



Twice Tempted

Eileen Dreyer

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Fiona Ferguson and her twin sister Mairead are missing. Sisters of an alleged traitor, they have been cast out by their noble grandfather, who believes their brother's reputation will taint them. Furious at the old man's behavior, Drake's Rakes Alex Knight and Chuffy Wilde set out to find the sisters.

What Alex and Chuffy don't know is that they are also leading agents for the traitorous cabal The Lions right to the women. Caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse, the sisters and their rescuers are forced farther and farther into the slums of London to escape not only the Lions, but Minette Ferrar, a notorious assassin looking to revenge herself on Ian Ferguson by killing his sisters. What Fiona Ferguson cannot escape, though, is the dawning realization that she is falling in love with Alex Knight, who is burdened with secrets that pose the most danger of all.

Twice Tempted Details

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From Reader Review Twice Tempted for online ebook

Tin says

It did begin with a kiss, as Eileen Dreyer's novella (which introduced the students of the Last Chance Academy) suggests. Fiona and Alex are kindred souls -- something they recognized in each other when they met at the academy all those years ago. Back then, Alex was not free to love Fiona because he was married, but the connection and chemistry was undeniable, and fans of the Rakes (me, included) were left to wistfully imagine what it would have been like if Fiona and Alex had a chance to explore the possibilities between them. But now, even though his wife has died, Alex still does not believe he is free to love Fiona, doesn't believe he is worthy of Fiona's love and doesn't believe he can dare to dream to be with her. Instead he focuses on protecting her and rescuing her from the terrible, and deadly, situation Fiona and Mairead unwittingly find themselves in.

In **Twice Tempted**, Eileen Dreyer has ramped up the intrigue. Dreyer's background is romantic suspense and she showcases a masterful (and very wicked) mind in crafting the delicate balancing act of protecting one's self, protecting one's family and name, and protecting one's country. It is terrifying to realise the power and reach of The Lions and I did wonder if Alex would succumb to the pressure they were exerting on him.

The Rakes all see Alex as a White Knight: a virtuous and noble defender and champion, but Alex doesn't believe he deserves the name. Even now as he walks the fine line between patriotism and treason, Alex doubts his own heart and ability. While he has devoted his life to protecting the people he loved, his success rate is 0%. He failed to save his late wife, and he is about to, potentially, fail at saving his stepfather, Fiona, and England.

He thought of the promise he had only recently made to Drake, that he would not fail to contact him the minute the Lions approached. Nothing was more important than his duty to his country, he'd vowed. Not honor. Not life. But what about his father? Just what would a charge of treason do to that magnificent heart? Alex stood for a long time. Before he moved on, he gave one nod of his head. He never went back to Drake's.

- loc 806

There's blackmail that involves Alex's late wife's letters (which incriminate her), and now it is revealed that Alex's stepfather was also involved. Then there is Fiona and Mairead, who are being pursued by The Lions. *What do they want from two orphans with no social connection or pull? What is so important about these sisters?*

So many questions in the story. So many mystery boxes to unlock. The task is daunting, but Eileen Dreyer has created characters that are more than capable of handling the situation. I was delighted and impressed by how intelligent and clever Fiona and Mairead are. They have defied expectations and broken molds as heroines. They are a wonderful combination of book-smart and street-smart -- when we discover what happened to the sisters all those years ago in Edinburgh, we assume the worst: the brothel, the streets, etc. -- but we discover how greatly we have underestimated these two amazingly brave women.

Had Fiona had a top hat to hide beneath? How had she disguised that flame-bright hair and unforgettable face? How had she protected Mired? Suddenly it was important to know.

- loc 2497

I speak about Fiona and Mairead together because that is how they have always been: as twins, their lives intersect in the most primal way. And, with Mairead's quirks, Fiona has had to manage her sister for their entire lives. Like the other characters in the story, I wondered about Mairead, who was always talked about in the previous books, but never seen. Even then, Fiona had protected her and kept her from everyone's view. In **Twice Tempted**, we finally meet the mysterious Mairead, and she is lovable in her own special way.

