



Beyond Seduction

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To avoid marriage, Merry Vance has concocted a sinfully scandalous scheme: to pose for Nicolas Craven, London's most sought-after artist. No man in his right mind would marry a woman who posed nude for this notorious rogue. But Nicolas has his own plans for the feisty young woman. And Merry has no idea how hot it can get in an artist's studio.

Beyond Seduction Details

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Author : Emma Holly

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From Reader Review Beyond Seduction for online ebook

Slavena says

A lot of people have said Emma Holly is a good writer of sensual erotic stories, I was very skeptical after the first book I read by her – Catching Midnight. I did not like it at all and have been avoiding this author for a while, however she totally grabbed me with this book. It is historical erotic romance vanilla style and highly enjoyable. I have one minus to this book - the hero didn't figure out our gal was virgin, didn't even consider that a possibility.

Roub says

i liked it very much though i preferred the first book in the saga. this one seemed more about lust than love! they were terrifically and insanely in lust! the chemistry was palpable and i cud smell the sheets burning!lol. merry was highly immature and i dunt think ready for the kinda of durable and everlasting love marriage requires. as for nicolas, he got caught in his own net! for a man so experienced, it was laughable he did not realise she was a virgin even if she did not bleed! light and entertaining one, dunt miss it!;-)

Nightwitch says

I have a vague memory that Emma Holly was kind of at the forefront of the "romance novels with lots of very explicit sex" thing, and this book reads like it - the sex is both full of romance-novel euphemisms *and* very graphic, which is kind of awkward. The hero was mostly a cipher and the heroine was kind of one of those heroines about whom the reader can only say "oh, wow, you're really dumb." That said, the milieu was great and so lively - there was indeed a Victorian art scene full of sex and wife-swapping and adultery and scandal and Holly drew it so well - and I appreciated the time and energy devoted to Merry's mother's motivations, although that did mean that the ending of Lavinia's plot line felt kind of... abrupt.

Carol Storm says

Not a bad book, but I didn't finish it because the hero just didn't grab me. He's an artist in Victorian London . . . the kind that only paints beautiful ladies buck nekkid! Emma Holly tries to make him more edgy by hinting that he's clinically depressed. Literally he goes to bed and sleeps for two or three days then gets up and goes back to seducing the virginal heroine. I got bored pretty quickly, though there are some interesting scenes about bohemian London.

The other book in this series, BEYOND INNOCENCE, is much, much better!

Fangirl Musings says

Okay, in all honesty, the characters weren't half bad, the storyline wasn't half bad, and the writing wasn't half-bad...but the main reason I couldn't get-with this book was two fold. One, Emma Holly simply didn't provide enough growing room for Merry and Nic as a believable couple. Ironically enough, I felt both characters were, separately, very well developed. With each I felt a connection, could relate to both situations and backgrounds...but I didn't feel the two were believable.

In the story, Merry is desperately avoiding the persuasion both her family, mother, and friend are pushing towards marrying Ernest- her childhood friend. (In truth, the real push comes from Lavina, Merry's mother, who is being blackmailed by Althrop, Ernest's father, so that if his son does not marry Merry, then he will expose the affair between the two that occurred years ago.) After being dictated to that her precious houses would be sold at auction and her favorite maid would be fired if she didn't marry Ernest, Merry cooks up a scheme to be painted nude by the infamous Nic Craven.

This is the base line to the plot, which was okay in its delivery. But what I couldn't stomach was the fact that Holly turned the character Merry into one that was better fit in an erotica rather than a historical romance. Don't get me wrong, sex, passion and physical attraction are keys to any romance...but their context within the characters is vastly important. Within *Beyond Seduction*, I honestly felt that sex was an underlying tone to every character interaction.

Althrop and Lavina. Evangeline, Sebastian, and Nic. Nic and Merry...even, at points before the novels time line, Nic and Sebastian. It was just, quite frankly, too much, and not very relevant to the story as a whole. This wouldn't have bothered me to the level it did if it hadn't been for the fact that I never felt there were any building-love scenes at all between Nic and Merry.

