



The Duke's Cinderella Bride

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Brooding Hawk St. Claire, Duke of Stourbridge, believes Jane Smith to be a mere servant girl--albeit a remarkably attractive one! So when genteel Miss Jane is wrongly turned out of her home for inappropriate behavior following their encounter, the duke takes her in as his ward.

Although Hawk is the first man to make Jane's pulse race, she knows she cannot risk falling for his devastating charm. A marriage between them would be forbidden--especially if he were to discover the shameful truth about her....

The Duke's Cinderella Bride Details

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From Reader Review The Duke's Cinderella Bride for online ebook

Karla says

How to write a Carole Mortimer category historical:

BASICS:

1 bipolar alpha hero, rake tenderized to slightly less alphole

1 put-upon heroine, fluttering virgin variety

1 historical era that will only be referred to by liberal use of one word, such as "ton." This substitutes for what is known as "research."

1 plot that begins early and wraps up late, with nothing in between

FILLING:

Pick one of the following:

rasped

grated

bit out

drawled

encouraged

whispered

snarled

sighed

murmured

Also choose one of the following:

frowningly

acknowledgingly

abruptly

harshly

hardly (when you have overused "harshly")

disconcertingly

contentedly

assuredly

breathlessly

snappily

stonily

mockingly

amusedly

ad nauseatingly

Flog a thesaurus for adjectives to taste.

TO MIX:

Repeat combinations in every paragraph, multiple times if word count demands it. Achieve a kind of maddening cadence in the reader's brain so that soon they can't concentrate on what little plot there is and instead are beaten down by the overwhelmingly relentless (Yes, that was done deliberately. And that, too.) orgy of adverbs and pedantic prose. Bake for 280 pages. Do not watch it cook, otherwise it will seem like

years.

All snark aside, this book was a colossal bore and epic fail as romance, Regency genre, AND good writing. I know the author is prolific (though I have never read any of her contemporaries), and perhaps the pedestrian and sloppy prose is a result of such high output, but it is very depressing to think that some good manuscripts were rejected by Harlequin and Mortimer's dabble in the historical genre was automatically accepted because of her "house author" status. She has more stories planned for this family. Oh yay. I'll pass.

ETA: Thanks to my sister for sending me this link. Looks like Carole Mortimer is part of a grand tradition of bad writing. And Sis also did a crackerjack (and time-consuming) job of noting Mortimer's execrable style in this review.

Olivia Emerton says

Not sure if it was just my paperback copy, but had noticed a lot of grammar and typos. Mulberry Hall became Mulberry Park, Mulberry Mall twice (yep Mall), back to Hall. Wide instead of wife, and some sentences just didn't make sense - which in turn hurt my brain a little. Haha.

Really wanted to like the book, though felt Jane's attitude and being rather outspoken for a young woman growing up without title appeared to be too outspoken for a woman of her "class". Speaking down to a Duke for example.

Felt the ending was a bit of an anticlimax, guess I've been too spoilt for choice?

Wanted to like the book more than I did, am sorry can only give you two stars. ?

Debbie DiFiore says

Cinderella story

I loved this book. The Duke was quite the hero and I loved Jane. Her Aunt was horrible and I wished I would have seen her get her just desserts. I wanted to see her suffer. She was evil and treated Jane like a slave for 12 long years. She stood up to the Duke and was very strong willed. I definitely can't wait to read more about the St Claire family. Safe and wonderful!

Melinda says

Was ok. Typical of the genre. Didn't like the hero much. Didn't love the writing much. Heroine was ok, but not my favourite.

Ana says

– I truly struggled with scoring these two titles. They were so deliciously bad that I teetered back and forth between a 1 and the Keeper Shelf. In reading thousands of romances over the years, I've never read such laughable prose with the exception of *The Italian's Rags-to-Riches Wife* by Julia James. Both are Harlequin titles and the overuse of exclamation points just makes my internal editor shriek in pain. There are over 100 of the little beasties just waiting to pop out and steal your breath.

