



Put Up Your Duke

Megan Frampton

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He was once happily bedding and boxing, but in the newest Duke's Behaving Badly novel, Nicholas Smithfield has inherited a title and a bride . . .

To keep his estate afloat, the new Duke of Gage must honor an agreement to marry Lady Isabella Sawford. Stunningly beautiful, utterly tempting, she's also a bag of wedding night nerves, so Nicholas decides to wait to do his duty—even if it means heading to the boxing saloon every day to punch away his frustration.

Groomed her whole life to become the perfect duchess, Isabella longs for independence, a dream that is gone forever. As her husband, Nicholas can do whatever he likes—but, to Isabella's surprise, the notorious rake instead begins a gentle seduction that is melting every inch of her reserve, night by night . . .

To his utter shock, Nicholas discovers that no previous exploits were half as pleasurable as wooing his own wife. But has the realm's most disreputable duke found the one woman who can bring him to his knees— and leave him there?

Put Up Your Duke Details

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From Reader Review Put Up Your Duke for online ebook

Cocktails and Books says

This review was originally posted on Cocktails and Books

I liked the premise of this one (man inherits a title he didn't know he could get and a wife he wasn't sure he wanted). I liked how Isabella and Nicholas came together. But I wanted more heat between both the characters.

Nicholas and Isabella were forced into a marriage that neither of them really wanted. But you could tell from each interaction the two had, the potential for an excellent match was at hand...despite the circumstances that got them where they were. I adored how these two characters got to know one another, through games and twenty questions. It was Nicholas' way of easing Isabella into married life and ensuring that the woman who has intrigued him is comfortable with him. I applaud him for not pushing her, when he could have. But it felt like their was no chemistry between the two. Maybe it was because they spent so much time in their heads contemplating what they should say or do rather than living in the moment. It was almost like whatever scene they were in together stopped while they had their inner monologue. It took away from their courtship and the burgeoning relationship.

This being said, I still enjoyed PUT UP YOUR DUKE. The characters were charming and likable, despite incessantly talking to themselves. The mystery around the previous Duke, Isabelle's parents involvement with said Duke and how that played out was entertaining and kept me engaged.

Reviewer information can be found under the Tags section of the post on our site.

Els says

This is a story of a forced marriage. It is a charming story.

Avid Booker says

2.5 stars

I don't even know... it was okay. I felt like I didn't know the characters. All I knew was that I didn't like the heroine and the hero was too patient.

Our hero, Nicholas, at first the beginning was shakey. I'm all for Rakes. I love them. But when they start of the first page of the book in bed with not one but **3** women. I can't help but feel apprehension to his *sudden* okay-ness with being faithful. Honestly I started to warm up to him, but what I didn't understand was his liking other than of her looks, of the heroine. She was VERY bitchy and prim to him. I felt like he was doing all the giving and she didn't offer up anything in return.

Our heroine, Isabella. BITCH WE KNOW YOU'RE NOT PERFECT! WE CAN TELL! NO ONE CARES! She stated that fact A MILLION times within this book. You won't forget it. Like, she took the word

"Literal" and made it her life. No one's perfect. Obviously.

I don't believe this book had a love plot. Honestly, I would have been okay if they never said they loved each other at the end. I didn't know them, they didn't know each other, and just saying that they liked each other and with a promise that they could grow to love each other would have been good enough, trust me.

Nicholas, I can see why someone would grow to love him. He was gently, patient as hell, and tried to tell her to speak her mind. She was stuck in her ways, always scrutinizing EVERY situation, and bratty. I don't see how "wooing his wife" seemed all that fun. If anything it was agonizing, slow, and she was not fun to be around. Because in the end, she STILL had no personality. She kept saying this is the selfish Isabella. Bitch it seems like that's only person we've ever seen. Sure with this marriage you were catering to your parents' wants, but she NEVER thought about how it would effect anybody else.

Her sister's little end plot tried to give some action, but fell flat. I thought she was gonna run away with Griff, Nicholas' virginal(it seems) brother, but nah that didn't happen.

I felt this book was nothing but 260 pages of her being so STUCK ON HERSELF. We don't care about *you* that much sweetheart. Get a fucking grip.

Quotes:

"Don't freeze up on me now, princess." He said in a low tone.

