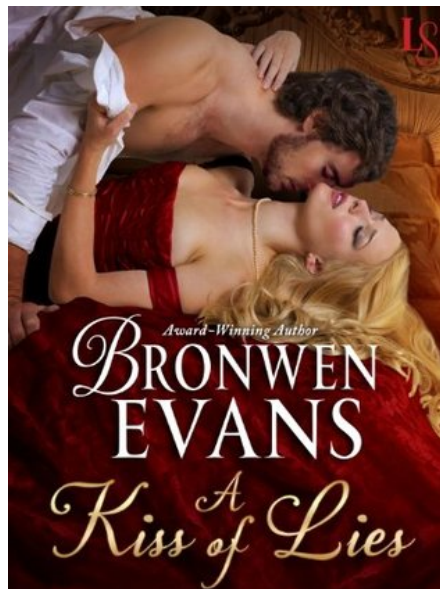




A Kiss of Lies

Bronwen Evans

Download now

Read Online ➔

A Kiss of Lies

Bronwen Evans

A Kiss of Lies Bronwen Evans

In Bronwen Evans's Loveswept debut, a pair of damaged souls ignite each other's deepest passions—even as they tempt fate by deceiving the world.

Desperate to escape her abusive past, Sarah Cooper disguises herself as a governess in the employ of Christian Trent, Earl of Markham, the man who, long ago, she fantasized about marrying. Despite the battle scars that mar his face, Sarah finds being near Christian rekindles her infatuation. A governess, however, has no business in the arms of an earl, and as she accompanies Christian on his voyage home, Sarah must resist her intense desires—or risk revealing her dangerous secrets.

One of the renowned Libertine Scholars, Christian Trent once enjoyed the company of any woman he chose. But that was before the horrors of Waterloo, his wrongful conviction of a hideous crime, and his forcible removal from England. Far from home and the resources he once had, Christian believes the life he knew—and any chance of happiness—is over . . . until his ward's governess sparks his heart back to life, and makes him remember the man he used to be. Now Christian is determined to return to England, regain his honor, and win the heart of the woman he has come to love.

Includes a special message from the editor, as well as excerpts from other Loveswept titles.

A Kiss of Lies Details

Date : Published January 14th 2014 by Loveswept

ISBN :

Author : Bronwen Evans

Format : Kindle Edition 309 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency Romance, Regency

 [Download A Kiss of Lies ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Kiss of Lies ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Kiss of Lies Bronwen Evans

From Reader Review A Kiss of Lies for online ebook

***MariaA* says**

Where do I begin *sigh* You know that feeling when you read the entire book with a dreamy look on your face, your visual brain is so active ,you actually start believing like you're watching a movie and these are real people in front of you not just fictional characters!! Well that and much more was what I felt!

I have been a BIG fan of Bronwen Evans, ever since I read "To wager the marquis of Wolverstone" and now with "A kiss of lies", she's my new fav HR author on the block!!

I don't want to give away anything here, so will simply say, it was the story of two wounded souls (but not angsty*thank god*),how they were wronged and how kismet got them together, the characters were lovable ,strong, good plot ,great flow of story, AND the start of a very promising series,all the other "Lords" have been introduced and they all sound appealing, the mystery aspect is very interesting how it has been left hanging to be continued in the upcoming books,it kinda reminded me of Renee Bernard's "Jaded gentlemen" series.

I have such a strong visual, imprinted in my mind of the beach scene in Jamaica,between Sebastian & Serena while Christian behind the bushes that I can almost hear the sound of waves and feel the breeze and hear their voices!!

And now I'm suffering from a book hangover;