So why did I think about putting these titles on the Keeper Shelf? Because the author makes up her own WORDS. Yes, snig-lets via Carole Mortimer. For example:

'Lord Tillton?' Jane gasped at his accusation. 'I detest Lord Tillton! He behaved most disgracefully towards me during dinner—to such a degree that in the end I had to pierce his wrist with my fingernails in order to stop his pawing of me beneath the table. Besides which, he is a married man!' she added frowningly.

Hawk's mouth twisted scathingly. 'Summer house parties like this one are notorious for the night-time assignations of people who are indeed married—but not to each other.'

I mean, can you get any better than this? And she stacks them one after another - the overuse of adverbs is hysterical. I found myself greedily turning the pages to gorge myself on paragraph after paragraph of sloppy prose and hilarious:

'They obviously no longer offer such refuge,' he pointed out coldly, unpityingly. 'I will bid you good-night, Miss Smith.' He turned away, and this time he did not look back, did not hesitate as he strode purposefully back to Markham Park.

I'm surprised he didn't trip over piles of commas and exclamation points on his way out.

These books are painfully, deliciously, awfully bad and I loved every word. ~ Ana, www.ireadromance.com

Melanie♥ says

Review of audiobook: I usually like Carole Mortimer's Harlequin Presents titles, so was looking forward to her foray into historicals. Very disappointed. I even sped up the audio play as fast as possible to get through it. I guess that is audio skimming. Not nearly enough accuracy for the period for this reader of Georgette Heyer, Lisa Kleypas, etc. Dull conversations, bland characters and no angst. Sad face.

Mnms says

A very sweet and charming story

Maria says

Ειλικριν? ε?ξαιρετικ?. Μου ?ρεσε π?ρα πολ? και θεωρ? πως επιβεβαι?νει την ?ποψ? που ?χω σχηματ?σει για τη Mortimer. Ε?ναι συγγραφ?ας βιβλ?ων εποχ?ς και ?χι σ?γχρονης λογοτεχν?ας. Θα ?θελα περισσ?τερες και εντον?τερες ερωτικ?ς σκην?ς, ?μως για τη Mortimer παραμ?νει υπ?ρβαση και β?βαια ?χει γραφτε? και κ?ποια χρ?νια νωρ?τερα. ?μως οι δ?ο πρωταγωνιστ?ς ?χουν απ?στευτο ενδιαφ?ρον και θεωρ? ?τι υπερκαλ?πτουν την ?λλειψη που ?νιωσα.

Harlequin Historical says

#1 of 4 in the Notorious St Claires

Hawk St. Claire may be the head of the family but his siblings do not listen very well. Therefore he is forced to go to a house party by himself after accepting an invitation with the hopes of his brother hooking up with the daughter of a man he respects. Once there though he discovers the chit is not fit to be his brother's wife, wouldn't wish her on his worst enemy actually. But while there, Jane Smith, someone he believes to be a servant girl, must leave. She sneaks onto one of his carriages with the hopes of not being discovered until they reach London where she will find a new home. Once discovered, it comes out that she is actually a poor relation turned out from her home due to inappropriate behavior with him. To protect her reputation, he takes her to his home and tells them she is his ward until he can figure out what to do with her. Attraction is there but Jane knows she must not give into it because her shameful secret. He is the first man that ever made her feel like this. She can never have him though, not with her shameful secrets.

Excellent beginning to a new series. I can't wait for the next one!

Sabrina (Soter) Sally says

«Vi amavo quando indossavate quell'orrendo abito giallo. Vi amavo pi? tardi, quella sera, mentre, tra le dune, il vento vi scompigliava i capelli e la luna si rifletteva nei vostri occhi. Ho amato tutto di voi, fin dalla prima volta che vi ho vista.»

