



A Dream of Redemption

Bronwen Evans

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A forbidden love and a chilling mystery tease the senses in this sensuous historical romance from the USA Today bestselling author of *A Kiss of Lies* and *A Love to Remember*.

Bookish and independent Lady Helen Hawkestone is expected to marry well. But, having grown up with warring parents, the institution holds little appeal. The trick, she realizes, is to marry for love—a task that's easier said than done. Only while Helen is raising funds for her do-gooder sister's orphanage does she meet a man who arouses her curiosity. Lowborn and yet so dignified that Helen can't help but try to elicit a response, Clary Homeward is an enigma—a heart-stopping, body-stirring, forget-her-social-upbringing enigma.

A single offense against a noblewoman such as Lady Helen would ruin a man like Clary. Her sister, Marisa, rescued him from hellish poverty and employs him with her charity work. Try as he might to push her away, Helen tempts him to want things he could never have. But when girls from the orphanage start disappearing, destined for a grim fate Clary knows all too well, Helen insists on helping. And soon Clary wonders whether something more were not just possible but inevitable—even right.

A Dream of Redemption Details

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Author : Bronwen Evans

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From Reader Review A Dream of Redemption for online ebook

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

A Dream of Redemption by Bronwen Evans is the Eight book in "The Disgraced Lords" series. This is the story of Lady Helen Hawkstone and Clarence Homeward. I have read some of the previous books but feel this can easily be a standalone book.

Clarey and his brother Simon came in to Helen's sister's life when about 5 years ago when Marisa needed help. From then on Marisa gave Clarey a job as her private secretary. Marisa has a few projects that help the less fortunate. Helen always felt that Clarey thought less of her or didn't like her as he tried to keep his distance and always acted funny around her. When her sister takes over a new orphanage Helen asked to oversee it. At first Helen does it to spite Clarey but since she doesn't plan on marrying for anything less than love she feels she wants to move forward with finding something else with her time. Clarey has been hiding his feelings for Helen and thinks of her as his 'Angel' but he doesn't want to let on about his feelings so he tries to act cold toward her.

I really enjoyed this book! Another great book by Ms. Evans!!

Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says

As with all the Disgraced Lords series, this book is another beautiful tale of honorable men and the strong women who love them. While like the other books in the series, this is an emotional romance with a strong danger element, but this one also has much darker subject matter. This is not a light-hearted romance but it is a beautiful story with some powerful messages.

Clary Homeward is not your average romance hero but I think he is one of the most admirable heroes I've read in a long time. Life had hurt him so many times, he held himself off from people. Everyone in his life had deceived and abused him. After the horrid things he'd done to survive, he was left with so much guilt and shame. Helen Hawkstone was like an angel to him. She was everything good and perfect in the world. Helen was taken with Clary from the moment she saw him. He was the most beautiful man she'd ever seen. But more than that, his devotion to the orphaned children touched her. She sensed a sadness to him though. He seemed so contained. His apparent dismissal of her intrigued her and Helen was determined to know more about Clary Homeward.

I fell in love with Clary and Helen. They came from such different worlds but they were drawn to one another. They opened each other's eyes to the world around them. Through her work with Clary, Helen discovered how little she'd seen of the world outside of her secure little bubble. She saw many of the horrors of the world and felt compelled to make a change. The ugliness of the world was all Clary had ever known but Helen brought hope to his life. He saw goodness and optimism in her. "From his life of darkness and sin, she was the glowing light of goodness." He carried such guilt and shame from his past but Helen helped him to look to the future and see the wonderful man he had become. This story was a fabulous combination of romance and danger with some heart-breaking moments and powerful messages about making a change in the world.

Monique says

If you are looking for a light, frothy story, don't waste your time reading this review. The Disgraced Lords is one of the best historical romance series around and A DREAM OF REDEMPTION is another astonishing example of Bronwen Evans' talent. Clary was introduced in the previous book, but even readers who have not read this series can readily dive in because, even though this is book eight in the series, it does stand alone. Ms. Evans doesn't shy away from difficult issues, and A DREAM OF REDEMPTION is an intense and gripping look at romance involving people belonging to different classes in the Regency era.

