



Devil's Bride

Stephanie Laurens

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ACE #1

When Devil, the most infamous member of the Cynster family, is caught in a compromising position with plucky governess Honoria Wetherby, he astonishes the entire town by offering his hand in marriage. No one dreamed this scandalous rake would ever take a bride. And as society mamas swooned at the loss of England's most eligible bachelor, Devil's infamous Cynster cousins began to place wagers on the wedding date.

But Honoria wasn't about to bend society's demands and marry a man "just" because they'd been found together virtually unchaperoned. No, she craved adventure, and while solving the murder of a young Cynster cousin fit the bill for a while, she decided that once the crime was solved she'd go off to see the world. But the scalding heat of her unsated desire for Devil soon had Honoria craving a very different sort of excitement. Could her passion for Devil cause her to embrace the enchanting peril of a lifelong adventure of the heart?

Devil's Bride Details

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From Reader Review Devil's Bride for online ebook

Daniella says

Reading *Devil's Bride* was a very confusing experience. I usually have good instincts when it comes to stories; I can normally sense, even early on, whether I'll end up liking or disliking it. But this book just totally floored me. I was so, so sure that I'll end up giving this a 4 or 5 star rating, but I was wrong. Issues with the book just kept on piling up the more I read it, and at the end, they were far too much to ignore.

The said issues are as follows:

First, the writing style was unbalanced and messy. The first few chapters were written in a way that was very similar to the traditional regency style, but this actually changed as the story progressed, becoming more modern in tone and feel halfway through it.

Another thing about the writing that annoyed me was the abrupt changes in the time setting. From chapters 1 to 17, the story was divided on a continual basis. Chapter 18, however, didn't follow the same pattern; it fast forwarded to Honoria and Devil's wedding. To make matters more confusing, chapter 19, again, fast forwarded to several "years later", before going back to the current timeframe, a few days after the wedding.

Second, the sex scenes were excessive and repetitive. Don't get me wrong, I'm not at all squeamish about love scenes. In fact, I think I have a higher tolerance for extremely detailed and graphic ones, like those written by Elizabeth Hoyt. **But just like in real life, too much sex can render the act meaningless.** Seriously. Once Honoria and Devil did the deed--at around the 50 percent marker--they actually do it for almost every chapter afterward. *Guys, give us a break.*

Sadly, I think this was a strategy distastefully employed to prolong the story. **The sex scenes prevented the story to progress, making the pacing so excruciatingly slooooooow.** I was bored out of my wits.

Third, the murder mystery was handled very poorly. The suspense elements were placed messily throughout the story. There was no proper planning at all. Even though I knew who the real culprit was from the start, I didn't know about the motive; thus, my curiosity spurred me to read more. But the mystery wasn't properly maintained. By 75 percent of the story, I stopped caring about it and gave up.

Fourth, the characterisation was extremely unnatural, anachronistic and inconsistent. Again, this was a product of bad writing.

I didn't like Honoria. She was a selfish, irrational woman who had a very bad temper. She refused to see reason, even after she was thoroughly compromised. **I absolutely hated how she kept on changing her mind about marrying Devil!** I remember how, after talking to Devil's relatives, Honoria seemed to *finally* see reason--she, herself, admitted that she *finally* realised just how grave the consequences of being compromised was--**only to refuse Devil's proposal** later on in the chapter. WTF???????????????

And while I liked Devil enough, **I was bothered by the inconsistency in his character.** He changed from pursuer to prey so easily, so abruptly that I became confused. He actually *had* to be seduced by Honoria for

him to bed her. Huh? The abrupt reversal in roles between the two was not convincing and natural, at all. The writer tried to justify this by stating that Devil didn't find it honourable to bed Honoria without procuring her acceptance to wed him. While this was a passable argument, it was still a weak one, especially given how Devil was established early on in the story. I also didn't like how he would go from sweet, romantic lover to one who would think this:

Then he would have time and more to reap the rewards of his control, his care, his expertise, to slake his senses in her, with her—**to make her his slave.**

HUH? "HIS SLAVE"? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?????

