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When the dowager duchess of Marcross insists he accompany her niece, Ginny, into the country for the day to execute a special task, Sir Anthony is appalled, to say the least. Ginny, who thinks little of the fashionable Sir Anthony, is as eager to be done with the chore as he, but before they arrive at their destination they are stranded by highwaymen and launched into adventure. Forced into each other's company, Ginny begins to sense the passionate nature beneath Sir Anthony's mask of ennui, while his exasperation with the forthright Ginny turns into admiration of her wit and charm. Then beautiful Lucinda Barrington and Lord Avery, a poet, come onto the scene, sparking Ginny's imagination and revealing a way to unmask the true man behind Sir Anthony's frivolous facade. Meanwhile, the dowager duchess has plans of her own for this pair, and her special task turns into a battle of words, wills, and wit.

Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind Details

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From Reader Review Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind for online ebook

Katie W says

Ah, a delightful little regency-ish romance. Miss Delacourt (aka Ginny) is being escorted to check on her Grandaunt's roses by Sir Anthony when they are overtaken by bandits. They seek shelter at the home of Lucinda, who is just recovering from the chicken pox. When her love interest shows up and Ginny's maid comes down with the pox, the whole household is quarantined and the adventures and misunderstandings commence. I loved all the misunderstandings--they totally added to the humor of the situation and had me giggling.

I'm excited to read the next book to find out what can possibly happen next.

Rebecca Irvine says

A few weeks ago I mentioned I had been reading a great book by a new author. Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind, by Heidi Ashworth, was such an enjoyable read -- I blazed through it within a day -- that I thought I would share a little more about it.

I first stumbled on Heidi's blog last summer through reading some of the Segullah featured entries. Her writing was clever, but what caught my eye was that she was coming out with Miss Delacourt (her first book) this winter. Myself being a newbie to the publishing industry, and an instant fan of her witty writing style, I began to be a regular reader. The more I heard about Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind as a Regency-style romance the more I wanted to read it (I am an easy target when it comes to a good love story). So I pre-ordered it from Amazon and was excited when it came earlier than expected.

The plot of Miss Delacourt starts with the disastrous journey Ginny (Miss Delacourt) and Sir Anthony take to check on the precious roses of Sir Anthony's take-charge grandmother. I found myself laughing out loud several times at Sir Anthony's perfectly composed behavior (despite an amazing downward spiral of events) and Ginny's quick-witted tongue. Eventually Ginny and Sir Anthony end up as quarantined house guests where the secondary characters help their romance to blossom and really bring the story to life. Ashworth even includes a small plot twist at the end which adds to the believability of the characters.

Since I liked Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind so much I took time to have Heidi answer a few questions about her book to share with you. Here are her responses:

1. How long did it take you to write Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind?

"I wrote it when I was expecting my second child, every Tuesday for eight hours at a time, when my oldest was at his Grandma's house. Twenty four chapters divided by roughly four weeks per month means it took about six months. I don't think I could have done it any faster--I simply couldn't write when anyone was in the house making noise or even threatening to require a speck of attention. Blogging has helped me to learn how to write surrounded by chaos. It's a good thing."

2. Are any of the characters based on people you know? If yes, who?

"No. And yes. Miss Delacourt and Sir Anthony were born as fully realized people and entirely their own persons like Athena from Zues's forehead--however once I was done writing and took an objective step back, I realized the central conflict was informed by a relationship challenge my husband and I dealt with when we

first started dating (and which continues to make itself known now and then to this day). The secondary couple are loosely based on characters I have seen in some favorite movies, something about which I was perfectly aware at the time. They all just sort of came to me and told me their story. It was a very instinctual way to write, rather than an intellectual endeavor, and it was really fun."

3. Of which scene/portion of the book are you most fond or pleased about?

"As many times as I have read Miss D, there are bits and pieces that make me chuckle or think "hey, that was a great idea!" Since, like I said, I wrote this via my instincts rather my intellect (which is in very short supply) (chocolate helped) I can enjoy it from the perspective as if it is (almost) someone else's work. However, I would have to say that I am most proud of the last 65 pages or so of the book because I had to rework those pages at the eleventh hour under a time constraint. It was the most difficult writing I have ever done because I wasn't able to write instinctively--for the first time I had to think about how I was going to believably get from point A to point B. In fact, it was so painfully difficult that I actually told my husband that writing as a profession no longer sounded like fun."

4. I can tell from your blog, and from the repeating theme in Miss Delacourt, that you are very fond of roses; did you write with this symbolism in mind from the beginning or did you add it in later?

