



# Trapped at the Altar

*Jane Feather*

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**Trapped at the Altar** Jane Feather

*New York Times* bestselling author **Jane Feather** introduces a sizzling new series that moves from the remote wilds of southwest England to the turbulent royal court, when a lovely young woman is forced into marriage to unite two families—and discovers a most unexpected desire...

Headstrong Ariadne Daunt is convinced she loves handsome Gabriel Fawcett, but her grandfather has other plans for her. He decrees that she marry Ivor Chalfont, thus forging a powerful alliance between the two warring families who share ownership of their valley. Given no time to plot an escape, Ari finds herself standing reluctantly at the altar, swearing to honor and obey a man who is not her choice.

Ivor has treasured Ari as a friend ever since he was brought to the valley as a child, but now he feels a man's desires. He longs to take the beautiful young woman to his bed and make their marriage more than an empty vow. Ari may believe she loves another man, but Ivor believes otherwise—and he will not rest until he gains her heart, her trust . . . and her passion.

## Trapped at the Altar Details

Date : Published July 22nd 2014 by Pocket Books

ISBN : 9781476703640

Author : Jane Feather

Format : Mass Market Paperback 388 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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# From Reader Review Trapped at the Altar for online ebook

## Dottie says

An intriguing tale for lovers of historical romance! Taken from my review at [RomanceJunkies.com](http://RomanceJunkies.com):

Ariadne ‘Ari’ Fairfax, a relative of the Daunt family, is in love with poet Gabriel Fawcett, but she has been betrothed to her childhood friend, Ivor, since they were quite young. This union is intended to unite the warring family. With her grandfather’s death, the elders ensure that the wedding takes place immediately; giving Ari little chance to protest and leaving her brokenhearted. Sending Gabriel off to protect him from her vengeful family, she makes plans to escape her husband and reunite with her lover in London, where the newlyweds are expected to rehabilitate the Daunt and Chalfant family names, returning them to their once noble status. But as they prepare for travel, Ari begins to see her husband as more than a friend.

At the age of six, Ivor Chalfant was sent to live with the Daunts. He felt out of place until one little girl, Ari, took him in hand. He has no qualms about marrying Ari, despite her proclaimed love for another man. In fact, he stands to gain much from the marriage, including a wife he loves. He and Ari have always enjoyed a solid friendship, but now he wants nothing more than to take her to his bed. Despite her claims of love for another man, Ivor does not believe it and will do whatever he has to in order to win her heart as well as her passion.

Even while feeling disloyal to Gabriel, Ari cannot help giving into the physical attraction between her and Ivor. The two men in her life could not be more different – Gabriel is a shy poet while Ivor, like the men in her clan, exudes raw power. After being around her relatives, the Daunts, she enjoys the quiet comfort of being around Gabriel, but she cannot deny the powerful chemistry she has with Ivor. Just as she finds herself falling in love with her husband, Gabriel makes his presence known in London, determined to win her back. Will Gabriel’s presence destroy the trust being built between Ari and Ivor? Which man will she choose?

An intriguing tale, *TRAPPED AT THE ALTAR*, the first book in a new series by bestselling author Jane Feather, is a passionate, historical romance that closely examines the matter of trust as Ari is torn between her husband and her lover. This story is set during the Monmouth Rebellion, a time when family fortunes could be won or lost over religion. Ari is Catholic and Ivor is Protestant. With the queen being a Catholic and the king publicly portrayed as a Protestant while secretly attending mass; it will take some tricky maneuvering for the newlyweds to complete their mission successfully. Will Gabriel’s presence in London destroy any progress they have made?

I could not help rooting for Ivor since Gabriel came across to me as a milquetoast. Still the story will have you guessing, even as the choice becomes more and more apparent. The big factor may come down to the trust between husband and wife, as Ivor’s trust in Ari is tested time and again. I enjoyed reading *TRAPPED AT THE ALTAR* and recommend it to lovers of historical romance.

Dottie, [RomanceJunkies.com](http://RomanceJunkies.com)

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## Ang says

Well...it ended. Really? Not positive, but thought so. Kept looking for an epilogue? Maybe my review copy dropped it somehow?