The sisters share one great passion for the stars, and Fiona has long relied on Orion's constancy -- it's a heartbreakingly accurate representation of the one thing Fiona wants and desperately lacks in her life: someone to rely on. The interesting reflection about stars is that they are fixed points in space and we have, through history, relied on them to guide us -- but, the stars disappear during the day when the sun outshines them, but, in our darkest hour, in our gravest need, those same stars will shine the brightest.

... Fiona had been created for the skies, for the bright light of the sun, for rapier-sharp debate and sly humour. It was the way he'd always seen her in his mind, as a primal force. But Fiona was not only that bright spirit waving from the carriage, or the tight, controlled lady who survived her grandfather. She was the muck of the gutters. The thin, honed steel of survival. She was so much more than he had fallen in love with, and he didn't know how to absorb it all.

- loc 4299

Elegant and exciting are the two words that best describe Eileen Dreyer's **Twice Tempted**, breathtaking and entertaining are the other two words. **Twice Tempted** is Book 2 in the *Last Chance Academy* sub-series and Book 5 in the *Drake's Rakes* series (and it is awesome).

Disclosure: I received this review copy through Netgalley for this blog tour. Thank you to Eileen Dreyer and to Grand Central for the opportunity. Yes, this is an honest review.

Melanie says

I'm a huge Eileen Dreyer fan and especially of her Regency tales and this is the fifth book of Drake's Rakes series. I looked forward to it ever since the introduction of these two in Ms. Dreyer's little novella, 'It Begins with a Kiss' and if you haven't read it, now is the time to get it. You'll love the intro into these characters [my review of it here].

Here's the thing. If I find an author that does characterization well, I'm hooked for life. Plot, pace and all else is secondary to me. I am in heaven when an author goes out of her way to give me complex, smart characters stuck in difficult and untenable situations. Ms. Dreyer's writing is such that it never fails to leave me breathless. There is only a handful out there these days that can do that for me, and she is right up at the top.

‘Twice Tempted’ is well told tale of two people that never thought would or could end up together. Fiona and Alex separately of each other are strong characters, but together they are invincible. I loved this chick so much. It seemed to me that whatever ills that she survived in her young and tender age, had shaped her character and ready her for that day when Alex would finally notice her as a woman who she is. I loved the way her wit and intelligence as well as her beauty were seen by Alex.

Theirs is a romance for the romantic in all of us. This review wouldn’t be complete if I didn’t mention the secondary romance of Maired and Chuffy. People, this romance was sweet and tender and funny.

I highly recommend every book in this series [btw they’re still on sale for \$1.99 each and worth every damn penny; start off with ‘Barely a Lady’], including this one, and if you’ve never read this author, I beg you to sample her and dare you not to love her stories.

Melanie for b2b

Complimentary copy provided by the publisher

Caz says

I've given this a B+ at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars.

Twice Tempted is the fifth instalment in Eileen Dreyer’s *Drake’s Rakes* series, and follows neatly on from book four, Once a Rake. During the course of that book, twin sisters Fiona and Mairead Ferguson learned that their brother, Ian, had been killed following his unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Duke of Wellington. Disgust and fear of the scandal likely to ensue prompted their grandfather – never the kindest or most tolerant of men – to disown them and throw them out. When, a few weeks later, Alex Knight and his friend and colleague, Lord Charles Wilde (Chuffy) return to the Marquess of Rayburn’s estate to advise him and Ian’s sisters that he’s still alive and very much innocent, it’s too late. The ladies have gone and nobody knows where they went.

Fiona and Mairead Ferguson-Hawes are no strangers to homelessness, having more or less grown up on the streets of Edinburgh following the death of their mother when they were girls. They slept rough on the streets, with Fiona working hard to keep body and soul together, and they can do it again if necessary. Disappearing in a big city like London is easy to accomplish, and while Fiona works out what to do next, they take temporary refuge at the girls’ school in Blackheath that’s run by a friend.