In over half the book, Nic believes Merry to be Mary Colfax, a ruined house maid in the Monmouth (Merry's father's) household. So in reality, Nic never really gets to know Merry on a truthful level- that she loves horses, her independent nature, her background, the obstacles she's overcome, nothing! And even after he discovers her identity when her brothers James, Peter and Evelyn come to her 'rescue' in Venice, she's whisked back to England, and within a summer, Nic returns and professes his undying love. There exists not one moment between the two where each know each other for exactly who they are before love is being spouted. (The same can be said for Nic, since it comes out that he is a Marquis, has a son Christopher- yet isn't his son at all, but is his brother, and has responsibilities he himself is running from.)

Put simply, this book could have been worlds better than what it was. I don't hate it because I couldn't connect with it enough to hate it, which is sad because I loved the base line and character makeup to both Nic and Merry...it just didn't hold water within the story. So...blah. Just a book of blah.

Julianna says

"4 1/2 stars" After being less than impressed with *Beyond Innocence* it took me a while to talk myself into reading *Beyond Seduction*, but in my opinion, Emma Holly definitely redeemed herself with this one. It had the depth of emotion that I tend to prefer in my romance novels, but don't always find. It was amazing how the author could convey so much emotion with a mere touch or glance, or some other simple but meaningful gesture. This just left me with very warm feelings throughout the entire story. Many part of it were rather predictable, but Ms. Holly managed to throw out a couple of surprises that I didn't see coming. Overall it was

a really satisfying read.

I really liked both Nic and Merry. In *Beyond Innocence* Merry was a rather independent, tom-boyish girl who rather shamelessly pursued the hero of that story, so I wasn't sure if I would like her as a heroine. My opinion of her changed very quickly though, as I came to understand her as a kind-hearted young woman who was outwardly brash, but inwardly insecure about her plain appearance. Nic was a wonderfully gentle beta hero with the sensitive heart of an artist and an eye for true beauty, who helped Merry realize what a desirable woman she really was. I just couldn't help but like him in spite of his flaws. I thought that the interactions between these two were incredibly romantic mostly because they both generously gave of themselves to each other. The story was rounded out by a large colorful cast of secondary characters consisting mainly of family and friends who ran a gamut of varying personalities.

Beyond Seduction was almost as much about flawed family ties and friendships and forgiving those we love, as it was about love and romance, which I thought gave it a much deeper meaning. This really helped to draw me into the story and overlook some of the more cliched elements which otherwise might have annoyed me. I really enjoyed reading *Beyond Seduction*. Sometimes it was difficult to put down, and it was always a pleasure to pick up again. Even though these two novels are a series, they can easily be read independently without losing any storyline. Since I borrowed this from the library, I look forward to getting my own copy of *Beyond Seduction* for my keeper shelf.

Note: *Beyond Seduction*, reads very much like a traditional historical romance, but in my opinion, certain elements of the sexual content and a bit more explicit language (both of which some may find offensive) push the boundaries of what some readers may consider traditional, giving it a mild erotic feel.

Paxnirvana says

If this wasn't a historical I would have liked it better. The sex is scorching hot, but improbable and entirely too modern behaviors in people of that times kept booting me right out of the story.

The end is just... badly done. Great sex scenes, bad plot.

Duchess Nicole says

3.5 Stars

A sexy artist with a shady past

A society Miss with a rebellious streak

A big secret between them...(he thinks she's lower class)

Hot, hot, HOT sexual tension

A suggestion of the forbidden

One hell of an erotic Historical Romance. Somehow, a man with paint on his hands and passion for his art just SCREAMS sexuality. And this book delivered on that in spades, while maintaining a decent plot.

L8blmr says

As I told her, Julie (Mom2lnb) wrote such a good review of this book that I certainly don't need to do one. Just know that I agree with her, even down to the extra half star! Though not as blatantly sexual (menage alluded to, not described, for example) as the contemporary and paranormals I've read of Holly's, this is somewhat on the way to erotica, so, if that offends you, you'd best stay away.

Amy says

I love Nic. He is honest about what he wants and he is not afraid to give in to his baser desires. Merry however I did not like at all. She is so totally naive about the consequences of her actions and then she refuses to face up to them when the time comes. I thought her to be a selfish character and even in the end could not come to like her much.

I understand the need to be independent so I get her motivations but I disagree with her actions. Nic on the other hand I found easy to forgive for the way he treated Cris. Perhaps it is just because he is man and a sexy one at that! I never claimed to be fair!

