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Christina Dodd

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THE PERFECT BUTLER

Reid Donovan was not surprised to find a butler serving his grandfather. At the age of ninety-two, the head of Donovan Corporation deserved a household staff. What shocked Reid was the fact that his grandfather's majordomo was a sexy blond bombshell with big blue eyes and curves in all the right places. Considering the recent kidnapping threats his grandfather had received, Reid didn't think the lady butler was a good idea.

A graduate of Ivor Spencer's London School for Butler Administrators, Margaret Guarneri wasn't ruffled by Reid Donovan's critical assessment. In the past year, she'd developed a rapport with the elderly Mr. Donovan, who was amused and delighted by the antics of her daughter Amy. And apart from their personal attachment, Margaret was the perfect butler, from her firm demeanor to her black silk tuxedo.

The situation had been ideal until Reid Donovan came along. One glimpse of his sherry brown eyes sent waves of heat shimmering through Margaret's cool facade. His tender touch reminded her how it felt to be a woman in love, a woman with needs and passions. But falling in love with the boss's grandson was strictly forbid-den, and Margaret was well schooled in protocol. She had to put duty before the lure of desire.

Lady in Black Details

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From Reader Review Lady in Black for online ebook

Jocelyn says

It was just ok. I got it when it was on sale, so I don't feel cheated or anything.

Sylvia says

Modern

E_bookpushers says

It was interesting to see the seeds of some other things that Dodd has expanded in much later books. The growth in her writing, characterization, and world building was nice to see. A few of the plot points I felt were heavy-handed but overall it was an entertaining read.

Susan (the other Susan) says

Don't be put off by the vintage cover, which looks as if Nancy Drew is having a moment. This early story by Christina Dodd is quirky, fun and fresh. The heroine who has attended a prestigious London school for butlers. A studly relative of her elderly employer thinks she's not up to the job, since there have been threats to the old guy's life. This leads to a slow-burner conflict driven by well-written banter and nicely developed sexual heat. Just noted on the author's GR page that Lady in Black has been updated and released as an ebook. I liked the old version just fine, but I'm intrigued to see what's new.

Piper says

Enjoyed reading this as it was some of her first published books and it was fun to see how much she's grown and progressed as an author. She really is fantastic.

Fedora says

Older read by Ms. Dodd--entertaining premise about a female butler and the gorgeous grandson of her elderly employer. Throw in a charming daughter and a kidnapping/extortion plot and hijinks ensue :)

Yvonne Gom says

An enjoyable light read

Janice Reyes says

I like it. I thought it was very funny.

Cheryl Fisher says

I was so happy to find a book by Christina Dodd that I had not read. You will LOL. True Dodd form~romance, humor, a little mystery.

Joan Mondragon says

This is a short book (only 220 pages). After wading thru the last book that I didn't like I thought I could use some instant gratification.

Maggie says

This is an older story that was dusted up for ebook release. The hero of the story is the strong, autocratic male who knows what he wants, but in a fun twist, Dodd has her heroine, a woman with the job of a butler, against the idea of love and marriage.

Margaret's already had her heart broken from her husband getting cancer and dying - leaving her with a pile of bills and a daughter to raise.

Reid is a rich man who was raised by grandfather, who is Margaret's current employer. He's never met a woman like Margaret. She fights like a man, loves his curmudgeonly grandfather, she's conversant in topics that interest him, and she's got a body that attracts him like nothing else. Sparks fly from the instant they meet.

The best part of the story for me was the birthday party. That really struck an emotional chord with me. I loved the story and the characters are still fresh in my mind several days later.

Andrea Mongold says

quick read, not the best I've ever read by her

charmaine White says**Enjoy**

Starts with a thrill and keeps you in suspense from beginning to end. Wondering who the bad guy is going to be or is it a bad girl.

Mauaqui says

It was an entertaining book. The butler (Margaret) taking care of the elderly billionaire (Jim) when the grandson appears (Reid) because his grandfather Jim's will has been changed and he went to investigate why and who was inheriting that was not family. While he was investigating his grandfather receives kidnapping threats. The threats turn to reality with a twist.

Margaret and Reid begin to fall and love and join forces to find the kidnapper.

Kim says

One of Dodd's early (her first one I think) and was cute but not on a par with her later writing I thought.
