



The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright

Tessa Dare

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(Originally appeared in the e-book anthology *Three Weddings and a Murder*.)

Miss Eliza Cade is a lady in waiting. And waiting.

Because of a foolish mistake in her youth, she's not allowed "out" in Society until her three older sisters are wed. But while she's trying to be good, she keeps bumping elbows—and, more distressingly, lips—with notorious rake Harry Wright. Every moment she spends with him, she risks complete ruin.

The sensual passions he stirs in her are so wrong . . . but Eliza just can't resist Mr. Wright.

The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright Details

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Author : Tessa Dare

Format : Kindle Edition 144 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Novella, Historical Fiction, Regency

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From Reader Review The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright for online ebook

Caz says

This was a short, charming and above all, emotionally engaging read. Eliza Cade is the youngest of four sisters, and because of a silly mistake she made when she was just fourteen, her father decrees that she cannot make her come-out until her sisters are all married, lest she do something to disgrace them.

At the wedding of her eldest sister, she meets Mr J. Harrison Wright, who immediately recognises in her a kindred spirit. Their verbal exchanges sparkle and are charged with attraction from the get-go, and Harry is just dreamy. Not only is he handsome, he's clever and insightful, amusing and tender; and although Eliza is drawn to him, his reputation is such that association with him could further damage her chances of making her debut.

The story follows their meetings across the four years of their acquaintance, and shows their relationship progressing through fun and tragedy into a deep and abiding love. It's warm, sexy and touching - a perfect way to spend a few hours on a cold, grey afternoon.

K. says

Trigger warnings: blood, death.

I was super dubious about this one, based on the title. Buuuuuut it was Tessa Dare and I was trying to cram in a bunch more books before the end of 2017, so I read it anyway.

And it turned out to be surprisingly enjoyable. It's essentially a series of little vignettes as Eliza and the roguish Mr. Wright are thrown together time and again over the course of several years. I'm a big fan of the slow burn, so the fact that this was 144 pages but took place over about 5 years? SOLD.

In short, it was entertaining and fun and fluffy. What more do you need on New Year's Eve?

Andree says

Sometimes I am into novellas because they are low commitment, and usually low-drama. This was both of those things, it was just also low on pretty much anything else. There's nothing actually wrong with it, there just also wasn't anything to hold my interest. Also, I am so done with charming rogues who spend the entire book (okay the first three quarters) telling the heroine what to do in a manner that I assume is supposed to be "flirtatious" and "charming" and "needling banter that shows how close they are," but in reality is none of those things. Also, the basic premise surrounding the heroine is annoying.

Jane Stewart says

Sweet, lovely, and short. A novella. Just enough ingredients for a romance.

Once a year Eliza runs into Harry, a rake - fun chemistry. Eliza is not yet out, not yet available for courting. There is a feel good happy romantic ending. The story is too short to have a big misunderstanding/separation - which is nice for a change.

The title is a misnomer. There was nothing that showed Harry being scandalous, dissolute, or no-good. He seemed nice to me. A more representative title would be "young virgin (not yet allowed to date) meets bachelor 11 years older."

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Kindle count length: 1,858 (347 KB) 144 pages. Swearing language: mild. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: 1. Setting: 1810 to 1813 England. Copyright: 2012. Genre: regency romance.

Anne says

Alright, first off, this is a novella. Which means you're not going to get a story that feels in-depth or fully complete.

But.

For what it *was*, it was *ok*.

The story plays out over the course of years, so when you first meet Eliza she's only 18, and Harry is in his late 20's.

He's a bit of a douche, and she's a bit silly, so they naturally love each other right off the bat!

Ok, no. Not at first anyway.

They meet again and again over the next few years, and each time they fall for each other just a little bit more. Finally, after some nookie & a bittersweet parting, it culminates in the Big I Love You scene at the end.

Yeah, it's kinda cliché, but it was nice.

There was also a teeny bit of a Pride and Prejudice kind of vibe to this one.

So... that's always a bonus.

sighs

Cute, short, & sweet! If you're gonna waste a few hours of your day, this isn't a bad choice.

