

## Gentlemans Wager

For lovers of Alexander McCall Smith, Nicholas Drayson introduces the charming Mr Malik and the East African Ornithological Society in *A Guide to the Birds of East Africa*. Reserved, honourable Mr Malik. You wouldn't notice him in a Nairobi street - except, perhaps, to comment on his carefully sculpted comb-over - but beneath his unprepossessing exterior lie a warm heart and a secret passion. Not even his closest friends know it, but Mr Malik is head-over-heels in love with the leader of the local Tuesday-morning bird walk, Rose Mbikwa. Little can he imagine the hurdles that lie before him. Even as he plucks up the courage to ask for Rose's hand, thieves, potential kidnappers and corrupt officials, not to mention one particularly determined love rival, seem destined to thwart Mr Malik's chances. Will an Indian gentleman in the heart of Africa be defeated by the many obstacles that stand between him and his heart's desire? Or will honour and decency prevail? 'A funny, ingenious and touching love story' Joanne Harris, *The Times* 'A delightful comedy... It invites comparison to *The No.1 Ladies'* Detective Agency books, but it's original and, if anything, has more depth' *Daily Mail* 'Sweet, charming and utterly wonderful on the subject of birds' *Metro* Nicholas Drayson was born in England and has lived in Australia since 1982, where he studied zoology and a PhD in 19th century Australian natural history writing. He has worked as a journalist in the UK, Kenya and Australia, writing for publications such as the *Daily Telegraph* and *Australian Geographic*. He is the author of three other novels, *Confessing a Murder*, *Love and the Platypus* and *A Guide to the Beasts of East Africa*.

Reproduction of the original: *The English Rogue: Continued in the Life of Meriton Latroon and Other Extravagants* by Kirkman and Head Miss Kitty Farrow is under no illusion that her guardian cares anything about her, but when she finds out he wagered her in a gentleman's bet, she's in a state of complete shock. Not only has her choice in picking her own husband been taken away from her, but the earl her guardian is going to have her marry hates the very idea of having a wife at all. Aaron Henry, Earl of Northton, doesn't trust ladies. Any of them. From a young age, his mother taught him that all a lady is good for is an heir. If they're sweet, it's only to trick the gentleman into doing what they want, and once they get it, they're on to the next gentleman. So when he discovers the money he expected to win in a wager turns out to be the dowry of his future bride, he wants nothing to do with her. But whether Kitty or Aaron want the marriage or not, it's going to happen. And heaven help anyone who tries to make the marriage a love match.

Take a romp through the long eighteenth-century in this collection of 25 short tales. Marvel at the Queen's Ass, gaze at the celestial heavens through the eyes of the past and be amazed by the equestrian feats of the Norwich Nymph. Journey to the debauched French court at Versailles, travel to Covent Garden and take your seat in a box at the theatre and, afterwards, join the mile-high club in a new-fangled hot air balloon. Meet actresses, whores and high-born ladies, politicians, inventors, royalty and criminals as we travel through the Georgian era in all its glorious and gruesome glory. In roughly chronological order, covering the reign of the four Georges, 1714-1730 and set within the framework of the main events of the era, these tales are accompanied by over 100 stunning color illustrations.

She's the disgrace of the county... Bella Rushdale has returned home still unwed having eloped with Viscount Marlinscar, and she's now engaged in a scandalous liaison with the Marquis of Pennerley. Remote Yorkshire society is outraged! Something ought to be done. Even the untrained observer can see there's something deliciously perplexing about the relationship between Bella and the two rascals responsible for her disgrace. As rumours of unnatural activities, forbidden pleasures and the inevitable repercussions abound, Bella vigorously resists her brother's attempts to strong-arm her into wedlock. But, all too soon everything gets out of hand, putting Bella at risk of losing far more than her reputation. Can three people whose lives and hearts are so inexorably bound forge a lasting bond? Or is their love as ill-fated as society would have them believe? *The Serpent's Kiss* is a Regency-set historical romance with a high heat including M/F, M/M and M/M/F interactions. Those of a timid or nervous disposition are advised against indulging. Don't miss any of the enthralling *Scandalous Seductions* series: *A GENTLEMAN'S WAGER* | *INDISCRETIONS* | *PHANTASMAGORIA* | *THREE TIMES THE SCANDAL* | *HER HUSBAND'S LOVER* | *THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST* | *THE SERPENT'S KISS* And look out for the equally enticing *Forbidden Loves* series by Madelynne Ellis: *THE KISSING BOUGH* | *PURE FOLLY*

