



Your Wicked Ways

Eloisa James

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Helene, the Countess Godwin, knows there is nothing more unbearably tedious than a virtuous woman. After all, she's been one for ten long years while her scoundrel of a husband lives with strumpets and causes scandal after scandal. So she decides it's time for a change -- she styles her hair in the newest, daring mode, puts on a shockingly transparent gown, and goes to a ball like Cinderella, hoping to find a prince charming to sweep her off her feet...and into his bed.

But instead of a prince, she finds only her own volatile, infuriatingly handsome...husband, Rees, the Earl Godwin. They'd eloped to Gretna Green in a fiery passion, but passion can sometimes burn too hot to last.

But now, Rees makes her a brazen offer, and Helene decides to become his wife again...but not in name only. No, this time she decides to be very, very wicked indeed.

Your Wicked Ways Details

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From Reader Review Your Wicked Ways for online ebook

LUNA says

Una novela ligera y divertida con toques de música.
me he reido bastante con las escenas del libro, me recuerda a estas peliculas romanticas de enredos, muy aconsejable para quien le guste la romantica erotica victoriana.

Farrah says

Eloisa James brings us another sultry read about an estranged married couple who've been apart the past 10 years who end up reuniting and creating a spark when brought back together to produce an heir and a musical score. Helene, the countess of Godwin changes from the prudish woman to a more daring and beautiful woman who entices many men after her change including her rake of a husband, Reese, the Earl of Godwin. When she approaches him yet again for a child of her own. He agrees only if she'll come back to their house to help him with his music and all while his mistress of the past 3 years lives in her old room next to his. What a scandal...

The only thing lacking for me was that I wanted a bit more "macho" action between the two men rivaling for her attentions. It's always a bit more fun when 2 men fight over a woman.

Melody Black says

I hated this book. After six chapters I went to put it aside to stop reading but I still wanted to know how it ended and all it did was piss me off at the end of the story. It always annoys me when the woman just forgives the man for the things he does so easily. Ya I liked that she had been the first person he had slept with but she certainly wasn't his last even though it was that way for her. He cheated during the entire marriage and he was a complete asshole. I know she wasn't great either, but it still annoys me :P.

I also didn't get that impression to well that he could be someone you would want to be married to. I'm not sure how to explain it, but comparing him to other men in romance books he didn't seem to be one of those men who would make the top of the list.

Or perhaps I only feel this way because the entire book pissed me off. Either way looking at it from the perspective of someone who would have enjoyed the book it was well written and the plot good, I, myself, was just not a fan of it.

Erica Chilson says

Other than a few minor phrases of repetition, I loved the book (*you see* drove me insane)

I think Eloisa James will be a staple in my historical romance addiction. I found this book secondhand, not knowing it was the 4th in a series. I read it as a standalone without any issue, and will go back to book 1. Many Historical Romance novels are too flowery, over descriptive, insta-love, and eye-roll worthy. They possess an excess of words that must be skimmed(like 3 pages to describe one action). I didn't find James' writing to be this way. Eloise James writing style is similar to Kleypas. When an author has a huge back-list,

you are guaranteed to find a few that just miss the mark with you; it is a given. For me, these authors can do no wrong, and I hope James joins those ranks on my favorite shelves.

Ilze says

Lovely! A story of forgiveness and reconciliation set within a lighter-than-air comedy of Regency manners. Very refreshing too to read a romance of a couple who had a really, really lousy sex life initially, due to their own ignorance and inexperience, which led to their living apart, and who were willing to let go of their preconceptions about each other and about sex and fall in love again.

I only bought this one because I was interested in Mayne, one of the main characters in the Essex sisters' quartet, but I'll be looking for the other books in this Duchess quartet now too. (Mayne became infatuated with the heroine of this book when she suddenly appeared at a party in a very sexy gown and was intensely disappointed when she turned him down in the end.)

Anisashraf says

Your Wicked Ways, Eloisa James another story makes me excited. Although this novel not so interesting like her other novel, but it still can make me stole my time read it.

Helene , the heroin. I like Helene, I like her character and everything about her. But sometimes, I can't understand why she still accept what her husband doing to her. It is love? Yes, to her, her husband is her love that can't be denied. After 10 years part from Rees, she comes back. To claim her right.

