



Only With Your Love

Lisa Kleypas

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Celia Vallerand fears for her life as she stares into the deep, arresting eyes of the dashing man who purchased her from the brigands who had abducted her. But it soon becomes clear that it's her virtue, not her life, that's in danger. The rugged, powerful renegade known only as "Griffin" arouses desires in Celia as dangerous as they are forbidden. And though she knows she must resist him, she fears she may be unable to do so.

But the magnificent adventurer is a man trapped in a perilous deception. And the shocking secrets he guards could deny him the love of the fair captive lady who has enslaved his reckless heart.

Only With Your Love Details

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Ally says

Seriously. There is something very wrong in my head.

Intellectually, I know why the heroine might come across as cold and unfeeling and all sorts of f*cked up...it's because her situation is all sorts of janked up. But still, the selfish little brat inside of me was all "I don't like her." Gah. What a whiner am I.

Note: read for the 2017 New Years Challenge, pirate category, AND as a monthly read in the Historical Romance group. 2 birds and all that. Judge away, beeches.

Setting / Time / Genre: American...1817...Louisiana

Series: Yes, but I have not read #1. Should I?

Sexy times: A few. Tame for Kleypas imho.

Plan on reading more by the author: Always. I'm most appreciative of her work.

Synopsis Ok, heroine, Celia, abducted by pirates is rescued by another pirate who FYI sorta kinda for sure possibly forces himself on her. Think male privilege argument here. For my part, I'm totes going out on a cypress limb (see what I did there??) and saying "yea, he basically raped her." So maybe that's my problem with the book, but I am digressing.

Anyhoo, he returns her to her new home. Things go on. There's still the matter of the other pirate who rape / male power imbalance pirate angered when he took Celia. His name is Justin, fyi. So the story goes on and I feel like I can't say a whole lot more because it's spoiler-y at that point.

(view spoiler)

Glad I got that out of the way.

Heroine Celia. Dude, she's cold. I said it. But it's protective cold. She's off putting. But I get it. It's safer to keep everyone at a distance. She's a complainer. Well, she's got plenty to complain about. She's demanding. And I get it. Plenty to demand. She's real. And therein must lie my other problem. Shake a finger and shame me. In retrospect, she's got my respect.

Hero Justin. I think I expressed my issues with him up above.

Why it did or didn't work for me: G_d dammit. Apparently it sorta worked. I won't lie. It got a little

draggy there around the 60% ish mark and I found myself going off and doing other things BUT it's still a good book. I think if we would have stayed on the character development and away from the last big adventure section of the book I would actually have liked it more. I felt like that detracted from the study of who these people were and how they reacted. And I tell you what, most people will not like some of their gut reactions. But if you sit back and think about it...you'll get sucked in.

As a side note: the whole cheek licking thing? Not ok. Ever.

Signed,

Keep your tongue out of my cheek

Out. Things to do and places to see.

Regan Walker says

Pirates in New Orleans!

Set in 1817, beginning in the Gulf of Mexico, this is the story of Celia Vallerand, who sails from France with her new husband, Philippe, to the home of his wealthy Creole family in New Orleans. Even though they are wed, he has yet to bed her. And then pirates attack their ship.

The book begins with some exciting scenes as pirate Dominic Legare kills the men and takes Celia captive as a present for his brother, Andre. In New Orleans, Celia is paraded in front of the pirates in a tavern when one "Capt. Griffin", a privateer turned pirate, spots her and decides to take her. Of course, he has to kill a few pirates to get her but he manages that quite nicely.

And then we learn Griffin is really Justin Vallerand, Philippe's twin brother (Celia didn't see him as like her husband because of Justin's beard). As it turns out neither brother acted much the hero when it came to women. Unable to restrain himself, Justin takes Celia's virtue before he returns her to his family, her in-laws. And then a tangled web is revealed as Celia and Justin clash while fighting the pirates together.

