



Clandestine

Nichole Van

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Fate will draw two people together, traveling centuries if necessary. But even so, predestined lovers still have the choice to walk away . . .

In 2014, Marc Wilde--martial artist and actor--finds his life a mess. His latest film, *Croc-nami*, is being trashed on social media, sending his acting career into a tailspin (crocodile pun . . . nice). His dating history isn't much better. Romantic love? Not so much. And then there is the tiny matter of blackmail. Someone knows about the time portal in the cellar of Duir Cottage and is threatening to tell the world unless Marc pays up. So yeah . . . life not going so well.

In 1814, Kit Ashton has problems of her own. Her brother has disappeared (again), leaving Kit penniless and forcing her to take up employment as a lady's companion (sigh). Worse, there are French spies in the area, and Kit finds herself pulled into the conspiracy. Add in the sudden appearance of a wind-swept, silver-tongued rogue who makes Kit want to flirt, flirt, flirt . . . it all leaves her one misstep from disaster. Kit is determined to find her brother and return home, all while guarding her heart and (most importantly) keeping her secrets . . . well . . . secret.

This hilarious, quick-paced installment in the Amazon bestselling House of Oak series can easily be read as a stand-alone book.

Clandestine Details

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From Reader Review Clandestine for online ebook

Jennifer says

This review was originally posted to Jen in Bookland

Oh, I love these House of Oak books! The characters are always so much fun to read and I don't even mind the time travel aspect, something I usually have issues with. In fact, I like it. The author uses it in a really fun way.

Marc is an actor. A B-list actor right now, but he has hopes of being in better movies in the future. That is until his most recent movie, Croc-nami, was panned by a huge social media lady. So now he probably won't get much more than he already has. Which is a bit depressing as he is really trying. That and his love life is not so good. He doesn't really understand how to have that lasting love with someone. He thinks he is just not cut out for it. So the same day he sees his newest movie being panned, he has a bad run-in with one of his exes, and he gets a letter from someone blackmailing him! They claim to know about the time portal in Duir Cottage and will reveal it to the world unless Marc pays up. It is really not a very good day for Marc.

Kit is in 1814. She is a lady's companion after her brother runs away and leaves her penniless and trying to find a way to survive. Plus find him so he can come back home and take his rightful place with her. Because she needs him. He is all Kit has and she is not going to lose him and everything she has ever known too.

When Marc gets sent back in time through the portal accidentally he is not really sure what to do. At least his sister had told him her stories of the past and he knows of a few people that might help him out if he can get to them. He runs into Kit pretty much right away and these two were amazing!! I loved them together so so much. This story is so much fun to read! Kit and Marc hit it off, but they both have secrets. Marc that he is from the future and who knows what Kit's is. They have a rough go of it at times because they don't trust the other with their secrets, but Marc knows his is a doozy and most people wouldn't believe him, but eventually he gets to the point where he likes Kit so much he is willing to risk it. He is willing to tell her and see what happens. He can't stay in the past no matter how much he might come to care for Kit. He just can't. His whole life is in the future and he is not really cut out for this formal past life.

When Kit's secrets were finally revealed I loved them so so much! They both have some hard choices facing them, how can they have a relationship through time? And what of Kit's secrets that might ruin everything? It was a lot of fun. I loved the back and forth between these two. They are so quick and funny and it was great watching them fall for each other. I can't wait to read more from this series, especially the next book with Viscount Linwood!

Sarah says

I almost gave up on this one. I liked the first book so well and then felt the second was just "eh" -- just too superficial for my taste. This third book does have a shallow depth to it, but there is a great twist I didn't see coming that actually grabbed me and kept me interested in the story. In the end I enjoyed it better than the second, but not as good as the first. Overall this is by no means great historical fiction. It's pure chick-lit + fantasy/sci-fi - it's fluff. But it is a light, quick, fun read.

Shawnee says

So sad that I consumed it so fast!

It's like receiving a large plate of freshly baked cookies, you know--the kind only your mum can produce, and eating them all without noticing how fast you ate them... Of course I had to even afterwards read the extras at the end. I have to say first off that I think Linwood would make a great main character due to his demeanor and I personally would love to be one of the first to ruffle his feathers lol. I've met a Duke in England and he would not even shake my hand as I'm such an inconsequential, regardless of connections etc. Linwood's eyes sound cold but as Van says in the book, he doesn't fight like a wus! Haha... Anyhow back to the review, I love the main character, Kit the protagonist in the story as she works things out aloud but mostly only in her head by a means of weighing them. I don't wish to give too much away but the characters she uses in her head are laugh out loud funny! I found myself laughing out loud through the entire book and then chasing my husband around reading him the highlighted funny bits as he is normally too hyper to sit down & read. (though how he can play Minecraft for hours is beyond me!!?) I also adored her love interest Marcus Wilde. What I did not get however is a strong sense of their attractions like in the other two books. They felt more like friends, though I can't put my finger on why? They had much in common? There wasn't quite the steam this time--for me anyway. It's entirely possible I'm reading too many other slightly smutty regencies & dreadfuls and the problem lies with me?? However, with that said this is still an awesome book and I would read it again just like the others. I would recommend it to all of my siblings, friends and my auntie as well. Anyone in this time period old enough for Star Wars references would adore this book! Well done! And of course I can't wait for more! <3

Donna says

Hilarious

Yes, I laughed out loud several times in this story. This is a fun romance/mystery time travel and well worth reading!