Rees , the hero. I dislike him. Supposed, I give full stars for this story, but I can't. I can't accept and approved 100% what he had done. It's totally waste for 10 years to realize for all HIS MISTAKES. I don't know his feeling for Helene, I can't make any assumption. Once, I think Rees is too selfish for what he's done to Helene and Lina.

For Lina and Tom ending, I expected it to happen. After all, it's a happy ending. I can smile at the end.

Daisy says

[essentially Helene and Rees' first time in bed was far from inspiring even t

Rachel Rogers says

Another couldn't finish book. I normally enjoy James's work but this left me cold. Even when I learned it was Mayne's backstory it didn't do anything for me. Rees was about as unappealing a hero as I could imagine and Helene was so inconsistent, not a normal trait for James heroines. At times it reminded me of *An Affair Before Christmas*; another one that didn't do much for me. Not a good intro to Eloisa James for anyone.

Stephanie D says

Worst book I've ever read. Hello? It's supposed to come from Eloisa James, a rather safe book where you always expect to read a masterpiece. But no, this book is sooo bad. I stopped while reading it. Every time I turned a page, I'd scratch my head in pain. Hello?!?! Is anyone that desperate to live in a house with your husband's mistress?!?! And you just want to pay her off?? What kind of wife does that? She's supposed to fight for her right and kick the mistress's ass off the house. And to make the mistress take up with the vicar?! That's cheap!!! It's a historical romance!!.. I'm so disappointed in Ms. James. Well, I guess this is goodbye to her books. She seems to want to continue the topic of mistress and bad marriages in her book. At first, it's refreshing then you kind of get tired of their theatrics with the whole story. Yes I was an Eloisa James fan. Damn the money I spent on Kindle Amazon. She's not worth it anymore.

Lori McD says

Last book in this particular series... I wasn't thinking about how these books interacted with the Essex sisters series. The names of some of the characters seemed familiar to me, and now I know why - duh!

The Earl of Mayne (Garret Langham) figures in this book; Lucius Felton in the novella in this series. I'd forgotten that Mayne is half-French, and I was a bit thrown by his characterization as having a slight French accent for a bit. I had to re-read the 1st and last in the Essex sisters books to satisfy my "craving" for Mayne, after reading this book.

POTENTIAL SPOILERS BELOW!!! (Interspersed with my opinions and not necessarily labeled as spoilers)

Helene Godwin... she seemed to be the one friend in the duchess quartet whose marriage and love-life was simply doomed. Her husband, Rees, composes comic opera and is known for being a wild child, careless in his appearance and manner and scandalous in his open behavior -- he had a troupe of Russian dancers in his house after Helene left him, just months after their marriage. Rees has had an opera singer in residence in Helene's bed chamber for the past 2 years or so.

Helene is very thin, very pale, and very upright... one might even say, uptight. She is the moral compass of the duchess friends: Esme is the Infamous Esme - the Sensual One who knows how to keep men's attentions; Gina is the Sensible, but Compassionate friend; Carola is the Naive, Romantic friend. In fact, I wasn't even sure that I liked Helene until this book. She seemed like too much of a goody two-shoes, and she made it perfectly plain she didn't like marital intimacies in the least. Yet she eloped with Rees?!

Her husband, Rees, seemed like a lost cause to me, too. For all his wild ways, he didn't seem to have much use for women, and he wasn't all that nice a guy to be around even for his male friends. Although when his friend Simon Darby met & married Henrietta (2nd book), there was a slight change in Rees. And in this book, we learn that Rees longs for the companionship, passion, and love that his friend Simon has found in his wife and his marriage.

It seems that Rees is another tortured hero - imagine that! As usual, his parents' marriage and his father's behavior towards him have shaped him into who he is. Rees is the eldest of two brothers, and Rees is the Sinner, while his brother Tom is the Saint. So naturally, as a second son, Tom is a vicar. Tom makes his debut in this book; he's not seen Rees for 5 years, and he misses his brother, even though their father did all

he could to make the brothers detest one another. On his way, Tom encounters an orphaned 5 year-old girl who's been taken in by a middle-aged, motherly cook (Mrs. Fishbourne); but Meggin is starting to attract attention and isn't so easily hidden any more, so in a moment of desperation, Mrs. F gives Meggin to Tom to look after, thinking that 1) he's a vicar, and 2) he's from the part of England that Mrs. F is from, too.

