



Desires of a Perfect Lady

Victoria Alexander

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A secret list of the desires of Lady Olivia Rathbourne:

1. Disregard convention
2. Follow my heart
3. Bed the Earl of Wyldewood

A decade ago, Olivia had expected to marry the Earl of Wyldewood, only to have happiness stolen from her before his ring could be placed upon her finger. Now he stands before her, as proud and arrogant and handsome as ever, vowing to rescue her. Well, he's got some nerve turning up after all these years. Where was he when she needed him?

As for the earl, scandal has never touched him nor has impropriety ever besmirched his name. But his penchant for doing the expected does have his family calling him, well, dull. Isn't it time to flaunt society's conventions and do what he's always wanted? And first on his list: Olivia in his bed—with or without a wedding.

Desires of a Perfect Lady Details

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Author : Victoria Alexander

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From Reader Review Desires of a Perfect Lady for online ebook

Judy says

Sterling Harrington is the oldest brother and now Earl of Wyldewood. He was in love with Olivia ten years ago and they were going to get married. Only two days after that decision she was married to someone else.

Ten years of misery between them and now she needs his help. Her husband was a mean and cruel man and she is not sad he was murdered. He has left his will in such a way though that he still has control of her. She needs to complete 3 of his collections or live on the small amount of money he has always given her.

She needs money that she does not have to get the missing pieces, and only Sterling can help her with that.

They go from Egypt to Venice and back to London.

Another great read.

Genene says

Great book

RomanceNovelNews.com says

“Desires of a Perfect Lady” (Historical, Avon, 384 pages, \$7.99), by Victoria Alexander: The second book in Victoria Alexander's latest series, “Desires of a Perfect Lady” follows Sterling Harrington, Earl of Wyldewood, and Olivia Rathbourne, who fell in love during her first season. A wedding appeared imminent until Olivia's father, Lord Newbury, forced her to marry the cruel Viscount Rathbourne instead.

Sterling was so hurt by Olivia's apparent change of heart that he refused to read her letters explaining her predicament as well as her written pleas to be rescued. Rathbourne, who believed Olivia would make the perfect acquisition, had blackmailed her father. Newbury, now estranged from his daughter, pleads with Sterling to check on Olivia after Rathbourne is found murdered. Her life may also be in danger.

With the abusive Rathbourne dead, Olivia can finally take control of her life. But, she discovers her late husband's will has an unusual stipulation. In order to have full access to his estate, Olivia must complete three of her husband's antiquity collections, a task considered impossible – even for the most experienced antique hunter.

Sterling agrees to accompany Olivia on her quest, which takes them to Egypt and Italy. Also along for the ride are junior solicitor Josiah Cadwallender, who competes for Olivia's affections, and Sterling's meddling mother Millicent.

Sterling learns to put aside his staid and stodgy earl persona in order to win back his love's heart. Olivia, who displays ingenuity in obtaining the required artifacts, regains her independent spirit.

“Desires of a Perfect Lady” is a feel-good love story that takes place amid an adventurous treasure hunt.

Alexander adds some color with running threads about Sterling's fear of Egyptian snakes, Olivia's handling of an Italian rogue, and a secondary romance between the widowed Millicent and antiques collector, and old friend, Sir Lawrence Willoughby.

Although this installment stands on its own, it is worth considering Alexander's earlier, "The Virgin's Secret," which also features the Harrington family.

posted on RomancenovelNews.com

Tiffany says

One of my favorite authors. Victoria Alexander never disappoints me.

boogenhagen says

I was fine up until he blackmails her at the end. Srsly? He screwed up years earlier, she spent ten years in hell and now when she finally has a shot at a life, he will screw it up for her unless she marries him because he loves her. Since when does love mean you shackle a woman to your control. What a coprophagic slime swiller this H proves himself to be, repeatedly.

She should have lied, got his signature to win her inheritance and then arranged for an unfortunate hunting accident.

