



Dreams of Desire

Cheryl Holt

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The third Novel of Sensual Destiny tells the intoxicating story of an innocent lady's companion, who drinks a magical potion-and is swept into a dangerous relationship of decadent desire.

Dreams of Desire Details

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Author : Cheryl Holt

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From Reader Review Dreams of Desire for online ebook

Bookaholics says

Dreams of Desire by Cheryl Holt
Historical Romance – Dec. 7th, 2010
3 stars

Lily Lambert is hired as the governess of the Earl of Penworth's twin wards. Beautiful Lily has never held on to a job for long as she's constantly harassed by her employer, but the Earl of Penworth is different. Though handsome, he's dour, strict, and very prim-and-proper. When she drinks down a love potion hoping to catch a handsome sea captain, she catches the attention of the Earl instead. And thus begins their tumultuous relationship as both of them fight the growing attraction between them. Worse, Lily's already difficult life is made worse by the Earl's evil twin wards who will do anything to get Lily fired. The poor Earl isn't faring much better as he has to juggle his relationships with: his odious stepmother, his groveling and conniving stepbrother, and his scandalous mother who returns after exile in Europe. With so many obstacles, can these two get together at all?

Dreams of Desire has a large cast, 90% of which are made up of horrible, evil people. You can't help but feel sorry for the Earl. The more you read about his family, the more you understand why Lily is breath of fresh air and why he craves her. Unfortunately, the chemistry and the development between the Earl and Lily is rather weak and felt much too rushed. I think due to the large cast and the constant dramas, the author doesn't have much time to unfold the main love story in anything but a hasty pace. Before I knew it, Lily and the Earl share a kiss and in the next encounter. All of Lily's moral convictions and sensibility goes out of the window, which is totally out of her character. She seems like such a strong person who doesn't give in to her passions easily, so when she gives in to the Earl's seductions so quickly, it does not make any sense. Not only that, I really, really hate the twins whom Lily chaperone so badly that I want them gone, permanently. When they don't get what they really deserved in the end, I was really upset.

In short, Holt's book is a fun read in the beginning, but by the end, I feel like the conflicts were not resolved in a satisfactory way. If you are looking for a story that focuses more on the guy and girl's romance, this book might not satisfy you due to the large number of family dramas.

Reviewed by Pauline from Bookaholics Romance Book Club

Michele Lacroix says

Did not finish. I was really into this book until as before something historically inaccurate occurred.

Karen Darling says

Very disappointing. Funny at times but the heroine was pathetic she had no backbone no family no friends no money no home and she was treated badly by everyone.

Connie says

stupid book

Kristine says

Typical Cheryl Holt. She's always hard to rate for me b/c she's consistently a high 3/low 4 star rating (as far as a quality of story) She's a guilty pleasure of mine. I know what I'm getting when I pick up one of her books and she usually delivers.

Regina says

Although the plot was predictable, the characters made this story sing. Some I loved and some were so bad they were good. It was fun to find out how the villains turned out (and with whom). I was hoping for a better ending for Phillip, the handsome potions peddler, and his lovely sister, Clarinda. And even though the writing was rather stilted in some parts, overall it was a very entertaining read. 3.3 stars.

Sonali Rakesh says

I have read this book for the second time. Its breathtakingly sensual.

Regan says

Just started it but at this point all I can say is I'm sorry this is just a trilogy because the first two were some of my best reads this year.

***** a few days later *****

I'm still hoping for more books in this series! I want Phillip and Clarinda to have a happy ending!

This story wasn't as tight as A Taste of Temptation and the reminder of the three decades got a bit overdone.

Lauren says

Third in the sensual destiny series, Dreams of Desire is the story of the Earl of Penworth and the ladies companion, Lily, that he hires. Once again the spinster drinks the love potion from Dubois and looks at the wrong man. I have enjoyed all three books in this series, they are fun, quick reads.

Melissa says

This book was charming and funny. Lily is a woman with very few equals as far as I am concerned. What a great personality.

