



## **The Wedding Bed**

*Ava Archer Payne*

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THE TIGER OF THE THAMES Derek Arindam Jeffords, Lord Keating. Ruthless in business, savage in negotiations, cruel and calculating in his personal affairs. The son of a British peer and an Indian native, he is deemed too large, too powerful, too untamed to be properly assimilated into London society.

THE BRIDE Miss Calla Lily Staunton is in desperate financial straits. Desperate enough to offer a bride price for her hand in marriage. When Lord Keating accepts her scandalous offer, she is reluctantly drawn to the dark, mysterious stranger who shares her wedding bed...

ATTN READER: If you're looking for a sweet love story, rather than a spicy romance, this isn't the book for you. THE WEDDING BED is a sexy, 50,000 word Victorian romance. It contains sensual scenes intended for a mature audience.

## **The Wedding Bed Details**

Date : Published January 13th 2014 by AAP Hot Historicals

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Author : Ava Archer Payne

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Adult Fiction, Erotica

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## From Reader Review The Wedding Bed for online ebook

### **Julie Andresen says**

Set in London in 1845 Lynne's story plays out the India experience on the home front. The hero, Derek, is the son of a British man and a Hindu woman, thus distinguishing him from Ash and Oliver who are both full-blooded English, a point that mattered at the time. Lynne's tale is thus largely about prejudice and overcoming it. It is primarily a romance with an edge into erotica, so none of the sweep of history is involved, which is not a criticism because I judge this story by what it set out to do, not what it didn't try to do. Well researched.

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### **Cozen says**

Didn't make it past the second chapter. I was looking for a story of interest but this fell quite short for me. One major issue I have is when some character just shows up out of the blue and says that they are to be married. I don't like those types of stories at all.

So a DNF for me. These themed stories are getting old and tedious. Would love to find sometime original and better entertaining.

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### **Marya says**

But had several minor editing errors.

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### **Elizabeth Bennet says**

I found myself torn with this book and being completely honest it effected the number of stars I was willing to give. I loved the spirit Calla Lilly exhibited she was brave, intelligent, loyal, passionate, and did not care if she fit in. Due to her fathers indiscretion the family is looking at ruin and it is Calla that approaches Derek to be wed in an attempt to protect her sisters and mother.

Derek is just what you'd expect, he, like Calla grew up in India and it is there that the two originally met as children. I think had the book been full length a deeper bond could have been created. For me the rush to the alter took place too fast and I don't think that it is necessary for that to happen just to become erotic. The couple grew on me and somehow the fact that things felt shallow cheapened the story between the two. I think if the book would have been longer it could have really been something special. It had moments that were sweet and other moments that had grammatical issues. Something else that happened was words that were broken up at odd points and continued on the next line.

I think anyone who looks at the cover and reads the title and still wants to buy wouldn't be shocked by some of the graphic scenes. I was not turned off but would have been better pleased had the couple's feelings been more explored. Calla and Derek are both determined to not fall in love with the other and that cheapened

what they shared with each other. I realize a lot of romances write in a similar nature but it was Calla's willingness to give herself so freely that made me view it in this light. I think it was to make it more erotic but IMO it made it less romantic. I guess that is what I missed and although the romance flickered her and there it was down played for lust and desire.

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### **Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says**

Short but sweet, this stunning and evocative tale of two people destined to be together is not only a hot romantic interlude, but an interesting story. In **THE WEDDING BED** by Ava Archer Payne, we first find English/Indian mixed race, Derek Arindam Jeffords, Lord Keating, holding his temper as a monkey dressed in Indian native clothing entertains member of the ton. To him, this is no joke, no entertainment, it is a prejudice poke at half his heritage. When the handsome Lord leaves the soiree his departure is interrupted by two ladies who have sought him out.

Miss Calla Lily Staunton was distant memory from Derek's childhood in India, but now standing before him, the troublemaker from his past has come to completely change his future. When the also mixed race Calla tells him that she is to be his bride, he at first shakes his head, but then comes to realize that marriage to this flower might not be such bad thing, especially when it means she would share his bed.

And so, the very innocent Calla Lily with her preconceived notions of how the marriage bed is supposed to be, plunges into wedded bliss with Lord Keating. Calla is in for the surprise of her life when Derek reveals the pleasures of being his wife and in turn leaves her heart open to possibly being hurt, when she realizes shes loves him, but doesn't know if he can love her in return.

