



A Duke's Temptation

Jillian Hunter

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Duke's Temptation

Jillian Hunter

A Duke's Temptation Jillian Hunter

Samuel Charles Aubrey St. Aldwyn, Duke of Gravenhurst, is a radical rogue and champion of unpopular causes. No one would dream that he is also the author of a bestselling series of dark historical novels, a writer accused of corrupting the morals of the public, and a master seducer who counts among his passionate fans wellborn Miss Lily Boscastle. But Lily is no stranger to disrepute.

When her engagement to another man ends in a tarnished image and public disgrace, Lily is forced to seek employment outside London - as housekeeper for Gravenhurst himself. Her sharp wit and sensuality appeal to his wicked instincts - and she's a perfect match for every beguiling move he makes. Yet there's more to him than Lily imagined - a secret known to few living souls, ghosts from the past that haunt both of their futures in ways too dangerous for even the duke to have invented.

A Duke's Temptation Details

Date : Published November 2nd 2010 by Signet (first published November 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Jillian Hunter

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Historical Fiction

 [Download A Duke's Temptation ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Duke's Temptation ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Duke's Temptation Jillian Hunter

From Reader Review A Duke's Temptation for online ebook

Susan says

This was a really fun book to read, with a very unusual hero. Samuel is a duke with something of a wicked personal reputation, a radical political reputation, and a secret known to very few. He is the anonymous author of a series of gothic novels that have as many detractors as fans. One of his biggest fans is Lily Boscastle.

Both of them attend a literary masquerade ball, where they have a brief encounter and an instant connection. Samuel is instantly smitten by Lily's beauty and wit, and leaves the ball determined to pay court to her. But Lily's engagement to another man is due to be announced the next day, so he leaves London to return to his home in Dartmoor and continue with his writing. Being the romantic that he is, he leaves instructions for her to be watched over in case she ever needs his help.

Lily is intrigued by the man she met at the ball. He's one of the few men she's met who admits to reading novels. She gives in to the desire for a kiss from him, even though she knows she's promised to another. It's an eye opening occurrence that she does her best to forget over the next couple weeks, as plans are made for her wedding. Lily calls off her engagement shortly before the wedding when she witnesses her fiance kill a man, then attempt to cover it up. No one will believe her about what she has seen, and blames her for the scandal of her engagement's end.

Desperate to get away from London and the gossip, Lily applies for a job as a housekeeper at a remote estate. She has no idea that it is Samuel's home until she gets there. Once there she is committed to the job for at least a year. His house and his staff are unlike anything she expected and soon she's trying to find out just what is going on.

I loved the growth of their relationship. Samuel is in love from the beginning and willing to do whatever necessary to win his fair lady. He goes a little overboard at first, trying a scenario from one of his books, but that doesn't go over very well. Lily has been burned by her love of novels, as everyone blames that love for her actions regarding her engagement, so she tries to remain practical rather than romanced. Samuel's willingness to believe her story goes a long way toward softening her attitude. Samuel guards his secret until he's sure that he can trust her with it, but then does his big reveal in novel worthy manner. Knowing his secret and hearing his intentions toward her opens her heart to him even more. I loved their interactions, from their love scenes to the conversations about his book and the trouble he is having with the end of it.

It was interesting to see how Samuel seemed to be in a constant battle with the various parts of himself. His two main characters seemed to be differing sides of his personality and he couldn't decide which he really wanted to be. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing him work out the various scenes, and loved the way his staff was so involved with him. When Lily's past makes an unwelcome appearance, everything comes together for him to save the day.

I really enjoyed the ending and seeing their fairy tale come true. It was nice to see that Lily was vindicated in the eyes of her family. I loved the epilogue and seeing the literary process still continued with just as much exuberance as before.

