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It was five years since Elizabeth Alcester had laid eyes on her former stable boy, Ivan Tramore . . . five years since her world had collapsed in devastating ruin around her. Now, penniless and desperate, she finds herself at the mercy of a cruel, ruthless stranger--a man who vows to possess her, whose hot searing caresses fan the flames of her darkest desires. Tramore had returned home in triumph--the unwanted bastard was now Lord Iva, eleventh Marquis of Powerscourt--the most powerful man in London. Yet one woman had sworn to defy him . . . the proud beauty whose touch had branded him forever. But when at last he holds Lissa trembling in his merciless embrace, his lust for vengeance suddenly explodes in a frenzied fever of passion, and now no power on heaven or earth can tear him from the innocent arms that hold him captive, or protect her from the rapturous moment when angels fall.

When Angels Fall Details

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From Reader Review When Angels Fall for online ebook

Robbin says

This is a book that I have read at least half a dozen times. Everytime I read it I find something that I missed before. This is definately a classic romance novel and they just don't make them like they used to. It's a classic and one that I will always read when I'm in the mood for an old time love story.

Twiggy says

Ugh!

Annoying but compulsive

Spoilers:

Lissa is the eldest child of the wealthy Alcester family.

As she grows up she is increasingly attracted to Ivan the illegitimate stable boy and when she was 16 years old she lets him kiss her but is frightened and some of the other servants have to pull Ivan off her. Later that night she strikes Ivan with her riding crop in frustration and permanently scars his face.

This happens in the backdrop of a family crisis involving her parents. It turns out that her mother has betrayed her father and her parents either killed themselves or her father killed her mother before committing suicide (it's not clear). When her parents bodies are found, Ivan has already left and Lissa finds that her parents are in debt and almost everything must be sold.

Lissa's reputation is damaged as a result of the above and she is known in the village as Lusty Lissa and the villagers make it clear that they think she will turn out to be just like her mother.

5 years later the family is living in a cottage in straightened circumstances and dependant upon a pension from 'Aunt Sophie'.

In the interim Ivan , who was the bastard son of the Marquis of Powerscourt, has been legitimated and inherited.

The story starts with him telling his estate manager,Holland Jones, to have Powerscourt repaired within 4 weeks and to cancel the pension being sent to Miss Alcaster. From the outset it is made clear that he wants her destitute and in his power - just charming...

He returns to the village, he chases off all of Lissa's suitors by various Ruthless means, and makes it clear that he is looking for revenge against her and is seeking to break her. Lissa has a 19 yr old blind sister and a 7/8 yr old brother who are dependant upon her and she is desperate when the money from ' aunt sophie' stops and when she realises that he is destroying her marriage prospects while at the same time making it clear he does not intend to marry her and that he wants her for his mistress.

Her efforts to seek employment are beyond pathetic and in the most unrealistic scenario ever, she ends up

working as his servant.

Somehow no one in the village finds out and likewise no one from her sphere of society discovers this , despite the fact that she is at Powerscourt everyday unchaperoned for weeks. Ugh!!!

The hero holds a ball. Lissa and her sister attend. This is almost immediately after he almost rapes her, so it is hard to see why she was so keen to go.

And of course, there is no dichotomy re the fact that one minute she's in the servant quarters and the next she's a guest at the ball...

Anyway, she gets upset at the ball and tries to leave. He chases after her, grabs her, knocks her to the ground etc to prevent her from leaving and takes her upstairs telling her that she has no choice and that the time has come. He seduces her , taking her 3 x despite her virginity and noticeably fails to propose. I really did not understand the heroine's surrender here and it's a complete mystery as to why she is not remotely worried about the consequences. She makes it home but in a state of dishabille and is caught by Holland Jones, estate Manage, who is her sister's fiancé.

