



SCORCHER — Borders on erotic. Very graphic sex. **HOT** — Most romance novels fall into this category. Ranges from conventional lovemaking to explicit sex.
MILD — May or may not include lovemaking. No explicit sex. ★★★★★½ **GOLD PHENOMENAL** — In a Class by Itself.
 ★★★★★½ **FANTASTIC** — Keeper. ★★★★★ **COMPELLING** — Page-Turner. ★★★ **ENJOYABLE** — Pleasant Read.
 ★★ **PROBLEMATIC** — May Struggle to Finish. ★ **SEVERELY FLAWED** — Pass on This One.

HER HIGHLAND ROGUE

Leanne Burroughs

★★★★ **HOT**

SETTING: 1304 Scotland

Familiar faces from Burroughs' Highland Wishes are in this story that accurately portrays life in medieval Scotland. The numerous times the heroine is gravely injured makes the fact that she's hale and hearty in the end quite miraculous.

SUMMARY: Forced to marry Englishwoman Catherine Gillingham for the good of his clan, Duncan MacThomas is surprised that she's beautiful and spirited. Catherine is also surprised that she married a handsome, amazing caring man.

But Duncan cannot forget that the father he detests was instrumental in his marrying. He leaves her at his home in Scotland, vowing to not return. But he left her pregnant, and she returns to England. When Duncan realizes what he's giving up, he goes after her, only to arrive shortly

before she's viciously attacked by a man out for revenge against Duncan. Taking her back to Scotland doesn't ease the danger. His enemy follows, still trying to get to Duncan through Catherine. (HIGHLAND, 2007, 311 pp., \$12.95)

Susan Mobley

SAGE CANE'S HOUSE OF GRACE AND FAVOR

Christy Hubbard

★★★★ **MILD**

SETTING: 1859, The Rocky Mountains

Hubbard transports readers back to the Old West in this marvelous tale of hope and possibilities. Dynamic characters balance the captivating plot. Spirited Cane is a perfect match for the enigmatic Norwood.

SUMMARY: When Sage Cane inherits a hotel in Colorado's gold country from her aunt, she journeys west to start a new life. But the "hotel" is a high-class brothel.

She's further dismayed when town marshal Bridger Norwood resists her plan to close it. He considers the brothel a useful way to keep the town's miners out of trouble. She relents and operates the bordello but becomes aware of the plight of women in the town.

Determined to survive on her own terms, Sage invests in some mines, with amazing returns. Her status in the community improves, as does her relationship with Bridger. But she has a secret agenda involving the women of the community that could destroy all her hard work. (FIVE STAR, Jul., 314 pp., \$25.99)

