

A Most Intriguing Temptation

By Kelli A. Wilkins

www.KelliWilkins.com

A Most Intriguing Temptation

After only four months of marriage to Princess Elara, Prince Dalton is sent to Emperor Salizar's pleasure palace on business. Not wanting to be left behind, Elara risks her personal safety and sneaks along on the trip.

Aided by her mischievous brother, Prince Allan, she disguises herself as one of Salizar's sultry *kharim* women and decides to test Dalton's loyalty.

Masquerading as Oonish, Elara goes out of her way to tempt Dalton at every turn. Despite Dalton's resolve to resist the indulgent girls, he finds himself falling under the spell of the mysterious Oonish.

After nearly giving in to temptation, Dalton discovers Elara's trickery and turns the tables on her, making her into his submissive playmate.

Their fun and games are quickly shattered when Emperor Salizar learns about Elara's deception. He holds the royals prisoner and condemns Elara to a fate worse than death.

Can Dalton save Elara before it's too late, or will her prank bring about the end of their love?

Bonus! This e-book includes a sneak peek at the third book in the "*Royal Desires*" series: *A Most Unfortunate Prince*.

A Most Intriguing Temptation

Copyright © 2016 by Kelli A. Wilkins

Cover designed by Eve Grinnell

Image courtesy of RomanceNovelCovers.com

This book is a work of fiction.

All names, characters, locations, and incidents are products of the author's imagination, or have been used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons living or dead, locales, or events is entirely coincidental.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be transmitted or reproduced in any form, or by any means, without permission in writing from the author, with the exception of brief excerpts used for the purposes of review.

A Most Intriguing Temptation was originally published by Amber Quill Press under the title *Dalton's Temptation*.

ROMANCES BY KELLI A. WILKINS

*A Deceptive Match**
*A Secret Match**
*A Most Unusual Princess***
*A Most Intriguing Temptation***
*A Most Unfortunate Prince***
Beauty & the Bigfoot
Confessions of a Vampire's Lover
Dangerous Indenture
Four Days with Jack
Killer in Wolf's Clothing
Lies, Love & Redemption
Loving a Wild Stranger
*Midsummer Night's Delights****
*Midwinter Night's Delights****
Trust with Hearts
*Ultimate Night's Delights****
The Viking's Witch

* *A Deceptive Match* and *A Secret Match* are related titles with shared characters. However, each novel can be read separately.

** These titles make up the *Royal Desires* series. Although connected, each book stands alone as an individual read.

*** These novellas complete the *Naughty Nobles* trilogy. It is recommended that they are read in sequence.

Visit Kelli's website: www.KelliWilkins.com for additional titles as they become available.

CHAPTER 1

“Elara will be furious.” Dalton paced the king’s chambers and glanced at his father-in-law. “You know how she is. When she finds out about this, she’ll—”

“Yes, I know. Believe me, I know.” King Maxwell leaned back in his cushioned chair and stroked his red beard. “But under no circumstances is she going with you. Emperor Salizar is a madman, and the way he treats his subjects...”

Maxwell shook his head. “If he didn’t control the sole waterway leading from Micosia to Soltang, no man in his right mind would enter into business with him.”

“If he’s that bad, why must Allan and I meet with him? Surely you would have more influence—”

“I have no interest in returning to that den of depravity,” Maxwell stated. “Salizar and I once had a strong disagreement over a particular matter and I have no tolerance for him. You, however, are a patient and reasonable man. You will be able to deal with him.”

“Dalton’s beyond patient. After marrying Elara, he can handle anything.” Prince Allan chuckled as he rose from his chair and poured himself a drink.

“I’m certain you can find a way to improve our trade situation with His Supreme Worship. He shouts much less than Elara does,” he joked. “I noticed having a husband hasn’t settled my little sister much, she’s still a willful terror.”

Dalton leaned against the wall and suppressed a grin. Allan was wrong. Marriage *had* settled Elara—somewhat. Now instead of acting out and having tantrums when she was bored or annoyed, she used lovemaking to alleviate her problems.

From time to time she still needed a firm hand, but a quick trip to the bedchamber always eased her temperament. But when Elara found out he was going to Zarmatt without her, she'd throw a fit. And for the last few weeks she'd been acting moodier and more needy than usual.

