



## Scandalous (Hqn)

*Candace Camp*

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When an injured man appears on her doorstep, Priscilla Hamilton is moved to help the stranger. And intrigued by this man without a past. Why was someone trying to kill him? And what happened to his memory?

Priscilla had always been a model of propriety, the dutiful daughter and loving sister who put her family above all else. No one had guessed at the shocking secret she kept hidden...or the desire that burns inside her at this stranger's touch.

*Their love could be nothing less than scandalous*

### Scandalous (Hqn) Details

Date : Published August 1st 2010 by HQN Books (first published 1996)

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Author : Candace Camp

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## From Reader Review Scandalous (Hqn) for online ebook

### Gina says

I loved the beginning, and this was a good book. I just wish there was more to the male character. I understand that it would be hard to do since he has amnesia for most of the book, but i still wish that he had more POV parts. Other than that i really have no complaints. THE ending wasn't rushed, and i felt it wrapped up quite nicely  
I would read this author again.

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### Tammy Walton Grant says

3.5 stars

I lowered my rating a bit from when I first read this book years ago, but my tastes have changed since then and I seem to like my books darker and 'angstier' nowadays.

Still, an entertaining way to spend an afternoon!

With quite a few of my favourite plot devices -- a bluestocking/spinster type with a secret, a handsome rogue with amnesia, a missing duke and some pretty good chemistry (not to mention a fever and an excellent spongebath!) this one stays on my keeper shelf.

And the hero's name is Bryan. I don't tend to care for that name in real life, but it works pretty well for me here ;).

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### Doreen says

Obvious plot, but what did it for me was the character of the heroine's father. I am so tired of eccentric scientists with wild hair, who forget about meals and sleep and explode their laboratories at regular intervals. This is Enid Blytonland, I expected the Famous Five to rush in at any moment, demanding ginger beer and cake.

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### dakotapie says

Stereotypical characters  
Predictable plot  
Ridiculous scandal

And yet I found it enjoyable? I'm befuddled on this one.

## Desi says

3.5 stars. The sex in this book was really inappropriate, like legit action movie "Aren't you supposed to be running! Is this really the time for that?" inappropriate. And incredibly disrespectful of his role as a guest to the family that had taken him in.

Me throughout the entire book- "Like now? You choose now for this? You have energy for sex but not to walk back to the house? Your father thinks you've been kidnapped! Seriously, y'all are napping after?"

Good book and characters otherwise. Fun and amusing. But seriously, the author needed to rethink sex scene placement! It was legitimately always obnoxious against what was happening, in pace, escalation and general realism.

Despite this irritant, I quite liked both leads, and the amnesia trope was surprisingly angst free.

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## Shawna Scott says

I was really hoping, after reading Suddenly and Impulse, that Scandalous would also be an interesting romance that would keep me reading until the last page. Unfortunately, this one was somehow just boring to me. Hopefully the next Victorian romance by Candace Camp I decide to read will be better than this.

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## Gerrie says

I debated between giving this book two or three stars. It's probably about a 2.5. Ms. Camp is a very fine writer. There was a lot to enjoy about this book, and there were some very interesting elements in the plot. There were two mysteries: why the hero had been attacked and abducted; and which of the gentlemen in the area had killed a pregnant servant 30 years before.

The attack on the hero leaves him with amnesia. However, once the hero - and reader - discovered who he is, the answer to the first mystery became fairly apparent. Also, the author left some pretty obvious clues. However, it was still very well done, and I enjoyed the reading about the first mystery and its resolution. And the solution to the second mystery was far more subtle.

Further, the secondary characters were likable and well drawn, and the triangle involving the heroine's companion and eccentric scientist father was delightful. I also liked the hero. He was very engaging, and he loved the heroine's intelligence, and relished their intellectual sparring. The fact that he was an American made his attitude at that time period credible.

My problem was the heroine. She was fine for about the first third of the book. But then she decides she can't marry the hero, with whom she's head over heels in love. The reason for her refusal to marry him, despite his repeated entreaties, was totally ridiculous, especially given the time period of the novel, which is sometime in the last quarter of the 19th century. (view spoiler)

I also had a problem with the sex scenes. Yes, yes, of course unmarried people had sex in the 19th Century.

However, the heroine, who certainly was a member of the gentry class, blithely gave her virginity to the hero, before there'd been any talk of love between the two of them. This is really more late 20th century/21st Century behavior. Unwed pregnancy was such a shame and scandal that I don't think women casually fell in lust and jumped into bed in Victorian England. The heroine was not in least concerned about becoming pregnant, which also didn't seem authentic for that time. I felt that the hero and heroine could have fallen in love with each other without all the gratuitous sex. In fact, it would have been more believable to see them fall in love rather than substitute lust for love.

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## **john orchard says**

### **A fast moving novel with lots of excitement.**

An interesting story with good character development. A historical fiction that keeps the reader's mind wondering what will happen next. Lots of sex and intriguing situations where the reader wonders what will the next chapter bring into the story line. A fun and fast read for the public to enjoy this summer and fall before winter returns.

