



# Only Scandal Will Do

*Jenna Jaxon*

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**Only Scandal Will Do** Jenna Jaxon

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**He has the woman of his dreams, but what price will he have to pay to win her heart?**

Kidnapped and sold at auction in a London brothel, Lady Katarina Fitzwilliam squelches an undeniable attraction to the masked stranger who purchased her, pits her wits against him, and escapes him and the scandal that would ruin her life.

Unable to resist temptation in a London brothel, Duncan Ferrers, Marquess of Dalbury, purchases a fiery beauty. She claims she's a lady, but how can she be?

No lady of his acquaintance in polite society is anything like her. Then he discovers she is who she says, and that this latest romp has compromised her reputation. He knows how that is. One more scandal and he'll be cast out of London society, but he needs a wife who'll provide an heir to carry on his illustrious family's name. He seeks out Katarina, intending only to scotch the scandal, but instead finds his heart ensnared. He's betting their future he'll capture her heart, but does he have what it takes to win the wager?

WARNING: A blade-wielding heroine who crosses swords with a master of sensuality.

## Only Scandal Will Do Details

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Author : Jenna Jaxon

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# From Reader Review Only Scandal Will Do for online ebook

## Cordelia Linder says

### What a Pleasure

I absolutely loved this story from the beginning. I could not put the book down without thinking about the story and hurrying back to continue reading. It was fast paced, but maddeningly slow getting to the good stuff. I so enjoyed the fact, he loved her first and how he went about showing her. I read Book 2 first, but this one is by far the best. I can not wait to read anything else by Ms. Jason. You go girl.

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## Crystal says

Duncan Ferrers, the Marquess of Dalbury, has a reputation for being a very bad boy. The scandal that occurred the year before caused him to take a vacation from London's polite society and head to Italy until everything died down a bit. Now that he's come home he's on a mission to make things better by staying out of trouble, staying away from scandalous mistresses and finding a wife to help him establish a respectable family. But for all of his self lecturing about not being caught in undesirable places again, he winds up at Madame Vestry's House of Pleasure. The very same pleasure house his ex-mistress runs. His friend Tommy Redwood talks him into going incognito to attend an auction for a nice of pleasurable fantasies. Once he gets there Duncan spots the most glorious thing he's ever seen. A feisty woman with red hair that makes him burn for lust. Thinking she's just a new girl at the house of pleasures, working there willing, he buys a night with her. Little does he know that the potential for a disastrous situation is headed his way.

Lady Katarina Fitzwilliem has been kidnapped from her brother's coach while they were on the way to a masked ball. Now she's trussed up, fighting for her freedom, while being held hostage on some stage surrounded by leering men. The next thing she knows a man in a gold lion's mask is telling her that he's bought her for the night. She tries to explain that she's a proper lady who's been wronged, but the man just won't believe her. In desperation she knocks him unconscious and manages to make her escape from this house of horrors. Hoping to put the dreadful experience behind her, where it will hopefully stay, so that she isn't known to be ruined by London society's terms.

What she doesn't expect is for that man to come looking for her. That man being Duncan Ferrers, the Marquess of Dalbury, who says he must make amends of the situation and marry her. She doesn't want to marry him. She wants to sail back to her home in Virginia and forget the whole dreadful thing ever happened. But Duncan isn't willing to let her go. He's determined to have her for all time, and what ensues is one of the most delightful historical stories I've ever read! Loved this story and the characters! Highly recommended! If you love determined men, over protective brothers, and sword wielding heroines determined to save themselves, then this story is for you! Four and a half wine glass salute! To read this review and others, visit Reading Between The Wines Book Club!  
<http://readingbetweenthewinesbookclub...>

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## **(Nat) Reading Romances says**

A simple, fast paced and sexy novel. It's an incredible page turner with lively characters and interesting story.

It's like we're there, close enough to the hero and heroine to witness the events with them. Sometimes I wondered about some of their behaviour, how they could resolve their problems in a better way, and it made me doubt how real their reactions were.

