



The Duke Who Lied

Jess Michaels

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The 8th Book in the bestselling 1797 Club series by USA Today Bestseller Jess Michaels

Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow, has been keeping a secret that eats him up inside. His beloved sister was seduced and nearly ruined by a wicked man. The trauma sent her into exile and to protect her reputation, he never did anything about it. But now the ‘gentleman’ is back in Society and recently engaged to another lady.

Miss Amelia Quinton cannot believe her luck. After a whirlwind courtship, she has just become engaged and now she’s looking forward to a true love match. Only all her plans come to a screeching halt when her father announces she is now to marry the Duke of Brighthollow because he owns her father’s debts.

Amelia is horrified, for Hugh is nothing like the sweet and gentle boy she wanted to marry. Only once their vows are said, passions flare and she begins to know the man better. Little by little, both their walls come down and feelings grow. Until she finds out he lied. Will Hugh ever tell her the truth and will it even matter by the time it’s all said and done?

Length: Full length novel

Heat Level: The kind to write home about!

This book is part of a series (The 1797 Club), but can be read as a standalone book.

The Duke Who Lied Details

Date : Published July 24th 2018 by The Passionate Pen LLC

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Author : Jess Michaels

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From Reader Review The Duke Who Lied for online ebook

Ivy H says

All my sympathies and love were for the hero in this novel. Yes, he lied but he was caught between a rock and hard place. He lied to protect his 17 yr old sister's reputation and he was one of the most selfless, loving and kind H's I've ever read about. He's also not a manwhore. Hugh, our H is the Duke of Brighthollow and he's filled with sadness and anger because he blames himself for what had happened to his then 16 yr old sister, Lizzie. Lizzie, at 16 yrs of age, was a very shy and sheltered young lady who was wooed by a handsome, criminal con artist called Aaron Walters. This guy preyed on the feelings and insecurities of a 16 yr old girl, persuaded her to elope with him and coerced her to have sex with him ! The H felt responsible because he had been in London a lot, looking after his business interests while Lizzie was at the Brighthollow country estate. Hugh managed to save Lizzie from marriage to a cruel gold digging con man but he also had to pay a ton of money to Aaron so that the latter wouldn't spread gossip and ruin a 16 yr old girl's reputation.

The H has been keeping tabs on Aaron Walters and soon discovers that the con man is about to be engaged to a viscount's daughter called Amelia (she's the heroine). Amelia is just as naive as Lizzie even though she's a couple yrs older. She's fallen for the con man's smarmy, poetry reading charms and the H steps in to save her against her will. Hugh is the strong, silent type of caring H. He decided to marry Amelia in order to prevent her from being used by Aaron. Amelia's father was another opportunist who refused to listen to Hugh's warnings about Aaron. The viscount decided that he would use the H's concern as a means of getting himself a powerful and rich son in law. I felt so sorry for the H. In this entire novel he is caught up looking after other peoples' interests and has little time for himself. He married the heroine in order to save her but he was also sexually attracted to her. Amelia was angry at first but she also had the major hots for the H and even felt guilty for being attracted to him while she's supposed to be loyal to Aaron. Their strong sexual connection was the catalyst that broke the impasse between the MC's. And, as in most of Jess Michaels' novels, the sex scenes were scorching hot.

The one thing I HATED was the author's use of a **16 yr old girl** as such a horrendous and depressing plot device. It's a trigger of mine; I hate it when minors are placed in situations where they're coerced to have sex with an adult. The scene where Lizzie spoke about how Aaron had treated her was difficult to read. I find it painful to read about a young girl having such a negative introduction to sex:

A nod was her reply. "I felt increasingly that it was. The first night we stopped along the road, he only kissed me. I...liked it enough, I suppose. He was forceful and didn't seem to care that I didn't know what I was doing." She shuddered.

"By the second night we stopped, he told me we were practically married already. That we would be soon enough. He convinced me to—" Lizzie's face was almost purple with humiliation now, and Amelia caught her hand at last.

"I understand. I understand what you did."

"I had such romantic notions," Lizzie sighed after she had gathered herself enough to speak. "He wasn't cruel, but I didn't...like it. And when it was done, he wouldn't even hold me."

Jess Michaels. The Duke Who Lied (The 1797 Club 8) by Jess Michaels (Kindle Locations 2536-2541). The Passionate Pen LLC. Kindle Edition.