Lastly, I hated how the novel approached the issue of adultery. Let me explain: Devil's younger brother, Richard ("Scandal"), was a bastard, a product of an affair that his father had when he went to Scotland. Scandal's mom died shortly after the father went back to England. Scandal was then dropped at the Cynster family's doorstep a few months after the death.

"I realized immediately that Richard was a godsend—Ma-man was so caught up with him she forgot about the knots in my hair. From that moment, Richard had my full support. **My father came up—I think he was about to attempt an explanation**—in retrospect I'm sorry I didn't hear it, even if I wouldn't have understood it then. But **Maman immediately told him how immensely clever he was to have provided her with the one, truly most important thing she wanted—another son. Naturally, he kept quiet.**"

I'm sorry but this handling of adultery was the one that convinced me that this was a 1 star book. **Adultery is absolutely my number one pet peeve, and to have a story that merely brushes it off as inconsequential--without the proper punishment!!!--is insupportable.** And I knew then that nothing could make me like this story, this series, after that. Ugh.

I understand why people like this. Despite all the issues I raised, I can see that it has its good points. Sadly in my case, they weren't enough to make me like the story; the flaws were too great and far outweigh the story's allures.

Holly says

gasp Where's my "I love you?" I never realized how important this was until I finished this book and realized our hero never says it to his heroine. I even went back and skimmed through the book again, sure I had missed it. Grrrr.

Besides that, this was a really good book. I enjoyed it, immensely. Devil was adorable, with his puffed up sense of importance, and Honoria was exactly the type of no nonsense woman he needed to keep him in line. These two have quite a love affair and the fact that it had plenty of sexy love scenes was just icing on the cake. The book starts out with a bang, with the murder of Devil's cousin which Honoria happened to come across right at the end. This forces our hero and heroine to spend the night together and of course the following morning everyone thinks they have been caught in flagrante delicto. Devil then proceeds to inform everyone that he will be marrying Miss Honoria as soon as his period of mourning for his cousin is over. Honoria is quite adamant that they will not be marrying but with the sort of suave manipulations that Devil

has been using all his life, he soon manuevers her right where he wants her. Into his arms and into his bed.

Their lovemaking was just so much fun! I loved how Devil wanted a clear and concise declaration from Honoria that she was accepting his suit before he allowed her to seduce him. I laughed when he said that, then kicked her out of his bedroom. Priceless.

The plot involving the entire Cynster family was at first pretty intricate but it quickly turns into a tried and true battle over title and money. Stephanie Laurens threw in enough twists and turns to make it fresh and interesting, though, and the villain was dastardly enough to make it all worthwhile.

This was my first Cynster book and I enjoyed it all so much. I loved all the new characters, especially all the Cynster men and I am looking forward to reading more and testing out their invincibility complex once all these delicious men find their own ladies. All the men seem to have their own sense of personality and flair and they all seemed so mysterious and intriguing. It was extremely enjoyable reading about the scion of this proud and noble family, Devil Cynster, and how he fell so hard and fast for Honoria. While he may never say, "I love you," it was plain as day he did, so it wasn't too bad. There is a scene when he thinks Honoria has betrayed him and his cold anger and jealousy was thrilling and shiver inducing and believable as only a man in love could be. I can't wait to read more.

FlibBityFLoob says

Some thoughts on this novel...

- 1) The mystery was very thinly veiled. I figured out who the murderer was with no issue.
- 2) I have never heard of an orangery that contains a daybed and full length mirror. However, for the horny Cynster family, it seemed very appropriate! ;)
- 3) I still can't get over the nicknames of all the Cynster cousins. Who would chose to call themself "LUCIFER"!?!?!?!?
- 4) I can see why the book Beyond Heaving Bosoms The Smart Bitches' Guide to Romance Novels called this series "humptastic". The Cynsters were like ENEGIZER bunnies! hehehe. And someone told me that the books get more humptastic as you move through the series.

Overall, it was still a fun book to read. I liked the arrogance of Devil. Honoria was acceptable as a heroine, albeit a little weepy at times.

