



An Introduction to Pleasure

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An innocent lady's education could be a gentleman's wicked seduction.

Lysandra Keates is running out of options. Her father is dead, her mother is ill, and her efforts to find respectable employment have ended in failure. With her small savings bleeding away, she swallows her pride—and her terror—and turns to Vivien Manning, an infamous courtesan, to match her with a wealthy protector.

For years, Viscount Andrew Callis has lived a monastic existence at his country estate, hardening his body against the snobbish, lazy young man he once was, hardening his heart against grief over the deaths of his wife and infant son. When Vivien asks him to spend one month training a young woman in the ways of a mistress, his mind resists...but his body responds with an ache he thought long dead.

As Andrew begins his gentle tutelage, he finds himself falling under the spell of Lysandra's innocent charms. And as they give in to the powerful hunger, the last thing Andrew ever expected, or wanted, forms between them. An emotional connection that could carry them well past the training period—if only Andrew can open his heart to the possibility of love.

Product Warnings

Includes training in all kinds of sexual positions and delights, as well as an emotional romance. May produce swooning.

An Introduction to Pleasure Details

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From Reader Review An Introduction to Pleasure for online ebook

KatieV says

3.5 stars if I could give 1/2 stars.

I was really into this for the first half and was hoping I'd finally found a piece of erotica that I could rate 5-stars. Normally I find them far too short on plot and character building to do so in good conscience.

This one had a plot and there was genuine emotions. I teared up a few times. The sex was also hot. What dampened my enthusiasm was the last 1/4 of the book, partially because I was so stoked about the earlier chapters. In fact, I'll be honest, I skipped a few chapters between 20 and 25. I plan to go back and read them, but don't think I missed a whole lot. Here's my whine. As always, YMMV.

1) I didn't think the hero's big 'secret' was enough to justify his brooding, pity-party behavior. Like I said above, I did skip a few chapters, but do know that (view spoiler)

Tammy Walton Grant says

You know how the review box starts with the question, "What did you think?" Here's my answer: I thought I was pretty darn disappointed, that's what I thought!

I didn't initially have high expectations for this book until I remembered the reason it was on my tbr in the first place. I've read one other by Jess Michaels (Everything Forbidden, and LOVED it) and unfortunately this one didn't appeal to me nearly as much.

I didn't buy the characters, I didn't buy the backstory of either the Hero or heroine, I thought the entire thing smacked of wallpaper and the author merely playing lip service to her romance being a historical. Crap, that makes me sound like a historical romance snob.

I'm not sure exactly what it was about this book that made me feel that way - perhaps it was the seamless way the heroine integrated herself both with the belowstairs staff and the *ton* at the opera? The ease with which the Hero talks of his love for his mistress-in-training? The future sister-in-law who gives the Hero a rah-rah speech straight out of a modern chick-flick about risking it all for love, and how she would be proud to call this demimondaine a friend? The Hero's father, who does an about-face after realizing his son is in love with his mistress and plans to marry her, also gives him a rah-rah speech and ends by telling him he loves him?

Pfffft. All of those probably did it. To be fair, it wasn't a really BAD book, it just didn't do much for me. It felt like a "been there, done that" version of an oft-told story, except with lots of sex and a couple of hints of naughty sexy stuff.

All in all, I'd have to agree with my GR friend Lady Wesley, who said, "Nothing special there." To that comment I'd would add, "Nothing new, either."

2.5 stars.

Rebecca (everyday reader) says

Lysandra has been beaten down by life and circumstances, but has kept going, and now she wants to be instructed in the ways of a mistress. Andrew is a Viscount who's wife and premature son died 3 years ago and he stopped living when they did. He agrees to 'train' Lysandra in the lifestyle temporarily until he goes back to the country and his seclusion and grief, but along the way they both break the number 1 rule for mistresses and their protectors to not fall in love. I loved this story! Not just good erotica, but also a good story. Great read!!

