



## A Scandalous Wife

*Ava Stone*

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## **A Scandalous Wife** Ava Stone

A Regency Historical Novel - Book One of the Scandalous Series

As the head of his family, Robert Beckford, the Earl of Masten, was accustomed to dealing with various problems his siblings had caused of one sort or another. However he wasn't prepared when his cad of brother ruined and then abandoned a young lady. To right the wrong, Robert married the girl himself; but his chivalry only went so far. He didn't want a wife, and most certainly not a scandalous one. So after repeating his vows, he sent her packing, off to a secluded estate and expected her to stay put.

After years of mistreatment at the hands of her family, Lydia was prepared to be an accommodating wife; but her rigid and unforgiving husband asked too much of her. After languishing for years in her opulent prison, Lydia leaves her country estate for the glamour and excitement of London—and unfortunately her husband's path.

## **A Scandalous Wife Details**

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# From Reader Review A Scandalous Wife for online ebook

Preethi says

**\*\*Actual Rating\*\*:** 3.99 stars

**\*\*Book Format\*\*:** kindle ebook

There are two people I despise in this book, no wait, three. Two men, and a single woman. First, I hate Lucas, the main character's younger brother, and the man who was found in bed with the other main character, Lydia. Not only did he defile her, thereby forcing Robert to marry her and save their family name, but just when Lydia and Rob are reaching their happily ever after, he does everything in his power - consciously and unconsciously - to break them apart. Of course, it wasn't exactly his fault (I'll let you depict the meaning of that), but I still hate him, SO THERE! \*stubborn look\*. The second person I hate - and this is the person I hate the MOST, possibly even more than Hitler - is Henry, Lydia's sister. I can't tell you why I hate him so much without giving away something the reader should find out on their own, but I know FOR A FACT that you'll end up hating him too, as soon as the second time you hear his name. The last person I hate in this book is a side character, but an evil \*insert bad word here\* nonetheless. *She* is Robert's ex-mistress (I still can't believe he was a cad), and I'm pretty sure you can figure out that story yourself.

In the beginning of the story, Robert and Lydia are both at the ball, though they don't realize the other is also there until a while later. Robert sees Lydia and calls her "pretty", recommending her to his friend Chet. Frankly, he's insulted when Chet laughs him off. When Rob asks him why he's laughing, he says that that's because that "pretty" lady is his wife. Amazed? So was I \*giggling\*. So they'd been married for 5 years, but haven't seen each other since then. As you probably know from my little hate list up at the top, Rob was forced to marry Lydia, and married her ASAP when she was 16, then sent her away and hadn't seen her since, well, now. You can't really blame him though, since he thinks that she's a whore, as she and Luke (Lucas) were found naked in bed together. Though this looks discriminating, you can guess what actually happens. I mean, I'm going to tell you that this is a happy ending, and I'm not going to consider that a spoiler. I mean, how many books can you name (that isn't part of a series) that *doesn't* have a happy ending? I'll tell you: not many.

Still, I think this book was worth the read if you're looking for a predictable HEA. I mean, who doesn't want to read those once in a while? Unfortunately for me though, I apparently wasn't in the mood for a regency romance. I just read one last week and it was still too soon to read another. I was desperately bored for about 20-30% of the book. Right now, I'm in the mood for something super violent and not too happy...yes, I know I'm a weirdo. Still, even throughout my boredom, it was easy to see that this book was actually really well written and deserves *at least* the 3.99-4 stars I decided to give it.

I just can't get over that Henry character. He's just "messed up" as my brother would say. If I see him again, I'd kill him! Okay, fine, I wouldn't kill him. I still hate him though \*pouting\*. And the next book centers around Lucas, one of the other guys I hated in this book. I mean, he's actually a really good guy, and I guess - in stories at least - the perfect woman can make a selfish rake become, well, Good. Still, I don't know if I can put up with his own romantic story. I guess he made up for most of his sins when he lied to the Ton about him being sterile \*snicker\*. He totally deserved that!

Well, I realize I'm blabbering now, which means I should probably end this review. Happy reading! (how many reviews do I end with that phrase?!)

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## Liv says

This book was quite an emotional experience for me because at the heart, it's about how a woman conquered very traumatic personal experiences through grace, endurance, and yes, through love.

