



The Duke's Quandary

Callie Hutton

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The Duke's Quandary

Callie Hutton

The Duke's Quandary Callie Hutton

London 1814...

Drake, Duke of Manchester is searching the Marriage Mart for a perfect bride. He wants a woman who is poised, sophisticated, and worthy of the title Duchess. But most of all, he wants a woman who does not want the useless emotion of love.

Socially awkward Miss Penelope Clayton isn't meant for marriage. A serious botanist, she has no desire to wed, so being forced by her guardian to participate in the Season to find a husband is torture. She'll never fit in with the *ton*, especially if they discover she's been pretending to be a man within the scientific community.

As Drake's family makes over Penelope, turning her from naive bluestocking to enchanting debutante, he is put upon to introduce her to society and eligible bachelors. Despite dance lessons and new gowns, Penelope is the opposite of poised and sophisticated as she stumbles from one mishap to the next. Why then, does he find it so hard to resist her?

The Duke's Quandary Details

Date : Published March 10th 2014 by Entangled: Scandalous

ISBN : 9781622664641

Author : Callie Hutton

Format : ebook 285 pages

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

 [Download The Duke's Quandary ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Duke's Quandary ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Duke's Quandary Callie Hutton

From Reader Review The Duke's Quandary for online ebook

Talking Books says

Summation Of The Book:

The Duke Of Manchester is seeking a bride. One who acts accordingly, behaves and who he deems worthy for the title of Duchess.

Penelope Clayton - a socially awkward botanist who never intends to marry. However forced to participate in the society season under the full judgement of the Ton by her Guardian. She fears she will never fit in with the Ton as she has been posing as a botanist and shuns marriage as well.

The Duchess takes Penelope under her wing for the Season, giving her a makeover much to the anguish of Drake, the very formal Duke. Turning the "ugly duckling" into a beautiful swan so to speak, Penelope is the total opposite of poised. Clumsy at nearly every turn, how will she fair during the Season in society? Will Drake find his version of the "perfect Duchess"?

Thoughts On The Book:

This book had so many emotions - happiness, love, loss, mourning and moving on. Penelope and Drake together were a powerhouse read that pulled on the heart strings all throughout the book. Even the rest of the characters in the book were an enchanting read - The Duchess, Marion, Mary, Abigail, Sybil and Sarah as well as many more.

The Duke's Quandary was such a beautiful read. From the well written, stately characters that are part of higher society, but still down to earth characters and the not so stately and the trials and tribulations those characters faced throughout the story.

The moment their characters meet at the Manchester Estate the fun definitely begins. The scenes at their first meeting were a hilarious read with the anguish that Drake's character endured watching Penelope trying to act accordingly, but inadvertently having some sort of a mishap.

Quote:

"She swallowed several times and leaned forward to place her cup on the low table in front of her, but instead set it on the edge. Drake watched it teeter there, sweat breaking out on his brow. The girl was a walking disaster."

Further into the book there were so many heart warming moments between the characters. Drake would always come to Penelope's defence. He was drawn to the innocent, breath of fresh air Penelope. He gives off the impression of an exceptionally serious Duke, but one who has a heart of gold.

An absolute joy to read this book. I could not offer enough praise to the Author for writing such phenomenal characters and in such detail, believable scenarios with real feelings within those scenes. The road that these characters set upon is one road that will change them all.

If you want an AA+ read then The Duke's Quandary fits that bill - it is a must read!

Five Star Read!

*ARC received for an honest review.

Avid Booker says

I'm honestly annoyed by the book. It wasn't hate. Just pure concentrated annoyance. For a 300 page book it moved too slowly, I never felt they attraction or emotion or anything about each other. Let's get into this. The writing is well done and easily understood, but I didn't like the characters. I paid \$17 bucks for this book because I'm down to support authors not backed by a publishing house. But this story was not worth it to me.