Ivy H says

I was all set to give this 4 stars until the H Andrew stood by like a lump of useless coal and just allowed the heroine to go off with her new "protector" - who just happened to be his good friend. I didn't like that plot twist at all, because I really want my H's to do everything in their power to ensure that the heroine remains in their arms. Andrew's inaction and his little "to be or not to be" incarnation of Hamlet just made me want to bitch slap him:

This soured my mood for the final part of the novel, so much so that I'm not even going to write a full review. This novel deals with a young, poverty stricken heroine called Lysandra who has no choice but to seek employment as a courtesan. Her circumstances were extremely dire and with a sick mother to support (and a former vindictive employer determined to see her suffer), she had to make the ultimate sacrifice. The H Andrew is asked by a "madam", called Vivien, to instruct Lysandra in the "art" of being a courtesan. I admit I liked Andrew at first and felt sorry for him because he's been living in self imposed exile since the deaths of his wife and infant son. There's a heavy erotic element in the novel and sometimes the sex overpowers the storyline, but I knew that this would be the case as it's hinted heavily in the blurb. Andrew tries to fight his feelings for Lysandra, because he keeps telling himself that she is just a courtesan in training and that he doesn't want a wife anyway. Lysandra falls in love with Andrew and hopes that he would ask her to be his mistress, but the idiot passes her off onto his friend ! He's jealous and angry but he still does it. Andrew actually lets Lysandra leave the house to go and live (and supposedly sleep with) with her new "protector". She's living in this new guy's house for a few weeks and dumbo Andrew is doing nothing ! He's sitting in his house feeling sorry for himself and missing her while agonizing about how she's probably having lots of hot sex with the new guy. This is how Andrew behaves during these weeks:

Things do work out for the MC's and Andrew's lucky that Lysandra's new "protector" never had sex with her. That guy was a true friend to Andrew and he realized that the MC's were in love with each other, so he didn't want to taint their relationship by sleeping with Lysandra. The fact remained that if that guy hadn't been honorable, then Lysandra would have had to have sex with him and it would've been all Andrew's fault for being too slow to act. Andrew needed to be a real man where it counted: a real man would not have let his woman just walk off into the sunset with another guy. That's the only reason why I can't give this 4 stars. I was really enjoying this story until Andrew failed to be there for the heroine when she really needed him.

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Wow what a fast paced hot and erotic HR. I love the emotional attachment between Andrew and Lysandra. They grew to trust and eventually love each other. Lysandra is living in poverty and her mother is ill. Her father has died and left them broke and in debt. She has asked the help of Vivian a prized and beautiful courtesan to help teach her to become a rich lords mistress. Vivian asks Lord Andrew "Viscount Callis" to tutor her. Andrew is living a lonely and exiled life from his friends and family, since the death of his wife Rebecca. He agrees to tutor Lysandra thus the beautiful love story begins. You will enjoy this delightful sensual erotic romance. I highly recommend this book. I can't wait for the next installment in the "Mistress Matchmaker series" "For Desire Alone" is book 2.

Stella says

My introduction to scorching hot historical romances was Maggie Robinson's Mistress by Mistake, so if you have read her Courtesan Court series you know the steaminess you can expect of An Introduction to Pleasure.

As soon as I read the above blurb of this book I was hooked and couldn't wait to read it. I mean it had one of my favourite tropes in historical erotica: the tortured sexy handsome hero educating the inexperienced young virgin in the pleasures of the flesh and the art of love, and An Introduction to Pleasure delivered wonderfully.

I really liked how Lysandra while being such a good, self-sacrificing young woman still had a backbone and a strong will. And Andrew was simply sexy. He was handsome and the whole tortured hero look worked for him. His internal struggles made me feel so sorry for him, his grief and more importantly his guilt were heartbreakingly real.

"I loved her," he found himself admitting, perhaps for the first time to anyone but Rebecca herself. "I changed for her. When she died... I didn't know what kind of man to be."

It was clear that since he lost his beloved wife not only has he lost sight and confidence of the man he was but he became a shadow of his former self, only going through life as a ghost living on autopilot but not allowing himself to truly live and enjoy life.