Lydia, the heroine, is a woman of strength because of her resilience to the suffering inflicted by all the men in her life. My goodness, I wish it were not so, but this woman was let down by every male with a major role in her life: her father, her only brother and then her husband (& his scoundrel of a brother). She should have been a psychological basket case, but instead we are presented with a mature, independent and loving woman. Lydia has a heart of gold and is absolutely enchanting & sweet!

The hero in this story is no Prince Charming...well, at least, not at first. Robert Beckford, the Earl of Masten marries Lydia at the tender age of 16-years old in order to protect the good name of his family and avoid a scandal. His good-for-nothing, brother Lucas Beckford was found in bed with Lydia and of course, in this society, the woman is always to blame & the male comes out of the scandal unscathed. Lucas abandons Lydia which leaves big-brother Robert the role of sweeping in to fix the problem which is his normal relationship-pattern with his little brother who is irresponsible & a complete rake.

I was angry with the way Robert treated Lydia. For 5 years, he made her stay in a country estate as a bird in a gilded cage, away from society. After his vows and before he sent her off into her exile, he said some very harsh words. During her "exile," Lydia grows up and develops quite a strong character. She encounters Robert for the first time since their wedding, at her sister-in law, Caroline's ball. At first sight, Robert becomes enamored with Lydia, but he didn't know she was his wife until it was pointed out to him by a friend. He did not recognize her as she grew up and was now a stunning, beautiful woman he was drawn to. Well, needless to say, Robert seeks her out and the two fall in love, but this path toward love is quite a process.

Robert is a harsh man and he says very harsh things to Lydia that made me cringe. Robert has quite a temper. He's one of those men who are rough around the edges & is definitely an alpha male. Well, he definitely met his match with Lydia. I love how she stands up to him. Robert is so high-handed and you just want to kill him, but .....THANKFULLY, Robert does transform and becomes a wonderful, loving husband who gets to know Lydia and realizes how wrong he was in judging her. He becomes her fiercest defender, both of her honor and of her person, when she is in real danger.

There are yet some very emotional twists in this story that emerge and kind of take the air out of you. But, overall, it's a triumphant read. I really loved how Lydia brought home two orphans with the intention to keep them with her. Robert allowed her to keep the children and I love how he even developed a wonderful love for the children and adopted them. Lydia has so much love to give to others. Robert was a smart man to recognize that in her. There are many tender moments with the children that warmed my heart.

I was very upset with Robert's brother, Lucas. He was such a jerk to Lydia, an unrepentant jerk. But, at the very end he did transform as a character as well, which I was grateful for. I was so elated that he sacrificed his reputation in the grand scheme that he, Caroline (who is Robert & Lucas's sister), Clayworth (family friend), and Chet (family Friend) as well as Chet's mother engaged in to save Lydia from a new scandal brought about by Robert's vindictive ex-mistress. I was happy karma finally caught up to Lucas. I'm not too happy that he's the hero in the next book because he has left a bitter taste in my mouth! I don't know how I

can like him as a hero after what a complete ninny he's been.

This will be one of my favorite books to go back and read over because I love a story with such a huge transformation as the hero, Robert, encountered. You will hardly recognize him from the beginning of the book to the end of the book. Oh, he's still tough & quite the fierce protector, but his energy & love is directed toward his wife. This is a story with a very redemptive ending.

Audiobook Narrator:

WOW! I hesitated to listen to this book because I just don't care for male narrators for Regency novels. However, Stevie is a female! And, she is quite talented in her ability to create male and female voices and characters. She was just superb! Loved her narration!

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### **Sara says**

Let me tell you, I really don't know why this girl didn't plot her family's murder. Her family treats her like shit, and does all sorts of terrible things to her. Then some pedophile gets it on with her at 16, ruining her. The pedophile's brother could give a shit about her, but is worried about the family's name, so he marries her. He also calls her a whore and sends her off to a remote country estate. Asshole. So after 5 years she says, fuck this shit, and moves to London. Of course, her husband sees her at a ball and totally lusts after her until his friend points out that she is his wife. Score! He totally hits it! Misunderstandings ensue, bad names are thrown at one another, no one fucking trusts each other, and hott sex happens! I just couldn't like this book as much because of all the whore and slut comments. And the rape. Nothing ruins a romance more than rape.