When the murder of a Indian happens on one of Derek's ships docked in the English harbor, he and his new wife need to find the criminal and help bring him to justice. In helping the plight of the Indian people, Derek may be cementing his reputation with the ton of England. Will it be worth it when the admiration of Calla is his gift in return? Find out by reading **THE WEDDING BED** by Ava Archer Payne.

**THE WEDDING BED** by Ava Archer Payne is a delightfully sexy story with two very strong and lovable characters. Miss Payne is a new author to me and I look forward to reading much more from her in the near future. I like how this author takes the issues of the mixed Indian/English races in Victorian England and brings them to light in a fascinating way. Take a chance on **THE WEDDING BED** by Ava Archer Payne and you will be happy you did.

~KIMBERLY~

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### **Shay says**

This was different from other regency romances because of the culture differences between Derek and Calla and the rest of England. I loved how lust and love developed out of an arranged marriage between two childhood friends.

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### **Emma says**

Arranged marriage where they consummate the marriage but are not in love, and how they feel about this after each iteration along with a little bit other story line makes for pleasant reading.

Derek is half British, half Indian. As a British peer of mixed heritage he is not fully accepted by society and has a chip on his shoulder. Calla was raised in India by her British parents who are good friends with Derek's family. Their mothers arrange a marriage and ship Calla to London unbeknownst to Derek but he fairly quickly decides to honour the contract. Her love of India and total acceptance of his skin colour forces him to think differently about himself.

The characters were nicely drawn. There is a lot of sex in this book but it does fit the story.

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### **Emily says**

Though the beginning was pretty good, I felt the middle and end kind of fizzled out. Things felt a little untidy and unfinished.

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### **Jane says**

Derek Arindam Jeffords, Lord Keating was born in India to a Native mother and English father, making him an outcast to both societies, but he still became an English Peer of the Realm and still was not well accepted. On a particular disturbing evening he received a gift from his mother in the form of an arranged marriage based on their astrology charts of compatibility. Miss Calla Lily Staunton arrived before his mother's letter, so he was taken by surprise.

Calla was one of six sisters and he remembered them from his childhood but not with fond memories; the adult Miss Calla Lily Staunton was a different matter. She was the wild one. She was the troublemaker. She was his bride and he found he enjoyed every moment of making her his wife.

A mystery element is added to the story when an Indian man is killed on a ship at the East India Company docks and the Lord Keating and his wife are asked to help find the witness to the crime. Mostly *The Wedding Bed* is a love story with lots of Indian spice in foggy cold London for the two lovers.

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### **Quen Barlow says**

#### **Loving Calla**

This was my first book by Victoria and I must say it was amazing.

This is also my first historical book. Calla and Derek knew each other as children in India since their mothers are best friends. Calla's father embroiled his family in a scandal and they lost everything, including their

home and income. After her father's death, Calla agreed to an arranged marriage with Derek. When she shows up in England and informs Derek of the betrothal arranged by his mother, he's not happy but eventually relents. If you have never read a historical book before this is a great one to start with.

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## **Eva says**

This one was an Amazon freebee and it sucked me in from the very beginning. It had something, something completely different. First of all it isn't Regency but Victorian area. Does it make a difference? I am not really sure. I have the feeling women were allowed more already but it is simply a very foggy impression. Anyway, "The Wedding Bed" belongs the series "The Sun Never Sets" and is book one. When you see the cover you get the impression that the heroine will be a busty and curvy woman. But well ...

The story isn't very complicated and most of it takes time within a couple of days, a very short period. It all takes place in London.

A soiree. A monkey dressed in a Hindi uniform. A very tall man, not wearing Hindi style but with a darker skin, lots of influence and money - Derek Arindam Jeffords, Lord Keating. The Dark Lord. He is unmarried and people respect him even being mixed raced. His mom being native Indian and his dad a Britt.

Because of the provocation he undresses the poor animal, feeds him some fruits and before he leaves. Before he is able to leave for good, two women appear. A white one and an Indian. They want to speak to him. He doesn't remember the face. But when she tells him her name - Miss Calla Lily Staunton - is announced he starts to remember his childhood in India. She was the wild one. The troublemaker. When he sees the scar, he remembers her rescuing a tiger puppy. She had a couple of sisters, all named after flowers. Their families had been close.

