



Elyza

Clare Darcy

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Elyza Leigh, young, impulsive, and pretty, borrows boys' clothes and runs away from her chaperone in London, an unsuccessful Season, and an offer of a dreary marriage. At a country inn she fortunately encounters Clive Redmayne - her purse has been stolen. He pays her bill and gives her a seat in his travelling coach. Handsome and rich, he has just returned from India. After a duel, a kidnapping, and a hectic road chase, people and proposals are happily disentangled.

Elyza Details

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From Reader Review Elyza for online ebook

Meghan says

I had to go online to buy this out-of-print Clare Darcy book. I'm on a regency period binge read. When I looked up Georgette Heyer on my local library site they had various authors that were listed as similar. After looking into a few of the recommendations I decided to read Clare Darcy.

This book is just as good as Heyer's! There was a girl donning the dress of a man, a duel, boxing, a curriple race, and of course the romance was lovely. I definitely recommend.

QNPoohBear says

Elyza Leigh flees her scheming chaperone and an unwanted marriage in London and heads off to her great-aunt in Bath dressed in the hall boy's best clothes. When her purse goes missing and an angry inn-keeper about to open her bundle, rescue comes in the form of a handsome young man. Cleve Redmayne pays her bill without batting an eyelash and takes the young Elyza, whom she thinks he believes is a boy, under his wing. Alas, Redmayne is perceptive and hits upon Elyza's secret. He promises to help her anyway and when he discovers she knows the woman he dreams of marrying, he encourages Elyza to return to London and then follow the ton to Brighton. Redmayne, fresh from India with a fortune in his pocket, a superb manservant and an Indian bodyguard, has returned to claim the hand of Corinna Mayfield, Society's reigning beauty, though he has never actually been introduced to her. Corinna has any number of suitors, including Elyza's crush and a penniless Marquis. Elyza is not lacking in the suitor department either, which enrages her potential husband Sir Edward, whose Mama wishes him to marry Elyza's fortune. Before the Season ends, Elyza will gain courage and understanding of her own heart but will she ever be truly happy if the man she loves loves another?

This novel is a pale imitation of Georgette Heyer novels. The characters are less memorable though they are still interesting. I liked Elyza, for all her youth and naivety. She grows up a lot and she really understands what love is. Cleve is a mysterious hero. The story isn't told from his point-of-view and all we really know about him is bits of gossip and the parts he wishes known about himself. He's a sporting hero type, unassuming but able to hold his own, which I really like. There's so much going on in this story that the romance gets rather overshadowed as a consequence. There are many funny moments in the plot, especially involving Sir Edward's marriage proposal attempts as well as Mr. Crawford, a young bachelor and the indomitable Quigg. I enjoyed the story for a bit of diversion. If you love Georgette Heyer, this book is a good second choice. It's a cut above the paperback Signet and Zebra Regencies and far above the scandalous Regency Historicals.

Carol Storm says

After LETTY, this is probably Clare Darcy's best traditional Regency. Elyza is a lot more adventurous than most Darcy heroines. She actually dresses up as a boy and travels in disguise till the hero rescues her from some ruffians!

Yue says

I should just accept that there is no one like *The Incomparable*. This book certainly isn't, but it is charming and fun, more similar to books written by Marion Chesney, maybe. The MC was a good character, young and a bit impulsive but not silly. The introduction of the hero was somewhat like one of *The Incomparable*'s: the girl, disguised as a boy in an Inn, is trying to tell the owner that "he" was robbed, when the hero comes in and, a "bored voice" asked what was the trouble. Of course he immediately takes care of the situation, after one look at the heroine (he recognizes "he" is really a "she" at first glimpse). And then there is Mr. Crawford, a young, nice fellow who befriends both characters instantly. He reminded me a bit of dear old Freddie from *Cotillion*, with that big heart.

There were a lot of situations that I love reading in a Regency romance: duels, balls, cross-dressing, love tangles. Which makes me wonder, **why didn't I like this more than I did??** There were times where I was scan-reading the descriptions, there were times where I was reading the same paragraph over and over again... Everyday I could read up to 2 chapters only, I wonder why! Certainly one of the minuses was the lack of chemistry between Eliza and Mr. Redmayne. Not only he was in love with another girl for about 90% of the story, but he was *pinning* after her, which is something that GH's heroes never do. And once he realizes that it was not love at all, and that the only one for him was Elyza I was actually rooting for dear Mr. Crawford. Oh well... On the plus side, it was clean and fun and really light.

Megan says

Second time reading this and enjoyed it even more than the first. Fast and fun Regency novel that has all the tropes that I love.

Lesr Kew says

too much background noise from the start. couldn't finish. while the characters were likeable, the plot dragged too much.