It is a fast and easy read. The sex is pretty good but sometimes it got annoying. It was more "romance" than erotica. Instead of using the word "clit" the author would use "joy". I mean really? I almost fell out of my chair when she actually had Nic use the word "f*ck". It is all worth it though when it comes to the scene on the balcony. Holy shit! Nic's words alone would have been enough for me!

Pamela Fernandes says

This is a steamy read where Nic and Merry both have secrets. She's running away from her family and he's running away from his. She's posing for him and I think the scenes are well paced. The backstory of Bess comes as a shocker. But its a wonderful story. Shame this series didn't continue and there are no more historicals from this author.

Lyuda says

Victorian romance borderline erotica reminiscent of Robin Schone's work. Merry Vance, a 20 years old daughter of Duke of Monmouth, has one secret aspiration: when she turns 30 and inherits her late grandmother wealth, she wants to set her own establishment and raise horses-her only passion. Until that time, Merry has to resist her mother's manipulations to marry her to a childhood friend. When the pressure to marry became too much, Merry concocted a plan based on something that her girlfriend said in passing. She would compromise herself by posing for Nicolas Craven. Nic is a very talented painter, darling of society and has a reputation of a heartthrob. The encounter with Nic happened earlier than Merry anticipated when

she was accosted in the alley close to her home. Thinking of her as a servant "Mary Colfax" who is fleeing from an abusive household with nowhere to go, Nick rescued her and gave her shelter. His motives are not all altruistic as something in the girl inspired him to paint her. Merry was only too happy to oblige. Nick's admiration and regard slowly changed Merry's perception of herself as a plain girl. She started to see herself through his eyes as a beautiful and desirable woman. And for this, she would always be grateful when their time together comes to an end. And end is must be. Nick, with secrets of his own, slowly realized that the "servant girl" is the only person who he needs to hold on to become a better person. The story flows nicely. It had some dispense believe moments and the ending was wrapped up too nicely but if you are a Robin Schone fan than you would want to read the book. This is a new author for me and I understand that the book is part of a series. But it can definitely be read as stand-alone.

Eastofoz says

A beautifully written fire engine red hot story that will leave you with an overwhelming feeling of happiness at the end.

Merry Vance thinks she's a plain Jane and everyone has pretty much treated her that way. She doesn't want to marry the person her mother has set up for her so she plans a brilliant scheme to dishonor herself so as never having to marry anyone and then she can do whatever she wants with her life. Enter the highly successful sexy painter Nicolas Craven who shows Merry how beautiful she truly is by painting her as Lady Godiva—a guaranteed scandal to follow. He seduces her but he's so chivalrous and gallant about it all that he gets caught up in the bit of fun and starts to fall in love with her.

Lots of twists and turns in this refreshing novel with a lovely jaunt to Venice that makes you feel like you're riding the gondolas looking up at the palazzos that line the canal. Holly paints slow and languorous pictures with words.

And then there's the sex --Phew! Just amazing! It's fast, it's slow, it's fast AND slow, it's all over the place! This is one of those borderline hot romance/erotica reads.

Pick it up if you're looking for something new, something wicked and something that will beg you to stand in front of the freezer with the door open ;-)

Ana T. says

Well I must say I had tried once one of Ms Holly erotica books and I really disliked it. I decided to try and read her historicals to see if my opinion would be the same.

It was a pleasant surprise because although filled with long sex scenes this book also had a story. It made sense and it worked for me. Much better IMHO than the previous book - Beyond Innocence. It's not a keeper but it was an ok read!

Jennifer Leighton says

5+ stars!

AMAZING story, even better than the first in this duet.

I loved that Nic was instantly attracted to Merry, and saw her unique beauty, despite her not being what was "normally" considered pretty. He loved things she hated about herself, such as her hair. His constant building her up and getting on to her when she would tear down her looks endeared him to me and I really respected him for that.

The sexual tension was off the charts...these two have an immediate connection that only intensifies as their feelings for one another grow.

Emma Holly has a way with words, and when it came to the sex scenes she did not disappoint. Hot, erotic perfection.

Top it off with a feel good happy ending, and you have the perfect book, and a love story I'll remember with fondness.

*Note: Merry has a small role in Book 1, Beyond Innocence. While reading Book 1 first will give you a bit of insight on the character of Merry, it's not essential. Helpful, certainly, but not a MUST read in order to enjoy this story.
