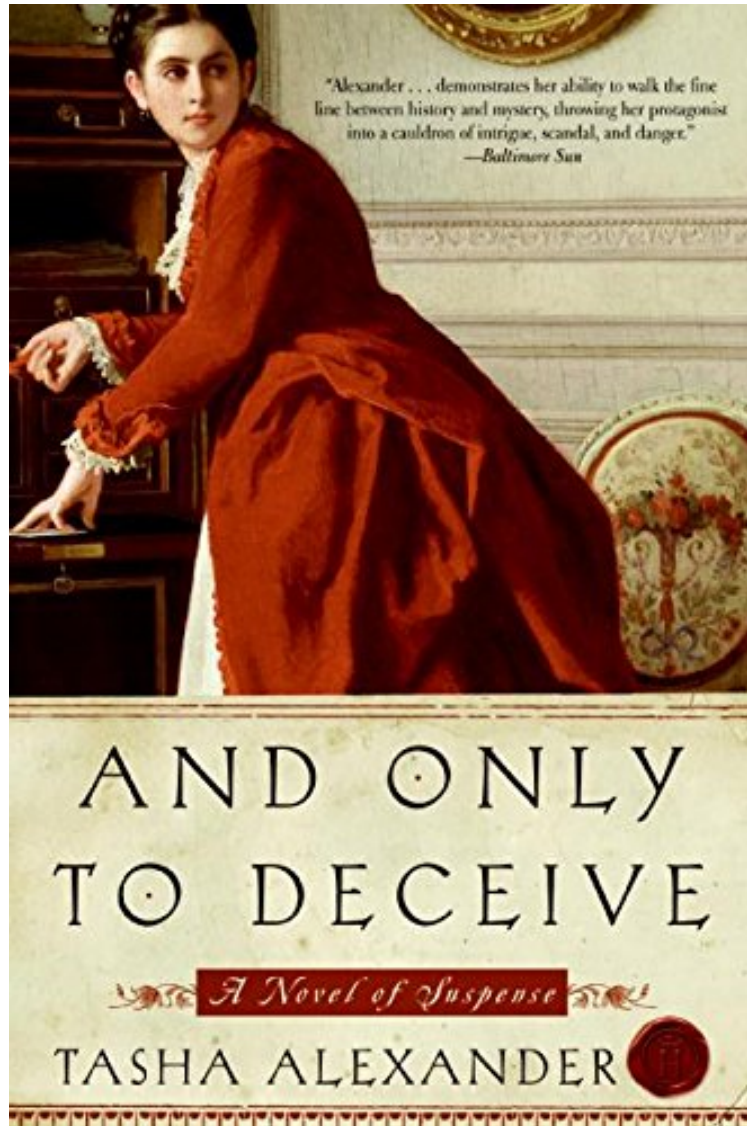


(Read free) And Only to Deceive (Lady Emily Mysteries)

## And Only to Deceive (Lady Emily Mysteries)

Tasha Alexander

DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#162228 in Books 2006-10-10 2006-10-10Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .76 x 5.311, #File Name: 006114844X321 pagesISBN13: 9780061148446Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 36.Mb

**Tasha Alexander : And Only to Deceive (Lady Emily Mysteries)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And Only to Deceive (Lady Emily Mysteries):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Strangely familiarBy TracetThis felt so very much like well, several books I've read before, but especially Silent in the Grave: Both were in the first person. In both, a Victorian lady is

