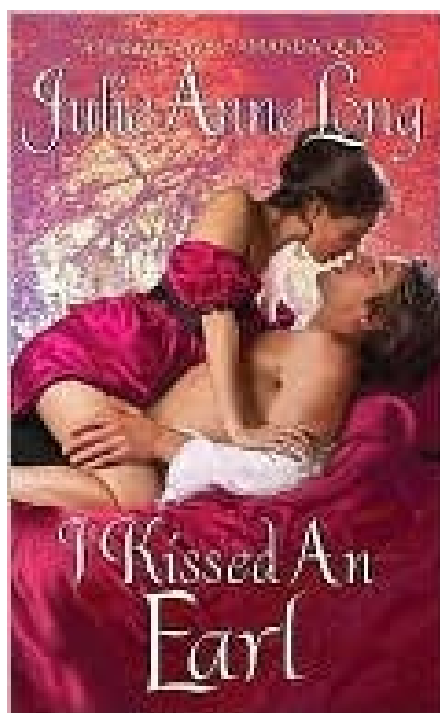




I Kissed an Earl

Julie Anne Long

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Violet Redmond's family and fortune might be formidable and her beauty and wit matchless—but her infamous flair for mischief keeps all but the most lionhearted suitors at bay. Only Violet knows what will assuage her restlessness: a man who doesn't bore her to tears, and a clue to the fate of her missing brother. She never dreamed she'd find both with a man whose own pedigree is far from impeccable.

"Savage" is what the women of the ton whisper about the newly styled Earl of Ardmay—albeit with shivers of pleasure. Born an English bastard, raised on the high seas, he's on a mission to capture a notorious pirate for vengeance. But while Violet's belief in her brother's innocence maddens him, her courage awes him . . . and her sensuality finally undoes him. Now the man who once lost everything and the girl who has everything to lose are bound by a passion that could either end in betrayal . . . or become everything they ever dreamed.

I Kissed an Earl Details

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From Reader Review I Kissed an Earl for online ebook

Angie says

Nope. This book suffers, IMO, from Boredom on the High Seas syndrome and an indifferent and occasionally mean "hero." The lone Redmond sister deserved more.

Ashley says

OMG. This book!

If I weren't too lazy to start culling books for a favorites shelf this one would absolutely go on it. Really just excellent, well-paced fun from start to finish. And the Lyon bits at the end were pretty great. It was refreshing to see that for all that he loved his sister and thought her very capable and clever, he actually didn't see her for the truly strong person she had become. I guess Lyon is the BIG hero for the whole book series so it was good to have Flint, the wonderful hero of this particular book, put him in his place a bit.

Lyon's pretty badass. All his little monologues really had me going. Is he over Olivia Eversea? If he is then why does he do nothing but talk about her?

Having read the next book in this series already and learned more about Olivia, it seems the obsession is mutual, so at least **both** parties are moody, broken-hearted and plagued by loss and whatnot. Otherwise it would be kind of creepy.

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

Book 4 in the Pennyroyal Green series, this time it's back to the Redmonds, the infamous Violet in fact who meets her match in the newly appointed Earl of Ardmay, Captain Asher Flint. However, despite the attraction any relationship is bound to be doomed as she desperately searches for her brother, the missing Lyon Redmond who may be the nefarious pirate Le Chat, the very man Flint is determined to bring to justice.

Despite the frivolous title, there is so much depth to this book. I loved the slow realization of love between two people who society deemed impossible for each other, the questions of love over family loyalty and just the way Julie Anne Long puts words together to develop her characters, whether it be witty banter or just the nuances of a look or a glance. Her style reminds me of a traditional regency novel in this way with the added bonus of steamy romance.

And we get some information on the whereabouts of one Lyon Redmond, an underlying theme running throughout the series.

This is a series which gets better with every book.

RE-READ: MARCH 2015

Jennifer says

I love JAL, but when it comes to the high seas, Marsha Canham is the woman for me. It was cute, but not a fave.

Reread 9/16/12: Downgraded a star. Ugh - there were SO many repetitive words and phrases: "bands of muscle" when referring to the stomach, "hosannas", etc. Gack. I was really pulled out of the story this time around. Also, at this point, I hate the Everseas and Redmonds - thanks to all the endlessly twinkly referencing and series baiting. OLIVIA can go jump in that infamous well for all I care, and take the rest of them with her.

Becca says

While I was excited to finally learn more about Lyon, the main romance never truly swept me away. Thus far, I have not been that impressed with the Redmonds. They are entitled, snobby, and believe they are above the law.