And now she is in London, telling him that they were betrothed because his mother had offered bride money to her mother. Bride money. Something so very Indian. In London everything is about a big dowry, in India the family of the groom was giving money to the bride's family. Two different cultures and tradition.

Nevertheless there is something in her eyes, the way she walks and dresses. Something that pulls him towards her. He doesn't think about not giving into this arranged marriage, nonetheless she travelled for weeks to arrive in London from India.

He tells her that he will never fall in love with her and she knows that this isn't a love match, this is an arranged marriage like so many others in the world. She does it to save her family, to give her younger sisters the possibility to marry someone they love.

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The book sucked me into the storyline immediately. It was so easy to feel with Calla and to see the Duke's point because it seemed real. They knew each other from being kids and she doesn't fit into the London society because she dresses differently, prefers another kind of food - because she's white but Indian. She's different. She doesn't care for luxury, exclusive dresses. But she's adventurous as she has always been, the wild one, the troublemaker and that's what Derek likes about her.

Ava Archer Payne tells the story of two people who knew each other being kids but reestablish their relationship years later. Calla's habit is to say what she thinks but she is intelligent and has a lot of wit. So she lets Derek know from the beginning why she does all of it.

From the very beginning I knew that it wouldn't take them long to fall in love because of the way he looks at her and vice versa.

And then there are the highly erotical scenes. Steamy. I especially liked their wedding night. But also sending Calla to the dressmaker the first time .... Loved it!

To get a conclusion ... Ava did a very good job on this story BUT it is too short. Towards the end the story seems rushed. The book only has about 190 pages and I think the story and developments in their relationship (and the 2nd storyline about the Indian boy, the murder etc) should have been stretched to 250-300 pages to be more real – but that's my personal impression.

4\*\*\*\* stars

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### **Katherine says**

#### **Not impressed**

I read about nine chapters and wasn't impressed with layout or the lengthy background that the two main characters shared. Sorry not one of my favorite books.

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### **SandyL says**

Derek Jeffords, Lord Keating, is known as the Tiger on the Thames for his fierce demeanor and business dealings. Being an influential importer and wealthy, he is accepted into London society - sort-of. His mother was from India, so he is "half-native" and therefore somewhat on the fringes of acceptable. He gets a huge surprise one day when a girl he knew from his youth shows up in London announcing they are to be wed! Calla Lily Staunton and Derek's mothers are BFFs and have arranged a marriage. Calla grew up in India and loves it there, but has agreed to the marriage to help her financially struggling family. She is not your typical English bride at all, but Derek surprises himself when he finds he kind-of likes that! This was a quick but sexy story of the two getting to know each other, with a small mystery of a missing Indian youth and crooked dealings on the docks thrown in. I enjoyed Calla's adventurousness and Derek's sexiness!

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### **Sally Hannoush says**

I did not expect to like the book as much as I did. I was happily surprised that there was a plot and a growing connection between characters.

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## **Angela Smith says**

This is the first time I have read a book by this author and I really liked it. I feel a bit mean giving it only 3 stars, consider it a 3.5 rating overall.

The book is labelled as erotica, but it also has a decent plot line going on as well. The story is set in the Victorian times and Lord Derek Keating is half Indian (mother), half English (father). It is at a time when Britain thought anyone who wasn't British was heathen and needed educating (forcing to submit to our ways).

Although Derek spent his earlier years living in India with his mother and father, after his father's death he came to England to inherit a title and little else. He is a self-made man through trade via shipping and has become a rather hard man. Always having to be that little bit ruthless with society because of his Indian heritage.

Enter, Miss Calla Lily Staunton. She has arrived in London to inform Lord Keating that they are to be married. A deal brokered between his Indian mother and her family, without his knowledge. After his initial shock, he decides to agree to the plan. Finding her more and more fascinating by the minute. He finds he remembers her from when they were children for being rather reckless.

They marry and have a very steamy wedding night, I am sure at one point my glasses fogged up. It is what it says on the tin, erotica. The language and the sex is graphic, but not beyond the bounds of taste. Calla is still independent and headstrong, but it is something that Derek finds he rather admires in her as he finds he has trouble keeping his hands off her. However, not all of the emotional development is in the bedroom.

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