I enjoyed the author's tone but the writing itself could be improved. Overall, it was a great surprise.

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## **Liza O'Connor says**

What do you get when you take the best moments of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Gone With the Wind*, and Jenna Jaxon's writing talent and combine them all into one?

A fabulous story-well worth reading.

Initially, Duncan believes Katrina a skilled 'actress' playing the part of distressed lady, claiming to be kidnapped and auctioned off at the pleasure house against her will. He continues to ignore the 'lady's' protests up to the point she knocks him unconscious and escapes.

When Duncan awakens and discovers Kat was in truth a lady now at risk of being cast from society, as a man of honor, he must make the matter right by offering his hand in marriage.

By the time he locates the elusive lady and presents his solution to her problem, he's convinced she's the perfect woman for him: strong, sensual and utterly unique.

However, his proposal does not go as he expects. Kat assures him he is the last man in the world she'd marry.

Jenna captures this fabulous tension, where one is in love and the other feels utter contempt. (Elizabeth Bennett would have been proud.)

To prevent her brother from fighting a duel to the death, she claims her right, as the injured party, to duel with Duncan.

Being an excellent fencer she expected to win and be allowed to return America. However, Duncan wins, but not before she impresses him further. He claims first blood and her hand.

While she accepts her vows, she refuses to give him her love or access to her bed.

Duncan does everything he can to be amiable and kind, including buying his bride a horse and a magnificent wardrobe. Kat stubbornly resists loving this husband forced upon her.

The constant rejection is more Duncan can bear, and he eventually has his 'Frankly Scarlett I don't give a damn moment'. Only Jenna doesn't allow it to end with such a terrible ending...(Seriously, would *Gone With the Wind* be publishable in today's world. I think not.)

However, letting them simply make up and be happy-forever-after wasn't in the cards either. Jenna pulls in a suspense thriller ending that I will not spoil for readers. However, I will say it was clever, well executed and satisfying.

I look forward to reading more from Jenna Jaxon.

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## **M. says**

I have to start by saying, I anticipated this book's release for a quite a while. While I love mostly all genres of romance, historical romance just happens to be my favorite. Ms. Jaxon would often share excerpts on her

website. Apparently, those little snippets did their job and reeled me in. And my anticipation was not in vain. Only Scandal Will Do was an enchanting, sensual read that engaged me from page one.

The main characters, Duncan and Katarina, are absolutely fabulous. It was charming to read how Duncan set out to win Katarina's heart. At different times during the story, I had no idea how Duncan might pull off the task of redeeming himself in her eyes, but he managed it alright, and with great aplomb.

Full review here [Insert clever quip here]

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### **Aine Massie says**

If there was ever a messed up way to meet your HEA love, that's how Marquess Dalbury, Duncan, meets Lady Katrina. After being badgered into attending an event at a local brothel the Marquess purchases, for the night, a woman he believes is a whore who is pretending to be a kidnapped as part of a victim-rogue sensual game. Unknown to his is the fact that she isn't pretending, she really is who she claims, though he doesn't find that out until after she wounds him, leaving him unconscious when she escapes.

Then the real insanity begins . . . Due to her being "sold" she is now (if it is ever found out what happened) considered ruined. Each then set about correcting the problem, but in vastly differing ways. She sets out to marry a man that was part of her late-fathers regiment that had wanted to marry her before she left for England. The Marquess, however, decides to marry her himself.

Can you see how at odds these two are? I could just from the blurb and it made me want to find out more. And wow, am I glad I did. Jenna spins a fantastic tale of London society, love, betrayal, fencing in scandalous attire (love this part, both times, lol), and two stubborn, prideful hearts that play to win.

This is my third Jenna Jaxon book and I eagerly await book 2 in the House of Pleasure series, Only Marriage Will Do— hint: Duncan's sister and Lady Katrina's ex-suitor are featured, lol.