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### **Joan says**

I finished the book feeling rather confused. Who was the governess? Why had Luke gone to find her? It was as if there was a whole subplot that had been left hanging.

And please. Why do all the tall, dark, broodingly gorgeous men always ride a stallion called some predictable name like 'Satan' or 'Devil's Inferno' or 'Midnight'? Phallic symbols? A real man wouldn't need a comfort blanket like that ;)

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### **Marivi Sanz says**

3 \*meh\* stars.

The premise was good. A young woman is caught having pre-marital relations with a man, and to avoid the scandal, the man's brother married the lady. As he despises her, he sends her away to a house away from London for years, until she tires of being there lonely and comes back to London at the call of her sister-in-law.

I expected a good from a hate-to-love story, but soon after they are forced to meet they come to terms and fall in love early in the book. A scandal that threatens to ruin her good name in society, a vengeful ex-

mistress, a long-lost brother that comes back apparently changed, and two adopted children should have made this a very entertaining read, but it just fell flat. It took me forever to finish it, and the ending was too rush, and some subplots were left unfinished, though I guess that'll be food for a next book.

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### **Andra says**

This book was a pleasant read. I had downloaded the 2nd in the series when it was offered for free. I had waited a while, and then bought this one. I don't like to start a series in the middle. The story of the main romance in the book was very good, and a lot of fun to read. I found most of the story enjoyable. The wife of the story has suffered many times and has to overcome the scars of her past. It ends happily with plenty of humor mixed in.

That all being said, once I read the 2nd book (Scandalous Charade) I was annoyed, because the book starts before the beginning of this book, ends after. Many of the characters are the same and ALOT of Scandalous Charade is taken directly (very nearly word for word) from Scandalous Wife. This is the reason that I have given both stories lesser ratings. I found reading the 2nd book that I nearly didn't finish the book because I was tired of all the repetition. Although the story was different, I think that the author could have been a little more creative with the story telling. Further there was a mistake, The governess who attended a party in book one wore one of the Countesses dresses a pink dress, in the Second book, the governess wore a dark blue dress from her own collection to the very same party. If the author is going to copy details then they shouldn't mess them up like this.

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### **Rie\_dominique says**

3,5\*

3\* untuk cerita, tambah 1/2\* lagi buat kedua tokoh yang saat mendengar gosip jelek tentang pasangan mereka nanya langsung ama pasangannya.

bukannya galau sendiri memikirkan apakah gosip yang didengar benar atau salah ataupun juga langsung mengamini hasutan dari tokoh2 lain dan tanpa mikir kabur meninggalkan pasangannya... padahal yang seperti inilah biasanya pola utama dari cerita romance :)

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### **Dee Deacon Foster says**

Five long years. That's how long Lady Lydia Beckford has been banished to the country estate of her husband. A husband she was given no choice but to wed because of a youthful indiscretion. Well, she's had enough & arrives in London to stay with her cousins. When she comes face to face with her husband she informs him that she is no longer following his rules.

Robert Beckworth, Earl of Masten, has a wife. A wife that he had no choice but to marry to keep scandal away from the family name. A wife he neither wants nor desires. He's been fine with her at his country estate & he living in London. Until he spots a stunning creature entering his sister's ball. Shocked that this stunning creature is his wife. Furious that she is in London. When she faces him & informs him she is no longer following his rules a challenge has been issued.

Robert plots a way to return his wife to the country before she can create a scandal. A plot that will keep her

in close proximity until she is with child where he will then send her back to his country estate. Lydia wonders if she can go through with this plan of Robert's. After all a child of her own will make the country less lonely. That is if he will let her keep the child – the question is will he?

As Robert learns about Lydia's past will it change his opinion of her? Will seeing a different side of Robert break down the hatred Lydia has for the way he's treated her in the past? Can either one of them go through with Robert's plan without having their heart broken?

Ava Stone has written a wonderful story of 2 strangers thrown together because of an indiscretion. A pair of orphans & knitting needles will have you laughing. Just beware Robert will have you wanting to smack his head for being a pompous jerk then falling in love with him yourself.