Helene has been in anguish because Esme had a little boy, Carola has a little girl, and Gina has a little boy, too. Helene wants a child desperately, but when she talked to Rees about it, he flatly refused. Helene even tried to make Rees jealous by making him think she was having an affair, and while it galled Rees a bit, nothing much came of the incident. Helene is determined to have a child - with or without Rees' involvement; she knows it means scandal, but Helene no longer cares - she's lonely and wants a child to love. Esme, after her experience, convinces Helene that it's imperative she give Rees another chance to sire the child. Esme and her now husband Sebastian are still dealing with the consequences of Esme's son, William: while William has Miles' name and inheritance, it's become clear that her encounter with Sebastian the night before her mutual bedding with her husband produced William - he looks exactly like Sebastian. But because everyone proclaimed him to be Miles' son at birth (because they wanted him to be, Esme most of all), William will inherit Miles' title and lands; meaning that Sebastian's eldest son (perhaps only son?) isn't eligible to inherit Sebastian's title and lands.

Esme and Gina decide that Helene needs a makeover - she looks too stiff and uptight. Helene is concerned about her non-existent curves. So they take a trip to Esme's modiste to remedy the situation. Of course, Rees has been dragged to the same modiste by his opera singer, Lina. Rees is trying to write his next opera, which is long over-due, and he needs Lina's vocal help. Seems not much else has been going on between Rees and Lina for over a year now -- Rees isn't interested in much more than composing, especially since inspiration is eluding him, and Lina, bored to tears, tries to poke and prod Rees into emotion by making him take her out and spend money on her. In the modiste shop, both sides overhear the other: Lina deliberately flaunts herself, making it sound as if Rees drags her home to make love to her. Helene is mortified... just enough so that Esme and the modiste convince Helene to try some daring new styles AND to cut her hair, finally freeing Helene from the heavy "Teutonic maiden" braids that she's known for.

Of course, Helene's new "look" is the talk of the ton, which is where the Earl of Mayne comes in. While Mayne is known to bed virtually every unhappily married woman and widow around, for whatever reason he thinks himself to be suddenly and madly in love with the Countess Helene Godwin. Here's where our author fails us a bit -- she doesn't really help us to see or feel as Mayne does, so the depth of feeling Mayne supposedly feels for Helene seems completely false. I suppose we're to believe that it's a violent infatuation, and yet in the Essex sisters books (esp. the first), we see the effects of this book on Mayne, and it's not pretty.

Regardless, through the magic of this transformation, Helene manages to convince Rees to try for a child. In fact, Rees needs Helene's musical talent to help him complete his long over-due opera; but Rees still feels cruelly towards Helene, and so he insists that she move back into his house - in the NURSERY - while Lina remains in her former bedchambers! Helene knows this would be a terrible scandal, but she's so desperate to at least TRY for a child, she agrees - but only for one month and only if the entire thing is kept completely secret. Helene pretends to be in Bath, but the dogged Mayne discovers her secret, and in a fit of jealousy (really?) makes sure that the biggest gossip of the "ton" knows it.

In the meantime, Helene and Rees begin to remember why they eloped... they stop hurting one another verbally and bringing up the past. And it helps that Helene looks more like a goddess, and that Rees acts more like a lover. It seems that Rees and Helene were both virgins when they wed, and Rees never quite learned the "art" of seducing a woman or readying her for the act; he's a wham-bam-it's-your-duty kinda man. (Rees a virgin when married after his father's determination that he be a sinner - really?) But now... they seem to be finding their way together, especially in the outdoors! Scandalous!

In the OTHER meantime, Tom finds himself quite besotted with Rees' opera singer, Lina. It's convenient that

while she left the opera house to be Rees' lover, Lina really thought herself in love with Rees yet both Rees and Lina discovered early on that the relationship was more about Rees having access to Lina's amazing voice than to her amazing body. So, technically I suppose Lina's not really a courtesan, right? Hmm... Lina is a Scottish lass - daughter of a vicar, even. But Lina's father was "perfect" and expected that same spiritual perfection from Lina. When he thought that Lina was becoming prideful over her voice, he told her she wasn't allowed to sing for 6 months. And that's when Lina finally went "all the way" with a neighbor boy and ran off to London to the opera. But of course, Lina is really a virtuous woman... and a possible mother for Meggin! And of course Tom is the image of Rees, but a kinder, more loving and gentle Rees - the one that Lina thought she was in love with.