The premise of this story was to my immense liking, and the sexual education of Lysandra was hot, hot, hot both in Andrew's seduction through his words:

"Enjoy the fact that when I look at you, it makes me mad with desire. When any man looks at you in this

way, you could have anything you wish for. That will be the power you wield as a mistress.”

He opened her legs wider and looked at her pu**y. “Sometimes I wake up thinking I taste you on my tongue,” he said, stroking a finger along the slick entrance. “I dream of making you come over and over, until you beg for more, for less.”

and his acts. These two had some seriously scorching chemistry and I enjoyed how enthusiastic of a student Lysandra was and the way she unravelled Andrew through his passion and craving for her. The romance crept up on both the reader and Andrew as through their sexual exploits he started experiencing peace and contentment.

You have to be willing to suspend your disbelief regarding many details that showed plainly that An Introduction to Pleasure was not a historically accurate erotic historical romance (the characters were behaving in a too modern way, there were some plot elements which were quite far-fetched), but the story flew smoothly and a lot of interesting characters got introduced, whose story I can't wait to discover.

Verdict: While An Introduction to Pleasure was not a historically very authentic historical erotica, the sheer steaminess and the engulfing flames of the attraction between the hero and heroine more than made up for it. Do not expect a historically accurate story and you'll have a great time burning up the sheets with Andrew and Lysandra!

Plot: 9/10

Characters: 8/10

Writing: 8/10

Ending: 7/10

Cover: 7/10

Sofia Teixeira says

Jess Michaels, ora aí está uma autora que para mim já tem um carimbo de que (quase) de certeza me vou divertir ou descontrair a ler os seus livros. Comecei com o Tabu, um livro que me surpreendeu pela ousadia de romper tempos idos com uma onda de erotismo tão condenável na altura, e desde então tenho lido todos os seus romances publicados em Portugal. Ensina-me a Amar foi publicado agora em Setembro e pouco depois de ter chegado cá a casa já eu pegava nele. Li-o por inteiro entre uma tarde e noite de Domingo, o que mais uma vez confirmou o quão leve é a leitura, sem que lhe retire o entusiasmo e o fascínio pela descoberta.

A história que esta obra nos traz é passada, à semelhança dos outros livros, numa sociedade onde o decoro e as aparências têm muito peso, mas onde também as amantes são permitidas e até acarretam algum estatuto com elas. Vivien, uma mulher que se tornou poderosa com o tempo, começou por ser apenas uma amante para agora governar uma casa onde emparelha nobres com mulheres que acha adequadas. A confiança em Vivien é tal, que muitos a procuram. Inclusive mulheres potencialmente desesperadas, como aconteceu com Lysandra. Por um infortúnio que não pôde controlar, a sua situação familiar e financeira degradou-se a um estado tal de desespero que não viu outra solução senão ser acolhida por um senhor da sociedade como sua amante. Mesmo sendo virgem e totalmente inexperiente, decide arriscar. Vivien, não conhecedora da totalidade da história, mas em sobreaviso, confia Lysandre a um protector temporário para a iniciar nas lides do amor. Andrew é apresentado a Lysandra à distância, enquanto esta esperava num jardim, ele olhava para

ela de uma varanda superior de Vivien. A atração foi de tal maneira forte que deu por si a dizer que aceitava, mesmo com todo o peso que carregava consigo, incluindo a promessa de nunca mais voltar a um estilo de vida que no passado já tinha sido seu.

A partir dali a trama toma toda a uma vida baseada na curiosidade, na sensualidade, mas também na exploração de emoções não totalmente compreendidas. O que mais gosto na escrita de Jess Michaels é mesmo esta capacidade de criar protagonistas cativantes. As personagens femininas não são desprovidas de cérebro nem vazias, pelo contrário, transmitem as inseguranças e as lutas de mulheres que procuram o seu lugar, mesmo quando passam por provações potencialmente humilhantes. Já os personagens masculinos há os para todos os gostos. Aqueles por quem nos afeiçoamos e aqueles que sabemos que vamos detestar desde o início. Existe intriga, paixão, erotismo e suspense suficientes até ao fim para nos manter presos ao enredo até ao fim. Não sou a mais fã leitora de eróticos, embora já tenha lido alguns, mas de todas as autoras que tenho lido, Jess Michaels é das que mais gosto, das que melhor sabe equilibrar os ingredientes que gosto num romance sensual de época. Para quem gosta do género e ainda não leu nada desta escrita, recomendo!

