



## London's Perfect Scoundrel

*Suzanne Enoch*

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## **London's Perfect Scoundrel** Suzanne Enoch

*A determined young lady vows to give one of London's infamous rakes his comeuppance -- but when the rogue turns the tables, who truly learns a lesson in love?*

The ton gossips call him "Saint" -- but the Marquis of St. Aubyn has well earned his reputation as London's perfect scoundrel.

Evelyn Ruddick knows she should avoid him at all costs--but the strikingly beautiful lady wants to aid the children of the Heart of Hope Orphanage, and he heads the board of trustees. Evie is determined to teach the charming, arrogant man a lesson in compassion, but it won't be so easy--especially since his touch is setting her desire aflame, making Evie yearn to submit to his passionate instruction...

The idea of joining in her "project" is unthinkable, but this enchantress refuses to give up! So what else is there for a self-respecting rake to do but seduce the lady? Yet soon it is he who is being seduced by Evie's tender heart and fiery blushes. Could the temptation of long, passionate nights in her arms bring about the impossible? Could the disreputable Saint at long last be reformed?

## **London's Perfect Scoundrel Details**

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## From Reader Review London's Perfect Scoundrel for online ebook

### **Yomi M. says**

Rating Clarification: 4.5 stars

I loved this book so much, the two main characters were so amazing and showed great character depth. The only fault I did find was that the ending was too rushed, I would have liked to see more. I felt like it took away from the story, but either way I still loved it :)

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### **Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says**

**This is one of the best regencies I've ever read! Saint is the perfect rake, one of the rare ones who are REALLY scoundrels, not just a bit naughty.**

**He is simply deliciously bad. I love. Seriously.**

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### **Shawna says**

5+ stars – Historical/Regency Romance

WOW! I *loved* this, especially devilishly charismatic rake, the Marquis of St. Aubyn. Saint is a deliciously debauched scoundrel who glories in his depraved ways and pursuits, but he meets his match in caring, headstrong Evelyn. She's determined to save the Heart of Hope Orphanage and teach Saint a lesson in compassion in the process; even if it means engaging him in a provocative battle of wills and indulging in his dangerous game of seduction. But who will be the victor of their passionate "lessons in love"?

St. Aubyn reminded me a lot of Sebastian, Lord St. Vincent from Devil in Winter by Lisa Kleypas (one of the sexiest, yummiest romantic heroes, ever!), and both heroines have the same informal name, Evie, strong countenances, and kindhearted natures. Hmm...*interesting*...But the stories are decidedly different and each have their own charms.

If you enjoy romances with unrepentant rake heroes who just love to be bad and spirited heroines who give as good as they get, then don't miss this wonderful, engaging read. It's a keeper! Big 5 stars!

My ode to Saint:

S-infinitely scrumptious, seductive scoundrel  
A-morous, amusing, and amoral rake  
I-resistibly charming  
N-efariously naughty  
T-enaciously wicked

I love Evie's musing of Saint's sex appeal.

*His smooth panther's stalk was magnetic even when he wasn't hunting. With an entire room full of willing game, then, why was he after her?*

This is my favorite sigh-worthy moment.

(view spoiler)

This is my favorite steamy moment.

(view spoiler)

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### **Juliana Philippa says**

Reread - one of my favorite historical romances! The heroine is one of the best and the hero ... definitely one of the top five!!! This is the second book in the Lessons for Love Trilogy and it's great to be able to revisit with the previous characters in the second and third books. The only thing I would say is that the book could really use an Epilogue - yes we kind of get one when reading the third and final book, because Evie and Michael show up again quite frequently, but still would be nice to have it in the same book.

(Written January 2010)

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### **Rane says**

*Evelyn Ruddick knows she must help the children of Heart of Hope Orphanage, but in order to get the orphanage off it's feet she must go toe to toe with the Orphanage's chairman London's most talked about rake "Saint" the Marquis of St. Aubyn. Saint sees Evelyn as another busybody, and with a little luck he'll have her in his bed and out of the orphanage in no time, that is until he's in for his own lesson in love by Evelyn herself*

There's been many reformed rake stories, but more often than not, the rake isn't really shown to be a rake in action. With Saint that isn't the case, as he's shown in shining lights of being a rake with only himself and his needs coming first, until Evelyn walks into his life.