If you haven't read a Jenna Jaxon story yet, get on the ball ;) and grab a copy of Only Scandal Will Do. It's a historical romance set in Georgian London that will rile your protective natures and melt your hearts all at the same time. I truly wonderful read!

\*Publisher provided eARC in exchange for honest review.

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### **Karen Bynum says**

From page one I was hooked. How can you not be when the heroine (Katarina) is abducted, taken to a brothel and sold to the highest bidder for a night of his wildest desire! From the moment Katarina meets the hero (Duncan)--the man who bought her--there is immediate believable chemistry between the two. There is also a power struggle between them that is so real it's nearly tangible.

The author does a wonderful job of showing the reader both the heroine and the hero's motivation and conflict. Every time they get close, something pulls them apart. I found myself wanting them to be together

so badly I just couldn't stop reading! Normally I'm not a very fast reader, but with this book I had it finished in two days.

The writing was excellent, just the right amount of detail that I could decide for myself how to picture scenery and characters, fast-paced with awesome sword fights and an intriguing plot that will keep you guessing. Katarina's brother and Duncan's sister were also great characters. I enjoyed how they brought different personality traits out in their siblings...what a fantastic way to show instead of tell the reader information.

The heroine and hero go through a lot to be together, but their journey is worth taking. You will be so happy to see how everything turns out. Brilliantly woven together with no loose ends.

Highly recommend this book.

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### **Cara Bristol says**

I enjoy the seductiveness of Regency era romances, and Jenna Jaxon's *Only Scandal Will Do* was a pleasure to read.

On her way to a masquerade ball, Lady Katarina Fitzwilliam is kidnapped and taken to be auctioned off at a brothel. Duncan Ferrers, the Marquess of Dalbury, was on his way to the same ball, when a friend convinces him that he should attend the auction. Duncan has a thing for redheads, and when he spies the flame-haired Katarina, he buys her. He doesn't believe her story of kidnapping so she cocks him over the head and escapes.

But she can't outrun scandal and after a sword duel, she reluctantly agrees to marry him. A good part of the book involves Duncan trying to woo his reluctant bride, but *Scandal* contains enough plot twists and turns to add excitement and keep it interesting. The characters are well-developed and sympathetic, and Duncan, with the care and gallantry he exhibits toward his reluctant wife, is quite a dish. The writing and plotting are excellent.

If you enjoy Regency romance, this one should be at the top of your reading list.

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### **Lucinda says**

This exquisite romance will melt your heart!

As an ardent reader of historical romance I was thrilled to encounter Jenna Jaxon and delve into a deliciously seductive tale set within the Georgian period. London in the 18th Century was the ideal setting for the feisty heroine and drop-dead-gorgeous hero of this terrific tale, as it is as vibrant and as colourful as the characters themselves. This is an incredibly well written novel filled with lavish detail and simply stunning descriptions that ensnare the senses and broaden the mind. Jenna writes with such beautiful fluidity {it is almost like poetry}, while at the same time the easy-to-read, fast-paced style makes her story all the more effortless to get lost within. Because the captivating narrative isn't bogged down with old-style, flowery language or long

descriptive sentences this is an original piece of prose with a current and thoroughly contemporary feel to it. Jenna presents you with an inspired 'fresh' take on classic, vintage historical romance and so reaches out to a wide-readership. I was ever so impressed by this tempting treat that captured my heart and mind so utterly and completely that I honestly did not want the tale to end, having read this book in a single sitting!

'Only scandal will do' is the first instalment of 'the house of pleasure' series. **A word of warning: this story contains a blade-wielding heroine who crosses swords with a master of sensuality.**

The story begins very dramatically with the kidnapping of Lady Katarina Fitzwilliam in her Greek-inspired costume; very fast-paced and exciting which instantly draws you into the story. Flipped on its head, you are then introduced to the devilishly magnetic Duncan Ferrers {Marquess of Dalbury}. It is obvious where and when the two main characters are going to meet and so this part of the plot was expected, however I was not bored in the least but rather anxious for the event to transpire and the story to unfold...what would happen when Duncan claps eyes on our heroine?

