



No Ordinary Duke

Sophie Barnes

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He's everything she's trying to avoid...But somehow precisely what she needs...

Caleb Crawford doesn't want to be a duke. He'd much rather build houses for a living. So when fate disrupts his peaceful life and burdens him with the responsibilities of a newly inherited title, he does what any sensible man would do by fleeing London, disguising himself as a laborer, and seeking refuge with three young spinsters who need his help with a leaky roof.

Ruined by a marquess who promised her the world, Mary Clemens has sworn to avoid marriage forever. Instead, she intends to live out her days with her friends and the orphaned children they've taken into their care. But when Mr. Crawford comes knocking, Mary finds herself in real danger of risking heartbreak all over again. Especially when she discovers that he's not at all what he seems.

No Ordinary Duke Details

Date : Published October 30th 2018 by Sophie Barnes (first published August 26th 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Sophie Barnes

Format : Kindle Edition 263 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance

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From Reader Review No Ordinary Duke for online ebook

Lissa says

Calebs brother:

Devin, sea captain

Griffin, likes London, mischeivous

Mary friends:

Emily Howard, left society because she was ignored./wallflower. She was plump and dressed unattractively but now is fit and dress self.

Lady Cassandra - anticipated wedding then fiance dies on way to wedding. She has child, Penelope. She was rejected by parents, but brother, Viscount Aldridge, buys her home and supports her.

angela hamilton says

Good read. Sweet.

Had to make myself finish it because it was \$4.00. Sort of drug on. The end was so rushed. It was a little off putting slightly ridiculous that they two friends were pushing the h towards an affair?!?!!

Sharon says

O Lord did I struggle through this book. It was boring. It was predictable. The “chemistry” between the two love interests was comical. Virtually every character was flat as a board. I am proud that I made the effort to make it all the way to the end of this book to report that you should not. I feel badly because I received this free through a Goodreads giveaway. I hate to give it a bad review but it was like romance fanfic.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

No Ordinary Duke by Sophie Barnes is book One in The Crawfords series. This is the story of Mary Clemens and Caleb Crawford.

A few years ago Mary was thought she would be marrying a Marquess but he disappeared and his father made it clear that he would allow such a marriage....and even spread rumors about Mary to the town. This lead her parents who didn't believe or support excepted her to leave town and to go into isolation. But Mary turned to her friend, Cassandra for a place to stay without her parents knowledge. Mary swore never to marry or fall in love and dedicated herself with her friends in help orphan children. Caleb has only wanted to build houses and work with his hands. Caleb's father wanted another life for him but Caleb resisted and took of to learn his trade. Now all these years later he returns to find that he is now the acting Duke. Something Caleb didn't expect nor wanted. So when the pressure became more than he wanted, Caleb took a offer from his friend to go help build a roof which lead him to meet Mary. Sparks flew between the two but of course things aren't an easy road for them. Really enjoyed their story...I couldn't put it down. I love a Epilogue and

this book had a great one!

Elaine says

Oh, I loved this beautiful HEA story. I must admit that I had tears at the end. A bit sensitive today. 5?

Kelly The Sassy Book Lover says

I absolutely loved this hidden identity story because it is different from most. I was hooked from the start with the shock of him finding out he is the Duke now. The moment they met sparks were flying and everyone could feel the tension between them. I'm sure my face was similar to his when he found out who had ruined her. They would take one step closer only to fall back two, but it was all worth it in the end. I loved how they brought everyone together again. The epilogue is one of the best I've read because it is not the typical one and gives updates on many people.

Mary has sworn to guard her heart and never be fooled again, but her heart had other plans. I loved her from the start because she spoke her mind to everyone. Even though she was stubborn she would listen and realize when she was wrong.

Caleb is defiantly not an ordinary duke and was going to live the way he wanted to. He wasn't what anyone would expect from a duke or most men. I loved that he was so honorably and wanted to make things right all around.

*Copy provided for an honest and voluntary review.

Lorraine says

He doesn't want to be a Duke. He enjoyed it he was doing. He was living the life he wanted. To get away from everything he helps his friend by going to the home of his sister and helping her prepare the home that she into other friends are living in. Unfortunately as they begin to build each other and realizes that he's living a lie is not sure how to tell her the truth. Then the fun begins. A well written and entertaining story with a happy ending. What more could you want out of a book??

Barbara Rogers says

Series: The Crawfords #1
Publication Date: 10/30/18

Wow! This is a fast-paced, intelligently written novel with sizzling sexual tension between Caleb and Mary. It is a delightfully refreshing read mostly because the hero isn't a rake and the heroine isn't a shrew. It is just

a lovely romance story without a villain or a chase – nope, the whole story is the wonderful romance between these two characters. Even with all of that hot, sizzling tension between them, there still isn't any graphic encounters.