Can you see where all this is going, dear Goodreads Friend? But can they all avoid the scandal that the Earl of Mayne has brought upon them?

I really did enjoy this series of books. And this last book is truly a good read. But it felt too "neat" to me... Especially because the couple involved (Rees and Helene) have never been very likeable: Rees because he's an arrogant slob who hasn't any use for women, and Helene because she's too uptight to enjoy life, much less relax enough to enjoy physical pleasure. Yes, these two people are hurting, and they've hurt each other deeply - when both were very vulnerable in their opinions of themselves and relationships and sex. Here, Rees is a typical male who's been devastated by his wife (his lover) telling him verbally that she's disgusted by his body and telling him non-verbally (and verbally) that she doesn't like sex. Rees hasn't forgotten or forgiven.

There are so many lessons in this book about love and relationships, and IMO, the lessons are directed at us women! Don't go off on a tangent, dear friend... as women, we often forget how we must first like and love ourselves before we can truly love others... and how much importance men give to our words and actions, especially our intimate words and actions. If a man doesn't believe that his lover (partner, wife, etc.) is pleased and accepting of his attentions and himself, and yes, that's mostly sexual in nature, he's devastated - and he'll go elsewhere to find what he's not getting from his lover. It doesn't matter how much he's to blame; the man won't see anything but hurt and rejection, so he won't see or hear anything his lover says or does any longer. Helene didn't and probably couldn't know that - most women don't; we learn it the hard way. Which is why it's so frustrating, because Helene has her friends, especially Esme, to guide her. But because they're too busy acting as her friend and not asking the important questions, like WHY doesn't she like intimacy (getting to the heart of the issue), neither Esme nor Gina can truly offer Helene insight or help.

And amazing as it is, we find Rees discovering inspiration and imagination, all on his own. I suppose with the proper motivation, anything is possible. But in this case, it seems improbable.

The subplot between Tom and Lina and even the stuff with Meggin is cute and "ahhh"-worthy. But again, all of it is too neat and too convenient, so the truth of the relationship between brothers and who Lina really is gets lost in what seems to be the tying up of all loose ends in this series. Because the book might as well be entitled, "All's Well That Ends Well", seeing Ms. James' penchant for Shakespeare.

I can see why Ms. James needed to re-visit Lucius Felton and especially the Earl of Mayne in another series. Had I read this series before the Essex Sisters series, I'm not sure that I would have cared as much about Mayne and wanted to see him happy. Although I suppose he paid his penance by his exposure to the Essex sisters, regardless of his life before them!

"Your Wicked Ways" is a fun read, and it does provide us with the bookend to this series. Using a light touch, the book reminds women of some of the lessons about love and intimacy and how important our words and actions are that are worth remembering. The entire series reminds us of how important our WOMEN FRIENDS are to us, and how men can't and shouldn't be expected to be our only sources of love

and friendship and companionship. But it's also important to have an inner circle of female friends with whom you can be completely yourself - even confiding your most intimate secrets, woes, and joys with.

I'd gladly give the book another star (even star and a half) if it didn't feel so "neat" and so "cute". But it's a good read.

Desi says

leído en julio 2011

2.5 estrellas

decepciono un poco y más xq los anteriores me gustaron mucho y esperaba la misma calidad en este!!

Ana Maria says

Esta novela me ha encantado

Me hizo sentir la misma satisfacción que "Abandonada a tus caricias" de L. Chase.

Tenía ciertas reticencias a leerla por lo que se presentaba en la sinopsis (dado que odio a los libertinos y maridos infieles), pero gracias a Dios, nada que ver!!!!

Lo que nos presenta James son personajes sumamente imperfectos, pero nada es lo que parece.

Esa imperfección me hizo sentir sumamente identificada en algunos aspectos (a quién no le pasó alguna vez estas cosas) y, sobre todo, me reí muchísimo

Es cierto, no vamos a encontrar libertinos experimentados que conocen todos los secretos del placer, ni vírgenes que tienen multiorgasmos la primera vez, ni amantes pérfidas vengativas, ni una trama oculta terrible, ni nada por el estilo.

Es como un vodevil donde los personajes actúan de forma que uno termina riéndose de cualquier cosa. Por lo menos así me pasó a mí.

