



## The Last Gamble

*Anabelle Bryant*

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# **The Last Gamble**

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**As one of the owners of London's most infamous and scandalous gambling hall, The Underworld, Luke Reese looks like a man who has it all.**

But underneath his swagger lies a pain which no amount of liquor, women or card games can ease. Because, nine months ago, Luke's son was stolen by his half-brother, Lord Dursley.

Luke knows the agony of growing up without a family, and he will not allow his son to suffer the same fate. So when evidence leads him to Coventry and a mysterious governess named Georgina, Luke doesn't hesitate in tracking her down.

But nothing is ever as simple as it seems in the London ton. And soon, Luke is facing his most dangerous gamble yet.

Dare he risk losing his heart to find his son?

## **The Last Gamble Details**

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Author : Anabelle Bryant

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## From Reader Review The Last Gamble for online ebook

### Candy Briggs says

Luke has been looking for his son, who was stolen nine months ago. Georgina ran away from home and became a governess, and she took along her pug. It has been a long search but Luke feels he has finally found a clue.

Of course, there is intrigue, lies and kidnapping, with a few twists thrown in, to make matters more intense. There is also happiness, kindness and love from the families, which includes his partners. They are good people. I so enjoyed reading this third installment of the Bastards of London, so far all the books have been great. The author is truly marvelous, her writing style is smooth, concise and flows well. She leaves no unanswered questions and she is generous with her descriptions. Her characters are very life like and full of the joy of living. This tale has been a thoroughly satisfying story. I highly recommend this book and feel it was time well spent.

I was given this book for free and have voluntarily reviewed it.

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### Frankie Reviews says

This is the third instalment of “The Bastards of London Series” and I do think this is the best one yet. I have been really looking forward to reading this one, after meeting the dark and shadowy Luke Reece in the previous book’s he intrigued me. I wanted to know his story, his past and what in the hell his happening with his lost son and Bryant doesn’t disappoint.

Luke is the third owner of the Scandalous and powerful gaming hell; The Underworld. Along with his brother owners Cole and Max, he was born on the wrong side of the blanket. Which in all doesn’t bother him, just because he’s a bastard and has lived his life on the fringes of so-called “better society” doesn’t mean he isn’t a good, intelligent and charming man. Far beyond it, he is the sexiest man who you will come across with the brains to match.

He finds an exceedingly beautiful, too smart for her own good and kind young woman who, yes did look after Nate for a time and she could be the answer to all his prayers. She could be the means to end his year of agony and finally find his son. The only problem is she point-blank refuses to go to London with him, she is hiding something and she is as scared as hell of something. He knows that she is hiding from something, but what? But more importantly can he gain her trust to help him find Nate before he loses himself in her kind, blue eyes?

Georgina is hiding from scandal, she fled London and society, left her family behind after a mistake. She has been burnt, her heart and trust of men in general has been broken and she now finds it incredibly difficult to find herself trusting again. She has vowed never to step foot in London, she would never bring shame and scandal on to her family. So the only way to protect them and herself is to stay in her idyllic little country life, where no one knows her true identity or her past.

This series caught my attention from day one and it’s gone from strength to strength, Bryant has yet again created an entertaining, thrilling and sensuously attractive story. The thing that does set this one apart from the others has to be Luke, we have had snippets of this shadowy man’s turmoil in the previous two books “The Den of Iniquity” and “Into The Hall of Vice” and to finally get to see his story unfold and see his

Happy Ever After is very satisfying.

I cannot say how much I enjoyed this one and I am so pleased that Bryant is taking this series further with book four, I can't wait to see in which direction she is going to take this wonderful series in.

Simply perfect!

<https://chicksroguesandscandals.wordpress.com/2018/02/13/review-happy-ever-after-by-anabelle-bryant/>

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### **Anna says**

So...what happens when you take a kidnapping, a co-owner of a notorious, highly successful and scandalous underworld gambling den, a protective pug who won't hesitate to tear off any body part he can fit in his mouth, and a ton socialite with dark secrets ...and mix them together? You get a story that keeps you reading until the very last page!

Luke Reese had everything he desired - successful business, best friends who were more like family than business partners, and a son he adored. He had it all, as far as he was concerned. That is- until his half brother, a peer of the rhelm, kidnapped his son. As a bastard he would never be able to win against his half-brother and find his son, without a trail and solid proof of his half-brother's guilt. Nine months of searching leads him to--

Georgina Smith- a governess in a remote county of London and a woman he is certain knows more than she is willing to tell him- including who she really is! She is his only connection to his son and Luke will risk everything to find the son that was taken nine months before-even his heart.

