

## The Rake, the Rogue and the Roué

*Eric Alan Westfall*

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### **The Rake, the Rogue and the Roué** Eric Alan Westfall

The scene is 1815-1816 in Another England, where men of a certain, ah, bent, are known as friends of Edward's. Our heroes are nicknamed the "Three R's." Peregrine, our blond British viscount rake; Rory, our brawny, hairy, sometimes kilt-wearing, Scots rogue, and Michel, the languid, lethal English-born roué with the French name and French title. They're close friends. Intimate you might say. Especially since Peregrine is having really great sex with both Rory and Michel. And neither of them knows about the other.

Besides his dear Mama trying to marry him off, Peregrine has a problem. He's given his word of honor to each of them he won't disclose what's going on. What's a horny rake to do when he knows the three of them together would be incredible in so many ways, but can't say anything to make it happen?

Even worse, what happens if his two men find out about all the secret sex Peregrine has been enjoying?

You'll have to read to find out those answers. Along the way: a duel, mysterious inheritances, a nefarious bishop, a scheming lord, a love poem, some wit and humor, a frantic race home, a frolic by the sea, a portrait and...oh, yes...some great sex.

All royalties will be donated to a local LGBT organization.

RRR is 141,908 words of story. The original version was published for free in 2014 by MM Romance Group. The bonus short story, "Banging the Bishop Back," is 10,085.

### **The Rake, the Rogue and the Roué Details**

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## From Reader Review The Rake, the Rogue and the Roué for online ebook

### Anna.E says

This was my prompt! And I LOVED where Eric took it!

So Eric flips the coin a bit for this AU 19th century England ménage. Although it's still frowned upon to be "a friend of Edwards" (gay) it is no longer against the law.

So bring on our three Heroes:

The Rake : Peregrine James Woodhall, Viscount Somerville

The Rogue: Ruaidhi MacLean, Master of Strathain (Rory)

The Roué: Michel Louis Arsenault, Le Vicomte de Vidal-Sansouci

Peregrine is having an affair with both Rory and Michel, but is sworn to secrecy by both, he's not even allowed to tell one that he's sleeping with the other. This secrecy leads to 2 of the three having a falling out and the three former best friends are no longer. Being sworn on his honour to keep his word Peregrine can't mend the rift, although he dearly wants to. But once we get to the here and now, their relationship picks up, with some major bumps in the road, including; suicides, Bangers (gay bashers), dealing with past rapes, family deaths, and family rejection (don't worry there are heaps of good, happy bits in there too), the three find what they're looking for.

The story jumps around the timeline a bit, and I confess I got lost once or twice. But it always made sense by the end of the chapter. You've probably seen the word count, so you don't need me to tell you it's wordy. But I really enjoyed Eric's play on words, it was very witty and often had me chuckling. He did make me cry at one stage though. But I've already yelled at Eric for that, and although I hate that bit of the story, I do agree it's necessary.

I would like to thank Eric Alan Westfall for writing such a great story, and a massive story, I also want to thank Goodreads M/M romance group for putting on this event, especially the volunteers who did all the work to get these stories put together. With a big thank you to those who tackled this story in particular.

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### R E says

**Funny, Hyper-Sexed, Explicit Alternate History M/M Romance; well written with sparkling dialogue**

This book is a tidal wave of M/M erotic fantasies (running the gamut of sexual practices) brought to literary life in an alternate Regency-era England. It is simultaneously sexy, dramatic, moving, and at times laugh out loud funny. The author has considerable talent and uses his many skills to deliver a compelling story that grows out of sexual desire and the psychological, interpersonal, and social implications of raw sexual

hedonism in all its nuance and detail. While far from perfect, it stands out in the M/M historical romance genre, where most novels are mostly character and plot driven with some sex thrown in, by being unabashedly about sex from beginning to end. Most attempts at this kind of book quickly degenerate into crass, artless pornography. This book succeeds where others fail.