Our hero, Drake. I never usually talk about the heroes first, but he deserves it because I DID NOT LIKE HIM. At all. He wasn't evil or cruel or anything, but he was OPPRESSIVE. I didn't like that he was ALWAYS comparing the heroine to his ideal 'Perfect Duchess'. What makes it worse, is that his ideal duchess was a mean, snobby but not in a large way, woman who appears in the book quite a few times. He does not interact with her too much. But the mentioning was annoying. Drake wanted our heroine to be someone she wasn't. Even after they were engaged, because HE accosted her in the garden, he kept telling her that she would have to give up science and forcing her into his strict criteria that her clumsy ass would NEVER fit. Then when she voiced her concerns on the matter he'd just wave them off. (the author tries to make him redeem himself with the science thing and FAILS)

Our heroine, Penelope, I love the name and am annoyed by the girl. She was a botanist, which is another word for plant lover. She wasn't overly annoying with the science thing, but sometimes it's like shut your mouth about it! Other than looks, I have NO IDEA why she liked the hero. She was clumsy. And when I say clumsy, I mean to the point of it irritating me. I understand her being social awkward, I want to go along the lines of saying that she had crippling anxiety, most likely Social Anxiety Disorder. She knocked over something or had dirt on her every five seconds. She was like a toddler. You can go dig in the mud without getting it on your face and causing everyone to laugh at you. And despite not going into society and chatting with men a lot, its common knowledge that no one wants to hear you go into a dissertation about plants. Point blank. She does defy him with the forbidding her of science thing though.

Her aunt was annoying. I personally wear glasses, if I'm not wearing glasses I'm wearing contacts. I NEED them. I'm not legally blind, but I'm no use without them. So the fact that they kept telling her to take them off when SHE COULDN'T SEE WELL without them. Irritated me. Her aunt had the nerves to PLUCK them off her face at a ball. Which makes her EVEN MORE clumsy.

On top of that, these characters spend most of the time THINKING about each other and how nice the other is, rather than actually being together. And when they're together he's fondling her and kissing her and then telling her that they shouldn't do this.

Oh, and this is a new one! They don't tell each other that they love each other in this book. Its said through thoughts, but never to one another.

Don't even get me started on the sex scenes. They were bad. Not necessarily because of how the author wrote them, they were scant but not too bad, but because YOU DONT LIKE THE MAIN CHARACTERS, ESPECIALLY NOT THE HERO. He basically forced her into this marriage (then tried to force her to become his ideal duchess) and then he comes to her after there wedding(which she tries to stop plenty of times, not because she didn't like him tho. Just b/c he had already told her what he wanted in a wife and she knew that wasn't her and it was just a mess) and is ready to sleep with her. She should have put up a fight! They get into an argument after she brings up the science again and he still thinks its okay cause we're going to sleep together and she'll do what I say. THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN!!!! He's like, she's just like my mom. Unconventional and my dad was in love with her, so I'm probably going to look forward to a life like that

too.

I'M SO ANNOYED. Fair to say I didn't like this but I didn't hate it enough for it to be one star. So I'll give it two. Its funny cause this is the first book I've read(and hated) where I didn't at least think some passages were cute to tab and have a quotes section on my review.

Sam says

In a perfect world, Drake has teamed up with Colin from Tessa Dare's *A Week to Be Wicked* and Cross from Sarah Maclean's *One Good Earl* to start a club for aristocratic men who love and support their amazing scientist wives.

Farrah says

A sweet, enjoyable, lovely romance, *The Duke's Quandary* was a wonderful read. I really liked this book. It was a delightful historical romance.

Penelope was a lovely heroine. She was very kind and a genuinely likable character. She was extremely clumsy and never seemed to say the right thing in Society. But, she faced all the gossip and snide comments with more strength and dignity than any of the debutantes could hope for. My only problem is that I wish she would have stood up to Drake more when he got too bossy about being a "proper duchess." But, overall, I really liked her.