Now in development for television with Endeavor Content "An auspicious debut mystery." —Booklist "Recalls the best of Golden Age detective fiction." —Andy Lewis, *The Hollywood Reporter* "Dorothy Sayers is alive and well and writing under the name of Christopher Huang." —Rhys Bowen, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Tuscan Child* "A must read for fans of Anthony Horowitz, Charles Todd, and Anne Perry." —Daryl Maxwell, *Los Angeles Public Library* "Will please fans of both Agatha Christie and Gillian Flynn." —Sarah Nivala, *Book Soup* The year is 1924. The cobblestoned streets of St. James ring with jazz as Britain races forward into an age of peace and prosperity. London's back alleys, however, are filled with broken soldiers and still enshadowed by the lingering horrors of the Great War. Only a few years removed from the trenches of Flanders himself, Lieutenant Eric Peterkin has just been granted membership in the most prestigious soldiers-only club in London: *The Britannia*. But when a gentleman's wager ends with a member stabbed to death, the victim's last words echo in the Lieutenant's head: that he would "soon right a great wrong from the past." Eric is certain that one of his fellow members is the murderer: but who? Captain Mortimer Wolfe, the soldier's soldier thrice escaped from German custody? Second Lieutenant Oliver Saxon, the brilliant codebreaker? Or Captain Edward Aldershott, the steely club president whose Savile Row suits hide a frightening collision of mustard gas scars? Eric's investigation will draw him far from the marbled halls of the *Britannia*, to the shadowy remains of a dilapidated war hospital and the heroin dens of Limehouse. And as the facade of gentlemenhood cracks, Eric faces a Matryoshka doll of murder, vice, and secrets pointing not only to the officers of his own club but the very investigator assigned by Scotland Yard.

In his highly acclaimed debut, *The Lies of Locke Lamora*, Scott Lynch took us on an adrenaline-fueled adventure with a band of daring thieves led by con artist extraordinaire Locke Lamora. Now Lynch brings back his outrageous hero for a caper so death-defying, nothing short of a miracle will pull it off. After a brutal battle with the underworld that nearly destroyed him, Locke and his trusted sidekick, Jean, fled the island city of their birth and landed on the exotic shores of Tal Verrar to nurse their wounds. But even at this westernmost edge of civilization, they can't rest for long—and are soon back to what they do best: stealing from the undeserving rich and pocketing the proceeds for themselves. This time, however, they have targeted the grandest prize of all: the Sinspire, the most exclusive and heavily guarded gambling house in the world. Its nine floors attract the wealthiest clientele—and to rise to the top, one must impress with good credit, amusing behavior...and excruciatingly impeccable play. For there is one cardinal rule, enforced by Requin, the house's cold-blooded master: it is death to cheat at any game at the Sinspire. Brazenly undeterred, Locke and Jean have orchestrated an elaborate plan to lie, trick, and swindle their way up the nine floors...straight to Requin's teeming vault. Under the cloak of false identities, they meticulously make their climb—until they are closer to the spoils than ever. But someone in Tal Verrar has uncovered the duo's secret. Someone from their past who has every intention of making the impudent criminals pay for their sins. Now it will take every ounce of cunning to save their mercenary souls. And even that may not be enough.... Praise for *Red Seas Under Red Skies* "Lynch hasn't merely imagined a far-off world, he's created it, put it all down

on paper—the smells, the sounds, the people, the feel of the place. The novel is a virtuoso performance, and sf/fantasy fans will gobble it up.”—Booklist (starred review) “Red Seas Under Red Skies firmly proves that Scott Lynch isn’t a one-hit wonder. . . . It’ll only be a matter of time before Scott Lynch is mentioned in the same breath as George R. R. Martin and Steven Erikson.”—Fantasy Book Critic “Grand, grandiose, grandiloquent . . . No critic is likely to fault Lynch in his overflowing qualities of inventiveness, audacious draftsmanship, and sympathetic characterization.”—Locus