Alex and Fiona actually met four years before, as told in the novella *It Begins with a Kiss*. Fiona was just sixteen, yet it was apparent that she and Alex were attuned to each other, and she has carried a torch for him ever since. They shared just one passionate kiss – but Alex was married and far too honourable a man to attempt to take anything further. Now he’s a widower and even though his attraction to Fiona has never abated, he doesn’t think he’s deserving of her love or dare to think they might have a future together. Alex might have been dubbed the “White Knight” by his fellow Rakes because of his drive to protect those he loves, but he doesn’t see himself that way at all, dwelling instead on the times he has let others down or failed to save them. In the last book, he had to make an impossible choice between duty to his country and to his friends when he was blackmailed by a group of traitors called the Lions – and he continues to be haunted by his actions. Still under a cloud, he is sickened to hear from the Lions again, this time accusing his beloved step-father and his late wife of treason, and threatening to reveal all if Alex doesn’t lead them to Fiona and

Mairead.

Weighed down by self-doubt and fear for his step-father's poor health, Alex's mind reels at the idea that Fiona and her sister are being targeted by the Lions and knows he has to get them to safety while he works out what that traitorous organisation could possibly want with them.

The story that unfolds is complex, well-researched, and full of romance and intrigue. Fiona is a terrific heroine – strong, resourceful, and clever, she's more or less devoted her life to caring for her twin. While readers have met Fiona before, we haven't been introduced to Mairead, and it's been hinted that there is something a bit different about her. Her entrance into the story is really quite astonishing; the assumption has been that she's a quiet and shy little mouse – which couldn't be farther from the truth. Mairead literally blazes into the story, full of vitality and enthusiasm, a mathematical genius with a passion for astronomy – while her understanding of people and everyday life is somewhat tenuous. Today she might possibly be diagnosed as autistic. She's vibrant and extraordinary; brilliant, yet strangely childlike about some things, and her "special-ness" is the reason Fiona has fought so desperately to shield her from public view.

Fiona shares her sister's passion for the stars and her affinity for mathematics. The fact that she long ago pin-pointed Orion as the one constant in her life is terribly poignant, and speaks of her longing for something she's never had – someone to rely on and to share her burdens. She thinks that perhaps she has found that person in Alex, but as the Lions begin to close in, she realises that perhaps her presence – and that of her sister – is a burden he should not be asked to carry.

Alex and Fiona make a great couple. Well-matched intellectually, and kindred spirits when it comes to their desire to protect those they love, they have great chemistry, and Ms Dreyer writes and develops their relationship extremely well. There's the added bonus of the rather sweet secondary romance that blossoms between Mairead and Chuffy, and I was very impressed by the way in which the author writes Fiona's mixed feelings on seeing her sister starting to move away from her dependence upon her. The relationship between Alex and his step-father is also very well written; Alex's love and deep respect for the older man just leaps off the page, and Sir Joseph's pride in and care for his adoptive son is strongly evident.

Twice Tempted is a well-paced, compelling page-turner that boasts a secondary cast every bit as strongly drawn as the central couple. The one reservation I have is with the way that Alex has to keep putting off telling anyone about the fact that he's being blackmailed. He's treading a really fine line – one that could see him accused of treason, yet each time he decides he needs help, something happens which means he has to delay asking for it. It's a fairly small thing, but each time it happened, I wanted to punch something!

Overall, though, it's a terrific read, and one I have no hesitation in recommending strongly to fans of romance/spionage stories. It's just about possible to read it as a standalone, but I'd suggest reading the previous book in the series first.

Elena says

Usually I find Eileen Dreyer's heroines wonderful and her heroes abysmal. This time, she seems to have split the difference and I just kind of shrugged my shoulders at them both. Meh. Chuffy and Mairead were ADORABLE though; I kind of wish the book had been focused on them.

Thanks to Edelweiss and Forever for providing me with a review copy.

