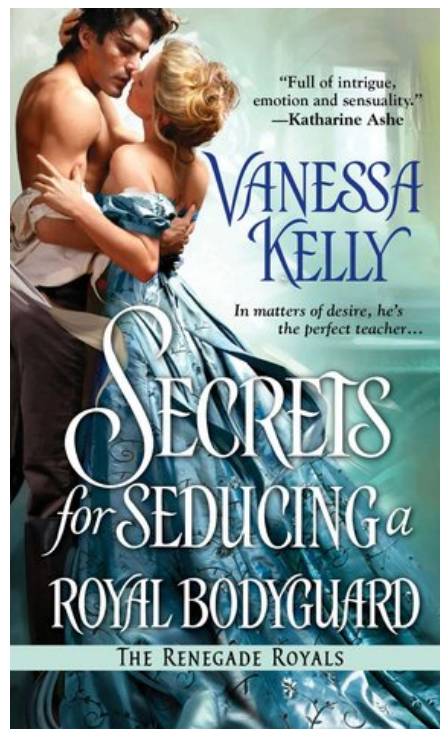




Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard

Vanessa Kelly

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Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard Vanessa Kelly

In this witty, sensual new series, Vanessa Kelly introduces the Renegade Royals, illegitimate sons of the Royal Princes who are finding their rightful places in society...

Accomplished spy Aden St. George prefers to stay away from the frivolous *ton*, especially after the way his mother was used by the Prince Regent. But his latest mission compels him to guard unconventional, vibrant Lady Vivien Shaw. Rescuing her from kidnappers was easy. Resisting her beauty is not. Duty demands he keep an eye on her—and naturally, his lips soon follow. For someone who views entanglements as a weakness, this is pure, delicious folly...

Though grateful for Aden's help, Vivien has secrets she must keep hidden. Yet with her abductors still at large, she needs Aden's protection almost as much as she craves his touch...

Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard Details

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From Reader Review Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard for online ebook

Cherie says

More than once I considered this a DNF but I kept reading. Aden is a good but not great hero and Vivian couldn't decide whether she was an alpha heroine or an enabling martyr. I found their interactions to be forced rather than flowing naturally. The author definitely drove this story. I gave an extra star for the ensemble of support characters who were better written than the hero and heroine and the well written action scenes.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

Well, it kept me up
Til 3 am. Only a good book would do that.
Review to follow

When Aden St. George rescues captive Lady Vivien Shaw from her kidnappers, he has no idea what he is in for with this spunky and inquisitive female. Vivien, to St. George's dismay, asks a lot of questions and formulates her own ideas, albeit mostly the correct ones about the handsome man. The feelings that this rare beauty ignite within Aden St. George throw him for a loop and the need for him to get away from her as fast as possible for fear of his sanity is paramount. Running away from Lady Shaw is not to be thought, since Aden is told by his superiors that Lady Vivien needs to be watched at all times until those responsible for her abduction are found.

Vivien doesn't realize all the danger around her and the secrets that must be kept, between her gambling mother and brother who are always in debt and the money-lenders who want payback, her elder brother who would like her married off so she is no longer a burden on his pocketbook, to the unsightly Russian prince, whose reputation for his cruelty puts him in a class all his own.

Aden tries with all his might to keep the Lady Vivien in his sights, but his disdain for being out in London's public eye hold him back. When his indomitable mother makes attempts to ease her son's way in both his business and personal lives, Aden is confused. Although he has not had the best of relationships with his family, especially his "father", for Aden knows he is the product of a liaison his mother had with the Prince Regent.

SECRETS FOR SEDUCING A ROYAL BODYGUARD by Vanessa Kelly is a winner in my estimation for so many reasons. First we have the handsome alpha male in Aden St. George with his inner turmoils and his pride and honor and the fearless heroine Vivien who is absolutely unlike any of her class. The excitement and intrigue with the budding romance only add to this story. The characters like the dishonorable Russian prince and Vivien's brother who I just want to throttle, make this tale quite memorable. Any book that keeps me up until the birds begin chirping at dawn is a winner and this book by the very talented Vanessa Kelly did that for me. An excellent start to a new series, SECRETS FOR SEDUCING A ROYAL BODYGUARD by Vanessa Kelly, is a top pick and I highly recommend it.