Drake was good. He was very sweet and protective of his family. Most of the time, he was kind, sweet, and rather adorable. However, sometimes, I wanted to whack him upside the head for being an idiot. His whole obsession with "the perfect duchess" was frustrating and a bit baffling. I didn't understand why he was so set on it, especially because his own mother was an unconventional duchess who enjoyed a love match and was still dearly loved by her family. It was annoying, to say the least. But, it didn't bother me too much. So, I still ended up liking him, particularly because he did a brilliant job redeeming himself in the end. Overall, I thought he was great.

The romance was lovely. Despite Drake's issues, they were sweet together. They were perfectly matched, despite their reluctance to admit it. And, the chemistry between them was hot. Definitely some sensuous scenes in store.

The plot was well paced and I was hooked the entire way through. The story was so sweet and lovely and I really enjoyed it. And, the ending was perfect.

The Duke's Quandary was a wonderful historical romance. I really liked this book. It was a sweet, delightful, enjoyable read. Romance lovers, this is a book worth checking out.

*I received a free copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Laura V. says

Dejemos que Drake hable un poco por sí mismo.

"¿Qué demonios tenía esa mujer que tanto le enfurecía en un minuto, y luego le hacía desear envolverla con sus brazos en el siguiente?"

"Y aunque él tenía la intención de encontrar una novia esta temporada, **nunca sería la señorita Penélope Clayton.**"

"-Por otro lado, querida hermana, se **te está pasando un poco el arroz.**
-[...]Pero tengo apenas veintidós. No estoy en la senectud."

"Su madre era demasiado suave cuando se trataba de las niñas. Ella les animaba en esa **tonta idea de esperar al hombre correcto.**"

"-La chica estaba coqueteando conmigo.
Pensando en la tímida Penélope, **tan inepta** en materia social y absorta en su ciencia, el comentario del hombre era casi risible."

"Penélope estaba en lo correcto. **Ella no pertenecía a su mundo.**"

"Penélope lo era todo. Entusiasta e ingenua, con gran entusiasmo por las cosas sencillas. Pero no, se aseguró a sí mismo, **no era alguien que él quisiera para ostentar el título de su duquesa.**"

"...le vendría bien recordar su declarado deseo de casarse con la mujer perfecta. Desde luego, **no alguien como ella.**"

"-Lo último que quisiera hacer es herir tus sentimientos, o hacer que te sientas como si estuvieras, de alguna manera, por debajo de mí. (!!!!!)"

"Entonces no habría más visitantes molestos diciéndole que estaba enamorado de la mujer **más inepta** de todo Londres."

"¿Cómo podía la chica ser **tan tonta** como para ser capturada de nuevo a solas con Smythe? ¿Estaba tratando de comprometerse a sí misma?"

"Este matrimonio sería un éxito aunque su novia **quedara corta según sus expectativas.**"

"-¿Qué pasa con mi trabajo?
-**Vas a renunciar a eso, naturalmente.** Estarás ocupada con los deberes de una duquesa."

"Estaba a punto de casarse con una mujer todo lo contrario de su duquesa ideal. Cuando comparó mentalmente a Lady Daphne con Penélope... bueno, era mejor no seguir esa línea de pensamiento. Lo hecho, hecho estaba."

"Él suspiró ante esta evidencia adicional de su **falta de idoneidad** para asumir el papel de duquesa."

"-Me refiero a esta obsesión que parece tener sobre la encantadora dama con la que te casaste, que no te ha dado ninguna razón para avergonzarte.
-**Y me gustaría mantenerlo así.**"

"El jugar con la ciencia no es un pasatiempo adecuado para una duquesa. Tendrás deberes que cumplir, una casa que llevar, sirvientes que supervisar. Y, a la larga, habrá niños que van a necesitar tu atención."

¿QUÉ ES ESTO? (Y menos mal que no puse todas las restantes, es más de lo mismo) **Esto no es romántico. Es terrible.** Ella está loca de amor por él, que deja pasar sus faltas. Abandona demasiado rápido sus sueños para estar a la altura de Drake. Y dios, cómo llora. Le toca una mano, llora, la besa, llora, le grita, llora, le da la espalda, llora, cierra una puerta, llora. What's wrong with you?

Ni hablar de lo incómodamente torpe que es. Trepieza, llora.