Mary says

I really enjoyed the complex plot of this spy-thriller-romance. Brilliant young astronomers and mathematicians, Fiona and Mairead Ferguson, once had to survive on the streets in their childhood. After finally coming to live with their grandfather, the heartless marquess of Hawesworth, they thought they had some measure of safety. But when given the news that their brother died in a traitorous plot, the marquess tosses them back out onto the streets. Fiona then has to figure out how to survive and provide a place where Mairead can continue her studies. While brilliant, Mairead would today probably be diagnosed as somewhere on the autism spectrum, so the challenge is extra daunting.

Alex Knight had to deliver the bad news of his friend's death to the ladies, but this was not his first encounter with the lovely Fiona. She had once tried to run away from her school to get to her sister, and Alex had retrieved her. He had also stolen a kiss from her and had never forgotten that moment. Now armed with new knowledge that exonerates Ian Ferguson, Alex and his friend Chuffy, who are both members of Drakes Rakes spy organization, have to find the women and restore them to their proper place in society.

Caught in the middle of the plot by the traitorous group called the Lions, the women have to earn a living, avoid detection, survive an assassin, clear their names, break a code, stop the Lions, and try to find their own happiness. Alex had always been called the "White Knight," but he feels such guilt over the secrets of his past, that he may be the one who needs saving this time around.

Now, of course, I'm going to have to read the rest of the Drakes Rakes series to learn all about the other characters that play a part. The overall spy plot is not completely cleared up, so I'm sure further adventures await.

Elis Madison says

Twin sisters, one a savant, shady secrets, dashing spies, code-breaking, and villains galore! What's not to love?

Ivyd says

4.5 stars

TWICE TEMPTED (Drake's Rakes) is the fifth in the series and my introduction to Ms. Dreyer. Though evident that a lot of water has already passed under the bridge I never felt lost or that vital information was missing.

TWICE TEMPTED is well researched with great attention paid to detail. It's also fast paced, intelligent with an intricate continuing storyline, and engaging, highly appealing characters. Fortunately for readers this could describe many historical romances available today. We truly have an embarrassment of riches. Fiona and Alex are secondary characters from previous books. They're blessed with wit, intelligence, and above average attractiveness. Both are strong and used to protecting and putting others first. Fiona's been responsible for herself and her twin Mairead from an incredibly young age.

Her resourcefulness, honor, loyalty, and responsibility are incredible.

Alex Knight aka the White Knight. Alex feels responsible for others. The trait is both a blessing and a curse. It's also led to his current rock and a hard place position.

Truly, a picture perfect hero and heroine but.....

What really distinguishes TWICE TEMPTED, for me, is the brilliance and singularity of Mairead, Chuffy, and Lady Bea. I don't believe I've ever encountered their like portrayed as they are. Not only do they shine brightly but they cast a warm glow, enriching both the plot and characters around them. They're treasured, respected, and the way their unique abilities and intelligence are utilized is marvelous.

Ms. Deyer would be added to my list for intelligent, richly peopled, complexly plotted writing; however the addition of those three characters has placed her at the top. Mairead, Chuffy, and, Lady Bea, as difficult and different as they are, have completely beguiled me.

4.5 stars

Reviewed for Miss Ivy's Book Nook Take II, Novels Alive TV, & Manic Readers

June says

Rating : 3,5 stars

Oh well I must admit that I didn't get the deciphering code part but I quite enjoy the book and like the characters, especially Chuffy, he's funny

Evelyn says

Originally reviewed for Buried Under Romance www.buriedunderromance.com

Twice Tempted by Eileen Dreye is the fifth book in the Drake's Rakes series, and I have to admit that, since I haven't read the other four books, I was pretty confused at the beginning of this novel. I could tell right away, however, that the characters were going to be unique and the plot complex, so I decided to push through and give it a chance. I was not disappointed. It didn't take long to sort out the characters and the plot details that were continued from the previous books, and I soon found myself totally immersed in a fascinating story of romance and intrigue.