Sandi *~The Pirate Wench~* says

3 1/2 Stars

Setting: Regency England

Steam Factor: Hot

When Lady Vivien Shaw is kidnapped, Aden St. George comes to her rescue. Aden is quite taken with Vivien, but emotions have no place in his work and it is with some relief that he can leave her in the hands of her mother and his mentor, Sir Dominic Hunter. One of England's most powerful spymasters (Dominic plays further roles in this series) but even he doesn't know the identity of Vivien's kidnapper.

So Dominic informs Aden that HE must be her bodyguard until he digs into this further. Vivien is thankful for Aden's protection, but suspects that the Prince who is offering for her was behind her abduction. He's a Prince that doesn't give up that easily and he threatens Vivien's family as well as Aden's life. Aden senses that something just isn't right, and when things go wrong will he be too late to save her?

Book one of The Renegade Royal series, which features illegitimate sons of Princes. I really liked the different setting/plot the author created in her first book it was a nice change, and I look forward to the other "sons of the illegitimate Princes" and their stories. The author introduces us to a spy working for the Intelligence Office who ends up meeting his match with an intriguing stubborn young woman. Great engaging secondary characters, add an obsessive dangerous villain as well as abduction with added twists and turns and a sexually charged Hero and Heroine, it rounds the story up to an entertaining and delightful read.

Sam says

I completely forgot about this book until I just stumbled across it on my reading shelf. Whoops! :\

All right, well, I'm generally very on top of my updating and reviewing but this one had a hard time holding my interest. Which is a shame, because it *sounds* like something I would be super interested in, but it didn't make a great first impression and then it didn't change my mind as things went on.

Okay, first off, by chapter three I already didn't really like the heroine. When someone—anyone—is trying to rescue you from a band of kidnappers, I don't care if you're attracted to him or not—you should be hustling to get your ass on his horse, donkey, unicorn or dragon to get the hell out of dodge. Acting prissy about riding on the same horse until you can get to a carriage? Because, not the kidnapping, but getting on a horse with your rescuer is what's going to ruin your reputation? Come on. Priorities.

There's a line at about 6% about how Lady Vivien doesn't strike Aden as a woman who easily succumbs to fear (unless there's a proposition of sharing a horse, apparently)? Where is he getting this from? So far, she seems pretty typical and prissy to me as the reader, so his observation just feels like the author trying to tell us that she's a tough cookie, but... there's no evidence to back that up yet, and no reason why *he* would believe her to be inordinately brave since he has only known her for as long as I have. (This is a pet-peeve of

mine.) He then continues on about how his training taught him not to let his emotions get in the way, but she's too tempting... WTF? You literally just met her. Are you 13? Is this the first woman you've ever met?

I feel like they jumped into the insta-chemistry/all emotional reactions **way too fast**. *Aden* felt too attached too fast. I get you're a gallant hero and everything, but immediately upon meeting the girl, you want to go to the ends of the earth to avenge a presumed crime against her? I'm a girl and I certainly don't care about people that fast, so how am I supposed to believe this man feels this inexplicably protective toward this—at this point—perfect stranger? I don't buy it. And there are pages filled with these overreactions—weirdly vehement anger over this brave little flower being reduced to “a bundle of nerves” over a single sound (wasn't she just described as not being the type to give in to fear like 3 paragraphs ago?). Now, I get that you're jumpy—but maybe this wouldn't irritate me if I wouldn't have JUST finished reading a perfect stranger telling me how unafraid you are. And maybe if you would have gotten on the damn horse instead of lollygagging, the phantom kidnappers wouldn't so close on your tail, hm?

Anyway, I think that the pacing was a bit off.

I've read worse, but I've also read much better.

I don't remember what percentage I was actually at when I gave up and I can't find the book in my Kindle, so... I do know I customarily try to give a book until 30% and I did not make it that far in this one, or I would have called it and reviewed it right away.

Either way: **DNF**

Sonya Heaney says

So... This was a DNF for me.

At the start of the book, the hero rescues the heroine, thinking she has been gang raped. The first thing he does is sit behind her on a horse and press his erection against her!!

Also not thrilled about the author getting her Eastern European names mixed up...

Review copy from NetGalley.

Elena says

I love me some spy regencies, but I just can't stand this absurdly purple prose.