There are a few characters that I would like to reach in and strangle mind you. However, they are all dealt with well and with grace.

Tonileg says

Hot H-O-T read. If you like YA 'leave it to your imagination' reads then you should avoid this too hot to handle romance novel. My favorite romance plot is the nice guy meets the nice girl and falls in love. It is reassuring when two good people get what they deserve, especially when the bad lazy good for nothing people also get what they deserve!

Pamela says

Rated 3.5 Blue Ribbons. My review courtesy of Romance Junkies: <http://romancejunkiesreviews.com/artm...>

Melanie says

I reviewed this book for Romance Reader At Heart website.

RRAH's THOUGHTS AND PONDERINGS:

I'm perplexed as to where to start with my review of DREAMS OF DESIRE. I was stunned that I liked it. There was no 'history' in this historical; what I did feel was chemistry between all the players. Secondary players and sexual tension abound in this tale of passion and love, sprinkled with a dose of magic. I laughed, I yelled, and the ending brought me to tears.

Our heroine is Lily Lambert, an orphaned spinster that has dreams and expectations like any other woman of her time. She wants a steady home, someone to love, and children to rear. But Lily is also a very astute and realistic female of her time. She comes to accept the fact that Prince Charming is just not in the cards for her. Working for a living is something she is meant to do for the rest of her life, so she takes a position of companion to eighteen-year-old twins, who are the wards of John Middleton, the Earl of Penworth.

Our hero is John Middleton, the Earl of Penworth, a man who was abandoned by his mother at the age of two and brought up by his stepmother. He is always cool, calm, and collected, and by most the word 'boor' would describe him best. His father brought him up to respect his position in life and to adhere to its principles and protocols. There was no room for play or laughter in his life, let alone love. Attending to his duties is all he knows about, and one of those is to make sure he chooses a suitable bride. Lady Violet Howard, a Duke's

daughter of eighteen years of age, is the best candidate John picked himself, thinking she'd suite him best.

Then we have Phillip Dubois, or Phillip Dudley, our Gypsy extraordinaire, who apparently is the glue to all three books. He's a restless young man that's been traveling all his life with his sister throughout rural England, selling his remedies and potions, and that's something our heroine, smart as she is, practical as she is, ends up buying--hoping against hope that maybe, just maybe, it might work and bring her love.

As much as our hero was arrogant and selfish at times, I came to like his charm and wit. I enjoyed his interaction with everyone, especially with Lily, who was strong, clever, and quick with her retorts. Her common sense and wit come in handy when she has to deal with not just her employee, but also with his crazy stepmother and her spoiled son Edward, the twins from Hell, Melanie and Miranda, and his 'meek' and suitable fiancée. The only sane person in this menagerie was his real mother, Barbara, who 'infiltrates' the group and makes the 'bedlamites' squirm.

In order for you to like this story, you need to accept it for what it is and not for what you expected it to be. This is a lighthearted, fast-paced, silly romantic comedy, and I, for one, was ready for it. It was kind of refreshing to read something like it after so many romances that pulled at my heartstrings.

So, if you want your funny bone tickled and your passions stirred, head to the nearest bookstore and get yourself all three 'Spinster's Curse Regency' novels. TASTE OF TEMPTATION and PROMISE OF PLEASURE just joined my TBR shelf.

Melanie

Ryn says

Irritating heroine (for a fantastically wild change), although the hero was okay. The twins were kind of interesting and creepy, and most of the characters were... not well developed, but bearable to read about.

The involvement of the potion was another iffy point because it felt like that was what pulled the main characters together (and not twu wuv!). I guess I should have anticipated this, seeing as this is a 'Novel of Sensual Destiny.'

(Please.)

In essence, the book was totally humdrum and Miss Lily Lambert was a total fool who did not at all come across as a woman who'd had to work as a governess/companion for a living. She seemed like a cross, spoiled child. Of course, Holt did her best to make the character very sad and lonely and poor, but... it didn't work. I felt no sympathy for her whatsoever. Boring.