The author of this concise guide to unarmed combat and self-defence is a legend. W. E. Fairbairn (1885-1960) spent over thirty years in the tough environment of the Riot Squads of China's Shanghai Municipal Police. In order to lower levels of Police mortality at the hands of Chinese Tongs, he studied ancient Chinese and Japanese martial arts, including Ju-jitsu, and was the first foreigner to be awarded a black belt in the discipline. He developed his own system which he called 'Defendu'. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he was recruited by Britain's Special Operations Executive as an Instructor in unarmed combat and expounded the deadly mysteries of attack and defence to scores of trainee agents about to be dropped into occupied Europe. His methods were approved and officially adopted throughout the British army. Fairbairn also developed weapons and defence aids such as bullet proof vests. He is best known as the co-inventor of the famous Sykes-Fairbairn knife. In this book he expounds his distilled experience of unarmed combat. Fully illustrated, it shows how to deliver deadly blows with hand, fist, knee and boot; wrist, bear- and strangle holds (and how to break them); how to throw an enemy, and how to break their backs; how to disarm a pistol-wielding attacker; and securing a prisoner. The book also contains a chapter on the use of the rifle in close combat by Captain P. N. Walbridge.

The wait for vengeance is over. When a man wakes to find himself gripping a dagger and sprawled next to a corpse, what else can he do but board a boat sailing for India? But after five years spent avoiding the hangman's noose, Hudson Lockhart has returned to England to prove himself innocent of any crime. Suspecting a family member conspired to incriminate him, Lockhart devises a plan to trap the culprit. All he needs now is someone to pretend to be his devoted wife. An opportunity too good to miss. Since the death of her father, Claudia Darling spends her days managing their dilapidated manor house in Falaura Glen whilst caring for her blind sister. Every day is much like the next until a dark, handsome stranger arrives in the dead of night looking for a place to stay. Claudia's attempts to discover more about the mysterious gentleman lodging in the coach house leads to an unexpected proposal she cannot refuse. Will Claudia throw caution to the wind for a chance to escape the daily drudgery and bring an end to her financial troubles? And what of her weak and lonely heart? Can she remain indifferent to the stranger's charms whilst pretending to be his wife, whilst sharing his bed? Features: Regency historical romance novel A novel of approx. 70,000 words Contains some descriptive sex scenes

According to a Harvard University study, once a bad impression is formed, it takes eight - eight! - subsequent good encounters to correct that initial impression. You never get a second chance to make a first impression. Paul Giles, News Corp columnist and former international male model who worked with the biggest fashion houses and designers for over 20 years, shows men how to make the right first impression. 'The Gentlemen's Guide to Cool: Clothing, Grooming, Etiquette' is the book for any man who wants to learn the secrets of making a great first and lasting impression. Learn what to wear, how to portray confidence and simple grooming techniques that will make a difference to all areas of your life.

In the first novel in Christy Carlyle's sizzling Duke's Den series, three men, intent on making a fortune, discover irresistible opportunities . . . Nicholas Lyon gambled his way into a fortune and ownership of the most opulent, notorious gentlemen's club in England. But when Nick's cruel brother dies, he inherits a title he never wanted. The sooner Nick is rid of the estate that has always haunted him, the sooner he can return to the life he's built in London. But there's one obstacle—the exquisite Thomasina Thorne. When the new heir to the Tremayne dukedom suddenly appears in Mina Thorne's life, she's flustered. Not only is he breathtakingly handsome, but he's also determined to take away her home and position as steward of the Enderley estate. If Mina learns what makes the enigmatic duke tick, perhaps she can change his mind—as long as she doesn't get too close to him. With each day Nick spends with Mina, his resolve weakens as their colliding wills lead to explosive desire. Could she be the one woman who can help him finally bury the ghosts of his past?