Heather says

I'm not sure why this didn't ring my bell the way other Boscastle titles in the previous series have, but Lily and Samuel were kinda "eh." Whether that was simply chemistry, or personalities, I don't know. Lily is previously engaged, but through tragic circumstances she rebuffs her fiance and is forced to leave town and find a position as a housekeeper in Samuel's quirky household. Samuel wonders what has made the fairy girl he had become obsessed with into this lost woman, and vows to make things right. Samuel is unique, has a lot of secrets, and is focused, intelligent, self-absorbed. Others might disagree with my last comment, but while he cares about those he considers "his," he has a lot of personality quirks that I found annoying and obnoxious, regardless of the muse. Lily is very accepting of him and his habits, but I wasn't clicking with them. This might be the first Boscastle book I don't keep.

Marilyn Rondeau says

*** First of all I totally enjoyed this book and while some thought it not up to Ms. Hunters standards, I thought it delightful. The Duke of Gravenhurst was secretly known (to his publisher and a few close friends) as the mysterious Lord Anonymous and the witty conversations between Lily and the duke as they discussed (unbeknownst to Lily) her critique of Anonymous' Wickbury and how she perceived both the villain and the hero were immensely satisfying. What was even better of course was when Lily suggested that the author Lord Anonymous must be a woman!?

Gravenhurst was totally besotted, (something that had never happened before) and was going to do the honorable thing and court Lily until he discovered that her engagement had been announced before he had time to act. In fact, the marriage would have taken place but for Lily witnessing her fiance committing a murder then telling her she was crazy that there was no body, consequently no murder. When he, and her family all tried to convince Lily she had been hallucinating (or going crazy) Lily knew she could never marry a man who lied to her about committing such a foul crime. Which was why it made perfect sense for Lily (even though she was wealthy) to leave home and assume a position as a housekeeper. Everyone (including her family) thought Lily to be a little crazy believing in a murder when a body had never been found. [Some reviewers belabor this point, I do not]?

Naturally, the housekeeper assignment she later finds is working for the Duke of Gravenhurst. His house and staff are not at all what Lily expects and secrets (some are very strange and humorous) abound. The Duke is mysterious as well as the plethora of some impertinent staff, who all love and protect him which only adds to the amusement and enjoyability of A DUKE'S TEMPTATION.?

I definitely can recommend this book and suggest fans of Jillian Hunter overlook some of the negative reviews to judge for yourself.?

Elle says

The writing style prevents the reader from really engaging with the characters. For example, towards the end of the book, the heroine has a reconciliation with someone who failed to help and support her in a time of crisis. Instead of showing the scene, which could've been a tearjerker, we're TOLD about it from the perspective of the hero, an outside observer. For that matter, the original betrayal was portrayed in such a dispassionate way that it was hard to really feel the heroine's experience. It's a good story, and has some really charming moments, but I felt distanced from the emotions of it by the "tell-rather-than-show" style.

Katherine ??? says

Belum pernah saya membaca buku HR yg seburuk ini, dgn plot hole parah sebanyak buku ini.

Saya tidak mengerti pengarangnya ini mau menggiring pembacanya kemana? Saya malah melihat ada kesan mau sok-sok-an membuat karakter dark hero, tapi yg muncul malah hero tanpa karakter yg jelas. Datar, tidak menggugah sama sekali. Heroine nya jg sama ambiasnya. Tidak berjiwa pemberani walau tampaknya diniatkan seperti itu. Tidak ada struggle dari kedua belah pihak. Heroine nya dikatakan jadi pelayan, tapi koq cuma onkang2 kaki dan malah jadinya meregangkan kakinya utk si hero?

Konflik juga nihil. Percekcokan jg nyaris tidak ada. Yg saya jg bingung, knp pelayan wanita (Marie Elaine maksud saya disini, bukan yg heroine) bisa membaca novel fantasy majikannya (yg boleh dibilang masih berupa draft) dan memberikan saran? Pdhl tidak dijelaskan apakah pelayan itu mengecap bangku sekolah atau tidak.

Knp di penghujung cerita tiba2 muncul si antagonis yg mau membunuh si heroine dgn motif tidak kuat? Knp seorg penulis bisa jd ahli pedang (tanpa latihan adu laga dgn seorgpun)? Belum lagi istilah2 jenis pedang yg kebanyakan jg dicomot dari genre fantasy.