Donna M. Brown

E-book

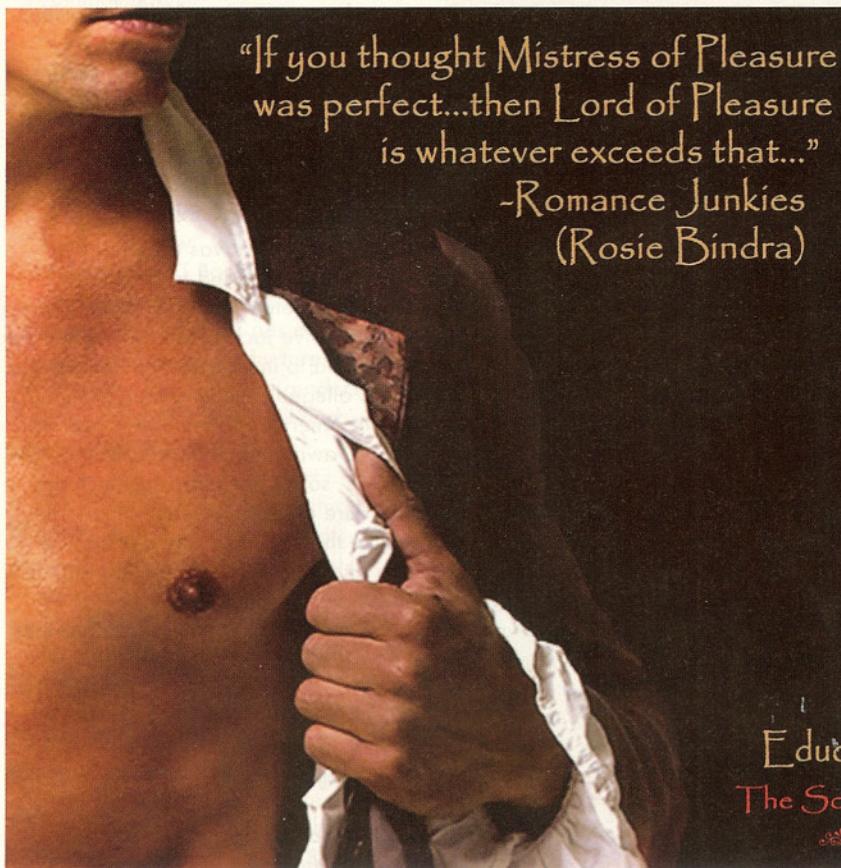
MATILDA'S SONG

JoAnn Smith Ainsworth

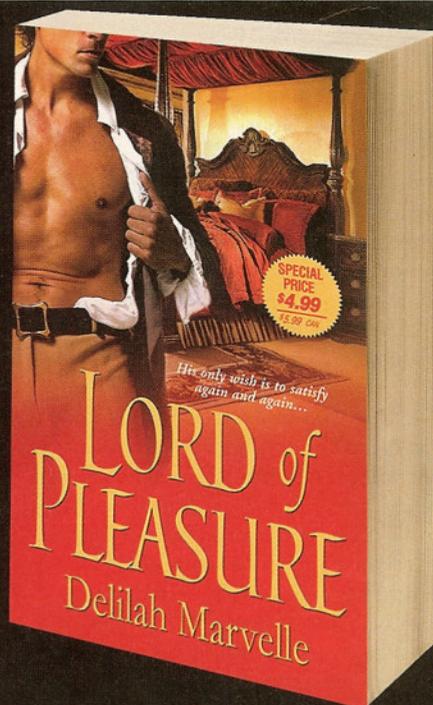
★★★★ **MILD**

SETTING: 1120 A.D. Britain

This great story presents the life and morals of this era in a realistic, yet not



"If you thought Mistress of Pleasure was perfect...then Lord of Pleasure is whatever exceeds that..."
 -Romance Junkies
 (Rosie Bindra)



Educating Scoundrels Since 1830
 The School of Gallantry Series Continues
 A Zebra Kensington Debut



historical romance reviews

NEW BOOKS FOR AUGUST

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★★★★½ **FANTASTIC** — Keeper. ★★★★★ **COMPELLING** — Page-Turner. ★★★ **ENJOYABLE** — Pleasant Read.
★★ **PROBLEMATIC** — May Struggle to Finish. ★ **SEVERELY FLAWED** — Pass on This One.

dry or boring, way. The hero is a product of his time, so some of his actions may be hard for the contemporary reader to accept and respect.

SUMMARY: Determined not to marry the vindictive knight who demanded her hand, Matilda pretends to be married to her middle-aged cousin, William.

Though Norman baron Geoffrey de la Werreir of Greystone met Matilda once when she was a child, it's the adult Matilda he's drawn to. Not only married but also a Saxon, Matilda should be completely off-limits to Geoff. Yet when he resurrects the old pagan ritual of first-night rights — his right as baron to bed a bride on her wedding night — he finds that it only intensifies his desire for her. When he offers to make her his mistress, he doesn't understand why she refuses. Then her life is in danger when Geoff's sister discovers his desire for her. (SAMHAINPUBLISHING.COM, dl \$4.50)

Susan Mobley

REYNOLD DE BURGH: THE DARK KNIGHT

Deborah Simmons

★★★★ HOT

SETTING: Medieval England

A new de Burgh son finds true love in Simmons' latest medieval romance. It's a romantic story of a true knight in shining armor and the woman who inspires him to slay dragons. Engaging characters, authentic dialogue and lots of surprise twists captivate readers.