"Do you wish to change into your nightclothes now, Your Grace?"

"Uh," Nicholas said nonsensically, trying to gauge the state of his erection without actually looking down.

"Yes, only first could you rustle up a cup of tea?"

"And then what--oh!" she said as he climaxed, spilling all over his hand, his smallclothes, her hand, his stomach, and likely on the bed as well.

[...]

"Isabella," he began, when he could finally speak.

She hadn't left, but her posture wasn't exactly what a man wished to see after a woman had just brought him released; she was leaning away from him, her eyes darting from the mess on his stomach to the mess on the bed, all the while she was wiping her hand on her nightgown.

He'd made an actual mess of things.

"That was..." she began, her brow creased in thought.

[...]

"Unexpected." (This sounds kinda bad, but it was funny she was giving him a hand job and being the naive virgin that she is, she didn't realize that, that's something that happens, and while he was coming down from his high he was trying to explain that it happens.)

Grace Fonseca says

An awesome historical romance that I savored. Nicholas Smithfield and Isabella Sawford seem to be so different and not at all a couple that you expect to be together. They find themselves in a weird position that's anything but typical.

One of the things that I found that I really enjoyed about both Nicholas and Isabella is that they are both in a situation that is not of their making, but other people's doing. He never expected for a dukedom to come his

ways, but because of some not so great bloodline or legitimacy issues, a dukedom has come his way. Nicholas doesn't want this dukedom, then hears that he must take it or the tenants and other people that depend on the dukedom will suffer. Also he has to honor the former Duke's commitments. Especially after he learns that the duke made a marriage contract. So he has to now marry this young woman. Isabella is forced to marry this duke, even though she was promised to the last one, but because of the deal her parents made with the previous duke, he has to honor the agreement. So when Nicholas meets Isabella and her parents, lets say things get far more complicated because he thinks he can get out of the arranged marriage and can't because of certain legalities and agreements made. This was a most interesting way to start a marriage.

Nicholas and Isabella do get married despite neither of them really wanting this marriage because they don't really know each other. They each have different expectations of things. Plus Nicholas finds himself struggling on how to deal with his attraction for his wife. Isabella finds herself liking Nicholas as well. This is a very new situation for both of them. They find that they are going to have a very different way of beginning a marriage. I like that these two characters really start to know one another. This was one of the things that I found myself liking. Plus Isabella finds that she has more of a voice and finds herself being a lot more independent now that she's free of her very constrictive parents.

The romance between Nicholas and Isabella was very well done. I like how they seem to be getting to know one another before they consummate their marriage. It seems like they agree on a lot of things. Nicholas and Isabella really don't like her parents and then not to mention Isabella and Nicholas find that there are things that they have in common and don't at times. The relationship they develop is one of respect and being equals. Nicholas and Isabella consummate their marriage and that scene was so juicy hot. I really loved reading that scene.

This book was just a wonderful romance that I really enjoyed and love. I want the next book in this wonderful series to come out.

Rating:

4.5 Hearts

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Oh, what a fun story! By the blurb I wasn't sure what to expect, but Nicholas and Isabella won me over!

This second book in the *Duke's Behaving Badly* series is even better than the first. Lots of romance, passion, and humor made this unputdownable, and has earned Ms. Frampton a spot on my "must read" authors shelf!

An ARC was provided by Avon Books. In appreciation I'm giving them an honest review. Short, but honest!

Molly says

Outstanding fun! I can't believe that this was my first Megan Frampton - her style is witty and charming, the plot is focused all on the romance - there are hardly any distractions from it, which is unusual and highly

appreciated. Also, this is very much on the steamy side of the genre. Loved it!

Jessica Robbins says

For complete review check out my blog at <https://booksaplentybookreviews.blogs...> as of September 26, 2017.

Caz says

I've given this a B+ at AAR, so 4.5 stars.

Although this is part of Ms Frampton's current *Dukes Behaving Badly* series, **Put Up Your Duke** doesn't seem to involve characters from previous books and can easily be read as a standalone. I was between books when the offer of a review copy reached me, and as I'm pretty much unable to resist any story in which the protagonists are forced into a marriage of convenience, it solved the problem of my temporary booklessness and did it in a most enjoyable manner.