widowed, doesn't mind very much, finds out much later poor old hubby, Philip, Viscount Ashton, was murdered, and conducts investigation alongside husband's friend (with whom there are sparks) while stressing constantly about what to wear and "when can I get out of mourning for heaven's sake it's not like I loved him". In both, I wound up with a deep impatience for, if not outright dislike of, the heroine. Emily's first reaction to news of her husband's death is relief. He wasn't a bad fellow, but she only married him to get away from her mother's constant nagging, and hey a couple of years wearing ugly mourning colours, and now she's free and clear and can do what she wants. Yay. Unfortunately, as time goes by, Emily succumbs to her husband's friends' opinions of him, and begins to fall morbidly in love with his memory, the ideal image of the man she never bothered to get to know. He genuinely loved her; that's enough to start her falling. Too late. In her fervor of self-flagellation for being unable to face Philip's friends and family, she begins to throw herself into his passions. Well, two of them; she still can't abide his beloved hunting (which would have been quite a can of worms if he had lived), but she plunges into the study of ancient Greek and the appreciation of ancient Greek art. In about five minutes she begins to uncover what must be a forgery ring, and, fearing her husband might have been involved, investigates. She is shaken, trying very hard to reconcile this criminal activity with her green worship of him. Then the book catches up to my prediction (based on the classic soap opera warning "did you see the body?") and she is told Ashton might still be alive, despite his best friend's insistence that he was there and watched the man die. She is thrilled, determined to move heaven and earth to find him and nurse him lovingly back to health. A little ways into that process, I had an intuition that he couldn't be alive after all and I was right. I've said it before: if I can predict how your book is going to turn out, you've done something wrong. And so he is revealed to yes, be dead, and in fact, have been murdered, and she basically shrugs her shoulders and swans off to revel some more in her romantic ideal of the widow who, see? Really did love her husband after all (if too late). Excerpts from Ashton's journal never really pull their own weight; they are mostly inconsequential, unrelated to the chapters they proceed, and never echo what Emily thinks about them. Though I suppose I should be happy the author spared me the long and boring passages about hunting, still, on the flip side there was remarkably little about the wedding night. Which isn't said out of prurience, but just because Emily was sort of looking forward to what he wrote. And the ending the wrapup of the story was satisfying enough, but once everything was explained away there were still far too many pages left. And it just kept going. All through the book Ashton's friend (whatsit) had been encouraging Emily to go to Greece, to the villa in Santorini Ashton had prepared for her. I had rather expected that to be the next book it would be perfect, I thought, to build it up, maybe have her planning the trip as this book ended, and then set the second book in the series on the island. Nope. The book was quite readable, which is why I did read it through. But it was disjointed. As a friend pointed out in her review, there was a great deal attempted, and not really succeeded at. And one major thing keeping this book from a higher rating was the completely incomprehensible handling of the forger. He is stunningly gifted, and has no problem selling copies of ancient work: he makes no pretense that they are the real thing, after all, and what his buyer does with the work once it's his isn't the artist's problem. Which is a nice way to look at it, if you can manage it, but isn't very realistic. Up to that point it reminded me very strongly of the case of the artist Alceo Dossena and his buyer, his dealer, Alfredo Fasoli. Dossena claimed ignorance of the ultimate dispositions of his work, too, but he wasn't quite so cheerful about the fact that while he got a pittance for the art his dealer would sell it on, as original, for thousands. He sued. This guy? He has absolutely no problem with the fact that his name is still unknown, that the scores of hours of work and talent invested in every piece is being attributed to others, and least likely has no problem with living on the edge of poverty while his dealer is raking it in. Worst, though, is the fact that this one forger handles several different media, no problem. Sculpture? Got it. Black figure urn? No problem. And so on. I went to art school; I've always been interested in art forgery and I've read a bit about it. I know full well that artists are more than capable of great things in more than one medium but the likelihood that a man would be so very, very good at pottery AND sculpture as to have his work pass for the best of the best among the ancients, including Praxiteles, is incredibly small. For him to be so gifted and still not be able to make a living for himself without being completely unscrupulous maybe it's not unrealistic, but it seemed so. Suddenly, about three quarters of the way through the book, Emily develops a very lawyerly turn of mind, knowing instinctively finer points of what is and is not strictly legal and what will and will not convict a man. The reformation of a female main character from fluffy-headed clotheshorse at the beginning to strong and capable independent woman by the end is no new thing in fiction, but (or maybe "and so") it has to be handled well to be really believable. I'm not so sure about Emily. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. You'd better like Greek mythology... By Tabby1249 Though reasonably well written, 'Only to Deceive' bogs down from time to time under the weight the author's research of Greek mythology and literature. It just moved too slowly for my taste especially after I figured out the central mystery, which I did about 60% of the way into the story. After that it just became an exercise in tedium. The best element of the story was the author's use of Lady Emily's deceased husband's journal to transition between chapters. Like Lady Emily, the reader falls a little bit in love with him. The author's character development is good, but I found the plotting excessively convoluted. Adherence to Victorian manners, mores and high interest in all things Classical appears to be accurate, but I struggled to maintain interest amid all the Hector vs. Achilles discussions. Unfortunately, I found myself too easily distracted as I read and struggled to maintain interest until the finish. I did finish it, but only by force of will. There are many books I was sad to see end.