Hal ini makin diperparah dgn terjemahan yg acakadut, dgn kosakata tidak tepat dan ajaib yg bertebaran di buku ini. Ada kata "fasad" yg sama sekali tidak umum. Ada adegan yg mengatakan ".....mengitari punggungku" Ya Tuhan, punggung itu bukan jalanan loh. Saya harap penerbit buku ini editor nya tolonglah bekerja dgn sungguh-sungguh. Typo mungkin mengganggu, tapi tidak ada yg mengalahkan diksi-diksi yg tidak tepat yg mengakibatkan kalimat jadi aneh, tidak berjiwa dan secara keseluruhan bukunya jadi tidak enak dibaca.

Stephanie Burkhart says

Hunter pens a tale full of delicious delights with "A Duke's Temptation." Samuel St. Aldwyn, the Duke of Gravenhurst, has a reputation for being a rogue, but he also harbors a secret. Does Lily Boscastle dare to discover what the handsome duke strives so hard to keep hidden?

Set in London, 1818, Lily Boscastle attends a masquerade ball with her cousin, Chloe Stratfield. The Wickbury Tales by Lord Anonymous is all the rage. Lily meets a handsome young man masquerading as Don Quixote. They take a walk into the gardens where their light-hearted banter turns into a heated kiss, betraying their attraction.

Once they depart, the handsome young turns out to be Samuel St. Aldwyn - the Duke of Gravenhurst - and he desires to make Lily his wife. Unfortunately, the next morning, Samuel learns that Lily is engaged to Captain Jonathon Grace and while he has a marriage contract drawn up, he doesn't deliver it.

Lily is resigned to marry Jonathon, who she considers a friend. Then she witnesses Jonathon commit a murder, and he doesn't admit it. Lily insists she saw what she saw, and refuses to marry Jonathon. Disgraced, Lily takes a job as a housekeeper.

Lily travels a long distance to reach her new job. Along the way someone appears to hijack the carriage - a rogue who is supposed to remind her of Sir Renwick from the Wickbury Tales. To her surprise, Lily realizes it's the handsome young man she kissed on the night of masquerade and that man is the Duke of Gravenhurst.

As Lily discovers the complexities of the man, her attraction grows, but will Samuel's secret and her dubious

past keep them apart?

Hunter crafts a vivid story full of imagination. Her writing is sharp, putting the reader right in the scenes with Lily and Samuel.

The story uses a good economy of words to paint vivid pictures of the setting. Hunter's dialogue is crisp and delightful.

Lily and Samuel are intriguing characters. Lily is honest to a fault and that honesty causes trouble between her, Jonathon, and her family. What I admire is despite the trouble, Lily stays true to her convictions and beliefs. Samuel's most endearing quality is his loyalty. He's true to the people who are true to him.

The story's love scenes are sophisticated, tasteful, yet sensual, embodying the newfound love the couple has for each other. Overall, "A Duke's Temptation" is another delicious romantic historical from Hunter.

Blodeuedd Finland says

Arghhhh I can't!! The heroine is a stupid spoiled girl. The hero is an idiot. The plot that will happen is wtf!? I mean COME ON!!!!

So I am not gonna read any more. Enough is enough. Not the historical romance for me.

Mini says

Ok, this one just did not work with me. 121 pages in and i just couldn't bring myself to finish it.

Yes, Samuel was wonderful, he had that devilish thing going on about him that all women just seemed to love, he was a rouge.

What you are going to read in the next few lines are my ranting about what i read. Be warned, i like to tail on for a while. And my for a while i mean a while. What i originally thought would only be a few lines became about 6 and 1/2 paragraphs. Sorry ahead of time.

Lilly.