Lauren says

An Introduction to Pleasure

3 Stars

On the verge of destitution, Lysandra Keates approaches infamous courtesan, Vivien Manning to arrange for a suitable and wealthy protector. Unfortunately, Lysandra innocence is a detriment and Vivien convinces the once rakish but now monastic and reclusive Andrew Callis to instruct her in the art of being a mistress. As Andrew and Lysandra begin their lessons, the unthinkable occurs and their physical passion leads to an even stronger emotional attachment. But can Andrew come to terms with his past in order to have a future with the one woman who has made him come alive again?

A charming love story with some suitably sexy scenes. Nevertheless, there are several unrealistic moments that detract from the overall effect of the story and there is one moment that had me almost through my poor iPad against the wall (thankfully the moment and the urge passed quickly).

Lysandra is a very sympathetic heroine and one cannot help but feel sorry for her circumstances and even admire her backbone in taking control of her life and her future. That said, her behavior with regard to Andrew is not consistent with her stated acknowledgement of her situation - (view spoiler)

Andrew is gentle, kind and often times charming. Nevertheless, he also comes across as self-indulgent and hypocritical. Yes, he has suffered as a result of his wife's death but he takes his angst and guilt to the extreme. Moreover, (view spoiler)

In sum, a relatively good story despite the anachronisms in social custom and behavior. As the mistress trope is not one that appeals to me, it is unlikely that I will continue with the series.

Jonetta says

This story reads like an erotic version of Pygmalion. Instead of Lysandra Keats being taught the proper way to speak the King's English, Viscount Andrew Callis has agreed to teach her the ways of a proper mistress. Lysandra has come upon desperate times and becoming a mistress is her last resort to adequately provide for her fragile mother. Andrew, once a libertine, has been a recluse since his wife's death three years ago and sees this only as a temporary "assignment."

There are certainly many steamy and erotic moments here but the story is at the forefront. Lysandra and Andrew are meaty characters and their love affair was borne out of the her poor circumstances. I was drawn to the story and these two lovers against the backdrop of 19th century England. While some of the actions weren't necessarily consistent with the norms of that period of society, it wasn't so far fetched to detract from my enjoyment. It's a good, interesting story, especially if you like the classic tale, and a highly erotic one. The best erotica are those that don't forget the romance element, which was always top of mind in every scene. They were not only erotic but...romantic!

I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Asmaa says

Can I have an Andrew please? it would be preferable if he's the long lost twin brother of Henry Cavill, because that's exactly how I pictured him.

drool I know it's the wrong era but can you blame me for drooling?...

This is my very first historical romance, putting aside Pride and Prejudices of course. It may sound shocking I know, being new to the genre, I should have begun with something famous that I'm sure would have loved like Kathleen E. Woodiwiss or Lisa Kleypas who wrote the prime of historical fiction but instead I chose "An Introduction to Pleasure". Mainly because I couldn't wait to get my hands on it since the first time I read the synopsis and right away chose to pre-order it (my first pre-order! YAY!).

For someone as foreign to this genre (to its settings and vocabulary) as me I was totally surprised when I found myself falling in love with the book, the more I read the more it was difficult to put it down (well except for extreme necessity) and I finished it in merly hours. The story was well crafted, the romance felt genuine and very heart-warming, the chemistry was sizzling between Lysandra (what a beautiful name) and Andrew (swoon) and while they found their happy ending I felt kind of sad to be parted from them. Now, I'm quite sure that the second book will be about the Marquis Weatherfield "Miles" or so I hope, he was very appealing and his story will be one very tempting to read.

Zoe says

A perfectly ok time-pass. I think it is more erotica than historical. There is no relationship whatsoever to speak of, which is not a problem if one is looking for heat in a novel. I rarely have luck with fallen women as heroines. And this one is no exception.

