



## Worth the Scandal

*Karen Erickson*

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## Worth the Scandal Karen Erickson

"Strictly business? Try telling that to her heart..."

"Worth It, Book 1"

Alexander Worth, President and CEO of Worth Luxury Goods, is a man never to be crossed. His unwavering sense of responsibility to the family business requires him to always be in complete and utter control. Until it comes to Tessa Crawford.

She's quietly professional, shy, voluptuous...and she works for him. Which means she is the one woman he must never touch, no matter how hard his gut twists with need for her.

After rising above her disadvantaged childhood, Tessa knows the last thing she should do is risk throwing it all away by falling into bed with her sexy boss. But on an extended European business trip, all self-imposed barriers burn away in the heat of their sizzling chemistry.

Once back home, though, whispers of corporate espionage turn into full-blown scandal-and Tessa finds out the hard way where Alex's loyalties lie. Determined to soldier on, she picks herself up and carries on with a secret, yet welcomed burden. Never guessing that Alex will make a reappearance in her life, ready to show her once and for all that family does, indeed, come first.

Warning: Contains a sweet-yet-strong woman, and a bossy alpha male brought to his knees by the woman he desperately loves. Involves enough begging and groveling that the reader may be tempted to "accidentally" leave it for her significant other to "find." For instructional purposes only, of course

## Worth the Scandal Details

Date : Published March 20th 2012 by Samhain Publishing, Ltd.

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Author : Karen Erickson

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## From Reader Review Worth the Scandal for online ebook

### Rejane says

I dislike a heroine who acts childish and immature. Specially in situations they already had an agreement on. Besides the 25 years old virgin who's always think she's ugly and plain compared to the male mc "usual" dates. Pathetic

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### Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

This review posted on Guilty Pleasures

#### 4.5 Stars

Worth the Scandal is the first book in the Worth It series by Karen Erickson and it looks very promising. I can tell you right now I will definitely be looking for the other two books in the series to read about the other two Worth brothers. The first story is about Alexander Worth, CEO of Worth Luxury Goods and oldest brother of the family. He took his family's company and made it into a very solvent international company with stores all over Europe and the US. He feels a responsibility for his younger brothers and has mixed emotions on either his relationships, or lack thereof, with Hunter and Rhett. The heroine of the story is Tessa Crawford, Alex's personal assistant. Tessa is a dedicated employee working her way up the ranks within the company to become the personal assistant to the CEO. She is a professional and takes her responsibilities seriously putting in long hours and even weekends. The love story between Alex and Tessa is your classic love story with a little more. There are interesting secondary characters and a plot that makes this romantic love story worth a look and your time.

The story begins with both Alex and Tessa having a mutual attraction for one another but neither one wants to move it beyond the professional boss and employee relationship. Things change when Alex is forced to go on the European business trip instead of his brother Hunter to reopen all the Worth stores and finish negotiations for a new London store. Hunter needs to stay home and figure out who the mole is within the company who is leaking the new Worth line to the competition. Alex decides to take Tessa with him to help him with the business side and also I think to see where things may lead. From the first moments on his private jet things heat up between Tessa and Alex and it builds with each city on their business trip.

Ms. Erickson sets the mood for this couple and they drew me in until the very end. I liked Tessa and her emotional growth throughout the story. Alex saw things black and white for so long until Tessa shows them there are grays too. Alex made some rash decisions which he had to live with and has to open up and change if he is going to have Tessa in his life. A lot goes on in this story and I am happy with the ending for Tessa and Alex. I look forward to more stories in the Worth series and see what's in store for Hunter and Rhett.

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### SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

## **FREE on Amazon US today (10/26/2016)**

Stand-alone book 1. Series covers the Worth siblings.

### **BLURB:**

*Alexander Worth, President and CEO of Worth Luxury Goods, is a man never to be crossed. His unwavering sense of responsibility to the family business requires him to always be in complete and utter control. Until it comes to Tessa Crawford.*

*She's quietly professional, shy, voluptuous...and she works for him. Which means she is the one woman he must never touch, no matter how hard his gut twists with need for her.*

*After rising above her disadvantaged childhood, Tessa knows the last thing she should do is risk throwing it all away by falling into bed with her sexy boss. But on an extended European business trip, all self-imposed barriers burn away in the heat of their sizzling chemistry.*

*Once back home, though, whispers of corporate espionage turn into full-blown scandal—and Tessa finds out the hard way where Alex's loyalties lie. Determined to soldier on, she picks herself up and carries on with a secret, yet welcomed burden. Never guessing that Alex will make a reappearance in her life, ready to show her once and for all that family does, indeed, come first.*

**FREE:** <https://www.amazon.com/Worth-Scandal-...>

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### **Crystal says**

Are we sure this wasn't a throwback to the old Harlequin romances with titles like The Billionaire's Virgin \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). Come on if your gonna resurrect "been there done that" at least make it fresh and somewhat believable.