The story of Ivor Chalfont and Ariadne Daunt is an interesting one given that their families are rivals but through an old agreement, the Chalfont's agree to hand over their young son, Ivor, so he can be betrothed to Ariadne and unite their families and regain their standing with the King who banished them, I guess, to the West Country where the Daunt's have been existing by smuggling and exhorting riches from others. Many questions occur with this premise - why are the families using their kids and waiting 20 years to do this? Doesn't this seem like a thin plan given the families haven't exactly been upstanding citizens? This would have been nice to know, but no detail given.

The book mainly revolves around the conflict between Ivor and Ariadne who have grown up together as best friends with this knowledge that they are to be married someday, although Ariadne seems to have had memory loss on this point. She falls in love with a boy who doesn't live in the valley, in other words, not of their kind, and feels she can never love another. However, she is forced to marry Ivor (hence the title) and start on the quest that takes them to the King's court in London. We navigate through the rough patches that Ivor and Ariadne face regarding the consummation of their marriage and sexual frustration while Gabriel plans to be in London to get Ariadne back.

The attraction between Ariadne and Ivor is a good one and I was rooting for Ivor to hang in there and be patient with Ariadne, that she'll come around. The sex scenes were only a long paragraph, where I prefer a bit more lead up to, during, and after description, or at least several scenes which there were a few.

It is when they are in London, that things start to come together regarding the love triangle between Ivor, Ariadne and Gabriel, in addition to Ivor and Ariadne beginning their family mission and make inroads in achieving their goal of getting invited to court. Yet, the only conclusion given is the resolution of the love triangle and happily ever after for Ivor and Ariadne. It is glaringly obvious that there is more to know regarding the family mission, yet there is no mention of it at all. I was shocked to find that my book ended - 100% done really?

I guess I will never know if they were successful in their mission, if their families' standing was restored, or if they had children. It seems odd to have a sequel as the ending here wasn't set up that way and an epilogue chapter would probably do. It's too bad it had to end hanging like that, as I have to give it 2 stars and while not quite a 4 star book, I would have given it a fair, in the middle, rating.

Digital Review Copy provided by NetGalley.

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## Giovanni says

*\*ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

So, I have to be honest, right? This one is not my cuppa for romance. Trapped at the Altar is def not my idea for romance. Well, yes, it's romance, but between the wrong couple.

Ariadne and Ivor's family had an agreement since they're baby that eventually they'd be married. Unfortunately, Ariadne fell in love with Gabriel, the OM (I'd say the hero).

Now, I don't have a problem if the heroine's not a virgin. She obviously loved this Gabriel so much, that's what bother me because for me, the hero Ivor was the *third wheel*. He's the one that ruined their relationship and being selfish about it. That's one.

Second, the author may consider who's the hero. She gives a pretty passionate POV from Gabriel that I had to remind my self he's NOT the hero. The problem was, once I remember Gabriel wasn't the hero, I came into a description like this,

*She could still feel his presence upon her, imprinted on her skin; her body still retained the memory of him, the hard length of him inside her.*

Once you make the description like that about the OM, you lost me.

But that's not my mainly concern. Right at first I dislike the heroine. She took her liberty too much. And Ivor wasn't really my alpha hero. I mean, he's okay with her meeting with OM? Suddenly, he felt jealousy *after* he let her met the OM for hours? Not so believable for me. And that ruined the rest of the story. Couldn't get that off my mind.

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## **MBR says**

Trapped at the Altar by Jane Feather is her debut novel in the Trapped series which turns out to be my very first experience of her writing as well. The premise of this story was an interesting one. Ivor Chalfont and Ariadne Daunt had grown up together, childhood friends, their entwined fate as husband and wife decided when they were merely children. When the time of reckoning had come, Ariadne had been in love with another, so totally not ready to give herself up to Ivor who seemed perfectly at home with what is expected of him.

What could have turned out to be a delicious read somehow headed astray right from the very beginning. Jane Feather's writing style is not one that is difficult to follow. But turns out, I had a problem with connecting to either Ivor or Ariadne. There were moments in the story where I thought I might be able to fall in love with Ivor which turned out to be a couple of false alarms. If you ask me, Ivor was the lesser of the two evils where the two protagonists of the story are concerned.