What makes A DREAM OF REDEMPTION so special is the way Ms. Evans wrote the story: even as Clary and Helen know that their ever being able to marry seems like a dream, they cannot stop the attraction they both feel, but giving in to that attraction could cost them everything they have. Still, while working alongside Clary, her outlook is forever changed; she has found her calling, but she has also found the one. Clary already knows that he loves her, but Helen is not a dreamer; when she realises that she really does love Clary, she also realises that being together would lead to disaster for both of them; and Bronwen Evans did not take the easy road in telling her story. Clary is ashamed of what he had to do to survive, but there is nothing he can change about it.

Could their love survive losing everything? Is their love strong enough, is it really love? Issues are discussed honestly, soberly examined, every little objection is weighed; is it all worth it? Clary and Helen look realistically at the slim probabilities of their romance becoming a reality. What a journey! Helen and Clary are two of the most fascinating characters I have ever read. This is a book that held me captive, and one of the most complex romances I have ever read. A DREAM OF REDEMPTION is a book that must be read by anyone who craves a deeply moving romance.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Pelusa Rivera says

Received an ARC at no cost to author. (netgalley) I have been a fan of Bronwen Evans for a while now, I think from the beginning of this series and I will continue to be a fan. This was the 8th in this series, and even though it is a series can be read as a standalone you will not be lost. This has some pretty sad moments, like reading about Clary and what he went thru. Clary ends up working with Helene at an orphanage and their working together became more than just helping out the orphanage, their are of different status, she is a noble, he is a lowly person but that does not stop the love train..Can't give you more my friends you need to read. And as always Enjoy!!!

eyes.2c says

Captivating!

Clary Homeward regarded his employer's sister as an angel. An innocent who should have nothing to do with him. After all, he is a product of the streets, of depravity, of the worst parts of London.

Book loving, intelligent Lady Helen Hawkestone was frustrated by the endless rounds of senseless ton activities. She wanted more, she wanted to marry for love. If she can't have that then her sister- in-law's support of orphanages would challenge the boredom of the social interplay.

A mission sweetened by the enigmatic manager of the charities, the beautiful Clarence.

Clarence's past rises up between them and Helen finds herself fighting for love, and the hapless children, prey to the amoral, who see them as nothing more than trading goods, human fodder to be used by those who rule the underbelly of the city.

A novel of darkness, and the light of love shining into the painful corners, bringing cleansing and freedom. Nicely balanced and well written.

A NetGalley ARC

Tracy Emro says

4.5 stars

Lady Helen Hawkestone has decided to stop looking for a husband and let fate lead her to her perfect mate. She is the younger sister of Marisa, the Duchess of Lyttleton and Sebastian, the Marquess of Coldhurst and she has seen her brother and sister as well as their friends find their soulmates and will settle for nothing less for herself.

Fate thrusts the most unlikely candidate at her, Clarence Homeward aka Clarey, her sister's personal secretary. Clarey was instrumental in rescuing Marisa from Victoria and in turn Marisa rescued him and his younger brother Simon from Angelo. Clarey has worked hard in the five years since to make sure he and Simon never ended up back on the streets and nothing and no one will deter him from his path, not even the absolutely gorgeous angel that he has been half in love with for five years. But fate clearly has other ideas.

When Helen offers to help with a newly acquired orphanage, so her sister can go on a surprise anniversary trip, Clarey is opposed, but Helen persists and Marisa gives in to her. Helen has long admired Clarey and most definitely appreciates his good looks, but besides spending time with him, she really wants to help.

Nothing could have prepared her for the harsh reality of the orphanage or her desire to help these children, against Clarey's advice, she stays and learns that some children are missing - she tells Clarey they must be found. He goes to look and she finagles a way to follow him. He is livid when she shows up and when the fired orphanage master Glover spots them, he kisses her to throw him off their trail. As they return to the home, they are attacked and Clarey is injured. Helen feels awful and cares for him. They both feel the pull of attraction, but Clarey knows what he could lose if he pursues it but Helen wants to explore it. He asks her to go home and reluctantly she agrees, but this is not over between them.