Evelyn wants to do more with her life, then to help her brother's political career, when she comes across Heart of Hope Orphanage, she hears her calling to help these poor children and finally do something herself to make herself feel her self-worth and just make her proud of herself, until she comes into a roadblock that is St.Aubyn. Even with his sexy overtures he whispers in her ear, and his hot kisses, Evelyn still wants to help the orphanage and makes a deal with a devil St.Aubyn but at the same thinks it's about time she teaches him a good lesson.

St.Aubyn is a rake, a scoundrel, and is tried of the fakes out there in the ton and seeing it first hand by his own family whom used him and forgot about him, life has taught St.Aubyn some hard lessons. Tried of being weight down by the rundown orphanage, he plans to sell it off to create a park, when Evelyn walks

through the door, he thought to buy his time with her in his bed. The more he finds out about her, the more he can't get her out of his bed and later out of his heart.

The praise I heard about this book was not unjust! This was an wonderful reforming the rake story, with two wonderful leads that created such a drawn you in story.

No one truly believed Evelyn would succeed in her project of helping the Orphanage or her lessons in love, even her beloved friends, but Evelyn held a sort of strength, no one, even herself knew she had. Willing to go to any lengths, I was shocked when Evelyn taught a few hard lessons to Saint, but at the same time, they weren't lessons without feeling, but out of pure feelings, and belief things could be better and Saint could be a better man. Evelyn quickly became one of my all-fave heroines!

What's there to say about Saint that hasn't been said before? He's a bad-boy, but his coldness wasn't just him being selfish, but the hard lessons and uncaring family and life taught him, Saint's motto in life, I'll give you something if pay me back 10fold. Saint can't get over Evelyn and how pure she is, and the more she fights him, the more she wants her till he'll break. With Evelyn's help and love, Saint sees that he still has a heart, one that is full of kindness and love, the lengths Saint goes to prove he's changed makes me sigh happily

The steam level between the two were smoking, and the heated whispers that Saint told in Evelyn's ear made me fan myself! With characters from past books making their appearance, the center stage was always on Evelyn and Saint. The book drew me, it was "really" hard to put down!

Overall: can't say enough on how much I loved this book, so I'll leave it at that "I Loved ~~Saint~~ this book!" :D

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### **Karen says**

*London's Perfect Scoundrel* is the second installment in Suzanne Enoch's trilogy titled Lessons in Love. I did something with this trilogy that I rarely do...I read out of order. After reading the first book *The Rake*, I was anxious to read Robert and Lucinda's story in *England's Perfect Hero*. Who knew that the book that I skipped in the series would turn out to be my favorite!

I enjoyed every single page of *London's Perfect Scoundrel*. St. Aubyn was the "perfect scoundrel" in every way. He was good looking, charming, and had such a dry sense of humor. I loved him! You never knew what would come out of his mouth, and he had the habit of saying the most scandalous things to Evie at the most inopportune times. He seemed like a total jerk at the beginning of the book, but as it progressed, you could see that much of his attitude was a defense mechanism to cover up his loneliness. The fact that he made such an effort to turn his reputation around once he fell in love with Evie was so heart warming to watch. To have a hero go to that much trouble for the woman he loves... \*sigh\*

I liked Evie as a heroine, but I do wish she would have taken a stand against her brother. He walked all over her throughout the book and she didn't say much about it, even when she realized that she was in love with St. Aubyn. And fall in love with him she did...Evie was the typical good girl who couldn't resist a really wicked, wicked bad boy. ;)

The characters in this book are really witty and I found myself grinning like an idiot while reading

(especially the scenes between St. Aubyn and Viscount Dare). I can't wait to read more from this author.

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### **Christine says**

Utterly forgettable.

Do you know how I can be so sure? Because I read this a few years ago and accidentally picked it up again, not realizing I had read it before. It started to seem vaguely familiar when the heroine kidnapped the... no, wait, I can't call him a hero.

I will give it this much: The title is apt. The Marquis is a horrible, heartless, unconscionable person who I do not believe for a second truly redeemed himself in this book. I don't know why the heroine was drawn to him. I never was.

Dark heroes are tough to pull off. I confess to enjoying them when it works, but there are a few ingredients missing from the recipe in this book.

First, the Marquis didn't have any particularly good reason to be a jerk. There was some drivel about his parents sprinkled in there, but it really didn't amount to much more than arrogance, determination to die young because his father did, and disdain for women, children, and most men for that matter.

