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The Duke's Secret Wife: Clean Read Regency Romance



Synopsis

DOWNLOAD FOR FREE WITH KINDLE UNLIMITED Lord and Lady Mathers want nothing more than for their daughter Beth to be married. They wish her to act more like a lady, and to treat her suitors with more deference. At a ball, Beth meets Edward Raleigh, a duke in town to check on his landholdings in Shropshire. She finds him arrogant and coarse, entirely unfit to be her husband, despite how he cuts to her core and sees directly through her newfound coquetry around her suitors. But when Beth finally comes around and agrees to accompany him to London, a terrible secret is revealed. Or is it? Even if the duke is innocent of all wrongdoing, will their relationship ever survive the scandal?

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed this story!!! I move my heart. Charity O'Connor is a new author for me. She has a unique way of telling a story I love novellas as I don't have a lot of time to read but this would have been a great full length novel.

I was quite disappointed with this tale. I'd hoped for a quick, light-hearted romance. Instead, I got a poorly researched tale that didn't fit the period and main characters that were foolish and positively unbelievable. At 24, Beth is still unmarried. Her parents decide the problem is that she's too egalitarian and speaks her mind too freely, so they berate her to change. So she obediently begins to act like a simpering & demure coquette. She cries before the next ball because she's sure she'll meet her future husband!!? She meets a young man who introduces himself (in Regency England???) without any sort of title. Many of the phrases they use do NOT fit the time period. ("uptight," "quite put out," "know how to party"). She walks to the hatmakers ALONE and meets him again. She mourns a death in the family for just 2 weeks. She's allowed on a "date" in London with the duke, accompanied only by a 19-year-old chaperone and they travel in a carriage with sleeping quarters! The story quickly became unintentionally comical, as unlikely things happen and naturally create scandal just because the author says they do. Sisters live "close", only a few hundred furlongs away from each other (at 1/8 mile per furlong, that puts them at least 40 miles away from each other - a substantial carriage ride!) The point of view fluctuates from 1st to 3rd person and portions are told in diary entries. Prose is packed into dense paragraphs that make it hard to read with their sometimes tortuous grammar. Titles are alluded to, but never defined (Raleigh is a duke, but we never learn which duke. Beth's parents are Lord and Lady, but we're never told their rank - Baron?) Fortunately, the story is very short and gave me a couple good laughs. But it really wasn't worth the effort.

Beth is a good-natured young lady who treats everyone the same. Her mother is quite upset, believing that Beth's practice is the reason she is still unmarried. She insists that Beth should be less outspoken in the presence of the nobility. Beth promises to change. When she meets Edward, she tries to be aloof and ladylike. That's not what Edward was expecting and he speaks rudely to her. He has heard about the outspoken Beth and that's the person he wanted to meet.

Very immature. So many mistakes. Author did no research into the period in which the story takes place. So many made up words, misspelled words, incorrect word usage, etc. There were also phrases in brackets that seemed to be notes to her editor that showed up in the story. She also allowed the young female character so many privileges that were taboo in the time in which the story took place. Very disappointing.

This title is very misleading as there is no secret wife. The great mystery does not exist. The plot did

not support the title.

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