This story creates emotion on the part of the reader, including mirth, joy, and anxiety- because Bryant spares nothing to make it entertaining.

The storyline, while not complicated, has plenty of 'curveball' conflicts. And it's unique. Not only is it a good reflection on London society, but it shows you that better people also existed outside of the ton- and makes you hungry for more like it. Bryant creates characters that become likable almost as soon as you meet them.

Warning: This book will cause you to lose important sleep if reading is done while in bed. Trust me!

I'm looking forward to more of Anabelle Bryant's books! Five stars for Luke and Georgina's story!

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### **Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says**

I'm not entirely sure what swooning feels like but I think I may have experienced it several times while reading Anabelle Bryant's newest addition to her Bastards of London series. This series has completely beguiled me. Three compelling men born on the wrong side of the blanket that think the last thing they need or want in life is the threat of falling in love. I've loved every page of this series but have been most anxious

for Luke's story. His devotion to finding his missing son and the mystery surrounding him is something I was dying to know more of. I was not disappointed. Luke and Georgina's story held some of the most romantic moments I've ever read.

Luke Reese was a co-owner of The Underworld, one of London's most famous gaming hells. Almost a year ago, Luke's small son Nathaniel had been stolen from him by Luke's heartless half-brother, Lord Dursley. Luke had used every means possible to find his son but the search had only led to dead-end leads and mistaken identities. But a newly "acquired" journal of Dursleys might give Luke his first credible clue to where Nate might be- an address of a governess, Georgina Smith, in Coventry.

Georgina Smith had escaped impending scandal in London 9 months ago and fled to Coventry to protect her family's reputation. Now she posed as a governess. She'd remain there until she figured out what to do with her future. She missed her family dearly but London was the last place she wanted to be right now.

When Luke finds Georgina, he knows immediately she's no ordinary governess. She appeared too refined. And, she was the most beddable governess he'd ever imagined. He doubted she was who she claimed to be but as she was the only lifeline Luke had to Nate at the moment, Luke decided to proceed with caution. But Georgina had no knowledge of where Nate was now, and had only been employed by Dursley for a brief time months ago. Luke wanted Georgina to travel to London with him. He needed the word of a credible and impartial person to support his claim. With Georgina's testimony that Dursley had placed Nate in her care, Dursley would be forced to reveal Nate's whereabouts or Luke would threaten to embarrass him in a suit. Luke's plea for help tempted Georgina. She was sympathetic to his plight and admired his determination to find his son. She was torn between her desire to stay well-hidden and her need to assist Luke. In the end, Luke's plea for help was too tempting and she agreed to accompany him for 2 weeks.

As Georgina and Luke traveled to London and awaited their confrontation of Dursley, they developed feelings beyond friendship though each seemed intent on denying it, or at least burying their feelings. Luke couldn't examine his feelings for Georgina too closely until he found Nate. He needed to stay focused on his son. Georgina couldn't examine her feelings for Luke until she decided what to do about her family and her future. The more time she spent in Luke's company, the easier it was to forget who she was supposed to be. They anticipated each other's company and couldn't keep their eyes off each other. Both found a hope and joy in each other that they'd been missing in their life. The attraction was undeniable. And then they kissed. "And what began as a kiss quickly evolved into something he could not name, could not understand."

Though they'd only known each other a matter of days, it felt like they'd waited all their lives for each other. But time was running out and just as they seemed to clear one obstacle, another popped up. One that could take their concerns for their future out of their hands. For Luke and Georgina, this could very well be their last gamble for a happy future.

Luke and Georgina captivated me from the start. I understood exactly why Georgina was drawn to Luke. Who could resist a man so devoted to his child? And that dimple would just be the icing on the cake! Georgina was just as irresistible. Poise and beauty and a generous and kind spirit. She was willing to risk returning to London just to help Luke find Nate. They had such a charming playful side that really shone through when they were together. I loved watching them transform throughout the story. Georgina became braver, deciding to face her problem rather than running. Luke learned to enjoy life more and became more hopeful. He began to look forward instead of back. Though distraught over their family, they found solace in each other. As I mentioned before, the romance in this story was swoon worthy. Luke's interaction with Georgina's troublesome dog made him even more endearing. The scene where Georgina and Luke's room numbers inspire them to thoughts of each other was beyond dreamy. And the mischievous game of footsy under the table cloth was titillating. Botheration! I have been completely charmed by this series and am on pins and needles waiting for the next story. I'm anxious now to find out what's in store for Crispin and Sophie. Clubs, spades, diamonds, and hearts! I guess I'll just have to wait to see what's in store next. A Book Obsessed Chicks Review Team Selection.