"They say that the best way to write a book is to just get the story down and then go back and put in the details, etc. That is not the way this book was written. Maybe I was subconsciously writing it in the back of my brain for years, I don't know, but it is pretty much exactly as it was the day I wrote each chapter (except for the changes I had to make throughout the last quarter of the book). It is hard to explain, but everything wove itself together. I had no ending or details in mind, I literally sat down and wrote a chapter a week and it all worked out (well, I got in trouble towards the end which is why I had to rework the last bit of it). To this day, it still amazes me how this story just came together and all the roses is a perfect example. I didn't start out intending for roses to be a big player in the story--they just appeared and just kept appearing until they made themselves almost their own character in the story. Like I said, it was a lot of fun to write this book because I didn't have any better idea of what was going to happen next than the reader does (well, except that the hero and the heroine would end up madly in love)."

5. What is the likelihood we will see another Miss Delacourt adventure (or a completely new Ashworth work)?

"I have never thought about making Miss D a character in another book nor do I see how she has much more to say, however, I suppose if she insisted, I would do it. I do have two other romance novels in the works, one a comedy like Miss D while the other is more serious and a bit gothic. I have to carve time out of blogging before they are ready to send out, though. I'm working on it!"

I don't know, Heidi, Ginny promised Lucinda Barrington and Lord Avery she would come and visit them... Maybe Miss Delacourt has more to say--or at least another house party to attend. And in their newlywed state I am sure Sir Anthony would be certain to tag along.

Amy says

This book had a few funny moments and a clean plot, otherwise it was completely ridiculous. The character motivation made absolutely no sense! Miss Delacourt walks around being extremely rude to Sir Anthony and no one else for no apparent reason. Sir Anthony in turn is equally rude and raging mad 80% of the time but somehow we are told he comes across as full of ennui. The other characters were ridiculous and there were so many romantic misunderstandings and miscommunications in this contrived plot that I can't believe anything ever got solved.

But really, I should have known better from a book that recommends titles like "*Adieu, My Love*", "*Sweet*

Tilly" and "*Ada's Heart*" on the back.

Jami says

I've been a regency romance fan for a long time. I still remember the first I ever read: *Regency Gold* by Marion Chesney. It didn't take itself too seriously and was laugh out loud funny. A charming heroine, a gorgeous hero, and a bunch of mischief. I was 12 and I was hooked. Good clean fun.

Not too long after my introduction to the genre, I ran into the works of Jane Austen. "Hey," thought I, "these are just like regencies. Only not quite so funny." Still I happily devoured Austen's works and every other novel set in the England's Regency era that I could get my hands on, nearly twenty years of delightful escapism. Sadly, those two decades have also included a dreadful decline. The regency genre has been dying and the few regencies that I've read in recent years have been disappointing. Not good, not clean, and not fun. Frankly, I have missed them.

Then along comes Heidi Ashworth with her book, *Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind*. A new regency? A clean regency? Gimme! Her countdown until the book came out was driving me crazy. [FOUR MORE MONTHS?:] So I begged. Gimme, please.

Ms. Ashworth was kind enough to send me a galley proof, so that I could be among the privileged first to read it. I love being first. However, as I awaited the book's arrival, I began to worry. What if it was crap? What would I say? "Um, thanks for lending me a copy." "Loved the cover. What kind of rose is that anyway?" Uh...awkward.

No need for worries! I can whole-heartedly recommend *Miss Delacourt*. It is a delightful romp, everything I'd hoped for: an outspoken (yet lovable) heroine, a dashing (but repressed) hero, and all the impediments to true love I could ever want, all neatly resolved within a gorgeous hardback. It's fresh, funny, filled with love, Shakespeare, some rose patent infringement, and a lot of fun!

So now it's your turn. Sure I cheated, cut in line and read it first, but you can now order your own copy of *Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind* through Amazon with a pleasant little discount, or you can ask your library to order it so you can read it for free. I did both, but I'm betting Amazon will get it to me first. By a long shot.

--Originally published on my blog *Superfluous Miscellany* (www.supermisc.blogspot.com), December 6, 2008

Kathy says

This was a lot of fun to read. Made me laugh. Great clean regency romance.

Content: Clean

Source: Kindle Unlimited

Heidi says

Okay, I confess, I have read this book--about sixteen times (which was two or three too many) but I figure I ought to say good things about my own book. I mean, really, the first twelve times through were great fun! :)

Deon says

I read this on #KindleUnlimited

Joyce says

Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind was reminiscent of the "classic" Regency romances that I grew up with. A delightful comedy of errors, filled with sparkle and wit. I read the bulk of this novel during a flight from Arizona to Utah, and literally fell into a giggling fit during one section of this book. Thankfully, the flight wasn't full and the seat next to me was empty, so I didn't have to explain my embarrassing outburst. A book that literally makes me laugh out loud is rare these days. Brava, Ms Ashworth! I look forward to her next Regency!