Second, the Marquis had no redeeming qualities whatsoever. Dark heroes need to have a crack in their facade -- and it has to be a facade -- it can't go to the core of them. I felt like this darkness went to the core of the Marquis, at least in part because he didn't have redeeming qualities, and when it goes to the core, it can't be reformed. This guy was a real, honest to goodness class A a\*\*\*\*\*e. He had no principles at all. He set out to seduce the heroine with no qualms about ruining her or hurting her. He just wanted her. He set out to destroy a house full of orphans because they were inconvenient. His change in the end was admittedly only because he wanted the heroine, and even then I didn't believe he would have changed at all, even on a skin-deep level.

Third, the heroine should not be randomly attracted to the hero for no particular reason whatsoever other than it's convenient to the plot. She has to see something in him -- something the reader, too, can see. Or she at least has to be set inescapably in his orbit. (There was no real reason the heroine needed to interact with the Marquis at all in this book.)

To make a long story short (too late): There is a fine line between a dark hero and a total jerk. Which side of the line any given character falls on may be largely a matter of opinion, but I find myself astounded at the 4 star ratings on this book. This guy was horrible, and he turned this into one of those trite romances where the heroine saves the hero, making him something completely different from what he was in the first place, in order to make him an acceptable love. Real change has to come from the inside, not the outside.

I do not recommend.

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### **Tammy says**

Evelyn Ruddick is a social butterfly and enjoys nothing more than having a great time with her friends in London's society. Her brother, Victor (the villain of our story), takes advantage of Evie's popularity and charm by using her for his political aspirations. He cares nothing for her opinions, nor does Evie's mother, and they pay very little attention to her unless there is an ulterior motive involved.

One day Evelyn passes the Heart of Hope Orphanage on her way to a political tea and notices the small children staring at her through the windows. With good intentions, she returns to the orphanage with a bag of candy and plans to tour the orphanage. However, she is told by Mrs. Natham a/k/a "The Iron Mop" that she must first receive approval by the Board of Directors.

Enter Marquis of St. Aubyn a/k/a "Saint", the Chairman of the Board of Directors. Don't let the name fool you. Saint is NOT a do-gooder and probably one of the most self-centered rakes you will ever read about. Definitely an uber bad-boy. He only sits on the Board of Directors because of a clause in his late mother's Will. (Yes. I know. That stupid clause thing again!) Saint says and does as he pleases - he never holds back with anyone.

When Saint first meets Evelyn, he instantly desires her and must have her (of course). After all, this IS romanceland. Saint plots and schemes how he will de-flower her and eventually decides he will make Evie his mistress. After an unfortunate kidnapping and several stolen kisses, Saint resorts to black-mailing Evie and even intervenes in her brother's political plans.

While both Evie and Saint were self-centered and shallow at the beginning of the story, they eventually grew on me as their characters developed and I learned why they did certain things that they did. Evie cried too quickly and too frequently, which didn't quite ring true to her strong character.

The only thing that really bugged me about this book was ... well ... the ending. It simply ended. Just like that! I was left with the questions of why's and how's and what for's. Even suspending reality during the last few pages didn't help with my disappointment, even though the ending fit with the focus on the orphanage. An epilogue would have been more than appropriate.

Otherwise, this book is a delightful and engaging story that I was able to read in one sitting. I would highly recommend it if you are looking for a feel-good, historical romance.

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### **L8blmr says**

I read this book, based on someone's recommendation and my first by this author, without knowing it was the 2nd in a series. What a nice surprise it turned out to be! It had some of the best sexual tension, hot sexual encounters, and sweetest romance I've read in a historical in a long time. The formula is pretty basic: rakish, devilishly handsome hero who works at making people dislike him, and a beautiful, but serious, intelligent and benevolent heroine whose brother insists on her making the right "match" to further his political aspirations. The growing fondness, then love, between the two, coupled with their physical attraction to each other plays out without using the devices of TSTL or aggravating misunderstandings. And, as a teaser, there's an unusual kidnap scene that I found refreshingly original. Not much to offend anyone, but avoid if you don't enjoy steamy and fairly frank love scenes and dialogue.