Nicole Laverdure says

The Magic of his Touch 7 stars

I just finished a breathtaking novel set in the Regency era which filled me with beautiful emotions. What an excellent passionate love story of two tortured souls who will have a second chance to finally find peace, love and happiness in their lives. I strongly recommend Bronwen Evans's book A KISS OF LIES, her first one, in The Disgraced Lords series, the story of 6 men part a group named the Libertine Scholars and the women who will change their lives forever. The author slowly developed the intrigue so well, that, I could not put it down; it kept me captivated until the early morning hours. It's the story of Christian Trent, Earl of Markham, a war hero who suffers from PTSD and Sarah Cooper, an intelligent and loving young woman who also suffers from wounds of her past. To forget his problems, Christian was lived a wild life of alcohol and women. His life will change, when he meets Sarah, the new governess for Lily, a twelve years old girl, of which he is the legal guardian. Their paths will make you live beautiful moments of passion; the sensual love scenes are very well written. Breathtaking intensity between her two characters! This story was very emotional from beginning to end! This author is an exceptional quality writer who knows how to pull you in her story with words flowing. She is also a talented storyteller that gets you hooked the moment you start reading. She skillfully blended passion and intrigue and weaved her characters into her story. Sexual chemistry that takes you for a spin on a roller coaster of emotions! It's a mesmerizing romance filled with, tenderness, passion and scandals in the world of the Regency. I am so glad I decided to read Ms. Evans's book and I'll definitely check out her next book A PROMISE OF MORE which will be the story of

Sebastian and Beatrice. You have to read A KISS OF LIES which will be released on January 14, 2014. I received an eARC from Ms. Evans's publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Elizabeth says

Actual rating: 1.5

This was one of those books that looks good on paper and would have worked in the hands of another more careful, and, perhaps, more imaginative writer. Ms Evans seems not to be in possession of an ear for the 19th c., nor does she have any interest in recreating a 19th c. setting (references to carriages, gowns and cravats actually reveal how painfully incapable the writer is of conveying some sense of the past. These are mere props among which her contemporary mores and characters circulate). No minimally informed imagination guides her pen into a 19th c. world of earls and dukes, abused wives and scarred heroes of Waterloo. Not once was I allowed to think of this couple as anything other than a contemporary one. And one who, at every turn, threw the book of proper relationships etiquette at me. Never once did they miss the opportunity to explain their feelings (or muse about them) and make their demands in the cliché language of couples therapy sessions. One fears that the distance between writing a romance and a relationships manual is now being systematically eliminated, and this book is an example of it. And if you think to find respite in the sex scenes, think again. They are at once tediously overlong and unerotically short, probably the result of some clumsy editing.

The sad thing is that this book had a good idea which the style of writing (especially the woeful dialogues) went on thoroughly ruining. Everything was drowned in a flood of contemporary terms, expressions, sensibilities and issues, gender and class relationships, that the whole thing felt like a caricature of *the present* (forget the past, it does not figure at all), where everybody gave their ten bob's worth psychobabble on respect between lovers. I gave up after about half way through, for I couldn't care for these two loud speakers dressed in 19th c. garb miming and mouthing contemporary clichés about relationships.

P.S. Don't be deceived by references to traumatic experiences and expect something harrowing and interesting. The MCs never really bear the scars of trauma, even the physical scars do not convey any sense of real misery (for they are merely make-up, not affecting the hero's character at all). Both hero and heroine are what they have always been, no matter what life threw at them, compassionate, affectionate, loving, honourable, sexy (sexy is a word the characters use as well!!!) and healthy personalities. All the references to sexual abuse and humiliation, canon fire and burning flesh are simply plot filler. This is fluff of the worst kind, one that lies about trauma.

Emma says

Repetitious (and then some) and boring. You thought with all that background and past experiences of the main characters, it would be angsty and exciting and dark, but it was none of those things. In fact, everything this book touched it trivialised. It is the kind of writing that merely goes through the motions of the formula without bringing anything to it. Utterly lazy writing, that does not take the trouble to create some sense of a 19th c. setting. Instead we get wall to wall contemporary platitudes.

I really wanted to find something nice to say about this book, but the writing has no redeeming qualities, the

repetitious contemporary platitude ridden dialogues kill off the love affair and make you squirm, the uninspiring sex scenes fail to make you forget what you read before those two made it to the bedroom, the utterly stupid duelling scene (that should have been the central piece around which the final chapters were structured) is terribly written (it even features a 12 year old lecturing the villain), and, worst of all, the book's forced logic that makes no sense infects every single deduction, realisation, analysis of a feeling, friendship (your childhood friend -male bonding 19th c. style aside- suddenly sides with a woman he just met and withholds vital information from you!) and in the end makes one think why on earth was this ever published in the form it has. Had it been a film script, the producers would have changed writers after the first page.