He forced her to have sex when she wasn't ready and then he wouldn't hold her ! That's just:

In the author's most recent novel in this series, that story's heroine Helena was the victim of a vicious rape. That novel, *The Duke of Nothing*, soured me so much that I couldn't even bring myself to write a proper review. I hate it when heroines (and in this case, the H's sister) are treated so abominably. I know these things happen in real life but I prefer not to read about it in my romance novels. It just makes me want to cry and feel sad; those sad feelings tend to stay with me for a while even after I've finished reading the story:

Anyway, this was a nice novel. It didn't make me sigh with wonder and happiness after I was finished reading it, but it was a good solid effort in a very entertaining series. My fav character in this story was definitely Hugh. Every woman deserves a man who is as loving as protective as Hugh. The villain Aaron ended up getting his just desserts because he's shot and killed by one Hugh's friends but I still felt so sad for poor Lizzie. I wish the author would write a novel and make Lizzie the heroine. She's such a sweet girl who deserves to find her happy ending with a hot guy who loves her and is rich enough not to need her money.

There's no cheating in this novel and there's no other woman. The OM Aaron hadn't even kissed the heroine Amelia while he'd been courting her.

This is the hero, Hugh:

This is the heroine, Amelia:

Showie Ford says

What's eating Hugh!?! Time to finally find out!

Jess Michaels never lets me down. Every single book by her is fantastic. This series is my favorite of hers so far, and this latest installment is no different.

I LOVE forced/rushed/arranged marriage stories. They're my absolute favorite. Alternately, I HATE stories where the couple's problems could all be solved with one simple, honest conversation. JUST TALK TO HER! *I screech at my kindle*. However, Hugh has a very good reason for not just talking to her (though he lets it go on far too long, in my opinion. I wanted to slap him!). My heart bled for Hugh and his struggles. He has to face some inner struggles I don't think I could handle. He will get through them with the love and support of his friends.

This story was full of adventure, suspense, romance, and of course, sizzling passion. The characters are

lovely creations. I absolutely adore the emotional depth Jess gives her characters. Of course, this story is loaded with appearances by all of our old favorites. This band of brothers have swept me wholeheartedly into their club, and I don't ever want to leave.

The only thing I can think now is, What's eating Robert!?! Well, not the only thing. I also don't want to get to Kit's story. I want it so much because I love him so hard, but I don't want his father to die. He's the best and last daddy, and his days are numbered. *sniff*. It's an inevitable tragedy I would rather ignore! (not enough to skip it, I'm totally reading that one on release day!)

Supriya Saran says

What is it about this series that makes you want to go back to book one with every new release? All the while making you want to know more about the next as you finish the current one? There have been eight of them till now, and each has been as good if not better than the previous. It says while buying the book that this one can be read as a 'standalone' novel... but I truly suggest you DO NOT. Because if you do, you will not only miss out on the previous gems in this series ... you will also miss out on good stories and miss out on knowing the previous Dukes, each of whom has been sculpted by Jess Michaels to perfection ... flawed but perfect.

This story of Hugh has been awaited for seven long books ... he grows in your heart and intrigue as you go over the series and when his book does come along ... you will not be able to wait even a second before rushing through your copy to know the answer to the question eating you - what's eating Hugh?? He does full justice to the way this character has been built up in the previous books, and the credit goes to Jess Michaels, as he emerges as the strong hero that he was always meant to be. What is commendable is that every Duke (all ten of them) has been crafted beautifully, step by step over each book, to culminate in each story and it is as if you have 'known' each of them all along .. that they have been with you through your journey of the 1797 Club. Hugh is your usual HR hero and a Duke to boot, but nothing about this book is 'usual'.

Each book in this series is eagerly awaited and so so hard to put away till you finish. Such is the magic of Jess Michaels with this series. From James to now Hugh, she just has you in her spell with the incredible stories she weaves around these characters.

A forced marriage brings Amelia and Hugh together and, yes, sparks or should I say FLAMES fly. Through secrets and betrayals and hurt they do find each other and love. The misunderstandings and lies are thankfully not stretched out and prolonged, and end just as soon as they began ... of course, maybe it felt that way, so effortless is the style of writing.

And not just this one book, with an impeccable track record of eight perfect stories, Jess Michaels has well and truly aced this one series. Go for the entire series instead of just a standalone book .. you will not be disappointed. Unless only for the disappointment of waiting for the next one .. like so many other readers, I'm sure.

Brava Jess! I don't know if I am terribly excited for Robert's and Kit's books or just terribly upset that it will all end with them!

Clare says

This is the 5th book that I have read from the 1797 Club series and yes i'm a little behind as this is book 8, but I have found that it doesn't matter which book you start with you can just as easily read them as if it were the first. Ewan from The Silent Duke has been my favorite of the Dukes so far but after reading The Duke Who Lied, Hugh Margolis Duke of Brighthollow has become a firm favorite too.

