



The Duchess

Jude Deveraux

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captures the thrill of an American beauty's Highlands wedding, where a royal title is at stake -- and where love wins the day.

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Claire Willoughby risked losing millions in her inheritance if, as decreed by her grandfather, she did not wed an "acceptable" man. Harry Montgomery, the eleventh Duke of MacArran, seemed perfect. He owned a historic castle, he looked manly in a kilt, and he was as much a titled Scotsman as Bonnie Prince Charlie himself.

Their engagement announced, Claire's future as a duchess was assured -- and she set off with her family to meet the Montgomery clan in Scotland. Bramley Castle was a damp, chill place, overpowering with eccentric relatives. But there was also Trevelyan, a secretive, brooding man who lived in Bramley's ancient halls.

Whoever he was, he wasn't at all like Harry: Trevelyan was the most exasperating, arrogant, know-it-all of a man Claire had ever met. And the most fascinating...

The Duchess Details

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From Reader Review The Duchess for online ebook

Rachel C. says

For my friends that have been curious about the romance "beach trash" that I so revel in reading, I'm listing a few books you might want to start with if you're interested in dipping a toe into the genre...

Set mostly in a draughty Scottish castle in the 1880s, "The Duchess" is the story of an American heiress who sails across the Atlantic to marry an impoverished duke. His family is strange, to say the least, and she and her family find much with which to amuse themselves in the nooks and crannies of the castle. As all romance novels must, "The Duchess" ends with a happily-ever-after (though slightly more unorthodox than you might think) and shows how falling in love makes you a better person, and the world, a better place.

"A Knight in Shining Armor" (not half as saccharine as you'd imagine from the title, I promise) is another good one from the author.

Bella Andre says

I had planned to stick to one spot per favorite author on my Top 10 list, but there's no way I could possibly choose between A Knight in Shining Armor and The Duchess. Funny, moody and sexy, The Duchess is unlike any romance I've read before or since. There are secret passageways in a historic castle, an extremely intelligent heroine, a rather strange but incredibly alluring hero and a little sister nicknamed "Brat" who likes to play dress-up in jewels and priceless gowns. It's a book that defies description, which might just be one of the reasons it's so fantastic. Trust me, you should read it.

Shivauney says

Good, but needed more of an ending, it was just too abrupt and I was left with too many questions!

Sarah says

Unlike her later books , which are barely understandable, this book is from Deveraux's golden period. A romance, but NOT full of mushy,gushy, ridiculousness like most romances. Not only are the main characters interesting and believable, but so are all the minor ones,like the heroine's little sister. Like most of Deveraux's books, it's also full of humor :)

Chitra *CJ* says

A beautiful way to end my 2016.

I really enjoyed this roller coaster of a book between Claire and Trevelyan (Vellie).

Claire wants to be a duchess to please her family. She finds herself engaged to Harry, and in his keep she meets the grumpy mysterious Vellie. Their sweet love story is the book.

The first half of the book is merely the placement of characters. The h and H do meet but the real story begins in the last half of the book.

I really liked their intellectual discussions- how both of them shared a zest for life, drove each other's loneliness away and cared for one another even before the feelings were realized.

What I adored was that none of the characters were negative, and everyone had shades of grey.

I really adored the supporting parts played by Nyssa, Brat and Oman.

Once the couple does fall in love though, there's a lot of passion, feelings are tested and secrets are revealed. Also the book has its good share of humor.

The epilogue was very bittersweet. (view spoiler)

Safe with exceptions (view spoiler)

3.75 /5 (view spoiler)

Zeek says

The Duchess is one of my favorite of Jude D's old books.

In it, we have a very unique hero- and a heroine that at once touches your heart and makes you laugh at her frank matter of factness.

?

Claire Willoughby is in love- with a Scottish Duke no less. And good thing because her mother desperately wants her to marry a Duke. Considering she's a wealthy American Heiress and he's house and title rich but money poor, she's about to catch him too.

But she's an odd sort. She loves books and learning... and all things Scottish. You would think her Scottish Duke would be just as interested in all the facts about his land and ancestors as she? But she's realizing that isn't the case.

Harry the Duke is going to marry his American Heiress despite her dreadfully uncomfortable straight forward American ways - he needs the money that comes along with her, but he will be content to never have to spend time with her after the nuptials.

Immediately upon their arrival at Bramley Castle, Harry's ancestral home, Claire realizes something is amiss with her future husband and with his family.

But a peculiar man and the relationship they begin after she discovers him wandering around the grounds one morning helps to distract her. The man is helpless and feeble, poor dear, but he knows just as much about her one obsession as she- well, next to all things Scottish- that being world explorer Captain Frank Baker.

Soon Claire finds herself caught up in the mystery of the man and the goings on at the castle. She's also about to discover he is not who she first thought him to be... and on her way to truly falling in love with a man rather than myth.

I love Claire, I love her love for learning- and enthusiasm for the explorer Captain Frank Baker, I love that she doesn't sit back and wait for things to happen, I love that she drinks whiskey and loves yogurt and

curried eggs, isn't too missish to read about the sexual habits of indigenous peoples-in latin-, is kind to an old Scottish curmudgeon and the crofters on the estate, and that she doesn't blink when she discovers a man secretly living in a castle with an Indian man servant. I think I love her best because to me she is Sara Crewe from A Little Princess all grown up. And I love the man she falls in love with in the end and the life they eventually have together.

I LOVE THIS BOOK.

