



The Irish Duke

Virginia Henley

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A sweeping historical romance from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Decadent Duke*.

Lady Louisa scoffed when Lord Abercorn of Ireland first asked for her hand. She will be the mistress of her own destiny and no man can change that. As the greatest young beauty in all of England, she is pursued by every titled bachelor in the land, and refuses everyone, including the Irish lord. But a family scandal soon throws Louisa reluctantly into his arms, bringing consequences she never expected.

The Irish Duke Details

Date : Published March 2nd 2010 by Signet (first published 2009)

ISBN : 9780451229205

Author : Virginia Henley

Format : Paperback 416 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Audiobook

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From Reader Review The Irish Duke for online ebook

Julia says

I wanted to champion Lady Lou, hoping throughout the book that she would grow more outward courage, but towards the end of the book I just wanted to smack her across the head. Her character was both endearing and infuriatingly immature. The one good thing is that the characters in the book are based on actual historical figures who are related to the Princes William and Harry, and they were interesting enough for me to do some digging through archived records. I chanced upon this as an audiobook from a digital library download, which I think made the book more tolerable than if I had actually read this in print.

Tweetatweet says

Enjoyed it. Virginia Henley is a favorite of mine. I just wanted to say that I'm a woman and I even got blue balls waiting for Louisa to let James consummate their marriage. Dang

Elizabeth Kuetemeyer says

This is my first Virginia Henly book I have read. Wonderful romantic novel, quick enjoyable read about an English Duke's daughter whom is strong willed and full of life. I absolutely love her will of who she wants to become, which does not follow the marriage laws of the 1800's of betrothal. I love her devotion to her family. I love the chase that Lord Abercorn has to go through to even get Lady Louisa's attention. What a great romantic read! Looking forward to reading "The Decadent Duke" read some reviews not rated to well, but I'm also not a familiar reader of Virginia Henly yet so I'm sure I won't be as biased on my review:)

Cindy Hughes says

Very hard to follow with all the names in the book. felt like it was very slow moving. I was so caught up in trying to remember how the characters were related that It was hard to follow.

Elis Madison says

This follows The Decadent Duke; it's the story of Georgiana's daughter Louisa.

The drama (?) here is that , at 3 years old "Lady Lu" witnessed her mother's miscarriage, and it gave her a horror of marriage and children. Which is just too bad, because when he met her at age 9 (she was 7), James Hamilton (eventually to become the titular Irish Duke), proposes marriage...

Years later, the answer still hasn't changed.

Meanwhile, Lu's sister Georgiana (yeah, another "George" name) is the town bicycle, if you get my drift. And their interfering mama, who seems to have turned a bit gormless between the last book and this, jumps to some obtuse conclusions, and voila! Like it or not, Lu's a married woman. One whose husband, when she has a quite reasonable misunderstanding, thinks it's a great idea to lock her in her room until she "begs his pardon."

Until he does this, I thought he was a really nice guy.

From the credits it sounds like Henley did a considerable amount of research, and I don't know much of the real story, so I won't guess what parts of the book are taken from letters, journals and other sources, and what parts are totally out of her...uh, hat.

This one isn't the most exciting story, but it's OK. 2.5.

Unnecessary adverb award: *"She pretends her farts smell of roses," Mary said vulgarly.* (cuz we'd never know that was vulgar if the author hadn't told us).

Elaine says

It was ok. Not good enough to have me searching for the rest of the books or any others by this author.

Claire Robyns says

What I love about Virginia Henley is the seamless way in which she embeds her characters into real life history. The Irish Duke is set mainly in the Georgian era with glimpses into the lives of all those decadent dukes and duchesses :)

James Hamilton proposes to Louisa at the age of 9, and he never changes his mind about wanting to marry her. This is one of the constants throughout this book that was really refreshing ~ no matter what she says about him, no matter what she does, even when he is forced to marry her because of scandal in which he is wrongly accused ~ he continually forgives her throughout. This is one of my fav heroes, a man who is so incredibly strong (and handsome) and who can gently understand, forgive and always love.

Louisa is vivacious and fascinated by James from early on, her rejections come from a fear of marriage rather than not loving James.

Another enticing read

Nadine Jones says

REALLY lame. This is everything that is WRONG with the romance genre. THIS is why I'm embarrassed to admit that I like romance novels. Why is this book so popular? Why are there five other holds on it at the library? Who ARE these people that think this is good reading?

One of the more egregious words found in this book: "titties." Used TWICE. And it was not tongue-in-cheek, or "colorful" dialogue... Does anyone over 12 REALLY use that word seriously?