Nicholas Smithfield knows he's damn good at two things – pugilism and sex. As the book opens we meet him during an evening spent at a favourite house of ill repute in company with three delectable ladies, but before he can get very far his younger brother, Griff, interrupts him with some amazing news. Due to a series of completely unexpected and freakish circumstances, it turns out that Nicholas is, in fact, the rightful holder of the title and estates of the Duke of Gage. Even the pleasures to be found in the arms of three lusty ladies can't quite top that, and Nicholas – very regretfully – departs with his brother in order to find out exactly what is going on and if he really has just become a duke.

Nicholas discovers there's no question about it – he is the lawful duke even if the previous incumbent, usually referred to as “the duke that was” is not at all happy about being suddenly deprived of his position and threatens to make trouble. He also discovers that he has not only inherited a dukedom, but he has inherited a fiancée as well, Lady Isabella Sawford, the daughter of the Earl of Grosston.

Even less prepared for matrimony than “dukehood”, Nicholas is at first determined to see if he can break the betrothal – after all, the young lady was betrothed to a man, not a title. But meeting with her father, it quickly becomes apparent that the betrothal is so watertight that to break it would almost certainly ruin Nicholas – and by extension, the dukedom – financially, and he has no alternative but to honour the agreement. Upon meeting the beautiful Isabella, Nicholas decides that being married to her might not be such a bad thing after all.

Isabella has been brought up to be perfect. Beautiful, poised, demure, the model of decorum, she has been bred to be the perfect duchess by parents who see her as nothing more than a highly valuable commodity. She has spent her entire life doing as others have dictated and fulfilling their expectations, the slightest hint of resistance immediately quashed by her mother's threatening to send away her sister, Margaret, whom she loves dearly – and whom her parents treat almost as though she doesn't exist.

Isabella is no more enthusiastic at the prospect of being married than Nicholas, although she is relieved, upon meeting him, to discover that he is incredibly attractive and seems kind, completely unlike her previous

fiancé on both counts. The wedding takes place, and both Nicholas and Isabella find themselves completely unprepared as to what to do next. Well, Nicholas knows what he would like to do next – but realising he and his bride are all but strangers, manfully decides that they should get to know each other better before consummating the marriage. It's going to take incredible fortitude on his part to wait and he has no intention of dishonouring his wife by slaking his lust with other women, so instead, he attempts – mostly unsuccessfully – to work off his frustrations in the boxing ring.

I enjoyed the story very much. Ms Frampton displays a lovely deftness of touch and a sense of humour that reminded me of writers such as Tessa Dare and Maya Rodale, and she has created a couple of very engaging characters in her two principals. Nicholas is such a loveable rogue that he's impossible to dislike; he is desperate to get Isabella into bed, but does the gentlemanly thing and waits until she's comfortable with the idea, even though he is unaware that his bride is perhaps not taking his gentlemanliness in the manner in which it is intended. Isabella has grown up in a cage, albeit a gilded one, and finds it difficult to express her own wishes and desires, which makes perfect sense, given the way she has been treated by her odious parents. It's almost as though she has been institutionalised, her own decision making tools have been taken away from her and she has learned to do and to want what is expected of her regardless of her own opinions. I liked the way Ms Frampton has addressed the idea that even the most beautiful among us can have insecurities and neuroses, and that Isabella has to learn slowly to express herself truthfully and own her own desires. Nicholas is an absolute sweetie, but he, too, has a lot to learn about marriage, never having been one for sharing his thoughts and emotions, yet he is blessed with an instinctive emotional intelligence which enables him to discern that there is more to Isabella than the icy, always proper façade she presents to the world – and I will admit to raising a small, inward cheer each time he stood up to Isabella's parents.

Put Up Your Duke hit the spot for me; it doesn't depend on anything other than the central romance to drive the story forward, and that romance is well put-together as Nicholas and Isabella are allowed to get to know each other before getting frisky between the sheets. That's not to say that there is a dearth of steaminess – not at all, but the romance is paramount and, well, you know what they say about delayed gratification! If I have a complaint it's with the fact that Nicholas is so very, VERY sex-obsessed. I know he's determined to wait for Isabella to want him and has thus condemned himself to an indeterminate period of celibacy, but almost every internal monologue and thought he expresses has a sexual overtone which, while often quite funny, does get a bit wearing after a while.