If you have read many of my reviews, you know that I think every romance novel should have an Epilogue. This book has what is probably the best epilogue I have ever read. It is forty years into the future and you see how strong and full their love still is and you learn what happens with the orphans and the children they had together. It is just sigh-worthy.

Caleb Maxwell Crawford never wanted nor expected to be a duke. When he stormed out of his family home ten-years earlier after a last and final argument with his father, his father was fine and healthy and his brother George was firmly in place as the heir. All Caleb wanted to do was to be an architect – to design and build homes. That is what lead to his last argument with his father – Caleb was supposed to be studying Religion in school, but he'd switched to Architecture – and when his father found out, he cut off his funds for schooling. Caleb went to France where he apprenticed and worked and found success and acclaim. Now, he has just returned to England to fling that success and acclaim at his father. However, when he walks into the house, he finds it is a house in mourning for the deaths of both his father and his older brother. Good Grief – he's now a bloody Duke! He does his best to settle into the role, but he hates every minute of it and thinks he'll go crazy if he doesn't find some relief from it. Then, add his mother's constant demands that he marry and he just has to escape. Luckily, his friend, Robert Moor, Viscount Aldridge, had a solution for him. Aldridge had a property in Cornwall where his ruined sister, Cassandra, lived with two other spinsters and a brood of orphaned children they had taken in. Aldridge needed the roof repaired and one of the outspoken spinsters, Mary, kept having run-ins with the men he sent to make the repairs. Maybe Caleb can take a break from being a duke and stay at that property and make those much-needed repairs before the house falls down.

Mary Clemens' family isn't of the aristocracy or even the gentry – they are firmly in the nouveau riche category. Five years ago, she was beautiful and pursued by a Marquess. She thought he loved her, he told her they would be married, then he disappeared and his father told her she certainly wasn't good enough to marry his son and that there was no engagement and wouldn't be one. Then, he spread rumors about her. Rather than believe her, her parents judged her guilty and made plans to send her to Scotland. Instead, she contacted her friend, Cassandra, who invited Mary to come to live with her. So, without telling her parents where she was going, she left London for Cornwall. She decided she would never marry and she certainly didn't want anything to do with anyone in the aristocracy.

When Caleb meets Mary, the sparks fly. He has never been so strongly attracted to a female in his life. Caleb comes to like all of the ladies at the house and loves the children and they all like him as well. It is an all-around admiration fest – except they don't know Caleb is a duke. Oops.

This gem of a book will delight you and entertain you as you watch two people, who are more similar than they think, find love and grow to learn that they must balance the simple life they both want with the duties of a title.

Please check out my reviews at:

Blog: <https://flippinpages.blog/>

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BarbBookReview>

"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Rose Blue says

As reviewed at Roses Are Blue: <https://wp.me/p3QRh4-OX>

Caleb Crawford, the second son of a duke, has no desire to follow his father's orders that he study to become a clergyman. His passion is architecture, and when his father learned that he changed his course of study, he pulled him out of school. Rather than become mired in a vocation that was not his calling, Caleb decides to leave his family and travel to the continent to continue his dream. As he left, he heard his father's words telling him that he was nothing. Now, ten long years later, Caleb has returned home to show his father that he has become a successful architect. All those years of hard work and apprenticeship paid off, but it's a hollow victory. Caleb learns that his father, and his older brother, the heir, have died. Though he doesn't want it, Caleb is the new Duke of Camberly.

After weeks of trying his best to fulfill his ducal duties, Caleb is going a bit stir crazy, and needs a break. His friend, Aldridge, suggests he visit one of his properties, where his sister resides, and take care of some of the repairs needed. Caleb is eager to work with his hands again, and even more, looks forward to being an ordinary man, not a duke. Adridge's sister was ruined years ago, and lives on the remote estate with her two friends, and the children they care for. One of those friends is Mary Clemens, a wealthy man's daughter who was falsely accused of being a seductress, and left society so her sisters wouldn't be tainted by her scandal.

Mary's experience with society has made her determined to never let a man close again. In particular, she's resentful of aristocrats, as is was a nobleman who started the rumor that ruined her. When Mary sees the handsome "handyman," Caleb, she is smitten at first sight. Likewise, Caleb feels an instantaneous attraction to Mary. As they get to know each other, their feelings grow from superficial to friendship to genuine caring. Caleb learns of Mary's scorn for aristocrats, and has never found the right moment to confess the truth.

