



The Pleasures of Passion

Sabrina Jeffries

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When Niall Lindsey, the Earl of Margrave, is forced to flee after killing a man in a duel, he expects his secret love, Brilliana Trevor, to go with him, or at the very least wait for him. To his shock, she does neither and sends him off with no promise for the future. Seven years and one pardon later, Niall returns to England disillusioned and cynical. And being blackmailed by the government into working with his former love to help catch a counterfeiter connected to her father doesn't improve his mood any. But as his role as Brilliana's fake fiancé brings his long-buried feelings to the surface once again, he wonders who is more dangerous—the counterfeiter or the woman rapidly stealing his heart.

Forced to marry another man after Niall was exiled, the now widowed Brilliana wants nothing to do with the reckless rogue who she believes abandoned her to a dreary, loveless life. So having to rely on him to save her father is the *last* thing she wants, much less trusts him with....But as their scheme strips away the lies and secrets of their shared past, can she let go of the old hurt and put her pride aside? Or will the pleasures of their renewed passion finally enable them both to rediscover love?

The Pleasures of Passion Details

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Author : Sabrina Jeffries

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From Reader Review The Pleasures of Passion for online ebook

Kimberly says

4.25 stars - My review cross-posted from Wit and Sin: <http://witandsin.blogspot.com/2017/06...>

There's nothing I love more than a well-written reunion romance, and with *The Pleasures of Passion* Sabrina Jeffries has delivered an excellent one. Niall and Brilliana's story is lively, engaging, passionate, and so addictive that I read it in one sitting.

At seventeen and twenty-three respectively, Brilliana and Niall were hopeful, naïve, and in love. But when Niall was forced to flee England after a duel, Brilliana refused to run away with him. It's easy to see why the two of them were first torn apart: they were young, unprepared for what happened, and easily manipulated by those they trusted. Seven years later, Niall has been pardoned and is allowed to return to England while Brilliana is a widow determined to build a good life for her son. Sparks flew between them when they met again for the first time in the previous Sinful Suitors book, *The Danger of Desire*, but with so much hurt and misunderstanding between them, both are content to merely avoid one another. Fate has different plans for them. Both of them are forced to work together to try and learn if Brilliana's father is involved in a counterfeiting scheme, and close quarters mean old feelings are sure to surface. Normally I'm not a fan of big misunderstandings or secrets, but surprisingly it didn't bother me in *The Pleasures of Passion*. Even though I wanted Niall and Brilliana to open up right away, it was logical why they had trouble trusting one another and why they kept their secrets close to their hearts.

As individuals, Brilliana and Niall are likeable characters; they're smart, loyal, have good hearts, and they care deeply for their loved ones. As a couple, their chemistry is fantastic. It's clear that – old wounds aside – the two of them have never stopped loving each other. Because of this, there's emotion running through every scene, making the pages fairly crackle with energy. I couldn't put *The Pleasures of Passion* down because I wanted to see them find the happily ever after that was so long overdue for them. Add in a web of lies and deception the two of them must untangle in order to crack a counterfeiting case, and it's easy to see why there's never a dull moment in this book. I absolutely adored Niall and Brilliana's story and I cannot wait to see what Ms. Jeffries has in store for the intriguing spymaster Baron Fulkham in the next Sinful Suitors book!

FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

I always enjoy books by Sabrina Jeffries. Sooo good! Copy rec'd for review consideration

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I loved this book from the very first page. It was set up completely different from her normal work, leading in with a couple that already knew each other. I just knew this was going to be a hot read right from the get-go. And I was not wrong.

Sabrina Jeffries has a wonderful way of capturing the readers attention. While you know this is a regency romance style book, she has the ability to write in such a way that you almost feel as if it were in today's setting. Witty conversations, lusty encounters, and loads of steam.

This book was exciting passionate and never a dull moment. The author knows exactly how to craft a story that is never dull, never boring, and always unique. Her characters are spot on and a perfect balance of excitement, sexy, and loaded with passion.

Her books are always a great way to spend the weekend.

full review <http://amidlifewife.com/the-pleasures...>

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## **Bj says**

4 "Misunderstandings & Second Chances" Stars for the Story and Narration.