Finally, as if the writer's complete lack of a sense of history, running through and structuring her book, was not enough to give you a headache, she had to commit one final clanger in the epilogue. It was not enough, it seems, that Lily was the hero's ward (as it would have been the case), no, the hero had to adopt her, to sign adoption papers. The problem is there would have been no adoption papers for him to sign (as there was no way that the wedding of the widowed daughter of a Duke, whose husband was killed in the way he was killed, marrying an Earl and celebrated war hero, would have been kept a secret, or indeed her living with him under the pretence of being a governess). For future info, Bronwen, there was no adoption procedure in England prior to 1901 -even those writing within the formula have come to know that, please do catch up!. Since you've already made Lily Christian's ward, why did you have to go and spoil it? Couldn't resist the ignorance itch?

Ermione Pickwick says

This romance is amazing!

The story is surprisingly catching, I had to know how the plot would have been developed since the beginning and most definitely I NEED to know how the mystery (which I believe is going to be the common factor of all this series romances) is going to evolve.

Speaking of the mystery, I love it; it is so amazingly presented and orchestrated, I can't explain how much I want to know more about it!

This last aspect, the magnificent and touching love story and the protagonists' backgrounds, which are so moving that I cried more than once, are the strong points of this novel!

Christian's sorrow, regret, need and kindness are amazing, I've loved how the author lets us "see" his feeling inadequate of Sarah's beauty and affection but most of all I've loved how he seems and tries to be confident in wooing her.

Sarah is lovely. The two of them are so touchingly protective towards each other. She has always fantasised about marrying Christian, since when she wasn't even a debutante and used to hide and peek at the young handsome earl during balls and parties but now she has a dangerous secret that threaten their happy ending.

If you like a wounded, kind, passionate hero, who wants love so desperately, despite his terrible past, if you like a brave, extremely strong and lovely heroine, if you like romances with a good mystery and if you love splendid and touching love stories, this is the book!

IF YOU WANT TO READ THE REVIEW, take a look at my blog: <http://ilprofumodellepergamene.blogspot...>

**** I received an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) of this book courtesy of NetGalley and Random House Publishing Group (Loveswept) in exchange for an honest review, thank you for the opportunity.**

Michelle says

4.25 stars

I really enjoyed this story. I really felt the characters and I was strongly rooting for their happily ever after. There is so much to this book than romance. Both of our main characters have a lot of business to settle before they can be together so I enjoyed the thrill of watching them put their lives back together.

This book may be a little darker than I prefer. The topics of rape and abuse are used in relation to a couple of the characters. There is nothing wrong with these two topics in the book. It is just a personal preference.

I really love the Libertine Scholars who are a group of friends who enjoy being charming rakes and scholars. They reminded me of the League of Rogues from Lauren Smith's series. I love their strong friendships and enduring loyalty. At the end, they find out they all have a new common enemy who is willing to do whatever it takes to ruin and possibly kill these six libertines. I can't wait to see what happens next.

The only negative thing was Christian's pity party. He has suffered burns on his face and along his body so he is shunned and rejected by women who would have once found him attractive. He suffers from nightmares of the war and his ill-fated burning. I understand his suffering and he has suffered but I got a little annoyed with his constant self-pity. I get it I do but I don't need to be reminded of it constantly. He does have a moment when he realizes he needs to get over his pity party so once this happens all is well.

This book has a great balance of romance, thrill and danger. There is a full plot that some romance books lack so I definitely appreciated this. I am very excited about the next book.

Brooke says

I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

HOLY. FUCKING. SHITBALLS!!! My entire body is coursing with adrenaline, happiness, and impatience as I finish this book! I NEED MORE!!! I NEED to know what happens next, how this story will play out!!! It's not often a story grips me pretty much from the very first page and never loosens its grip! The only reason I gave the story 4 stars instead of 5 (GOD! I wanted SO BADLY to give it 5 stars as it TRULY is FUCKING AMAZING!!!), is because there were some minor story inconsistencies that irritated me. And while they were minor, I can't even go into them in this review because they could spoil the story! But they weren't MAJOR, so I just cut it down a tiny bit. If there were 1/2 stars available, I would gladly give it 4.5 stars!!!