All in all, however, **Put Up Your Duke** is an enjoyable, light-hearted and often humorous read which features a well-drawn secondary cast and an engaging central couple. It's definitely a good bet for whiling away a few hours on the beach this summer.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted on Got Fiction?

I've been sitting on this review for months, because I really like the author. But I didn't love this book.

This is a DNF for me. All the reviews say that the heroine finds herself in this book, and that's great, but I'm not invested enough in her to care. I don't like who she is now. The hero is...sort of a cliché rake who will reform.

Quick summary-Isabelle is engaged to the Duke of Gage. Her parents have brought her up to be a duchess.

Her entire life is “this is how a duchess behaves.” So she is a paragon of duchess-ness sorry about the made up word!). She is a blank canvas. She has no personality. But, she is far from a cardboard character. See, she realizes she doesn’t even know who she is. She is to be a duchess, but who is Isabelle? So when the Duke of Gage turns out to be illegitimate, the estate and title are passed on to Nicholas Smithfield. And Isabelle is passed on to him as well.

Supposedly, she comes into her own and finds herself. Supposedly, he reforms from his lowbrow and rakish ways. That actually sounds quite interesting, in fact, I don’t think I’ve read a plot like this before! Kudos to Ms. Frampton for such an engaging and intriguing idea!

But the biggest deterrent for me is that I think the author is still finding her voice. It reads as if she can’t decide she wants to have an Historical voice (a la Meredith Duran), or a humorous voice (a la Tessa Dare).

I think she has a stronger formal voice, and I enjoyed the less humorous parts to the book. If she can develop that formal Historical aspect to her storytelling, I think she’ll do so well! I like the originality of the plot, and I see most people are giving her 4s and 5s, so I’m hoping you guys can find more positive reviews to read both sides. I truly look forward to reading her again, but I think I’ll wait until maybe book 3 or 4.

***ARC courtesy of Avon Books

Sandy S says

3.5 stars--

ABOUT THE BOOK: Release Date June 30, 2015

He was once happily bedding and boxing, but in the newest Duke's Behaving Badly novel, Nicholas Smithfield has inherited a title and a bride . . .

To keep his estate afloat, the new Duke of Gage must honor an agreement to marry Lady Isabella Sawford. Stunningly beautiful, utterly tempting, she's also a bag of wedding night nerves, so Nicholas decides to wait to do his duty—even if it means heading to the boxing saloon every day to punch away his frustration.

Groomed her whole life to become the perfect duchess, Isabella longs for independence, a dream that is gone forever. As her husband, Nicholas can do whatever he likes—but, to Isabella's surprise, the notorious rake instead begins a gentle seduction that is melting every inch of her reserve, night by night . . .

To his utter shock, Nicholas discovers that no previous exploits were half as pleasurable as wooing his own wife. But has the realm's most disreputable duke found the one woman who can bring him to his knees— and leave him there?

.....

REVIEW: PUT UP YOUR DUKE is the third installment (there is a Valentine’s novella) in Megan Frampton’s adult Dukes Behaving Badly historical romance series. This is the new Duke of Gage-Nicholas Smithfield- and Lady Isabella Sawford’s storyline. PUT UP YOUR DUKE can be read as a stand alone

without any difficulty.

Told from dual third person perspectives, the storyline follows Nicholas Smithfield as he is named the new Duke of Gage when research discovered the previous heir to be descended from illegitimate stock. Along with his new title, Nicholas also learned that he was to wed the Lady Isabella Sawford in accordance with a debt owed by his newfound estate. What ensues is a building romance between the local rake, and a woman groomed, by a manipulative mother and controlling father, for a life of pomp and ceremony. Isabella was a puppet to her parent's future plans.

The relationship between our couple is very slow to build once Nicholas discovers his new bride is chaste and pure. Her lack of experience finds Isabella a lonely bride when her husband spends most of his time at the local boxing arena, or with his brother Griff, who has been named secretary to the new Duke of Gage. While Nicholas tries to keep his distance, Isabella becomes more angry and forlorn believing she is not worthy of Nicholas's love. The sex scenes are limited with a little bit of 'fooling around' before Nicholas and Isabella consummate their marriage.

