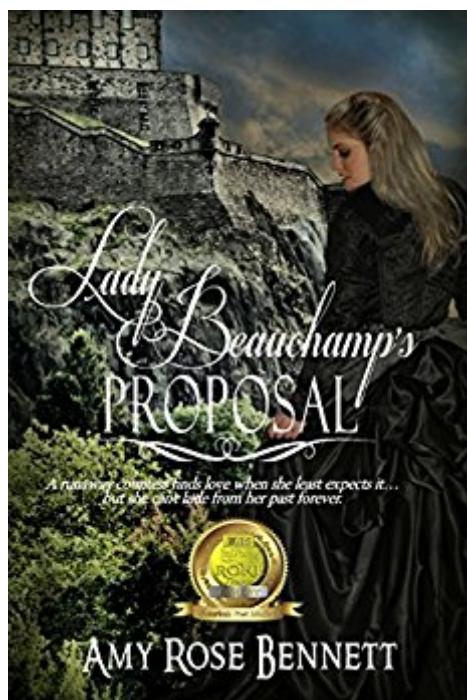


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Lady Beauchamp's Proposal: Scandalous Regency Widows, Book 1



Synopsis

A runaway countess finds love when she least expects it— but she can't hide from her past forever. Elizabeth, Lady Beauchamp, fears for her life. When she discovers her dissolute and long-estranged husband has syphilis—and he wants to beget an heir no matter the cost—she flees to a remote part of Scotland to begin a new life as the widowed governess, Mrs. Beth Elliott at Eilean Tor Castle. When Mrs. Elliott unexpectedly arrives on his doorstep, the reclusive and recently widowed Marquess of Rothsburgh is both irritated and intrigued. No longer in need of a governess—his young daughter now resides with his sister's family in Edinburgh—he proposes the beautiful widow fill a position of a different kind. Torn between staying true to her marriage vows and her wanton attraction to the devilishly handsome marquess, Elizabeth struggles against the temptation to become his mistress. But living a lie is not easy when you have fallen in love. And secrets always have a way of coming out.

Author's Note to Readers: This historical romance has a steamy heat rating. It contains erotic love-making scenes and frank sexual language is used.

Lady Beauchamp's Proposal won the Georgian/Regency/Victorian category of the 2015 'Romancing the Novel Published Authors Contest' run by the Hearts Through History Chapter of Romance Writers of America. It was a finalist in the 2014 Australian Romance Readers Association Awards (favorite historical), and the Carolyn Readers Choice Awards, and was runner-up in Romance Writers of New Zealand's 2015 Koru Contest (Award for Excellence) for 'Best First Book.' It has also received an honourable mention in the 2015 RONE Awards (post-medieval section).

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Customer Reviews

If you are looking for a Regency romance, steamy love scenes, with a Gothic undertone, this book is for you. I fell in love with the hero, James and the heroine, Elizabeth aka Beth. The book draws you in right from the first page. Elizabeth, The Countess of Beauchamp, is on the run from her husband Hugh, The Earl Of Beauchamp. She has found out that her husband, Hugh, has syphilis and he now wants Elizabeth to have his heir. Elizabeth knows that she has to escape so she runs to Scotland and masquerades as Mrs Beth Elliott a widowed governess for The Widower, The Marquess of Rothsburgh aka James. The story really takes off when Beth and James meet. I like that you don't have to wait till the end of the book for the hero to find out the real identity of the heroine. I like the twist that the author throws in. Make sure you have some tissues handy. Amy Rose, do I see a possible story about the mysterious Lord Markham? Hope so

I initially enjoyed this book up until a certain point. It read nicely and the author seemed to have done a period research too. The dialogue sound fit for the time period except the sexual parts. I don't mind reading sexual contents; when finely written and with the right dose, they can be very enjoyable indeed. But in the case of this book my attention failed to stick. It's not the explicitness in itself, but the way it is written. It sounded cheap, like porn. Unlike the rest of the book, the sexual scenes sound too modern, except for the mention of the necessary period references such as taking off shifts, gowns, drawers, breeches and so on. The f-word is used too often, and "having or it's just sex" or such. "Whore" was often used as well, but I believe that to be truer to the period "harlot" fits better. Somehow I do not expect the characters of this time period to be speaking so. I lost count of the number of times the word "mistress" was mentioned as well. It was clear when James brought the subject up that he intended to keep Beth as such. Why keep bringing the word up? The sexual acts, too many of them and more than really necessary, became boring and really repetitive. It's all they ever do and James is constantly in a state of hard arousal I wonder how he could function normally when not bedding her. This book is really nothing more than porn in a guise. I would rather have sensuality and real romance, and the use of a bit of imagination. The dialogues

during their confessions were bland and the underlying stories too shallow. There are enough twists and turns but the execution lacking. I just do not feel enough romantic development and could not connect with the characters. I skipped a lot just to find out how the book ends before i get tempted to totally give it up.

Loved, loved the story of James and Beth, so wonderfully written!! When Lady Elizabeth receives a letter from one of her husbands mistresses saying that he has the POX and has give her a death sentence she knows she must flee. She ends up on the door step of Lord R (James) in Northern Scotland hoping for The Governesses position. Upon passing out from the argue James takes care of her. After her recovery he offers her the Housekeeper position. She feels safe but also is drawn to James. When James asks her to become his mistress, she runs from the room but comes back latter and says yes. As the bark on their affair the hounds are closing in on Elizabeth. A heart wrenching beautiful read with a wonderful ending!!

I feel a bit wrung out emotionally at the end of this drama. If the writing hadn't been so good, I probably would not have been so involved with Lady Elizabeth Beauchamp and Lord James Rothsburgh -- both strong and valiant victims of their times striving to move beyond convention and remain honorable. This definitely is a love story full of angst and fear and joy and everything else. A hard fought for love against many odds. And that is all the plot for now. If you like emotional stuff, this one is for you. If you become upset with the arrogant treatment of women two hundred years ago, then beware. Otherwise, good writing -- setting, plot, dialogue, and all that stuff -- forced my weak-willed self to read happily to the end. And by the way, lots of sex scenes (tastefully told).

*** Spoilers ***Lady Beauchamp leaves her husband to avoid getting syphilis from him. She goes to Scotland to apply for a governess position, she catches the ague (flu), Lord Rothsburgh nurses her back to health, then offers her the position of housekeeper. They are both lonely and attracted to each other, so they end up having an affair and falling in love. He asks her to marry him, she confesses she's not a widow and departs his home. He finds her and they go to Edinburgh to live together until her husband finds her and drags her back. He wants an heir and doesn't care if Rothsburgh is the father.*** End Spoilers ***Some of the book is dragged down by too many details, so I focussed on reading the dialogue between the characters and found the plot to be fairly interesting. I liked how committed and devoted Rothsburgh is towards Elizabeth. I was convinced of their love for each other, in addition to their physical attraction. This book is highly explicit, but the

relationship is well established and doesn't get steamy until 40% into the story. The graphic descriptions of suffering from syphilis are icky to read about.

I think that this story is what's meant by bittersweet. Elizabeth is married to the worse rake in England. He has broken his vows more than a hundred times. Now she learns he has the "POX" which is a late stage syphilis and incurable. When he wants an heir she runs. All the way to Scotland where she is going to be the governess but the child has been removed after the death of her mother. From there it's deceit and manipulation and love. Well written story about the times. Even with venereal disease a couple couldn't divorce. My goodness, it's great that times, laws, and societal norms have changed.

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