Katarina is a fantastic protagonist with a fabulously fiery spirit and no-nonsense nature, she certainly isn't your *prima donna* who looks pretty and is so reserved and inactive. To have such memorable main characters is what makes this book so unbelievably good and what turns it from {what could have been a predictable, dull novel into something truly exceptional} and most notably...unique! In London society a person's reputation is the most important thing they have and so the main focus of this tale {to avoid scandal at all costs}, is a great 'focus point' that the author has drawn from.

Unputdownable and addictive this book had me glued to the pages throughout, lost within the past that was a piquant fusion of 'The Duchess' {Amanda Foreman} in parts and reminiscent of 'Fanny Hill' UK period drama TV series {adaptation of John Cleland's erotic novel}.

I would highly recommend this brilliant book ~ **4.5 stars!**

\*I won a copy of Jenna Jaxon's novel 'Only scandal will do' through a GoodReads, first-read book giveaway\*

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## Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Only Scandal Will Do by Jenna Jaxon is, for the most part, an absolutely delightful Regency romp with just a touch of romantic suspense to add the right amount of spice to its story of a marquess in pursuit of a scandal-free marriage and a sword-wielding heroine who promises to give him anything but.

Kat Fitzwilliam and Duncan Ferrars do anything but "meet cute". She's been kidnapped on her way to a ton masquerade ball, dressed as Athena, Goddess of War, unfortunately without the weaponry. He's visiting his ex-mistress' whorehouse for one last fling before attending that same ball. And there he sees a masked red-headed beauty in the midst of a Greco-Roman tableaux, and Duncan buys her services for the night. Of course he thinks she's a lady of the house.

By the time he starts thinking with the brain above his shoulders, he's already compromised her virtue; not in

fact, but enough to cause a scandal. And it would be a scandal; Kat Fitzwilliam is Lady Katarina Fitzwilliam, the sister of the Earl of Manning, and Duncan is the Marquess of Dalbury. To save Kat's reputation, Duncan must marry her, if he can find her. She scratched his face, clonked him over the head soundly with a pitcher, and escaped the brothel.

There's no scandal if no one knows there's a scandal.

But too many people do know. Kat knows that she nearly gave in to the sensual stranger with the practiced seduction techniques. It was only when she realized that he was only pretending to believe her story that she found the will to fend him off. His techniques were very, very good. But she never saw his face, he remained masked.

The doctor who treated her bruises knows, and thinks she was raped. And the Bow Street Runner in charge of the case, Reginald Matthews, has entirely too many good guesses about what happened for Kat's peace of mind.

Her brother Jack mostly believes the story she fabricated about unlocked doors and lucky escapes, but then Jack was knocked unconscious and left behind by her kidnappers. He wasn't the prey they were after.

Kat plans to return to their Virginia home to escape any possibility of meeting her tormentor again. She hopes that if she marries a friend in Virginia, she'll eventually forget the taste of passion she found. Friendship she trusts; what happened in that locked room was tinged with lies and deceit.

But Duncan finds her first, partly by accident, but also through determination. He's been hunting every ton function in the hopes of finding the elusive woman who haunts his dreams. He wants to do the right thing, but he also just wants Kat.

But he'll have to fight for her. And only one person can defend Kat's honor. Kat herself. She won't let Duncan and her brother kill each other for her, she won't let them guilt her into a marriage she doesn't think is right. If there's going to be a duel, she'll fight it herself.

Kat can wield a sword as well as any man, and better than most.

Too bad that's not the last battle they'll need to fight to win their chance at happiness.