The story is about three gay English aristocrats who first find and use each other for raw sex (which is comprehensively described in detail), then, unexpectedly, a passion for one another develops that turns into a loving, committed three-way relationship. During the course of their affair, Peregrine, the English viscount and Rake, Rory, a Scottish laird and Rogue, and Michel, an English-born heir to French nobility and a Roué, endanger those around them and each other, and end in a confrontation with an English society becoming ever-more conservative. The novel explores how sex connects to privilege, social class, gender roles, identity and power. It's told in a series of alternating first person accounts using a strangely convincing linguistic mix of historical and contemporary language. The inner dialogue of these accounts is rarely straight forward, except during the most dramatic scenes, and often consists of entertaining mental digressions packed with word play, improvisational riffs on literary and historical sources, and usually perfectly timed humor.

Although I've given the book 5 stars based on the author's impressive writing and storytelling, I've done so with some reservations. There are some sections which need an editor's keen eye. More concerning is the use of at least one blatant racial stereotype which, although dressed up in humanizing language, still encourages the worst in us (the author might argue that objectifying the other as an exoticism is a historically accurate attitude, but he's filled the pages of this book with anachronisms making such a defense unfeasible). While the female characters, while secondary, are generally well rounded and sensitively portrayed, there is still a pervasive sense of sexism that could be seen as being more than just a representation of historical attitudes. Finally, the book might be read as an homage to a narcissistic hedonism (perhaps to the pre-AIDS 1970's?); the three main characters are self-centered, sex-addicted, privileged-beyond-fantastic-wealth upper-class Caucasians whose feeling for the world and others doesn't extend beyond the tips of their cocks (a word that is used A LOT in this book). If it's unpleasant to spend time with someone like this in real life why spend the hours it takes to read this book? The author has given us a book that can be unpacked, discussed and analyzed in many ways. But I found his writing swept me a way with its witty digressions that, like tributaries to a river with unexpected rapids, resulted in a forward momentum that kept me turning the pages. I encourage you to take the ride and decide for yourself.

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## **Annika says**

First of all a big THANK YOU to the author for a completely free novel! It's very much appreciated! I had a hard time getting through this for the first 40% of the book. I found all our three MCs are strikingly arrogant and self contained characters with an enormous ego. Also their whole live and thinking seemed to consist only of sex. Nothing else. While this might be true for man ;-) (no offense meant) I found it tedious to read. Also the way they used woman bothered me. While I understand that a certain cover must be preserved I found their use of women often bordering on abusive. I didn't like either of them. But the dislike was so big that it kind of was like watching a train wreck and I kept on reading. After approx. the 40% mark some likable features kept creeping in, also few other topics than sex. Also I felt compelled to google LGBT history of GB which was a rather interesting read.

There is a lot of witty banter going on, more than I as non native English speaker could catch I guess. The chaptering by dates is not one of my favorites. I tend to forget which date was written at the end of a chapter always having to skip back to learn how much time actually passed between the chapters. But this might be just me and my bad memory for numbers.

I found the misunderstanding could/should have been solved by Peregrine much earlier. The story could have proceeded just in the same way in my opinion if he would have said something, that way there was part which started to drag a little.

Now the smexing, be aware there is A LOT and it's rough and raw and seems to only have an orgasm as goal. That's in the end, I guess, the point which doesn't really convinced me of these three loving each other. There was no romance there, at least I didn't feel any.

I was unfortunately disappointed by the end. There was no mention of what the Society of Friend's of Edwards did for their fellow friends, male or female alike, apart from hiring a few gay servants. Instead we only get the "enjoy your live part" with more smexing.

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## **WhatAStrangeDuck says**

3.5 stars

I really, really liked that book - until it started to deviate from what I wanted it to be or rather from what I was led to believe it would be. Now, one could argue that this is just my own dang problem but I rather think of it as a missed opportunity.

The writing is funny, loads of clever word-play, the prose is at times rather... I think, bawdy is the word I'm looking for, and I laughed out loud a lot. Other times the story was really touching and I came to care for the characters. But...

There are some minor issues I had with the book.

The second part needs tightening. Yes, misunderstandings and promises given under false assumptions are a staple for a comedy of errors, which this book is to a certain extent but... This is just too drawn out. Enough already! Now kiss and make up!

There is too much sex (real or imagined). Don't get me wrong, I was very happy to read some sex scenes that had actual fun in it (including \*gasp\* laughter) but reading the word cock the staggering amount of 459 times on 410 pages seems... excessive and also a bit boring and repetitive after a while.

But still, so far I was okay.

Then there comes this other bit which made this rating drop considerably. It is still a well-written, entertaining book - but...