(view spoiler)

Diana~ (Kiss Me Books) says

Despite some of the "controversies" about this book, I found this one to be rather funny and very romantic. *A Duke's Temptation* was my first book by Jillian Hunter and I'm looking forward to read more from her. Although this was not the **greatest** historical romance that I have read, I did find it to be enjoyable and the characters to be rather charming, witty, and also sweet! Sadly, I had a few unanswered questions that I did not understand... For example, what happened to Captain Jack Grace, Lily's ex-fiance? How exactly did he die? *And*, I would have liked to know more about Lily's reaction to the incident between Samuel and the villain of the story.

Something that I did love about this book was the romance between Samuel and Lily. It was very romantic-- which was quite obvious because he is a writer and she, a hopeless and romantic reader. When they finally got together, the love scenes was very sensual and hot! Samuel is sureee one good seducer. ;) As a reader, I wasn't really into the love at first sight thing (if you like that, this is the book for you), but it worked well for this book. Samuel and Lily both had an instant connection the first time they met at a masquerade party and they both shared a kiss. Even though Lily forgot to mention that fact that she was engaged! Gasp. Well anyway, Samuel found out and "gave up" on her but of course, something happened that caused Lily to break her engagement and have her reputation ruined in the process. She ends up deciding to relieve her family of her presence and lands a job as a housekeeper. Mind you, she did not know that her master would be the one and only, Samuel, the Duke of Gravenhurst. Coincidence? Naah, haha. After that, the love story truly gets started! I did love how the author combined Samuel's story, **The Wickbury** series that Samuel wrote, with his own reality. It was very amusing and interesting to read Lily's reaction after finding out that he was no other but Lord Anonymous!

To sum it all up, I give this book a 4 ½ stars. It was much better than the previous book that I had read, *A Most Scandalous Engagement* by Gayle Callen-- in which I gave a 4 out of 5 stars. Both the H/hr were strong and witty, even if the villain was not as strong as I would have liked. This book was an enjoyable read and I'm definitely looking forward to reading more of the **Bridal Pleasures** series!

BJ Rose says

Samuel is the 'duke of duality'; he's the Duke of Gravenhurst, but with a tarnished reputation – a reputation that he has engendered by disseminating unsavory rumors and false information about himself. Why?! One reason is to protect his other persona – as the Lord of Anonymity, the author of a dark historical romance series. Enter Lily Boscastle, who is *almost* engaged to her childhood friend. Samuel meets her at a literary masquerade ball and is immediately enchanted with her and decides to marry her, but there are a lot of roadblocks to get through, especially since her almost engagement became real at the very same ball. While Samuel retreats to his estate to write (and to try to figure out how to keep the wedding from happening), Lily witnesses a murder that involves her betrothed, but instead of supporting her story he denies that there was a murder – and there's no body to prove her story. Lily refuses to recant, she breaks her engagement, and now society labels her a jilt with an unstable mind. No one believes Lily, not even her parents, so she seeks employment as a housekeeper (no experience, but why should that matter?!), and accepts a position far from London. She discovers *after* she arrives there that it's Samuel's estate. Now he has her where he wanted her and he didn't even have to kidnap her to accomplish it! There's just the small matter of keeping his secret identity a secret from her while she's living in his house. Samuel's servants are wonderful characters, and really enliven the plot.

This is a strong 3*, but didn't really rise to 4* for me.

MaggieReadsRom says

3.75 stars...rounded up to 4 stars for GR and FVBR...

A DUKE'S TEMPTATION is a Regency-set historical romance that feels very different from other Regency romances I've read and I mean that in the most positive way. This has a lot to do with the hero and heroine of the story. The hero is Samuel Aubrey St. Aldwyn of Dartmoor, the 4th Duke of Gravenhurst and member of the House of Lords by day and author Lord Anonymous by night. Samuel is charismatic, controversial, rakish, ill reputed, self-assured and cocky yet not arrogant or derogatory. He has a way of making you smile while shaking your head at the things he does and says.