Ariadne was in love with another man which was fine by me. She was reluctant to enter into a forced marriage which was yet again fine by me. And Ariadne giving up her virginity to the man she had supposedly been in love with was also fine with me. What I wasn't fine with was the deception she lived under up till everything just pretty much exploded in her face. I felt that Ariadne was just a little bit too spoiled and selfish, and I guess rightfully so when she herself admitted to the fact towards the end of the story. Ariadne has this habit of thinking of just herself and though there forges this connection between Ivor and herself as man and wife, she has a hard time putting her trust in him and letting him know how she feels about certain things related to their marriage.

Ivor was the character I felt that could have turned the story around for the better. Ivor had everything going for him which Ariadne's lover did not. He had the body, the charm and the sexual knowledge to seduce his wife into loving him and I don't believe that Ivor lived up to his potential in that aspect. There is this aloofness about him or I should say a stiffness about him that seems almost unyielding. For two people who had known each other and practically grown up together as confidantes and best of friends, I had a hard time envisioning that connection between them. There were scenes where that connection seemed to materialize and then something would happen and it just went poof in the air. Somehow, I wanted more from both Ivor and Ariadne and I never got that.

The whole aspect of Ivor and Ariadne's forced nuptials is based on both Ivor and Ariadne's family getting their reputation back at the King's court. There was an uninteresting storyline about Catholics and Protestants which I couldn't get into and towards the end, a vague sense of unfinished business that lingered on regarding this particular storyline even when the book ended. I believe that the next couple of books in the series would follow that line of story to the end? But frankly I would have to say that I am just not that interested enough to find out more.

Recommended, if you are a fan of Jane Feather.

**Rating = 2/5**

For more reviews & quotes, visit [www.maldivianbookreviewer.com](http://www.maldivianbookreviewer.com)

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## **Brooke says**

I received this ARC via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

The gist: Ari is the heiress of a lawless band of pirates and raiders. Ivor was essentially sold to her family as a young boy in an effort to strengthen the ties between their families. They were brother as children and when Ari's grandfather died, they were forced to wed and leave for London in an effort to reclaim her family's position within the King's court. The problem with all of this is that Ari has fallen in love with a young poet and she doesn't want to marry Ivor. She makes plans to meet her poet in London and run away with him. On the long journey to London, however, Ari and Ivor grow closer than ever and Ari's heart becomes conflicted.

Ari is a strong, fiercely independent, warrior of a young woman. She comes from a family of lawless heathens, basically, and she's been raised to be a fighter. Her poet is so different from anyone in her clan and he makes her realize her feminine side. Ivor is her closest friend and confidant and he has been since they were young children. He's sort of been like a brother to her so she's hesitant about marrying to him and having a physical relationship with him. But she's been exposed to feminine feelings since she met her poet and it doesn't take long before she sees Ivor in a romantic light. Then she's conflicted because she doesn't want to hurt him, but she knows she has to end things with the poet and it'd hurt Ivor to know she seems to speak to the poet even if only to end their association. She's conflicted about it because in an effort to protect Ivor from hurt, she keeps secrets from him. I think that's probably a common conflict with anyone in a relationship. You strive to be honest with your spouse, but you also don't want to hurt them and if you can take care of something yourself without causing your spouse undue pain, you might be conflicted about keeping secrets from your spouse, even if you truly feel like it's only to protect them. I felt for her, for her conflict and her confusion about her changing feelings. She also dealt with feelings of whether or not she was flighty

because she truly felt she was in love with her poet, but then when she starts to realize she's falling for Ivor, she feels unfaithful and wishy washy and like a flake. How could her feelings change so swiftly? I think that's something many people deal with when they meet the person they're suppose to be with, but they've THOUGHT they loved a previous paramour(s). I REALLY liked Ari.

Ivor was pretty much the perfect hero. He loves Ari deeply. She's been his best friend, really his ONLY friend, in a hostile clan that he was essentially sold to as a very young child. He knew love with his parents before they gave him away to Ari's fierce clan and Ari was really the only person who showed him affection in his new setting. And she's pretty much the only one who has shown him affection his whole life since. He hasn't been beaten or treated as a slave or anything, but he definitely hasn't been completely accepted into the clan either. He knows Ari hasn't been totally honest with him because she's been his companion nearly his whole life and it kills him that she's hiding something from him. It was bad enough knowing she was in love with another man and that he isn't the only man to have sexual relations with her. I truly felt for Ivor throughout the entire book. He's kind of a hard man, but it's more from necessity than anything else.