For example, our first glimpse of the heroine:

"But even in the dim light cast by the candle, though disheveled and dirty her beauty shone clear to Aden in the cast of her elegant features. Hair the color of golden honey wound down from her ruined coiffure and tumbled around her shoulders. Her velvet evening cloak, woefully inadequate to ward off the chill from the

room's moisture-slicked walls, had slipped from her shoulders to puddle about her waist, revealing creamy skin and gently sloping breasts that rose and fell in the rapid, shallow breathing of her disturbed sleep. A ridiculously delicate dress, all white lace and yellow silk, had a silly little sleeves that exposed most of her arms and shoulders, and her pale breasts gently swelled from the wispy bodice of her gown."

This is, like, read-aloud-as-a-party-game awful. Ouch.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

This is a well-written Regency historical romance that doesn't really break new ground, but it's a pleasant read. I'm most interested in Dominic's story at this point, but might take a while to get to him.

Overall rating: 3.5/5.0 stars.

Reviewed for Affaire de Coeur magazine in the January 2014 Issue. <http://affairedecoeur.com>.

Miranda says

4 stars!

Aden St. George is an interesting hero.

He is ridiculously handsome. A girl would have to be dead--or at least apoplectic-- not to react to a man like St. George.

For most of his life he'd seen himself as an outsider. He'd been deliberately rejected by the people in his life who most mattered. He felt unwanted and unworthy, the walking scandal, and someone who didn't deserve a normal life.

He's part of the Royal House Guards. He, along with his friend and mentor Sir Dominic, are secretly spies.

When we first meet Aden, he's rescued one of the *tons* most acclaimed young women, Lady Vivien Shaw, in the dead of night.

Vivien is a rather likeable heroine. Despite being rough handled and kidnapped she seems to have a good head on her shoulders. She's fearless and is unlike any other the other women of the *ton*. She also has the added burden of looking out for her gambling mother and younger brother. She constantly tries to keep them out of debt by playing cards. Meeting Aden is a refreshing change in her life.

I loved reading how they both tried their best to not be attracted to each other.

Slowly, the warmth in his eyes transmuted into a seductive heat. When his gaze dropped to her mouth, she

could swear all that heat flicked a kiss of fire across it. Her lips parted in an involuntary gasp. "Christ, Vivien," Aden murmured in a ragged voice. His gloved hands cupped her cheeks, tilting her face up another inch as he swiftly claimed her mouth. And claim he did, slipping his tongue between her lips in a swirl of delicious, liquid heat. She tasted champagne and fire and potent masculine energy that drove its way straight to her heart. With a searing delight, both startling and terrifying in its power, she threw her arm around his neck, flinging herself against him.

I enjoyed the budding romance between Aden and Vivien. They matched each other perfectly and the love scenes were scorching.

He had fallen in love with her, God help him. And it made him more vulnerable to making mistakes than he'd ever even imagined.

"You love me?" she asked in a tight voice as she twisted partway around in his embrace.

"Of course I love you. How could I not? You're the most interesting woman I've ever met, despite your unfailing ability to get yourself into ridiculous situations."

She gave him a tentative smile. "I don't do it on purpose, you know. Things just seem to happen to me."

"Yes, I've noticed that trouble finds you on a fairly regular basis."

The horrible villain in this story is Prince Ivan. He's mean, vicious and will absolutely do anything to have Vivien as his wife... no matter the cost. She's his obsession. Vivien loathes him, thinks he looks like a toad, and tries to avoid him whenever possible.

Her oldest brother, Cyrus, could also be considered a villain, or close to it. I didn't like him in the beginning of the story and by the end of the book, I still didn't.

Vanessa Kelly has really found a unique niche that highlights both her storytelling abilities and stellar talents for depth of character and emotion. Every aspect of this tale is exquisite.

****ARC graciously provided by publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review****

I cannot wait for Griffin's story in CONFESSIONS OF A ROYAL BRIDEGROOM.

Missy says

2.75 out of 5

The narrator wasn't that great. Her male voices (especially the hero's) weren't consistent. She lacked emotion during some scenes and was a bit slow for me that I had to listen at 1.25x the normal speed. The book has several action scenes and they would have been more exciting if the narrator had had more emotion (and speed) when she narrated those scenes. The same could be said about the intimate scenes: more emotion. The book takes place over several weeks, with time lapses that didn't flow too smoothly via narration at least. I

would recommend reading this book over listening to the audio book. Even as I'm suggesting this, I'm listening to Book 2 on audio instead of reading it. lol. (The male voices are still inconsistent in that book.)