Just what could cause two young people in love to lead completely separate lives for years: misunderstandings. Double misconceptions with the aid of an Earl turn love into hate for an Earl's heir and his intended. But when a forced reunion is orchestrated by a spymaster, will true love find a way to reign supreme?

Niall Lindsey, the heir to Earldom and Brilliana Trevor are in love and intend on marrying. Then the unthinkable happens and Niall is involved in a duel and kills a man. Brilliana is told the duel was over a woman and her heart is broken. How could she have misread Niall so wrongly? Moreover, as Brilliana has a sick mother and an unreliable father who has gambled away much of the family's wealth, she feels she has no choice but to stay where she is to take care of her mother.

Niall, on the other hand, can't believe that his one true love refused to follow him out of England when the duel and death lead to a necessary exile. How could she be so cold and heartless? Perhaps its true that all she sought was the comforts of being a Countess, and now that he must flee the country and the same comforts and privileges surely will no longer await abroad, she finds herself no longer "in love" with him.

Fast-forward seven years later. Brilliana is now a widow with a young son and Niall has finally been vindicated with the aid of a spymaster for whom he worked for while away. Niall is finally back in England but that same spymaster who he owes much too has asked for his help in nabbing a counterfeiter (an offense akin to treason and punishable by death). Even worse that same spymaster threatens Brilliana with the apprehension of her father for this crime in order to secure her cooperation. With no choice, both Brilliana and Niall reluctantly agree to work together to find the answers sought and nab the true mastermind behind the counterfeit ring. Being reunited again will the misconceptions continue or will true love find a way to break through all the disillusionment?

Justine Eyre is an experienced narrator who has narrated many romances. I have listened to a fair number of her paranormal/UF romances as well as a few historical romances. Ms. Eyre definitely has a distinctive, somewhat nasally voice, and also has an interesting pronunciation of certain words which she tends to elongate. Therefore I urge you to sound sample the narration before buying to ensure that it's to your liking.

From a voice differentiation perspective, Ms. Eyre did a good job of deepening her voice sufficiently to

create genuine sounding male voices. She also does a good job of differentiating between even among characters of the same gender based on personality traits. For example, she made her voice sound older for Brilliana's father. I also think Ms. Eyre does a good job of communicating emotion.

It is a trope often used, but I found myself for the most part engaged and cheering on this couple to find their HEA in the end. Perhaps the most intriguing part of the story overall though was the suspense plot that was thrown in to keep the listener guessing as to the real culprit (and Brilliana's father's true role) in the counterfeit scheme that Niall and Brilliana are forced to work together to solve. All in all this wasn't my favorite book by Sabrina Jeffries but it worked to pass the time and it kept me engaged until the end.

Review copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Ceki says**

[ (hide spoiler)]

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### **Sonya Heaney says**

Also posted **HERE** .

#### **4.5ish stars**

A note: this book has one of THE most embarrassing titles ever, with a *Bold and the Beautiful* cover. Don't judge it for that!

For those who are wondering about the heroine's name: **HERE** is the origin of "Brilliana". I liked the choice because it was historically accurate AND unusual. Character names in historical romance can become repetitive, but then authors usually make the mistake of going for anachronistic choices.

I really liked this book. It uses my favourite trope: the reunion romance. It also resolved a storyline that was hinted at in the last instalment in the series.

When I review so many books I do lose track of characters. Between the last entry in the series and this one I've read God only knows how many books, but at least forty in the historical romance genre alone. I do wish I'd gone back and reread the scenes between Niall and Brilliana before starting this one – you don't need to, but it adds something.

There are so many secrets and lies between hero and heroine in *The Pleasures of Passion*. Niall had to flee England after fighting a duel, but Brilliana wasn't free to run away with him in that moment. Both of them being young at the time, they were easy to manipulate into thinking each had betrayed the other.

This resulted in years of separation, and Brilliana being forced into marriage to another man, a man who died in terrible circumstances a few years later.

Now, this is the sort of angst I like, especially so when it's done by a skilled author, as Sabrina Jeffries is. I

love more than any other trope an angsty reunion, and I think the drama was drawn out for just long enough.

I always worry when the terms “spy” and “fake engagement” turn up in this genre. I’m not a fan of either, and yet in this book they both worked perfectly for me. The counterfeiting storyline gave the two of them opportunities to sort through the disaster of their failed relationship, and to get over their anger.