The H was a putz and should have been left at the curb like the trash he was. The h was pretty decent and I liked her, but I was avidly against them being together after his little tacky stunt at the end and that is no way to end a romance.

Janet Robel says

Nice romance and setting. I like that Sterling and Olivia travel some in here. Readers of historical romance will like this.

Lauren says

Lady Olivia Rathbourne had expected to marry the Earl of Wyldewood. Now a decade later that very same man is standing on her doorstep vowing to save her.

The story overall was entertaining if not particularly my cup of tea. I did not really like Olivia in the last book but she grew more of a spine in this one.

Patria says

Awesome! Another exciting read. This is the 2nd book in the series and the main characters were Sterling, the Earl of Wyldewood and Olivia Rathborne. After her husband is murdered, she is left with a meager allowance even though she is his only heir. The condition to gaining the right to her inheritance is contingent on completing three sets of her late husband's collection of antiquities. She goes to the Earl for help even though he seemingly abandoned her 10 years prior leaving them both broken hearted. Beautiful story involving love, travel, and adventure! Backstory here was also nice involving the Earl's mother and one of his late father's best friends.

Jessi says

Tone: Determined, Adventurous, Hopeful

Setting: England, London, Egypt, Cairo, Italy, Venice, Ships, Exotic

Characterization: Widow, Childhood sweethearts, Strong heroine, Stuff Hero, Wounded

Language: Straight-forward

Pacing: Fast-paced

Other Elements: Spousal abuse, Antiquities, Antique collectors, Treasure hunts

First Line: "'We aren't supposed to be up here,' Sterling Harrington said in his best I-will-be-the-Earl-of-Wyldewood-one-day voice."

I enjoyed this story quite a bit. The heroine, Olivia, is not some docile maid waiting to be saved. She realized years ago when her father traded her into a violent marriage that no one could save her but herself. This experience has made her very independent and determined. The hero, who failed to save her years before, steps in now to help as much as he can, but she still uses her own cunning and makes her own decisions to drive the treasure hunt she is forced into. It is interesting to watch her struggle with her abusive husband's attempts to control her from beyond the grave and see how she manages to maintain her hard-won inner strength. I also can never resist a book set in historical Egypt during the mad rush for archeological discoveries. This location wasn't the main focus of the story, but they did visit and I enjoyed that part. I think the most interesting part is that, while the hero and heroine get their happily-ever-after, the story ends with a bit of a cliffhanger, and I am interested to see what is next in Alexander's series.

Michaela says

I absolutely loved this romance novel. Yes there are things that could be improved, but overall I would read this book again in a heartbeat.

Isalys says

*Note: Read and reviewed for The Season for Romance.

Viscountess Olivia Rathbourne and Sterling Harrington were once young and hopelessly in love. Just before the announcement of their engagement, Sterling was approached by Olivia's father with news that she no

longer loved Sterling and was to marry a wealthy antiques collector instead. Heartbroken, Sterling banishes Olivia from his life...but never from his thoughts!

Olivia has been trapped in a cruel and unhappy marriage for the past ten years. She was promised to the vile Viscount Rathbourne by her father who harbored a dark secret that would be made public if he did not 'give' Olivia to the Viscount. She attempted to contact Sterling in the hopes that he would rescue her, but her letters went ignored.

Now, ten years later, her husband was found brutally murdered and the killer is still on the loose. Worried for her safety, Lord Newbury (Olivia's father) visits Sterling asking for his help in protecting Olivia. Sterling, not realizing that her marriage was a sham all along, was reluctant but finally agreed. After being estranged for ten years, their initial reunion was polite yet cold and distant.

Olivia only desires two things: the first is to bed Sterling one last time and close that chapter of her life once & for all and the second is to be independent and truly free. In order for her to be independent though, she must collect the inheritance that is rightfully hers. What she did not anticipate was that even from beyond the grave her husband maintains control of her purse strings. She must fulfill three difficult tasks in order to be given her inheritance and she must seek help from Sterling to accomplish this.

