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A Scot In The Dark: Scandal & Scoundrel, Book II



Synopsis

Lonesome Lily turned Scandalous Siren Miss Lillian Hargrove has lived much of her life alone in a gilded cage, longing for love and companionship. When an artist offers her pretty promises and begs her to pose for a scandalous portrait, Lily doesn't hesitate . . . until the lying libertine leaves her in disgrace. With the painting now public, Lily has no choice but to turn to the one man who might save her from ruin. Highland Devil turned Halfhearted Duke The Duke of Warnick loathes all things English, none more so than the aristocracy. It does not matter that the imposing Scotsman has inherited one of the most venerable dukedoms in Britain - he wants nothing to do with it, especially when he discovers that the unwanted title comes with a troublesome ward, one who is far too old and far too beautiful to be his problem. Tartan Comes to Town Warnick arrives in London with a single goal: get the chit married and see her become someone else's problem, then return to a normal, quiet life in Scotland. It's the perfect plan, until Lily declares she'll only marry for love . . . and the Scot finds that there is one thing in England he likes far too much . . .

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Customer Reviews

I've read everything Sarah MacLean wrote. This was either ghost written, or she cranked out a story that repeated the same lines over and over making it boring. There was no character development or humor. I grew to dislike both characters and finished it because I had looked forward to her writing style. Sorry. Not worth buying it.

Sarah MacLean is an automatic buy for me and has been ever since I discovered her *Nine Rules To Break*. While I'm not saying I wish I hadn't bought *A Scot in the Dark*, I was a bit disappointed. I thought the premise was better than some, and I liked the characters, the book seemed a bit slap-dash to me. Still great entertainment, but not the quality I've come to expect. However, nearly all the other reviews seem to disagree with me, so I might be up in the night. :)

When reclusive Scot Alex Stuart learns that he is now the 21st Duke of Warnick, his immediate response is to refuse the title. And he remains in Scotland with his sister for another five years until "The Diluted Duke" learns that he has a Ward who has become a Scandal. South he goes to London to get to the heart of the matter and meet the difficult ward. Miss Lily Hargrove is by far the most beautiful woman he has ever seen, but for most of her life she has been unwanted by family (she's not highborn) and left alone. The unscrupulous Derek Hawkins, famed artist, had coaxed her into posing nude for her "betrothed", a for his-eyes-only portrait. His intentions were not marriage, but to show the scandalous painting at the opening of the Academy Exhibition of Contemporary Art and win first prize. Alex turns to his powerful friends, the owners of London's most exclusive gaming hell and their wives, to search for an obvious solution: marriage to a willing titled gentleman and supportive women friends for Lily. Alex is also determined to find the painting and destroy it before it is displayed. There's lots of backstory to see why Lily is the way she is and Alex as well. Plus lots of action to set things right.

Every time I read a historical romance novel, I think to myself "I should read more historical romance." Somehow that never works out, unless I go on a massive binge. I love them, but I find they require a little more concentration than contemporary books and, to be honest, I don't always have that level of concentration. So, despite loving the first book in the *Scandal & Scoundrel* series, this one has been sitting on my iPad just waiting to be read, for ages. I am glad I finally picked it up. There was a bit of a slow start, but I'm attributing that to the fact that it's a historical romance and as I said above, I just read those differently. It definitely kept me turning pages and it finished on a

really strong note. Sarah MacLean is easily one of my favorite historical romance authors. I love her unconventional heroines and heroes, for that matter. She has this great way of taking current (or at the very least, contemporary) events and putting them into a historical setting. Maybe it shouldn't work as well as it does, but I love it. But her heroines are the real stars of the show for me. They're unique to the time period. Their roles aren't that of traditional regency women. They're often fiery, sassy and stronger than expected. I don't think I should have to explain why I love that like I do. Lillian was all of those things and I adored her because of it. Once I got through the initial bumps with the book, I was all in. I was entranced by Warnick. As I said, I adored Lillian even if sometimes she made me want to scream. I loved how things built between them and how it helped her character grow. This book was swoony, super sexy and charming. I grinned through the largest portion of it, loving everything that was going on. It was a totally enjoyable read. Now, I just need to read the third book ASAP, since part of my mind is still back in that time period with those characters. Another great historical romance for Sarah MacLean! I'm loving this series!

It's very odd - The first book of this series is my favorite by this author, and this book is probably my least favorite of hers. I think the problem for me was that Lily and Warnick seemed to have essentially the exact same conversation basically every time they spoke. I didn't feel that sense of progression from the first novel with Sophie and King - there is a big switch far near the end, of course, but the building tension is nonexistent for me. It is especially disappointing because sort of the "signature" thing about MacLean that has made her my favorite romance writer is that the tension between the leads is always SIZZLING. Not so here. There were a few surprising moments, but they had nothing to do with the interplay between the leads, which is what I am primarily here for. I understand why Lily fell for Warnick and vice versa, and even like the characters themselves individually, but their interactions did not have that same POP that I have grown spoiled by with most of MacLean's other books! I felt kind of trapped in a groundhog day scenario and not in a GOOD frustrating way - I don't mind being frustrated with the leads talking past each other -- that is kind of what I am here for, right? -- I mind being bored by most of their interactions! That said, I have still preordered and am looking forward to the next book. Even though this is my "least" favorite of her books I am still giving 3 stars - "It was okay" sums it up perfectly for me, which probably speaks to how much I enjoy MacLean's books normally.

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