I was also happy with Brilliana’s little son, who read as a real child, not a Romance Novel Kid.

I don’t really have any complaints. Pretty much everything in this one worked for me, and it was one of my better reads by this author. And yay for a fair-haired hero!

I will say, though: having a character called “uncle Toby” was a little distracting for me. Uncle Tobys is a breakfast cereal brand!

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*Review copy provided by NetGalley.*

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### **Akansha Gupta says**

I received an ARC from NetGalley

I’m sorry, I did not finish the book. The plot was based on miscommunications which could have been easily avoided if the characters were honest and open with each other. I was under the impression that the miscommunication would be cleared early on in the book, and that it would focus on the intrigue. That idea was laughable since I knew who the forger was within 5 sentences of him appearing in the book.

The characters were judgemental, jealous, shallow and plain tedious. Worst of all, they kept secrets from each other just to draw the plot along and to provide shock value when they were revealed.

Additionally, I fell out of love with a character I liked from an earlier book in the series after he selfishly advocated keeping secrets.

Additionally, the jealousy trope was kind of annoying. I honestly expected better from a book I was really looking forward to.

Pleasure of Passions was not good to me.

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### **Jackie says**

Another DNF historical. Read more than halfway, since the book had gotten good reviews other places. But just couldn’t keep going. The estrangement between our two protagonists, who fell in love at 17 and 23 seven years earlier, is due to a BIG misunderstanding, rather than any character-based conflict. When the two are forced back together (through a silly counterfeit/spy plot), all they do is throw recriminations at one another. And then suddenly mid-book they’re getting it on against a tree in a public park. And then immediately yelling at one another again once the pants are buttoned up and the petticoats lowered. Especially not fond of the “no, no, we shouldn’t” on the part of the heroine, immediately followed by her succumbing to the hero’s kissing, which he does constantly to shut her up, and to “prove” that she still is attracted to him. Yuck.

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## **Lover of Romance says**

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

The Pleasures of Passion continues this delightful series: The Sinful Suitors. In this fourth installment, we have a tale of two people that fell in love when they were young and innocent but certain circumstances, broke them apart. Our hero in a effort to see justice for his sister, had to leave the continent and our heroine had a very sick mother and couldn't leave her. Certain misunderstanding happened and both Niall and Bree believed the worst about each other due to lies and secrets that wasn't their own doing. Now Niall has returned with a full pardon, and Bree has been a widow for a year with a young son. Niall has been working as a spy for England, doing various jobs. Now he has one last job, but it will mean working with the woman he has never stopped loving and one he could never have. There is a criminal working with counterfeit money, and they believe Bree's father is involved. So Bree and Niall are reluctant to work together, especially with the rising tension that builds between them.

I had a wonderful time reading this book, and I was quickly caught up in the plot and the romance. I have a soft spot for second chance romances, and this one was just right for me. Their bantering was quick witted and it was interesting to see these two work through these issues and in such fun and delightful ways as well. We also see the outer influences that drove them apart and see them learning to slowly trust each other. At first they don't think too highly of each other, and having to work through the lies they were told about each other, isn't easy and really have to work through it emotionally and end up learning to trust in each other, which trust isn't easy to rebuild once its lost.

I was quite intrigued to see how this book turned out, and the slow building romance was enchanting. I was hooked on this couple. Both Niall and Bree were fascinating character, and I just wanted more of these two. These just click right when they are together, and even when they are at odds, there is an underlying connection between them. And even though the villain wasn't as unpredictable as I would have liked, the way the story played out was unpredictable and the development of events were delightful and seeing the way Bree and Niall come together and work together to find the real criminal.

Sabrina Jeffries hasn't lost her touch at all, and this book proved it. This story proved to be just as well written as her earlier books that I first fell in love with. This story had everything you desire in a romance....a solid mystery to solve, a sizzling chemistry, endearing characters, a well balanced plot and some twists to keep you on your toes....SIMPLY WONDERFUL!!

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## **Carvanz says**

This book was an absolute pleasure! It's been a while since I've read a Sabrina Jeffries book and after

reading this one I wondered why I had let it go so long.