The heroine of this book was just adorable. I wanted to hug her the whole time I was reading the book. Miss Lily Boscastle of Tissington is from the country and on the verge of marrying her childhood friend Captain Jonathan Grace. However her trip to London, just before the announcement of their marriage, takes a turn she never could have imagined in her wildest dreams. Lily is an avid reader; you might even say she's obsessed with reading, something I know I can relate to. She's flirtatious, impulsive, smart and witty with an air of sweet innocence and honesty.

This book was a rollercoaster ride of things happening, there was a lot going on that the reader is aware of but the main characters aren't and that's a way of presenting a story that I really like. For instance, the many sides of Samuel: his secret identity of a popular author, his reputation of an indiscrete rake and his devotion to lost causes. Then there's Lily's betrothal to the Captain, which she breaks off, after she witnesses a side of him she didn't know. This evolves into a small suspense side plot that was a little predictable and for me could've been left out as the book was entertaining enough and the romance was strong enough without it.

After the broken off engagement fate brings Lily closer to Samuel when she decides to be a housekeeper as she her reputation is ruined because of what she says she saw but no one believes her. Though of course Samuel helped fate a little.

Between Lily and Samuel the chemistry and attraction is instant. It starts as anonymous flirting at a masked ball, is continued when Lily signs on to be Samuel's housekeeper for a year. Though for Samuel it's more than mere attraction and he's ready to take the next step and commit to Lily, he gives her time to form reciprocating feelings.

Familiar with Jillian Hunter after reading the first two books of her Boscastle Family series I was drawn right back to her smooth, vivid and fluent writing style that accurately pulls you back in the time-period yet doesn't give her books that halting old-fashioned feel some historical romances have. I would have appreciated a few more steamy scenes, but that's the only true complaint (if you can call it that) I have.

Jillian Hunter kept the pace moving fast and forward constantly. The pages and chapters flew by imperceptibly and before I knew it I was at the final chapter. This was invigorated by the fact that I found it hard to stop reading, every time I had to put the book away because of the late hour or other things, I couldn't get back to it, and Lily and Samuel's lovely story, fast enough. I loved how Jillian Hunter had Samuel work through scenes and plot holes by having his staff acting out his writing, as if they were performing a play of the book

A DUKE'S TEMPTATION is an utterly entertaining, fast-paced historical romance. I was sad when I reached the last page and knew it had ended and Lily and Samuel's story was told. Though seemingly simple and straightforward it's an intricate and layered story for any reader willing to see the intensity and depth hidden in the fluff and lightness

This book put a smile on my face and reminded me why I, though favoring certain subgenres in romance, would never give up reading historical romance. When you make me smile and sigh within one breath, you will definitely be put on my list of authors to keep an eye on and Jillian Hunter was already on her way there but with A DUKE'S TEMPTATION she's managed to definitely secure her position on that list. And I need to continue the Boscastle family series as soon as I can.

Favorite Quote:

He moved like seduction unleashed at her urging. She wondered if she would be able to move at all the next morning, if she would even try. For an electrifying moment she met his gaze. She saw past his sensuality to the intense emotions he struggled to hide from the world. He beckoned her into their dark vortex, reveling his vulnerability to her without a word.

Lelyana's Reviews says

Done !

Tadinya sih aku mau kasih 4 bintang, tapi sepertinya kok ke gedean, padahal di awal aku suka nih sampe setengah buku, nah di pertengahan sampe belakang agak aneh sih, makanya agak aku kurangi. 3,5 deh bintangnya. Anehnya dimana? Sabar ya...

Sebetulnya cerita nya sih ringan aja, sampe aku bingung nulis nya.

Awalnya diceritakan ada seorang Duke nyentrik, namanya Samuel (gak usahlah kita sebut gelarnya yg panjang itu ya)...dia punya profesi rahasia, yaotu sebagai penulis best seller novel suspense gothic, kisahnya tentang si penjahat yg jahaaaaaat banget sama pahlawan nya yg berebutan Juliette, sang heroine.