In this tale, we meet Violet Redmond and the newly minted Earl of Ardmay. Violet is a spoiled society princess with the soul of an adventurer. Asher (aka Captain Flint aka the Earl of Ardmay) is uncouth, a bit violent, and very harsh. Both of these characters had always had control over their respective circles and neither could control the other, hence the attraction.

For much of the book, these two circled each other like enemies, hurling barbed threats, hiding secrets, and exchanging innuendos that no other characters in the novel seemed to catch on to. It got annoying since I got 70% of the way into the book before I could see the attraction.

There were a few scenes that were brilliant in this tale (i.e., the storm scene and the scene with the pirates), but for the most part, I felt like I was just reading about two vicious people I would never want to cross paths with. They were probably perfect for each other, but they weren't that fun to read about.

A brief synopsis of this story goes like this: Lyon Redmond, the heir of the family disappeared a year ago, presumably over love for Olivia Eversea, daughter in a rival family. Violet Redmond, hears about some clues to her brother's whereabouts and sneaks aboard the Earl of Ardmay's ship to go after her brother. Key fact: the Earl is also after Lyon and wants to bring him to justice and thus seal his fortune. As a result, any love between Violet and the earl will ultimately lead to betrayal. The entire story takes place on a ship or in various foreign ports. The ending wrapped up too quickly and there were loose ends (I.e., the earl's mistress) that were never dealt with.

Now, in addition to the mysterious Lyon, we also meet Lord Lavay, the always debonair first mate. He was fun and I feel like beneath the charm there is a very interesting man. He gets his own story in book #10 of this series.

Overall, this book revealed a lot of details about the families in this series, introduced some new characters, and contained many twists and turns. I was able to finish it and enjoyed a few of the scenes, but I really didn't care for the romance between the two leads. The romance was volatile and the characters were not loveable. Not a favorite for me, but I'm glad I read it.

Jilly says

I knocked off a star because Violet, our "heroine", is a spoiled child for most of the book. She has spent her life coddled and adored by all and is always doing stupid shit for attention. So, I had to make peace with the fact that she was going to end up with Captain McDreamy off the S.S. Sexypants. *Sigh* Sometimes life isn't fair.

YES!! Yes, I do.

Violet meets Captain McDreamy at a ball where she is terribly bored because every man loves her and she is finding it monotonous to bat them around like toys. She overhears some things that lead her to believe that her oldest brother, Lyon, is actually a pirate that McDreamy is going in search of. Lyon broke his family's hearts when he disappeared a year ago - around the same time this pirate went into business. She decides that the best thing to do is stowaway on the SS Sexypants in order to meet up with her brother.

Uh huh.... Who exactly is in charge of this "great plan"?

She may be an unwanted stowaway, but she is still rich and spoiled. She expects better accommodations - her room is unacceptable. She expects the men to give up part of their food rations to feed her. She also feels that she is above having to obey the Captain's orders, even when she endangers him and everyone else onboard.

I hear that's going around.

Luckily, McDreamy is a pretty smart guy. He puts her to work - in the kitchen. The only meal preparation she has ever participated in is accepting elaborate food handed to her by a white-gloved servant. Her peeling potatoes all day - everyday - was the only thing that made me happy. *evil laugh*

That's right, princess. Most people have to work to eat.

Of course they fall in love. And, of course, their love *cannot be...* blah blah blah...

It all works out in the end. The very end. I think I have mentioned this before, but who do I have to kill to get this author to write an f-ing epilogue? They always end so abruptly.

Jan130 says

3.5 stars. I took quite a long break in the middle of reading this book, but have finally come back to finish it. I loved Captain Flint, aka Asher, Earl of Ardmay. I didn't love the h, Violet Redmond, quite as much. I'd met her before in another book and found her a bit abrasive. However it was clear in this book that she has some wonderful qualities, including loyalty, intelligence and bravery. And there was no doubt that she and Asher were meant for each other. They make a great couple.

Quite a bit of this book is set on a ship at sea, and although Flint himself isn't a pirate, there are some

encounters with pirates. And this isn't my usual read. I'm not normally a fan of pirate HRs. But Long's writing is quite original and I enjoyed the shipboard sections quite a bit.

In thinking about why I dropped this book for so many weeks before finishing it, I've concluded there was a little too much tension in it for me. I'm not a huge fan of unresolved tension in my reads. I like to feel assured that good things are coming for the MCs. In this book there was a mystery that took quite a while to become clear (in fact some threads weren't clarified till almost the end). I don't mind that, I guess. But unfortunately it meant that our H and h couldn't fully get together, as the problems were keeping them apart. I found this a bit too frustrating. There were some heated moments, but it took too long for them to really get together IMO. I got a bit annoyed with it, actually. I suppose that's why I took a break. I wanted more signs of them being able to be together, and it just wasn't happening soon enough for me.