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### **Julia says**

The cover of this book is as promising as the blurb. Unfortunately, the story did not live up to it.

Luke's son has been kidnapped by his half-brother several months ago, no reason is given as to why the half-brother took the child. Luke has been trying to find his son and eventually has an interesting lead. This leads him to Georgina, a governess living in a small town two days ride from London. She is keeping her own secret, she fled London to avoid a 'ton' scandal. Both more or less instantly lust after each other as soon as they see the other, which results in kisses and later on sex.

TBH, I managed to actually read about 12% of the book, then I started to skim through it, to find the information. Both MCs might have lusted after each other, but I couldn't detect the love that would lead to the HEA. There was no real explanation as to why Georgina fled London, what the big scandal was supposed to be (I had hoped the backstory would clear this), also there is no real explanation why Nathaniel, Luke's son, was kidnapped.

The writing style is very convoluted, there are a lot of repetitions and the author clearly knows how to use a thesaurus. In my opinion, there was a lot of tell, but only little show. I am sure this could have been executed a lot better if there had been some depth to the plot; as it is, it reads like a lot of words had to be put between sex scenes.

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### **Bethany Swafford says**

Part owner of a gambling hell, Luke Reese has done everything he can to find his kidnapped son. When one last lead comes his way in the form of a governess who had seen his son shortly after Nate was kidnapped, Luke uses every form of persuasion to convince her to help him.

This novel would be a third shorter than it is if every scene of someone thinking about sex was pulled. It would be a further quarter shorter if all sex and "love making" scenes were removed. That leaves very little time to really know the characters. Mr. Reese, who has an unfortunate problem with lust, does manage to convey a concerned father, but beyond that there is nothing memorable about him.

Georgina is slightly more sympathetic as her thoughts are not constantly on sex...until she and Reese do tumble into bed together. Her secret is teased and held out of reach until the last quarter of the book. She is unfortunate enough to be beautiful and every man lusts after her, which results in trouble from all sides.

The plot might have been more interesting if time had been put into developing it. To be honest, my favorite character was Biscuit the dog who disliked Reese from the start.

All in all, too much sex for my taste, though other readers will undoubtedly disagree with me.

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I received my copy through NetGalley for reviewing purposes.

## **Christine Woinich says**

This story pulled me in immediately. So many secrets to learn, danger to avoid, priorities to rearrange. Luke is a driven man with one goal until Georgina enters his life. Georgina thinks she is doing the right thing by running away and hiding, but Luke makes her look at herself. Her generosity despite her secrets made her one of my favorite heroines. Despite his circumstances, Luke is a caring and generous man, looking to help others. I enjoyed their journey through this dark story, and I look forward to more from Anabelle Bryant.

I received a copy of this story through Netgalley, and it is a selection of the Book Obsessed Chicks Review team. This is my unsolicited review.

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## **Sangria says**

### **A good mystery and adventure.....**

After the first two books, we've known for awhile that Luke Reese is looking for his 5 year old son Nathaniel, we just have no idea, like him why he was taken.

It leads our third owner of The Underground gambling establishment to Coventry in the country after a daring thief in the night collection of his half brothers journal. With one name inside.....

Georgiana Smith.

Then they meet, turns out she's running from her family herself and she's a Lady Georgiana. She was Governess to small Nate for 3 weeks before the Viscount moved him again.

Luke pleads with her to come to London to claim the story so he can get his son back.

All the while on the adventure, the two are falling in love. Their search continues, until at last the whole story comes out. Both their stories.

Both characters are admirable and enjoyable.

I had one small problem w/ the story. I'd have loved to see more wee Nate! The epilogue was great, but I could of had several more chapters devoted to the reunion after so long a search.

I'm now wondering, since I know the next book is Crispins.....

When does Sophie Daventrey, a very strong supporting character in all of this series get a book and a happy ever after? I love her!

Recommend.

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### **Alison says**

I received a copy of this book in return for an honest review via Netgalley.

I had heard about this author, and this series, and found this a perfect opportunity to try them both. Unfortunately, this volume, if not the series, was not for me.

I liked the premise of the story, and even the hero and heroine were good but they were not enough to hold my attention. The world building was good too; I liked the dark and dirty side of Regency England.

However, I did not like Annabelle Bryant's writing style, which kept throwing me out of the story. Or the odd Americanism that crept in, though these were kept to a minimum.

I do intend to try another of her books, but overall this just wasn't for me. It wasn't a terrible book though.