'Tis the season...for revenge. Eleven years ago during Christmas, Martin Banks' family was thrown into the streets by wealthy landlord, Edwin Hartwell. Now this holiday season, Fate has handed Martin an unexpected gift. Vengeance. Defeating Hartwell at cards gives Martin the chance to financially ruin the man—but damn, instead of money, Hartwell offers his daughter as payment. And double damn, Martin stupidly accepts. How did retribution turn into seduction? Martin refuses to let himself fall in love, so there must be rules to this game. And perhaps a bit of romance. Desperate to save her father from ruin, Livvy Hartwell agrees to accompany Martin as his paramour. She long ago accepted that a penniless bluestocking like herself had no chance for a well-suited marriage. If a few passionate months with a man like Martin is all she'll ever have as far as romance, it's an opportunity she will take. But she must guard her heart. He might be handsome as the devil and tempting as sin, but she can't be a typical mistress and doesn't want Martin to call her such. In fact, she has a list of rules. Livvy's Rules: ~ Adventures outdoors such as horseback riding would be appreciated. ~ Evening meals should be eaten together to converse about the day's events. ~ Allotted time alone to read gothic novels. ~ Kissing should be kept at a minimum. Martin's Rules: ~ Adventures are required—particularly indoors—and will be greatly appreciated. ~ Evening meals will sometimes be eaten in the bedroom, naked. ~ Allotted time together to act out the sensual gothic novels. ~ Kissing—a lot of it and in some very pleasurable spots — is required.

A decadent regency romance for fans of EL James and Sylvia Day When eighteenth-century young lady Bella Rushdale finds herself fiercely attracted to handsome landowner Lucerne Marlinscar, she does not expect the rival for her affections to be another man. However, the handsome and decadent Marquis Pennerley has desired Lucerne for years and, when they are brought together at the remote Lauwine Hall for a country party on the Yorkshire Moors, he intends to claim him. This leads to a passionate struggle for dominance - at the risk of scandal - between the highly sexed Bella and the debauched aristocrat. Ultimately it will be Lucerne who will choose the outcome - and his decision is bound to upset somebody's plans.

“A fascinating survey of the digital age . . . An eye-opening paean to possibility.” —The Boston Globe “Mr. Shirky writes cleanly and convincingly about the intersection of technological innovation and social change.” —New York Observer An extraordinary exploration of how technology can empower social and political organizers For the first time in history, the tools for cooperating on a global scale are not solely in the hands of governments or institutions. The spread of the internet and mobile phones are changing how people come together and get things done—and sparking a revolution that, as Clay Shirky shows, is changing what we do, how we do it, and even who we are. Here, we encounter a woman who loses her phone and recruits an army of

volunteers to get it back from the person who stole it. A dissatisfied airline passenger who spawns a national movement by taking her case to the web. And a handful of kids in Belarus who create a political protest that the state is powerless to stop. Here Comes Everybody is a revelatory examination of how the wildfirelike spread of new forms of social interaction enabled by technology is changing the way humans form groups and exist within them. A revolution in social organization has commenced, and Clay Shirky is its brilliant chronicler.

The first full length scholarly work to focus on the travel 'stunts' that flourished in England between 1590 and the 1620s, this study shows that the phenomenon of the 'mad voyage' had deep and diverse roots in traditional travel practices, in courtly play and mercantile custom, and in literary culture. Parr explores the role of these exploits in a world of growing social mobility, increasing tourism, and interest in experiment.

