



A Deal With the Devil

By Liz Carlyle

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The acclaimed author of "The Devil You Know" pens a shimmering novel about a Scottish noblewoman on the run from her past and a powerful English lord brought to his knees by desire.

Aubrey Montford claims to be a widowed housekeeper. Desperate to keep her new post -- and her secrets -- she transforms desolate Castle Cardow into a profitable estate. Yet soon after her employer, Lord Walrafen, returns from long years of absence, Aubrey is suspected of murder. Sparks and tempers ignite whenever she and the smoldering earl meet, but he may be her only hope.

Walrafen returns reluctantly to the childhood home he loathes. Cardow is said to be haunted -- by more than the earl's sad memories -- but it was no ghost that murdered his uncle. Is the castle's beautiful chatelaine a murderer? At the very least, she's a liar -- he has proof. Yet the truth of his soul is that he's drawn to her with a kind of fierce passion he's never known....

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Carlyle's Devil series (The Devil You Know, etc.) continues in this historical romance featuring an embittered earl and a housekeeper with something to hide. Aubrey Montford comes to Castle Cardow armed only with forged references and towing a small boy behind her. The only tenant of the castle is the irascible Major Lorimer, an ailing alcoholic whom no one in the household can bear for long. Nevertheless, Aubrey soon endears herself to the Major by restoring the castle to its former glory. The estate's absentee owner, the Earl of Walrafen, is content to leave Cardow in Aubrey's capable hands until the Major, his uncle, is found shot to death in his room. Giles, Lord Walrafen, returns to Cardow, though it holds only unhappy memories for him. As he seeks his uncle's murderer, he finds himself drawn to the beautiful but strangely reserved Aubrey—but she's also the prime suspect in his investigation. Carlyle sets up a locked-room mystery with few suspects, so there's far more romance here than suspense. Fortunately, the chemistry between Aubrey and Giles is intense, and their relationship possesses a maturity that distinguishes it from typical love-between-the-classes romances. On the whole, Regency fans who prefer their romances mixed with a little intrigue will be charmed by Carlyle's newest offering.

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From Booklist

Desperately needing a safe place for her and her young child, Aubrey Farquharson convinces Elias Lorimer not only to hire her as Castle Cardow's new housekeeper but also to keep her identity secret. Aubrey's efforts to restore order to the rundown castle include sending letter after letter to its owner, Giles, the Earl of Walrafen, nagging him about his responsibilities to the estate. Although he greatly enjoys her impudent correspondence, Giles has no intention of visiting his cursed family home, but Giles' plans change when his uncle Elias is found shot in his study. Forced to return to Cardow, Giles is determined to avenge his uncle's murder but instead finds himself spending most of his time trying to seduce the prime suspect in the case, his bewitching housekeeper, "Mrs. Montford." A sharp-witted, sharp-tongued heroine closely guards the secrets of her past from a wonderfully tortured hero, who has a few secrets of his own, in this sinfully sensual, superbly written historical. With its exquisitely nuanced characters, darkly intense plot, subtle humor, and gleaming prose, Carlyle's latest romance is nothing short of brilliant. *John Charles*

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About the Author

During her frequent travels through England, Liz Carlyle always packs her pearls, her dancing slippers, and her whalebone corset, confident in the belief that eventually she will receive an invitation to a ball or a rout. Alas, none has been forthcoming. While waiting, however, she has managed to learn where all the damp, dark alleys and low public houses can be found.

Liz hopes she has brought just a little of the nineteenth century alive for the reader in her popular novels, which include the trilogy of *One Little Sin*, *Two Little Lies*, and *Three Little Secrets*, as well as *The Devil You Know*, *A Deal With the Devil*, and *The Devil to Pay*. Please visit her at LizCarlyle.com, especially if you're giving a ball.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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