Sarah MacLean says

i love devil with an intensity that terrifies my husband. i can't help it.

Ilana says

This is sort of how the plot of this book went:

- *Random person dies*
- "You are going to marry me."
- "There is no way I am going to marry you, so get away from me!"
- "I am going to MAKE you marry me." (Hotness inserted here)
- "Er, wtf? Back off!"
- "Ooh, I smell a challenge." >:) *begin seduction tactics* (Insert make-out scenes)
- "Are you going to marry me?"
- "Nuh-uh, I am going to go to Egypt!"
- "What about now?" *making-out, etc.*
- ...Oh wow, maybe I will just have sex with this guy and *then* leave...
- ...I shall never admit I have feelings for her...
- *more making-out and fooling around*
- "I will not have sex with you until you promise to marry me!"
- "Psh. Lies." *making-out*
- "Get away from me, Woman!"
- ...Maybe I *do* want to marry him...
- ...What if she won't marry me?...
- *Goes to tell him and ends up making-out with him*
- "I don't believe you want to marry me, because you just want to have sex with me!"
- "No, I really want to marry you!"
- "Stop lying to me!"
- (Repeat previous steps as needed.)

FINALLY they get married and after that there is about an equal amount of shmexy sex scenes, one or the other driving each other crazy by running off and almost getting hurt, actual falling in love (only one of them will ever admit it) and that little bit of heavily foreshadowed murder mystery that I guessed since like the first chapter (really, that is barely exaggerated at all). Okay, I lied. There are way more sex scenes than anything else in the second half of the book. But you know what? I love this stuff. The characters are real, though they are totally insane and silly, and for a historical romance there was not much damsel in distress and more guy freaking out when his damsel wouldn't stay at home like a good girl (which I find hilarious). And it was pretty hot, even if the overprotective, egotistical guy and the reluctant, adventurous virgin girl are not very original concepts. Seriously, though, how many interesting historical romances are you going to find out there? This one is not bad.

Eastofoz says

I love the alpha/gamma hero who's all Mr I'm in Charge with his swagger and hotness, his nothing-stands-in-my-wayness, basically his total babe-ness *BUT* he has to have some depth to him unlike the hero of this novel, Sylvester "Devil" Cynster. The guy is as flat as brown cardboard and never really develops into anything else. This story just didn't work for me because I didn't like the jerk alpha who needed a good shaking for a wakeup call.

The story grabs your attention relatively well from the start with the heroine Honoria (what a horrible name,) the drab governess, and Devil crossing paths where a crime has been committed. They stay together in the same house unchaperoned and of course that could get the ton's tongues wagging so he decides he's going to marry her –she decides otherwise. His pursuit of her is more of a I'm going to wear you down kind of thing and she does the cat and mouse thing on her end. She waivers too much –can't say much more without giving spoilers here. So it sounds good and it could've been what with the hot sex (despite the fact that the first real scene was sooooo loooooong it became tedious), tension building and generally good romance but

there's the arrogance of the hero that just never lets up and the stupid crime that needs to be solved by the Cynster clan –seemed like the regency version of the mafia which could work but just didn't here. Devil reminds me of Brad Pitt in the way that he looks good but he has very limited dialog scenes so his character is never really fleshed out. I hate when the hero barely says anything apart from a few monosyllabic quips, barking out orders, acting like he's so hot that the sun couldn't possibly shine without him or is way too cocky in bed. A hero should have some weak spot or uncertainty in him that only the heroine knows about otherwise he's just irritating (sort of like some of Lora Leigh's contemporary heroes --**shudder shudder look of horror on the face**).

The writing style could've used some editing in places. Laurens is comma/semi-colon happy which makes reading awkward and overdramatizes scenes. It's similar to those authors that go crazy with the exclamation mark. It just takes away from the story when it's not a smooth read because the punctuation is messed. It's also very heavy on the narration in some parts bogging down the pages and inciting the reader to skim. Lots of telling here and not much showing unfortunately. The heroine is always, always, *always* described as "regal" –yeah okay we got it after the 206th time :-/ Towards the end of the book she comes across as a stuck up snob looking down her nose at everyone –sort of like the rest of the Cynster clan really –(*eye rolling time*) get a grip people. The epilogue was good which was what saved the book a bit for me but overall it's not a novel I'd recommend.