Samuel sudah lama gak punya mistress, dan dia keluar dari kastilnya yg terpencil buat cari mistress gitu, di pesta publisher nya, ketemulah dia dengan si Lily, yg waktu pesta topeng itu pake kostum Goose Girl, yg bulu nya berterbangan kemana2...daaaaaan, si Lily ini hari itu bertunangan dengan Captain Grace, yg temen dari kecil, tapi gila judi..hmpffft...

Jatuh cinta pada pandangan pertama sama si Goose Girl, Samuel yg waktu itu pake kostum Don Quisout, gak pernah lepas pandangan dari Lily, even dia di kerubutin sama segerombolan cewek2...secara..dia Duke, dan ngguanteng gitu lhooooo....prospek bo'..bibit,bobot,bebet.....

Si Lily, ternyata gak amnis2 amat, naksir juga dia sama si pahlawan keren itu, jadilah pas tunanganny ayg gila judi itu naik main kertu, dia malah jalan2 ketaman sama samuel. Karena ini buku yg lumayan sopan, mereka di taman cuma rayu merayu..ehem...dan cipokan dikiiiiit aja....

Malam itu juga si samuel memutuskan kan dia harus bisa memperistri Lily yg katanya...

"You are the loveliest woman in...in forever".... [image error]

Siapa sih yang gak melting...huuuuu

Cuma, besok paginya, begitu dia mau mengirim pengacara buat ngajuin kontrak perkawinan (ih, jd inget mister Grey nih pake acara kontrak2an...sama inget temenku si Chiko, yg juragan kontrakan) wakkakakakak.....ternyata si Lily sudah tunangan...kecewa, tapi gak putus asa, dia menanti dalam diam...halah...drama banget siiih.... [image error]

Benarlah, ternyata si kapten tunangan Lily itu emang bajingan abnget, udah punya hutang, gak mau bayar pulak gara2 kalah judi, dan nembak orang pulak..dan gak mau ngaku pulaaaakkkk....hadoooh... Si Lily malah di bilang nagrang2 karena kebanyakan baca novel....plaaaak si kapten...sebagai pembaca novel, aku tersinggung ! [image error]

Nah disinilah muncul keanehan yg aku bilang di atas...karena dianggap mengkhayal, Lily di anggap ruin, dan Lily mutusin pertunangan sama tunangannya yg gak mau ngaku dan egois itu...keluarga Lily malah ngebelain si cowok itu, Lily justru diminta buat mengasingkan diri, dan di lepas begitu aja ngelamar jadi Housekeeper di tempat jauh... (di rumah si Samuel ternyata)..... [image error]

Yang aneh lagi, kan si Lily udah di terima jadi housekeeper, kenapa pula di tengah jalan dia di culik sama Samuel..kan gak jelas..maksudnya apa sih? Hiihihihi... Okelah, kita skip adegan2 aneh ini dulu... [image error]

Sampai di kastil nya, di tempatin di kamar yg bagus banget penuh dengan motif bunga Lily, sampe parfum dan sabun nya beraroma Lily of the Valley (my favorite scent)...Lily langsung di rayu, biarpun cuma cipokan sih, tetep aja, melting dan osteoporosis si Lily..aduh, sekeren apa sih si samuel ini...hiihihi [image error]

Mulai lah kehidupan "nyentrik" di rumah Samuel, dengan malam2 penuh jeritan dll (yg ternyata dia ngajak karyawan nya buat acting buku yg mau di tulis, biar kesan nya real gitu deh(.....hmpfftt Lily, pada suatu malam, di undang ke east wing yg terlarang buat dia, dan di buka lah rahasia si Duke, bahwa ternyata dialah selama ini yg namanya Lord Anonymus... [image error]

Bete berat, si Lily malah ninggalin pesta dan kesasar ke kamar Samuel...halaaaah...kesasar apa kesasaaaaaaaar wkwkwkwkwkwkw [image error]

Ya sudah lah, karena terlanjur kesasar, terjadilah adegan yg selama ini kita tunggu sodara2ku...hm, standar lah, gak bikin my toes curling gitu (compare to miss LK yaaaa).....