"Allan, please. This is serious business." Maxwell sighed. "Which is why I want you to accompany him, Dalton. Allan's known for taking matters lightly. The last time he went to Salizar's palace he made a worse agreement than the one we originally had. We ended up paying nearly double the usual port tariff, and—"

"My mind was distracted."

Maxwell frowned. "So were other parts of you."

Dalton grinned and sat on the maroon sofa. Allan and Elara were close in age and in personality. Their bawdy sense of humor combined with their foolhardy and reckless behavior made them quite a handful.

"But Allan's primary responsibility is shipping. He understands the policies and tariffs better than I do," he said. "How could I aid him in negotiations?"

"You won't negotiate," Maxwell replied. "Your role will be to ensure Allan stays out of trouble and conducts the negotiations sober—unlike last time."

Allan shrugged and swallowed his drink in three gulps. “What happened last time wasn’t my fault. It’s that palace, it does things to people.”

Dalton scowled. At times, Allan behaved like an irresponsible, royal pain. “You mean I’m to travel with him, a grown man, merely to keep him out of trouble?”

Maxwell rose and took the glass from Allan’s hand as he started to refill it. “Aye, and trust me, he’ll need it. Salizar’s palace caters to male guests. No women are allowed inside, unless they’re for his *kharim*.”

Dalton arched an eyebrow. He’d heard wild tales from men who had gone to the palace and supposedly been pleased non-stop. “You mean the rumors are true?”

Allan nodded. “Quite true. The palace is filled with girls. Lots of girls—naked and willing girls. They’ll do anything you ask. They’ll feed you, bathe you, suck you—”

“Enough,” Maxwell barked at Allan. “Salizar uses the girls to distract his guests and gain the upper hand in negotiations.” He turned to Dalton. “I know I can trust you. You won’t be taken in by the women or their wayward charms.”

“Of course not. I love Elara. There isn’t a woman alive who can tempt me.”

Allan laughed. “We’ll see about that. After two weeks surrounded by these women, your nuts will be as hard as rocks.”

“Allan, please.” Maxwell rolled his eyes and looked at Dalton. “When you tell Elara, avoid mentioning exactly where you’re going. She will be jealous.”

“Jealous isn’t the word. If she finds out you’re going to Zarmatt to romp with naked girls, she’ll scratch your eyes out—or cut something off,” Allan chimed in.

Maxwell shot Allan a dirty look. “You’d best tell her now, Dalton. You’re leaving in the morning. That doesn’t give her much time to become settled with the idea.”

He stood. “Don’t worry, I know just how to reason with Elara,” he said with a smile.

* * *

Dalton opened the door to the royal suite and stepped inside. Elara stood at a table, adding water to a vase of flowers.

“Hello darling. I’ve been busying myself, waiting for your return,” Elara said. “May we go riding now? I swear, if I’m cooped up in this room another moment I shall scream.”

“I’m afraid not.” He sat on the blue settee. “I have preparations to make.”

Elara brushed a lock of blonde hair behind her ear. “Preparations for what? Why did my father summon you?”

He braced himself for the tirade he knew was coming. Beautiful, cherished wife or not, Elara’s notorious temper could surface in a flash.

“He’s sending me to Zarmatt tomorrow.”

To his surprise, she smiled. “He is? I’ve never been there. It sounds exciting. When do we leave?”

He stared down at his brown boots. Elara wasn’t going to like this. “We don’t, *I* do. I’m going with Allan.”

“Allan?” Elara banged the glass pitcher down so hard that water sloshed over the top, soaking the table. “You chose to take Allan on a trip to Zarmatt instead of me?”

“Nay, I did not choose him. And I did not *choose* to go at all,” he answered, running his hands through his black hair. “Your father informed me that I’m going to act as Allan’s chaperone for a fortnight.”

“A chaperone? Allan’s a grown man. Why would he need a chaperone?”

“What did you need one for?” he teased. “When we met, you were a grown woman utterly without the need of my services, if I remember correctly.”

Elara’s green eyes narrowed to slits, and he continued.

“And look what happened. I chaperoned you, and now you’re married to your own personal guard.” Every so often he liked to remind Elara how quickly she had taken to him when he’d been her personal guardian.

“Very funny.” She rested her hands on her hips. “Allan is in no need of a guard, and I doubt he’s going to fall in love with you. Why must you go?”