Sin entrar en detalles, porque creo que lo más interesante es ir descubriendo de a poco lo que les pasó a Rees y Helene, porqué las cosas terminaron como terminaron, diré que todo se desarrolla entre: (view spoiler)

En este escenario se van a ir aclarando sentimientos ocultos por falta de comunicación, prejuicios y traumas familiares. Aunque nada profundamente psicológico. Claro.

Me encantaron todos los personajes, me enamoraron todos.

Con final muy feliz, por supuesto

Zoe (Attic Salt Reviews) says

This was such a sweet book. It plays out exactly as one would imagine from reading the blurb but I can't bring myself to fault it for that.

I loved every moment.

Katie says

Ahhh. I liked this, although I feel like I wanted a little MORE in some ways. I feel like I wasn't QUITE there with the couple, although I certainly believed they were on their way to a happy life together. I just don't think they had quite earned it yet.

It's also a book where I would've loved flashbacks. You see, they were passionately in love with each other, eloped, had bad sex and couldn't figure out how to get past that. No, really, that seemed to basically be the root of the problems. Then they said mean things to each other, but if they'd just figured out the sex thing, they'd have been fine!

But they were young and didn't know any better. Didn't really know that much better ten years later, but they knew enough to be able to fix it. (Really, I wish more had been spent on this. They seemed to move too quickly from both believing Helene wasn't capable of pleasure to figuring out that wasn't true.)

And I really liked the role music had in both of their lives and the way it bonded them together, but I wanted more of that, too!

Part of the problem is probably that there was a secondary romance that probably needed to be its own book. I liked both storylines, but I needed more of each.

Also, make sure you read this book before James's Essex Sisters series. The hero of one of those books is a rival in this one and I thought I was prepared for that, but it was just TOO WEIRD.

Dinjolina says

This book...ugh.

Just...ugh!

I do not think it would have been so horrible if the author made sense. But she did not. It felt like she made a lot of notes about the plot and then somebody else tried to patch it all together for a few bucks.

On the other hand when I think of Lina...maybe it would not have worked even if there was more of a back story.

Why? Well..I am a person who mostly hates eeeevil mistresses. But this -good- mistress made me want to puke!

Her sweetness attacks and the way that the hero is so 'protective' of her because she is very nice, and lovable and not a whore! Never a whore! Oh,no! Never!

I am guessing the author wanted to make EVERYBODY likable so the end of her series could bring an all

around happy ending. Well, good for her. But it still did not work.

Mostly all of this just looked like Lina was bipolar at best or two characters badly blended in to one.

For a sec she is the puritanical vicars daughter that shines in the light of her only two sexual partners and her love for the hero and/or his brother but then she turns in t the all around fuck body that sprouts malice in the dress shop.

Confusing.

I think this could have worked if she never slept with the hero. I would not have the eeew factor with her sharing dna related penises and more importantly the hero's actions would have made more sens....wait. No they would not.

Lina was badly written, but the hero was not logical for even a moment.

At the very beginning of this book he grabs the heroine's butt because he thinks it is Lina. He goes on and on about how he likes Lina's type of body and hates the heroines. So why in Gods green Earth does he have no real hunger to have sex with her and really did not have sex with her for a year? It just does not click.

For a while I daydreamed about him being so obsessed with fatter women because they were the opposite of the heroine but the author cut me there by giving the very stupid explanation(s) about his dead father.

But alongside all of this we have a bigger problem. The fact that I never really got why he treated the heroine the way he did. Not even after the 'revelations'. Because he loved her but knew not how to show it?

What ever.

He threw her out of the house because she hated the pain while they had sex?

She still had sex with him! What did it matter??

He hated the first time he had sex with her and it was bad because he was a virgin.

Ummmmm....he finished. How was it bad?

It is not like anything changed. The women he was with since then did not touch him etc... nothing is really changed !!! Why did he not like it? I just do not get it!

But this is not my fault. It is the authors. She just piled up on information never going back to them and getting it untangled.

The result? I was left cold when the hero and heroine decided to stay together. There were these I love you-s and there was a 'Oh, so we are staying together? Cool' moment but...but...why? how did it happen? I never saw this! I feel like there are pages missing.

Or maybe the author just focused more on Lina and Tom, the super boring couple that had a HEA for no reason what so ever. They stole page space but were frankly better done even thou I did not care one wit for what will their future hold.

All in all...I do not think I will be catching up on the other books in these series.