Jane vive con l'odiosa Lady Sulby e la sua famiglia fin da ragazzina, dopo la morte dell'amato padre; durante un ricevimento incontra l'affascinante Duca Hawk che resta subito colpito dalla sua schiettezza e dalla sua bellezza. Quando Jane viene cacciata di casa finisce per essere sua ospite, ma la scoperta che suo padre non ? l'uomo che l'ha cresciuta la pone davanti ad una difficile ricerca ostacolata dai sentimenti che ormai prova per Hawk. Inutile dirlo, il vero padre di Jane NON ? un contadino ed ? abbastanza intuibile fin dalla sua prima comparsa XD Hawk ? il classico duca, un p? arrogante mentre Jane ? una vera bisbetica sempre pronta a litigare con lui fraintendendo ogni suo gesto ed ogni sua parola... lui la chiama vivacit? di spirito a me sembra antipatica e basta XD Povero il nostro duca XD

Karen Darling says

Good Story. I enjoyed it.

Usiusiusi says

Nice story but a bit too much fighting & reconciling.

The hero is the typical ogre and the woman can speak for herself. So the couple is continuously bickering. It may be nice few times but since I was half through the book it got on my nerves. At one page they are fighting and on the next everything was a big mistake and they kiss. Not very believable.

Average romance.

Ivy H says

The heroine in this novel was treated worse than Cinderella. And her aunt and spoilt female cousin were caricature type of bitches. They were so obviously jealous of the heroine's beauty (apparently the heroine looked just like her dead mother and the aunt was crazily obsessed with hating the heroine's mother). In the aunt's eyes, a woman's gotta be plump and blonde to be beautiful. The H however, prefers sexy slim redheads and that was unfortunate for the cousin because the wicked aunt was hoping to match make and marry her horrible daughter into the family of a Duke. The beginning was full of the stereotypical type of situations one would expect from a Cinderella-esque novel but things got really sweet and sexy after the heroine was kicked out of her home by the aunt.

It took the hero the usual period of brooding and denial, but he eventually came to realize that he couldn't live without the heroine, but the bitchy fat aunt had to try and cause trouble one last time by accusing the heroine of theft. Everything worked out in the end, as it is supposed to in romance novels. The H was truly a splendid creation. Carole Mortimer almost outdid herself when she crafted this sexy guy so why only 3 stars ? It was enjoyable but not really worthy of more than 3 stars. I've read other romance novels that covered the Cinderella theme in a better manner.

Vintage says

A cute but tad paint-by-the-numbers Regency Cinderella, foundling story.

The H and h meet at a house party where she is the drudge relative of a shallow, spiteful woman and her equally awful daughter. Because she is so much more attractive and downtrodden than dear daughter she's kicked out of the house.

She basically lifts a ride from the Duke and ends up as his quaisi-ward/companion to his sister. A family backstory is resolved as the Duke and the heroine *fight their feelings*. Quite improper behavior ensues.

I'm giving this a low 3 rating as some of the dialogue between the H and h was just a little too arch and cutesy for me. Mortimer tried just a tad too hard, but overall enjoyable.

I would have given this a hard 3 if the comeuppance for the evil woman had been on page rather than off although hurray for the Duke who hunts the evil monster down to have it out with her even if we don't get to

read it.

Carrie Olguin says

Sensual not heavily erotic (no profanity) - what I prefer since I listen to stories via Kindle text-to-speech (better than radio or TV) while I do my work and household chores. I want to be entertained, not aroused, while I vacuum, dust, fold clothes, etc. Ha! Ha!

There are the frustrations of "misunderstandings" and a heroine too stubborn/naive for her own good near the end. The hero is stereotypical of a stoic man on the outside and confused anger on the inside. But the story is fast paced and entertaining, a pleasant light read (not pages and pages of internal conflict as the characters try to convince the reader of their irrational motives for being stupid).

Not a story I will remember in a few months time.