"Renowned actress Ruby Chadwick, the Darling of Drury Lane, has long planned and prepared for her final performance. With exceptional beauty comes the unwanted attention of men, and after years of fending off odious suitors, Ruby is ready to leave it all behind in favor of a quiet life. The first step is to reclaim a piece of her past: her true identity as Lavinia Fernley. But leaving town unnoticed proves impossible, and in one desperate moment, Lavinia embarks on the greatest act of her life when she throws herself into the arms of a stranger to avoid recognition. Lucas Jennings is shocked to find the stunning redhead in his arms, but something moves him to play along with her ruse when she calls him her husband. This charade marks the start of an unpredictable journey as he escorts the lovely Lavinia and her traveling companions to Primrose Farm, far from the glaring lights of London. Soon, the tables are turned when Lucas introduces Lavinia to his family--as his fiancée. Before long, their mutual deception begins to feel all too real. But when the truth of her past is revealed, will Lavinia's dream, of a happy ending slip through her fingers?--

"Fascinating reading...authentic atmosphere in a delightful English tale"—Chicago Sunday Tribune Less than a hero's welcome... Returning to his family seat from Waterloo, Gervase Frant, seventh Earl of St Erth, could have expected more enthusiasm for his homecoming. His quiet cousin, stepmother, and young half-brother seem openly disappointed that he survived the wars. And when he begins to fall for his half-brother's sweetheart, his chilly reception goes from unfriendly to positively murderous. One of Heyer's most suspenseful Regency romances, *The Quiet Gentleman* combines an ingenious mystery plot with her signature witty style and effervescently engaging characters. What Readers Say: "A must read. You will love the quirky characters, the great suspense plot, and the incredible wit." "A breath of fresh air... Heyer's witty dialog, engaging and sparkling characters, and humorous repartee make this an engaging and wonderful read."

"One of my favourites; it is a mystery as well as a lighthearted comedy of manners." Georgette Heyer wrote over fifty novels, including Regency romances, mysteries, and historical fiction. She was known as the Queen of Regency romance, and was legendary for her research, historical accuracy, and her extraordinary plots and characterizations. Christi Caldwell's brand-new Regency book, *"A Lady's Guide to a Gentleman's Heart"* is sure to fill your heart with cheer and warmth this winter season! Don't miss out on the long-awaited second book in *The Heart of a Scandal* series!! Honor demands he give her up- Heath Whitworth, Marquess of Mulgrave and heir to a dukedom, is honorable to his handsome bones. When his mother insists he spend the holidays dancing attendance on Lady Emilia Aberdeen, he has no choice but to do the gentlemanly thing. For years, Heath has harbored feelings for the lady, but he knows exactly why his best friend jilted Emilia years ago, and that secret makes a happily ever after for Heath and Emilia an impossibility. Love demands she follow her heart- Heartbroken after the man she loved ended their betrothal, Lady Emilia Aberdeen, is quite content to live a spinster's life penning an anonymous column that offers guidance to young ladies. Except, the more she is thrown into Lord Mulgrave's company, the more she sees that the proper, always-alooof gentleman is also charming, clever, and inconveniently attractive. Emilia discovers maybe it is possible to love again but with secrets between them, Heath will face his greatest challenge yet: loving Emilia Aberdeen or letting her go. Other Books in *The Heart of a Scandal* series: Prequel Novella: *In Need of a Knight* Book 1: *Schooling the Duke* Book 2: *A Lady's Guide to a Gentleman's Heart*