Evie and Holland marry and go off on honeymoon. A not so nice friend comes round to visit and suggests that everyone is saying that she seduced Ivan and that maybe Lissa should take her self off to London. Of course, Lissa suspects that the friend may have an ulterior motive given that she has already declared that she wants to marry Ivan, but nonetheless she thinks this is a great idea despite the fact that she knows no one in London and has no money....

From this point on the heroine falls into the TSTL category.

She goes to London, gets robbed at the train station, ends up renting a room in a divey pseudo brothel in St Giles, she has to sell her belongings bit by bit whilst failing to gain employment, she runs away from Lady Antonia who tries to help her and returns to the dive, only to be accosted by Ivan. He realises that she has a fever but beds her then and there regardless - because he's such a gent!?

Only after he's had his fun, does he remove her from the hovel and get her medical attention but he brings her to his house (most improper) and clearly hopes to keep her trapped so that she has no choice but to be his mistress.

Lady Antonia arrives after a week or so when the h is starting to recover and takes her away to her home with a promise to launch her into society - this might be the first time that the heroine does the sensible thing and let's someone actually help her.

Ivan gets jealous of all Lissa's suitors. For some reason, still not clear to me, Lissa decides to go to visit Ivan in his town house (as unmarried women do) and they have a further tumble on the floor.

Holland finds out about this and confronts Ivan who still refuses to confirm he will marry her. Holland takes Lissa away from London and back to the village.

Ivan follows and does eventually propose. Holland fears that Ivan intends to stand Lissa up at the altar. Lissa learns the truth about the extent of our hero's efforts to ensure her destitution and also forms this belief.

For some completely unknown reason it seems she does not speak to the hero at all for days prior to the wedding and so does not do anything to allay her fears. There is more angst and the book ends with her

reluctantly going to the chapel in the expectation that he will not be there but when she finally sees him at the altar everything will be ok. The end.

This was one of those books where the heroine kept having arguments with the hero (who she realised that she loved) but every time she opened her mouth she said the most appalling things. She calls him a bastard, she tells him that her rank puts her above him - it's just flabbergasting. I wanted to hit her.

What is worse is that is doesn't actually seem that she herself cares about these things but she knows he does and so she just says it to hurt him.

She also seems to go out of her way to put herself imperil - because? Who knows? Its such fun?

The hero is a stalker who seems to get off on bringing her down the social ladder and his efforts to ensure her destitution just make him pretty unlikeable. Also having sex with her when she was ill and vulnerable was a real turn off.

The ending was simply bizarre ; why did no one confront Ivan? Why did they not speak for days? Why are they all convinced that he will leave her at the altar? Why does the whole book end so abruptly the moment she sees him in the church?

This was one of those annoying angsty compelling reads that made me want to chuck it at the wall!

Cristina says

Not as good as her other books. Both main characters hate each other for 95% of the book. Not a fan.

Regan Walker says

A great Victorian Bodice Ripper with a Tortured Hero and a Magnificent Heroine

I guess I should say at the outset that I am a fan of McKinney's historical romance novels. This one, set in 1855 (prologue in 1850), is a wonderful, well-told story of how the wounds from the past keep us from embracing the future we might have. And it kept me up late reading till I finished it, which is always a good sign. Oh, yes, it's a bodice ripper, too.

Five years ago, Elizabeth ("Lissa") Alcester, daughter of wealthy landed gentry, gave her heart to her father's stable boy, Ivan Tramore, the bastard son of a marquis. But in those five years, their lives were to change dramatically. Lissa would become impoverished and responsible for her blind sister and her young brother, and Ivan would become his father's only heir, now the rich, powerful and ruthless Marquis of Powerscourt.

Ivan remembers Lissa and the kiss he stole from her. He will have her as his mistress but first he will have his revenge. It appears from all his actions that he is out to destroy her, to send her suitors away and to make her life a disaster, but he cannot resist the only woman he has ever truly wanted.