I have to say that this heroine came across a bit inconsistent and, at times, cold and indifferent. Kleypas writes well, of course, and there are some good surprises, but her fans might find this one a bit different than her usual Regencies. (Though set in the Regency period, it's does not take place in England and the heroine is French.) It's a mild bodice ripper and it does have pirates with some good action scenes.

When Strangers Marry is the first book in the 2-book series.

JennyG says

Hero was wonderful despite some non-pc behaviour. Although the heroine's reactions seemed realistic,

considering everything she was going through, I never quite warmed up to her. She kept grating on my nerves. Nonetheless it was a memorable read and I enjoyed it.

P.S. Hero never cheats. There is an attempt of rape by another man and forced seduction by the hero.

BRNTerri says

This takes place in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States in 1817 ten years after the previous book in the series. The heroine, Celia, is twenty-four. She has blond hair and brown eyes. The hero is Justin Vallerand and he has dark hair and blue eyes and is twenty-five. His identical twin brother, Philippe, is her husband.

Sadly, I only liked the first quarter of the book, which was the first 100 pages. So many things, so much action, took place during the beginning that I felt like there was nothing left for the rest of the story. Once Celia moved in with her in-laws the book became very boring to me.

Her in-laws were the hero and heroine of the previous book, *Only In Your Arms*, which was rewritten as *When Strangers Marry*. Starting when Celia moved in with them, they were featured throughout the entire novel. I don't think that was fair to the readers. They had their own book and ended up with another one. I didn't care for it.

Justin wasn't as alpha as I'd have expected him to be, judging by his personality in the previous book. There was a 'forced seduction' scene with Celia early on but other than that I don't think his personality was all that bad. I'd have preferred for him to have been more aggressive in nature. Celia was a bit fiesty and was a good match for him. Truth be told, I didn't care too much for either of them.

I thought there was too much hanging out at the plantation, since that's where most of the novel took place. I found it mostly boring and some things, like when someone was impersonating another, to be a bit silly and unoriginal. I consider this to be a very mild bodice ripper.

Other books by Lisa Kleypas can be found at fictiondb.com

♣ I grade this novel a C/3 stars.

Laura V. says

[Contiene muchos spoilers]

Kleypas metió la pata hasta el fondo, al convertir a Justin en un villano con todo lo que ello trae consigo. Siento un gran cariño hacia su personaje, por haberlo visto casi *madurar* en el libro anterior a éste. Pero hizo todo mal. No solo **no** le bastó hacer de Justin un **verdadero bastardo** sino que hizo de Phillipe, un chico con grandes posibilidades, tan bueno, tan amable, tan gentil, en un *cretino* y para colmo *matarlo* cuando el chico claramente se ganó su propio libro.

Celia la ~~zorra~~ prota, es todo lo que he destestado en siglos. No solo se la pasa fastidiando, sino que se da el lujo de elegir entre hermanos. Y sus POV son de lo peor. Pasa cada segundo, comparando la mínima acción de Justin con su amado *muerto*. Pero no en plan de *Oh, extraño a mi prometido*, sino en plan de *No es lo suficientemente bueno para mí, pero lo quiero solo para mí*.

No me gustan esas mujeres, que les dan la oportunidad de meter la pata y ellas se tiran de cabeza. Un poco de sentido común no le hubiera venido mal a esta chica. Claramente lo necesita.

Este libro está **mal**. No me gustó para nada. Justin merecía un futuro mejor. Está bien que haya querido alejarse de sus raíces, pero otra cosa, muy diferente, es odiarlos a todos. ¿Tanto le costaba compadecerse por el *fallecimiento* de su gemelo? ¿Qué tal una mínima cortesía con su viuda?

No me gustó. Es una trama aprovechada con los personajes incorrectos. Phillipe merecía su **propia historia**, no ser la cabeza de turco de esta. Justin merecía demostrar que podía ser quien quisiera ser, **sin necesidad de ser ese desastre andante que todo el mundo predecía que sería**, no cumplir sus expectativas y superarlas.

Mal, Kleypas, Mal.