What a relief that I didn't care for this one much, the series is huge ;) 3.5 stars and my shelves are creaking out a "thank you!"

Lauren says

Devil's Bride

4 Stars

Honorina Prudence Anstruther-Wetherby (quite a mouthful, isn't it?) is just settling in to her new governess position when she inadvertently stumbles upon a dying man. To confound matters, the victim's cousin soon puts in an appearance and the two spend the night together in a cottage. The problems begin the next morning when Honorina's reputation is placed in jeopardy and her companion turns out to be none other than Sylvester "Devil" Cynster, 6th Duke of Ives. So begins the ultimate clash of will between a man unaccustomed to the word "no" and a woman determined to maintain her independence at all costs.

This is my second attempt at **Devil's Bride** and I'm glad that I gave it another chance. The romance is entertaining, the characters engaging and the mystery adds spice to the story.

Honorina and Devil are the perfect match. Between her stubbornness and his arrogance there is never a dull moment and their passion both in and out of the bedroom scorches the pages.

The secondary characters in the form of the rest of the Cynster family are wonderful. The Bar Cynster cousins are completely incorrigible but in an endearing way and the Cynster wives/mothers provide Honorina with an incredible sense of belonging. The Dowager Duchess is a definite favorite.

The mystery is the weakest element mainly due to the fact that the villain is obvious from the start. Nevertheless, it adds an extra layer of intensity to Honorina and Devil's romance.

All in all, a fun read and the epilogue made me smile. Looking forward to continuing with the series.

Lisa Kay says

English woodsman's cottage

★★★★½ (This is a review of the audiobook.) When someone wanted to do a “buddy read” (which you know I can’t resist!) of this one, I decided I’d listen this time, even though I’m not a big fan of **Simon Prebble**’s. (I just couldn’t get into an older man reading the love scenes to me. However, now that *I’m* older, he isn’t so bad. LOL!) Nevertheless, Mr. Prebble does an admirable job of this one. The old biddies of the *ton* are hilarious and the duke is sufficiently arrogant. I definitely got caught up in his telling me the story again.

Why do I love this book so much? I read it at least once a year. ***sigh*** I think it is because I’m definitely one of ‘those’ readers. You know the kind that the marketing people just adore – who loves a duke in the story! I also love books with “bride” in the title. Combine these two, and my book budget is shot to hell.

This is the first book in Ms. Laurens’ *Cynster* series and it is one of the best, IMHO. The 6th Duke of St. Ives, Sylvester “Devil” Cynster is the leader of this notorious pack of handsome, aristocratic rakes. He certainly is the one with the most sense of entitlement and he feels entitled to Miss Honoria Prudence Anstruther-Wetherby, finishing governess extraordinaire. Caught in a compromising position, these two have a battle of the wills when Devil decides she’d make a perfect duchess for him.

Ms. Laurens wastes no time getting these two together in a plausible set-up, which also provides a nice little mystery. Not a great mystery, mind you; but, a nice one, that leads us in the right direction all along. She’s not trying to trick the reader; it is a romance, after all. I love that Honoria puts herself right in the thick of the investigation.

However, I love the romance, too! Devil thinks he has his feelings all under control, but he’s in for as much of a surprise as Honoria. The love scenes are pretty hot, especially if you haven’t read the other books. (Alas, this author does tend to repeat the same phrases in her other books.) She also has a couple of funny scenes that still make me smile. (view spoiler)

I also zipped through *all* the rest of this series (before it broke off into the *Cysters Sisters Trilogy*), back when I first discovered this author and “OD’d” on this storyline. Still, this one holds up for me, along with several others. Mr. Prebble narrates a few in this series, but not all. I’ll probably be very bad and purchase a few more.