The heroine of this well-written novel is Lady Fiona Ferguson Hawes who, along with her eccentric twin sister Mairead, are no longer welcome in London society or in the home of their grandfather, the Marquess of Leyburn, due to the suspected treasonous actions of their late brother Ian. Resourceful Fiona is very protective of her sister Mairead, whom I suspect in today's world would have been diagnosed as autistic, and she quickly finds them teaching positions due to their knowledge of mathematics and their passion for astronomy. Ian's friend, Lord Alex Whitmore, has been attracted to Fiona for many years and, with the help of his friend Chuffy, he is determined to help the twins rescue their own reputations and claim their rightful positions in society. What neither he nor the sisters know is that the Marquess had been using women as pawns in his own treasonous activities, and that when they left his home, they unknowingly carried crucial evidence that put them in serious danger.

Twice Tempted is a well-researched, well-written account of covert activities that took place during the Regency period. The tale of espionage is carefully woven around the compelling story of the two very

interesting, intelligent young ladies and the men who loved them and wanted to protect them at all costs. While I would suggest, if possible, that the other books in the series be read first, this book is worth reading, even as a standalone story. This was the first novel by Eileen Dreyre that I have read, and I was impressed by the amount of research that she had done and her ability to craft a complex plot with memorable characters. I can't wait to read the next installment in the series!

I received a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Jo (My House of Books) says

In an effort to finish books I've started, then put away for one reason or another, I sat down and made myself read *Twice Tempted*. I have read all the Drake's Rakes novels (*Always a Temptress* was my favorite of the series), so it was pretty easy to put myself back into this world, even though it's been several years.

The pacing of the story moved well -- we know Alex and Fiona will have a HEA; we assume Minette, the assassin, will be caught and the threat neutralized -- but once Chuffy and Mairead's connection became obvious, I was glad to see Chuffy get a HEA as well. He has been my favorite minor character since the first novel.

The main issue I had with *Twice Tempted* is that it felt like a series finale. All the loose ends were tied neatly, and I found myself speed reading simply to reach The End without having a real sense of connection between Fiona and Alex. Still, all's well that end's well, and I'm glad Drake's Rakes ended well.

Jen Davis says

I really did try to connect with this book, but it just didn't work for me. Several times, I was tempted to put it down; even more often, I was tempted to skim ahead. And though I did make it to the end, it only got marginally better for me before it was over.

This is book 5 in the Drake's Rakes series and though sometimes installments of a historical romance series stand alone well, this one did not. There is a great deal of background stuff that is obviously rooted in prior books, so if you have not read the series before, be warned.

Fiona and her twin Mairead are turned out by their grandfather after news comes that their brother Ian died a traitor. The women spent years on the street growing up and their grandfather figured they were never good enough not to tarnish the family name anyway. The thing is, that Ian isn't really dead. When his best friend Alex comes to share the happy news, however, he finds the twins gone and he makes it his mission to find them.

You see, Alex has held warm feelings for Fiona for four years, since he brought her to her grandfather. And kissed her. Even though he was married. And she was 16 and he was 26. (This does not sound romantic to me, but maybe this was in an earlier book and played off as less disturbing at the time.) So he finds them, barely making ends meet once again and tries to get them to go back home, but they're not interested. Fiona just got her sister settled and doesn't want her disrupted again. It seems Mair is autistic and doesn't handle change well. But some bad guys burn down their home and they have to turn to Alex for help.

There were so many things that didn't work for me. The biggest, though, in the early chapters was the dialogue. Two characters (Chuffy and Lady Bea) speak in bizarre 2-3 word fragmented sentences. I barely understood what they were saying and had no idea why they couldn't speak a complete thought. It drove me bonkers. Then there was the (seemingly) baseless affection between Alex and Fiona that made them moon for each other out of the gate. From a meeting four years ago? While she was a teen and he was married? Then there is the lack of communication they had with each other: too many secrets, which led to the inevitable misunderstandings. Plus, I thought the whole spy element was weak, maybe because this was set up in previous books. But everyone knew who the Lions were, except maybe me, but I get that they were bad guys going against the crown. And they blackmail people. They were too removed as villains, though, just nameless faceless guys with nefarious intent.

All of that, I disliked. The cardinal sin, however, is that I just didn't care about the romance. Nothing made me root for these characters, together or apart. The sex was beyond weak. And the secondary romance was just as bad. WHY did Mairead fall in love with Chuffy? I just didn't really like any of it.