SUMMARY: Lord Reynold de Burgh, sixth son of the Earl of Champion, sets off on a pilgrimage. He comes across a deserted village and a damsel in distress whose castle is being terrorized by a dragon.

Mistress Sabina Sexton is struggling to hold her people together and turns to Lord Reynold to save them. She admires his strength and his gentleness, and he admires her courage and fortitude. They're wary of each other even as desire sizzles, but their fight against a common enemy brings them together, and their love helps conquer the true treacherous beast. (HARLEQUIN, Aug., 277 pp., \$5.99)

Maria Ferrer

THE VISCOUNT'S KISS

Margaret Moore

★★★★ HOT

SETTING: Regency England

Moore spins an intriguing web of romance between a spider-obsessed aristocrat and a maidservant posing as a noblewoman in this fourth book in her Kiss series. This book blends humor and romance with a twist of suspense, and each chapter begins an excerpt from Buggy's book about spiders or from the local gossip rag.

SUMMARY: Buggy Bromwell is traveling with a beautiful young woman when their coach is in an accident. He believes the woman is Lady Eleanor Springford, who's running away from an arranged marriage, and invites her to stay at his parents' estate until she can work out her situation.

Buggy and "Eleanor" are strongly attracted to each other, but "Eleanor" is really Nell Springley, an impoverished maidservant running away from her former employer, who tried to rape her. She's certain Buggy will no longer love her when he finds out her secret. Buggy has no plans to marry, since he's determined to find funding for another expedition, and even if he did, he wouldn't want to leave his wife for years at a time while he travels the world. (HARLEQUIN, Aug., 311 pp., \$5.99)

Linda Roberts

Paranormal

BLOODY RIGHT

Georgia Evans

★★★ HOT

SETTING: WWII England

Readers met the "other" inhabitants of Bryteewood in the previous Bloody titles. The paranormal intrigue in this offering will keep them guessing until the end. But beware, Evans still packs the narrative with too many characters and plot twists. Despite that, the trilogy ender is a pleasing summer read.

SUMMARY: Mary is a water sprite transplanted to Bryteewood from the island of Guernsey. She never expects to

find love there, but she meets the mysterious Gryffyth, and the sparks are undeniable.

Now, with his heart on the line, Gryffyth has to protect his new love and ancestral home. The vampire threat is back, and this time it will take the power of all the Bryteewood "other" combined. And just how do a dragon and a water sprite make a home together? (KENSINGTON, Aug., 320 pp., \$6.99)

Whitney Kate Sullivan

CHOSEN WOMAN

Shirl Henke

★★★★ HOT

SETTING: 1893 Oklahoma Territory

This romantic western features an intriguing mix of characters, cultures and genres. The clash between the Native American and white societies is exemplified by the relationship between Fawn and Jack — tempestuous but inevitable. The pacing is somewhat slow in the beginning, but it picks up and races to an exciting conclusion.

SUMMARY: Fawn Stanhope is considered the chosen woman by her Cheyenne people. Her gift of "sight" tells her she will lead them through the changes to come — along with the red wolf featured in her dreams.

Although Fawn was adopted by a white man and raised to be a lady, she is called to return to her Cheyenne people. Detective Jack Dillon escorts her to Oklahoma to investigate the company that is allegedly stealing land from the Native American tribes. Jack's red hair makes Fawn think of the red wolf of her dreams, so it's not surprising Jack and Fawn are attracted to each other. They realize that together they are stronger than either of them ever will be alone. (LEISURE, Jul., 320 pp., \$7.99)

Linda Roberts

THE NOTORIOUS BRIDEGROOM

Kit Donner

★★★ HOT

SETTING: Regency England

Donner's debut has solid characters romping through a classic storyline.