MRB says

Objectively, this probably isn't the very 'best' thing Tessa Dare's written, but other than *Any Duchess Will Do* and maybe *A Week to be Wicked*, it's my personal favorite. Prospective readers should be aware that this is a novella, not a full-length novel. That's a deterrent for some of my fellow bookworms, and I do fully understand the arguments as to why shorter fiction isn't as satisfying for many. For me, though, these 110 pages were more than enough to give us sharply defined characters, romance, wit, cleverness, relatable little insights and the sparkly, mood-boosting fun that characterize Dare's best work.

The shorter length forces romance authors to trim the proverbial fat. So instead of seven or eight unnecessarily lengthy, repetitive, they-all-start-to-blend-together romantic scenes, we get just a couple of more memorable and effective ones. Instead of the hero and heroine having the same tiresome conversations and misunderstandings over and over and over, we get faster pacing and a more streamlined plot. We see enough of the H and h to get a strong sense of their personalities and their connection to each other (or least this reader did!), but yet we get to use our imaginations and fill in some interesting blanks rather than getting the overlong, overwritten, 'okay, yes, we GET it already!' scenes found in many of Dare and others' 400ish page books.

Harry and Eliza were both among my favorite of Dare's characters, and this book had a few fantastically sharp, funny lines and observations. Mostly, though, Tessa Dare's work just has a certain joyful energy and vibrancy that delights and engages me. Unlike many historicals, her work is neither too stilted nor overwrought. She doesn't fall into that trap of taking herself too seriously and forgetting that romances can be joyful and fun. This is not one of the more substantive and layered novellas out there, but it's such an engrossing, smile-eliciting read that I couldn't give it less than five stars. Enjoy!

Paula says

Miss Eliza Cade is a lady in waiting and the youngest of four sisters. She's fierce, outspoken, and may be a tad impulsive. Because of her impulsive behavior, she made a foolish mistake that could have ruined her if not for her father taking measures to protect her. Because of this silly mistake, she's not allowed to come "out" in Society until all three of her older sisters are wed.

One night during a ball, Eliza is caught spying on the guests by the *scandalous, dissolute, no-good Mr. Wright*. Being alone with this man could ruin her reputation before all of her sisters are properly married. Which means Eliza needs to get out of there as soon as possible. But if she leaves too soon, she could get caught. Forced to stay in the room with Harry, they have a very interesting conversation. Not happy with her company by the time it's clear to leave the room, Eliza leaves in a huff hoping to never see the notorious rake again.

Eliza has not seen the last of Harry. For many years after their first encounter, these two continuously run into each other. Each and every time they see each other, it brings them closer together until a friendship is formed. It's not until many years later, Eliza finally sees Harry for who he truly is. Behind the bad reputation as a penniless rake, he is a man of honor and loyalty. He's also a man who is straight forward with Eliza. He sees exactly who she is and knows no other man can tame her wild heart but him. Not only does Harry truly see Eliza for the woman she is, but he stirs up emotions and passion inside her that she's never felt before.

Only with Harry has she ever felt such things.

When Eliza finally has a chance to come “out”, will she choose to settle down with a gentleman, or succumb to her desire to be with Harry?

She promptly forgot how to breathe. “It’s like this,” he repeated in a low voice, just for her. “I’m not that sort of man. I don’t wait for the things I want.”

The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright a short and sweet, clever, funny, romantic story. I have come to the point that I believe Ms. Dare can write no wrong! I always know I’m going to have a fabulous time reading one of her delightful stories. Ms. Dare has a special way with weaving in humor, family, passion and romance that always has me coming back for more more more!

Rating: B+

-- *A Romantic Book Affairs Review*

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Allison (The Allure of Books) says

You guys, my first reaction upon reading *The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright* by Tessa Dare was “whoa.” Actually, that was my reaction over and over again while reading this novella. I loved Tessa Dare already, her *Spindle Cove* series is wonderful and she is one of the only historical romance authors I make a point to follow. But still: *whoa*.