We are introduced to Isabella's younger sister Margaret whose own life has been less than glorious as their parents have focused all of their energy on preparing Isabella as a future wife. But Margaret is no 'stick in the mud' and she has a few secrets of her own. Nicholas's brother Griff is a learned scholar who aids our hero in his new role as the Duke of Gage. I am hoping Griff's story is next and Margaret would be the perfect foil for the inexperienced younger Smithfield.

Throughout the storyline each chapter is introduced using an excerpt from the 'unedited version of A Lady of Mystery's serial' that parallels some of the events in Nicholas and Isabella's relationship. A similar line of storytelling between Nicholas and Isabella is a running theme throughout their story, one that is meant to ease the anxiety between Nicholas and his virgin bride.

PUT UP YOUR DUKE is a sweet story of romance with very little conflict or angst. There was the potential for rivalry and contention when the previous Duke threatened retaliation for the loss of his title, but for all intents and purposes, the struggle went in another direction and lost some of the momentum it was trying to build. A good portion of the storyline found the reader inside the heads of our leading couple whose inner dialogues reflected on the past, the present and the future, along with the 'what ifs' and 'whys' of their current predicament.

Copy supplied by the publisher through Edelweiss.

www.thereadingcafe.com

Michelle says

4.5 A charming romance with Nicolas coming into a Dukedom and inheriting Isabella as his fiancée in the process. Fun, very romantic, and almost fairy tale-like, the pair have to figure each other out and join ranks to solidify their position. I'm hoping that Margaret is a next featured character, since I quite liked her spirit. Maybe with Griff? Ms Frampton is now solidly on my auto read list.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Summary

Nicholas, has just learned that he has become the new Duke of Gage, and as such he has an obligation to marry the beautiful Isabella Sawford. Nicholas has no clue how to be a Duke, he knows women and box ring fighting, but how to handle a seemingly perfect wife, and dealing with tenants and the house of Lords are so out of his comfort zone. He has no idea where he is going but he knows one thing, that his gracious wife is the key. He is drawn to her, and wants to know more about this mysterious woman who is more than who she appears to be. Isabella Sawford, has always known that she would marry the Duke of Gage, ever since she can remember she has been trained to be the perfect duchess. She has always said yes to her parents dictates. Once she marries her life has changed, and she starts learning new facets of herself, and is captivated by her husband and wants more from her life than throwing the perfect parties and soirees. Will Nicholas and Isabella find a way to balance each other and find happiness that they are searching for?

The Hero

Nicholas, has always been a passionate lover and fierce fighter. He hasn't really known anything else. Nicholas is a man of pleasure but he soon is drawn into a world of duty and obligation that he wasn't expecting to find. Nicholas is a man who on the surface appears to be all about pleasure but there is more depth to his character than meets the eye. Nicholas takes everything that comes at him in stride with patience, he is open and honest and loyal to a fault. I loved the way he was in this story, a rake of course, but a man who is human, makes mistakes, has dreams and is working to improve himself. What was most endearing about his character was how engaging he is in the little actions he does.

The Heroine

Isabella has only known duty, and how to make a party perfect and has been trained her whole life to be the perfect Duchess. Now she is a Duchess, and all she sees is someone she doesn't want to be. She wants to be more than who she appears to be. She wants to do outrageous things, learn to box and have fun for the first time in her life. In this story we see her character change quite a bit, and she definitely grows right before your eyes. From a woman who is proper at all times, to a woman who wants and needs more and is willing to fight for it. Isabella I liked quite a bit, but at times her character became a bit annoying, because of how she treats Nicholas at times. In all honesty she gets angry at him, because of her personal reason that he has no clue about. But once she shares who she wants to be with Nicholas, then I started to enjoy her character more.