Niall has ardently courted Brilliana behind their families' as well as society's back. They are both in love and waiting for the day Bree makes her coming out so they will no longer have to hide their relationship. When Niall kills a man in a duel he is sent away. Before he leaves, he begs Brilliana to come away with him. Due to several warranted concerns, she remains behind with the understanding that she will contact him when she is free from her responsibilities. Niall never hears from her again. Seven years later he has been pardoned and has returned to London, his family and society. But not to Brilliana.

This story had lots of plot devices that kept these two apart and considering the era, they were completely acceptable. It starts off fast and never slows down as they each work out their issues. Of course there were times that I just wanted to shake them for not speaking up regarding the reasons their plans had not worked out when they were younger.

Brilliana is a heroine who has had her heart broken throughout life and in the process learned how to protect it. She is strong and independent and determined to make the best life possible for her and her son. Niall was hurt deeply by Bree's apparent abandonment. However, it doesn't take him long to realize that he still wants her and he sets out to use their situation in an attempt to win her back.

This is a fast paced read with lots of great banter and plenty of steam. Definitely a read I would recommend to anyone who enjoys historical romances.

ARC provided for an honest review

Dual POV

Safe

No triggers

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### **Joanna Loves Reading says**

I can't say I read this closely or that I liked any of the characters. I didn't think the romance was great, and that the subplot fairly silly. Oh well. Given all that I should have hated this book. I read it at a fast clip and wasn't wondering why I am wasting my time with this. I guess I just like SJs writing. I have the background to go on to my ARC for the next book, which I am happy about.

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### **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

Book Review For: 'The Pleasures of Passion' by Sabrina Jeffries  
The Pleasures of Passion by Sabrina Jeffries  
My rating: 5 of 5 stars 'The Pleasures of Passion' by Sabrina Jeffries is book Four in the "Sinful Suitors" series. This is the story of Niall Lindsey, the Earl of Margrave and Brilliana Trevor. I have read the other books in this series but feel this can be a standalone book. Niall and Brilliana have been sneaking around

meeting each other...they are young and in love. But Niall hasn't worked up the nerve to tell his father that he is in love with Brillian whose father is of a lower Title and has a gambling issue...so he hasn't yet asked her father for her hand. When she gets a note from Niall to meet him she quickly goes to the meeting. There he tells her that he killed a man in a duel and has to leave immediately. Niall ask that Brilliana comes with him and they can marry in Spain. But Brilliana doesn't want to leave her sick mother nor is she sure he will actually marry her because he isn't trusting her enough to tell her why he dueled. So at first she tells him no but then goes on to say that she will plan on getting things in order and meet him later once he settles. They are to communicate through his father. Now several years later there are angry feelings between the two because the other thinks that the other person let them down. But they are forced to work together so that they both can what each thinks they want. I have enjoyed this series and this book just added to the entertainment of this series. "My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read."<https://www.amazon.com/gp/profile/A2H>..... <https://www.facebook.com/RomanceBookR...>  
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## Caz says

**I've given this a C+ at AAR, so that's 3.5 stars.**

**The Pleasures of Passion** is the fourth book in Sabrina Jeffries' Sinful Suitors series, and it brings to a close the plotline that has run through all the books so far, that of Niall Lindsey, the Earl of Margrave who, seven years before this book opens, killed a man in a duel and was forced to flee the country as a result. Because parts of Niall's story were revealed in the other books – most notably book two, *The Study of Seduction* – there will be spoilers in this review.

Before the fateful duel took place, Niall had met and fallen in love with seventeen-year-old Brilliana Payne, but because she was not yet out in society they kept their relationship a secret. Niall planned to ask for her hand as soon as he could court her openly, but because of the duel, he instead asks her to leave with him that very day as he cannot afford to linger in England. Brilliana – or Bree, as Niall nicknames her – is distraught and confused as well as concerned for her mother's failing health and in the end tells him she can't go with him – but they part with a sort of vague agreement that she will join him as soon as it's possible for her to do so.

When, just a few months later, Niall learns that Bree has married someone else, the suspicions planted by his father before he left – that she didn't want to accompany him because she would then be unable to enjoy her position as a viscountess and move about in society – took root, and over the years of his exile he became accustomed to thinking of her as having wanted him for his rank and fortune rather than himself.