He leaned back on the settee. “Your father wants me to keep him out of trouble.”

“Fine. I’ll come, too. While we’re there we—”

“No. It’s not a place for a woman.”

Elara dismissed him with a wave of her hand. “Bah! I grow weary hearing about places that are unfit for women. Have you not noticed I’m different from most women? I can ride, rope, brandish a sword—”

“Yes, yes, I know. But you’re still not going.”

She pursed her lips and tossed her head back. “Then, pray, tell me, dear husband, if there are no women allowed in Zarmatt, what do the men do to amuse themselves all day and night? Drink and gamble? Or are they like the men in Silios Colony, who share each other’s pleasures in the bedchamber and—”

“Elara!” Even after four months of marriage, she still had the power to shock him. “You’re not accompanying us, and that’s all there is to it.”

She folded her arms across her chest. “And what am I to do while you’re gone? Sit in the corner and knit shawls like an old woman?” She marched around the table and headed for the door. “I’ll speak with my father and tell him I insist on going.”

He reached out and clasped her hand as she passed by. “Do not waste your time. He’ll not budge.”

She pouted. “But I want to go with you. You promised me we would travel. The only place we’ve gone since we were married was Moselle, and I never saw any of the sights.”

He chuckled. “That wasn’t my fault. You weren’t interested in leaving our honeymoon suite for anything other than food.”

“I thought you were pleased by my... fervor.”

“I always am.”

“Good.” Elara knelt in front of him and rested her head in his lap. “Then, pray, take me with you.”

“I cannot. Even if I wanted to, which I don’t.”

She stroked the front of his breeches. “Is that so? I bet I can change your mind,” she said in a sweet, singsong voice as she rubbed him again.

Blood coursed to his groin and he felt himself stiffen. Time and experience had proven that once Elara was determined to get her way, she’d stop at nothing. There was no use arguing with her.

“I bet you cannot, but by all means, you’re welcome to try.”

He closed his eyes and recalled the night several months ago when he’d been sleeping in this very room. Elara was his not-so-innocent charge back then, and she’d tried to seduce him. It had taken every ounce of his will to resist her. But now there was no need to refuse.

Elara unfastened his breeches and he relaxed against the settee. She drew him into her mouth, then trailed her hot tongue over the head of his penis. The sensation sent a shiver up his spine, and he ran his fingers through her long hair as she pleased him.

Her excitement and enthusiasm toward lovemaking were unmatched by any woman he'd ever known. Elara was an eager student and delighted in learning all he had to teach.

To his surprise, she was more than willing to let him dominate her in the bedchamber. Her only question when he asked something new of her was, "Will it feel good?"

She hadn't balked when he'd asked her to take him into her mouth for the first time. Most women he'd been with outright refused or slurped on him a few times, then left him to finish on his own—but not Elara. His virgin bride had soon discovered that sucking him made him hard, and the harder he was, the better their lovemaking would be.

Elara eased her mouth away and gazed up at him. "Do you like it? You're very quiet."

"I love it. Keep going." He was fully erect and aching for her wet mouth around him again.

She licked him. "Do you love me?"

He groaned. "Yes, oh, yes."

She wrapped her lips around the head of his shaft and sucked him hard, then withdrew. "Will you bring me with you?" she asked, then eased him into her mouth.

He waited, enjoying himself before answering. "No."

Elara stopped sucking him. "That's not the answer I want."

He opened his eyes. "I'm sorry, but that's the answer you're getting."

“Fine.” Elara stood. “Then that’s all of *that* you’re getting.” She stomped across the room.

“Come back. You cannot leave me like this.” Her sudden abandonment was torture. Deep purple veins jutted out along the sides of his aching cock. In a few more minutes, he would have climaxed.

“Watch me.” She smirked. “If I don’t get what *I* want, you don’t get what *you* want.”

“Like hell.” He yanked his breeches up and stood. Dizzy from the lack of blood to his brain, he wobbled for a second, then steadied himself on the settee. “We’ve talked about this, Elara. No more games. I’m your husband and I won’t be manipulated.”

She pointed to his bulging breeches. “From the look of that tree branch between your legs, I’d say you could use a little manipulation,” she said, giggling.

“Oh really?” He crossed the room in three strides, scooped Elara up, and threw her over his shoulder.