The ending sucked. Oh, there is a HEA and all. Everything is hunky-dory for the guys, not to worry, but still...

(view spoiler)

## **Kevin says**

The five stars are for effort, plot, the sex, and the author's extremely skillful use of language. I admired the story and probably enjoyed it.

I feel as if I ought to get a prize for finishing this long, weighty book. It should have ended at page 351, just after Hamilton is hired. The chapters that follow until page 409 are unnecessary.

Unlike other stories by this author this one did not require extensive setup. It takes place in 19th-century high society, almost exclusively in England. The only difference from reality is that sodomy is not a crime.

Narration is only slightly twisted. The tale starts in the middle, immediately moves back in time, and then proceeds forward from that point.

There are three principals in this book, and each chapter takes turns with their points of view.

I did enjoy the vivid descriptions of sex in this book. Usually I do not in other author's writing.

The numerous anachronistic phrases were meant to be witty but to me just a bit annoying, or at least a cause for eye-rolling.

I thought I knew the plot, but there were a few unanticipated twists. I expected loose ends, but they were all tied up by the end. The journey took much longer than it should, bogged down with flowery descriptions and clever word-play at every point. I was frankly bored at times and skimmed quite a bit.

So, A+ for effort, and B+ for execution.

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## **xiin says**

This was epic.

The beginning took a little to get into, but after a while i totally got lost in the story and had to read it all in one sitting.

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## **George says**

A lot of sex but a super weak and disjointed plot. I hate to say this if male MM writers but, I find the women writers to actually have a decent story line and sex scenes. Male writers just tend to focus on the sex, but if that's the case, then I would seek to read erotica and not a book which I am seeking an actual storyline from.

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## **Ery says**

Had some promise in the beginning ... but they got together about halfway and then the book fizzled in storyline other than continuous shagging.

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### **Anke says**

Totally out of my comfort zone, but it sounds so interesting - I'll give it a try.

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### **Lala says**

#### **2.5 stars.**

The premise was really interesting. I love a well done menage romance, and I love Regency setting. Mix them, and it will be a recipe for an awesome read..except it wasn't.

I wasn't daunted by the amount of pages. A long, detailed progress of a relationship - I love it. But this book was just too wordy. The banter, the witty dialogues, the monologues, the inner musings of the heroes, the letters - there were *too many words*. At one point the author just lost the track of the story...it was writing for the sake of writing. Many-many-many pages filled with nothing significant happening, just the heroes going in circles and incessantly talking. The whole eyebrow-talk and arsewipe-talk was amusing the first couple of times - then it became annoying. Same with the accents, 'cos each hero had a distinct manner of speech.

I could have overlooked the wordiness - if the heroes didn't irritate me so much. Especially Peregrine. Letting his two best friends to duel just because he couldn't break his word of honor and tell them the truth?? It was so stupid! The whole stupid miscommunication just went on too long, and Peregrine could have stopped it any minute.

The transfer from two relationships to a threesome was not quite convincing. I would have loved some bonding moments of Michel and Rory together, without Peregrine. Didn't get it.

The whole Alternative Universe Britain seemed interesting...no punishment for sodomy? Yay! Except it didn't change anything - the men were still hiding, and the society didn't accept openly gay people. What was the point?

Overall, the book had lots of potential, but didn't deliver.

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### **Kathy says**

4.5 to 5 Friends of Edward stars!

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### **Maiko-chan says**

I am screaming in joy. You guys. It's *finally* out!

One of these days, hopefully sooner rather than later, I will get around to writing the review I promised myself I would type up when I finished beta'ing this marvelous piece. But for now, please. Do yourself a favor. Fear not the length, for there are those whose length far surpasses this. I heartily encourage each of you to give it a chance. This story deserves a look and I don't think you would regret it.

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### **K.A. Merikan says**

Oh my, oh my, oh my... :D

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### **Andrea says**

Wicked and fun. Somerville, Rory, and Michel spend too much of the book apart when they could've been having a good time together.

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### **Cadiva says**

This book is long! However, it's also deliciously filthy and full of erotic goings on in a historic period known for being secretly depraved underneath the prim exterior.

I liked it, but the length of it stops me rating higher as it did go on a bit longer than it needed to. Our three *heroes* are wickedly sexy though!

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