



A Wicked Proposition

Karolyn Cairns

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Lady Catherine Dunleavy arrived in London from Dublin to confront her negligent guardian, only to find the man has abandoned his Countess, and the three orphans left in his care. Her sister offers her condolences for the tragedy that has killed their parents and sanctuary, but little else in the way of help. The Earl has made plans to set aside his Countess and has petitioned for divorce. Scandalous and as unheard of as it is, Catherine realizes without Lord Iverleigh's help, her and her two young brothers are destitute.

Her sister Lilly seems content to sit back and give Lord Iverleigh his way, but Catherine has other ideas. The shockingly wicked solution to end his plans of divorce and remarriage to his illustrious mistress gives Catherine the idea. Steal him away from the widow and spurn him, and give her sister the chance she needs to reconcile with her husband. But Gabriel is not the man Catherine was led to believe, and after enjoying his tender passions, she comes to see the man that he truly is.

Honest and noble to a fault, the handsome nobleman Gabriel St. Armand has seen his share of heartache at the hands of his treacherous wife. He rescues the raven-haired beauty from life in a brothel, only to discover a woman who reignites his heart's desire. Determined now to be free of his Countess and to be with Catherine, he has no idea his steps to free himself further imperil them both.

Nicholas Van Ryker is a smuggler and adventurer, and unlikely best friend to Gabriel. He obsesses over the green-eyed beauty his friend stole beneath his nose, determined to ignore the feelings she ignites within him. Gabriel asks him to follow his new mistress and divine her many secrets. Nicholas agrees, led by the memory of a stirring kiss shared in a quiet garden. He discovers Catherine is deceiving his friend and offers terms to keep his silence. He thinks one day with her spent in his bed will make him forget the lush beauty he cannot get from his mind.

The Countess's game is in play. Lilly is not about to give up her place as Gabriel's wife. Determined and cunning, she has thought of everything to reach her goals, even sacrificing the sister who unknowingly aids her.

From the smoke-filled boudoirs of London's most notorious brothel to the drawing rooms of the nobility, comes a tale of murder, blackmail, and unquenchable passions. On a windswept island a new love is born and is tested by the unseen ghosts of the past.

Catherine is haunted by a love she cannot forget and a man who owns her soul. Forced to choose, she must follow her heart at last.

A Wicked Proposition Details

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From Reader Review A Wicked Proposition for online ebook

Jessica Martin says

Great plot but with many errors...

I loved the plot. It had everything from love triangles to murder schemes. But at times it was confusing as to who the author was talking about by writing the wrong name. When something was explained between 2 different people and then a completely different name is thrown in, makes for a confusing read. I re-read the pages previously and didn't figure out what the author was talking about until chapters later.

I also didn't think some ideas were well thought out. Some characters weren't introduced, just thrown in there and you would think, who is that? The author would also introduce something to expect but never announce it happening but would reference back to it later in the story.

I think a stronger heroine would've been appreciated. Catherine was docile and manipulated throughout the entire book. I honestly only finished reading it to find out if the witch sister got what she deserved but even then I was cheated as it's a cliffhanger. I will not be purchasing the sequel.

So all in all, if you are looking for a book that isn't mainstream, read this. I do not favor books where I am drawn away from the story due to mistakes in grammar, spelling, and character confusion.

Kristy says

I was so conflicted about this book until the ending, and then I just got angry that I wasted my time reading it. Nothing was resolved, all the characters were left in some sort of limbo. Now apparently I have to read ANOTHER book to find out how everything is resolved. Well I won't do it, the characters weren't like able enough for me to care.

Clotilde Martinez says

The preview looked promising. Lily and her stepmother do not get along. As a result, she is forced into marrying Gabriel. Already, you can see Lily's devious mind in motion. Then it happened, our "heroine" Catherine (Lily's stepsister) shows up at her door. Parents are dead and now she along with her younger brothers are orphans and Catherine wants to know why Gabriel who is now her guardian did not reply back to her letters. It could be because Lily was burning Catherine's letters and then Lily comes up with the brilliant idea of Catherine seducing her husband and what better place than a whorehouse. It amazed me that Catherine agreed to the plan. As Lily predicted, Gabriel fell for Catherine as did his friend Nicholas who was Lily's secret lover. Nicholas did not know that Lily was Gabriel's wife until much later. Soon Catherine becomes pregnant, Lily has her kidnapped and locked away. Catherine gives birth to twins. Lily takes the boy and tells the nursemaid to get rid of the other baby- a girl. The nursemaid takes the girl and runs as far as she can from Lily. After months of searching, Nicholas comes on by the body of Catherine who was shot in the head by her sister. To his relief, Catherine is alive but has no idea what happened. Nicholas along with his family and friends expect for Gabriel who was still in the dark. Eventually, Catherine marries Nicholas.

Slowly, she remembers bits and pieces of her former life. Gabriel learns of his former friend's marriage and is hurt by both Nicholas and Catherine's betrayal. In the meanwhile, Lily's cohorts are either shot, killed or arrest. Lily finds herself arrest and is sentenced to death. But don't cry over Lily yet. Remember the whorehouse from the beginning of the book. It seem that the men who are being blackmailed found out who the new blackmailer was. Note to future blackmailers- never use your own stationary. Long story short, our blackmailer who was drugged and bruised is in Lily's cell. Lily is on the run- plotting revenge. I couldn't get over how horrible the heroes and heroine were and I found myself cheering for Lily's plans to work. I probably will read the second book in the series to see if she does.