“Put me down. What are you doing?”

He flung open the bedchamber door. “I’m going to teach you a lesson, little Princess,” he said, tossing her onto the center of their feather bed. Without hesitation, he stripped off his breeches and climbed onto the mattress.

Elara sat up. “Let me go.”

He pushed her down. “You, vixen, are going to learn that you cannot inflame a man’s passions and then abandon him with his lust.” He straddled Elara’s torso with his knees,

pinning her beneath him. His swollen penis jutted inches from her face.

She squirmed under him. “Are you mad?”

“Aye, with lust.” He thrust his hips forward. “Now, finish what you started.”

Elara stared at him, her green eyes wide. “You don’t mean—”

“Aye. See if you can put something besides complaints in that pretty mouth of yours.”

His chest heaved as he waited. He wasn’t angry with her, merely crazed with lust and the immediate need for release.

Elara licked her lips. Her eyes sparkled, and she writhed on the bed. He knew she wanted to suck him—the look of desire in her eyes betrayed her complaints. After a second, her tongue flicked across the head of his cock.

“Make your husband happy.”

“Aye. I will.”

He cried out as her hot mouth closed around him. Elara worked him hard and fast, urging him on.

A raspy moan tore from the back of his throat. “That feels so good.”

Elara ran her hands along the tops of his bare thighs, then clasped his buttocks as she sucked him faster. A moment later, his hips jolted forward, and he exploded, shuddering and grunting as he came.

To his surprise, she swallowed as he spilled into her. This was the first time he'd ever finished in her mouth. As his climax subsided, Elara swallowed once more, then pulled her mouth away.

"Was that good?"

"Best I've ever had. I couldn't move before I—"

"I didn't want you to. I wanted to... taste it," she said, licking her lips.

He kissed her forehead, then moved off her and sat on the edge of the bed. "You're not angry with me for insisting?"

Part of him felt guilty about the rough treatment he'd given her, but unless Elara had boundaries, she would manipulate people at every turn.

"Nay, my dear Dalton." She sat up and wrapped her arms around his chest. "I wanted to give you a remembrance for when you're on your trip." She hugged him tight. "I shall miss you terribly."

"I shall miss you, as well. Tonight I'll give you a remembrance. A big one that's quite satisfying," he teased.

"Good, make it last until you return."

"I will, but if you grow eager in my absence I'm certain you'll have no problem satisfying your own needs." He laughed.

"Dalton!"

“It’s true,” he said. “You were your own first lover. What other man can say he met his future bride naked in a bathing pool, stroking herself?”

“You never complained about it,” she replied, batting her eyelashes at him.

“What man would? It only makes me love you more.” He stood and picked his breeches off the floor. “I’m sorry to leave, but I must make arrangements for the trip. I’ll have servants bring up a few trunks and pack my clothing.”

“Don’t bother. Merely have them deliver the trunks. I shall pack for you.”

“You will?”

“Of course. It’s what any devoted wife would do.” She grinned. “Besides, I want to make sure you don’t leave anything behind.”

* * *

Order your copy of *A Most Intriguing Temptation* here:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Most-Intriguing-Temptation-Historical-Fantasy-ebook/dp/B01D8P8604>

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1135216386>

B&N:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1124084387?ean=2940153367491>

Kobo: <https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/a-most-intriguing-temptation-historical-fantasy-romance>

Page Foundry: <http://www.inktera.com/store/title/8228d54a-27b8-4ee8-a9b2-8dcfbacd396a>

And see how the story ends in...

A Most Unfortunate Prince

Book 3 in the *Royal Desires* series

***This time it's all about Allan... and he never expected to fall
in love!***

Banished by the Royal Family, pampered Prince Allan is forced to abandon his life of luxury. The former Royal Shipmaster General is sent to the worst part of the kingdom and manages to find work at the docks.

Lost in a commoner's world, Allan is miserable—until he has an unusual encounter with a saucy shop girl named Claudette.

Allan must earn the respect of the woman he loves while keeping his true identity a secret. In an effort to redeem himself in his father's eyes, he exposes a dangerous smuggling operation involving the Royal Fleet. But his loyalty to duty comes with a deadly price.

Can he keep Claudette *and* his royal title? Or will he lose her forever when she discovers his secret?