Jessica says

I struggled to get into this book at first not because it was slow or nothing was happening, it just felt kind of dull. There wasn't really anything that grabbed my attention and I found myself stopping and doing other things before going back to it. I think it's just the writing style for this author or maybe it's how she writes the time period because I tend to be fine with regency era but I tend to get a little bored at times. It's not that long of a book but with how many breaks I take in between it feels double of what it actually is. Once the biggest surprise happened though, all bets were off and my interest peaked like no other. I've never seen this done with a time travel book and was not only shocked and surprised but pleased with how it played out. It was very well thought out and executed at just the right time. Everything fell into place and I'm not sure if it was more than once that a hint was dropped because I only spotted one and had assumed it was an error on the author's part. I absolutely loved what she did with this book and felt a complete shift in my mood with reading this. I was even tempted to go back and reread everything up to that point to see if I'd missed more

clues with Kit besides the obvious dialogue of it was impossible to start something with Marc thing. I was too anxious in getting the rest of the story though. This would be a bad choice on my part in the end.

Not too long after this revelation in the book, it went downhill further than it had than when I was looking for excuses to take breaks from the book. It seemed like after Daniel re-entered the scene, Kit's worst traits were brought out into the open. It was like a complete different person had taken over. I grew to despise her and was irritated with everything she said and did. After she found her brother, I hated and hate her character, there was no redemption with her for me. She was annoying with her whiny rants, plain selfish in trying to control her brother and his wants and needs, and a childish brat with how she threw tantrums when she didn't get what she wanted and blaming people for everything that went wrong. There was so much anger, bitterness, and superiority inside her. She was ugly on the inside and I don't understand how Marc didn't walk away from her when the real her emerged and stopped playing her character.

*****SPOILERS NEXT TWO PARAGRAPHS*****

She was angry at Daniel for wanting to live his life elsewhere away from her. She was demanding that he come back home and live a miserable life where he couldn't be himself. She expected Marc to do whatever he had to do to get Daniel to back home with her. She blamed Marc for taking her through the portal without asking her when he was saving her life and his. She didn't understand he had no choice and no way of fighting Jed off because he was hurt and weak, he could barely throw her over his shoulder to get them both out of there of alive. Had he not gone looking for her she'd be dead. She refused to believe it was the best choice when he explained why he took her through the portal. She brushed off his confession of how he felt about her like it meant nothing to her when what she wanted was right in front of her all along. She was furious that he made a life or death decision that could have ended up with both of them dead. She placed blame on him for no reason and Marc accepted it. She behaved like she was so wronged when his only concern was her safety. He never held a grudge or any bitterness over her article bashing his movie and talent as an actor. He forgave her for it even though it might have ruined his career, his reputation, and potential upgraded roles in the future because of how badly she trashed all over him. HE. LET. IT .GO. He got over it and didn't hold it against her when he had every right to resent her for it and change his mind about how he felt about her. She got off easy and she thinks she has the right to be upset about something that wasn't even his fault. To top it off, HE went to HER in the end and apologized like he had something to be sorry about. I guess it was better for them to end up dead together, instead of happy and alive right? Her idea of getting him to come to her might have been a nice addition if she'd been doing it to apologize to him for how she behaved and treated him but it seemed more like a gesture at calling a truce and saying "I'm ready to forgive you, come find me" which didn't sit well with me at all. Kit was just one of those girls you hate in real life when you see how she treats her boyfriend and he goes above and beyond for but she doesn't appreciate how good she has it.

Daniel was a character who I find not to be very believable. Sorry, but if you were brought up in a generation of youth that have computers and cell phones as a standard utility, there is NO WAY that a twenty something man is going to be daydreaming about living in the past or just isn't interested in technology. Any kid or teenager who has seen that cell phones and computers are normal for everyone to have isn't going to feel like it's not their thing, it's the way of the world now. Kids, teenagers, and young adults love to see technology advancing not wishing it were simpler times and can't be bothered by the latest invention. If he'd stumbled accidentally across the portal and experienced first hand the difference in life between then and now, I can see him appreciating and adjusting to a simpler life but not when he's grown up in the time he has. It's too unrealistic for someone of his upbringing.

*****END SPOILERS*****

I won't be reading their book ever again and regret it terribly because I did love the author's unique take on a

time travel book. She brought something else to the table that set it apart from others of its kind but I just can't bring myself to read again because of Kit. She completely ruined everything about this book for me and I won't torture myself by trying to get through this again knowing who she really is when she takes off the mask. So disappointed in this.

Angie says

[by the way was a bit misleading. (hide spoiler)]

Laura says

3.5 stars for this installment in the House of Oak series.

Spoler****I love that both the main characters came from the future to find each other! When they started quoting "The Princess Bride" I about lost it!

I laughed out loud & found myself sighing right along with Kit!