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**Kelly22 says**

**5.00 Stars – Regency/Historical Romance!**

*The dashing gentleman is no 'saint',  
but the beautiful lady needs the rogue's help—  
and coercion begins with a kiss ...*

*Evelyn Marie Ruddick's elder brother Victor wants to secure his political career and henceforth feels free to use her in his endeavors of pursuing and charming various political inclinations.*

*She reluctantly follows her brother's lead in these actions but wishes to work on her charitable yearnings alongside. She decides to aid her efforts in reforming the Heart of Hope Orphanage when suddenly she encounters the Marquis of St. Aubyn, called 'Saint', a renowned scoundrel with notorious reputation. He is in fact the head of trustee of the orphanage.*

*But Saint, the dark social rogue, belittles and mocks her cause and makes ridicule remarks at her, announcing that she will grow quite bore in her 'new hobby' and will soon get back to tea parties and poetry recitals without any time. He reckons that he has much more brilliant idea for her to spend her precious time. To share his bed until he gets bored and move on to his next mistress for example!*

*Evelyn is appalled and furious at his accusations and chooses to ignore his irresistible presence no matter how unseemly that is and continue her work. Saint, who of course initially pronounced his judgments just to frighten the virginal chit, is surprised and amazed to see her statutory resolution at every passing moment. He finds himself possessed and mesmerized by this remarkable beauty's intelligence and dedication. After all, its not an everyday occurring for the nefarious, menacing, wicked scoundrel that he was, to be baited by a proper virginal innocent little chit!*

*Question is what shall he do?*

- 1) Ignore her
- 2) Punish her
- 3) Help her
- 4) Tortment her
- 5) Bed her
- 6) Marry her?  
*or*
- 7) All of the above?

The book attempts to answer this question in a very agreeable, satisfying, pleasing rejoinder. I HIGHLY recommend it!

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**Susanne says**

**Absolutely adorable.**

Take a hopeless scoundrel and rake, a sweet heroine, several orphans, a kidnapping and some lessons in love and you get the most adorable romance. In a way it reminded me of Devil in Winter but even better!

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### **Catherine says**

There are some books that I've enjoyed so much that I've read and reread them again and again through the years. This is one of them.

It's not a perfect book by any means. Indeed, the ending is way too rushed and I longed for Evie to stand up for herself against her family, but it has a magic that makes me love it regardless.

There are a lot of rakes running around historical romance, but even after reading widely in the genre, Saint still sticks out in my mind. He is absolutely perfect. He starts the book as a complete jerk. He makes no bones about the fact that he has no interest in the heroine beyond his attraction to her. He's rude and wicked and doesn't care who he insults. But somehow he has this spark underneath it all that draws Evie and the reader in despite it.

His naughtiness is absolutely delicious and when he eventually starts to change his ways and fall for Evie it is absolutely wonderful to watch. The sexual tension was delightful and I adored reading about a hero who acted that way just because, without any hidden tortured reason.

Evie was also a great character. My heart broke for her when she realized that her friends didn't see her true strength any more than her family did. Throughout the book Evie is constantly trying to prove to herself that she can accomplish something worthwhile. That she is useful as more than just a marriageable woman. Saint's careless disregard of her goals is what leads them to cross swords and it's absolutely wonderful when they finally do.

There's a part where Evie takes charge and *makes* Saint listen to her that is really the moment when the book turns excellent. Evie proves how strong and daring she really is and we start to see the vulnerability that Saint usually hides behind his cynicism. This is when they both finally start to see the person behind the persona and from that moment on their relationship was magic to watch.

Even though I understood Evie's loyalty to her family, I needed something more--some scene showing *why* Evie thought her brother was a good man--to make me understand her actions. Because I found myself incredibly frustrated on her behalf. She brings up the many ways she could rebel and make her brother look bad, but she never does. I just couldn't understand why she didn't. Because really, her brother was a complete jerk.

This book is very character driven. There are no real outside distractions to take away from watching Evie and Saint change and fall in love. It was awesome because they were absolutely perfect together. It'll be a while until the next reread, but I'm already looking forward to it. :)

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### **Eastofoz says**

Now here's a bad boy hero that any reader who likes the bad boy hero will love! The Marquis of St Aubyn

spits out these verbal jabs to male and female alike and doesn't care who he offends and it's like this nearly to the end of the book! Finally a historical that doesn't use filler details to build tension and add pages to a story. A solid 90% of this book is about the Marquis and Evelyn Ruddick, the woman set on showing him the "error of his ways" –and what a fine series of lessons it all turns out to be!

Book 2 in Enoch's Lessons in Love series tells the story of St Aubyn who isn't a scarred hero like other jaded rakes, he's just someone who's always treated people as disposable because his position allowed it. The way he spoke to people reminded me of Sebastien Lord St Vincent in Lisa Kleypas' "The Devil in Winter". Evelyn Ruddick made a pact with her friends that they would each find an unscrupulous man and teach him to respect women. No one would dare take on St Aubyn because he brought scandal wherever he went –but Evelyn was determined. Characters from book 1 as well as from Enoch's "A Matter of Scandal" also make an appearance, especially nice to see were Lord Dare and Georgiana who continue on much as they did in their story. No lovey-dovey mush here ;)

The sexual tension is exceptional all because of how the hero whispers his sexually laced blackmailing threats to her in public and she has no choice but to concede to him otherwise he'll cause a public scandal. The verbal banter is very well-done making a mini-movie in your head of these two at loggerheads with each other.