I'm a bit torn as to how I feel about this book. There were some qualities that I liked and some that I didn't like. Pros first! I found the characters likable and endearing. Once Sterling realized that letting Olivia go was his biggest mistake, he really made an effort to win her back. He vowed no longer be the stiff, stodgy and dull Earl but rather to be charming and pleasant, which he was. Olivia no longer trusted men, and who could blame her, so she focused her energies on being strong and independent. She never expected her old feelings for Sterling to come surging back. The dynamic between these two characters was enjoyable to read.

The plot was also intriguing. Her deceased husband sends her on a scavenger hunt to collect and retrieve three ancient artifacts in order for her to receive her inheritance. The only real flaw with the plot is that these artifacts should have been nearly impossible to retrieve and they had a rather easy time of it.

As for the cons, I found the synopsis to be a bit misleading. The synopsis implies that Olivia's ultimate goal is to get Sterling in her bed. However, in reading their story it seems that it was more about Sterling trying to win Olivia's heart back while she tried to gain some semblance of freedom. She did attempt to get him into her bed, but her attempts seemed half-hearted and weak. My other concern with the story is that the mystery of her husband's killer remains unsolved. I want to know "who-dun-it".

I can't say that Desires of a Perfect Lady will become one of my favorites, but I did enjoy the time that I spent with it.

Kindaangelic says

I had a problem with this book.....what man in*love* doesnt question his soon to be bride's deciding he wasnt rich enough to marry??? Umm...especially since it was a so called love match, didnt ring true to me. Even tho the earl was suppose to be stuffy,rigid and prideful,wasnt that suppose to be AFTER she left him for someone else?? Yea...not too into this one. 1st book in series was great...this one....not so much. Maybe the next will be better....heres hoping...

Virginia says

Interesting plot as well as adventurous. Plus, the new Earl of Wyldewood (the great-grandson of Alexander's characters from her book, *The Perfect Wife*) is stodgy, but has a hilarious fear. Well, I thought it was hilarious, anyway.

This wasn't the most exciting or brilliant story, but I enjoyed it nonetheless.

Mindy says

This is the first book I have read by Victoria Alexander and I must say I'm glad I picked it up. The cover is what initially drove me to it...the colors are just so lush!! The characters are well written and the heroine is believable. She only wants to be rid of the memories of an unhappy marriage and she willing to do whatever it takes. I must say I loved Olivia Rathbourne because she is strong but not overbearing but still in a way not to sure of herself. As for Sterling Harrington he is willing to do whatever it takes to make up for lost time between the two of them!

BJ Rose says

I enjoyed this book more than *The Virgin's Secret* - maybe it's because much of the mystery was developed in the first of the series, but I also felt that the characters had more depth in this one. Olivia's strength of character was developed in a very unhappy marriage - we learned that in the earlier book. Here we discover how absolutely miserable it was, and why she's so determined to do whatever it takes to meet the ridiculous terms of her late husband's will. This forces her to contact Sterling, who should have been her husband ten years ago, but he deserted her in her time of need. Of course, he claimed that *she* deserted *him* - and here's a BIG SPOILER and the reason I dropped this rating a full star to a weak 4*: Sterling has hated Olivia for 10 years and felt she deserved what she got out of her marriage because of a letter he received from Olivia's father breaking off their engagement. He never attempted to check with her to see why this great love of theirs no longer existed?! He refused to read the letters she smuggled out to him?! Nope - I need a hero! Fortunately, Sterling lost some of his arrogance and rigidness of character as this story continued, but I felt his lack of action and trust ten years ago was a serious weakness that I had to work hard to overcome, and happily he did as well. Since this *is* a romance, we know they'll eventually get together, so I want to include this mushy piece of dialogue: "You saved me. I was lost and you have found me. Dead and you have brought me back to life", and let you decide or discover who was speaking to whom.