For her part, Bree hears the rumours that quickly begin to circulate after Niall's flight – that he and his opponent had duelled over another woman – and believes he had been merely toying with her affections. Nonetheless, she can't stop loving him, and rejects other offers for her hand, until her father promises her to Reynold Trevor as payment for the large gambling debt he owes the man's father.

Seven years later, Bree is a widow with a young son, and Niall has secured a pardon thanks to the intervention of a high-ranking Home Office official, Lord Fulckham, the spymaster for whom Niall had worked on numerous occasions while living abroad. We witnessed the first, awkward meeting between the former lovers in the previous book, *The Danger of Desire*, and at the opening of this one, they are still wary

of each other and labouring under the misapprehensions fostered by Niall's late father and society gossip.

Even though Niall and Bree are linked by ties of family and friendship, they are determined to keep away from each other and not to fall under the other's spell once more – a plan which is destined to be unworkable when they are asked by Lord Fulkham to help him to track down a counterfeiter. Bree wonders what that can possibly have to do with her, when Fulkham explains that his main suspect is her father, and that he needs her and Niall to pretend to be betrothed in order for Niall to get close to Oswald Payne and ferret out the truth. Not sure she will be able to withstand being so close to Niall without falling for him all over again, Bree refuses, but when Fulkham explains that counterfeiting is tantamount to treason and thus punishable by death, she relents. She has no great love for her father, but doesn't want to see him hang, and, deciding they might as well get started at once, she and Niall announce their engagement that very evening.

The book utilises some tropes I'm fond of – the fake relationship and the second-chance romance – but sadly, both fall flat because there's little chemistry between the protagonists and for at least the first half of the story, we're in Big Mis territory – a plot device I really dislike. Niall and Bree think the worst of each other based on no more than seven-year-old assumptions and make hardly any attempt to look beyond them, even though they are still desperately yearning for each other. Ms. Jeffries does begin to unravel the web of lies surrounding them by around the half-way point, and I'll give her credit for that; but by then my interest in them as a couple had waned and I couldn't bring myself to care very much whether they got together or not. Bree was hung up on the fact that Niall wouldn't tell her the real reason he fought the duel and continued to mistrust him because of it; and trying to explain that away by having Bree suffering from abandonment anxiety – her mother left her (died) her husband left her (committed suicide) and her father didn't care for her much (that's true) – didn't wash.

Niall is a fairly colourless chap, really, when all's said and done. He believed what his father insinuated about Bree being a fortune hunter in the absence of other information, and her marriage so soon after his departure only seemed to confirm it. He's determined not to fall in love with her again, but he can't help it, especially once he uncovers the truth about her marriage and his father's deception. He desperately wants to tell Bree the truth about the duel, but gave his word never to tell anyone so as to protect Clarissa; and I found Edwin's request that Niall continue to conceal the truth from Bree strange – and ultimately, it's just another way of prolonging that particular plotpoint.

The mystery plot is weak, and the identity of the villain is obvious from the moment he steps on to the page; and while there is nothing especially wrong with either Niall or Bree, they are bland and their romance is uneventful and unmemorable. Because they're so obviously already in love there's no romantic tension or looking forward to the first kiss – and more – and the fact that Bree succumbs so easily doesn't say much for her resolve not to let Niall into her life again.

I've enjoyed other books in this series, most notably **The Study of Seduction**, which remains one of my favourite novels by of Ms. Jeffries. Unfortunately, **The Pleasures of Passion** lacks both pleasure and passion and I can't recommend it to anyone other than die-hard fans of the author's or those following the series who simply must read every book for the sake of completeness.

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### **AnnMarie says**

The Pleasures of Passion is the fourth book in the Sinful Suitors series by Sabrina Jeffries. Although part of a series it can easily be read as a stand alone book, although if you read the other books first, you will have a

better appreciation of this book and its characters.