The ending needed another page or so but overall it's a fantastic read for anyone who likes the I-hate-you-but-I-love-you/dammit-I-can't-live-without-you relationship.

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### **Nikki says**

5 stars.

What can I say... Delicious, gruff, rakish hero? *Check*. Smart, intelligent, darling heroine? *Check*. Interesting and engaging plot? *Check*.

I was almost worried by Saint's character at the beginning of the book - and I've *never* thought that about a hero before - I wondered how on earth shy Evelyn was going to break through his aloof and devastating arrogance. I shouldn't have been worried at all because our little Evie managed just fine!

I really, really genuinely loved the hero and heroine in this one and it's such a treat to say that because I almost always have issues with the heroine in romance - most of them seem to lack basic intelligence, common sense and communication skills.

#### **Good Stuff:**

- Evelyn, Saint and how positively adorable they were together. Saint was *such* a rake! So devilish, arrogant and uncaring - but I LOVED him! Their completely opposite personalities made the interactions so much more exciting to read and I really applaud Enoch for pulling it off because I imagine it would have been difficult to get the dynamics right.
- Saint's inner monologue was a favourite part of this book for me. I loved reading his insight of Evie and the fact that he seemed to be the only bugger to actually believe in her - how sad that Georgiana and Lucinda couldn't manage to! I loved how his feelings for Evie lead to him pretty much stalking her; the scene at/outside Almack's was especially sigh-worthy! Oh Saint, how I love thee!

- The dialogue had me chuckling out loud, especially the scenes at the orphanage with Saint, Evie and all the kids: ah from the mouths of babes!
- The sexy times. Go Evie! It was awesome to see how Saint and Evie could completely ignite each other like they did - especially loved the scene at Drury Lane; dear lord I nearly combusted! \*fans self\*
- I loved how interested Evie was in Saint and wanted to understand him better and to *know* him. I also liked how she asked him for his full name and that they both seemed to enjoy her calling him Michael. I thought that was particularly darling.
- Again with the name thing - I liked how Saint kept calling Evie *Evelyn Marie*. Death by cuteness.

#### **Bad Stuff:**

- Goes without saying but Evie's ridiculous family. I seriously wanted to punch her brother Victor out and it surprised me that she didn't end up with a broken arm with the amount of times that he was dragging and pulling her elbow this way and that.
- While I enjoyed the lesson that Evie showed Saint in the bottom of the orphanage, it ended up dragging for me a little bit and I was anxious for the story to speed up and move on.
- The wrap up and impossibly fast ending. I felt a little bit robbed because it was such a gorgeous story with gorgeous characters and the abrupt ending and lack of epilogue lost a bit of the magic for me.

Perfect story though and one that will be a definite regular re-read! I don't regret putting my paranormal romance on hold whatsoever!

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#### **Fani \*loves angst\* says**

This one is my second favorite of the series, with England's perfect hero being my #1.

##### **What I liked:**

Saint was reported to be a rake and actually acted as one. That unfortunately, is not always the case with romances. He was the head of the orphanage's board that Emma wanted to involve herself with and he actually used his advantage to get Emma in his bed. That is not as bad as it seems, since Emma was far from unwilling:) And he not only blackmailed her: he coaxed and seduced and charmed her but ultimately found himself charmed as well.

Emma was the good, quiet and unassuming young lady that no one took seriously; not even her close friends actually believed in her abilities. But Emma decides to get involved with the children in the orphanage and nothing can push her off track. Even if she has to resort to violence \*gasp\* she is determined to have her way. And she'll also teach a lesson to Saint while she's on it.

This one had a slightly darker feeling than The Rake and both Emma and Saint had hidden depths as characters. I really liked their conversations, and how Saint slowly came to not only lust for Emma, but care for her as well. The scene where she storms in his house when she found out his evil plans about the orphanage and he instinctively opens his arms in response was worth to me more than a thousand words.

The only reason I rated it with 4 stars instead of 5 was the last 50-70 pages which I found were too sweet compared to the rest of the story and Saint's character and personally, I have a dislike for extreme sweetness. Other than that, this book was awesome and a definite MUST read for romance fans.

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