Escape Rating B: The auction scene in the brothel, and its aftermath, is a terrific setup for the story. The reader gets to see inside both of the main characters, and gets to see how they tick. Kat is not just feisty, but very unconventional, and you see how and why she got that way. Her attitudes make sense; she's not a typical Regency debutante for very good reasons. Duncan's thoughts and actions are logical from his perspective; although you want him to believe Kat right away, unfortunately he probably wouldn't in that situation.

However, while I understand the necessity of avoiding the scandal, I found Kat's willingness to fall in love with the man who caused it a bit too quick. After she spent so much time agonizing over his demonstrated lack of respect for her, she fell too easily. Leaving for Virginia was an option, because her brother would have been fine afterwards. Scandals never affect the man as much as the woman. It's not fair, but it's true.

On the other hand, back to the suspense angle, it took me a while to figure out who the real villain in the piece was, and just how far and how deep his villainy ran. Very nice job on the dastardly suspense business.



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## **Zili says**

I think by now it must be clear for regular readers of my blog and reviews, just how much I like historical fiction. I'm not really sure why, because generally I tend to favour anything sci-fi, fantasy or paranormal related, but for me there's just something about a good historical romance; maybe it's a Brit thing (Downton Abbey anybody?! In historical romances I often find the female lead is either overly prissy or the male is too "I'm Lord of the Manor" for my tastes. BUT I really liked both the MC's in Only Scandal Will Do.

Lady Katarina 'Kat' Fitzwilliam and her brother (the new Earl) have left their home in Virginia to take up residence in England. Duncan Ferrers, Marquess of Dalbury (I kept thinking of Edward Ferrars in Sense and Sensibility) has returned to London after a year hiding in Italy, knowing he needs to marry and produce an heir.

Duncan doesn't know the former Earl has died and is unaware of Kat and her brother, so when he comes across Kat in a brothel he obviously doesn't believe her story about be a kidnapped Lady. The opening scenes in the 'pleasure house' were really funny because the reader could see Duncan was heading for disaster but can do nothing to stop him.

Duncan is instantly attracted to Kat and even though she desperately denies it, she is very drawn him. Duncan decides the best way to avoid further scandal (which is definitely something he doesn't need) and to conveniently get a beautiful is to marry Kat. Kat didn't meet Duncan under the best circumstances, regarding him as a 'rake' and playboy and doesn't want to marry him. They agree to a wager to decide, I'll leave you to discover what happens...

The interaction between Kat and Duncan is really funny; they quite often irritate the hell out of each other but I found their relationship believable and entertaining.

Only Scandal Will Do is a fun historical romance, with more than a hint of scandal!

4 Stars in my Sky!

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

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## **Casea Major says**

What does a lady do when she's kidnapped and sold in a whorehouse auction?

She should seek the help of a gentlemen and barring that, knock him over the head and run like hell!

Katarina finds herself in a compromising situation with The Marquess of Dalbury. In an attempt to make things right, the Marquess offers to marry her. Though Katarina is fiercely attracted to the handsome rake, she is unwilling to live her life married to him. So she challenges him to a duel for her freedom...if she wins, she goes back to America. If he wins, they immediately marry - like right THEN.

When she loses to the skill of her new husband, Katarina shuts him out of her heart and her bedchamber. Duncan vows to take possession of both and what ensues is a fun, romantic romp between two people with a strong attraction and growing love between them.

I loved this story. The historical accuracy is flawless and the prose is like eating a rich dessert. Well-written and plotted, the story flows fast and I found myself sad when it was over. Highly enjoyable and recommended.

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### **Carrie Vaughn says**

I have always had a soft spot for historical romance. It was what I first cut my teeth on and I've taken pleasure in reading them ever since. Jenna Jaxon shows her passion for historical accuracy by describing setting and attire in detail.

The Marquess Dalbury first meets our heroine on a sale block in a whorehouse in London where he buys her for a remarkable sum. She pleads her case to be released, that he help her. He believes it part of a sensual game and makes a move on her. She wounds him, hits him over the head with a pitcher and flees. She is found by the authorities and is sent home to her brother.