The gist: Lady Serena was sold into marriage by her father, a duke. Her father needed money, so the reputation of the man he sold his daughter too wasn't all that relevant to him as long as his financial situation was kept quiet. So anyway, he sells her to this sadist beast of a man, the younger son of a Marquis, known

throughout the ton for his brutal and sadist bedsport. The husband quickly whisks her off to a slave plantation in Virginia where he doesn't treat her any better than his negro slaves. She finally manages to escape to Canada and fortuitously finds an opening for a governess. Christian, the Earl of Markham, is a war hero, but he was badly scarred in battle. He was always a very handsome rake and women all but threw themselves at him, but after he became scarred, the women look at him with repulsion. He has been falsely accused of the heinous rape of a duke's daughter and exiled to Canada. He arrives penniless and befriends a merchant there. The merchant and his wife soon die, however, and Christian is left with the custody of their young daughter. He needs a governess for her. Serena always admired Christian from afar. She wasn't out in society yet before he left for war and she was married before he returned, but she'd had a young girl's romantic fantasy about him. Imagine her delight when she finds out he's looking for a governess to take with him to England. She uses an alias to obtain the position and they set off for England so he can defend himself against the rape allegations and clear his name. A romance doesn't take long to ignite between Serena and Christian. When they arrive in England, however, they quickly have more than one battle to fight. It doesn't take too long, however, before the fight becomes one for their lives against an unknown assailant dead set on an elaborate revenge plot.

Serena has been seriously damaged by her husband. Not just emotionally and mentally, but she has the physical scars to prove it is sadism. She spent her youth being nothing but a commodity for her father and then spent the early part of her adulthood been a sex slave to her sadist husband. She, understandably, has zero desire to be owned by a man ever again. Even though she's been deeply wounded by the men in her life, she is still an extremely loving and compassionate person. The first time she sees Christian's scars, she's horrified that someone could intentionally deface such a beautiful man. The scars don't repulse her, in fact she hardly notices them unless she allows herself to, because she sees the beautiful man inside instead of the marred outer casing. Even though she knows, instinctively, that Christian wouldn't harm her, she can't help but be cautious. But then she quickly realizes that she could hurt him, his reputation, if her true identity is ever discovered and the scandal could ultimately harm his young ward's chances at a happy marriage. She's truly a selfless creature and you can't help but love her even more because of it. She's not weak, by any means, even though by all rights she should be. She's been through Hell, literally, and come out the other side. You can't help but root for her.

Christian. Ah, Christian! Where to start with him? He was a dashing handsome rake in his younger days. Unbelievably handsome. He was a war hero in the fight against Bonaparte. He was heinously injured, intentionally set on fire, in battle. Now he's madly scared on one side of his face and upper body. The only way he can get a woman to let him touch her is to pay her, so he's a frequent at the high end brothels of London. When he's accused of brutally beating and raping the daughter of a duke, he doesn't even have a chance to defend himself before he's shipped off, with only the clothes on his back. When he meets Serena, he is skeptical of her. She doesn't seem remotely phased by his gruesome appearance, but he can't really trust that because she seems to be hiding a great deal of secrets. Even after they begin their very passionate affair and she never shrinks away from him in repulsion, and in fact caresses and kisses his scars, he has his doubts about the purity of her feelings. How can she NOT be repulsed by him? When he finally learns her true identity, he's even more confused and totally crushed because he feels like he's been played for a fool. At this point, my heart was literally aching for this man. (Well, for this fictitious character anyway...) His pain was my pain. He's truly a beautiful, beautiful man to his very core. And he will do ANYTHING to keep Serena safe. And in his arms.

I think it's the mark of a truly fantastic author when a story can invoke real feelings and physiological responses in the reader's body. My heart raced, my adrenaline pumped, my stomach felt full of bats, my chest and throat tightened. This book was an emotional mind fuck, to a degree. It was all romance and hot, steamy sex until they got to England. Then it was so fast paced, my head is STILL spinning. So much shit comes at them from all different directions that I was dizzy from drama overload. But in a totally FANTASTIC way!!! This is the first in the Disgraced Lords series, so a lot of groundwork had to be laid down for the rest of the books in the series. And I have to say, I will be anxiously awaiting each new book. I

can't WAIT to see how this plays out and to find out who is behind this elaborate plot and what the true motive is. I also can't wait to get to know the rest of the Libertine Scholars. What a truly intriguing group of rakes!