Order your copy of *A Most Unfortunate Prince* here:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Most-Unfortunate-Prince-Historical-Fantasy-ebook/dp/B01DMBYJ6E>

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1135216402>

B&N: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1124084269?ean=2940153366067>

Kobo: <https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/a-most-unfortunate-prince-historical-fantasy-romance>

Page Foundry: <http://www.inktera.com/store/title/0af090ac-ba5d-458b-8b90-3852c123aff7>

See how it all started with...

A Most Unusual Princess

Book 1 in the *Royal Desires* series

A Most Unusual Princess

Princess Elara needs to find a royal husband, but claims that no man can satisfy her. Her father hires Dalton, a special guard, to watch over her while she's courting suitors. Dalton finds her unusual behaviors charming—and enthralling.

Dalton's aloof manner intrigues Elara, and despite their differences, they share tender moments and intimate nighttime encounters. Elara is heartbroken when her father chooses a "proper" husband for her—until she meets the mystery man.

Order your copy of *A Most Unusual Princess* here:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Most-Unusual-Princess-Historical-Fantasy-ebook/dp/B01CBX43D8>

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/id1135216413>

B&N: http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/books/1017485724;jsessionid=6540685BC6B5D5C5C6B56564F6EAD5B0.prodny_store02-atgap10?ean=2940153348230#productInfoTabs

Scribd: <https://www.scribd.com/book/317882471/A-Most-Unusual-Princess-Royal-Desires-Series-1>

Kobo: <https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/a-most-unusual-princess-historical-fantasy-romance>

Page Foundry: <http://www.inktera.com/store/title/0a506ade-183c-49be-b36d-2fe4c1b9e92d>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kelli A. Wilkins is an award-winning author who has published more than 100 short stories, 19 romance novels, and 5 non-fiction books. Her romances span many genres and heat levels.

Beauty & the Bigfoot, a paranormal-comedy, was published in September 2017.

Kelli released ***Trust with Hearts***, a contemporary romance, in July 2017. Her third gay romance, ***Four Days with Jack***, was released in June 2017. Kelli's trilogy of erotic romance novellas, ***Midsummer Night's Delights***, ***Midwinter Night's Delights***, and ***Ultimate Night's Delights*** was published in spring 2017.

Loving a Wild Stranger was published in January 2017. This historical/pioneer romance is set in the wilds of the Michigan Territory and blends tender romance with adventure.

Kelli's third Medallion Press romance, ***Lies, Love & Redemption*** was released in September 2016. This spicy historical western is set on the Nebraska prairie in 1877.

Her writing book, ***You Can Write—Really! A Beginner's Guide to Writing Fiction*** is a fun and informative guide filled with writing exercises and helpful tips all authors can use.

Kelli posts on her Facebook author page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorKelliWilkins> and Twitter:
www.Twitter.com/KWilkinsauthor.

She also writes a weekly blog:

<http://kelliwilkinsauthor.blogspot.com/>.

Visit her website, www.KelliWilkins.com to learn more about all of her writings, read book excerpts, reviews, and more.

Readers can sign up for her newsletter here:

<http://eepurl.com/HVQqb>.

CATCH UP WITH KELLI

Here are a few links to find Kelli & her writings on the web

Amazon Author Page: www.amazon.com/author/kelliwilkins

Website: <http://www.KelliWilkins.com>

Blog: <http://kelliwilkinsauthor.blogspot.com/>

Newsletter sign-up: <http://eepurl.com/HVQqb>

Facebook Author Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AuthorKelliWilkins>

Facebook Contemporary Romances:
<https://www.facebook.com/Contemporary-Romances-by-Kelli-A-Wilkins-1965702023664339/>

Facebook Gay Romances:
<https://www.facebook.com/GayRomancesbyKelliAWilkins/>

Facebook Historical Romances:
<https://www.facebook.com/Historical-Romances-by-Kelli-A-Wilkins-1703805359922371/>

Twitter: www.Twitter.com/KWilkinsauthor

Medallion Press Author Page:
<http://medallionpress.com/author/kelli-wilkins/>

Pinterest: <http://www.pinterest.com/KWilkinsAuthor/>

Goodreads:

http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1123678.Kelli_A_Wilkins

Authors Den:

<http://www.authorsden.com/visit/author.asp?authorid=61801>