K says

What? This book is apparently a favorite of many romance readers, but I didn't get the appeal. Sentence structure was definitely more sophisticated than most, but character development was not believable (even by romance novel standards). Disappointingly, it is not titled Devil's Bride because it is about the bride of Satan, Lucifer, the Prince of Darkness, lord of hell and all evil, but the bride of some jerk with "Devil" as an improbable nickname. The mystery was ridiculously obvious even as it dragged on INTERMINABLY. As did the sex scenes. Excessive talking about hero's chest, which could be off-putting for readers not attracted

to big chested men. Eventually became constantly nervous that hero would unexpectedly take off shirt, leading to yet another breathless description.

Kitty Unpretty says

I wanted to like this book. I really did. But while it was good enough from a technical standpoint, it was not the most wonderful read. The mystery, from the beginning, is painfully obvious. Horrifyingly obvious. It is as though the author is beating you over the head with a brick, telling you who the killer is. It was so painfully obvious, in fact, that I actually managed to convince myself that the obvious answer could *not* have been the killer - that this kind of painful lack of subtlety could only mean that the author was trying to throw her audience off the scent.

I was wrong. The eventual revelation of the killer was anticlimactic and not at all satisfying.

The character development was dreadful. I found myself liking the Cynster family, but I can't imagine why. Stephanie Laurens is terrible at giving men nicknames, that much is certain. I likely only found myself liking them because they were cliches that I had already fallen in love with before - which is not a ringing endorsement.

By the end of the book, Honoria (another terrible name, in my opinion) barely resembles who she was in the beginning of the book. The fact that she was a governess is thoroughly discarded. Her various hopes and dreams for her life, which she had clung to as an excuse to refuse Devil's proposal (presumably for some kind of sexual tension - it doesn't work) are completely cast aside. It is one thing to have her dreams cast aside - it's at least realistic from a historical standpoint - but it's quite another that she should give up on those dreams so easily and suddenly become thoroughly content with life as a baby factory.

And let's be honest - I do not read romance novels for the character development or the original plots. I read it for the hot and sweaty smutty bits. These? These were terrible. For the first time in my life, I found myself *skimming past the dirty bits to get to something interesting*. As a highly smut-minded female, this is something of note.

There is a very small chance that I will read the next in the series, with some kind of faint hope that it will be better. This is not the most utterly terrible thing I have ever read, but I was nonetheless gravely disappointed.

Patricia says

I was excited when I found this at the library's used book sale because it had been praised so highly by people whose opinion I respect. "What a steal!" I thought. After trying to read it, though, I felt the \$0.50 sale price was a waste of quarters. The book got off to a good start, with a smart, independent heroine who had unconventional but well-planned ambitions and could keep her cool in a difficult situation. The book rapidly went downhill, though. The story is supposed to be built around a murder mystery, but the villain was incredibly obvious from the first moment he appeared on the page. The smart, ambitious heroine rapidly started deteriorating into a vapid, swooning ninny. And the hero was arrogant and bossy to the point that I

could not like him much at all. Worse, he completely dismissed the heroine's life plan as foolish (so did her brother), and in the end she never gets to fulfill her dreams. Arggh! I decided I couldn't waste any more of my life trying to read this book and did not finish it. I did peek at the end, though, to make sure I was right about the murderer and about the heroine's apparent future as a brood mare for the hero, and sadly my expectations were fulfilled on both counts.

Wicked Incognito Now says

I thoroughly enjoyed the first quarter of this book. I was thinking "yes! I'm gonna love this" but it, disappointingly, fell apart for me afterwards.

In the beginning, we meet the sensible, governess heroine. She comes upon a mortally wounded young man on a dark woods road. Later, our hero arrives, and they work together to try to help the young man. After POV switches to our hero, we are immediately treated to his insight that he has just met his future wife. I LOVED THAT!!! No pussy-footing around. This man found what he had been looking for. And then he immediately sets about informing her and everyone else of that fact. Very intriguing and hot. But that didn't last long. I eventually had enough of this alpha hero's dictates and high-handedness. I came to the conclusion that the heroine needed to deny his @\$\$ just no-one should be that sure themselves. Of course, he was a great catch, and the heroine did not cut off her nose to spite her face, she eventually realized marrying him would be a good thing. That's where the sizzle, and romantic tension ended. Not even halfway through the book.