If you are a fan of Regency romances, or just a fan of a great, intense story with plenty of outside drama for the couple to contend with, you will LOVE this book! If you love a good mystery, you will likely love this book. If you love a hot, steamy sex scene, you'll enjoy the ones in this book! I can't say enough good things about this story! Unless hot, steamy sex scenes make you blush and feel scandalized in a bad way, you should DEFINITELY read this book! I promise, you won't regret it!!!

Pixelfish says

I picked up this book because it came up during my own research on divorce and annulment during Regency times. Somebody cited it in a blog post about domestic violence and the set-up seemed to have some potential--after all, our hero saw his own mother killed by DV, so there was reason to think that his character would be sensitive to this.

Sadly, halfway into this book, AFTER our hero has been presented with evidence of the abuse our heroine suffered at the hands of her husband, he has an incipient attack of Assholery. The heroine believes she has killed her husband and has been on the run, since she can't prove it was self-defense. Her reasons for not divulging her name would be obvious to anybody with a speck of sense and an ounce of compassion, but Asshole Hero basically rips her to shreds emotionally, gaslights her, and turns her hidden identity into a Trust Issue. And then, in the icing on the cake, and the page that made me decide I wasn't going to read this author any further, the Hero tells the Heroine that before, he never understood how his father could beat his mother, but oh, he does now, and oh, if she lies to him, that violence simmering under the surface might come out. Keep in mind that this is in the context of her TALKING about being beaten and raped by her husband. Later in the chapter the author has the Heroine feel REALLY BAD that she couldn't tell the Hero. He's been so hurt, she thinks. Sigh.

This book does poorly by survivors of Domestic Violence. It frames an act of survival as an act of deceit. It puts our heroine in the position of apologising to our hero for keeping something that was NONE OF HIS DAMN BUSINESS from him.

The Hero has his own traumas. They keep on piling up and they are all inflicted at the hands of a woman, or women. Turns out that the uber-plot for the series (this is book #1) has some lady seeking vengeance of six dudes who are these lovable (sarcasm) libertines. You see, even though their dads may have engaged in pedophilia, these loveable scamps did nothing...except womanise their way through college, be upper-class douches, treat women shitty until they find The One woman, lie to each other, not blink an eye at slavery, and more. This is the sort of book that makes me wonder why I ever want to read Regencies.

Speaking of slavery, two runaway slaves help our Heroine escape. Of course, we never actually SEE these two in action. Our Heroine tells us after the fact that they all pitched in together, since she could be their cover story. Once they get to Canada, which is technically before the book starts, the two black folks are done, narratively speaking. They get referenced in flashbacks and when the Heroine explains her escape, but never is their fate discussed except for the fact that they are "safe in Canada." Later on, the Hero and Heroine visit a plantation in Jamaica, where all traces of slavery are elided from the story. It's not a very sensitive handling of the historical facts.

This book suffers from too many villains, too many Assholes, and too much stock-trauma-as-characterisation. A book could have been heavy enough dealing with DV, PTSD in soldiers, AND slavery as separate themes, but this book has all three and glosses over them in a perfunctory, hit-the-plot-points manner. The writing quality varies as well. There's rampant head-hopping with no scene breaks to indicate a change in PoV. The dialog becomes painfully modern at times--our Heroine talking about her sexy man makes me wince--and the settings never feel grounded. Generic studies, generic mansions, generic boat, generic dueling green, generic opera. Check, check, check. I couldn't tell you anything about any single setting in this book. And except for the first scene where our Hero has a PTSD nightmare, I couldn't differentiate one love scene from the next.

Books that did PTSD better: The Peter Wimsey mysteries by Dorothy Sayers.

Books that did gaslighting and abusive marriages better: Komarr by Lois Bujold

The Book-killer scene for me in this book: Hero assholing it up to the Heroine while she's talking about her beatings and not only making it about his feelings, but practically threatening to unleash his own temper.

Ruth says

This one, provided by the publisher through netgalley, was OK for me, and had some redeeming features, but felt too much like a contemporary transplanted into the Regency era for me to feel completely comfortable with it.

What did I like?

- When I think of a "Loveswept" historical, this is exactly the kind of story I'd think of. If you know you want to read a Loveswept then you could comfortably choose this book and not be disappointed, and this is incredibly useful for readers when they are selecting which book to read next. I hate feeling I'm wasting my time reading something which turns out not to be what I wanted to read at all.

