

PISTOLS AT DAWN

By Michele Ann Young

Reviewed by :: Debora Dennis
Five Star Publishing, June 2006
Regency Historical Romance

A fatal duel leaves Victoria Yelverton destitute and at the mercy of a well-known rake, Simon St. John, Earl of Travis. Known as Satan to the ton, the earl has a past shadowed by secrets and a reputation for the luck of the devil. To Victoria's surprise the Earl appoints himself her guardian and declares she must choose a bridegroom before the end of the season or he will choose one for her. She refuses to acknowledge his edict and disputes his authority, but beneath his chilly exterior Victoria senses an honorable and caring spirit.

Simon resists her seeming innocence, convinced he knows the full extent of feminine wiles. He intends never to be abused by a woman again, no matter how beautiful or alluring she may be. Thrown into close proximity in the whirl of London's haute monde, the couple denies a growing attraction with little effect. Together they face an enemy armed with the secrets of Simon's past.

From the first moments of a deadly duel up to the very last page, *Pistols at Dawn* was a gripping regency-era historical romance. Engaging characters and flamboyant settings brought this book to life and swept me into a world of days gone by. A perfect combination of sensual tension and desire, this fast paced tale was a quick and enjoyable read. Deep dark secrets, lavish balls, and horse-drawn carriage rides with a charismatic hero all add up to pure delight. With this first offering from the talented Michele Ann Young, I am pleased to say that the historical romance genre is alive and kicking.

4 ½ Kisses