



Potent Pleasures (The Pleasures Trilogy)

By Eloisa James

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Potent Pleasures (The Pleasures Trilogy) By Eloisa James

Nothing is more seductive than temptation.

Reckless desire sends Charlotte Daicheston into the garden with a dashing masked stranger. He's powerful, unforgettable, a devastatingly handsome footman who lures her--not against her will--into a grand indiscretion at a masquerade ball. Then he vanishes.

Several years later, after Charlotte has made her dazzling debut in London society, they meet again. But the rogue is no footman. He's rich, titled, and he doesn't remember Charlotte. Worse, he's the subject of some scandalous gossip: rumor has it, the earl's virility is in question.

Charlotte, who knows all too intimately the power of his passion, is stunned by the gossip that has set society ablaze. At last, there can be a storybook ending...unless, of course, Charlotte's one mad indiscretion had not been with him at all....

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

When the young Lady Charlotte Caverstill attends a local masked ball while on holiday in the countryside, she has no intention of dishonoring herself. But a handsome man ignites an unknown passion in her, and she finds herself willingly following him into the shadows of the garden. Before the night is over, Charlotte has surrendered her heart, as well as her virginity, to this man whom she doesn't know.

Though Alex McDonough Foakes spends the entire summer trying to track down the mysterious maiden from the masquerade ball, he cannot find her. Sent to Italy, he seeks solace in an ill-fated marriage, and returns years later a father, a widower, and a pessimist in love. When Alex meets Charlotte, he falls madly in love with her--despite his inability to recognize her--and proposes. She refuses. How can she marry a man who does not remember her after such an intimacy? And if she does, how can she explain her lack of virginity?

In this, her debut novel, author Eloisa James takes special care to test and develop her characters in different situations. Unlike books with the familiar cart-before-the-horse plot, James does not restrict her characters to the bedroom; as Charlotte and Alex interact with friends and family in different arenas, they become more realistic and interesting. And though their motives are not always believable, the lovers appear to be a part of a greater world--one that will quickly capture the reader's imagination. --*Nancy R.E. O'Brien*

From Publishers Weekly

Is he or isn't he? That's the question on London society's collective mind in this slow-starting but ultimately satisfying Regency romance. Alexander Foakes, earl of Sheffield and Downes, allowed his Italian wife, Maria, to divorce him on grounds that he was impotent, but now he turns up with a baby daughter he claims is his child by Maria, who kept Pippa's birth a secret until she was dying. Charlotte Calverstill, the unmarried Lady Daicheston, can't believe he is impotent--after all, he "ruined" her in a garden three years ago before leaving for Italy. But Alex doesn't seem to remember their tryst. Nonetheless, he is smitten with the new Charlotte in her trend-setting French gowns, and since Alex requires a mother for Pippa, Charlotte is his choice. Charlotte is less than thrilled that her first lover doesn't even remember their unplanned assignation, but her hormones are drawing her back to Alex, who desperately wants a virgin bride after the debacle of his previous marriage. Thus, the stage is set for surprises all around, though dedicated Regency readers will spot developments well in advance. There are a few unexpected twists, however, and James introduces several well-integrated subplots for variety. As an independent woman with kind and understanding parents who wouldn't dream of pressuring her to marry, Charlotte may not be a realistic representative of her era, but she is an engaging heroine. The depth of characterizations, the steady progression of the plot and the tongue-in-cheek title will attract readers who may just greet James as the next Amanda Quick. (Aug.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Newcomer James makes a fine debut with this Regency romance that brings to mind the best of Amanda Quick and Judith McNaught. Charlotte, the youngest daughter of the duke of Calverstill, is about to come out in society but defies convention and attends a forbidden masked ball. While there, she literally collides with a dazzling stranger and, in the heat of the moment, gives her virginity to him. Believing that she is damaged goods, Charlotte devotes her life to painting for three years, then decides to reenter society in the hope of finding a husband who will accept her lack of virginity. During a society ball, she falls down the stairs into the arms of that same handsome stranger and discovers he is a very eligible earl. But Alex doesn't realize that

she is the girl he has been searching for, and when they marry, he reviles her for not being virginal. One crisis follows another, keeping James' readers intrigued right up to the very last page. *Patty Engelmann*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mark Malek:

Do you considered one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This Potent Pleasures (The Pleasures Trilogy) book is readable by you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with Potent Pleasures (The Pleasures Trilogy) content conveys thinking easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different by means of it. So , do you continue to thinking Potent Pleasures (The Pleasures Trilogy) is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

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April Brooks:

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Billie Gallagher:

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