- The plot actually has some elements in it which are not on your usual Regency romance menu. There is quite serious abuse, the aftermath of dreadful injuries inflicted during battle, and the hint of more heinous crimes to come in future books. I was impressed that this book dealt with some very serious issues and yet still managed to fit it well into a romance. It worked.

What did I not like so much?

- There were too many instances of contemporary idioms, expectations and attitudes creeping into the book from the very start. I admit I really go for historical accuracy, but I can live with the odd mistake as long as it "feels right" overall. Well, there was so much of it that it felt uncomfortable for me to read, to be honest, and is one of the reasons I couldn't score it more than "OK". When the hero calls his ward "sweetie", and the heroine, in the guise of a governess, calls his ward "honey", and both express a very post-1970s concern for the elephants culled for their ivory, I'm afraid you've lost my interest, and that's not even counting the errors in forms of address, implying that winters in the early 1800s were mild, or that an aristocratic virtuous woman would help herself to a drink of brandy. Add that to the sweeping generalizations along the line of the horrifically injured hero was "still the best shot in England" and I'm afraid I rolled my eyes on more than one occasion.

- The hero and heroine "just know" that the other is the answer to their dreams straight away. I hate this. It's totally unbelievable. Likewise, the relationship between the hero and heroine jars slightly at the beginning. It

appears to be a case of two people using each other to fulfill their individual selfish agendas, with nothing soulful, romantic or self-sacrificing about it. It does develop as the story progresses, but it didn't engage me.

There was other stuff which irritated me, but generally, I'd rate this as a 2 star "It was OK" type of story, although if you want a predictable Loveswept, then honestly, don't let me put you off and go for it.

Jennifer says

OMG! I think I repeated this phrase several times while reading this book. This was my first time reading one of Bronwen's books and I have now added all her books to my TBR pile! Kiss of Lies is a book that has everything you could want in a story...a tragic hero, a strong heroine and a story that just doesn't stop.

Sarah Cooper (known to the ton as Lady Serena Castleton) is fleeing England and a truly horrible marriage. She hopes to hide away as a governess for the Earl of Markham. Christian, the Earl of Markham is in Canada after being forced out of England for a scandal that he was wrongly accused of. Hoping to restore his name he decides to head back to England. While in Canada he has been given guardianship of his friend's young daughter and so the need for a governess arose. As Sarah and Christian journey to England they start to realize that they have feelings for one another. But upon arriving in England their journey towards a happily ever after is not an easy one. Now that they are together they have to navigate their past as someone is out to hurt them.

Christian is truly a tortured soul. He was severely injured in the war and has to live with the damage to his body. For a long time I felt he was just existing and it was until he met Sarah that he started to come out of his shell. He starts to live again. I felt so bad for him as he not only had to endure hardship from the war but also the scandal that sent him from home. Both of these events were caused by people out to do him harm. Sarah is like Christian in many ways, wounded and alone. But I found her to be a strong woman as not many at that time would have left England and all she knew. She wants more out of her life and hopes to achieve it as a governess. Together Christian and Sarah are just delightful. They both are attracted to each other and slowly begin to trust one another as they both have been so hurt in the past. But once they do get together it was beautiful! I got so happy when they did!

Kiss of Lies is a wonderful story by a truly talented author. The story is well written with characters that you can't help cheer for. Kiss of Lies is the start of a new series and I can't wait for the next one. I am now a total Bronwen Fan Girl!

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

A KISS OF LIES by Bronwen Evans is a fast paced Historical Romance. What an exciting beginning to a new series, "The Disgraced Lords" #1. I absolutely loved this title. It is fast paced and filled with passion, adventure, mystery, suspense, danger, and love. Although, it leaves you holding your breath for the next installment, what a story! The sins of the fathers are visited or forced upon the sons. Someone is trying to kill Christian and Sarah, as well as the other renowned Libertine Scholars, maybe for something their father's did years prior. Follow, Christian Trent, Earl of Markham and Sarah Cooper, both have secrets, both are in danger of not only losing their hearts but their lives. Oh, yeah, Christian's little ward is a hand full and one you can't help but fall in love with also. Christian, was scarred in war in more ways than one. Sarah, is running from an abusive past. Well written with engaging characters as well as a plot to literally die for, how can you go wrong with "A Kiss of Lies". You do not want to miss a moment of "A Kiss of Lies". Well

done!! I can hardly wait for the next installment. Ms. Evans is an engaging, talented Historical Romance author. A must read! OMG! For readers who enjoy mystery, suspense, passion and romance, this is a must read! Received for an honest review from the publisher and Net Galley.