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## **Becca says**

This story had such a promising beginning, but the heroine managed to ruin everything.

Chapter 1 opens with Priscilla, a country girl of genteel, but poor family, opening her door and finding an injured, naked man on her doorstep with no memory of who he is. The attraction is immediate and the man ends up staying with Priscilla and her governess and absent-minded father as they strive to unravel who he is and who is out to harm him. The first chapters held steam, witty banter, and intrigue and I really enjoyed it, but sadly, this did not last long.

The mystery was predictable but still would have been enjoyable because of the sexy hero, silly secondary characters, and fun, small town British countryside setting. There are also a few love stories going on, but those never detract from the main romance. All these are fun things that set up the groundwork for a fun story reminiscent of Amanda Quick.

So why the low rating? The heroine.

She started off likable, but soon began a downward spiral into TSTL territory. Aside from cheating on the hero (thank heavens she didn't go there or she would've been the dumbest heroine I have ever read about), Priscilla checked every box for behavior in a heroine that drives me nuts:

-She demands to go with the hero during his investigations, even though it is dangerous and risky for her reputation.

-When hero goes without her because it is dangerous, she pouts about it and goes somewhere alone, getting herself kidnapped.

-She jumps to conclusions and thinks the worst of the hero at every opportunity (e.g., when the hero's memory finally returns she immediately assumes he has been faking it and she runs off in a huff).

-She sleeps with the hero TWICE and then refuses to marry him because he hasn't said "I love you" (but he has certainly showed devotion in numerous other ways).

Need I go on? I only finished this because I wanted to know if I was right about the mysteries (I was) and

because the hero was fun to read about. I am not sure what he saw in the heroine, but I did revel in it when he would finally put Priscilla in her place and call her out on her tunnel vision and stubbornness.

The story was still easy to read and there were bright spots in it, but the heroine's behavior really took down the rating. GR friends that can't stand stupid heroines should avoid this one.

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### **LaFleurBleue says**

This book fits into the distraction with not much substance category, as I knew it would from the first page onwards.

A romance with more adventure than real depth of feelings, a plot based on action with no character development. And anyway no real characterization, with most characters looking like caricatures of themselves. Obviously historical realism is not a major concern and can be used as a convention when required and totally forgotten when it did not fit with the purpose. This is a genre some readers deeply enjoy, though it's not my favorite by far.

By the end of the book, there are 3 weddings to be celebrated, everything ended up like it should have, very conveniently. At each kiss or steamy scene, I kept rolling my eyes, thinking "wow they really know how to pick their moment"... And those did not really work for me.

This was my first from Ms. Camp. I will not rush, nor specifically search for another one from her, though I might read a cheapie.

2.5 stars

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### **Faith Williams says**

I really enjoyed this book! I never really read a romance novel because I was nervous about the sexual scenes but I decided to try it and it wasn't bad at all! There were only about two scenes that were remotely "bad" and the author did a great job with the word choice and not making the audience feel too uncomfortable. I also liked that it wasn't just all about sex and love. It was a story and was executed very well :) I can't wait to read more from this author!

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### **Christine says**

Can I just start by wondering at the sheer volume of romance novels named "Scandalous?" Many are just that -- the single word. Others use the word "scandal" combined with other words. I did a search for "Scandalous" on goodreads and this book was the 5th listed. Out of 539 results.

I'm beginning to think I've read at least a hundred of them myself. And I'm sure (hope) there's an exception out there, but so often, it's a misleading title. It's like romance publishers know romance readers (and the average human being) are drawn to scandal, and so they strongarm the author into naming it "Scandalous" or whatever.

So, title aside, I was pretty much unaffected by this book. A guy who doesn't remember who he is collapses on Priscilla's doorstep. They spend much of the book trying to figure out who he is (which I knew by about 1/4 of the way through), there's a murder (that I solved by about 1/4 of the way through). There's some sex, which didn't really interest me. The big "scandal" is mostly that Priscilla write adventure novels under a

pseudonym. \*gasp\*

Another disappointment from an author I've enjoyed in the past. That's two in one week. Time to try a new author, I think. :)

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### **Mel says**

This was a little crazy and a bit "old school" but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

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### **Robin says**

When a naked man lands on her doorstep begging for help, Priscilla takes him in and cares for him. He doesn't know his name. He doesn't know how he was injured. The only thing he is sure of is he had been kidnapped and held in a shed in the woods. Priscilla names him John. Together they try to discover John's true identity and find out who wants him out of the picture.

This is a very predictable historical romance. The plot was a little slow and there were no surprises. My rating: 2.5 Stars.

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### **Kirsti says**

This one was particularly intriguing, because of the mystery behind the main love interest. Who is he? Where did he come from? and why is someone trying to kill him? I think the mystery made this one, as the romance itself wasn't really anything to write home about. It was a simple lust turned into love scenario, but still, it kept me occupied. Four stars!

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