The story itself was rather boring. They were attacked once on their journey to London, but otherwise, not much really happened in the book. And it was an awful long book to not have much happen... It was also boring because it gave a lot of history lessons. It's set in the late 17th century when England was very different and almost medieval and that's a lesser known time. It's also not nearly as popular an era for romance novels because women very much took a backseat and were essentially servants to their husbands in every way. Ari was a spitfire like Elizabeth Bennett, about 150 years before opinionated women were slightly more tolerated. There was quite a bit of history about the Royal Court at the time. Ari and Ivor go to London with the soul purpose of ingratiating themselves in the King's good graces. They do spend time with the King and Queen, but the story kind of fizzles and doesn't tell ya whether they really succeed in their mission of reinstating Ari's family name. The King is atrocious (as many Kings were...) and he brazenly kept his two mistresses in the palace and his wife was expected to be friendly with them and whatnot. The King takes a liking to Ari and flirts with her and you're led to believe he might proposition her, but again, nothing really comes out of anything with the King and Queen. It feels like this should be book one in Ari and Ivor's journey, but I'm under the impression is this a complete story from beginning to end. It ended VERY abruptly, too. It's not a cliffhanger by any means, but it just ends suddenly. I was left with lots of questions. Maybe I'm just too used to an epilogue, but I was REALLY wanting an epilogue, maybe 1-5 years down the road that would answer my questions about whether they succeeded in their mission and if the King made any advances. Were they able to keep a distance between themselves and the pretentiousness of Court? Did they have kids? What happens with the king and his successor(s) and his health? Health problems are eluded to, but not explained or mentioned again. It was just rather annoying.

The book was SUPER long and somewhat boring, as I've already explained. Had there even been more of a conclusion, I would've given it more stars, even though I was able to put it down and walk away from it without jonesin' for more. As it is, I can't give it more than 3 stars and those are solely because I REALLY liked Ari and Ivor and their struggles with their new marriage and the shift of their relationship from friends to spouses/partners.

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## Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy

It's been a long time since I read a Jane Feather book I discovered her in the late 80's early 90's and

particularly enjoyed her V series. There was something rich and in depth about her stories. Something different. But as I delved ever deeper into the world of romance Ms. Feather fell by the wayside.

I am certainly glad I took the time to rediscover Ms. Feather as Trapped at the Altar was a nice read. An enjoyable live story with some interesting plot devices. The era alone made it unique. Set in Charles II Restoration era so no recency, Victorian or wild west, in some ways a new frontier.

The Daunte's had been a family of power and position during the reign of Charles I, her grandfather a close intimate. But with the terror that was Cromwell they lost everything. Everything but their desire to survive. For decades now they have grown their wealth and power. They have smuggled, been wreckers and highwaymen. Anything to regain their wealth. But now with Charles II in power it's time to put their plan to regain their place in society in action.

Lady Ariadne Carfax is the person the plan evolves around. From childhood she has been betrothed to a member of the protestant branch of her family. Two sides at war but both wanting to claim their place in the world so both sacrificing a child to do so. Even though she is the Lord's granddaughter and the family's very existence revolves around her she been allowed to run wild in their family's valley her entire life. In some ways she was sheltered as she wasn't allowed to leave and had no clue what the outside world was like. So of course she snuck out as often as she could. On one of those forays she met the sweet, poetic Gabriel Fawcett and fell in love. Totally ignoring her betrothal, she was sure she could talk her grandfather around. That is until he decides it's time for her to wed and pushes up the agenda.

Lord Ivor Chalvont was basically sold to the Daunte branch of the family at the age of six. Taken from his loving home to be raised by the Dyante's a harsh, unyielding group with little respect for the outside world. Fortunately he has always had his best friend Air. But now they are all grown up, to be married and a mission to carry out. Everything would be fine if Air wasn't already in love with her poet.

A wonderful premise... and yet.

The road these two traveled to find each other was a wonderful story. Ivor had to force himself to give Ari the time she needed to realize that they had a good thing. That the friendship they had could blossom into love. Of course the chemistry helps, a lot. But it was a downfall as well did Air love him or their lovemaking?

Ari on the other hand had to really see both Gabriel and Ivor. Had to realize that what she saw in Gabriel was a child's crush on a man who was different from what she was used to. That he was soft and just not the man for her. She also had to open her eyes to what a true and wonderful man Ivor was and time away from her family showed her how truly special he was..