(view spoiler)

Anna says

Unfortunately this title isn't the right one for me, something that was obvious almost as soon as I started reading *Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard*.

The writing style is one I couldn't easily follow, or rather make me stay focused on the whole narration. But my biggest problem with this story was the immediate lust both heroes felt for each other as soon as the story began. I was never a big fan for instant love or instant lust but especially in this book the whole thing starts way too soon, and by soon, I mean from the very first chapter. The hero is in the middle of rescuing the heroine and thinks that she's been raped by I don't even know how many men, he has already killed a man and he's on guard for more possible killings and amidst all that he notices the heroine's full bosom and general attractiveness, while the heroine instead of being hysterical or at least in fear, one of her first reactions is to notice how handsome her rescuer is... To say that such a scenario is unrealistical would be an understatement I'm afraid...

After that I couldn't invest myself to the characters or the whole story in general (which was full of cliches I must add) thus reducing my whole appreciation of this book.

Caz says

I've given this a C at AAR - 3 stars here.

Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard is the first full-length novel in Ms Kelly's new *Renegade Royals* Series, in which the heroes are the illegitimate – and fictitious - sons of English princes. I suppose the best way to describe the book overall is that it's a Regency romp with a dash of skulduggery, adventure, and romance, complete with a suitably despicable villain, feckless relatives, a lovely yet put-upon heroine and a handsome, action-man hero.

Put like that, it sounds like a winner. Unfortunately, however, something in the recipe wasn't quite right and as a result, this particular soufflé fell rather flat when it came out of the oven.

The reader is plunged into the action straight away. Our hero, Aden St. George (illegitimate son of the Prince Regent) has been sent to effect the rescue of Lady Vivien Shaw, who was snatched from her carriage in London and removed quickly to Kent, where she's being hidden in caves formerly used by smugglers.

We don't know who Vivien is or why she was kidnapped at this stage, and neither does Aden, although he is determined to find out. The escape goes fairly smoothly (although at one point, they are discovered by mounted thugs and have to evade their evil clutches!) and it's not long before Aden has figured out that Vivien knows more about who is responsible for her kidnapping than she is letting on. Which of course, makes him all the more determined to find out what she's hiding from him.

Even at this early point in the novel, I felt that there was a problem with the pacing – and as my reading progressed, I realized that the cause of it persists throughout the whole book. Because what could have been quite a tense and exciting opening was slowed down considerably by the fact that by about page two (I was reading on a Kindle, so can't be exact) the hero is already obsessing over the heroine's lips and lush curves (even though it's dark and she's covered in mud) and the heroine is shortly to be mesmerized by his dark eyes and handsome, chiselled features.

(I really wanted them to just get the hell away; there would be plenty of time to think about shagging each other stupid later on.)

I know there has to be a certain amount of this in any romantic novel and in skilled hands, at the right time and in the right place, it can work wonderfully. But here, I felt like I was being hit over the head with it from the get-go and seriously, if I'm so dumb as not to be able to work out which two characters in a romance are going to end up together then... well, I shall have to go back to reading **The Famous Five** and **Winnie the Pooh**.

Once safely back in London, Vivien is delivered into the capable hands of Aden's mother, Lady Thornbury, who is a terrific character. Beautiful, intelligent and somewhat estranged from her son - who has a large chip on his shoulder because of his bastardy – she is perceptive, quick witted, and would probably have made a much better secret agent than Aden!

Actually, I thought the relationship between Lady Thornbury and her son was by far the most interesting one in the book, and I wish we'd seen more of it. Lady T is enlisted to help with Mission Protect Lady Vivien – if Aden is going to keep an eye on her, he will need to attend the same balls and parties, but given he's eschewed going into society for the past decade, it will look odd if he just starts turning up out of the blue to these events. Escorting his widowed mother around London gives Aden just the excuse he needs to return to the fold.