McKinney keeps you on the edge of your seat as you follow the ups and downs in Lissa's life. She is a brave and worthy heroine, one you will come to love. Always trying to do what is right by her family, she is often thwarted by Ivan's manipulation in the background. It all comes together in the end for a satisfying culmination to a difficult beginning between two people scarred by life. McKinney has done her research for the period and the descriptions are well done. I recommend it!

Katharina says

If you haven't done so already- go and read Lions and Lace by McKinney, it is a great book, and one of my favourite finds of 2015.

When Angels Fall though is a complete waste of time.
A terrible, terrible excuse for a book.

Mackenzie says

Set in 1855, first there's Ivan Tramore, bastard son who ends up working in the stables of the Alcesters. When his father ends up with no heir, he pulls strings and makes Ivan his legal son and heir- the eleventh Marquis of Powerscourt.

Elizabeth Alester was the eldest daughter of the Alester family and developed interest in the silent, brooding stable hand, Ivan. Hoping he has some feeling for her, she tries to get him to open up, even so far as wandering down to the stables one evening where she asked him outright if he had any sort of feeling for her at all. As he tries to brush aside her feelings, she became angry with him and demanded to know what was wrong with her. Suddenly she found herself pushed up against a stall door and in an intense kiss. Not understanding his intensity, she remains in her room for days until her parents arrive suddenly from London. Then, tragedy strikes and when she runs down to the stables and gets her horse, Ivan attempted to stop her. Frightened from her parents and with the only thought to flee, she strikes him with her riding crop before bolting away on her horse.

Her family crumbled and with her parents deceased, Elizabeth (Lissa) her sister and younger brother moved into a cottage on the estate. They lived in near poverty until two things happened at once. 1) Ivan's return to the estate which he now owned and 2) their "aunt" (who was really Ivan) died and left them with nothing. Now their near poverty seemed even worse for them.

Ivan, obsessed with Lissa over the years, returns not to get revenge like Lissa thinks through her own guilt of striking him, but to try and win her, only... he has a huge chip on his shoulder through all he's endured. He, of course, can't TELL her, so he manipulates every situation in order to get her to turn to him for help.

The first opportunity Lissa has, she runs off to London in hopes to find a governess position or the like. Unfortunately, she was robbed as soon as she got off the train. But, she found a place in the worst part of town and looked for a job. She became ill and when Ivan finally found her, she was very sick and had a fever. When she recovers, one of Ivan's former lovers/now friend asked Lissa to stay with her. Lady Kovel,

in hopes to make Ivan realize his feelings, encouraged Lissa to get out into society.

Finally one evening tells Lady Kovel that she isn't up to going out. Yet, when she hired a hack and went to visit Ivan. He tells her not to marry anyone, to say no or somehow he'll have to intervene. She replied that he didn't have to because the only one she really wanted was him as she loved him.

Eventually things began to unwind and they received their happy ending.

Ivy H says

I loved this ! Ivan the H is HOT ! His obsession with the heroine is simultaneously sexy and slightly disturbing. The former poor boy grows up to inherit his father's title and wealth but still cannot get the heroine out of his heart and his mind. The heroine is such a beautiful human being - outwardly and inwardly. She takes care of her blind sister and her baby brother. When her income - which had been supplied on a periodic basis by Ivan over the last couple years - is cut off, she has no other alternative but to try and marry a rich man because she really wants her brother to attend Eton. She doesn't know that Ivan had been sending her the money; she thought it had been a distant aunt, who was now dead.

Ivan, out of sheer jealous possessiveness of course, interferes with her efforts to find a husband and he gets rid of every suitor. In spite of this, he continues to deny that he feels anything other than sexual desire for her. They eventually have sex and things may have worked out except for the jealous machinations of a wannabe OW. This OW acts as a supposed best friend to the heroine and manipulates her into leaving, by telling her that Ivan is going to propose to her (the OW). The heroine feels so depressed because she is in love with Ivan, but she leaves because her sister is married and her baby brother is safely away at Eton. The H and h are eventually reunited and Ivan is tormented with jealousy because he cannot bear to see her marry another suitor. However, after an intense short separation the lovers are finally able to have their HEA.