See, still sounds great doesn't it?

\*\*\*\*\*The following questions can be considered spoilers...read at your own discretion. But you have been warned!\*\*\*\*\*

What bothered me was the excess of outside storyline..

What did her uncle have against her? Is there something sinister there or did I just read that into things?  
What is the resolution of their plan? Did the family succeed?  
Does Ivor ever even see his family again?



So many unresolved questions and too much background noise.

These questions bring a likeable story down to a three star just narrowly missing a two. It was too well written for that BUT remains a disappointment for me.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of Trapped at the Altar ,provided by NetGalley and scheduled for release on July 22, 2014

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## Emily says

For Ariande Duant she does not want the agreed upon marriage to childhood friend Ivor Cahalfont, her heart belongs to another. Ivor believes that with time Ariande will come to love him, but Ariande is proving to be irrational when it comes to honoring her grandfathers wishes. Trust is tested and Ivor wants a real marriage with his wife, but will Ariande be willing to give their marriage the opportunity it deserves.

Full review on Single Titles  
<http://singletitles.com/?p=10425>

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## Cruth says

*My copy was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for an honest review.*

**Author:** Jane Feather

**First published:** 2014

**Length:** 4441 locations

**Setting:** Somerset and London, 1684

**Sex:** Frequent (once it gets going) and explicit.

**Heroine:** 20 years old. Has lived an isolated life.

**Hero:** 23yo.

I struggled with this book. On one hand there are some really interesting premises. On the other, Ariadne is a spoilt bitch who does her darndest to get the people around her killed. In the end I just didn't like it and fought (with myself) to keep on reading.

Let me explain.

Interesting things:

- Setting. Somerset and London in 1684, the Stuart period with the Restoration under Charles II and just

before the (brief) reign of James II. An short period that saw a growth in the British Empire, the London metropolis, and increasing anti-Catholic views and rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666. Feather takes advantage of this period novelty by visiting with King Charles II, the Duke of York and Duchess of Portsmouth, among many others.

- Friends to lovers. Typically, to allow that relationship movement and prevent feelings of "incest", authors allow one of the partners to *move away*. On their return they see, low-and-behold, the love of their life has grown up! Not so for Ariadne and Ivor. At the time of their Marriage of Convenience they still see each other as childhood friends. Ariadne even lusts after another. An interesting relationship to tackle in a romance.

Not so interesting:

- I had to go back and check Ari's age. The book opens in 1667, when (we are told) she was 3. We pick back up in 1684. So Ariadne is 20 (or thereabouts) at the time of her marriage. Yet she acts much, much younger. Ari's actions (view spoiler) puts others lives at risk. It puts *her own* life at risk. But she neither cares nor accepts personal responsibility. When her new husband points out she may be *with child* her response is to blame *him*, her uncle, her grandfather for her predicament. I struggle to find any of her good qualities, while Ivor constantly forgives her and gives of himself from a deep well of patience.

- Nothing happens for a very, very long time. 40% in and we're still packing for London. Come on! So very bored. But I persisted because surely it has to get exciting at some stage! (view spoiler)

- The Love Triangle. Gabriel is a milquetoast. Ari is fickle. Ivor is forbearing. There is no conflict or interest. \*sigh\*

- Cheating. Despite being married Ari "cheats" (in her *mind*) with Gabriel and struggles to give her trust to Ivor. (view spoiler)

I'm sorry. I didn't take to this book. I didn't like Ari. I wished Ivor was given the opportunity to choose for himself. It was very slow to build and then failed to give a satisfying climax.

This is not a book I would recommend. Which is annoying because there were some really interesting historical bits.

### **Pimp and it's etymology:**

*"You sound like my pimp," Ari said, only half laughing."* loc.3163

Is it appropriate to use the term in 1668? Apparently, yes. *Pimp* appears in a 1607 play Your Five Gallants by Thomas Middleton where it means to dress seductively (see w'pedia), but also as a procurer (Primero, the pimp, runs a brothel).

### **References:**

Jane Feather on w'pedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane\\_Fea...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Fea...)

(ISBN 978-1-4767-0364-0)

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### **Dianne says**

If you're looking for a bosom heaving historical romance with complete adherence to era dialogue, you may want to look elsewhere. If you are looking to be treated to a glimpse of the 1600's, a taste of the reality of life back then without getting lost in the details, while becoming a witness to two people, betrothed as

children who discover what a marriage truly is and how deep the trust, respect and forgiveness must run to overcome mistakes of the past when a wondrous future is ahead of them.

