



## The Carhart Series

*Courtney Milan*

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### **The Carhart Series** Courtney Milan

Courtney Milan's Carhart series is now available in one boxed set. This set contains two full-length books and a novella.

*This Wicked Gift:* Lavinia Spencer is too poor to be anything but practical. But when her younger brother lands himself in trouble, she has no choice but to do the unthinkable. She accepts the help of the dishonorable man that she's always wanted, even knowing that it might mean her ruination...

*Proof by Seduction:* When Gareth Carhart discovers that his vulnerable young cousin is seeing a fortune teller, he vows to prove her a fraud. But he soon discovers that Jenny Keeble is far more than she appears to be, and before he knows it, he's caught in her spell...

*Trial by Desire:* Lady Kate Carhart has no use for the husband who left her years ago. But when he returns, disrupting her carefully-laid plans, she has no choice but to distract him...any way she can.

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### **The Carhart Series Details**

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Author : Courtney Milan

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## From Reader Review The Carhart Series for online ebook

### Pauline says

Another enjoyable series from Courtney Milan. The way she approaches Ned Carhart and his battle with depression really struck me - it felt a lot closer to the truth than other authors I've read. The imagery around 'taming the dragon' was quite beautiful. Once again I liked the final story in the series the most, but at least that means you finish on a very good note ;) I did feel like Courtney Milan could have gone deeper into the story of the abused wives and the opium wars between England and China - the 3 years that were skipped in Trial by Desire. Reading of Kate saving women and Ned's trip to China would have been a fascinating adventure. But, as is usually the case in these books, they're kept short & sweet (& sexy) and primarily focused on the romance, and there's just enough background in there for you to get into the world building without feeling overwhelmed.

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### Shannon says

#### Not my favorite

I found this series darker, less romantic, less sexy, and more drawn out than the Brothers Sinister. I wanted the problems to be resolved so the stories would end.

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### ilovebakedgoods (Teresa) says

This set was my introduction to Ms. Milan's exquisite writing and story telling. My favorite of this set was Proof by Seduction. I adored Lord Gareth Blakely and his scientific ways.

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### Gretchen says

This set brings together Milan's first novels, focused on the Carhart family. A few thoughts on each:

- This Wicked Gift. A novella, focused on William and Lavinia. I wasn't sure about this one - part of it was the constraint of the form. Fewer pages means the story has to move quickly. I liked Lavinia, but would have liked more backstory for William. Loved that the gender roles were inverted, with William having guilt and concerns about the relationship, and Lavinia taking it for the gift that was offered.
- Proof by Seduction. HATED the title. Very glad I was reading this by Kindle so I didn't have to explain. Again, I liked the heroine having agency, and not waiting for her hero. Even when the relationship started, she has her own plans, and it takes work to change them. I liked the detail on Gareth, explaining who he is, and how he became that person. He's very flawed, but has potential, which Jenny can see.
- Trial by Desire. I don't think I've ever read a novel that conveys depression in this manner. Ned is flawed, because he's fighting a disorder that isn't understood. At the same time, he's married to a woman who has her own plans and the ability to execute them. I'm not sure I bought her projects, but I appreciated the storytelling. IMO, this novel is the best of the 3, and could be read standalone.

Overall, a good series. Shows the promise that Milan delivers in her later works.

### **Laura says**

This series started with a Novella followed by two full length novels.

There were some characters I was not crazy about, and plot lines and decisions made by the characters that made absolutely no sense to me. If I read the critical reviews of these books I'm sure I'll nod and think, hmmm. yeah, that's true, to most of the criticism.

HOWEVER, I'm giving the series 4 stars regardless because it was enjoyable, engrossing, entertaining reading from start to finish. I love Courtney Milan's writing, it moves along at a good, satisfying pace, and the dialogue between the characters, even characters I'm not really crazy about, it's second to none in my opinion. The romantic tension is palpable, and the situations people find and put themselves in, even when quite unrealistic were I to stop and really think about it, just make for great, fun, exciting stories.

Apparently this is some of Ms. Milan's earlier work but it is really good, entertaining reading nonetheless!

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### **Nia says**

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### **Laura says**

I wanted to enjoy this book but couldn't connect to the hero. I liked the novella that started the collection but couldn't finish the book. Might pick it up another time.

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### **Claire says**

As this is Courtney's first attempt I give it much leeway, and still I can't get over how clever she is. It's like watching Origami - fold fold fold - look a swan! Things that seem to be throwaway props in one scene end up being important and gratifying plot points later. And I don't care how much she struggled and despised writing book 2 of the series I think the hero is one of her most thoroughly thought through characterisations and I like him immensely, ridinkydonk melodramatic plots aside.

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### **Gina says**

I just finished the Milan Turner book bundle and still needed something light. I enjoyed the Turner series, so thought I would enjoy this one at least as much. Not so much. This bundle has an opening novella followed by two full length books with enhanced content. The enhanced content was interesting, but mostly Q&A with Milan explaining all the other ways she originally wrote the story. It didn't add to the story itself the way the enhanced content in the Turner bundle did with additional time period information or photos. Now

to the books....

There is some heavy content in each of the 3 stories that kept this from being the light, fun romance I needed. Then, just as I thought something was about to take a turn for the better, something else horrible would happen or be revealed, and it just stayed much darker than I hoped. I get love in the midst of bad things. Got it. Yet, personally I wasn't in a place for bad things in my romance. There's a woman being forced to sell herself to pay a debt, abusive spouses (including a very disturbing scene of a man beating a woman for information), stolen life savings with no recourse, suicide attempts and deep depression at a time with no treatments, abandoned spouses, just to name a few. Milan manages to pull all of these together for some good story telling but I couldn't get past the bad to enjoy the romance.

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### **kanako91 says**

Proof by Seduction meriterebbe 5 stelle, la novella e il secondo libro vanno bene con 3.  
Note to self: aggiungere in libreria PbS col giusto ranting.

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### **Aimee says**

I enjoyed these historical romances, some more than others. I think that my favorite was probably the final book, Trial by Desire. Milan does a great job of creating likable characters and returning to familiar characters in different books.

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