But finally the threads came together and the stars aligned and our H and h had their HEA. The final quarter or so of the book was more enjoyable. I just wish they'd had a bit more of a connection earlier on and there wasn't quite so much tension and melodrama. But in spite of all this, I like Ms Long's characters and writing style, and I will continue my (out-of-order) journey through Pennyroyal Green.

Andrea says

**** 4.5 stars - the first half of I Kissed a Girl was good, the second half was ON POINT ****

I recently dived into the Pennyroyal Green series with It Started with a Scandal - my favorite book of 2015, so far. Of course I picked the ninth book in the series to start, which left me desperate for more. I went with I Kissed an Earl because it does tie directly to the latter, and ended up with another lovely read.

In I Kissed an Earl, I got a story of adventure, intrigue, the lengths one determined young woman will go to for her family, and a reluctant and unlikely romance.

Violet was a fun heroine. Not only was she determined, brave, intelligent and passionate, but she was also very self-aware (a huge plus for me) and she experienced tremendous character growth. Besides Violet's search for her wayward brother Lyon (this is a huge, delicious series arc!), and the realizations she reaches about herself and her family along the way, Violet learns much about bravery, loyalty, honor and sheer will through Asher Flint, the captain with whom she searches for her brother.

Asher Flint was quite the character. A man of mixed-heritage in historical England, Flint has come to an earldom through the schemes of a king who needs his help. He's a novelty to the ton, labeled a savage. Though he's made assumptions about Violet, and isn't overly fond of her in the beginning, Flint quickly begins to realize she is more than meets the eye. Theirs is most definitely a relationship formed with reluctance -he's out to capture Lyon, while she's out to save him, when the two finally (!) give in, this book scorches. I loved that Long steadily built on the sexual tension, and when Violet and Flint slake that lust....it was fantastic.

So the question of pirates and Lyon Redmond's identity, this is such an excellent arc. It's what brings Violet and Flint together, keeps them at odds throughout, and ultimately ends up being the true test of their love. The answer was never obvious, or clear-cut. I liked that Long allowed the two to maintain their positions and beliefs, while seeing the other point-of-view. It was handled with great maturity. I'm really happy that Violet never had to decide between her brother and her lover. I'm excited to see how Lyon's big adventure concludes (?) in the Pennyroyal Green series finale.

I Kissed an Earl simply reinforced my new found love for the Pennyroyal Green series. I cannot wait for

more!

Lil' Grogan says

Interesting because both hero and heroine are strong characters who essentially remain unchanged by the story. Was hesitant to read about Violet because she came across as a bored, selfish, thoughtless rich girl in a previous book. And she is. I waited against all hope for a wave to sweep her off the ship. Actually cheered every time Flint gave her a dressing down.

Was not interested in the romance between them, was far more interested in finding out what Lyon was up to. Had an issue with how the characters were written in the romance: Violet plays games, she says "yes" when she means no (really? do we need to perpetuate this???!!), at one point, Flint even thinks he's going to keep going even if she says no because he can't help himself (so we're romanticizing non-consent as well..sigh).

Had a couple good laughs during the first half of the book. Lyon managed to be funny even through drawings.

2 stars because even if the book annoyed me, I was engaged in active annoyance and I was interested in the plot.

Manda Collins says

This latest installment in Julie Anne Long's Pennyroyal Green series, I KISSED AN EARL is Violet Redmond's book. If you're familiar with the series, you'll remember Violet as a key player in LIKE NO OTHER LOVER. When she is introduced at a ball to the newly elevated sea captain, the Earl of Ardmay, and his first mate Lord Lavay, Violet is intrigued. After all, hadn't the gypsy girl said the name Lavay to her? And hadn't she foretold that Violet would go on a long journey over water? But what intrigues her more is the fact that Ardmay has been charged by the king to stop a pirate calling himself Le Chat from stealing the cargo of English sailing vessels. When she hears that Le Chat's ship is called THE OLIVIA, which just so happens to be the name of the woman who broke her brother Lyon's heart, Violet is convinced that there is a real possibility that Le Chat is her missing brother. So, she sneaks herself onto Ardmay's ship and well, you can guess how well that goes over with the Earl.

What follows is the best sort of cabin/seafaring romance written with the witty, crisp, lyrical prose that Long has become known for. I loved the way that Olivia and Ardmay fell for one another despite themselves, and the conflicts that genuinely stand in the way of their ever being able to be together. The HEA comes with compromises on both sides, but the result is sigh-inducing satisfaction. Wonderful read.