Azet says

One of my favourite trope is when the hero becomes a highly rich man from being a poor stableman, and in that mixing together with the thirst of revenge made me scared shitless when i opened this book. There is so much tension and consuming angst that i ACTUALLY had to take a paus from this book for two weeks (WHICH IS SO NOT LIKE ME)!

My very first book by Meagan McKinney, i easily realized why she is so popular among Bodice-Ripper fans. She writes with such an easy but sophisticated flow that "When Angels Fall" was a very fast-paced read for me.

Once the unwanted bastard Ivan Tramore now has become Lord Ivan, eleventh Marquis of Powerscourt--the most powerful man in London. With a bit of manipulations and deceptions on the score he wishes to direct a sworn vengeance to the one woman he has ever loved, the spirited Elizabeth Alcester. Like Elizabeth mentions..they were born to destroy each other...But they were both humans whose souls cried out for each other.

Elizabeth "Lissa" were a remarkable heroine to me. Her strength and stubbornness fascinated me, and the way she took care of her siblings was really admirable. I was so glad for her blind sister Evvie to find true love in

Ivan`s manager Holland-they were such a cute couple! But Elizabeths flaming romance with Ivan was all OH SO HOT that i felt that my eyes burned sometimes. Just WOW their sexual chemistry was way OVER the pages and it left me yearning for more. I also somehow like it that she becomes friends with Ivan`s former lover, and that OW was no bitch at all, but a very wonderful woman to her. She was at Lissa`s side the whole time and even persuaded her that Ivan truly loves her.

Ivan Oh Ivan- What a man! He scared many characters in this story..and yeah me too. When he from the beginning of the book stares mesmerized at a painting of Lissa, i knew that his obsession for her cut more deeply and dangerously as anything else. He was such a wicked brute that i sometimes laughed at his attempts at infuriating Lissa. And the hilarious way Lissa made him furious with jealousy in the end made me giggle as hell, Oh but i loved it when he finally lost his cool facade. This man`s heart was breaking with rage every time he saw her and she wasn`t his. I am glad that this tortured hero got his woman at the end...that they both FINALLY got their HEA!

There were some unanswered questions, and i wonder more about the reasons behind Ivan`s thirst for revenge towards Lissa. I also wish there were an epiluge, but this one is a standalone and also awfully REALLY GREAT written and the plot-line and romance got me hooked to the end.

Missy says

2.5

100sweet says

I enjoyed this bc the H was so obsessed with the h. However, I didn't understand why she resisted so much. It was frustrating how stubborn she was and her blowing hot and cold didn't help her case. Nevertheless, the H was super possessive of the h which I loved. She was it for him from the very beginning.

Amanda Ryan says

Ivan Tramore has a chip on his shoulder and now that he's the newly christened Marquis of Powerscourt he intends to go back to his country home and make those who made his lives hell regret their very existence. Included in this group is the beautiful Elizabeth Alcester, a formerly entitled woman who has fallen on hard times. Barely making ends meet, Lissa is determined to marry so she can fully support her younger sister and brother. When news of the return of her childhood crush reaches her ears, she panics. Why, you ask? Because she knows he has a viscous streak, and she knows she's more than likely on his sh*t list.

The majority of this book is a constant black (typo and its stays)-and-forth between Ivan and Lissa: I want you but you hate me. I hate you yet I lust for you. I'm not worthy of love. This book is so unbelievably frustrating I wanted to tear my hair out. My poor bald spot. Ivan is such a looming, Gothic monstrosity of a character that its obvious he's got some redemption coming his way - please god please - and Lissa is the one that is destined to deliver it. The problem is that Lissa is more or less like a fart in the wind: poof and she's dissolved. When she finally does grow a pair she nearly castrates herself in her doubt of Ivan's redemption, which completely undermines the whole book, no? No?!