Maria Burgos says

Never ending :(

At first I was intrigued, but then it was never ending, long and tedious. This could have been 2 books. Way to many characters to deal with and to many stories to keep up with. Great writing if it were cleaned up. My 1st and last book sorry

tanya says

This book sucks

I love love historical romances but this book fell very short of satisfaction. I do not think bad behavior should be rewarded. Usually the hero was bad then they reformed. Who I thought was the hero got screwed. I am not happy with this book and WILL NOT read another by her. You would think after reading 600 pages you would be at least satisfied. I am not. Very deeply UNSATISFIED

Deb Diem says

Talk about twists and turns, OMG, does this book have some. A Wicked Proposition, by Karolyn Cairns, is a phenomenal historical romance with more ups and downs than a rollercoaster. Ms. Cairns has provided readers with a well-written book furnished with outstanding characters. I totally love the characters in this book. The characters' relationships are so twisted I'm not even going to try to explain them. I will say there is plenty of drama, smokin' hot sex, action, suspense and bits of humor. This is one of those books you can't put down. I enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more from Karolyn Cairns soon. A Wicked Proposition is book 1 of the Wicked Series but can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger. After reading the epilogue though, you'll want to read the next book.

Garieka says

This book has an interesting plot but there were so many errors — syntax and grammatical — that reading it became annoying. I got the impression that the author was tired when she wrote part two as the writing just

got downright sloppy.

There was also too much going on in the book and the conclusions to the different situations, when there was any, were unsatisfactory.

I read the sample for the second book, and as much as I'm interested to see what happens next, especially after Lily's escape, the continued errors are a turn-off.

Llouise says

I hated this book I read as much as i could and then threw it down in disgust the characters were all flawed especially the heroine who was weak willed and pathetic she was meant to be outspoken and strong and was in fact a huge disappointment. the male leads especially Nicolas was a joke was he not meant to be a true friend to Gabriel instead he betrays that friendship by premeditation no less and the story in facts does not end with the characters that were together for most of the book. I read Historical romance because the women fought against their environment they were smart, tough and strong nothing like this lead was and the gentlemen were flawed but they had honor and moral to a certain degree they did not plan to stab a friend in the back and end up with their true love suffice to say I would not touch a Karolyn Cairns book if you threw one at me.

Brenda McLaughlin says

A Wicked Proposition (The Wicked Series Book 1)

I enjoyed the first book in A Wicked Proposition immensely. The story started out slow; however I was loath to put the book down, midway through the story. Nice back story and with all the children this series could continue for a long time!

Sarah Mac says

DNF @ 18%.

Seriously, I appreciate what the author was going for in terms of plot -- the world needs more neo-bodice-rippers that aren't slaves to the PC Trope Police -- but the characters had no life on the page. I tried to like it. And tried. And tried again. But the writing is just...nope. Sometimes 'raw' (or somewhat unpolished) prose adds to the flavor of a book...but this felt more like a draft than a final product. The potential is there, but the author needs a ruthless editor/beta to trim the fat & smooth the wrinkles. Meandering pace + herky-jerky dialogue + confusing refs that aren't properly 'shown' + zero lead-in descriptions + sex that reads like cheesy fanfic = Excedrin central.

A noble failure, I'd call it.

Aingeon says

A Wicked Proposition, well polt has merit however it execution has several flaws that I could not get past. The three of the four main characters weren't what I would have them be. The fourth Lillianne the villain is absolutely perfect in her role. Cathrine for the first half of the book is very weak willed and frankly a moron even for her age and of the time period. Both the men Gabriel and Nicholas are both horrible convincing and manipulative people. They did not seem to fit their roles as friends. I did not have any respect for the characters they had very little repeatability to me... Cathrine seemed to come to be exempt for her betrayal that she was indeed guilty of. Nicholas also seemed to come away cleanly from his misdeeds. Gabriel however got the shaft. His wife was horrid, his mistress ends up married to his closest friend, he is still lied to as the last pages unfold. I envisioned it ending differently.

J. Kahele says

This was a long book

Over six hundred pages but boy it was good. There is so much in this book that it's hard to do a review that would justify it. There is the whole love triangle with Catherine, Gabriel and Nicholas. Then you have the evil bitch Lily, who is Catherine's sister and Gabriel's wife...yes lots of family going on this one. But it was enjoyable and can't wait to read the second.

? One Click Romance ? says

I have no idea how to even review this book.

1 It was too long.

2 I began getting desperate to know how it ended but wait, IT DOESN'T END! You need book 2 for you to know how it ends.

The book started off good, great in fact and then it got unbelievably ridiculous and unrealistic, even for a Fiction novel. Historical Romance? I think not.

Caroline says

It's Like A Soap Opera

I swear, it was like reading a soap opera. It was a trainwreck, a messy debacle that simply kept going. I am honestly not sure how to feel.

Sara says

Hated the way this story ended. The main characters were not very likeable, either. Lily was horrible. I didn't think Nicholas and Catherine should have a happy ending. Although Gabriel was very flawed, he had the worst of the storylines. He had been a victim of Lily's lies and deception. Nicholas and Catherine betrayed and lied to him but they were able to excuse themselves. Their lies and deception far outweighed Gabriel's flaws. It irritated me at how Catherine always justified her actions and never gave Gabriel a chance. The author really did an injustice to Gabriel. There seemed to be no sympathy for the loyalty of his friendship with Nicholas. Nicholas planned to steal Catherine all along. He manipulated Catherine. The book was a disappointment. Catherine was gullible, naive and easily swayed by Nicholas. Nicholas was a lousy friend. I felt more sympathy for Gabriel. The author was determined to justify Nicholas and Catherine being together. I didn't like them at all.