Charissa says

Big smile on my face while reviewing his one. And suppressed giggles. This is the 3rd book in the House of Oak series by this author, and it was my favorite so far. I've loved them all, but this had some very laugh out loud (true LOLs) moments, even with people nearby me. Yet it's not a slapstick silly romantic comedy with no depth or angst to it. It still has the clean sizzle and passion and emotion that I adore in Van's books. Still, this one had some seriously funny dialogue and scenes that are just snort-laugh worthy (no matter how good you are at stifling your emotions).

This is Marc's story (Emme's brother from book 1). He is your normal 2014 type of guy. Bronco football fanatic fan, stunt man and actor for his day job, handsome, funny. And not the type to ever get strung up by a relationship. He likes women, but he's never felt serious about one. Doesn't think it's in his genetic makeup. But when he starts receiving blackmail notes from someone who knows about the portal to the past in his basement, and then kidnapped back through that same portal to 1814, life gets seriously weird for him. He meets Kit, a lady's paid companion, and is drawn in by her vivacious zest and strength. He never knew women from the past could be that way.

I won't say anymore about this story because the surprising twists and turns have to be experienced first hand to be the most delicious. I won't lick your drumstick and then give it to you (nasty). You're welcome. But I will say that Marc and Kit were hilarious. They're my favorite couple so far (although I hate to play favorites because every book has been super yummy). But the chemistry between these two, Marc's play on Star Wars names, and other hilarious traits just made these two spectacular. There is intrigue and mystery, dashing heroes, heart-tugging angst, sizzling kisses, runaway horses, snort-laugh worthy moments, and family drama. All perfect for a delicious romance stew to savor. Nichole Van's my new author-crush. She seriously hits all the right funny and sizzle bones in my body with her awesome stories. My only regret is: Why in the heck did it take me so long to find her books...and what will I do when I finish all she's written? I guess I'll reread them. End with another big smile on my face.

Barbara says

Seriously? I love James and Emme, I adore Georgi and Seb, but Marc and Kit? #Swoon! This book is probably the best of the series so far! And the twist? Did not see that coming. Nichole Van is not only a talented photographer. The woman can write! I'm once again blown away by the characters, the plot, the romance which has a way of being intense and steamy but still being clean. And the Star Wars/Princess Bride references? Perfect for a nerd like me!

Word on the street is the next book is Linwood/Jasmine and let me tell you, I have a feeling Linwood will be my favorite. I've been wanting his story since the end of book 2. There's more to him than meets the eye and I can't wait to see Jasmine flip him on his head.

Larissa :) [HIATUS] says

Maybe 4.25?

This one was definitely funnier than the other two! :D

Lucinda says

This one was so funny! Marc and Kit had great chemistry. And that twist!

Melissa says

I keep thinking these are going to get old. I have such a short attention span for series. Not these books and not anything by this author. Each story is completely new and fresh. Each character is different and has you cheering for them. The love story is always fun with other fun elements thrown in. Pretty excited for the next one! This is clean with some yummy sweet kisses:}

Leslie says

For the whole first half, I was sure that this would be my least favorite of the series. Nothing was really happening, and the drawn out banter between Marc and Kit felt contrived and overdone. But then we find out that Kit is also from the future—I did NOT see that coming. So finally, at the just-past-halfway point, I was hooked. Even though it still wasn't my favorite of the series, I thought some of the author's tactics were pretty brilliant. Like the prologue with the mysterious "mister w," who we're led to believe is Marc in the past-future, which would mean that he stayed in the past. When it was revealed that that was actually Daniel, I thought surely the author had messed up. Didn't Daniel make us believe it was Marc? But I went back to that part and...nope. The author made me think it, but she didn't mess up! All in all, I have to give the author

props. Still hard to make it though the first half, and Marc isn't going to end up being one of my favorite characters of Van's, but it was a fun read like all the rest of her books.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I read the first book in this series and now I just cannot help myself. I'm going to read them all. I've been stalking them on Amazon and I've managed to pick them all up free or for .99 cents. :) Yay!

Time travel, intrigue, danger, mystery, romance. This book pretty much has it all. It was a fun ride back and forth in time. I loved the little twisty thing that happened in this book. That was fun and it made me smile. There is always something in these books that makes me smile, if not laugh right out loud. I love when there is witty (dry and sometimes sarcastic) humor in books.

I have the next book waiting for me when I get a few extra minutes.

Content: kissing, mild swearing

Lisa Brown says

Marc Wilde is trying to build his acting career, and if it means starring in low budget B movies that highlight his martial arts expertise, than so be it. But when he gets a mysterious blackmail note that threatens to reveal the secret time portal in the Duer Cottage, he goes there. But when he arrives, he ends up being attacked and falling through the portal, landing himself in 1814.

Stuck in the wrong century, he immediately seeks help from Arthur, the brother of his sister's husband. While staying with him, he meets Kit, a woman who has a secret of her own, and their secrets may just be intertwined. And Marc, who never lets his guard down, may have finally found the perfect girl for him, but in the wrong century.

Such a fun addition to the series, and I just loved finally getting to know Emme's brother, Marc. And I love who Kit turned out to really be. Great clean romance.