Though Caleb also had no interest in marriage, he realizes that his feelings for Mary are the real deal. He knows that she also is seriously interested in him, and decides that he has to confess the truth, and hope that she will overcome her dislike of the nobility. Before he has the chance to plead his case, someone intrudes from his "other" life, and reveals Caleb's true identity. What's even worse, is that his family has a connection to Mary's ruin. At this point, Mary wants nothing to do with Caleb and his world, so he returns to town, to plan his strategy.

Caleb truly is NO ORDINARY DUKE. He's not interested in the trappings of society, and he knows his perfect match will be an unorthodox woman. He is such an honorable man, that he tried his best to resist Mary, trying to respect her feelings about nobles, while not truly ruining her. He accepts the duties he never wanted, yet plans to live his life so that it allows him to enjoy some of the things he loves. Mary is a strong woman, who voluntarily left town so that her sisters would have better opportunities in the marriage mart. Though she was devastated to learn the truth about Caleb, she was also wise enough to understand his reasoning. There is a sweet fairy-tale like ending, and a wonderful epilogue, giving us a glimpse far into the future. NO ORDINARY DUKE is a warm and romantic story with stellar characters who find a way to have it all.

Brenda Dickson says

Caleb and Mary are meant for each other! I loved this very entertaining and very fun (I could not put it down) story. I highly recommend it to anyone who loves Sophie Barnes other books. Fabulous!

Maudley says

The first installment in a new series by one of my favorite authors is always a treat and this did not disappoint. The characters were well thought out and the premise was unusual enough to keep me entertained. I thoroughly enjoyed this giveaway ebook and look forward to reading the next adventure.

G.A. Hurst says

No Ordinary Duke is part of The Crawfords Series by Sophie Barnes.

Caleb Maxwell Crawford is the second son of Camberly. He went abroad to study architecture against his father's wishes. He wanted to show his father he could be a success. He returned with awards and drawings to prove his expertise to his father but found his father and older brother had recently died in a stable fire. He would now be the Duke of Camberly.

He's shocked and reluctant, but he does his duty. After a few weeks and as tension mounts from his mother to find a wife, his friend Robert Moor, Viscount Aldridge gives him a chance to escape temporarily. He goes to a property his friend owns to fix a large roof and a few things. Giving him a chance to be a builder again and be an ordinary man for a little time. His friend's sister and a few lady friends run a home for children at this property.

Mary Clemons is a spinster who lives with the other ladies. Cassandra, the Viscount's sister, and Emily. Mary was jilted by a Duke's son because his father thought she wasn't right material for marriage to his son. Leaving her with a serious hatred of the titled.

He introduces himself as Mr. Crawford, not exactly a lie, and that he was sent by the Viscount to make repairs on the home. He and Mary are attracted immediately, but both try to keep their distance.

Author Sophie Barnes has written an intriguing and inventive story of the times. From the issues of being from a titled family, but not the heir; to the issues of women who are unlucky at romance and have been scandalized by circumstances. The characters are endearing and believable. The situations and conversations are both complicated and realistic. The romance is both sweet and builds to sizzling. She has written an inventive solution to the situation and very romantic.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this story and if you love historical romance, be sure to grab a copy. I'll be glad to read more from this author and I believe you will too.

Tanja Kezmic says

My first book by **Sophie Barnes** and I'm an instant fan. This story was absolutely brilliant. The chemistry

and heat between **Mary** and **Caleb** was so hot. Even if all we got was one kiss right up till the end of the story. The banter between them and the side characters was so witty it had me laughing out loud at times. I loved how much effort **Caleb** invested to prove to **Mary** he was so much more than his title. And I loved **Mary** and her ability to not take crap from anyone even that "anyone" is a Duke.

I recommend this book to all who are in search for a quick, fun and interesting HR book. Huge **5*** from me.

****Review copy requested and reviewed on behalf of OMGReads Blog****

Diane Horne says

No Ordinary Duke (The Crawford's Book 1) By Sophie Barnes

Four stars, cute storyline, a continuing series..Mary and her Duke, her friends the children and the parents all had their roles in the makeup of this story..Interesting..Good conclusion and a good ending.

April says

No Ordinary Duke by Sophie Barnes is an exciting new release and new series, "The Crawfords Book 1". WOW what an awesome new series. I absolutely loved Caleb Crawford and Mary Clemens.

Well written with engaging and charming characters. The plot was captivating and intriguing. The sizzling sexual tension between Caleb and Mary will have you turning pages. The blend of Romance with the other elements was fantastic. Once again, Sophie Barnes, has written a story that is enticing and captivating. Her characters will capture your heart and the plot will keep you turning pages. Romance and finding a HEA was nicely blended together. Excellent Regency read.

"I voluntarily received a complimentary copy, however, these are my honest opinions. I was in no way required nor compensated to write a review."

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewer: AprilR