When Clarey returns to work, Helen is waiting, he tries to keep her at arm's length, but she is sure they could have a future. But Clarey has a dark past that Helen has no knowledge of, he tries to tell her, but she says she doesn't care. He begins to think that maybe she does love him enough, but when a walk in the park has him encountering a person from his past, he knows that he will never be accepted. Helen is not going to let him walk away, she insists on taking him home after he is re-injured and they move beyond kisses, she tells him that he has to fight for her.

When he is warned off and tries to distance himself, she has doubts, but she still isn't ready to give him up.

She goes to his home and he tells her most of his past, she is shocked, but she still wants him, they make love and reality returns when her brother bursts in.

Helen stands up to Sebastian and will find a way to be with Clarey. But before she can get to him, Glover reappears and Helen is in danger. Clarey goes to the only man who can help him get her back, Sebastian. They find Helen and Glover reveals all of Clarey's shame to her. Clarey is sure she will turn from him, but to his surprise, she tells Glover she doesn't care and punches him, enabling a clear shot to kill him. Helen is saved, but that is not the end of their story, they still have to gain her families blessing and based on Sebastian's reaction, that dream seems impossible.

This was a very emotional read, with a lot of darkness, triggers and angst - but I loved it. It was a beautiful story of acceptance, self-forgiveness, familial love and learning to not let your past define you. It did not have many light moments, but there is action and steamy love scenes, there are villains that get what they deserve and a very sweet epilogue that left me a little teary eyed.

If you have been following this series, you MUST read this book, if you are new to the series, it could be read as a stand alone, but it would be best to start at the beginning of the series and work your way to this book!!

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher

Renee says

I really enjoyed reading this book. With the author's style of writing, I could picture everything perfectly in my mind and I felt like I was back in time. I found the characters to be fascinating. Helen and Clary were delightful and I fell totally in love with them. Definitely a wonderful book to read.

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

Sheila Melo says

FINAL DECISION: An enjoyable cross-class romance with a hero with a dark past and a heroine who is determined to have him. I especially enjoyed seeing the characters from the series five years later.

THE STORY: Lady Helen Hawkestone has decided to stop searching for a man to marry at balls and soirees. She realizes that every person she knows who married for love found their spouse in an unconventional fashion and also she has been intrigued by her sister's employee Clary Homeward. Clary, however, is no gentleman and no match for the innocent and aristocratic Helen. When the two work together on her sister's new orphanage project, Clary and Helen face danger from those engaged in the seedy underbelly of child trafficking and also the attraction between them that society would be scandalized by.

OPINION: I enjoyed this entry in the series. While there is a storyline involving the orphanage, the real focus in this book is on Helen and Clary and their romance. I liked how the two interacted and how Helen becomes stronger throughout the book.

Clary is a man who has overcome a horrible past and this book forces further growth in his character. He must overcome his shame in his past. I did think that his past was glossed over a bit. While it was important to the story, we don't really delve into his past. It is difficult to believe that Helen would be so blase once she found out because she truly doesn't have the experience to understand the exploitation. I did like seeing how Clary and his brother have reinvented their lives and it was nice seeing a happy ending for them.

Helen is also a character that grows through the book. She falls for Clary and begins to see the world as more complicated and more dark than she imagined. While this progression would not work for a typical aristocratic woman, her own sister's life and her sister-in-law's determination to not hide the darker parts of the world from her. Helen is no fool and she begins to recognize that her relationship with Clary will be complicated and perhaps make her a pariah, but she is willing to do everything for love.

I liked the complexity that Helen and Clary's relationship brings to the characters from the series. This is a complicated situation and I liked that the story reflected that complication.

This was an enjoyable read especially for those who have followed the series because it provides a nice wrap up along with giving some characters a well-deserved happy ending.

WORTH MENTIONING: This book left me feeling good about the entire series because the five years later update shows how happy everyone is.