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### **Joanna Loves Reading says**

My favorite part of this was the beautiful cover and the fun (and sometimes challenging) word choice. Wordiness, however, was part of my issue with this read. There were some really lovely turns of phrase buried in the myriad of wordy sentences, but it seems doubtful that many discerning readers will stick around to find them. And really why should they? Why so much flowery language? It definitely gets into purple prose territory. Simple sentences leading up to that beautifully constructed and poignant sentence make it much more impactful and meaningful. I did enjoy the writing style at first, and think there is some merit to it if the plot had been more complex. Here, though, the story did not take the reader into too much complexity, so we got gobs of descriptions on how amazing the kisses were. When descriptions of kisses lead into the demise of inanimate objects (in this case stays), it's probably a step too far.

There clearly was a strong attraction between the two leads. Luke is one of the owners of a gambling hell. He is the bastard half brother to a viscount, who has inexplicably kidnapped Luke's son. He has had him for months, and Luke is desperate to find his son. Hope comes in the form of Georgiana, who was governess to the boy for a couple of weeks. Georgiana is reluctant to return to London to help Luke but does any way. She has been hiding from her family in a small town for about a year, working as a Governess. I had questions early on about her living and employment arrangements but was willing to suspend judgment until back stories were explored more. Unfortunately, Georgiana's back story didn't add up to something plausible, and I was left disappointed. During her absence, her family is apparently carrying on as if life was normal. There has been no scandal associated with her disappearance, and her return is nothing much of note. It just made no sense. There were other plot contrivances that didn't work also, but I am not going to get into detail here.

Overall, this book had potential, but it came up short in several areas.

\*I received a copy of this from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Joann Maggio says**

The Last Gamble ??????????. Anabelle Bryant

(The Bastards of London #3)

Luke Reese, half brother to Lord Dursley, born on other side of the blanket is one of the owners of the infamous gambling hell, The Underworld.

Luke along with his bastard brothers Maxwell Sinclair and Cole Hewett have searched relentlessly for his son. Luke believes his son has been taken by his half brother and has followed every lead only to miss retrieving him.

When Luke steals a journal from his brother he finds his first big lead. He now knows the name of his son's former governess Georgina Smith. He follows his lead to Coventry where she meekly resides. Georgina left London under circumstances that prevent her from wanting to return and confront her devils. Luke convinces her to return with him and finds himself very attracted to her. He has not felt this type of attraction and wants to get to know her better but realizes his lot in life is not conducive to a Lady such as Georgina.

These two characters just steal your heart each having strong desires they wish fulfilled. I totally despised Georgina's father Lord Harwood. He was a weak person willing to exchange either of his daughters to avoid poverty. When Luke learns Georgina's true plight he is there to help her. As Luke finds his son, he also finds the love of his life in this woman.

Ms. Bryant has certainly come up to scratch with this compelling love story. Her skill as a writer to combine mystery and romance is amazing. His love scenes scorch the pages. This has been a block buster series and I await the fate of Crispin hopefully in her next novel.

A Book Obsessed Chicks Review Team Selection

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### **Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says**

Many times I am in the precarious position of reading a very good friend's book and then having to review said book objectively. When I picked up The Last Gamble, the third book in the riveting Bastards of London series all of those uneasy feelings, flew out the proverbial window. Anabelle Bryant is a force to be reckoned with. Her writing is smart and superb and her stories are tantalizing.

The Last Gamble finally brings closure to Luke Reese's heartbreak of losing his beloved son to kidnapping some nine months prior. The rough and tumble part owner of the Underworld, one of London's most popular gaming hells, Luke Reese has been exhausting every possible venue in his search for Nathaniel while still effectively running his hell, but tides are turning and Luke is closer than ever to discovering the whereabouts of his son.

Georgina Luke is in hiding, plain and simple. Remaining in her parent's home was out of the question given the ultimatum her father had given her that would make her life miserable. Fleeing to Coventry os the best decision and using an alias to seek a position of governess to a wealthy countryside family gives her the peace she seeks, until the handsome Luke Reese to turn her world upside down. When Luke discovers that Nathaniel had been in her care soon after being kidnapped, Luke believes that Georgina is the key to finding his son. Georgina, however, is hesitant in returning to London to help find Nathaniel, but extenuating circumstances prevail and the pair set off on a voyage of intrigue and mayhem that also brings this unlikely pair together for passion and well as mystery.

Luke at first is certain he is only using Georgina as a means to an ends, but the more time in her company,

getting to the heart of her very being, Luke may just fall hard and lose his heart to Georgina. Can these two wayward souls risk falling for one another? Read Anabelle Bryant's *The Last Gamble* to find out!

