nightmares are made from and he has kept himself from his family until recently out of shame and humiliation.

Alice Portman is a gentleman's daughter working as a governess. She too has had a traumatic experience in her early teens that has marked her emotionally and physically. She meets Ethan while caring for his two sons at a large house party. Seeing her connection with his sons, Ethan offers her a position when her present charge moves on due to her age. There is an attraction between the two even if she is not a fan of his parenting techniques. As time goes by they recognize that they share the belief that they are both damaged goods and a burden to their loved ones. This just strengthens the bonds growing between them.

I liked the way that the history of the two protagonists is slowly played out through the book and how each character reacts to the others story. The absolute truth is revealed in a very emotional setting and leads to a short period of misunderstanding but they are able to work it out by communicating after prodding by their family members. Ethan is a flawed hero who assumes the worst and doesn't always recognize the hurt his family feels when he closes himself off from them. Alice has a better relationship with her family but believes she can never go back because of the guilt she feels. Interestingly, the villain of the piece is known to both of them but they don't find out until it is almost too late.

This book is the third book in The Lonely Lords Series after Darius and Nicholas. There are at least six more books planned in this series and several of the characters make an appearance in this book. I am glad that I have these books to look forward to reading over the next several months.

Ilze says

Grace Burrowes' "Ethan, Lord of Scandals" - #3 in the Lonely Lords series Grace Burrowes just keeps getting better and better. So much to love about this book: Ethan, the hero who has spent more than half of his life getting over a traumatic assault when he was 14, Alice the heroine, who is suffering for herself and her sister, all the wonderful parts about horses and riding, which evidently Grace Burrowes knows a GREAT deal about, the gradually unfolding love between Ethan and Alice, Ethan's two sons Joshua and Jeremiah, who are great characters, and much much more!

I agree with some other reviewers that it's a little difficult to keep all the tertiary characters straight. Never was sure who exactly "Lady Warne" was, although I think she might have appeared in the previous book in this series, the one about Ethan's half-brother Nicholas. She played a fairly big role in Ethan's life prior to the time of this story, so I would have appreciated a proper explanation of who she is, rather than just some random person whose name was dropped into the story every once in a while.

After a second reading I have to lower the rating of this book - it didn't delight me nearly as much the second time around.