Katarina Fitzwilliam knows if a word is breathed about being in the brothel, she will be considered impure and unmarriageable. Not only her reputation, but that of her brother will be ruined. She sets a plan to marry a seafarer from her homeland of Virginia and make a life for herself there. If she can do so before her husband-to-be discovers the news, all will be well.

Unfortunately for her, the Marquess discovers the truth of Katarina's story and seeks her out. He is infatuated with her and sets up a crazy scheme to force her into marriage so he can smooth over the scandal himself. After a duel to save her honor, Katarina agrees to enter into marriage with him.

Of course there is a happily ever after involved after much sniping and hate toward one another.

(view spoiler)

I enjoyed the attention to detail and focus on the time period. This traditional bodice-ripper is like a journey into my romance-past.

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### **Maggie says**

The start of this book was brilliant. The threat of a scandal brought the hero and heroine together, forcing them into a marriage neither of them anticipated, but only one of them welcomed.

\*spoiler alert\*

I was intrigued by the mystery surrounding Lady Katarina's abduction and the circumstances in which she met Lord Dalbury. I thought it a bit of a stretch that Duncan essentially fell in love with Kat that night, especially since he thought her a whore and she managed to knock him unconscious. If I brushed that aside,

however, the relationship between Kat and Duncan progressed exactly how I thought it should. I was glad that Kat fought against him and stood up for herself.

While the story started off great, I thought the ending started to drag. It did build up some excitement when Kat was abducted yet again, but the knowledge that Tommy Redmond was the man who orchestrated the ruination of Kat in the hands of Duncan just didn't sit right with me. While it wasn't quite so far fetched that a man so consumed by jealousy for his friend could cause a scandal for Duncan, there was no hints of it in the story. It felt like it came right out of left field. The only time I sensed something wrong was when Kat felt uneasy with Tommy asking her to ride with him. There was potential to develop Tommy's character a lot more and the author didn't explore it. It was also never explained what hold Tommy had on Amoria Vestry.

Then there was the part where Lady Juliet, Duncan's sister, ran off with a strange man. That was a plot twist put in simply to entice the reader to buy the second book. It added nothing to the plot and just felt contrived. While I have no problem with author's leaving a few minor threads open to explore in more depth in another story, this threat felt much larger. It either should have been explored in this story, or it should have been left for the next story completely. It left me feeling a little cheated.

If you are looking for an entertaining historical romance that makes you laugh at times, however, definitely give this a chance.

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by: Sarah

Book provided by: Publisher

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

Only Scandal Will Do packed quite the punch right from the start with Lady Katherine Fitzwilliam being kidnapped on her way to a ball and delivered to a brothel where she was gagged and sold to the highest bidder in an auction. The author did an excellent job of drawing the reader in and making you feel the wide range of emotions that Kat was experiencing.

Initially I understood why Kat was horrified with Duncan (he did just buy her at an auction) but towards the middle of the book her attitude became tiresome and the story started to wane. Her animosity towards Duncan went on too long. The last third of the book however, oh my! The action picked up and then some. Lots of excitement at the end and things started to really heat up.

Duncan's character was fabulous. During the brothel scene right after the auction I really wasn't sure how I would feel about him but I must say his character really impressed me a lot. He showed a lot of patience and kindness with Kat. More than she deserved for a while there. Kudos to him when he finally snapped and gave her the verbal lashing she deserved.

The interaction between Duncan and Kat in the barn when they were discussing Juliet riding Romeo the horse was cute and held a lot of flirtatious innuendo. I would have enjoyed seeing more of this throughout the middle of the story and watched the two gradually grow closer together rather than witnessing Kat's bitterness.

This story held a lot of promise for many more in the series to come with all the wonderful secondary

characters: Jack, Juliet and Reginald. It is actually very obvious the next book will be Juliet's. I cannot wait to find out her escapade turns out.

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