El libro es malo. Los escenarios principales son: vestidos, fiestas y sociedad. Todo frívolo, todo superficial. Lo odio. La gente es muy hipócrita, se la pasa chismorreando y hablando de estupideces. No hay otros escenarios ni profundidad en nada. Me cansó. Penélope es botánica (de su propio jardín, porque no ha llegado más lejos). Pero solo eso sabemos, cada vez que habla de su trabajo, Drake la pone en off y se pone a pensar los "suculentos" pechos que tiene, o su redondado trasero, o lo carnosa que es su boca. (QUUUUUEE?). A él no le interesa su trabajo, su personalidad, nada. Cada vez que trepieza (y lo hace demasiado seguido para mi gusto) piensa en las usos que podría darle a su boca, pechos, culo, ay por dios. Y ella está tannnn fascinada.

Drake es un VERDADERO imbécil. Con un gran complejo de Edipo. No deja de comparar a Penélope con su madre. *escalofríos* Sumado con las referencias sexuales me da que pensar sobre sus conflictos no resueltos. Tiene ideas retrógradas. Tiene cinco hermanas, (y al parecer un hermano más del que solo sabemos su nombre, ni idea de si está vivo o que hace) y no tiene tacto. No sabe como tratar a nadie que no sea su ego.

Y por si fuera poco, es increíblemente repetitivo. Fiestas, baile, trepieza. Otra fiesta, baile, trepieza.

Stacy Reid says

I liked this book. What I enjoyed the most was the laughter. I laughed for almost every chapter. There was something just so sweet and heart warming about the heroine. However, it was this same sweetness that made me not love her absolutely. There were times I felt like she had no backbone, absolutely no spine. I wanted her to stand up to the women that were mean to her, and to Drake for demanding so callously that she gave up botany, something that she loved so much.

Drake was an interesting character. I did not fully understand his desire to have this perfect duchess. I understand that he had several females in the household and he wanted calm and order and not the emotional turmoil they brought. But it was inescapable that he loved them completely. So his insistence on having the perfect, biddable duchess was a little puzzling. He was still a good character and I really started to enjoy him. I overall enjoyed this book. The pacing was great and I read it in one sitting, and that is what I loved the most. The author's style was engaging and she kept me turning the pages wondering what would happen next. I also loved the details I got that authenticated the period. They were not overwhelming, just enough to make me feel as if Drake and Penelope were really in 1814.

Nicole Laverdure says

Charming Regency romance 5 stars! I was privilege to receive from Callie Hutton an eARC of THE DUKE'S QUANDARY, her soon to be released book ! Even though, this story was a little predictable, I really enjoyed it. This book is one of her best writings! It's the second book in the Marriage Mart Mayhem Series. I liked her two characters Drake and Penelope. Drake, the Duke of Manchester is searching the Marriage Mart for a perfect bride, based on his own criterias such as poise, charm and the ability to carry her duties as a Duchess. Penelope is an awkward shy young lady whose only passion is botanic and the love of plants; and she is quite happy with her life, until she has to pretend to be a man to present her research. In the 1800's, woman could not write under a woman's name. Then one day, having to be introduced to the ton, to find a proper husband, she meets Drake, surrounded by all his sisters in his family. Slowly, she will feel part of his family and have feelings for him. When we say opposites attract, then this is the case. Their story was well written and I recommend this charming Regency romance.