CONNECTED BOOKS: *A DREAM OF REDEMPTION* is the eighth book in the Disgraced Lords series. This book can be read as a standalone, but the book might be more enjoyable if one reads *A WHISPER OF DESIRE* first because it introduces all the relevant characters.

STAR RATING: I give this book 4 stars.

NOTE: I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley in order to prepare a review. I was not required to write a review or to write a positive review. All opinions contained herein are my own.

This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

Lori D says

Second chances at life rarely come. Especially when you were abandoned as a child on the streets with your little brother and are taken in by an awful person. Forced to live a life beyond description, Clary Homeward and his brother Simon, were saved by Lady Marisa. Clary becomes Lady Marisa's secretary and helps with her endeavors to save orphans and children on the street. When Marisa's sister, Helen wants to become involved in the orphanages, she is thrown together with Clary and it is his worst fear. You see, he had seen Helen a few years back when he was first rescued by Marisa and he had a memory of her as an Angel. That image does not go away as they spend time together but he knows he is not good enough for her. Helen has really been sheltered her whole life and is shocked to see the fate of children from the streets and wholeheartedly becomes involved. With a villain who is stealing children for nefarious reasons and a struggle to save them, this story will uncover some of the darker places during this time period. But there is so much light to be found and with the strong characters that come to life, hope is possible. This was a story of the very bases of emotion and love and that there is sometimes a lot to be said for perseverance and realizing that life can be good with wonderful support and believing in yourself! This is part of a series but

can be read as a stand alone story.

Annette says

Lady Helen is of the nobility. She has decided her life is rather empty and she volunteers to help her sister, the Duchess. Marissa owns orphanages and helps children learn skills that will lift them out of poverty. Marissa is very devoted to doing her work to help children.

Helen also wants to work with Marissa's secretary, Clarence Homeward. He is very handsome but very reserved around Helen.

Helen is from a privileged background and she has led a very sheltered life. She does not have a true picture of what happens in the world. She is beautiful, intelligent and very kind hearted. She is determined to become a woman who does good in the world. But, she really does not know what she is facing.

Clarence (Clary) is from a completely different level in the world. He works very hard to help the orphans receive education, training and a safe place to live. It is his entire life.

He was used as a child prostitute. He is a product of human trafficking. Marissa has helped Clary and his brother escape their terrible life. Now, although he is hopelessly in love with Helen, an angel, he does not believe he is worthy of her in any way.

This is part of a series, but it does work as a stand alone read. All the information needed to follow the story is provided to the reader. It is easy to get to know the characters and understand the plot.

Ms Evans has created two characters that are compelling. Helen is on a journey of discovery about life. Clary wants to do the very best he can in his work for the Duchess.

The secondary characters, even the villains, add a great deal of depth to this story. They help the reader understand the depth of depravity. The reader also gets a picture of the great need for places like good orphanages and people like the Duchess, Helen and Clary to help create new lives for these children.

This is a well constructed book. It is not a light and frothy story. There is a great deal of darkness which illustrates the British class system as well as what poverty did to the average person in 19th century London.

I received this book from the publisher through NetGalley. I am voluntarily writing this review and all opinions are my own.

Anna Swedenmom says

BUY BUY BUY BUY BUY

BUT WARNING!!! Not for the faint of heart reader.

This book was a mix of a heart rending , emotional and soul touching instrument. Not only has this author written a magnificent historical, she has written a book of real time events in a way that makes each reader stop and think and feel. I had such a time with the book. Totally captivated and completely oblivious to all things happening in the world until I was finished reading. From start until finished, the book is a GREAT READ! Not all sex. A passionate, stormy, mysterious, captivating plot line with characters that were strong and wonderful. If you want a book that you will fall into and be oblivious for hours to other things, get this one. Its a keeper and a soul sweeper. I absolutely adore this authors work in this book. I cannot say enough wonderful things about it. But I am serious when I say not for the faint of heart for the story touches areas of life that criminal and heart rending. Again, a great great read. I was given this book in return for an honest review. Anna Swedenmom

Joanna Loves Reading says

This was easy to read and kept my interest. For such dark themes, the author had a light hand, and it didn't feel bogged down with the weight of the despicable villains. I also appreciated how much honest and open talk there was between many of the characters.