Hugh is a character with many sides, he is a strong protector of his sister Lizzie and cares for her deeply, but also he is seen to have a far too serious and stern expression on his face for most of the time that only leads people especially Amelia Quinton who would become his unwilling bride to think that he is a cad and will be an uncaring husband.

Amelia is a little naive and fanciful, she is so desperate for love and so easily deceived into thinking her suitor has her best interests at heart. Having said that she is a very strong willed young woman that even though she accepts her fate she tries to make the best of things by making her lot in life suit her needs.

I really love how Jess Michaels weaves a story that can enchant and captivate your imagination, she makes her characters so likeable and believable and she writes a plot that has you gripped from the very first page. This book was such a wonderful read that I found it hard to stop reading the next chapter after I had finished the one before. It's definitely a page turner with plenty of plot twists and secrets that made for a very exciting story and the romantic love scenes between Hugh and Amelia were sensual but very tasteful. I totally adored this book.

A brilliant 5 Stars!

Barbara Rogers says

Series: 1797 Club

Publication Date: 7/24/18

Another well-written tightly plotted addition to the 1797 series. It is the story of Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow, and Miss Amelia Quinton. Both characters are very likable and relatable, and when you add in visits from other 1797 Club members you have a warm and lovely book.

The 1797 Club was started in the year 1797 by several friends who were all future dukes. Most of them were from abusive, non-caring, disinterested families -- especially the fathers. So, the club was a way for them to band together and help and protect each other since they weren't getting that from their families. Hugh was from one of those uncaring abusive families. Nothing Hugh ever did was good enough and Hugh soon learned to hide all feelings from his expressions. Then, Hugh became the youngest of their group to inherit his title -- and he also inherited the guardianship of his young, eight-year-old sister, Libby. Hugh loved Libby fiercely and would do absolutely anything to protect her.

A little over a year ago, Hugh noticed a change in Libby, but he didn't pursue it because he had a lot going on. After all, all teenagers go through difficult phases don't they? Then, when it was too late, he found she was on her way to Gretna Green. The scoundrel had the audacity to laugh at Libby when Hugh found them -- he was only after her fortune. Hugh felt so much guilt -- he let the scoundrel get away with what he had done to Libby in order to protect her reputation. That just ate at Hugh. He had paid the scoundrel a huge sum of money to stay quiet and Hugh also felt guilty for providing him with the means to look like a respectable part of society -- and what if he used that to snare another innocent young miss.

Miss Amelia Quinton is engaged to the most wonderful man and she loves him with all her heart. She is walking on air -- until she isn't. Her father informs her that she will not be marrying the love of her life -- she will now be marrying Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow because the duke owns all of her father's debts.

Her world has crumbled and it is Hugh's fault – she hates him – hates him with every fiber of her being and she tells him so. To no avail – they are still married.

It was lovely to watch them dance around each other – she hates him – he feels guilty for having to deprive her of the man she thinks she loves. Can they come to love and respect each other? Can they have their HEA? When she discovers the truth, can she forgive his lies? This is a lovely read and a wonderful romance.

Now, my personal opinion is that his lie wasn't all that bad and it probably saved her life – so – my thought is – what is to forgive?

I highly recommend the book.

Please check out my reviews at:

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

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/flippinpages...>

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

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."

Jess Michaels says

Re reading before release.

Tracy Emro says

Hugh Margolis, the Duke of Brighthollow a year ago he stopped his sister Elizabeth "Lizzie" from eloping with Aaron Walters, but he wasn't in time to save her from complete ruin. To save his sister, he agrees to pay an outrageous sum to Walters in exchange for his silence - but Lizzie is heartbroken and refuses to partake in a season, Hugh is at a loss, he can't tell anyone what happened so has no idea how to help her. His guilt and shame have caused him to distance himself from his closest friends and have weighed on him. Finally, Lucas confronts him and refuses to be put off. Hugh shares the secret with him and his wife Diana and learns that Walters has selected a new victim.

Amelia Quinton, daughter of Viscount Quinton is in love and has accepted the marriage proposal of Aaron Walters, but her father drops a bomb and shatters her heart - she will have to marry Hugh, as he bought her father's debts and will ruin him if she refuses. She agrees, but makes it clear, she hates Hugh.

Hugh is upset by the lies, but to save Amelia (and Lizzie) he will accept her hatred, he likes Amelia and hopes they can eventually have a comfortable marriage - what he wasn't prepared for is the intense attraction he feels for her.

Amelia is just as confused, she wants to hate him and can't understand how she could desire the man who ruined her life - but her nature is sweet and forgiving, so she decides to try and make the best of her marriage and is extremely willing to explore the carnal with Hugh.