Plot and Story Line

Put Up The Duke is a story that caught my attention from the very beginning. What we see is a story of seeing two people grow and change together. Nicholas and Isabella don't know each other at all before they get married. What was most fascinating was seeing them struggle and trying to learn each other. We have here a story of two people who are so different from each other, but at times they are perfect for each other in the little ways. Ever since I discovered Megan Frampton, I have been blown away, by her talent in drawing me into her stories from the beginning. I could barely put this one down, and I had the hardest time doing so with this title. I love the way the story line develops and the focus is the character development and a love story that is about those tiny aspects of life that keep you drawn to each other. It has a beautiful simplicity to it at times, the misunderstanding, telling stories and brushing your wife's hair, or teaching her how to box (that was fun to see). An additional element to the plot was how devious Isabella's parents are, and their plans add a bit of intrigue to the story. I am interested to see if we see more from the siblings of Isabella and Nicholas in future books.

The Cover

What a gorgeous cover....I just love it. I would read this book for the cover alone. I love the rich earthy colors, and the pose, and isn't that male model just beautiful....*sigh* what more can I say.

Overall View

Put Up Your Duke is a sweet mixture of unforgettable characters, stunning detail, entertaining on every page and will capture you from the beginning....guaranteed to touch the readers hearts. BEWITCHING!!

The Duke's Guide To Correct Behavior (1) Marcus and Lily

When Good Earl's Go Bad (1.5) Matthew and Annabelle

Put Up Your Duke (2) Nicholas and Isabella

No Groom At The Inn (2.5)--Unknown

One Eyed Dukes Go Wild (3) Lasham and Margaret

Isabella felt herself shaking—in joy, or shock, she wasn't sure. The possibility of freedom, of not having to marry the duke, dangled before her like a beautiful jewel she just had to reach out and take. And her freedom was more precious than anything, since it was so rare, rarer than the rarest diamond. She'd never even had it, not for a moment of her life, whereas diamonds, for a lady in her position, were relatively easy to see, if not own.

Her mother glared at her, as though it were her fault the duke was no longer the duke. Isabella wished she could tell her mother that if she had the kind of power to unduke someone, she would have used that power to entirely extricate herself from any kind of marital agreement. Or maybe make herself look less beautiful so people would stop bothering her.

"Stop dawdling, Isabella. You can see yourself out, Maria?" It was not a question, but at least her mother gave her aunt the courtesy of pretending it was.

"Of course." Maria patted Isabella's hand. "I am certain you will be fine, Isabella. You will marry well, no matter who you marry."

Isabella merely nodded, even though she wished she could tell her aunt, tell somebody, how she felt about marrying well. About how marrying well meant a very different thing to her than it did to her family.

If she didn't have to marry the duke after all she could find someone, perhaps, who would care for her. That would be a good marriage, not one where her husband's title was more important than if he was a pleasant man. She didn't require love, but she wanted companionship, and friendliness, and perhaps a measure of fondness.

The duke—at least, the only Duke of Gage she currently knew—had never shown her any of those things, or any possibility of them, instead treating her as her mother did, as someone to be corrected and scolded into perfection.

Perfection Isabella had achieved, even though she wasn't proud of it. She had been molded into the perfect duchess, only now—only now it seemed as though there was no duke to fulfill her training. The thought

made her want to laugh, if only because it so thoroughly ruined her mother's plans.

Freedom. Isabella had only occasionally allowed herself to think of what might be possible if her future weren't already determined; now that it was here, that it might well be her future, she was terrified.

What would she be if she wasn't the Duchess of Gage?

a Rafflecopter giveaway

Claudia says

Obviously I have not much luck with my books at the moment. Or my mood is so different from that of my fellow reviewers, whom I trust normally implicitly.

but this book was although quite nice and a good story, I had troubles with Isabella. I do understand where she comes from but for me her change is not really done as well as I would have hoped for. she comes across as icy or childish and I really have a hard time to understand why Nicholas should fall in love with her ...

what I liked was Nicholas and his brother Griff ... I really hope we get his story as well ..

Brianna says

I received an ARC from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

I love a good marriage of convenience story. Something about a couple marrying, and THEN falling in love is just very appealing to me. Therefore, when I saw that in this book, the hero inherits not only a title but a bride, I was definitely sold on reading it. Luckily for me, I was not disappointed.

The two main characters, Nicholas and Isabella, were very likable. Nicholas started out as a typical rake, but what was interesting was that he was pretty bored of his life. All he did was box and seek out ladies. Still, there was more to him than that. He turned out to be quite kind and thoughtful, and I just loved watching him pursue Isabella.