Ari is almost too contemporary in her thinking, but I realized it was part of her appeal to me. She has made some huge mistakes, selfish mistakes and has realized she not only wants, but needs to atone for them. Ivor has been her closest friend since they were betrothed as children, strong, yet quick to laugh, until their political marriage became a reality and he knew Ari's heart belonged to a much gentler man. Give Ivor a medal for his patience and forward thinking!

**Trapped at the Altar** by Jane Feather is a quick and fairly light romantic read that doesn't overdo the period tones, and really doesn't dig much deeper than the two main characters. I would call this the perfect beach read, myself! There is an atmosphere of sensual tension that vibrates between these two, low, but steady until the flames are fanned and each finally sees the other for who they really are.

Quick, well-paced, not too deep, but, hey, I got to meet the King and Queen at court!

I received an ARC edition from Pocket Books in exchange for my honest review.

Publication Date: July 22, 2014

Publisher: Pocket Books

ISBN: 9781476703640

Genre: Historical Romance|Adults

Print Length: 400 pages

Available from: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

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## **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyrariker says**

3.5 stars (goodreads really does need to make half stars an option)

\*\*\*\*\***Full Review**\*\*\*\*\*

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways."

Ari is a young woman who grew up in a very sheltered valley having her whims catered to. She deems herself in love with Gabriel, a poet living next to her little realm. Her attraction is based on how different he is from the rough and tumble men of her valley. When her grandfather dies, her uncle, who does not hold Ari in the same affection, is left in charge. Ari finds an old betrothal between her and her childhood friend Ivor, is suddenly very much in play.

As the reader, you are not going to like Ari right away. She is young, immature, and spoiled. Ivor, on the other hand, you will find yourself staunchly on his side. He knows about Ari's other lover but is willing to overlook her youthful indiscretions if she embraces her role as his wife after they are married. Ari and Ivor

have a solid friendship, they just need to find a way to incorporate a romantic side to it. Due to what Ivor feels was his childhood abandonment, he has major trust issues and Ari with her brick wall up against Ivor, create a story full of secrets, lies, strife, and growing up.

The pace of 80% of this story is very deliberate, slow moving even. It takes about half way into the book before the real focus is on Ari and Ivor's relationship. The couple is traveling to London to gain influence for their family at court and along the way, Ari finds herself learning to accept and in fact appreciate her fate and marriage, hence the beginning quote I used. The time period is 1600s, during the Catholic and Protestant split and there are some intriguing moments of Ari and Ivor trying to straddle the line but it's not a major player in the book.

This story is about the ins and outs of a working marriage, the building of trust, love, and affection. While I felt the ending rapped up far too quickly when Ari's secrets came to light, Gabriel goes through a character change that feels forced so that, I imagine, readers can look upon Ivor as the true hero, and the time period isn't really felt except through talk of clothing and sometimes speech, the writing is solid and of quality. Even though the heroine is frustrating at times and the pace is, like I said, slow moving, I would still recommend this book, especially for the type of person who enjoys a good chess game.

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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## **Mskychick says**

I got this book from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review. I enjoyed the historical aspect of this book. It is set in the time of Charles II in England. The treatment of the historical facts was somewhat light, but in keeping with what I have come to expect from a Jane Feather book. The anachronisms were not great enough to pull me out of my enjoyment of the story.

This is a friends to lovers trope. Arriane and Ivor were raised together from childhood. Ivor and Ari were betrothed as young children, and Ivor was sent to Ari's family to be raised from the age of 6. They were betrothed to end the long term feud between their two respective families. They were raised with the familial expectations that they would go to court to represent the families' interests. Additionally, given the catholic versus protestant tensions in the country, they were betrothed so that both families could be protected by having one of each religion in the couple, so that there was some protection no matter which way the ruling monarch leaned. The Catholic Daunt family planned this carefully, and while it seemed distasteful to me, is very appropriate for the time period of the story.