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### **Leona says**

This really lacked substance. It did have potential, but the author never pulled it off. I don't expect romances to be great literary reads, but they should have more depth than this one.

I might try another book by this author, but only if it's available on Kindle Unlimited.

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### **Beate says**

I am beyond ecstatic that my introduction to Karen Erickson was this book. Other than a few, random typos and grammar mistakes, I fell completely in love with this book and the characters.

Alex guards his heart like a hawk, not letting anyone come near it. That is, until he meets Tessa, who knocks him right off his feet. Being a typical male, and very set in his ways, he takes basically forever to thaw and let Tessa in. If I'm to point out one problem with this book, is that we don't get enough background on Alex. We never really find out why Alex is guarding himself so. What happened in his past to make him go through women like others go through tissues. That's the one, lingering question I'm left with having read this book.

Alex is a bit hot and cold with Tessa, desperately trying to guard his heart. I have to admit that at times I wanted to give him a swift kick to the balls and wake him up. :D I didn't care much about how he let himself be swayed by his brother's negative view of Tessa. I get that falling in love is new territory to him, but come on, when you hit the age of 35, you should be able to think for yourself and not let your younger brother poison you against the one woman who's ever stolen your heart.

But I did like how he came to terms with being in love in the end, and changed his ways. Even if he did chase Tessa away, it did redeem him a little in my eyes that he spent a year trying to find her. And when he finally saw her again, he moved heaven and earth to have her back in his life. I'm kind of a sucker for a man who sees the errors in his ways and chases his woman until he gets her.

Tessa. Oh how my heart went out to her. I connected with her completely, and throughout the book, whatever she felt, I felt. Yup, Ms Erickson really knows how to spin words. I loved that Tessa was 'real', and not a model-like stick figure. I love that she had a temper and wasn't afraid to stand up for herself whenever she felt Alex was being an idiot. And when he chased her away, I love that she didn't come back crawling even if life threw her for a loop, but went on living her life.

What makes Tessa so likable, I think, is that she didn't let herself get spoiled rotten by Alex. She wore her chain-store, bargain clothing even if she was secretly dating a very wealthy man. That shows integrity. And there is nothing I love more about a Heroine than her integrity. Throughout the book, Tessa had integrity on several levels. She was her own person, and didn't change to suit her secret lover.

I've already downloaded the rest of the *Worth It* books, along with 5 other books by Ms Erickson. I have that much faith in her writing. :D

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### **Jenny says**

This book was sexy and the love story was simply beautiful. I really cared about the characters and couldn't go to sleep without finishing reading it. However I adore a douchebag hero so be warned!

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### **Jen says**

No, just...no! I refuse to be a part of the problem anymore. Run, Tessa, RUN!!! Your powerful CEO man,

not quite a boyfriend but you love each other anyway boyfriend, is coming for answers. After he's been a douche of the highest order. Nothing good can come from that! Can it?

Yep, it's one of those.

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### **Lynn says**

Kindle freebie

This book was not for me. A lot of people liked it (evidenced by the reviews that persuaded me) so read the reviews and decide if this is the type of thing you enjoy. You might like it. I, however, did not enjoy it. At all. Below are my reasons. Use it to help you make an informed choice about whether this might be a good book fit for you.

I thought the hero was a huge jerk and the heroine came across as a spineless wimp. It enrages me when a hero treats a woman poorly but all is forgiven once his eyes burn for her or he touches her inciting buckets of lust and all is forgiven. That is what happens throughout the book. The hero treats the heroine like a child and bullies her or orders her around (he is her boss but he does it in every manner) and she gets mad. Then two seconds later she is flirting with him and over it or lusting after him and forgiving him. I can't stand hyper controlling heros who act like a\$\$es. I should have read the description better because it indicates this in the description. Somehow I never imagined it to the level that it is.

I think the hero is somehow supposed to be a better man at the end of the book but I wasn't buying it. Seconds after imagining doing something that would epitomize the ultimate in controlling douchery, the hero doesn't do it but thinks about how he would have done it just a short time ago. I guess because he just thinks about doing the douchy things but doesn't always follow through now, it is supposed to show us some growth. But I still didn't like him. His first instinct was still to do the douchy thing every time. And the heroine falls back swooning in his arms nearly immediately. And I never got any vibe other than lust. You can try to call it love but it read as only lust. I never felt like the hero respected the heroine (not that she ever stood up to him- not really) or valued anyone or anything outside himself and his wants.

I really need to learn to put down a book. I have this weird thing about finishing books.

Note- If you liked Fifty Shades of Gray you might like this one. I personally couldn't stand that book, but clearly I am not typical as evidenced by the huge fan base for it. While this book isn't kinky it does have the same dynamic b/n the hero/ heroine. It reads very similarly. That book made me feel the same anger that this one did so if you didn't like the dynamic between the hero/heroin in that one then you won't like this one either. But if you liked that one then give this one a try.