Vivien is still holding back her suspicions from Aden, because she has discovered (or thinks she has) that she wasn't far off the mark with them. Her younger brother, Kit – who really needs to grow a pair and start fending for himself – is up to his eyeballs in debt, and an off-hand comment in the wrong place appears to have led the moneylender to whom he is in hock to believe that kidnapping Vivien would ensure the payment of a fat ransom by their older brother, Cyrus. Both Kit and Vivien's mother are deeply in debt, which accounts for the fact that Vivien herself is a regular at the gaming tables – except that she knows when to stop. She is supporting her selfish, stupid relatives by gambling, and getting herself a reputation for being “fast” in some circles in the process.

Her brother Cyrus controls the family purse-strings and has already threatened to cut Kit off without a penny, which is one of the reasons Vivien doesn't turn to him for help. Another is that he's got a stick up his arse and is selfishly focused on furthering his political career. And another is that he wants to marry her off to a loathsome Russian Prince because he is rich enough to pay off all their debts and having a sister who is a

princess will undoubtedly bring Cyrus some degree of cachet.

While all this is going on, Aden is gradually weaseling the truth from Vivien – although I have to say that I wondered more than once how on earth he became one of England’s premier intelligence men, because at times he’s really dim! For instance, he fails to perceive that Vivien is not, in fact, welcoming the Prince’s advances – something which is readily apparent to almost everyone else and especially to his mother. And on at least one occasion, he determines to distance himself from her at the worst possible time and for no reason that makes sense.

But of course, no romantic hero is complete without a bit of guilt or suffering in his background, and Aden’s curse is to feel guilty because he didn’t prevent the death of a good friend a few months earlier. He has always believed that emotion dulls his wits and makes him less effective at his job – the slights he suffered as a result of his birth and his treatment at the hands of his mother’s husband have hardened him, poor lad – so he doesn’t want to be close to anyone and keeps pushing Vivien away. Or trying to, because she manages to do some monumentally stupid things against both common sense and Aden’s advice which mean that he has to keep coming to her rescue.

What I said earlier about the beginning of the story being poorly paced meant that the book took a while to fully engage my interest, but once the story got going in earnest, it rattled along nicely. The writing is more than decent, and it’s clear that Ms Kelly is capable of telling an entertaining story and creating interesting characters. Events come thick and fast, the true villain of the piece – while fairly obvious from the beginning – steps up his game and Aden’s method of preventing the announcement of Vivien’s betrothal to Prince Loathsome is rather wonderfully melodramatic.

But my biggest problem with the book was the one which began on page two and never really disappeared. The continual mental lusting and “heightened awareness” of and for one protagonist by the other kept on and on until I felt there was practically zero sexual tension between them because I knew that every time they so much as thought about or glimpsed each other, they’d turn into puddles of lust. (Also – it’s a miracle that Aden can actually walk most of the time, given the frequency and size of the hard-ons to which he is prone!) When it comes to creating really good sexual and romantic tension, it should be a case of less is more. It should develop slowly so that when the reader does finally get to that unintentional embrace or first kiss, it’s a wonderfully sensual moment and not, as is the case here, something that has been so presaged that when it comes to it, it’s a non-event.

The thing which links this series, apart from the fact that the heroes are royal bastards (in the literal sense!) is the character of Sir Dominic Hunter, whom we first met almost thirty years previously as a fourteen year-old boy in the prequel novella, *Lost in a Royal Kiss*. He is now one of England’s most powerful officials, operating a network of spies and intelligence gatherers from the Home Office. It’s Dominic who tasks Aden with Vivien’s rescue, and Dominic who insists he is the one to protect her once she returns to London. I understand that Ms Kelly will be continuing his story in a future novel, and I admit I’m interested enough in the character to want to read it, but in this book, Dominic comes over as little more than a mother hen and matchmaker, which was something of a disappointment.

To sum up, **Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard** isn’t a terrible book, despite the reservations I’ve expressed above. Aden is a sexy hero, Vivien is no simpering miss and the pacing picks up once the story moves to London. We meet the hero of the next book – Griffin Steele – who is certainly intriguing – and the love scenes (which don’t actually take place until fairly late in the book) are sensual and well-done. But I thought the chemistry between the leads was seriously impaired for the reasons I’ve stated above, and there were too many instances of nonsensical behavior for me to be able to rate it more highly.