Nenia ? Queen of Literary Trash, Protector of Out-of-Print Gems, Khaleesi of Bodice Rippers, Mother of Smut, the Unrepentant, Breaker of Convention ? Campbell says

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Lisa Kleypas is one of the most popular historical romance authors out there, and with good reason. Her Victorian and regency stories are charming, with strong heroines and to-die-for beta and alpha heroes. But what forgotten, moss-covered tales pave the beginning of her path to success? **TO THE BACK LIST!**

ONLY WITH YOUR LOVE is one of Kleypas's earlier stories. First published in 1992, it's one of those "new wave" bodice ripper tales that tried to be a little less politically incorrect and rapey than their absolutely over-the-top crazy-sauce-drenched predecessors.

*****SPOILERS SPOILERS SPOILERS*****

The heroine of our tale is the virginal Celia, who is going to New Orleans by ship to marry her husband, Phillipe Vallerand, who has waited this long to consummate the marriage. When we see them, he's about to give up all patience with that - until he's summoned by one of the crew because of pirates! Phillipe runs off, giving Celia his goodbyes and a pistol. Why a pistol? To shoot herself if the pirates invade her chambers, of course, because honor is everything.

Well, the pirates invade her chamber, but Celia doesn't have the guts to shoot herself, so she shoots one of the pirates in the guts. She's overpowered, and as the pirates are manhandling her out, she sees that Phillippe has been shot.

Meanwhile, on Pirate Island*, Captain Griffin is chilling out with his crew, and side-eying their rivals, the Legares. The two groups don't like each other, but have reached an uneasy stalemate. Griffin decides to end that stalemate when he sees the prize Legare and his men have. Griffin decides to buy her, and Legare argues with him, and then when they eventually reach a price, Dominic Legare says Griffin can't have her until his brother Andre rapes and tortures her first. They agree to fight a duel to the death for Celia, and Griffin ends up fighting someone who Legare names as his second.

Anyway, pirate honor doesn't mean much because Legare immediately tries to renege. Griffin escapes, kills Andre, and abducts Celia. After threatening to rape her a few handfuls of times, he actually does it, and Celia curses her traitorous body for liking it, says how much she hates herself, etc. Then she finds out that Griffin is related to her husband in some way, although he won't say how, and that his real name is Justin. Griffin/Justin dumps Celia off with her husband's family in New Orleans where it's revealed that Justin is actually Philippe's black sheep twin brother.

For a while, nothing really happens. Celia is with the Vallerands and mopes a lot. Then they find Justin who is all stabbed up, heal him, and lie to the authorities, saying that Justin is actually Philippe, so he doesn't get arrested for his pirate crimes. Celia angsts about her feelings, driving the family (and me) mad. Legare shows up again, wanting revenge, and claims that Philippe is actually alive and being held hostage. Celia and Justin are kidnapped, Justin is tortured, Celia is almost raped but then rescued. Legare is murdered. Philippe was actually having an affair while he was engaged to Celia, and has slept with the woman again. They decide that they weren't actually meant for each other, so Philippe marries the OW and Justin marries Celia.

THE END.

The beginning of this book was more like a traditional bodice ripper, with the pirate island and the duel to the death. I didn't even really have a problem with the forced seduction because that is something that a pirate would probably do, because they lack the morals of the societies that they pillage from. What bothered me was Celia's reaction to what happened, and the way their relationship went from there. She built up Justin as this noble man, who did what he wanted and was strong and brave, but he was a pirate who raped her when she was emotionally vulnerable and then mocked and taunted her about it afterwards. It was like that was completely forgotten once it was no longer relevant to the story. I get that this story is a product of a different times, when the typical romance formula was different, but this is a perfect example of why I do not tend to like bodice rippers in the 90s: early bodice rippers were brutal, and it was usually pretty clear that the hero was not a good guy. The 90s bodice rippers tried to soften this up, but actually ended up sending some pretty uncomfortably mixed signals, because here you have a hero who rapes, but he does it because he was

just so impassioned and in love he couldn't help himself? Nope! I am not buying that! I'll take the 1970s bodice ripper heroes over the 1990s bodice ripper heroes any day. They were just as full of sh*t, if you pardon my language, but at least they didn't try to sell that sh*t as chocolates and roses.