Ari feels herself in love with a poet, Gabriel, and has already slept with him multiple times. They were starting to make plans to sneak Ari away to Gabriel's family so the two lovers could remain together. But then Ari's father dies, and this precipitates the very rapid marriage of Ari to Ivor. Duplicitous Ari is trying to plot how she can outwit the elders in her family to end up with Gabriel. Then she tells Gabriel that she can see no way out of marrying Ivor, but she wants to carry on an affair with Gabriel once she's marrying. This headstrong and sly behavior did not endear her to me!

For the most part, Ivor was a more likeable character. We do get more of a sense of how Ivor is manipulated and constrained, and felt sorry for him throughout most of the book. He was reasonably honorable, and trying to do his best with the situation.

“I would settle for your friendship and respect, Ariadne. Whether I can give you the latter will be up to you.”

“I could not bear to lose our friendship, Ivor,” she said softly. “We cannot let this marriage come between us.” For a moment, he looked at her in disbelief, then threw back his head with a shout of laughter. “Oh, Ariadne, only you could say something like that. Marriages are supposed to be unions, they symbolize a joining of minds and bodies, and you see ours as an instrument of division.” He clasped her hand tightly for a moment and leaned towards her. “I will not let this marriage divide us, Ari. Whether you do is entirely up to you.”

He also tried to shield Ari from the consequences of her thoughtless behavior. Ari was spoiled, not in a vicious way, but simply too young-seeming for her years, and without thought to how her behavior would affect others. She has not been asked to act like an adult prior to her marriage, which seemed unusual to me.

“There are watchers everywhere, Ari. While you were under your grandfather’s direct protection, you were safe enough from prying eyes, but no longer.” He shook his head in frustration. “You have to understand that you are no longer a free spirit in this valley, indulged and protected. You are a tool now, a means to an end.” His hands moved to take her shoulders, bringing her body around to face him. “If you will survive here, Ariadne, you will accept the position you are in now. I am in the same position, and together we must weave a path through this quagmire.

I did find it unrealistic that Ivor didn’t care that Ari wasn’t a virgin when they got married. And he did have many episodes of acting like an ass as well. I did not dislike him for the most part, as I did Ari, but I did not fall in love with him, as I like to do with my romance heroes.

There is a long and drawn out buildup to Ivor finding out that Ari has met with Gabriel behind his back. The meetings were innocent, and Ari tells Gabriel that she loves her husband and will not carry on with Gabriel.

Ivor was her partner, her true mate. It was for her to tell Gabriel the truth, to let him down gently but definitely. There could be no misunderstanding. She would not hurt him any more than she could help, but her loyalty was to Ivor.

But of course Ivor finds out about it and is livid. The build up to the supposed betrayal is so heavy handed, I can feel the foreshadowing walloping me over the head! There is also another thoughtless behavior of Ari’s that contributes to Ivor’s anger and sense of betrayal in which I sided with Ivor.

I really enjoyed Jane Feather’s books when I first started reading romance. After reading this book, I went back to my Goodreads shelf and looked at my ratings for the last years of books, and they have been consistently low. I believe that I have been buying her most recent books based upon my initial love of her earlier books. I don’t think I’ll let her trade on her good name in my buying habits much longer, though. Perhaps I’ll look for her next release in my library- I can’t give her up quite yet.

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## **Farrah says**

A mostly enjoyable read, Trapped at the Altar was a good historical romance. I could easily have loved this book, but for one issue. And, unfortunately, that issue ruined the book for me. But, overall, it was an okay read.

Ari...

I didn't like her. At all. I usually appreciate a heroine that is strong and knows her own mind, but, in this case, it made her unlikable. For me, the bad things started to pile up near the beginning, when she wanted to continue on with her lover after she was married. Then, I didn't like that she was mean-spirited to Ivor. Didn't those previous years of friendship mean anything? Then, the switch between loving Gabriel and loving Ivor happened way too quickly, in a way that made her seem shallow. Then, she abused Gabriel's trust, keeping very important things from him, even though she knew his trust was given carefully. And, just in general, she came off as selfish. There's really no sugar-coating it. I didn't like her. I thought both Ivor and Gabriel (who was actually very sweet and adorable) deserved better.

Now, Ivor was much better. I totally adored him. He was very sweet and much more forgiving and patient than most would expect him to be. I thought wonderful.

The romance was okay. Since I didn't like Ari, I wasn't feeling any of the sweetness. But, I will say that the heat level was steamy and that part of their relationship was well done.