Basically, everything about *The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright* is absolutely brilliant. The characters, the story, the writing. Oh man, THE WRITING. I want to quote the devil out of this book, you guys don’t even know. The number of passages I highlighted in this novella – considering there are only 100 pages – is crazy. Check out some of this awesome:

The devil must be very handsome, her nursemaid had once told her. Else no one would follow him into perdition.

Too true, too true. She saw it for herself now. The devil had a strong, squared jaw, a straight nose, and full lips with a dangerous, sensual quirk. Dark, wavy hair, as untamable as his spirit. Laughing eyes, green as a Cornish summer. Oh, yes. The devil was handsome indeed.

But it wasn’t just that.

The devil also looked weary. Fatigued by the world— and strangely vulnerable, this close. The devil put silver threads in his sin-black hair. Just a few, so a girl could only see them if she happened to draw imprudently near. He wore his cravat mussed, tempting feminine hands to put it straight.

Eliza’s nursemaid had it all wrong. The devil didn’t entice with perfection. He seduced with flaws.

His green, hungry gaze didn’t say, Follow me into perdition.

It said, Only you can save me from it.

It's pretty funny that I picked this story up basically because it costs a buck and because I knew it wouldn't take long to read. That'll teach me, right? I ended up reading at turtle speed because I wanted to absorb every single word and every single feeling. Sigh. I sound like a 14 year old picking up her first romance novel and going all starry-eyed over it, right? I feel like it too!

What starts out as a chance, embarrassing meeting between a jaded rake and an immature young girl turns into several meetings over the course of years – each meeting revealing more and more about the characters and who they really are. You might think that stand-out incredible character development can't really happen over the course of 100 pages, but you'd be wrong. Mr. Wright starts out as just another rake in just another romance novel, but let me tell you, that changes. HE BRINGS THE SWOONS.

To Sum it Up:

-Tessa Dare basically blew the top off my already high expectations of her writing abilities. Seriously. Even if you love her already, you have no idea!

-Some of the best character development I've come across in a long time packed neatly into novella form.

-THIS EBOOK ONLY COSTS ONE DOLLAR. YOU MUST BUY IT IMMEDIATELY. I'm not kidding. Right now. Gogogogo. (And, if you prefer, the paper copy is only \$4!)

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Read review on DemonLover's Books & More

What struck me the most about this story was the emotion. I think I went through every single emotion possible. This story takes place over several years. That's right, years. Eliza did something rash as a 14 year old, and consequently was ruined. Her parents forbid her to have a Season until each of her sisters was married, so she wouldn't have a chance to ruin their prospects.

When she meets Mr. Wright for the first time, she immediately discovers he is Mr. All-Wrong. But for some reason they can't leave each other alone, and Eliza isn't "out." What is so sad about this one, is that once they realize they are in love, it isn't possible for them to be together. The ending made me cry.

I think this is without a doubt Tessa Dare's best work yet. **Beautiful, emotional, and so wonderful, I recommend this book to any and everyone.**

I am so sad because I've read all of her books. But what makes that so wonderful, is that now I can re-read them!

This is the same novella as in Three Weddings and a Murder (which I don't believe you can buy anymore) and this is an amazing story.

read my review of Three Weddings and a Murder here

***ARC received courtesy of Edelweiss and Avon

Ashley says

A couple of weekends ago some friends and I had a girl's weekend at a hotel and I spent the morning reading at the pool. My friends all made fun of me when I busted this out, but I don't even care. It was really cute. (None of them read romance novels, so I'm really not sure what they thought when they saw this sucker. Probably lots of things that were mostly wrong.)*

**Oh my God. I just had the weirdest urge to interview all my friends about their preconceptions about romance novels and then write about it. Why does this sound like so much fun.*

Also, I followed this up with *Bad Feminist*, so, you know. I'm awesome.

This is a short and sweet little novella about a young girl named Eliza Cade who has been forced by her parents to delay her coming out due to some indiscretion or another that she had as a young girl. Basically, they don't want her fucking up her other three sister's chances of catching good husbands with her out of the box behavior, so she has to wait until they are all married.

Eliza is of course very bothered by this arrangement, particularly because the longer she has to wait, the more it feels like she's being kept in a cage.