Valerie says

Lady Vivien Shaw is a young woman who was forced to grow up long before she should have had to, taking on the responsibility of watching over her younger brother and mother when her father passes. Her older brother watching out for no one but himself. She has done an admirable job for the past seven years but things are slowly getting out of hand, her younger brother and her mother have debts that keep rising; she has no real marriage prospects other than a slimy prince who doesn't like the word no. What is a Lady to do? On top of everything else she ends up kidnapped and in a cave?

Mr. Aden St. George, a misfit himself, is called upon to rescue the fair Lady Vivien, which he does with ease. Aden feels something change though and has to struggle and battle the demons inside as he copes with his parent's pasts and his inability to trust himself at times. Will he ever realize that he is just making things to difficult for himself? Or will he forever face loneliness and despair?

Ms. Kelly's writing is almost like a spider web drawing you in slowly but surely until you are wrapped so tightly that you can't put it down. My true and major disappointment in this book? I don't know when the next installment is coming out. This novel has it all from action and adventure to love and romance. The writing is excellence personified. If you are a fan of regency romance this is a must have, though I admit I'm not sure how patiently I will be able to await the next feature.

Lauren says

Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard

2 Stars

The illegitimate son of the Prince Regent, Aden St. George is an agent in the service of his Majesty tasked with rescuing Lady Vivien Shaw who has been abducted. After her rescue, St. George begins an investigation into the abduction and uncovers several suspects including a lecherous suitor, an irate moneylender and a conniving sibling. Unfortunately, he is also hampered by Vivien's reluctance to assist and his own unwanted attraction to her.

To be honest, if I hadn't been reading this for a GR challenge, it would have been a DNF.

Vivien and Aden have their good qualities - she is spirit and forthright, and he is stoic and sexy, and their romance has potential. Unfortunately, the excessive descriptions, tediously drawn out internal musings and the author's tendency to repeat the same words to describe characters and situations result in a banal and cliched story.

The villain is also cartoonish and there is no real tension or suspense in the kidnapping plot.

All in all, there is nothing in this book that hasn't been done before and better.

Lorka says

A fellow GR reviewer Sam, said it perfectly, "Okay, first off, by chapter three I already didn't really like the

heroine. When someone—anyone—is trying to rescue you from a band of kidnappers, I don't care if you're attracted to him or not—you should be hustling to get your ass on his horse, donkey, unicorn or dragon to get the hell out of dodge. Acting prissy about riding on the same horse until you can get to a carriage? Because, not the kidnapping, but getting on a horse with your rescuer is what's going to ruin your reputation? Come on. Priorities."

I don't know if I am allowed to quote other reviewers, but her whole review was spot on. The insta-lust was also a huge turn off. I am going to skip on to book #4 next, I think.

Farrah says

Thrills, mystery, and romance make up this wonderful read. Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard was a lovely historical romance. I really enjoyed reading this book. Loved it!

Vivien was a strong heroine. She dealt with a kidnapping, attempted murder, and a psychopath, but she survived it all. She didn't bow to other people's wishes and she was very loyal to her loved ones. I only had one problem with her and it was how she was so quick to bow to her kidnapper's wishes near the end. It didn't fit her strong character and seemed more like she was doing it to spite Aden, after he left her. It seemed contrary to how she acted during the rest of the book, so that bit bothered me. But, otherwise, I thought she was great.

Aden was just wonderful. He was so sweet and adorable! But, he was also strong and clever, part of what made it such a good spy. He was frustratingly stubborn at times, but I didn't mind. I still adored him.

The romance was lovely. From the moment they met, Vivien and Aden were infatuated with each other and it was just so sweet. The attraction was also there from the beginning, so we get some spice as well, though it wasn't the main part of their relationship. I thought they were lovely together.

The plot was fast paced and I was hooked the entire way through. The mystery of who was behind the kidnapping and the danger he presented kept me on the edge of my seat with nonstop thrills. I suspected who it turned out to be, but I was still surprised at the lengths this person was willing to go. I really enjoyed the story and the ending was lovely. I'm excited to see what's coming up next in this series because it's off to a brilliant start.

Secrets for Seducing a Royal Bodyguard was a fantastic historical romance. The mystery, the thrills, the romance—I loved every bit of it! Romance lovers, this is a book you'll want to read.

*I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review
