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Tempt Me At Twilight: Hathaways, Book 3



Synopsis

He was everything she'd sworn to avoid. Poppy Hathaway loves her unconventional family, though she longs for normalcy. Then fate leads to a meeting with Harry Rutledge, an enigmatic hotel owner and inventor with wealth, power, and a dangerous hidden life. When their flirtation compromises her own reputation, Poppy shocks everyone by accepting his proposal—only to find that her new husband offers his passion, but not his trust. And she was everything he needed—Harry was willing to do anything to win Poppy—except to open his heart. All his life, he has held the world at arm's length—but the sharp, beguiling Poppy demands to be his wife in every way that matters. Still, as desire grows between them, an enemy lurks in the shadows. Now if Harry wants to keep Poppy by his side, he must forge a true union of body and soul, once and for all... “Splendid romance.” • Booklist

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

i'm a newcomer to the romance genre, but at the recommendation of a friend i have been tearing through the lisa kleypas catalogue. i was completely smitten by the wallflowers and i utterly fell in love with the hathaways (especially ameila and "mine until midnight") but this book left me feeling uncomfortable, ambivalent, and unhappy - none of the things i had been looking for by exploring romance novels.it's not that the writing is bad, or the characters or bad, or even the scenario - it was all what i expect and love from lisa kleypas and poppy hathaway is just as determined as her sisters

to find the path that is right for her no matter what. i appreciated her attitude toward her villainous hero, Harry, and was absolutely prepared to root for them until we got to the first post-nuptial scene following a bit of an altercation at their wedding. i am sorry, but i had a challenging time moving beyond an unpleasant and visceral reaction (mine and Poppy's) to what i could only read as a non-consensual act. even though Poppy does, in fact, consent, the way that it was written just gave me the shivers. i wanted to put it down but knew that if i did, i wouldn't come back - and Lisa Kleypas has earned enough trust from me from her other series that i didn't want to do it. so i finished the book and was mostly rewarded by another unconventionally conventional happy ending for another excellent Hathaway sister. other readers may have completely different reactions to this, so YMMV. maybe i am too sensitive or not familiar/comfortable enough with the tropes of the genre but i hope never to encounter another "love" scene like this one in a Lisa Kleypas book.

TITLE: Tempt Me at Twilight **AUTHOR:** Lisa Kleypas **SERIES:** Hathaways, Book 3 **SETTING:** Victorian, London and Hampshire **THEMES/TROPES:** "heartless" hero, entrepreneur/self-made man, coerced marriage **OVERVIEW:** Poppy Hathaway, fourth child of an unconventional family, just wants a normal, quiet life. The dream seems within reach as her relationship with a viscount's son grows, but there are a few problems. First, his father doesn't approve. Second, the mysteriously hotelier, Harry Rutledge, has decided that he wants Poppy for himself. And Harry Rutledge gets what he wants. With a sharp mind, an isolated childhood, and a ruthless drive, Harry is not well-equipped to provide Poppy with the sweet affection and close companionship she's always desired, but he's not about to give up on what he wants. While Harry learns to navigate Poppy's strong will and her zany, protective family, Poppy learns to see beneath the many masks he wears. **PROS:** Harry is probably my favorite thing about this book. Not only does he fall into the category of heartless, careless, need-to-be-reformed heroes that I love, but he's also subtly developed. Early in the story, there are plenty of moments where he's being an outright villain, and then there's just a hint of proper feeling in him. Poppy is also a delightful character; she's sweet, loving, reasonable, and patient without being weak. She pairs perfectly with Harry because she's so willing to love and to teach him to love, and she has the will to show him he can't just have his way all the time. The progression of sex in their relationship is also written well to reflect where they're at emotionally, particularly in terms of trust. And even when the scene ends in frustration, there's no lack of sexiness. At

the same time, there were moments where the question of consent made me a little uncomfortable, but it makes sense for the characters and time period. The supporting cast is also top-notch. The hotel staff are a lot of fun, with plenty of hilarious observations about Harry and his marriage. Poppy's family are even better (as one might expect since they're the main characters of the series in other books). Poppy's brother, Leo, is particularly hilarious (and lovable) in this book, which made me really glad that I wasn't reading these books when they originally came out because I'm so happy to move on to Leo's story right away.

CONS: I can't think of much I disliked about this book, and those are only slight. Harry's character development feels a bit quick, but I put that down to the nature of the genre, where most love stories go from zero to sixty in a matter of weeks. The plot could have had a little more interest, but it was solid. I was getting close to the end of the book, thinking that the plot was lacking a little when I reached another bit of plot intrigue that finishes the story off well. Having a more intense heroine up against Harry could have created more drama and intrigue, but the story wouldn't have been as sweet or believable.

RATINGS: Writing: 5/5 Always great from Lisa Kleypas. Characters: 5/5 Well-rounded and well-developed. Plot: 4/5 Solid, but not as dramatic as expected. Setting: 5/5 Kleypas writes in great historical detail. Romance: 5/5 A sweet redemption story. Sexiness: 4/5 Matches emotional story well. Humor: 5/5 Omnipresent humor, especially when Leo comes in. Average: 4.71

Well-Written Characters, Sweet Romance

OTHER INFO: This is the third book in Lisa Kleypas's Hathaway series, which stars one of the five Hathaway siblings in each book. The preceding two books are the stories of Poppy's older sisters, Amelia and Win, and their husbands, Cam and Merripen, all of whom we see in this book. Cam appears previously in Kleypas's Wallflowers series, and the first book in the series sees quite a bit of some of the leads from the Wallflowers (though none of them appear in this book). This story includes a lot of setup for the following book in the series, which stars Leo and the Hathaway governess, Catherine Marks.

I read this quite some time ago and I remember it. That, alone, tells you how much I liked this novel:) Harry, a self-made wealthy hotelier, is a divine hero. Poppy, with such a zest for life, is perfect for Harry, and Harry knows it. His determination to succeed in the wider world is seen in his resolve to win Poppy and, more importantly, win her love. Poppy began the story with a wimpy boyfriend who Harry moves out of the picture in typical Harry fashion. I'm seriously jealous of Poppy,

Harry loves her so madly! Given they're in another century, I'll just be graciously happy for them. This novel was written beautifully. Among Kleypas' best, in my opinion, and the best, by far, in this series. Enjoy your reading! :)

Poppy Hathaway thinks that she wants to live an ordinary life, removed from the eccentricities her family is known for. With her third London season drawing to a close she thinks that she may finally be getting her wish, until her sister's pet ferret steals a love letter and gets loose in the Rutledge Hotel. In her effort to capture the ferret and retrieve her letter, Poppy meets the reclusive owner of the hotel, Mr. Rutledge. I really liked this story. Poppy and Harry aren't a conventional couple, although their circumstances were probably more common at the time. Of all the supporting characters, I believe that I liked the hotel staff the best. Their quiet caring for Harry, even when they knew that he would be angry if he knew was priceless.

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