Malam itu after deflowering si Lily, langsung di lamar, di ajak kawin...dan aneh nya lagi, biarpun istimewa, sambil nunggu pernikahan mereka, si Lily tetep mau jd housekeeper dulu aja...hadeeeeh ...again... [image error]

Sempat juga si kapten dateng dan mau minta maaf bla bla bla...tapi ga di ijinin sama Samuel...ada masa lalu Samuel yg terasa gak penting, dan sebenarnya ceritanya bagus sih kalo gak terlalu singkat, bisa 500an halaman deh....soalnya banyak beberapa masalah yang gak tuntas....

Makanya aku cuma kasih 3,5 bintang.

Tapi, aku suka sama samuel yg seksi ,rambut panjang kayak bajak laut..... [image error] dan dia pengarang novel !

Bacaan yang lumayan ringan (walopun di akhir2 uhuk2nya lumayan juga sih)...bolehlah buat 18 tahun ke atas....Hero nya setia, gak ada cemburu2an, ceweknya di rebutin 2 cowok...I like it hahaha.....

Denise says

5 stars for the romance part of the story, 3 stars for leaving me scratching my head over some of the things that trouble me about the story.

Lily was engaged to another man, but while at a party, she met Samuel (He is a writer of her favorite books, but she doesn't know this secret identity part of him) and it was love/lust at first sight for both of them. They went for a private walk, had the passionate kiss and he realized she was "the one" They clicked, they understood each other yada yada. He did not know she was engaged and had papers made up that night asking her father permission to court and marry Lily. Thankfully, his man of affairs discovered she was engaged before the papers were sent. He was regretful but decided to keep an eye on her and was making plans to perhaps whisk her away from the altar.

Lily, in the mean time, witnesses her fiance' and his friend in an altercation that led to murder. Now this is the part I don't get... She tells her family that she saw her fiance shoot and kill a man, but no one believes her. Why? Because she reads too much and her fiance convinces them it didn't happen. Now, why would they not believe her? Was she given to crazy impossible stories in the past? No, not that we know of. I just don't get this, they seem like a close family, this makes no sense at all.

Well she ends up as housekeeper to Samuel, the Duke. He tries first to take her on a crazy adventure, like something out of one of his books, but she wasn't buying it.

The story progressed well from there, and I really did love the rest, aside from some unanswered issues. We never find out why he can't remember the fire. The whole villain thing seemed unfinished. I think there should have been more to Samuel's sisters story.

Ana Maria says

2 y media

Samuel es un Duque pero además autor famoso de una serie de novelas góticas. Un poco obsesivo con el trabajo. Lily es una joven de la nobleza pero que ha quedado marginada por haber roto un compromiso anterior.

Lo que tiene de bueno es que no es tan predecible, no tiene las salidas comunes de las novelas de regencia. Los personajes son espontáneos y hacen lo que quieren. Es divertido cómo Samuel intenta escenificar lo que va escribiendo usando a los sirvientes de su castillo.

Pero sentí problemas con el ritmo de la novela, creo que hay cosas que se resuelven demasiado pronto, otras inesperadas que aparecen de pronto... otras cosas que enlentecen o que no se terminan de aclarar.

Pero bueno, por lo menos es distinta.

Cecilia says

Aspects of this book were lovely, particularly the hero, who is a novelist and rather eccentric. He has a reputation for being a rakehell but that just his way of getting publicity to help his causes. He's actually not a man-whore, and is rather kind. In his novelist mode, he's a little odd, but amusing. The heroine has nothing about her that really annoys me or anything, but she does seem very young and she didn't really grab me.

Other characters, like the Duke's servants, did not at all strike me as realistic, but it wasn't a deal-breaker in this instance. Mostly what kept me from rating it higher were aspects of the plot. There were a number of things that seemed to come out of nowhere, or they went nowhere. (view spoiler)

These plot elements helped make the book feel fragmented and like everything was thrown in, even the kitchen sink.