Celia is also a very unpleasant heroine. All she does is cry and mope. I also felt like the narrative really went out of its way to make her seem helpless and small, as she does not eat her food but "nibbles" it instead, and is described as skinny and child-like (several times, she's described as looking like a young boy). I did think it was an interesting touch that Celia did not speak much English and that this proved to be a difficulty for her in her exchanges with others, as that is something that was probably a big issue back then with Google Translate not being a thing, but that, too, seemed like yet another detail meant to render her dependent and helpless. I just can't help but compare her to the heroines of the Gamblers series and the Wallflowers series and come up short.

I love Lisa Kleypas, and I enjoyed this glimpse into what her early writing looked like. She has really found her voice since then, and her writing is so much more polished now. In that sense, books like these are great, because they create a compelling before and after for one of my favorite authors. However, I did not like the story - I thought it changed tone too many times, and did not find the heroine at all likable. I think this story would have been better if it had been published twenty years before, with an antihero character who actually acted like a give-no-forks pirate instead of a garden-variety douche-flower.

*Pirate island exists, by the way, and it's a terrifying place.

1 to 1.5 stars

Geo Marcovici says

Translation widget on The blog!

Frumoasa carte, cu o ac?iune ce nu stagneaz?. Te tine cu sufletul la gura!

Recenzia mea completa o g?si?i aici:

<https://justreadingmybooks.wordpress....>

kris says

Celia and Philippe Vallerand, newlyweds, are on their way to America from France when PIRATES.

Philippe gets stabbed and tossed overboard. Celia gets captured, threatened with rape, and then ""rescued"" by—please hold your gasps till the end—Justin Vallerand, the lost Philippe's TWIN BROTHER. He threatens Celia with rape, then straight up forces himself on her, drops her at his family's estate, takes off,

and several months later is himself dropped off shot, stabbed, etc.

I should pause here to note that, allegedly, Justin is the hero of this particular book. I KNOW.

So Celia nurses him back to health and they "fall in love". EXCEPT, OH SNAP, PHILIPPE ISN'T DEAD!! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW?

1. Yep. Rape.
2. Swapping out twin brothers, like you do.
3. I honestly don't know how to explain why I finished this thing because it is *so bad*.
4. The hero literally rapes the heroine and the heroine convinces herself that she's to blame because she "liked it". WHYYYYYYY.

KatieV says

I liked this, but didn't think it had the magic of Kleypas' later works. Many of her Victorian era England novels are favorite re-reads of mine, but I doubt I'll revisit this.

Very early in her career Kleypas dabbled in the bodice ripper genre so prevalent at that time. I don't know if she was still developing her writing skills or if that genre just isn't her forte. Possibly both.

I love some of the older bodice rippers, but this was just a 'like' for me. If you want a bodice ripper with Creoles in pre-Civil war Louisiana, I suggest Jennifer Blake.

Why wasn't this a 'love'?

I'm not quite sure I can express it or put my finger on it. There were things that didn't seem well developed or explainable.

The story was interesting if not original. The hero is the identical twin of the heroine's husband. If you've read the first book you figure this out immediately, so I don't think I'm spoiling anything for anyone.

The heroine was traveling from her native France to Louisiana with her husband Philippe when their ship was attacked by pirates just as they are about to consummate the marriage. They had waited because Philippe had allowed her time to adjust since they didn't know one another very well and mostly via correspondence. Also I believe it was another way to let the reader know that their relationship wasn't what it should have been. Basically, they loved each other but more out of common background, respect, and position - not with a great passion.

The heroine is abducted and her husband thought to be dead and tossed overboard.

The hero, Justin, had left his family years before and became a pirate and is on the pirate island where the captive heroine is taken. When he realizes who she is, he rescues her from the evil pirate who'd taken her to

give to his disgusting, sadistic brother.