Claudia says

hm ... quite nice although Drake was a bit hard to like sometimes

Patty McKenna Van Hulle says

I was totally HONORED and HUMBLLED by Callie Hutton with an advance copy of her upcoming new release THE DUKE'S QUANDARY, the second book in THE MARRIAGE MART MAYHEM series. It was a hero and heroine who could not be more different from each other. Penelope Clayton is a plant crazy, klutzy, glass wearing, muddy hem, nervous and shy woman who has been living by herself with her plants for 3 years after the death of her father. The hero is Drake who is the Duke of Manchester. He is a serious, stuffy and loves his family of crazy women. He has an energetic, loving and easygoing mom. He also has 4 unmarried sisters, Abigail, twins Sybil and Sarah and baby Mary and another sister Marion who has been her room for 2 years grieving for lost at sea hubby. Drake has been trying to fill his father's huge shoes and feel his is failing. He thinks if he married the "Prefect Duchess" that he will be able to fill those shoes easier. THIS IS HOW P MET D; Drake and his family are at the front door as a great wind enters followed by Penelope. She has her hair half up and down, dirt on her face, glasses falling down her nose, a pelisse missed buttoned and is clutching a wrapped up plant with dirt falling on the floor. She sees everyone, whips off her glasses, curtsied and threw her hand and dirt out and says, "How do you do?" Then she freaks out and flees. Drake chases and catches her down the street and in that one moment his embraced her tender heart and his heart could not let her go. This story has so many elements that make it AWESOME LOVE STORY!! Here are just a few of those elements, a perfect Lady Daphne, evil Lady Sirey, klutzy moments, super hot kisses, hilarious klutzy scenes, heart melting love, a compromised situation, semi-forced marriage, fire extinguisher worthy scenes. I give this book my highest rating of 5 fingers up and 10 toes!! I also warn readers to stock up on fire extinguishers before reading this book!!The Duke's Quandary
^^

Sammy says

Here we have one of the most unlikable heroes in romance: a character that not only tries and succeeds in changing the heroine but also constantly compares the heroine to another female *in his thoughts, to others, and to the heroine!*

Add to that a heroine that does not show herself to be the botanist she is described as (author laziness) and you have a book that is not worth reading.

Maria says

Wanting a Perfect Dutchess

Drake, Duke of Manchester wanted the perfect Dutchess this season. He was to do his duty to marry and produce an heir. He was relegated with being in charge of trying to bring out into society a girl from the country this season along side one of his sisters.

Penelope, was a botanist who was secretly following in her father's footsteps. She was always in the mud discovering new species of plants. Now, she was being forced to London by her aunt to make her society debut. What a mess! She knew she was awkward and she was extremely clumsy. She had no education in reference to the ton, other than to know they were vicious. She had to attend this season's debut. She figured no gentleman would want to have anything to do with her and she would be able to return to the country.

Drake could not believe how clumsy his new charge was and how could this chit ever find a husband when she proclaimed she was a scientist. He would have his work cut out for him with this one. Not only was he already dealing with trying to find his four sister's husband's, now he had the impossible task of this new charge.

How could he concentrate on finding his own perfect dutchess this season? Oh, catastrophe issues in his all too perfect world.

Sharon Rosenthal says

I was given The Duke's Quandry by the author in an ARC for an honest review. So here goes:

This book started off slow, not that it didn't have a lot happening it did, but it took awhile for it to really build to the romantic part and when it did, well it was wonderful. The story features our heroine, Penelope, who is klutzy, wears glasses, a serious scientist/botanist, anti social but who has a good kind heart. She loves to play in the gardens and doesn't even notice the dirt. She is so very different from any other heroine in any other regency, in that she is all those things I mentioned but she is beautiful inside and out.

Now about our hero, who we met in the Elusive Wife, book #1 in this series, he is Drake and in book #1 he was an absolutely wonderful guy, not so in this story. In this story his father has died, he has 4 sisters and a mother to take care of. One sister refuses to leave her room because her husbands been lost at sea and so he decides he doesn't want love but he wants the perfectly cold and perfect wife.

Why is he not into love? Well his mother was not the perfect wife and he wants a more obedient wife than his mother was to his father. The truth is he is a sole male in a family of strong and independent women and think he just wants one woman, his wife to take control of his sisters and one who listens to him.

For most of the book Drake is a jerk. But the author is really good at making heroes terrible and then redeeming them and making you fall in love with them and she does that in this book superbly. So why was Drake terrible? well for one he keeps kissing Penelope, even while he is saying he wants the perfect wife who will never cause him any trouble and he wants a loveless marriage. Even when Penelope gets a marriage proposal from another man he still is thinking of marrying the perfect woman but not wanting he to be with anyone else.