Susan says

Another light reading Regency Romance from Clare Darcy. I really enjoyed reading this one again - it's a fun one. Elyza is running away from an unwanted marriage being pressed on her by a woman her absent father hired to "see her off", who is determined to marry her to SOMEONE, just to get her money. She is disguised as a boy, but when her purse is stolen and she can't pay for the inn, Mr. Redmayne steps in and rescues her. Recently arrived from India, he is obviously VERY wealthy, with a string of carriages carrying all his luggage and servants, and well used to buying anything he wishes. He soon figures out that she is a girl, of course. He offers to take her home again, telling her that no one can make her marry someone she doesn't wish to. On the way they stop at a fair, where they pick up a young man, Nicholas, who joins them after being knocked out by a prizefighter. When Redmayne finds that she and her duenna are soon to go to Brighton, where he is also bound, he asks her to introduce him to the beautiful Corinna, with whom he has fancied himself in love after seeing her once two years ago. Corinna, being the beauty of the season, has a string of admirers already. The goings-on in Brighton land Elyza in a couple of near-scandals, and jealous

people begin circulating negative stories about Redmayne. She becomes his champion, feeling that she must help to get Corinna, even though the idea leaves her strangely unhappy. Eventually Corinna is abducted by the nefarious Lord Belfort, Elyza forces Nicholas to go with her to rescue Corinna. Redmayne and Jack Evert, who is also in love with Corinna, but who has been paying attentions to Elyza in order to make Corinna jealous, team up to go after the rescuing pair. As usual, all ends happily.

MrsER says

Lovely little book. A fun read, with lots of embroiled situations--created by the heroine, Elyza. A few chuckles and several funny and endearing situations. I enjoyed this book almost as much as Miss Darcy's Eugenia and the trio Cecily, Georgina and Lydia. Other favorites in the same "clean" style of Miss Darcy are A Most Romantic City, The Glass Palace and The Tempestuous Petticoat, all by Mary Ann Gibbs, and The Nabob's Widow by Elsie Lee.

Linda says

Miss Elyza Leigh, aka **Mr. Smith**, was on the run. She had been expected to accept a proposal from a boring nuisance with nothing in common. She refused to marry the man. When no one was looking, she changed her appearance and ran away. Unfortunately, she was robbed of her monies when she met Mr. Cleve Redmond. *Until now, I had always thought the name *Cleve* (or was it Clive?) was synonymous with a butler.*

The kind and handsome Mr. Redmond saw through Elyza's ruse as 'Mr. Smith' and offered her a ride to her destination. Both of their intentions were meant for the best.

Elyza was so innocently likable. Redmond was on the drier side but fascinatingly interesting; I wanted to know more of his past. The secondary characters, and there were bookoodles (a southern adjective meaning a large amount of something) of them, kept slipping off the pages. Among others: Quigg, Ram, Mr. *Crawfurd*, Miss Mayfield, Mr. Everet, Mrs. Winlock, Sir Edward Mottram, Miss Piercebridge and Lord Belfort.

Elyza was constantly busy and, at the same time, falling in love. She had a sunny outlook on life that spilled over to others. Her POV drove the romance. For the most part, Redmayne had blinders on for one woman until he saw what was right in front of him all along.

I am still of the opinion that Ms. Darcy was competing for 'Queen of the Run-On Sentence'. In chapter two, she goes for broke with a 93-word sentence/paragraph. Except this time around, I enjoyed what she was saying. *It made sense*. Like Betty Neels, Emily Loring and Barbara Cartland, Ms. Darcy has a definitive style of writing.

Ummeyusuf says

I'm quite bored of all the abductions/elopements in regency romances.

Bettye McKee says

Although they are difficult to lay hands on, I managed to get a couple of books written by Clare Darcy, a pseudonym for Mary Deasy (1914-1978).

Elyza Leigh has run away from her chaperone, a ruthless woman hired by Elyza's father to get her married. However, Mrs. Winlock is insistent that Elyza must marry Sir Edward Mottram, a dull baronet who is simply following his mother's instructions. He no more wants to marry than Elyza does.

While Elyza, dressed as a boy, was staying at an inn, her purse was stolen and she is unable to pay her bill. She is rescued by Cleve Redmayne and offered a ride to Bath where Elyza's aunt lives.

This is a well-written, entertaining story in true Regency fashion. The story is set in London and Brighton.

Mary Mannion says

almost but as good as Georgette Heyer

Laurie says

A wonderful Regency Romance by Clare Darcy. The story is about Elyza, whose actions at the start of the book are scandalous, but she is saved by Cleve Redmane, a very handsome and wealthy man just returned from India. They both save the other several times throughout the book, and while she has fallen in love with him, he came back to find the most beautiful debutante of the season (and several prior ones). It is a clean book, written with the constraints of a female's reputation in society being properly described. Highly enjoyable

Mela says

I have read it some time ago. I think a few months ago. I don't know why my reviews of some book disappeared from goodreads.com. Until recently, I haven't made a copy.

Nevertheless, I remember that I enjoyed this book very much. It is witty, funny and had a nice love story. Although it wasn't such good as Victoire or Eugenia.

Shelley says

This was actually quite a bit better than I thought it would be. A clean, fun regency romp without any annoying characters!