After their wedding, they travel to Brighthollow, Amelia is beginning to realize Hugh is not the monster she thought, she likes him and wants to make her marriage work, but she also knows he is holding something back from her. She meets Lizzie and immediately hits it off with her - for the first time in her life, she feels like a part of something and allows herself to fall for Hugh.

For his part, Hugh is in love with Amelia, she is perfect for him and this makes him feel even worse about keeping secrets and letting her believe lies. But can he trust her with the truth? When Lizzie confines her secret to Amelia, Hugh knows he must tell her everything and hope that she will forgive him, but he is afraid of losing her and delays the conversation - but has he waited too long?

This was a well written, fast paced, chock full of lies, secrets, likable characters, unlikable villains, steamy love scenes, a bit of action, cameos from the other dukes and their wives, a little heartache and a very sweet HEA. I liked the story, but I will admit, I found the "lie" plot a little contrived and didn't quite believe that his "lies" were as bad as they were built up to be.

This is the eighth book in the series, but it could easily be read as a stand alone title. I would be happy to recommend it.

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher.

Laura says

I was leery of this book thinking that the hero, Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow, would be beta male and too soft for any heroine. I should have known that Jess Michaels always writes the best characters and Hugh was no exception.

A protector through and through, Hugh has been the knight in shining armor to his young sister. He doesn't see it that way as his sister was seduced by an evil man under his watch. When that same man sets his sights on another victim, Hugh feels he must act.

Miss Amelia Quinton is excited to announce her engagement to the man of her dreams. Before she can do so, her father announces that she will marry another to get ensure his debts will be paid. Her life is turned upside down and she is quickly married off to the Duke of Brighthollow.

Amelia is willing to give her marriage a try and soon she begins to see another side to Hugh, one she likes very much.

When the lie he has been keeping about who her former fiancé was to him, will she be able to trust that she is more than a way to avenge his sister?

I loved this story and Hugh and Amelia were the perfect pairing. I do hope Lizzie gets her own romance soon!

Susan says

I think Hugh, the Duke of Brighthollow, is one of my favorites in the series. He's brooding, cold and gruff,

but truly every bit the hero. A super nice guy that carries a lot of hurt and regret inside, but just wants to make amends. I felt for Amelia and wanted to see her find a HEA, but a tad disappointed she didn't give Hugh more credit. Still, a beautiful love story. This series by Jess Michaels is fabulous!

eyes.2c says

'She loved someone else, his greatest enemy!'

Initially, I was not so sure that Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow lied enough to earn him the moniker the 'Duke Who Lied.' After all he was only trying to protect his sister from the vicious tongues of the ton. In protecting his sister Hugh,

'lived the last year regretting that [he] did not thwart [the blackguard] as he deserved.'" "And fearing he would do exactly what it appears he's done...find another victim."

So the problem for Hugh comes when the man who seduced his sister reneges society and turns his eyes to another innocent, Miss Amelia Quinton.

Unfortunately for Amelia, her father welcomes the scoundrel's suit seeing it as a step up the ladder of society. Hugh is thrown into a quandary, only relieved when Amelia's father calls Hugh's bluff and Hugh finds himself engaged to Amelia. After all, a wealthy Duke trumps a mere gentleman. Amelia is horrified as she has set her heart on the seemingly romantic winsome man she feels she truly loves, the black hearted villain, Aaron Walters. Amelia has been used as a bargaining chip to move the family into more rarified circles.

And that's whereby not revealing the truth about Walters, Hugh has lied by default, the sin of silence. As time goes on Hugh just doesn't know how to come clean.

We are treated to a tangled web of half truths and silences that have two people (clearly meant for each other) horrified by their impending nuptials--even when they're not!

Of course, the rest of the Dukes and Duchesses of the 1797 Club, look on with heavy, but supportive hearts, wanting for Hugh what they have found--true love!

Getting to the HEA is an interestingly rocky path strewn with good intentions gone awry, giving us the delicious tensions that Michaels so aptly employs.

A NetGalley ARC

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?♥?

???

Special, sensational, stunning , words to describe how good this book is .

If you've been waiting to find out what makes Hugh Duke of Brighthollow tick , here it is in all its glory .

When this Duke meets his future and his one and only ,

Miss Amelia Quintan , it's an instant attraction .

Neither of them can admit to such , and they both have reasons to stay away from each other , but circumstances and a quick marriage see them living in closer proximity and they have to learn to be honest ,both about there feelings ,and their pasts , if not will they find their HEA ?

A great book , loved every page , this Author improves with every book it seems .

I could say this is my favourite of the series, but so were the others , they are all so good and so addictive.