She meets the titular Mr. Wright at eldest sister's engagement party. They meet-cute with lots of banter. She is annoyed by him immediately, and he is drawn to her lively spirit. The novella follows them over the course of five years, jumping forward in time every thirty pages or so to show us the next evolution of their relationship. It's pretty much adorable, and there is a pretty great sex scene as well.

It pretty much had everything you could possibly want in a romance: banter, three-dimensional characters, sexiness, fun, humor. It even had historical verisimilitude. I don't think I've ever read a romance novel before where you actually realize all the men folk being soldiers means they're at war. Those uniforms aren't just set dressing!

I read a library copy, but I will definitely be downloading my own copy sometime in the future so I have a short little pick-me up handy when I want it.

Sharon L says

this is a short sweet novella.

I really liked Harry and Eliza's courting.
I would have forsaken the sex if possible to make their courting sweeter.

but oh, well.

Pamela says

Frankly my dear, I needed this! The last two books that I read sucked the life out of me. This was an absolutely delightful novella! You can hear/read/see just a hint of Scarlett and Rhett, the banter was terrific and Eliza and Harry were perfect for each other. I wish it had been longer of course and an epilogue would have been nice, but I still loved it. Who knows, maybe we'll see them in another book...after all, tomorrow is another day. :)

namericanwordcat says

This novella is a lot fun with a sweet heat. The hero and heroine and heroine both grow and fall in love. The banter is delicious.

Letitia says

Rating: A ... Heat: Warm

Eliza Cade is a passionate and, slightly, reckless young miss. And, because of one tiny bad decision, her father has declared that she can't debut until all three of her older sisters have. Miss Eliza is the wildcard of the family and her papa doesn't want her to ruin her siblings marriage prospects.

Which probably means she should stay far, far away from Harry Wright. Because Mr. Wright is a rogue and a spendthrift. To be caught alone with him is tantamount to utter ruin. So, naturally, Eliza finds herself alone with him... quite often.

But there is not a thing wrong about that Mr. Wright. Except, maybe, that he is deliciously naughty and always says exactly what's on his mind. And has made me fall for him head over slippers. I'm telling you, I'd give my left arm for Harry Wright!

All puns aside, I very much enjoyed the passage of time woven into this novella. The different circumstances that Eliza and Harry continue to meet under. And how he riles her up as much as he heats her up... and then leaves her wanting. But don't worry, Miz Eliza returns the favor in spades!

The Scandalous, Dissolute, No-Good Mr. Wright (say that three times fast!) may not be a part of the Spindle Cove world, but it has definitely helped tide me over until *Any Duchess Will Do*. I love historical romance—and Miz Dare always delivers greatness!

Favorite Quote:

The devil also looked weary. Fatigued by the world—and strangely vulnerable, this close. The devil put silver threads in his sin-black hair. Just a few, so a girl could only see them if she happened to draw imprudently near. He wore his cravat mussed, tempting feminine hands to put it straight.

Eliza's nursemaid had it all wrong. The devil didn't entice with perfection. He seduced with flaws.

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-- A Romantic Book Affairs Review.

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Daniella says

Am I the only one who HATED this book? Judging from all the rave reviews, I seem to have an unpopular opinion about this novel. Seriously. Don't get me wrong though, I love Tessa Dare and I'm a big fan of her novels, but this was just so awful that I had to stop between readings and vent out my frustrations to my sister. Gah.

First, the hero: The "scandalous, dissolute, no-good Mr. Wight" may not entirely be worthless, but he's manipulative, arrogant, selfish, and dishonourable. It frustrated the hell out of me how, during the first few chapters of the novel, he would always act as though he knew everything about the heroine.

For example, at the beginning, when they were locked in a room together, Eliza wanted to go out but he wouldn't budge:

She fumbled for the door latch and wrenched it open. A strong masculine hand covered hers, pushing the door closed.

"You don't want to leave," he said calmly. "Not yet."

Eliza stared up at him, horrified. "I assure you I do."

...

She cast a beseeching look at the door latch. "Mr. Wright, please. Won't you let me out?"