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### **Nika says**

hero is a douche and heroine a doormat. nothing new- he is super rich, she is a poor mouse... bla bla. the writing was ok. in several instances, the story would skip few details that would appear later and differently color the situation. but it was weird- like author forgot to mention it or they have an overzealous editor in the house.

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### **Lynsey A says**

This was a cute read. A little bit like a Harlequin but not quite. I definitely felt like things were missing in the story. We learn the hero was betrayed in the boardroom and the bedroom, but get no information about either. At times I even felt like this was a bit like Double Standards by Judith McNaught, at least in one aspect of the story, however, DS is much better and really gives a gut punch. This one didn't so much.

Warning for anyone who doesn't like a secret baby child theme, this one has it. Again, I don't mind that trope, mainly because I'd never do it but I like the drama it can bring to the story. However, my one problem with it here, is that (view spoiler)

Anyway, it was a good read, it was free, so I went with it. Not sure if I will read the rest in the series. The story lines don't intrigue me. Maybe if they come up free on Kindle.... :)

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### **Ivy H says**

This was like the formulaic Harlequin Presents type romance with the tycoon boss seducing the shy virgin secretary, then firing her after he believes she betrayed him. However, unlike many Harlequin heroes, this guy remains celibate while they're apart. He finds out that she had not betrayed him and is riddled with guilt for the entire time they're apart, especially when he cannot find where she's moved to. Of course there's the secret baby trope and then they meet again and it's all HEA after he grovels and apologizes to her. I also find it hard to believe the H couldn't find the heroine. He's a tycoon with tons of money; surely a good private investigator would have found out she had moved to London and from there he would have been able to trace her via her employment and residential status?

Although I enjoyed this novel, I will not be reading the subsequent novels about the H's 2 younger brothers. His brother Hunter is an annoying bastard and Rhett seems aimless, useless and lacking in ambition. I have little interest in men who have little direction in life; that kind of guy is not hero material - no matter how many mommy issues the little rich boy is supposed to have.

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### **Christie«SHBBblogger» says**

#### **DNF no rating**

I was looking for some quick in-between arc reading and clearly I made the wrong choice. Douchebag-doormat combo. I know when to throw in the towel.

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### **AnnaBanana says**

This book was a major disappointment for me! I LOVE Karen's books so much. Her Fated series was so good as were quite a few others I've read. When I heard about this book I immediately put it on my tbr list and I bought the day it released. Now I wish I hadn't because the whole entire book made me so mad.

Alex is rude, harsh and totally self absorbed and he was the biggest jerk to poor little Tessa. He would start something with her only to completely shut her out just minutes later, without finishing, without so much as an "I'm sorry." Oh and he doesn't do that once, or twice, but three freakin' times! And yes, I called her Poor Little Tessa because that's exactly what she is. She never gives herself any credit, she just lets Alex walk all over her and then she goes back practically begging for more. Talk about a glutton for punishment. The love scenes are good, as always with Karen's books and when things were good, Alex was a nice guy. Until his brother would throw those doubts out there and he'd start all over again. I just couldn't get past it. And oh don't even get me started on Alex's brother Hunter! If Alex is a jerk then Hunter is a Class-A a\*\*hole. He has no care for anyone, including his brothers. At least that's the way he acts. Totally hung up on himself, his work and which woman will be his next piece. I don't think I'll be reading Hunter's book, I'll just read the spoilers so I know what happened. I will however be reading Rhetts book just to find out what he's up to. There's something mysterious there. Since he wasn't in this book much, there's not much to judge him with. I can't tell if he's a jerk like his brother's or if he's hiding a sweetheart under there.

Sorry for being harsh but I really really don't like how Alex was towards Tessa. Every woman deserves better, every one! I could have forgot about it after he did it the first time, and maybe the second but that third time I was ready to jump in the book and knock some sense into Tessa. I would NEVER put up with that, EVER! So I can't put up with it in a book I read. This will not, however affect my future purchases of Karen's book. One bad doesn't make them all bad, I just think I didn't click well with these characters.

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### **Shasha says**

#### **3 stars!!!**

Okay. Let's get straight to the point.

##### **LIKES:**

- I don't know, but it's just me. I kind of liked the concept - an alpha male and a shy innocent female. Perhaps the buzz about it being like FSOG had something to it. However, it's just rather me.
- I like the ending. I wish it didn't have to be a year long.

##### **DISLIKES:**

- The female is a doormat.
- The guy is way a bit over the top. And at one point, doesn't do well with reason.
- Guy couldn't handle blames & kinda quick to judge
- Guy's a bit bipolar. (sorry)

OVERALL as a story, I still gave it 3 stars. The story as a whole wasn't that bad.

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