Brilliana Payne and Niall Lindsay were desperately in love. They would meet secretly in the park where they would share passionate kisses. They were just waiting for the right time to let people know they were together. Then the unthinkable happened, Niall ended up fighting a duel and killed his opponent. In order to not be arrested and hung for committing murder Niall had to leave the country, flee to Spain. He asked Brilliana to go with him, but he wouldn't tell her why he had duelled. Sadly for our couple, Brilliana's mother was bedridden, and her father spent more time gambling the family's money away, than helping look after his wife. There was no way that Brilliana could follow her heart and run away with Niall, especially when he wouldn't trust her enough to tell her why he was in a duel in the first place. He made her promise to keep in touch with him via his father who would pass on any letters. The hope was that at some point they could somehow finally be together. Little did Niall know that his father couldn't be trusted. The man managed to make both feel betrayed by the other, and their relationship ended in heartbreak for them both.

That was their past, it's now the present and Niall is back in England after a powerful friend helped him get a pardon for his crime. While abroad he worked for that man, spying for England, and now he is back in England he has another job to do for him. He has to try to infiltrate a counterfeit operation. The problem is, Brilliana's father is the chief suspect. Niall is told that because of his past dalliance with Brilliana that if she agrees, they will have to pretend to be engaged, allowing Niall to spend more time with her father, hoping to find out if he indeed is involved in counterfeit money making or laundering.

Thrown together again it doesn't take long for old feelings to resurface between our couple. Unfortunately there is still a lot of anger and hurt between them too. They have a second chance at love, but will either admit they want it, or will they be too scared to have their hearts broken again? Can they have learned to trust each other enough to be honest about how they feel?

What I loved about this book is that there was never a dull moment. There was the thrill of finding out who was counterfeiting money, and trying to capture them, and huzzah, I had no idea who was involved altogether until right at the end. There was the passion between Niall and Brilliana, and wow, the author certainly knows how to write a build up to a climatic scene between the two! Somebody pass me a fan!! There was also the constant battle they struggled with, knowing they still loved each other, but not wanting to give into it because they can't trust each other. Just waiting to see how they each react when they find out what Niall's father did to keep them apart kept me on tenterhooks. This book had everything I love in a book and I absolutely recommend it.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced readers' copy of this book.

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### **Jessica Grogan says**

This book has two of my least favorite tropes going on: 1. A second chance romance and 2. Problems easily resolved by the H/h just talking to each other instead of being stubborn.

I despise second chance romances but thought that Sabrina Jeffries could probably make me care. She didn't. The characters have already known each other and had their first kiss, so that takes away two things to look forward to in the book. And since they were already in love we get to read the same thoughts over and over, lots of "if only".

I get that in real life couples often face problems because they're just too stubborn to talk to each other. That doesn't mean I want to read an entire book about it. It causes the H/h to just keep having the same exact thoughts over and over again, often within pages of just having thought it.

The above issues make for a tedious and drawn out read.

I received an eARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Jaci says**

This is the sixth story in The Sinful Suitors Series, four full length novels and two novellas. I have read them all and recommend them highly.

This story is about Niall Lindsey The Earl of Margrave and Brilliana Trevor. Young and in love they thought nothing could come between them. Then Niall is forced to fight a duel to protect his sister and is exiled to the Continent. Brilliana is devastated but she cannot go with him because if she left there would be no one to take care of her ill mother.

Seven years later Niall is back in England given a full pardon and is determined to avoid Brilliana. She is now a widow with a young son. He doesn't understand why she married another man just a few months after he left England. She betrayed their love and he cannot forgive her.

Brilliana was broken hearted when Niall left London, but she was only 17 years old. When pressured to marry another man to rescue her Mother and Father from Debtor's prison she relents and marries. But she has never stopped loving Niall and her marriage was a mistake from the beginning. The only good that came out of her marriage was her son Silas. Now Niall is back in England and she is desperate to avoid him. She cannot go through that kind of heartache again.

This is a tale of young love, betrayal and redemption. Niall and Brilliana have secrets that have to come out if they have any chance of a happy ending. Niall is ready but Brilliana is not so sure. She cannot trust her judgement anymore when it comes to men and what her heart feels. Add in a family mystery that includes illegal activities.

This book will surprise and delight. Sabrina is a truly talented romance author who writes wonderful characters and surprising plots that are of the highest standards in Historical Romance. Her stories are wonderfully original. Witty dialogue, laugh out loud moments make her books must reads. I have been reading her stories since her first book was published "A Dangerous Love" which made me a lifelong fan. I will buy, read and keep her books, including all of the Deborah Martin novels.

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