Then they end up getting engaged and then married and he makes her give up her science, makes her insecure and is harping on her changing. Everyone keeps telling him to stop but he doesn't listen. However he does love Penelope and the sex is fantastic and on the whole he does make her happy. Then when its time to prove who and what he is.....he surprised me, and he surprises Penelope and you will fall in love with him as he shows the world how much he loves and supports Penelope.

What a great story, I truly loved it and when you close the book you will be smiling.

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

CLUMSY LIKEABLE HEROINE!!

The Duke's Quandary started out Ok but started getting a little silly to believe. Penelope Clayton has been summoned to London to have a season. Her aunt Feebie has arranged for her to be brought by the Dowager Duchess Of Manchester. Penelope is a renowned Botanist, but publishes her work under a mans name She is also very awkward and clumsy. She has one disaster after another to the point it is not funny but a bit ridiculous. She walks into furniture, spills tea all over the place. Just silly accidents. But she is also a very beautiful and kind and intelligent young lady. I like this part of her character.

We are introduced to Drake in bk 1 The Elusive Wife, he was a Marquess at that time. The Duke's Quandary is his story. Drake is now the Duke of Manchester and he is looking for the perfect young lady to be his Duchess. Penelope is not at all what he wants in a wife, but finds himself very attracted to her. Sometime Drake was just a little mean to Penelope always pointing out her imperfections, but then he would always apologize. He found himself defending her social forepaws, when she was being ridiculed by society. Toward the end of the book Drake and Penelope are caught in a compromising position. Drake immediately announces there betrothal.

The story is a light and full of fluff read. There are some delightful characters in the story like Drakes mother the Dowager Duchess. The story was no wear nearly as good as The Elusive Wife, but it was Ok and I enjoyed it for the most part.

Michelle says

2016: As I read The Earl's Return first (which is the sixth book in this series) I thought I should go back and read the rest of the series. I wanted to start with Drake and Penelope's story because they seem to be an amazing couple, so connected and in love that I wanted to know more. Their story is adorable, beautiful, and so romantic.

Penelope is a unconventional heroine as she isn't quite a proper lady in the *ton* but more of a country miss whose main interest happens to be science, botany to be precise. She really rather stay in the country studying her plants and such but her sponsor invites her to have a Season and she is whisked off to London. Her host is the Duke of Manchester and his family. His family warms up to her fairly quickly and are very supportive of her. The Duke, not so much. See, he is looking for perfection. He is searching for his future duchess and wife who needs to a standard all of her own with no flaws. Penelope certainly has her own flaws. For example, the perfect duchess will be graceful and Penelope is incredibly clumsy and a hazard to herself and anyone and thing around her (I find it to be adorable but Drake fears what sort of mess she will make next). Next, the perfect duchess will dance like a swan and be a wonderful conversationalist. Penelope doesn't know how to dance, moves in the wrong direction and would very much rather read a book about botany or spend her time digging in the garden and she isn't incredibly social (I still find her adorable but, again, Drake rather not spend all his time speaking directions to her while dancing nor would he like to see her covered in dirt.) So if Penelope is so far from his perfect duchess image then why can't he stay away from her? You will have to read to find out. ;)

Why you say? Well...

Over time he grows to understand who she is rather than what he wants her to be. Once he realizes that she is perfect in all her flaws, he really can't stay away from her. Seriously. Like he follows her everywhere. Some may say it is because she may fall or hurt herself, she *is* very clumsy after all, but I like to think that he just so in love with her that he doesn't want to leave her side even for a moment.

Read this book. You won't regret it.

Lori Meehan says

3.75*

I enjoyed this story and the characters. They were all so charming. Penelope the awkward wallflower who spent most of her life far outside of society and Drake a Duke looking for the perfect woman to be his perfect Duchess. It was fun to read how these two people found what they never thought they wanted. The only draw back was I felt the Penelope could of been less wimpy and stand up for herself more. I'm looking forward to reading this next book in the series. I hope that Marion finds her HEA.