Helen, the heroine, is a beautiful bluestocking, and she was once described as a ton diamond, who doesn't like balls and ton events. Clarence is a secretary for Helen's sister, who helps manage orphanages for Her Grace. He has a very sordid youth that he is ashamed of and considers himself damaged goods. Helen volunteers to check out a recently purchased orphanage in her sister's stead, and this is what puts the h&h in close proximity to build on their hidden crushes to each other. What they discovered at the new orphanage is a deplorable situation as part of child trafficking scheme.

Overall, while a surprisingly easy read, it doesn't stand out for me. There seemed to be some incongruity in descriptions, and I felt there were a few times when an idea or plot point presented itself without further exploration. There was also quite a bit of conflict included, and much of it was too easily remedied. This story worked OK as a standalone, but it probably would have been best to read Marisa and Maitland's story first. I would consider reading more by this author.

*I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Janet says

Bookish and independent Lady Helen Hawkestone is expected to marry well. But, having grown up with warring parents, the institution holds little appeal. The trick, she realizes, is to marry for love a task that's easier said than done. Clary Homeward is an enigma a heart-stopping, body-stirring, forget-her-social-upbringing enigma. A single offence against a noblewoman such as Lady Helen would ruin a man like Clary. Her sister, Marisa, Duchess of Lyttleton rescued him from hellish poverty and employs him with her charity work. Try as he might to push her away, Helen tempts him to want things he could never have. But when girls from the orphanage start disappearing, destined for a grim fate Clary knows all too well, Helen insists on helping.

Another page turning, engrossing read which once again I was loathe to put down & read until 2am to finish

it. Quite dark in places, the descriptions of the orphanage & Clary's teenage years were particularly harrowing, I commend the author for delving into the seamier side of nineteenth century life. The characters are very well portrayed, Clary & Helen were both strong characters. She had her eyes opened as to how others had to live & he was consumed by guilt. Their road to their HEA wasn't smooth but they did fight to get there. I'm a fan of the author's books & this didn't disappoint, it is the eighth in the series but could be read as a standalone book but why would you when the series goes from strength to strength

My honest review is for a special copy I voluntarily read

Heather Fineisen says

No witty banter here, but a rather somber look at orphanages and trafficking. Clary is a former child prostitute in love with Lady Helen, who feels passionate about him. How can they be together and find the missing children? Romance and steamy passion juxtapose with abuse of children to make a satisfying read. I especially liked the fact that a woman was the business head behind the orphanage reform.

Copy provided by the Publisher and NetGalley

Lori Meehan says

After living through her parents volatile marriage Lady Helen Hawkestone has no interest in marriage unless fate brings her love. She had no idea it would be the boy she once met outside her sister Marisa's sick room five years ago. Clarence "Clary" Homeward knows how low in life one can get even if he had no choice in the matter. When he helped to save Lady Marisa she in turn gave him and his brother Simon a chance at a new life with a future that he craved.

Clary sparks feeling in Helen that she's never had for another man and she knows fate has lead him to her. Wanting to spend time with him Helen begs Marisa to let her help with the new orphanage. Clary has pined for Helen since the day he met her and knows this will lead to heartbreak but he longs to spend time with her. Helen could not of foreseen how her life would change that day. Her innocent and naive look at the world would be forever shattered and her feelings for Clary would only grow by the day.

Clary loves Helen but his shame of the past still chocks him and the fear of losing the life and freedom he's worked so hard for was a wall Helen may never break through. Helen wants Clary but only if he's willing to fight for her and the life he deserves.

Helen was beautiful but cared nothing for the ton and their ways. She was a strong and very bullheaded woman and when she wanted something she went after it. Clary was a strong proud but conflicted man, he had a life's path and goal that he would not sway from. Fate had other plans if he'd only believe and see he deserved more.

I love this series and I can't wait for the next book.