And then.....sigh.....the BIG MURDER MYSTERY. It was no mystery at all. I knew who "done it" within the first few pages. I was then left with the excurciating task of reading about the h/h trying to figure out whodunnit through the whole book. ARGH. I hate these suspense storylines messing up a good romance.

So, the romantic tension has fizzled, the suspense/mystery is non-intriguing....what's left to read about? Not much. There were a multitude of sex scenes left. Which, lets face it, I LOVE the sex scenes in romance novels. But with these I was SKIPPING PAGES. I never do that. But these scenes were long and boring, filled with flowery metaphors that just went on and on and on.....

Example: "She felt him within her and accepted him eagerly, taking him in, both possessed and possessing. The sunburst rose and drew rapidly nearer; their bodies strove, racing to their fate. Then it was upon them. It caught them in its heat, in its unquenchable delight, in sensation so exquisite she screamed. She clutched him tightly and he was with her. Locked together, they soared, gasped, then fractured--into a selfless void of aching peace beyond the reach of human senses."

And again..."As usual, she was rushing--he set himself to slow her down, bringing her to that plane where she could appreciate his expertise, savor all he could give her, rather than fly headlong to her fate. He repeated his caresses, again and again, until she grew familiar with each new sensation. Her breathing slowed, deepened; he body softened beneath his hands. She moaned softly and twisted in his hold, but she no longer fought him; she floated, senses alive to each explicit caress, receptive to the pleasures he wished her to know. Only then, deploying every ounce of his considerable expertise, did he open the door and introduce her to all that might be."

It goes on like that page after page but with nothing really TANGIBLE to hang onto. Just these airy references to flying, fracturing, soaring, just so much blah blah!!!

"again and again she rose to the heavens; again and again, he drew her back."

Oh get on with it already!!!! JEEZ

So, I stopped reading about 2/3 of the way through. But I did skim the ending just to make sure I was right about the killer....I was.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

I wish I could rate this higher. Unfortunately, my tolerance for characters who refuse to communicate, are constantly making (incorrect) assumptions, and being standoffish for no real reason...is abysmally low. I liked Devil. I liked that he was quiet and decisive and in charge, and that he knew almost from the moment he met Honoria that he was going to marry her. That was extremely refreshing. No shilly-shallying from this hero. Regrettably, since the hero is so amenable to the match, the author then had to make the conflict come from elsewhere. Even more regrettably, she placed the burden for almost all conflict squarely on the shoulders of the heroine, Honoria. This book would have been one of my favorites if it weren't for the constant back and forth and push and pull. Some authors are able to make that happen, to stretch the readers need for suspense in a satisfying way. Laurens just makes it a chore to slog through.

And her sex scenes? Nothing but poetic rhapsodizing via purple prose. Page upon page of metaphors and "feels". I got to the point where I started rolling my eyes and skimming passages every time Devil and Honoria started pawing at each other. Er, sorry, I mean every time they began testing the limitless bonds of their love through the jungle-like sensory practice of soft hands sliding on soft skin to create a miasmic feeling of need and heat. Their feather soft exhalations carried a note of sweet scent that drove each of them further toward the precipice of ecstasy. Gasping, clutching, they fell over the golden cliff together, on numerous occasions, only to end sated in each other's arms, tangled in the feelings neither would dare utter.

~Nichole~ Sizzling Pages Romance Reviews says

Very different from what I'm used to. Reminds me a lot of books I read about 20 yrs ago. Devil was so serious yet at times I just laughed at how he tried to tame Honoria. Lots of suspense and the passion was beautiful. Very sexy historical romance.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

Framing her jaw, Devil lifted her face, looked down on pale cheeks, at eyes awash with tears, then he bent his head and kissed her set lips. "You'll never lose me," he whispered. "I'll never leave you."