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## **Wealththeow says**

### **Could have been worse**

An earl married a young woman after his brother ruined her, to save all their reputations. After the wedding he relegated her to a lonely mansion far from Society. Five years later, she tires of paying for a girlhood mistake and returns to London. Unexpectedly, she and her estranged husband fall in love over the course of a couple weeks and live happily ever after. I was exceedingly bored with the main characters, thought the Regency trappings were thin and unconvincing, and thought the whole "let's adopt to random urchins who immediately love us" subplot was better left on the editing table.

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## **Susan says**

I'm having trouble finishing this. UGH!

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## **Vintage says**

What a mess of awful characters.

Luke, the younger son, is caught in bed with Lydia the h. The stuffy, arrogant older brother ends up marrying her to save the family from scandal; then leaves her at the estate after calling her ugly names.

The beginning of the book the H sees an attractive woman at the ball. It's his wife; he orders her home; she finds two orphans; he's rude and bossy; he falls in love; his ex-mistress swims by; the ratfink brother shows up to smarm around and slut-shame the h he had sex with at 16 in the first place; the h has more family secrets, and the scandal swirls around the h again because little brother is a selfish swine and deserves to die a slow and painful death. Really, I would have added a star if Luke had been killed somehow.

This story simmered at 2-3 stars until..

(view spoiler)

I did like how the H and his sister help redeem the h's reputation by using the younger brother and his

reputation mercilessly. (view spoiler)

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### **Debby "Piene Raven" says**

A Scandalous Wife. Hmm...where do I begin.

A very young and naïve woman, Lady Lydia Beckford, is caught in a compromising position with Lucas the brother of Robert Beckford, the Earl of Masten. In order to save the family's name from scandal, Robert ends up marrying her and then banishes her away to the country estate. He doesn't lay eyes on her until he spots her at a society ball. He even goes as far as to try to find his friend a wife and points her out in the process. His friend is full of laughter when Robert is told that the lady in question is his own wife. Seeing how beautiful she has become over the years, and the focus of every man's eyes he is bent on making sure she gets sent back to the country to avoid another scandal for the family. There's the crux and starts the hate to love story between the two.

In order to complete his mission of sending her back to the country, he has to obtain physical control over her. He then comes up with a lie that he needs an heir and she is forced to live with him until she is with child. After the birth he will send her back to the country. Being in so close proximity, they become attracted to one another much too soon in the story. As there was much dislike between the two, I would have liked a little more banter. The story has its moments as it includes the possibility of scandal to her name again, a "somewhat" changed long-lost brother, a mistress that becomes spiteful and two adopted children that somehow went cold in the story. There are times that made you want to hit the jerk of an Earl for his overbearing belief in propriety, but there are moments where you wanted to fall for him. Each character had much to learn from one another. Robert breaking down his hatred for Lydia because of the past and Lydia, not wanting to be cast aside because of one discretion.

Having never read any of Ava Stone's novels, this was an okay read me. The story had me starting, then putting it away, then re-starting and then putting it down again. To keep myself from a DNF, I decided to finish without stopping.

3.0 Stars

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### **Bree Wolf says**

This was a slightly different take on the usual girl-meets-duke kind of story. The two main characters fall in love LONG after getting married.

Both were very delightful and strong in their ideas, however, not unyielding. I particularly loved the scene when she accidentally stabs him with her knitting needles.

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### **Irène Wadowski uliasz says**

Quelle histoire ! Mais quel courage, quelle force de la nature - comment a-t-elle réussi à ne pas devenir folle, aigrie après tout ce qu'elle a subit. Un roman émouvant



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## MaryD says

First, I need to make it clear- there are threads introduced that may or may not be covered in the sequels, but are just plain confusing in this first book in the series.

The trope is a common one in HR- the hero marries the heroine to save the family honor, but sends her away to "the country" to keep her out of the way, only to have her show up in London and the hero falls for her/ is attracted to her before he realizes that's his wife.

What makes this book more intriguing is the backstory for some of the characters. (view spoiler)

While this could have been intense, I just found the development of the relationship between the two main characters unrealistic. (view spoiler)

Not sure whether I'll read the sequels or not.

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