Sophie says

I am very glad I was put onto this book. It was a fun, light-hearted, funny, romantic (but clean) and a refreshing regency romance. Will the head-strong and out-spoken Miss Ginny Delacourt be able to discover the man behind the mask of the overly-polite, but dashing, Sir Anthony Crenshaw?

With great characters, interesting twists in the plot, lots of mishaps and misunderstanding, I leave you in suspense of duels, games of "hide the slipper" that turn into romantic confusion, wrong turns that end in books being thrown at heads, heroines nearly falling out of windows, "betrayal", masquerades, headstrong comments answered with takes-the-heroines-breath-away kisses, soliloquies that reveal pent-up feelings, weeping poets, run-away couples, stolen roses and lots of comedy and confusion!

It is definitely worth a read; I think it was the fastest I had read a book in a while when I read it. Once I started, I didn't want to put it down as I had to see what was going to happen next.

Leila says

Very entertaining!

~ my new year's treat to myself. Easily a book that can be re-read.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

It took me awhile to get through this one. Maybe it's because my baby was fussy or maybe the story just didn't grab me. Ginny and Anthony are stuck for a couple weeks with Lucinda and Avery and a few others. When a maid breaks out in chickenpox the entire household is put under quarantine. Lots and lots of misunderstandings happen, all of which could have been easily resolved if people could just speak their minds. A small pet-peeve of mine is when the POV changes randomly between main characters. I don't mind if it's done by chapter, but during the book it would often change from one paragraph to the next. To me it's confusing and distracts from the story.

The story was lighthearted and was enjoyable, it just wasn't my favorite and I hate to say it, but it was a little forgettable. I think Heidi Ashworth is a good author and I look forward to seeing what she comes up with next.

Maverick says

The author is a friend of mine and I was very excited to read it. It was such a clean, humorous romantic read which I tremendously enjoyed.

Janelle says

This was fun and had me giggling on a snowy wintry day. What more can you ask?

Jenny says

For some time now, I have wanted to read Miss Delacourt Speaks Her Mind. Admittedly, I know the author rather well and so wanted to read her book. But I was always frantically reading other books for book clubs and things about Samantha's condition, that books-to-read from my own list never quite happened. Recently, I decided it was time to put everything else aside, sit down, and read this book from my books-to-read list, and I'm happy for it, as it really was delightful to read. Miss Delacourt is considered Regency Romance. What's that?! Really, I didn't know and assumed it wasn't for me. I usually don't equate my reading preferences with books in the "Romance" genre. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I realized that I do, in fact, like regency romance. ("I do so like green eggs and ham. I do, I like them Sam-I-am!") So, if you like images such as ...Hugh Grant against a lush green English landscape and (I do), and young women primping with ringlets framing their face hoping to meet their next true love (I do), and the one young woman who resists the traditions of the time and so begrudgingly puts on her gown for the ball (I do), then perhaps you like regency romance too (Jane Austen, Georgette Heyer) and just don't realize it.

I read Miss Delacourt rather quickly. Going from reading about neurons and recovering brain function to a regency romance took me some time to adjust. I enjoyed what I read, but it wasn't until page 100 that I was quite hooked. (page 100 came quickly). You cringe at what some of the characters do, you laugh out loud, and you are happy in the end. It was really just the entertainment that I think I needed. I felt whisked away to another time period and it has made me want to read more in this genre...or at least put *Pride and Prejudice* in the dvd player! There's something about those stories, isn't there? The secret love that can't be expressed, the

decorum of the time interfering with true love. I love it. Based on my small regency exposure, it follows the pattern of this genre. I knew, or thought I knew, what would happen in the end, but I didn't know how we'd get there...and that's fun for me. Kind of like sports movies. I LOVE sports movies. The underdogs usually win...but each of them have a different journey, and I like watching that.

So, Miss D Speaks Her Mind...it's a fast read and worth reading for all you secret romantics out there.

Jana says

This was a most delightful read! It reminded me of a Regency-era version of the old Clark Gable Movie, It Happened One Night...a roadtrip story of two perfectly-matched, polar-opposite people thrown together on a journey, only to be subjected to a dizzying array of misadventures which ultimately force them together. The characters are clever and well-crafted, the scenarios are fun and unpredictable, the chemistry between the protagonists is evident early on, and the subtext is laced with sarcasm and dry wit.