The plot was well paced and I was kept interested the entire way through. The thing about this book is that I really liked the writing style and the story itself and most of the character. If it hadn't been for Ari, I probably would have loved this book, so, I would still go for this author.

Trapped at the Altar was a good historical romance. I enjoyed it, though I didn't particularly love it, and it was an overall good read. I don't think I would outright recommend it, but it might be worth looking up.

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

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## **Michelle says**

I struggled with this book. On one hand I enjoyed the historical aspect of this book - the author definitely did her homework. That is why I love reading historical books. On the other, Ari is a spoiled brat who seems to not care that she is getting the people around her killed. And I am not sure who was trapped at the altar - I think it was poor Ivor trapped. At the beginning of the book I liked Ivor and then when the story started with her not wanting to wed him because she was in love with another I thought, WOW am I going to start not liking him and hoping for the true love. Well that never happened. I was on team Ivor all the way. But I do find it hard to believe that in the time period he would be ok with Ari not being a virgin. In the end I just didn't like it and fought to keep on finish it.

\*\*I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\*

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## Linda says

Historical romance set in the 1600's.

3.5 to 4 stars!

Why 3.5 to 4 stars , well because I am still unsure as to whether I like our heroine , Ari Daunt ! Ari is a strong heroine but to me she comes across as selfish several times through the book, granted she grew up in Daunt Valley, sheltered from the outside world, raised by her grandfather after her parents death. Her grandfather being an Earl and in charge of the Daunts ; Ari was left to do as he pleased with no one to answer to but her Grandfather who tended to favor her and give in easily.

What I liked, well was Ari's friend , husband and lover , Ivor Chalfont ! Ivor was brought to Daunt valley at the age of 6 to be raised with the Daunts in preparation for marriage to afar as a means of joining to two arms of a family separated by choice of faith , the daunts being Catholic and out of favor with the Kings politics ,which is what forced the into seclusion to begin with and the Chalfont side of the family Protestant . Ari and Ivor grew up in each others pockets great friends and confidants , so for Ari to share with Ivor her love of an outsider she met in the meadows above the valley Gabriel Fawcett a farmers son and poet was normal . Till everything changed, Ari's grandfather passes away, her uncle takes over and demands that Ivor and Ari marry , and begin the process of getting in the good graces with the king and his court . Ivor 's role has changed , he is being pushed by Ari's uncle and the council to be her guardian and take charge of her; Ari unused to being controlled by anyone pushes the limits with Ivor , never mind the fact that he outright tells him she does not want to marry him, she wants Gabriel , she hurts Ivor because for him since he was six Ari has been his world.

Received this Arc from Netgalley for an honest review!

The very day of her Wedding, of course she did not know her uncle would force her and Ivor to marry at the wake feast of her grandfather , she spends in a tryst with Gabriel and then sends him away for his own safety, but he vows to follow her to London and take her away, Ari does not discourage him.

Ivor is aware or at least suspects that Ari does not come to him as a virgin so he plans at deceiving her uncle and the council , but outright tells Ari they will not consummate the marriage until he is sure that she does not carry Gabriel's child. Throughout the story Ivor goes out of his way to protect and forge some way if marriage with Ari , she unfortunately , lies to him, continues to take decisions into her own hands instead of sharing them with him.

So like I said hard for me to get on board with Ari.

I leave you with the question, can Ivor and Ari come to love one another? Can they bring the family back into the crown's good graces? Will Ari and Gabriel run off together? Will Ari stop lying to Ivor and share her thoughts? The answer to these questions await within. Tell me your thoughts on Ari's character .

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## Becky says

Ari and Ivor have been betrothed since childhood. Ari didn't care and went about her business with no thought to how it would affect her future. Ivor does his duty, but also loves her. They are both thrown into

sudden marriage, cast out of the country, and into London.

For a period romance it is immediately apparent that the author has done the research and is knowledgeable. I am not. As a reader I had a difficult time getting past unusual words. Even knowing the context I was forced to look up many to understand what was happening in the story and to picture it. I like learning new things as I read but not to the extent that the story line stalls. The romance was ok - not great. The sex had potential but felt cut short in every instance. The plot line around the romance fell short. It had the feel of a short story being stretched but still incomplete.

A lot of repetition by the author. Editing could have chopped quite a few pages by looking at places where Ari (especially) had thoughts in her head and then repeated them almost verbatim in conversation a page later.

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