The hero andrew was a widower and punished himself for his wife's death by isolating himself and rejecting life's more enjoyable pursuits. Lysandra the heroine came to him through a courtesan who did this sort of

matching. Neat idea. The relationship started quickly and I was grateful for that. But the story did not convince me why a recluse like Andrew would change his mind just because he saw Lysandra in the garden. I know that falling in love is sometimes a matter of seconds but something else has to happen to convince me that this is more than a passing affection. They jumped from being complete strangers (one a woman fallen on hard times having to sell herself to survive and the other a man who had locked himself away from women and happiness because he lost his wife/child) to bed partners very soon and the sexual activities quickly evolved into something rather risque. While I find it interesting, I did not necessarily want to read about all the different positions and ways to have sex. So I am probably just the wrong audience.

Sammy Loves Books says

Viscount Andrew Callis

Absolutely Sexxxy!!

Jen says

4 In Training Stars

Was this an accurate historical depiction of life in 1811 regency England?

Did it bother me?

I do love a hot forbidden romance with proper people doing *very* improper things.

Shabby Girl ~ aka Lady Victoria says

Hmm, I feel a bit guilty leaving this review and only two stars. Two stars is probably a bit generous too, but I reserve my one stars for books I've hated. This one I didn't hate, just thought was very bad. Jess Michaels is one of my favourite erotic writers and when I saw she was releasing a new books I was pretty excited. I don't think this author has released a new book for some time.

I had a really long break from reading and when I came back everything had changed. Jess Michael's Everything Forbidden was one of the first erotic books I read (not having read one before) and I LOVED it. I tracked all of her books and read that whole series (The Albright Sisters) and I particularly love her short stories which were in Red Sage Secrets books. I've loved them all. They really turn me on, I love her erotic

writing.

I noted that she also writes as Jenna Petersen and I tried a couple of her books but found her to be (strangely enough for the same writer) wallpaper and light weight and not at all my cup of tea. I don't like her in her other alter ego.

This book, I found, was just like her wallpaper and light weight Jenna persona. I was so disappointed. In fact, I would have quit early on given up on the book if it weren't for the fact that I usually love Jess Michaels. I read this right to the end, and it didn't improve, and in fact maybe got worse as it went.

I can understand the situation the h found herself in, and in fact think it would have been a very commonplace problem for a woman of that time to have had to turn to being a courtesan because she had no other option. But the actual story was so stupid, I couldn't believe it, I couldn't accept it. There were too many anomalies I couldn't get into.

REASONS I DIDN'T LIKE THIS BOOK IN SPOILERS: (view spoiler)

The H was very weak and just annoyed me from the word go. The h was okay, but she was pretty annoying as well, really. I didn't connect with them in any way and well, thought the whole thing was so boring and stupid, I couldn't be bothered. Na, didn't like this book at all.

Daisy Sloan says

Jess Michaels plunged me into a world I could never imagine! I was transported to world where men hold all the power. Being woman born into the lower ranks of society with no job and without prospects of a job lead to desperate acts.

Lysandra Keats has run out of options. She approaches Vivien Manning to see about becoming a mistress to one of the members of the ton. Vivien takes on Lysandra's request and introduces her to Viscount Andrew Callis.

Andrew takes on Lysandra to instruct her on how to be a mistress. He has every intention of turning her over to another protector within the month. What neither one plans on....is to fall in love.

Andrew is a man who is torn by his past. Lysandra is trying to do the best she can to secure not only her future, but the future of her mother. Lysandra will do what she must in order to survive. Andrew will do what he thinks is best for himself. In the end, he ends up hurting not only himself but Lysandra.

Jess Michaels painted a world that was wonderful and heart-breaking at the same time. The 1800's were not kind to those without power or someone with power to watch over them. I could not imaging having to choose to become someone's mistress simply to survive. Ms. Michaels made me feel every heart pounding moment and every heart-wrenching decision. The passion between Lysandra and Andrew was phenomenal. I was sucked into their world and I didn't want to leave.