Oye. The hubs can attest to the amount of times he caught the twisted expression on my face while reading this book, a countenance of intrigue and disbelief. I finished *When Angels Fall* because I wanted to see these two get their crap in order, and they Just. Barely. I'd categorize this as a Gothic read, what with the dark and controlling hero and his old castle. And our pushover heroine. But the only ghosts in this story is the righteous indignation carried on its characters shoulders from by-gone days. Regardless, I'm glad I read this. It was fun, in it's own "oh NO they di'nt!" kind of way.

Mermarie says

This was a very light and whimsical read for me. For romance itself, with specific boundaries set to make its clear distinction from a bodice-ripper, it was damn good read, all in all.

When Angels Fall was a painless, cherubic romance, sporting a full complement of caramel sentiment and endless infatuation by the One That Got Away. There was a great deal of past involvement & years for their affection to grow and ultimately, their love was believable. H/hs with actual history and background, seem to win my heart and approval, far more than the 'met you on the street and luzz you forever, bb' trope. If two meet and life happens everyday; they get separated, but eventually(through months + years of longing) return to seek fruition of said love, I can also appreciate that hard-won HEA. There's something intangibly sweet and effervescent about childhood loves turned enemies. I think it's the passion and familiarity involved through ingrained memory; almost as if they're already a family in a sense, albeit extremely fragmented. I recommend it for more romance/love than bodiceripper goodness.

Joshua says

One of the best Historical Romances I've read in a long time.

Very well written and engaging, it used tropes without heavily relying on them, and it all tied together really nice in the end.

Usually books in this genre are extremely predictable, but this book really surprised me several times. The characters, though flawed, were really likeable. I especially enjoyed Lissa's sister Evie. Ivan played out the "tortured hero" without being an asshole or an obnoxious jerk. Although it does overstay its welcome a good 50 pages from the end, I still really liked this. It's a keeper.

Jenny Rebecca says

I spent the summer I was 13 reading this book and "Til Dawn Tames the Night" I still have a copy of this somewhere, I need to go find it and give it a reread. Three cheers for a 'crystal' snood!!!

Zoe says

Meagan McKinney has written one of my all time favorite romance novels. I re-read that book often and

always, always finish the book with a heart full of emotions. I love that book to pieces. I will say it again and again.

That being said, none of her other books has proved to be of the same caliber. Not those that I have read, at least. When Angels Fall is such a mish-mash of nothingness. A stable boy and lady of the manor, I love a working man with a lady kind of story. I have much more respect for men who have earned their own places in the world. I thought this was a sure win. Alas, it fell not only short, but way short of my expectations.

Said stable boy Ivan was actually not a stable boy. He became lord and came to inherit the castle where said lady Elizabeth grew up. As young adults (teens) they had a thing. Ivan was extremely attracted to Elizabeth and "made his move", so to speak one day. Elizabeth also liked Ivan, but she freaked out and turned on Ivan after they shared a passionate kiss. Ivan went away and Elizabeth never married. They met again when they were both adults. Now positions reversed, Ivan was the lord and Elizabeth the poor woman who had to marry soon to support herself and her siblings.

It all sounds ok until you actually read the book. Elizabeth did not know her own mind. That was annoying enough. Then Ivan, oh Ivan, this name made me think of Ivan the idiot. I can't help it. Ivan is a name I wouldn't even wish on my worst enemy. The interactions between Ivan and Elizabeth seemed forced and did not create a romantic relationship. I couldn't feel that they were attracted to each other at all. We see often couples at odds with each other in romance novels. This is nothing new, but somehow the writer must show us how they found a way to reconciliation and forgiveness. This, did not happen in this book.

The writing was fine. Meagan McKinney is a good writer but the plots leave much to be desired in this book.