Julie says

Another wonderful Virginia Henley romance! THE IRISH DUKE is a fast-paced, adventurous, battle-of-the-sexes romance! The heroine, although capable of being a thoroughly stubborn twit, provides enough fire to keep the romance burning chapter after chapter. The hero isn't just your typically rugged, handsome, wealthy, regency male, but a devoutly, determined and faithful pursuer of one woman. It is his faith and constancy that really stands out and makes him so utterly lovable. The many battles between the hero and heroine are so entertaining, even when so tragic. Their relations represent misunderstanding at its worst and at its best! Henley just has a way of making the characters leap off the page. Her characters are always the unforgettable variety. Her romances are always history rich as well, and this one is no different. THE IRISH DUKE is the next volume to be added to "My Favorites" shelf! :-)

Cat says

a good read....I enjoyed it this raining afternoon

Regan Walker says

Delightful Late Regency/Victorian Romance

Ever since James Hamilton, the Irish Marquis of Abercorn was 9 and Lady Louisa, the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, was 7, James has wanted to marry her. She turned him down then (1819), and now that she is 19 and on the marriage block (1830), nothing has changed. Lady Louisa dreams of a life as a dancer, a life she can never have as a duke's daughter, but in no event does she want to wed. Still, her beauty and her virtue attract all the ton's would be suitors. But James is not worried. What he wants, he gets.

Meanwhile the beautiful virtuous Louisa has a sister, Georgy, who is quite the opposite: a selfish, whiny tart, she is plain and promiscuous. Georgy manages, unsurprisingly, to get pregnant, and the ever-protective Louisa allows their mother to think the miscarriage is Louisa's. (I wanted to slap Georgy for saying nothing, and slap Louisa for taking a fall she did not need to take—it was only their mother involved after all!) Their mother the duchess assumes, of course, that James is the father of the miscarried child and forces a marriage to Louisa—all the while Georgy and Louisa say nothing (which was out of character for Louisa not to think of a way out of it). James now believes Louisa is not the virtuous woman he thought she was and their relationship quickly deteriorates. (I must say, that whole scenario was very hard to believe.)

Henley used both real life and fictional characters in this period story. The cast was so large I sometimes found it difficult to hold them all in my head (especially since some have the same name which Henley could hardly avoid since they are real persons). The facts roll out furiously and one has to have a good memory to remember them all. Still, the story held my interest and, though I hated the contrived misunderstanding, I wanted to hang in there to see how it ended. I loved that this was a fictional account of the love between two historical people who were married for over 50 years.

It's quite different from Henley's more serious historical romances (each of which I've rated 5 stars), but if you like lighter Regency era fare, you will enjoy it.

This is part of Henley's Peers of the Realm Series:

THE DECADENT DUKE (2008) – Romantic Times' British Isle-Set Romance Nominee

THE IRISH DUKE (2010) – Romantic Times' Historical Fiction Nominee

THE DARK EARL (2011) – Romantic Times' British Isle-Set Romance Nominee

LORD RAKEHELL (2013)

Loretta says

Fire and passion that warms the heart. This story made my heart smile and I only hope that when I am well into my dotage that I can reminisce of such sweet memories with my grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Linda Harkins says

I don't read romance novels, but needed an audiobook when I saw this. Set in the early Victorian era, this is the story of Louisa Russell, second eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford, and James Hamilton, heir to the Abercorn dynasty in Ireland. When scandal occurs in her family, Louisa is rushed into marriage with the Duke of Abercorn who had actually proposed to her when she was only seven years old. It was easy to guess that all obstacles would be overcome and that Louisa and James would fall in love and have a large family. I must admit that I did listen to the entire book.

Tina says

Took me 2 weeks to get through HALF of this book. She's known for her fierce, bawdy, strong heroines. Not here though, unfortunately.

I have no idea why she decided to create a heroine so unlike her other books. In this story, the heroine is a spoiled, whiny, stupidly naive, prude who will drive you crazy from... boredom. Moreover, the hero makes it all the worst by having no passion what so ever... Combine these 2 elements and you get a very dull romance...

I'm a bit of a romantic, I truly believe in love at first sight and all that, however, in this book, I say BS... Didn't believe it at all. Perhaps this is why I just couldn't get into this story.

My least fav from this very talented author.

Annah says

I was relatively impressed with The Irish Duke. It had its own twists and turns different from a lot of other generic historical romances. My favorite part was actually when Lu allowed her mother, and then James to believe it was her that had a miscarriage and not her selfish sister Georgy. Obviously I didn't like Georgy much. She was incredibly selfish, rude, and quite the whore. I was a little surprised at how much of a tart she was considering the year. Lu was kind of like that too even though she acted very naive at first, it didn't take her long to get over it. I liked the history and the way it was written with the characters. I didn't feel like I was getting a history lesson but I learned a lot. I was shocked when the story was almost over and Kitty Kelly waltzed in. She was rather cruel for no reason and I still wonder why. I didn't love or hate James. There wasn't anything about him that really stood out to me. I absolutely loved the family unity of the Russells. All in all this wasn't one of my favorites by Virginia Henley but I did enjoy it.