*The Tamer Tamed* is the subtitle or alternative title to John Fletcher's *The Woman's Prize*, a comedic sequel and reply to *The Taming of the Shrew*. The plot switches the gender roles of Shakespeare's play: the women seek to tame the men. Katherine (the "shrew" of the original) has died, and Petruchio takes a second wife, Maria. Maria denounces her former mildness and vows not to sleep with Petruchio until she "turn him and bend him as [she] list, and mold him into a babe again." After many comedic exchanges and plot twists, Petruchio is finally "tamed" in the eyes of Maria, and the play ends with the two reconciled. The play is seen to reflect how society's views of women, femininity, and "domestic propriety" were beginning to change. It is said that Fletcher wrote this play to attract Shakespeare's attention - the two went on to collaborate on at least three plays together. This brand new New Mermaid edition offers unique and fresh insight into the critical interpretation of the play. It builds on current critical foundations (the relationship with *Taming of the Shrew*, gender relations etc) and suggests different areas of interest (popular associations of the shrew, the question of reputation, and a re-examination of the play's structure). as well as examining stage history and recent productions. Miss Sarah Crosby knows she is already considered a spinster. Sent to London in order to take care of her aunt and help her cousin to make her debut, she has no hope for her own future. It is only when Miss Bavidge introduces her to Lady Smithton that she finally starts to believe that she might be able to have a life of her own. Unfortunately, most of her time is taken up accompanying her cousin, Miss Sophia Marks. Much to her shame, Sarah finds herself becoming greatly interested in one of her cousin's suitors, Lord Daniel Ruddington. He is quiet and retiring, barely smiles and seems to carry a great weight on his shoulders but she is still drawn to him. Lord Daniel Ruddington has no-one he can turn to. Pretending that he is nothing more than a gentleman enjoying London society, he hides a great secret and a furious anger within his heart as he attempts to further his acquaintance with Miss Sophia Marks. However, his gaze is so often drawn to her companion, her quiet, kind nature contrasting with his determination for revenge. Will he be able to take his

revenge? Or will Miss Crosby be the one to stop him? This book is the third book of a series called The Spinsters Guild, a group of unusual ladies who are almost "on the shelf". Can Lady Emily help them find their perfect match?

"After years gadding about Europe, Everett Gerard can no longer avoid his responsibilities. Word has come that a child bearing the unmistakable Gerard stamp has shown up at the family estate--and he realizes it's time to face his demons. As his carriage nears the gates of home, he fights the urge to flee the memory of the horrible crime he witnessed as a child. Yet the Abbey delivers surprises and delights he never expected. Miles Kenway was content with his quiet life as the Abbey's bailiff, until the wild child, clearly a bastard son of some Gerard, upends his peace with constant pranks and mischief. And when the master of the house arrives, an unsettling attraction heats Miles blood..."  
--Cover.

Beautiful Celia Suffington has never lacked for male attention, but the young debutante has no desire to marry. When she declines the proposal of smitten suitor Janus Percival, she finally reveals the reason for her aversion to marriage. Celia vows to spend the rest of her life caring for her invalid sister. During a game of cards, heartbroken Janus shares his sorrow with his companions. Suddenly, the idea of wooing the unconquerable Miss Suffington is an appealing thought to the men at the gentlemen's club. Much to Janus' dismay, the gentlemen make a bet: who will win Celia Suffington's heart? The very next day, Celia finds herself surrounded by four very different suitors – but would she ever abandon her beloved sister for any of them? Sensuality Level: Sweet

Book 1 in a brand-new Regency series by Christi Caldwell! There once was a gypsy's pendant said to bring its wearer the heart of a duke. Some found love and others--heart ache. In this passionate series, clever, once-wounded, twice-wary women will find their chance at happily ever after...and maybe even, the heart of a duke! Schooling the Duke A lady betrayed: Finishing school instructor, Mrs. Rowena Bryant is hated by her students, revered by the headmistress, and absolutely determined to maintain her financial security. Deceived years ago by the only man she'd ever given her heart to, Rowena relies on no one but herself—that is the best way to keep her most scandalous secret. A soldier turned duke: When Graham Linford returned from war on the cusp of death, he discovered he'd been betrayed by the woman he loved. From that moment, Graham shaped himself into an unfeeling nobleman, refusing to ever suffer the agony of betrayal again. Now a duke, Graham is determined no one will ever discover the touch of madness that has haunted him since battle. Lovers reunited: When Graham finds himself named guardian to a young lady, the woman sent as a companion to his ward is none other than Rowena Bryant. With every moment spent together, their passion reignites, and the walls they've built to keep one another out begin to crumble. But when their dark past tests them again will true love be enough to repair their damaged hearts?

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