Having been with the Bastards of London from day one, I have a deep investment in the characters and their outcomes. Nathaniel's kidnapping left this reader in shock and the path to his discovery made me fall deeper in love with this series. Once again, I must reiterate that Ms. Bryant is an outstanding writer who with every single book she writes spins a web that traps the reader. If you have never picked up a book by Anabelle Bryant, you are missing out. Give this impressive series a try, you will not be disappointed, you will be in awe...

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

Book Review For: *The Last Gamble* by Anabelle Bryant 'The Last Gamble' by Anabelle Bryant is Book Three in the "Bastards of London" series. This is the story of Luke Reese and Georgina. I have read (and loved) the other books in this series, but feel you can make it a standalone book if you choose to do so. Georgina is on her own after leaving London due to an issue that happened to her there. Georgina has taken up being a Governess for Lord Dursley who has a nephew named Nathaniel 'Nate'. But Lord Dursley and the family has moved on and she is just on her own when Luke finds her. Luke Reese is the part owner of The Underworld, which is a Gaming Hall....in addition he is Illegitimate...aka a Bastard. Luke confronts her, wanting to find out information on Nate. Luke son Nate was taken by his half brother, Lord Dursley several months ago. Georgina was very shocked to hear that the father she thought was dead is not and that Nathaniel was actually taken. Georgina offers her help but when Luke ask that she goes with him to London to help look for his son, Georgina refuses. As we know...Georgina has her own issues in London. Luke find Georgina to be a caring and beautiful women who he is finding hard to fight his feelings for. But Luke knows too that Georgina appears to be more that just a Governess. Georgina gives in to travel with Luke to help him find Nate...and along the way they find love. Ms. Bryant writing makes you feel that you are apart of Luke and Georgina's as they get to their Happy Ending! Love it! ,Bastards of London Series:,Book 1: *The Den Of Iniquity*,Book 2: *Into the Hall of Vice*,Book 3: *The Last Gamble*,

\*A Book Obsessed Chicks Review Team Selection\*

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## **eyes.2c says**

Rakehell meets Lady governess

Lucius Reese, we are told is, 'a man of many titles, none of them revered by the peerage: rakehell, philanderer, and bastard most of all.' Luke, one of the partners of the gambling palace, the Underworld, is a man in pain. His son Nate has been kidnapped by his half-brother, Viscount Dursley.

Lady Georgina Harwood has fled her family situation and comfortable home in Mayfair to a cottage in Coventry and is currently employed by a local peer as a governess. (Mind you I find the whole cooking episode a bit like Marie Antoinette playing at being a dairymaid)

Luke and Georgina meet because Luke discovers that Georgina the governess can prove that Nate was in

Dursley's hands.

There are lovely moments of whimsy in Luke and Georgina's interactions. Such as Georgina and Luke's individual reflections about each other at the inn. Luke is in room four and Georgina in room three, across the hall from each other. Georgina is taken by fours and Luke by threes.

Four times... Ahh! A rather quirky and lovely piece of writing. Four wheels on a carriage.

Four suits in a deck of cards. Clubs, spades, diamonds and hearts.

Luke is fixated on three! Three times Luke had seen Georgina's hair unbound. Three times ... more whimsy! This moment really struck me. The whimsy in these moments, when the lead characters reflect about the other, is captivating. These are wonderfully endearing insights.

In between the serious business of finding his son Nate, Luke is becoming more and more enamoured of Georgina, as she is with him.

The thing is I find Georgina moves between believable actions and then moments of insanity. Why does she place herself in situations that are dangerous. She is so much more than the impulsive young woman these moments reveal. And yet, sometimes she walks in, turns around and finds herself in an unlooked for situation because she's not paying attention. She has no street smarts. But then she wasn't raised with the need for any so maybe she's really being true to her character.

I did find myself at times flipping through the pages of specific sexual encounter looking for the storyline. The charged teasing play at the dining table was great--measured and mischievous but there was just too many pages given to the bedroom type play. The story didn't need it. This was the deciding factor for me between four and five stars.

I had wondered why Lord Dursley would steal Nate. I had already seen the reason as a possibility but had discounted it.

Likeable characters placed in interesting situations give this story a certain panache.

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A NetGalley ARC

### **Carol Bisig says**

Absolutely love Luke, Georgina, and Nate! Love the third book in this series, the friends are truly family! This book is emotional, funny, dangerous, forever love, and Happily Ever After! Luke is my kind of man, Alpha Male! I highly recommend! Thanks! Enjoy!

carolintallahassee ?

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