

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLING AUTHOR



VICTORIA ALEXANDER

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

Okay, so Valentine's Day was a few days ago but I'm a little behind. My husband and I don't do much for Valentine's Day—funny cards and maybe flowers and that's it. It's not that we don't like Valentine's Day, we just don't need a special day to let each other know how much we care. There are things we love to do together like travel and going to new restaurants and things we don't like basketball games and golf. It works for us. We've celebrated an anniversary with Belgian beers under the Eiffel Tower and been to a cooking school in Italy. And we're still having fun. We've been married for 36 years in June. Yikes!!! Where did the time go? He really is my best friend and my soul mate. And my perfect hero.



To me the perfect hero needs three things—a sense of humor, a certain amount of arrogance (he thinks he's always right but he's soooo wrong) and a nice butt. I won't go into details there but I do have an example of his sense of humor.

I dedicated one of my first books to him. It was a lovely dedication very heartfelt and kind of mushy. But I didn't tell him. I wanted to see how long it would take him to discover it for himself. Which meant at some point all he had to do was open the book. Almost exactly one year after the book came out, I was doing my makeup in the bathroom and he was on his way downstairs and we were talking about running into some old friends. He said one of them had mentioned how much she liked the book and that she especially liked the dedication. I said, well you know that's the book that's dedicated to you.

There was a pause, dead silence. The next thing I hear is his footsteps going down the stairs to find the book and at last read the dedication. He tried to claim he had read it before but even he didn't believe that.

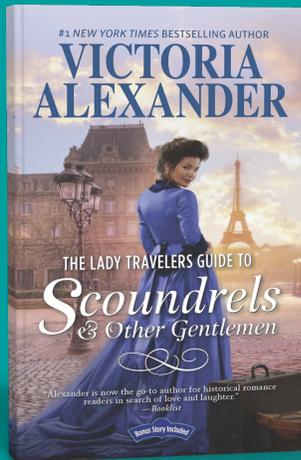
He's never read my books. At first, that bothered me but he's more a magazine/newspaper/non-fiction reader. But that's why, in about my third book, I started naming dead husbands after my husband. His name is Chuck so when I need a dead husband, and we're not glad he's dead, I name him Charles. I have dead Charleses in most of my books. Sometimes they have died of old age, or they've died quickly and

painlessly. Sometimes they die slowly, with a great deal of pain and suffering. It really all depends on how things are going. I think it keeps him on his toes and keeps our marriage fresh.

It can get a little weird though. Most of my books are available in audio. In one, we actually see Charles die in the prologue. He's stabbed and thrown in the river. I was playing it in the car and Chuck and I were listening to it. He was definitely a little uncomfortable. He's never heard a Charles die before, usually in my books they're already dead. I told him—"Sweetie, it's not like it's a rehearsal. I'd never put anything in writing."

But overall he is very comfortable and feels very safe. He's mentioned more than once that if anything happens to him, I'll be the obvious suspect. He seems to get a certain amount of comfort from that. He actually has a t-shirt with a Monty Python saying on it that now is so appropriate and he loves wearing it. It says I'm not dead yet.

I think he's why I write romance. After all—I have my happily ever after and I love making sure my characters get theirs.



Derek and India are my next characters to get a Happily Ever After in the first in my new Lady Travelers series—**The Lady Travelers Guide to Scoundrels and Other Gentlemen**. It's out on May 30th and available for pre-order now.

But I just got a few ARCs (advance reader copies). So starting March 1st, I'll send arcs to the first five people who email me. In return, I'm asking you to post reviews in at least three places—like Amazon, Goodreads, B&N. ect. The next five people to email me will get a Lady Travelers Society luggage tag. Pretty

cool. :)

So, no sooner than March 1st email me at victalex@aol.com to get either an ARC of **The Lady Travelers Guide to Scoundrels and Other Gentleman** or a Lady Travelers Society luggage tag.



I mentioned my definition of a perfect hero. What's yours? Email me and let me know and I'll put them in my next newsletter.

Until next month—take care!

Rest,
Victoria