Louise Parr says

I didn't like the main character, but that's just the beginning of my complaints. The year the action took place is not given and the internal evidence is unclear and contradictory. I think it is the early 1820's. THE BIG COMPLAINT. On page 40 her brother thinks "When and if Violet ever fell in love...tectonic plates would shift..." The theory of tectonic plates was first put forward in 1912, almost 100 years after the

action of the book. More, it was met with great ridicule, and not accepted until the 1960's. And yet more, the early nineteenth century, particularly in England, was the scene of great disagreement over geologic theory. Was geologic change the result of catastrophes, like the biblical flood, or the gradual change, like wind erosion of mountains. The furor finally faded when Darwin proposed evolution. Whoops, Lyell didn't publish his treatise on geologic uniformitarianism until 1830. Next time I'll confirm my facts first instead of getting up out of bed!

This is more detail, maybe, than I should expect the writer to know, but it is typical of her, just as the lack of dating is. I might have been able to forgive her if I had liked the book better, but it stopped me with a jolt when I read it.

Mimi Smith says

4.25 stars

You know, the problem with going a few days without internet access, but having a Kindle in your possessions are the books you just read and loved. Because, of course, that means a bunch of marked quotes you'd really like to use, but you're left with no energy to write a complete review.

Or wait, is that just me?

In any case, I likes this one a lot! We finally see Violet Redmond living up to her reputation as a somewhat outrageous lady as she run away to live with a one-legged pirate with a parrot on a small deserted island. Well, not really, but we do get to see her hide on a ship and defy a bona fide captain in order to chase down a lead concerning her missing brother Lyon. 'Cause you see, she heard some things which could indicate her brother is actually a pirate called The Cat (in French!) and Violet would do anything for those she loves. She's spunky, she's brave, she's smart-and she has been bored and trapped her entire life. This does make her do some slightly TSTL things. Now, she's battling with the wild (some even say savage) earl, and she's definitely not bored anymore.

Asher was born a bastard with no home and no family a long way away from England. Everything he has, he's earned. What he wants is a family of his own, land, funds-something to help him start his own dynasty. When the king offers him a title and land in order to capture Le Chat, he's hesitant at first. he doesn't like to be owned. But then, an old friend is taken down in one of Cat's attacks and he is hell-bent on revenge. Not even the beautiful Violet can convince him to give his quest up. She does make him yearn, though. And hope. I like him. He's a bit unusual for a character. Pirates are common. As are Lords. But someone who's both? Yep, liked his grouchy, anti-social, magnificent self.

I've finally figured out that what I like most about JAL are her characters and their relationships. The banter, teasing, getting to know each other.... I mean, here, the plot is more than a little far-fetched, but the characters, humor and the sexiness make it so fun for me to read. Hell even the outrageousness of the plot adds to the fun.

Just one thing: what is it with Flint (and in the next book Moncrieffe) being referred to during the whole book by their last names? Even during their POVs? Then they make love to their ladies and suddenly the girl gets the first name privilege? I mean, at one point Genevieve said Alex and I was like: "Who's that?"

Oh and if Jonathan doesn't end up with ten kids I'll be very disappointed :)

And finally the last bit:

Quotes

"He was tall, but not oppressively so. Politely tall. Not a loomer, per se."

"How did I get to the bed?"

"Well, of a certainty you levitated, Miss Redmond. Angels such as yourself would surely never do anything so gauche as walk to the bed."

"You sent me a maiden who cannot peel a potato," came a voice from behind her.

Oh, for heaven's sake. Hercules certainly knew how to nurse a grievance.

"And so you...decided to attack her from behind out of pique, but you armed her first so the fight would be fair?" the earl guessed."

"They immediately spent a moment in bemused silence in honor of the perilous little paradox that was the English female"

Iliada says

Julie Anne Long has penned another winner and everything's right in the world again.

Firstly, I would like to address my own stupidity. Every book in this series works very well as a stand-alone. There is little connection between the books and none between the Redmond and the Eversea books. That's why I started from book #5, read all the way through #7 and then I went back to the beginning and started from book #1. The one constant figure in the series has been Lyon Redmond who disappeared after Olivia Eversea allegedly broke his heart. I was dying to know what happened to Lyon and I hadn't realised that this was the book where we do. So I had to read 6 books in the series to learn what happened to him. Boy, doesn't that make me feel stupid?

Secondly, I want to say that this book feels more similar to books #5-7 than to the first 3 books in the series. Since they are my favourite I can only say that this is the book where Julie Anne Long comes into her own as a writer and establishes her signature writing style.