Unfortunately, this wasn't one of them. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good Start to a hopefully good series  
By Amy And Only to Deceive is the first book in the Lady Emily series. Emily is "newly" widowed (newly being her husband has been dead for a little over a year, yet she's still in mourning by society's standards). She wasn't married very long to her husband before his death and when he died she didn't feel a very strong emotional upheaval. But upon hearing varying stories about her husband through his many acquaintances she begins to become more interested in his life. As Emily begins to learn more about her husband she discovers there was more about him than she was aware. She discovers that he was very much involved in the world of art. As she's going through his things she finds some notes warning her about delving too far into her husband's past warning of danger. Obviously instead of deterring Emily this just intrigues her ever more. She soon finds herself caught up in a forgery ring for works of art from the Greek period. So who can Emily trust amongst her late husband's closest friends? Everyone seems to have something to hide. I think the fact of Emily sort of stumbling on to the mystery was really written well. She didn't go looking for anything amiss, it just kind of presented itself to her and she followed the path that it led. I liked Emily's character a lot. She's a woman in the Victorian age who has this opportunity to be independent and she really takes it and grows. I like that we get to see the difference between society at the time and the emergence of women trying to become more equal. I liked that Alexander wrote many of the side characters as being understanding to Emily's feelings of wanting independence and not shunning her because of it. Obviously not everyone agrees that women can drink port after dinner with the men and smoke cigars, but it was interesting to see her dive in and be supported. The mystery was really well written. There were a lot of twists and turns and I'll admit sometimes I really didn't know where the mystery was going. But I was interested the whole time in finding out how everything played out. There were many times that I questioned who to trust convinced that everyone was somehow in on it. The book definitely left me wanting to know what happens next for the characters. I can't wait to start reading *A Poisoned Season*.

From New York Times bestselling author Tasha Alexander, a stunning novel of historical suspense set in Victorian England, meticulously researched and with a twisty plot that involves stolen antiquities, betrayal, and murder  
For Emily, accepting the proposal of Philip, the Viscount Ashton, was an easy way to escape her overbearing mother, who was set on a grand society match. So when Emily's dashing husband died on safari soon after their wedding, she felt little grief. After all, she barely knew him. Now, nearly two years later, she discovers that Philip was a far different man from the one she had married so cavalierly. His journals reveal him to have been a gentleman scholar and antiquities collector who, to her surprise, was deeply in love with his wife. Emily becomes fascinated with this new image of her dead husband and immerses herself in all things ancient and begins to study Greek. Emily's intellectual pursuits and her desire to learn more about Philip take her to the quiet corridors of the British Museum, one of her husband's favorite places. There, amid priceless ancient statues, she uncovers a dark, dangerous secret involving stolen artifacts from the Greco-Roman galleries. To complicate matters, she's juggling two prominent and wealthy suitors, one of whose intentions may go beyond the marrying kind. As she sets out to solve the crime, her search leads to more surprises about Philip and causes her to question the role in Victorian society to which she, as a woman, is relegated.

From Publishers Weekly  
In this charming late Victorian romantic suspense novel, Emily, a young and beautiful widow, regrets her husband's African hunting expedition death less than is proper. The late Philip, Viscount Ashton, had a passion for classical antiquity, and Emily, in an attempt to get to know her husband postmortem, uses her newfound independence in London to study it. In the process, she forms a friendship with Cecile du Lac, a Parisian of a certain age, and realizes that there was more to Philip than she realized including his genuine passion and love for her. The charming Colin Hargreaves may have been involved with Philip in art forgeries, and Andrew Palmer proposes to Emily and then offers evidence that Philip is still alive. By this time, Emily and Cecile are a well-practiced team of amateur sleuths: Phillip's secrets begin to emerge, and travel to Greece provides the possibilities of a new life. Alexander makes Emily light but sympathetic, and conveys period flavor without being ponderous. Her knowledge of the ethical dilemmas posed by Victorian etiquette is considerable; sexual chemistry in particular is handled with exquisite delicacy. The archeological background will lure readers who like to dig for their clues. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
Emily Bromley, a Victorian beauty, doesn't really want to marry, but her mother's persistent pressure forces her to accept wealthy Viscount Philip Ashton's proposal. When Philip dies on safari in Africa a few months after the wedding, Emily feels relief more than grief. Now the wealthy widow of a man she hardly knew, she is free to pursue her heart's real passion--reading! Yet once Emily begins to hear stories about Philip's interest in Greek literature and his exquisite collection of antiquities, Emily begins to feel herself falling in love with her mysterious, now-dead husband. But the more she discovers about Philip's extraordinary life, the more she fears that his death may not have been an accident. Compounding her concern are some very mixed messages from Philip's two best friends and the mounting evidence that he may have engaged in some backdoor business dealings. Who can Emily trust? This engaging, witty mix of Victorian cozy and suspense thriller draws its dramatic spark from the endearingly headstrong heroine's growth in life and love. A memorable debut. Misha Stone  
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved  
Had Jane

Austen written *The Da Vinci Code*, she may well have come up with this elegant novel. (Martha O'Connor, author of *The Bitch Posse*) Charming. (Publishers Weekly) An admirable and literate debut novel. (Nashville Tennessean) An entertaining debut. (Nashville Scene) Engagingly suspenseful and rich with period detail. (BookPage) The who-done-it is well designed and fun to follow. Tasha Alexanders historical mystery is terrific. (I LOVE A MYSTERY newsletter) Fans of Anne Perry and Elizabeth Peters will welcome this debut novel. (Denver Post) The story spans genres, appealing to lovers of suspense, history and romance...historically correct and beautifully done. (South Bend Tribune)