And WTF was up with the lady assassin who smelled like oranges who killed one dude then disappeared? What was the point of that?

Not for me. But I guess if you read and liked the other books in the series, you might feel differently.

Rating: C-/D+

**ARC provided by publisher for review*

Emily says

Fiona Ferguson and her twin Mairead have been thrown out of her Grandfathers home, but this isn't the first disastrous situation Fiona has been in and she has a plan. When Drake's Rake Alex Knight and Chuffy Wilde show up to tell them of their brother's turn of fate, they find they were thrown out on the street.

Fortunately Alex and Chuffy are able to locate them, but find all of them embroiled in a deadly game with an assassin. Alex has been married once before and finds himself drawn to Fiona, but is he willing to go down that road again? Chuffy finds Mairead enchanting and a bit odd, but he relishes in her company. Two sisters and two friends are about to embark on a fantastic ride.

Full review on Single Titles
<http://singletitles.com/?p=10329>

Terry says

I am sorry that this book is ended, only because I love the main characters. Perhaps we will see future books with stories about other Rakes & friends of the girls from school.

KJ, Madame Librarian says

Maybe it was because I read this one hot on the heels of my favorite in the series, but this one was just okay. Dreyer also did a decent job of dealing with neurodivergent character, but there were some flaws. It's clear that Mairead is intended to be somewhere on the autism spectrum, and for the most part her difference is handled gracefully. She is fully realized as a secondary character and! A woman deserving of love and sex just like the neurotypical!

In the end, quite frankly, Alex/Fiona didn't do much for me. I wish they had been the secondary characters and Chuffy/Mairead the primary. Chuffy has 200% more personality than Alex.

Obviously, Beau/Pip is next in the chute. BUT WHAT I REALLY WANT IS BARBARA/MARCUS. Quite frankly, they seem like the only professional spies in this damn series. I would dearly love to see Barbara kick his ass and, as the Mindy Project would say, his heart ass.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO 2015 RELEASE, DREYER??? MY HEART ISN'T MADE OF STONE HERE.

Farrah says

With a sweet romance and intriguing espionage, Twice Tempted was a lovely book and I enjoyed reading it.

Fiona was a mostly good heroine. She was extremely smart, very protective over her sister, and unrelentingly resilient. For that, I liked her. However, she also had a tendency to assume the worst, which was somewhat justified given her background. But, it became vaguely annoying when she kept up with that habit in regards to Alex, even after he had done enough to earn her trust several times over. Especially when it led her to do some uncharacteristically impulsive things. Other than that, though, I thought she was great.

Alex was likable. He was sweet and very loyal to his loved ones. However, I wish there had been more to him. I got that he was a good man who carried the burden of guilt heavily, but not much of a deeper sense of who he was. It wasn't an issue, but it would have been nice to get to know more about him.

The other two major characters who had their own secondary romance were Chuffy and Mairead. I thought both were great. They were both out of the ordinary, but they were perfectly matched for each other. Chuffy was so genuinely kind and adorable and Mairead was an interesting character herself. I liked them both.

The romance between Fiona and Alex was good. I did like them together and they definitely had chemistry. Oddly enough, though, I was actually more invested in Chuffy and Mairead's romance. Perhaps it was because I found them to be more interesting or maybe it was because they seemed to fit perfectly together, but I was really into their relationship. But, I thought both romances were lovely.

I had one final issue with the book and it was that there was just too much going on. There were a lot of conflicts introduced and it didn't feel like they were all resolved. Take Minette Ferrar, for example. She was introduced and seemed like she would act as a major obstacle but, other than a few further mentions, I didn't get anything else about her. An unnecessary blackmail scheme was another extraneous conflict. I just wish that one conflict had been focused on and delved into deeply.

The plot was good and kept me interested. Despite the issues I had, I still enjoyed the story and I liked it overall.

Twice Tempted was an enjoyable historical romance. It might not have been perfect, but it was a good read. Romance lovers, this might be one you'll want to check out.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review