Thirdly, when I met unique, confident, wild Violet Redmond in the second book, I admit I had no idea what man would be able to handle Violet and her temper and rein her in. Asher Flint has been roaming the seas for years. Captain of his own ship and only recently an earl, he is quite wild himself. He has tried to master the ways of the ton, to behave as a gentleman, but savage is what people call him.

Asher is extremely clever, strong, fearsome, over-confident and wild himself. I am in awe of what a perfect match Julie Anne Long created for Violet. Violet is not a simpering society girl that blushes at a mere compliment. She is a wild spirit and though her reputation precedes her, she has never outwardly acted like anything less than a lady. She walks a thin line between her true self and what society commands and it's getting harder to hide her boredom. She's not, however, one of those modern heroines that seem like they have been thrust in a historical book.

I truly believe that if there is one man in the world that is perfectly right for Violet, that's Asher. She cannot push him around and she can't control him with her wiles. But Violet is perfectly right for Asher too. Don't get me wrong, I love shy heroines as I myself am nothing like Violet, but I can't honestly picture Asher falling in love with a woman that's shy and blushing and too proper. It would be very boring for him.

Now, this is a hero I love! He is so virile, so strong, so capable. He's really sigh-worthy. This is the first book with a hero I love so much where I like the heroine even better. I have no words for Violet. She's amazing because she's everything I mentioned before and then some, but she has such capacity for love and she loves with a fierceness and a passion I have rarely encountered before. In fact, Violet is my favourite heroine in the series and I have loved most of them.

Every scene these two were together in was absolute perfection. It was a slow-burn romance and I had butterflies in my stomach all the time, the kind that only Julie Anne Long can cause to appear.

To say that I adore this author and that I'm in awe of her, truly, honestly in awe, seems too tame. But for lack of better words, it will have to do.

Beanbag Love says

This was a somewhat disappointing entry into Long's mostly entertaining "Pennyroyal Green" series. The book has many problems and I found myself shaking my head several times.

First of all, I read the dead tree version and I swear I didn't go three pages without some kind of typo or mistake. Dropped words, repeated words, words out of order, the wrong word ("thought" instead of "though", for example). I was constantly editing in my head. At some points I had to read a sentence a few times to decipher what seemed to be code. Ridiculous from a publisher big enough to think they have the right to fix prices through the agency model.

But I can't blame the publisher for all the problems. The story has a decent premise -- a young woman joins the manhunt for a notorious pirate against the wishes of the captain of the ship assigned to bring the pirate to justice -- but there's so much introspection and so little of the POV of the hero it read like an early draft of a story. We'd go these long stretches where all we would read is Violet's thoughts about how hunky and lovable Flint is and how worried she is about her brother, Lyon. Again. I swear we saw that same inner monologue about fifteen times.

There were good moments. Julie Anne Long has a way with her characters when they finally get together. There were times when I was sucked in -- especially toward the end -- and I couldn't wait to get back to it when I'd put it down. But the romance is resolved in the last pages and then it's over. Frustrating after wading through chapters and chapters of Violet's belated coming-of-age and not enough detail about Flint's emotional awakening.

So, sadly, I have to give this one 2.75 stars. It's just not up to the rest of the series, IMO.

Ivana Azap Feješ says

Violet boards a ship on a hunch and helps the captain (aka earl) search for a pirate. I can't wait to see what happens with Lyon and Olivia and the piece of information that was revealed toward the end.

OMG. This book! If I weren't too lazy to start culling books for a favorites shelf this one would absolutely go on it. Really just excellent, well-paced fun from start to finish. You know, the problem with going a few days without internet access, but having a Kindle in your possessions are the books you just read and loved. Because, of course, that means a bunch of marked quotes you'd really like to use, but you're left with no energy to write a complete review. Or wait, is that just me? In any case, I like this one a lot! A top shelf historical romance! I wasn't sure in the beginning if I was going to like this one, but the author was incredible, a true artist with word pictures. I have a bad habit of dog-earring pages when I read a line that I particularly like. I mangled this one! The first 1/3 I ADORED... then I lost track of what/why I liked it as it went on. It just didn't maintain the charm and fabulous-ness that it started with for me. Another great addition to this series. I have inhaled this book! That's how much I liked it. It wasn't perfect (but close), but it was a vast improvement from the other two. Finally we get to have awesome characters and amazing chemistry too. Utterly brilliant.

"He was tall, but not oppressively so. Politely tall. Not a loomer, per se."

"How did I get to the bed?"

"Well, of a certainty you levitated, Miss Redmond. Angels such as yourself would surely never do anything so gauche as walk to the bed."

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