I received an advance copy of this book and chose to submit a review

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

The Duke Who Lied by Jess Michaels is book 8 in The 1797 Club Series. This is the story of Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow and Amelia Quinton. I have read the previous books, but feel you can make this a standalone book if you wish to do so.

Amelia thinks herself in love with Aaron Walters and thinks that they will marry. But then her father tells her that he owes money to Hugh and that she will marry him instead. Hugh's sister Lizzie was taken in by Aaron Walters a few years back and was ruined by the man. Hugh paid Mr. Walters a large sum of money to keep things to himself to protect his sister but now Hugh found Mr. Walters about to do something again. Hugh rushes in and marries Amelia under lies so Amelia is at first very upset and tries to hate Hugh but that starts to become impossible. Hugh also has growing feelings for Amelia now but how will she feel when she learns the truth?

Loved their story!

Sheila Melo says

I received this book for free from Netgalley in order to prepare an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

"So Amelia would come to Hugh with hate and desperation. With heartbreak and resistance."

FINAL DECISION: A solid addition to the series. I enjoyed the characters but the lie that sets their relationship in motion and the secret Hugh is keeping didn't work well enough to support the plot of the story for me.

THE STORY: Hugh Margolis, Duke of Brighthollow, has been suffering with his own sense of honor. His sister was seduced by a wicked man and Hugh found himself keeping silent and paying the man off rather than seeking revenge. This lack of action has been eating at Hugh for a year. Now Hugh discovers that the villain is after his next victim. Hugh cannot allow him to ruin another woman's life. Amelia Quinton thinks she has found the man of her dreams, when her father tells her she must marry the Duke of Brighthollow to settle his debts. Amelia and Hugh begin a marriage with lies and deception between them. What will happen when the two strangers begin to have feelings for one another with the lies Hugh told to force the marriage between them?

OPINION: The characters in this book were really nice. I liked them both and I thought that they had a nice rapport with one another. I book is as sexy as I would expect from this series and overall I enjoyed this entry in the series.

The part of this book that really bothered me was how quickly Amelia turned to trying to make her marriage to Hugh a good one. I just wasn't convinced. She was too quick to think Hugh a good person and too quick to want and participate in a passionate marriage. A woman is forced to wed a complete stranger and only days later is taking the initiative in their sexual relationship. Nope, just didn't work for me. I did enjoy the characters and only wish that the initial part of their relationship had been dealt with differently.

I also really didn't understand why Hugh kept the secret after he and Amelia were married and continued to lie. He clearly could have told her the truth and it would have made their relationship better. Without the buy

in to the storyline, everything else felt okay but a little bland.

WORTH MENTIONING: I want the story of Hugh's sister as well.

CONNECTED BOOKS: THE DUKE WHO LIED is the eighth book in the 1797 Club series. This book can be read as a standalone although there are overlapping characters and relationships between secondary characters that are developed over the series.

STAR RATING: I give this book 3 stars.

NOTE: I received an ARC of this book via Netgalley in order to help prepare this review. I was not required to write a review or to write a positive review. All opinions contained herein are my own.

This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

Lori D says

Oh yes, this is a great story I could not put down! Jess Michaels, in her usual fashion, pulls you in from the start and keeps you turning the pages until the end. Amelia Quinton was in love and all set to marry Aaron Walters when her father takes the offer of Hugh, Duke of Brighthollow. Not understanding and totally unhappy she marries Hugh with no other choice. But as the two meet each other, there is a definite attraction and sparks fly. You see Hugh really rescued Amelia from making a big mistake marrying the blackguard Walters, who ruined his sister Lizzie. Of course she does not know that and as she and Hugh grow close, Hugh begins to feel bad about keeping secrets from her.

This story is a fast paced and full of secrets, lies, intrigue and some wonderful emotions and very likable characters. I think this may be my favorite of this series, but it can be read as a standalone. But trust me, you will want to read them all!!

Shell Cunliffe says

I received this book from Netgalley in return for a honest review.

This is book in 8 in this fabulous series, it doesn't seem that long ago I was reading the first book. Wow this book had me hooked from the first page, right up until the last. Amelia is a lady that when she wants something she goes after it...but in this instance what she wants is something that Hugh is trying to change her mind over, much to Amelia's annoyance.

At some point in our life we've all told a lie...but have you ever told a lie and it gets so out of control you don't know if you can stop it, no me neither...but this is what happens to Hugh and very nearly causes him to lose the happiness so greatly deserves.

Hugh's friends also make an appearance, which is lovely and they were also a big help with Amelia and Hugh. For me I can highly recommend this book and I'm so looking forward to the next.