She doesn't realize who Justin is since Philippe had never spoken of him, which I found odd. Yes Justin, was the black sheep but they were married and Justin was Philippe's twin (however, I suspect it was a sloppy plot device to hide Justin's identity for longer and to illustrate that Celia and Philippe weren't as close as they should be).

Another reason behind the secret identity was Justin had a long shaggy beard and hair which hid his features from Celia, although she did find the eyes familiar. He doesn't tell her who he is until they arrive at his father's plantation (Max Vallerand from *Only in Your Arms* later re-written/re-titled to be *When Strangers Marry*).

Trigger warning for sexual assault: On the way from the pirate island to the plantation Justin forces himself on Celia (she is also nearly raped at several points by villains). In romance land this is what I'd term a 'forced seduction' since her "traitorous body" gives in. Since it's such a common trope for those times, I always make the distinction (in fiction, not real life).

This didn't make sense to me because the guy had just lost his twin who he dearly loved even though he was at odds with the family for his choice of career. He saved Celia because of his love for Philippe and because he felt it was a debt of honor... and then he rapes her? I know he had a distrust of women due to his mother, but his recently dead brother's wife?!?! I'm someone who isn't offended by the forced seduction trope, but this didn't sit right with me. And I think later attempts to explain his behavior weren't up to par with what I expect from Kleypas. It seemed she did more telling than showing in a lot of cases.

I also could never bring myself to like Celia. I didn't hate her, but I didn't like her. I was lukewarm over both of them, actually. Kleypas can create such SEXY alpha heroes, but again he didn't measure up to what I expect from Kleypas.

Perhaps it's just me, but I took issue with how Celia spoke about Justin to Max and Lysette. Maybe it's cultural, but in my world you NEVER bad mouth someone's child/close family to other family members ESPECIALLY if those family members are giving you a home/sheltering you and don't otherwise know you. I'm not a Creole, but I am a southerner and that's just NOT done.

I had no problem with her hating Justin, I just thought it was insensitive to trash him to his father's face when it was obvious Max loved his child even if he didn't love his lifestyle AND he believed he'd just lost Justin's twin. It was especially jarring since she never told Max or Lysette why she hated him. All they knew was that he saved her and brought her to them after Philippe was killed. I wouldn't have sung his praises or pretended to like him, but I wouldn't have taken every opportunity to crow about what an animal he is to his father (who had never met her before, yet took her in without question and gave her a home). They didn't seem to take offense, but it seemed really insensitive/rude to me.

I didn't expect her to be grateful to Justin, but I *did* expect her to be grateful to the Vallerands for sheltering her and curb her tongue as a show of that gratitude/respect especially in light of their grief over Philippe. As far as Justin goes, I had no problem with her taking shots at him personally, he deserved it.

Also, there were inconsistencies that irked me a bit between book 1 and 2. I read the re-write of the first book and in that version, for example, Lysette was pretty but not a breathtaking beauty. However it was mentioned over and over again how unbelievably beautiful Lysette was in this book. Perhaps that continuity glitch was due to changes made in the rewrite?

Anyway, I may have liked this more if it hadn't been a Kleypas' novel. I just know what she's capable of and this didn't measure up. However, the plot kept me interested and I kept reading.

Hbeebti says

I can't believe I'm saying this but... this was just ok. In fact Griffin (Justin) was a crappy hero. He bothered me in so many ways. 300 pages in and I still didn't like him. Honestly the relationship between Justin and Celia felt forced. I really wanted Celia to run from Justin than to him. He just loved to put her down and hurt her. Loved getting a rise out of her no matter how it made her feel later. Don't get me started on their first time together. It started out like he was forcing until she just gave in. and yeah she later enjoyed it but I didn't like how that went down at all. When she says no and she is fighting you that should have been a clue, then when she stopped fighting and laid limp and just turned her head away that should have been a clue. But oh no, not this pirate he will just keep working her over until she surrenders. I didn't think it was sexy at all. Maybe I'm taking that wrong but it bothered me and along with all of his other glowing qualities I couldn't stand him.