He didn't answer. Not with words. He simply turned the key in the door lock, removed it, and stashed it away in his waistcoat pocket.

She was trapped.

"Why would you do that?" she asked, staring up at the locked door.

"Because you don't want to go." His voice was darkly sweet and so forbidden, like rum. "You want to stay here with me a little longer."

Uuuuuuuuh. Wtf? I understand that he HAD to stop Eliza from coming out of the room to prevent her from getting ruined (apparently he was about to meet with his ladylove, and the said ladylove would have spotted Eliza), but couldn't he have acted, oh, I dunno, less of an ass while he was at it? Seriously! His answer was so arrogant that I literally paused and re-read the lines, just to make sure that I didn't make it all up. But this was just the beginning, so I was thinking, "Okay, maybe things'll get better and maybe he won't be such an ass in the future." Ugh. Whatever hope I had for him quickly diminished with every passing chapter, especially when she strolled the ruins with Philippa and Brentley, and when she gave her virginity to him.

Let me explain. Eliza and her sister, Philippa, meets Mr. Wright and his best friend, Mr. Brentley while in

the country. Philippa and Brentley take a liking to each other, but Wright is convinced that Philippa was making a mistake (at this time, Brentley had tons of debts). Eliza, of course, would not know about Brentley's financial problems until later on in the story, so she was baffled when Wright seemed to have prevented anything from blossoming between the two. Thus, Eliza, while touring the ruins with the three, pretended to hurt her ankle just so she could waylay Wright and trick him into giving the two some privacy. Of course, being the omniscient demigod that he is, Wright immediately knew that this was Eliza's way of getting the two together. *rolls eyes*

"Now then. Let's have a look."

Eliza jerked the muslin from his grasp. "Absolutely not."

"But you're injured."

"I'm not dead," she whispered. "Which is what I'd have to be, to permit you to lift my skirts."

His hand slid beneath the frail fabric, grazing her stockinged ankle. A caress as shocking in its familiarity as in its boldness. He touched her easily, without excuse or apology. As though she were his for the touching.

HUUH. WHAT. THE. FUCK. HE COULD HAVE AT LEAST APOLOGIZED OR SOMETHING. And such display of concern would have been okay had it been genuine, but it was so damn obvious that he knew what Eliza was up to that it was just cruel doing that to her. SERIOUSLY. WHAT THE FUCK.

And then he goes all:

He came to stand before her. "I want you to know that there's someone who sees you. The real you. The girl who can't bring herself to plait her hair at night, because it pains her vanity... The girl who's clever enough to recognize a dangerous man when she sees one--but desperately wants him to kiss her anyway."

Oh, hail the all knowing Mr. Wright! God. I've had my share of overly confident heroes, but there's a line between tolerable and intolerable arrogance. Please. Oh, I get the fact that he may have just been pointing out the obvious SINCE THE HEROINE'S SUCH A WEAK CHARACTER (I'll get to this later) but must he have said this in such an arrogant way? What was he proving anyway? I get that he wanted to put out a facade, but really, I never saw the point of it all--the point of this charade. What was its relevance anyway? I get the fact that he was protecting Brentley, but wasn't he going too far with the convincing? Because damn he really convinced ME that he was an arrogant ass. He was already a blackguard in the eyes of society, did he really have to prove that to everyone he met? Did he have to act like that to EVERYONE?

God. And okay, so after his "honourable" and "unselfish" reasons were made clear to Eliza, they fall in love. Wright decides to be a better man and enlists in the army. Eliza, before he goes off to his regiment, decides to give her virginity to him. And this is what he did after doing the deed with her:

She lifted her eyes to his and placed a hand to his cheek. "And you must stay alive, Harry. I don't care if you come back changed or wounded, just so long as you come back. I'll wait for you."

He shook his head sternly. "Don't say that. Don't wait for me, Eliza. You're young and lively and beautiful, and once this house emerges from mourning, every unmarried buck in your youth will be vying for your attention. I want you to have your youth, even if you never have

If you're insulted or hurt by this review, then I'm sorry, but all I can feel right now is this:
