



## Deceived by a Duke

*Erin Knightley*

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As the niece of an earl, Elizabeth Abbington knows all about the stifling expectations and responsibilities placed upon peers of the realm. She has no desire to marry into that kind of life. Instead, she dreams of traveling abroad where she can put her talent for languages to good use. When her dear friend invites her on a trip to Spain, Libby jumps at the chance to begin her adventure.

After his younger brother loses a small fortune on the turn of a card, Philip Dain, Duke of Gillingham decides an intervention is in order. Determined to keep Nigel from falling into the lifestyle that ultimately destroyed their father, Philip offers a deal: if his brother can live in anonymity for a month with him in Spain, Philip will pay his debts outright. By stripping them of the privileged status they've always known and the negative influence of Nigel's friends, Philip hopes the trip will help turn his brother around.

What Philip didn't expect is how much he would relish the freedom of shedding his title, if only for a while. When his lack of understanding of the language becomes an issue, Libby comes to his aid. As she falls into the role of their informal interpreter, Libby sees the real him, which makes the growing attraction between them all the more heady. But as love blossoms under the Spanish sun, so too does his uncertainty of what will happen when she discovers she's been . . . Deceived by a Duke.

\*\*\*This is a novella of approximately 26,000 words\*\*\*

## Deceived by a Duke Details

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## **From Reader Review Deceived by a Duke for online ebook**

### **Katie says**

Kind of boring and too short. The misunderstanding between the brothers didn't really make sense to me and I didn't fully understand the uncle backstory either.

One of those "the bones of the story are good, but . . ." stories.

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### **Elizabeth Bennet says**

The couple in the book were just good people. The Duke is trying to get some peace from normal chaotic life and so he takes a break of sorts with his brother who is his exact opposite. Philip is responsible and kind while his brother is reckless and wild. When Philip meets Elizabeth Abbington it is all over for him. The feelings and emotions that spread through him are solid and unfamiliar and for her is the same. Then comes the problem and it creates a rift between our couple. You just want to cry for poor Elizabeth as she watches him walk away. Not that it easy for him but as a duke in a position such as his he was better equipped to deal with his emotions. Although one may argue with matters of the heart there is no preparation that can help you deal with a broken heart.

At any rate it is short lived as the two find their way through some excitement only for Elizabeth to be shocked by Philips true identity. The two do find their HEA as if you didn't already suspect and there are glimpses of their new found shared love after marriage. This is a clean short read so kick back in enjoy. I actually got this in a boxed set called Sweet Summer Kisses.

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### **Donna says**

I thought this was the best one of this trilogy. It's a novella so it's a quick read but I really enjoyed it!

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### **Marita says**

Very cute story, but I just wanted more of it. I wanted to know more about Libby's failed seasons, and more about her hanging out with Phillip in Spain. I thought the brothers finally coming to terms with each other was beautifully done, and made me a wee bit teary. I thought the conflict resolution seemed to happen sooo fast and everything seemed all neatly tied up but, given the novella format, I suppose that's understandable.

Ultimately a cute novella, albeit not as good as her other ones.

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### **Mya says**

The third book in the All's Fair In Love series was good. I liked that Phillip and Libby got to know each other without all the title pretense. I wish this book was longer as it left me with some unanswered questions. I think, had it been a full length story they would have been answered and only added to the depth of the book. For a quick read, this novella is an enjoyable addition to the series.

Original review posted at:  
<http://paragraphsandpetticoats.blogspot.com/2013/07/deceived-by-a-duke.html>?

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### **Marlene says**

*Deceived by a Duke*, #3 in Erin Knightley's *All's Fair in Love* series of clean novellas was a fun read. I read it as the first novella in the *Sweet Summer Kisses* collection of sweet Regencies.

Philip Dain, Duke of Gillingham, is in Seville, Spain with his younger brother Nigel in the hopes that a holiday together will set Nigel straight from the wild path he's been traversing since Nigel witnessed their father's death. They're travelling incognito as the Westbrook brothers. Philip's goal is that Nigel, temporarily partly stripped of the privileges of a duke's brother, will become more sober, in more ways than one.

Elizabeth Abbington, otherwise known as Libby, is travelling with her friend Lady Winters (Amelia) on Amelia's belated honeymoon with Lord Winters. (Until very recently, I would have thought this odd. But I learned in another Regency recently that it was common for a bride to bring a companion with her on her honeymoon.) Libby is in her element abroad, as she loves languages, and knows several.

Though Libby had never previously met the "Westbrook brothers," she steps in when she sees that Philip and Nigel are having difficulty communicating with a Spanish merchant.

What I liked:

\*I liked that Libby doesn't know Philip is a duke. I always think that's a good story line.

\*Philip is a very caring person, which makes for a strong hero.

What I didn't like:

\*While I'd still call this clean (for me), I think the use of language was unnecessary. (bollocks, Jesus, hell, etc.) (I usually see "deuce" rather than "hell" used in the Regency books I read.)

\*I did find a few errors, but I never am confident whether that's the fault of Kindle formatting.

I'd recommend this book for fans of Erin Knightley, clean Regency, and clean historical romance. I've read several of Knightley's books, my favorite so far being *The Baron Next Door*. I have put *All's Fair in Love* #4 on my to-read list.

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### **Eileen says**

Phillip and Nigel are in Spain vacationing when they encounter Libby. She is also a fellow Briton and can speak the language. She helps them and intrigued with Phillip.

Phillip is there in hopes to set his younger brother Nigel on the right path after he lost a ton of money and on the path of self-destruction. It isn't going as planned but when Libby comes to his rescue he finds her definitely intriguing as well but a distraction to his real purpose. However the more he is with her he finds that she is definitely wiser beyond her years and shows him that no matter what he may do, he can't make someone change their ways. He's got to be there for Nigel and love him regardless. He showed her the real him even though he never told her his true title, and when she inadvertently finds out, she isn't too pleased. time heals thank goodness and he comes back to her to show her that he is earnest in his feelings and wants her for the long run.

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### **IrishAmber says**

#### **Sweet and easy**

This is a quick read. I enjoy these novellas when only having little time to read. Knightley keeps her romance stories clean. Though I'm not opposed to reading scandalously adult scenes. I definitely appreciate a story with a sweet tone as well. This is certainly that. It is very light, and airy, no action, or terrible evil to overcome, just nice and easy eventual romance.

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### **Thenia says**

[Libby's uncle who set out to ruin Philip's brother to make him marry his niece, gets exactly what he wanted by a weird

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### **Layla says**

Like all the other Novelas by @ErinKnightley it was a light and nice read :) Enjoyed it and I recommend it for beginners in historical romance or lovers of that genre looking for a light, quick but still nice read !

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### **Susan Gorman says**

Review to follow

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### **Britney (BookDrunkSloth) says**

Another adorable short story from Erin Knightley. We are taken to somewhere a little more exotic... SPAIN!!

Libby is a very fun and happy person who mostly just seems to enjoy life. She does have some sad points in her life, but I love how it doesn't take her personality away. She is also multilingual.

Phillip is a Duke on a mission to help his younger brother escape the bad life he is leading. So he decides to take his brother to Spain, away from all of the bad influences. While there, he plans to hide his status to get a breather from it.

Libby helps interpret for the brothers, and then the two traveling parties site-see together. It's very cute.

I think this would have been a little better as a full length novel. It just seemed slightly rushed. All in all though, it was nothing surprising from Erin Knightley, who seems to continually put out hits.

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### **Pat says**

Another author whose writings I have only recently discovered and I am happy to have the rest to look forward to. Exactly the kind of romance I can thoroughly enjoy, being a thoroughly well-written Regency without over-the-top sex scenes.

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### **Phoenix77 says**

This was a very cute romance; however I think the novella format was too small for the emotions to shine through. Phillip and Libby were cute characters and I enjoyed watching them interact outside of all the pressures of London society or their family responsibilities. Unfortunately their courtship was relegated to a meeting scene, a few chapters of a chaperoned excursion into the city, then a couple of sentences mentioning they had been spending a few hours together for the next two weeks. Considering the set-up for the story is the aloof duke finding the one woman he could be himself around I really wanted **more** of that time with them together.

The side story of Phillip rebuilding a relationship with his brother also suffered since we only see them at odds and then everything is fixed in one tender heart-to-heart. We also didn't get to hear too much about all the disappointments Libby experienced during her season or why she felt such an outsider within her own family. There was so much great material given in the initial scenes of the story that when the end came so quickly I was disappointed.

I did like how this ties into the other novellas in the series and it was nice to see or hear about the previous couples. I love Erin Knightley's books and I feel this story could have been better served as a full length so we could see the love blossoming rather than just knowing it was there.

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### **Becca says**

Erin Knightley is a go-to author for me for light, sweet stories. I have enjoyed the novellas she writes because they are a nice, quick escape.

While typically when I open a novella, I am not bothered by more limited character development and less

angst, this story suffered greatly because it was short.

Knightley sets up a lot of backstory at the beginning and then it is never resolved or was all patched up in a single scene. I like when there is less angst in a story, but in this case, it was highly unrealistic and dimmed my enjoyment significantly enough that the star rating was affected.

Now, despite the lack of wrap-up of backstory in the secondary characters, I thought the romance between Libby and Philip was lovely and complete. I could tell why they wanted to be together, see how they complemented one other, and would ultimately build a nice life together. It was fun seeing them explore Spain's culture as well as learn more about each other. Just go in expecting to have some loose ends and just read it to enjoy the sweet romance that develops.

This was not my favorite of the trilogy because I was left with too many questions, but Knightley does have some beautiful turns of phrase and sweet romantic pairings that keep me coming back for more. This was not her best, and there were even a few typos, but I can still tell that she is an up and coming author and I will be reading more of her books.

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