One of my favorite historicals

This is the introduction to the Cynster family (and what a family it is). I was actually re-reading this one, so it was kind of funny to see all those men and women who'll get their own books :) Most of the time, I was like: Oh look, that's Vane, I love his book! OMG Scandal! He's so awesome! Amanda and Amelia - love them! And then Demon! My favorite So by the time I finished this book, I knew I simply HAD to re-read all of them

The story - Rushing home to avoid a thunderstorm, Honoria stumbles upon a dying young man. While trying to help him, she hears a rider approaching. A mysterious (absolutely gorgeous) man helps her take care of the wounded fellow, carrying him to the nearest woodsman cottage. They soon discover the young man was shot, and that he's a cousin to her mysterious (absolutely gorgeous) guy. They spend the night in the cottage.

"Trapped in her nightmare, she shuddered. She gulped down a sob, only to have another rise in its place.

Watching her, Devil felt a sharp ache twist through his chest. The tears welled from beneath her lids, gathered, then rolled slowly, steadily, down her cheeks.

His gut clenched. Hard. Gently, he tipped up her face. She didn't wake; the tears continued to fall.

He couldn't stand it. Devil bent his head and set his lips to hers."

The next morning, they are found in a compromising position by the local neighbours (and by compromising I mean just the fact that they spent the night in the same room, nothing actually happened :D) so the logical thing is to announce their engagement . Honoria only then discovers that her companion was non other than Sylvester Sebastian Cynster, the sixth Duke of St. Ives, known by others as Devil

Devil is intent on making Honoria his duchess, but she constantly refuses, she doesn't want to marry anyone, especially not a piratical autocrat (her words XD) like Devil.

So basically, they work together to find Tolly's (the dead guy) murderer, the rest of the time Devil tries to convince Honoria she should marry him, and Honoria tries to seduce Devil and find out more about passion

Devil

"You, my lord, are the most arrogant, overbearing, high-handed, tyrannical, dictatorial despot it has ever been my misfortune to meet."

Devil raised a brow. "You forgot autocratic."

Enough said XDXD Devil is a duke, the head of his family, and used to issuing orders. His view of the world is basically: Me man, you woman. Me does everything, you stays home and embroiders. Too bad for him, he's found a woman he can't control, and maybe that's a part of her appeal :) From the first they meet, he knows she'll be his duchess, the only point left was for her to accept, and he does everything he can to make it happen

And now that I think of it, Devil's the only Cynster who wants to get married right from the start. I think all the others pretty much ran like hell from marriage XDXD Anyway, I ADORE him, he's one of my favorite characters

"On the beast's back sat a man to match the horse, black-clad shoulders blocking out the twilight, dark mane wild, features harsh—satanic.

Her heart in her throat, Honoria lifted her gaze to the rider's face—and met his eyes. Even in the dimness, she was sure of their color. Pale, lucent green, they seemed ancient, all-seeing. Large, set deep under strongly arched black brows, they were the dominant feature in an impressively strong face. Their glance was penetrating, mesmerizing—unearthly. In that instant, Honoria was sure that the devil had come to claim one of his own. And her, too."

Honoria

She is very adventurous, not afraid to do what was needed to make her point, or discover something that would lead to their murderer. Not even Devil can make her bow down to his will. She doesn't want to get married, to anyone, and has to constantly remind Devil of that fact

BUT, he can be very persuasive, and Honoria soon discovers passion and desire through Devil's kisses, and she wants more ()

I just have to say that I loved her when she stood up to Devil, after the debacle with the tavern. She had a strong f-ing reason, and she wouldn't let it go, no matter how angry and strong-willed Devil was. YAY to her

There were just two things I didn't like in this book

The bad guy is obvious. Too obvious. So obvious, you know who it is even before he appears. And when he appears it's just cemented that he's the bad guy.

Honoria's surname. So help me God, I don't want to hear/see that name ever again in my life. I don't know how many times it was repeated in the book, but it was just too damn much. BTW, it's *Honoria Prudence Anstruther-Wetherby*

Oh, and one more thing, here's for Stephanie Laurens and her writing, especially the love scenes (oh she knows how to write pantie-melters)