Usually in England-set historical romance, the heroine is a spinster, a bookish girl who just wants love, or a plain woman with ambitious and intelligent aspirations. Therefore, it was pretty refreshing to read about someone who was trained to be the perfect duchess. She knew how to throw parties and balls, and she was very beautiful. However, the thing that made Isabella different was the fact that she was so "perfect", that she didn't know herself. She had no true opinions, and showed no emotions except for when she was around her sister Margaret. So, I felt very sorry for Isabella, but I also liked watching her come into her own person. Nicholas was very good for her, as he made Isabella say what she wanted and did not want. I just had so much fun watching him woo her, and her grow into her own person.

The side characters weren't very numerous. Margaret, Isabella's previously mentioned sister, was a funny, outgoing, and witty girl whom I immediately liked. Their parents treated Margaret horribly, just because she wasn't beautiful like Isabella. That, and their treating Isabella like a thing rather than a person, caused me to hate them. They were some extremely horrible people, and I just wish we saw them get what they deserve. Then, there was Nicholas's brother Griff. I liked Griff because he was intelligent and close to his brother, but I do think his character could have been developed a bit more. Finally, there was the former Duke of Gage, whom Nicholas replaced. He was a pretty flat villain, and didn't add too much to the story, but I disliked him well enough.

Once I picked up this book, I never wanted to put it down. The story followed Nicholas as he inherited the title of Duke of Gage, when the former was found to not be a legitimate heir to the dukedom. As previously mentioned, Isabella was inherited right along with that title, as she had been betrothed to the former Duke of Gage. At first thinking they could both get out of it, they were proven wrong when Isabella's parents threatened to ruin Nicholas and his family should he refuse Isabella. therefore, the two were married, and thus followed Nicholas's discovery of just how constrained Isabella had been by her parents' expectations of her. It was just so nice to see a man pursue his heroine with sensitivity, and companionship. I hated the villains, but I really liked the relationship between the two leads. Which just means that this novel did a lot right.

With all that said, of course I'm recommending you read this book. If you like historical romance and marriage of convenience stories, there should be no reason why you won't enjoy it. The two main leads are likable, and watching the two of them fall in love was a good time. The writing was smooth, and I found myself immediately interested in the story. The book was a great way to continue my current love of all things historical romance, and hopefully it'll do the same for you, or get you started reading it if you never have before.

Britney (BookDrunkSloth) says

Review Originally Posted at Ramblings From This Chick

<http://ramblingsfromthischick.blogspot...>

Reading Put Up Your Duke by Megan Frampton was like riding a roller coaster for me. The book would build and build and I would be more and more into it. Then the story would tumble back towards the ground with just a paragraph. I'm not one who enjoys reading the "F" word when describing sex. I know many other readers don't mind it, but it takes away from the romance for me. So if you don't mind it, this book would be more like four stars.

Isabella is betrothed to the Duke of Gage. However, the ton erupts with scandal when some documents are found proclaiming the Duke isn't actually the duke. Nicholas then discovers that he in fact is the rightful Duke of Gage. Isabella's parents insist he keep up the contract of their upcoming nuptials. Nicholas agrees that it would be best, and the two are quickly married.

The relationship between the Duke and Duchess of Gage is one of very stereotypical issues between men and women. Isabella expects Nicholas to know what she wants without her having to say a thing. Nicholas finds himself absolutely clueless when she gets angry with him. Nicholas handles arguments and issues very quickly, believing them solved, when in actuality Isabella was not finished and hadn't believed him. They lacked communication.

I was extremely frustrated with Isabella. She was so hypocritical. She expected him to know everything about her, but she wouldn't talk to him about anything. She was a believable character, but I just wanted to grab her shoulders and shake her. Nicholas' character was not believable. His attitude and personality seemed to change quickly back and forth. He almost seemed like two different people. In the beginning quite the rake and then the second he learns about being a duke becomes responsible. From that point on, there would be random points where the rake would return. I did like the gentleman version of him, though. He was sweet, considerate, and trying his best for their marriage to work.

Most of this review seems negative, but the bad parts didn't take over this book. All of the good romantic scenes were swoon worthy. I just didn't like how my regard was lifted and lifted, then dropped down like a bowling ball. If those few instances hadn't been in this book I would have loved it much more.
