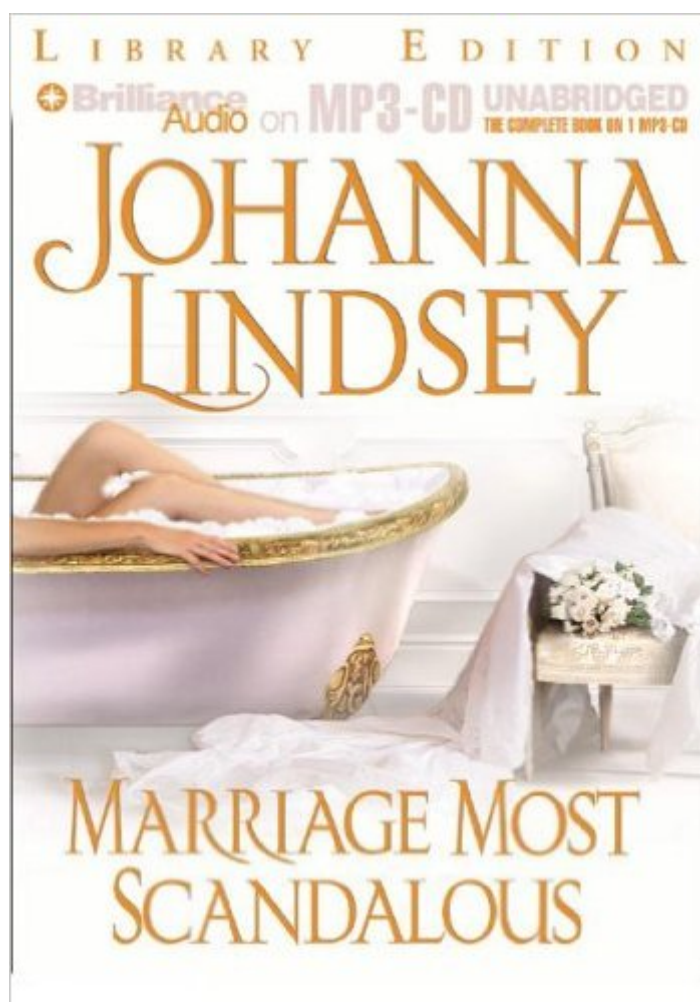


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# Marriage Most Scandalous



## Synopsis

Lady Margaret Landor first met Sebastian Townshend as a child, when he caught her peeking into her older sister's engagement ball. Tall, dashing, and charming, Sebastian was one of the most sought-after bachelors in Kent and cut a romantic figure she would not soon forget. Never did she dream that one day she would be living at his family's magnificent estate with Sebastian's father, the eighth Earl of Edgewood, as her guardian and Sebastian banished from his family due to the tragic results of a duel. When life at Edgewood takes a sinister turn with the earl suffering a suspicious number of life-threatening accidents, Margaret wonders if Sebastian's younger brother and his wife have grown impatient to inherit the earldom. Setting out to find the one man she believes can set the situation to rights, she discovers that Sebastian Townshend has forged a new identity for himself on the continent. Now known as The Raven, a deadly mercenary, notorious for accomplishing any mission no matter how seemingly impossible, he has vowed never to return to England. Not until Margaret meets his outrageous monetary demands does Sebastian agree to return home, reluctantly posing as her husband in order to facilitate his return to society. When he learns she cannot afford to pay his fee, he suggests a scandalous trade. As Margaret and Sebastian work to uncover the intrigue at his father's estate, a fierce passion blooms that neither of them anticipated and neither can resist. But can Margaret persuade Sebastian to abandon the dark path he believes is his fate and claim the life and love he deserves? Breathtaking in scope and wondrously passionate, *Marriage Most Scandalous* is Johanna Lindsey at her finest.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Remember the good old days? The days when Johanna Lindsey still cared enough to at least try to entertain her reading public? I remember, I do. The first romance I ever read back in the 80's was "Heart of Thunder". Over the years, I voraciously read all of her other novels. They were great, having characters I loved, as well as interesting plots. The writing was fast-paced and the author obviously spent at least some effort in historical research. However, over the past decade or so, I have found her novels to be too formulaic and repetitive even for romances. It seems like she has gotten sloppy, and is just churning out a new book every year, banking on her name to make it a bestseller. Lindsey's books these days are so silly they remind me of the Sweet Valley High books I used to read in middle school. Marriage Most Scandalous is yet another dull book in this long dry spell for Lindsey fans. Jolly anachronisms, such as befriending the servants, traipsing around Europe on a "shopping trip" for months, casual divorce, and modern slangy dialogue crop up willy-nilly. SLOPPY! The characters are thinly drawn. Sebastian seems cold and manipulative, although I rather liked Margaret. But the explanation provided for her affection for Sebastian's family is insufficient, considering their personalities. As for the romance itself, we're supposed to believe these characters are attracted to each other because the author tells us they are. We can't see why, but really! They really like each other! Wow. Yawn. Did I mention the dialogue is stilted and there is too much exposition? The author treats us like idiots, not trusting us to figure anything out. Not that we really want to, the plot is so boring.

Ms. Lindsey was one of the first author's I picked up when I started reading historical romance. I loved her!!! I purchased her books the second they were released, not caring if they were hardback or paperback. Sadly, I now borrow her reads from the library rather than lay down hard cold cash. This read though was not as bad as I feared it would be. This is not to say that this read was problem free...sadly it was far from that but, it was better than many of her past efforts. Sebastain Townsend is banished from the family seat and even England after a duel ends in the death of his best friend Giles. Knowing that he is to blame for the whole situation he leaves England with just a friend and a few items and makes a name for himself as "The Raven" on the continent. This mercenary for hire will do whatever he must to see the job done. Does he have a death wish? Maybe. Than a face from his past comes looking for him, appealing to what she mistakes as his honor and pride. Come back to England with her and figure out who wants his father dead. Sebastian agrees after Maggie is willing to pay an outrageous fee. In order to get back onto the estate they pose as a married couple. This shame relationship though is hard to put aside after awhile as they both start feeling very intense emotion for the other. Will they allow themselves to

have a happy ending or will the enemy hiding in the shadows see to a rather different ending? Again this story was mildly entertaining. I at turns liked and disliked both main characters Sebastian and Maggie. Both were so concerned about putting up a "fake" front to the other that it did begin to wear thin. The "suspense" line of this story seemed a bit forced...but still was a good foundation as any.

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