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: HOT

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, Courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Farrah says

An absolutely brilliant historical romance, full of secrets and dark pasts, A Kiss of Lies was a fantastic read. I completely and totally loved this book! Every bit of it, from start to finish, was wonderful. Loved it, just loved it!

Sarah was a lovely heroine. She had been through horrors in her marriage, but she survived and kept her strength. She definitely proved herself a worthy heroine in that regard. But, she was also kind and genuinely likable. I thought she was wonderful and I really liked her.

Christian was also amazing. This man was so sweet. He was determined to take care of his new ward and intent on protecting the woman he loved. The injuries he got during the war took away his confidence completely, but instead of being bitter, he stayed an honorable true gentleman. I adored him. I thought he was perfect.

The romance was wonderful. I thought it was so sweet how Sarah and Christian helped each other heal, and how both were willing to sacrifice for the other. And, the chemistry between them was sensuous and hot. I thought they were lovely together.

The plot was fast paced and I was hooked the entire way through. There were tons of secrets buried in the characters' pasts that took me by surprise and kept me on the edge of my seat. I really enjoyed the story and I thought the ending was lovely. I can't wait to read more from this series, because it's off to a fantastic start!

A Kiss of Lies was a brilliant historical romance. I absolutely loved this book! From the romance, to the secrets, it was wonderful. Romance lovers, this book is a must read.

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

Dianne says

Was it fate that interceded in the lives of two damaged souls, bringing them together just when they needed to be loved, protected and vindicated? A scarred war hero, once a rake of a man, is falsely accused of rape and is unceremoniously shipped off to Canada, picking up the pieces of his life and finding himself guardian to a young orphaned girl. A beautiful woman running from her brutal past becomes the young girl's governess. Their lives have crossed before, among the wealthy in London, but Christian is unaware that this woman, Sarah has loved him from afar since she was a dreamy-eyed young girl. He is now used to being seen through eyes filled with pity or revulsion, but this mysterious woman never flinches at his damaged

face. Her stoic beauty and countenance intrigues Christian, and he knows she is more than she claims. With an attraction that is magnetic, there is a connection that only comes when one finds that one special person, but with darkness haunting their pasts, can they learn to trust one another completely? They must be honest with each other, but is it worth the risk to their hearts?

A Kiss of Lies by Bronwen Evans, the first in her **The Disgraced Lords** series is a wonderful example of historical romance at its best! With a heroine who is far stronger than the angst-filled, swooning ladies of the ton, Sarah is a woman to be admired. Christian is a man before his time, never simply taking what he wanted, but ready to share in what was offered. With the introduction of several other lords, all part of the Libertine Scholars, a further mystery is introduced, paving the way for the next installments of this series as they most surely will each find the woman that will change their lives forever, finding a second chance at life and love. Ms. Evans takes her readers back through time to an era when passion could only rage behind closed doors, but rage, it does! Her writing flows smoothly while weaving romance, intrigue and redemption into the threads of an era long gone.

I received this copy from Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept in exchange for my honest review.

Series: The Disgraced Lords - Book 1

Publication Date: January 14, 2014

Publisher: Loveswept

ISBN: 9780345547286

Genre: Adult Historical Romance

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

Having read just one of Bronwen Evans's books in the past, I came to this book without expectations. And it surprised me, in a very good way. There is an overlying mystery coursing through her Disgraced Lords series, and while the plot of this book introduces that overarching mystery, it never strays from telling a moving love story between two people in need of redemption and love.

Christian Trent, the Earl of Markham, was wrongly accused of raping the daughter of the duke, and forced to flee from England upon the latter's threats. Christian survived his migration to Canada with the aid of a kind Mr. Pearson, who later died leaving his daughter, Lily, to be Christian's ward. Now, as Christian is making plans for his return to England and needs a governess for Lily...in comes the mysterious Mrs. Cooper for the position.

Sarah Cooper is a false name that never existed. Lady Serena Castleton, however, is seeking escape from an abusive man and a horrifying past. Sensing an escape through taking refuge on Christian's ship, she dons the disguise of a governess only to find herself closer to her fears than ever before as they got closer to England, yet she finds an unexpected champion at her side.