Only plus side was that the story was interesting and the side characters were great. Justin's family was great. Celia was ok. I'm kinda thinking that thank goodness I didn't bother with the first book.

Dangermousie says

Oh, Lisa Kleypas, why?

I am fast coming to the conclusion that I don't care for most of Kleypas' stuff outside of her Hathaways and Wallflowers series. How one woman can write two series so good and the rest so not, is a mystery. But even with that, Only With Your Love is a whole other kettle of fish.

I mean, what woman wouldn't want a true love who is a rapist pirate twin of your kinda-dead husband?

UGH!!! I don't read too many older romances, so I have been pretty lucky at avoiding hero-on-heroine rape that romances used to be so fond of 20+ years ago (only a rare book nowadays ventures into that territory, like Anna Campbell's Claiming the Courtesan, but at least in that one, the hero is portrayed as deeply disturbed, damaged and not right in the head and the heroine doesn't get over it lickety-split. It still makes me want to stab something, but at least the author realizes that sort of behavior is not the norm! And the fact that I even have to give points for that is insane).

But yes. Hero (I use the term loosely), is a pirate who purchases the new widow of his sibling and promptly proceeds to rape her. As one does. I'd think even if the idea of rape wouldn't give him pause, loyalty to his apparently nice dead sibling would, but no - that would not be macho! It's OK though, you guys - heroine totally has a good time once she gets over her resistance and the whole 'clawing his face off doesn't work' thing.

UGHHHHHHH!

ETA: I do not get the allure of pirates. Two words: crotch lice.

Nonie?serenity2bliss says

I guess even the most awesome writer cannot write a winner every single time :P I have never read a Lisa Kleypas book that I don't love or like...until this one.

I always believe that LK's strength is her ability to write wonderful, larger-than-life characters; heroes that you immediately fall in love with, and heroines that you wish you want to be.

Unfortunately, in *Only With Your Love*, not only do I not want to become the heroine, I don't even want to be anywhere near her! She's such a tiresome, ungrateful nuisance and every words that came out of her mouth were toxic. I wish the pirates would just leave her on the boat and blow it to pieces with her on it.

The storyline was alright; there were parts that I love but mostly I don't. I find it dragging a little bit that I kept thinking, when is this story going to end? When I start having such thought, it was not a good sign.

Kady says

This one is an oldie but a goodie. Enjoyed it very much! I've almost read all of the Lisa Kleypas historicals now. It's been hard to find other HR books I adore as much as these.

Gilgamesha says

This is definitely not one Kleypas' light novels where the biggest conflicts the characters face is a choice between a husband who is a peer or a business tycoon. There is angst, grief, betrayal, hope, love, obsession and emotions from full spectrum of human experiences. I love it when people demand depth of character but have no idea what to do with it even if it hit them in the face. Justin is a tortured soul much of which is explained in the first book. He is terrified of his mercurial personality and so ends up choosing a wrong path that leaves him little choice. To understand Justin and his ways or Celia and her ways you really have to place yourself in their shoes and understand the conflicting emotions. Nothing irates me like hypocrisy so my initial reaction was to hate Phillippe and his double standards but if I truly put myself in his shoes I even understood him. The driver of the two brothers behavior was their common childhood experience and they both choose their own unique ways to cope with their fears. If you try to understand their behavior in the light of their mother's betrayal it makes sense. This is a book with characters of many dimensions with no true heroes or villains. Often times we are used to characters being defined in black and white shades in these novels but I think this is one of the most superior piece of Kleypas's writing where she truly delves into different levels of human emotion.

Linds says

I was looking forward to this book because I thought that Justin was the most engaging character of the previous Vallerand story, though he was only sixteen.

This book has more adventure and pirates than is normal for a Lisa Kleypas novel. The reason it has four stars is that I felt the tone in the novel was really aggressive and borderline uncomfortable. I think this had a lot to do with the fact that this is a romance from the early 90's.