Dawn says

I'm not quite sure how to review this one. There's so many elements to it. But the core is Claire and Trevelyan. She is an American heiress who's inheritance depends on marriage approved by her parents who are nothing but social climbers. So she is immediately claimed by a Duke, Harry, whose brother turns out to be Claire's idol, Captain Baker, the great explorer. It gets complicated. But, naturally, she meets Captain Baker, who turns out to be Trevelyan, the real Duke. He doesn't want the title. He only wants to explore the world and Harry has promised to finance that. Claire and Trevelyan fall in love, but it's not an easy one. And there are several underlying stories here. But a wonderful HEA. I loved this book.

Tara says

Aside from A Knight in Shining Armour, this is my absolute favorite Jude Deveraux novel. All of the characters in this book are interesting and intelligent. The villian of the book is definitely believably evil. The storyline keeps you drawn in throughout the whole book, and the ending is unorthodox. Truly an enjoyable book, and one I read every few years.

Krista (I remember you, Min) (Critical) says

Ugh. This is one of the worst books I've ever read. Ridiculous drivel that made no sense. I mean, the guy gets shot and then acts like nothing is wrong. Also, on top of getting shot, he has MALARIA, okay, MALARIA, and he is fine--not uncomfortable or anything. Also, the heroine spends 90% of the book thinking she's in love with the wrong man and telling the right man how awful he is and how much she hates him and wants him dead. Pleasant. Claire is THE most stupid character I think I've ever had the misfortune to read about. This whole thing was absurd. Someone telling Claire that Harry would DIE for Trevelyan. Um, are you kidding? He found out his brother wasn't really dead after years of thinking he was, and what is his reaction: "Oh, is that you? I thought you were dead. What's that, you have malaria? Oh, cool. Can I go back to sleep now? You're bothering me."

I'm sorry, but if that's "love" I'm an idiot.

I hate it when the heroine spends nearly the entire book hating and thinking these horrible things about the hero, how he's cold and evil and cruel and the worst, more uncaring man--no, as Claire put it "machine" on earth. Yes. She throws all this in his face? Why? Because he says over and over how much he loves her and needs her and that she's the only woman he's ever loved and that she's amazing. And her reaction is to laugh in his face and call him a selfish self-pitying monster. Okay. If this is romance, then I fear for the world. How this book has a 3.77 average, I have no idea, because I'm ashamed that such utter nonsense can be published.

Tracy Banghart says

A favorite comfort read.

Jojo says

So this book is on the list of romance novels that I unashamedly love. And it's Jude Deveraux! Very bizarre.

Anyway, I reread it every now and again and always enjoy it immensely. At least most of it. It gets a bit problematic. For the majority of the novel, I am happy to be charmed by Claire (who is delightful and intelligent) and Trevelyan (who is bitter and lovely and interesting). And then near the end, Claire, who has been open-minded about so many things, gets all weird about religion and totally freaks out when confronted with the reality of the practices of another culture. It's really a shame; it's hard to like her when she shows herself to be so close-minded and tries to force her beliefs on everyone else. Besides being pretty offensive behavior, it seems out-of-character for who she has been up to that point. And I don't feel like it's ever entirely resolved, so I still have a bit of a problem with her at the end (although one can hope she will mellow out a bit in some regards as she grows older). As much as I love the rest of the book (seriously, a lot), I can't quite overlook or forgive the problematic bits.

But overall, it's pretty delightful, and I do enjoy the very end, which not quite as unorthodox a happy ever after as I would like, but makes a good show of it anyway.

Mariana says

I had a love hate relationship with this book.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

Number two in the *Montgomery* series by Jude Deveraux. Claire Willoughby needs to marry an acceptable man if she wants to keep her inheritance. She gets engaged to Harry, the Duke of MacArran and travels to Scotland to meet his family. Once there she meets Trevelyan...

I thought I had read this one but I didn't remember it so I guess I missed it. It wasn't her best but I did enjoy it. No really big surprises except for one thing (sorry I don't do spoilers). I liked both the H/h characters but they made me want to slap them several times. But hey, that's the way of romance, eh?

Fauziah says

So far so good. BUT I DO NOT LIKE the name trewelyan. Is it me or my toungue? However, JD's is always a

page turner.

FINALLY, finished the book. Have to drag myself thru it. Initially, it was ok but the plot starts to drag itself.

Brunette Librarian says

For the rest of the review, check out: [The Brunette Librarian Blog](#)

This book is one of my favorites for a multitude of reasons. The romance is overwhelming, you hate, you love, you hate and then are smiling by the end. Trevelayn is hard to understand, hard to truly know, yet at the end of the book you know his heart. Claire is so open, so giving and the journey they take together is simply wonderful.

My favorite point in the book...perhaps any romance really, is the moment Trevelayn realizes he is in love with Claire. It's gorgeous and simply beautifully written.

“You love her,” Nyssa whispered, and there was wonder in her voice. She had tried to make Captain Baker love her, but she’d had no success. “You are in love with her.”

“Yes” was all Trevelyan would say. “Yes, I love her. I love her mind, her body. I love her sense of humor. I love her thoughts. I love the way she thinks and what she says.”

He gave a sound that was a cross between hopelessness and despair. “I love her to the smell of her breath.”

He turned to Nyssa and for the first time she saw what few other people had: she saw that little boy who used to climb into bed with Leatrice and cry. “I love her as I’ve never loved anyone or anything. Were she to love me in return, I’d give her whatever she wanted.”

See what I mean? Well written with excellent characterization, I’d recommend this book to fans of Eloisa James and Julia Quinn. “The Duchess” is filled with romance, adventure, and just a plain old great story destined to make you in love with it, just as I did.