In a story heavily governed by the actions of the culprit who repeatedly tries to destroy Christian, I was surprised with how neatly the plot moved concurrently with the development of Christian and Serena's relationship. The two are inverses of each other; Christian with his physical disfigurement from the war

believe himself to be too disgusting to deserve love, and Serena, whose internal sufferings are far worse than the scars on her back. In each other they saw a more beautiful version of themselves reflected, the pure, unblemished soul underneath the ravages of war and cruelty, and that transformed their love into hope. In temperament, gentleness, and passion they matched each other, and the force of their love is both a testament of their inner strength as well as their beauty, for even as the world shied away from their tormented selves, those two found something lovely within each other.

Plot-wise, I am deeply intrigued with the central mystery of the series, and the next five books will surely unravel the strands of treachery that surrounded the events of this book. All in all, the flow of the story is magnificent, as are the characters, who have admirable depths of complexity. Christian and Serena are resilient, courageous people who have suffered but found hope with each other. Their interactions with each other are sizzling, real, and undeniably lovely. I will be anxiously awaiting the next books in the series, to see more of Bronwen Evans's fantastic crafting as well as the resolution of this intrigue.

*Review copy from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

While Regency Romance remains the favored genre for historical writers these days (ok their publishers) it seems the Regency World has gotten a whole lot darker. Instead of all is beautiful and light.. now we have dark and broody. Dangerous souls with tortured pasts and honestly that seems a bit more realistic. Sure there was an air of *je ne sais quoi* surrounding this era. After all it was a time of change, a golden era so to speak. BUT.. it was also a time of war.. or rather the end of a war. We all have lived through the horrors of returning veterans.. life is not always easy.

In *A Kiss of Lies*, author Bronwen Evans begins her *Disgraced Lords Series*.. and I absolutely adored it! A slow started that reeled me in without my even realizing it. The series is about six men who met in school and instantly bonded. NOT because they were randy rakes, which they were, but because they had brains and actually used them. Each of them comes from a position of wealth and power and are gloried by the ton. They became known as the Libertine Scholars and were adored by all. Although their lives were not as perfect as everyone thinks they do have it pretty darn good. Or they did, now things are starting to get a little interesting as someone somehow wants them dead..

Christian Trent had it all, the golden boy of the scholars. A gentle man with a heroes heart. He served well in the war and yet now that he has returned home a wounded hero, it seems he has been shunned. Enough so that the women who adored him have turned their backs, even his mistress has found someone knew. And Christian is forced to actually pay someone to suffer his attentions.. it wasn't much but it was his life. Until he woke up in bed with a knife at his throat and an angry father wielding it. Seems Christian the fair (my term) had battered and raped a young woman. Christian can not believe it, won't believe it of himself.. even drunk he would never. Only said father and brother want him dead. But since they can't do that they want him gone. Together they manage to Shanghai him and send him to the wilds of Canada. Where life surprisingly enough gets a whole lot better.

Sarah Cooper is on the run.. a bruised and battered wife she is in disguise and has one goal. To return to England and hide in the countryside. Amazingly enough, the man she had a crush on for years is hiring a governess for his young ward. Sarah knows if she can get him to hire her, she can escape. What she doesn't count on is once she gets to know her girlhood crush she discovers a man worth loving.

These two wounded souls have a long journey ahead of them. Together they must traverse the trials of both of their lives. Who hates Christian Trent so badly that they are willing to destroy him and everything about him. He didn't rape that young woman so the question is who did? And why does she insist that he did it? Sarah on the other hand.. is running from her demons.. both her inner ones and the real ones that come in the form of men. She has to discover who she can trust..

A strong romantic story.. two tortured souls who find strength in each other. Each is willing to sacrifice all so that the other can be free and happy. Both forgetting that without the other there is no happiness. A truly powerful story.

But fear not Ms Evans doesn't forget to tease us with stories of the rest of the Libertines.. they too are dark and deadly! They entice us each and every one of them! Also, the mystery of who wants Christian to suffer gets more and more intriguing as the book goes on. The story teeters on romantic suspense but remains a Regency Romance in all it's darkened glory.

Now's the time to get in on this fabulous series.. in the beginning.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of A Kiss of Lies, provided by netgalley.
