



The Duchess and the Dragon

Jamie Carie

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Rising romance novelist Jamie Carie's second book, *The Duchess and the Dragon*, tells the epic story of two unlikely soulmates who live worlds apart but soon meet and turn each other's world upside down. Drake Weston, Duke of Northumberland, is accustomed to a life of royalty until a tragic mistake followed by murderous rage results in his darkening character and sudden flee from England. With a hoarde of money on which to survive, Drake hops a ship of indentured servants to America but is duly robbed and taken ill by the merciless sea voyage. In Pennsylvania, Serena Winter is a humble, devoted Quaker on a mission of mercy, ready to tend the sick people aboard a ship that has just arrived from England. Taken by Drake's air of dark mystery after he begins to serve as an apprentice to her silversmith father, Serena falls in love and is excommunicated by her fellow believers when she accepts a non-Quaker's marriage proposal. Not knowing Drake's history, Serena is later shocked to discover her new status as a duchess. What follows are hard truths and softening hearts, romance triangles, webs of deceit, and ultimately, the power of grace, love, and passion.

The Duchess and the Dragon Details

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From Reader Review The Duchess and the Dragon for online ebook

Erin says

What a completely ridiculous story! Apparently, the only innocent women in early America were the Amish and the Quakers, every other woman was Hester Prynne. I couldn't stop laughing at the way in which this seemingly innocent young Quaker woman was throwing herself at this indentured servant (who really was a member of British nobility). Insta-lust and the godly talk made it all the more hysterical! I'm too old for this silliness!

Beverly says

A very passionate, driven story that often gave glimpses of hope for the future, if Drake ever finally came to humble himself before his Creator. I loved that Serena was able to voice the distinction between being noble by birth and being of truly noble character. I enjoyed seeing the living out of one's faith in the Quaker expression, and the powerful preaching of Whitfield woven into the story of a man coming to terms with his past and finding real peace in Christ and being completely vulnerable and honest! Wish there was more of the story that was yet to be written! Would love the second installment, the effects of changed lives on the next generation.

Highland-dreamer says

I have to start out by saying that I usually really like novels by Jamie Carie, and this review is solely on my feelings for THIS BOOK and will not affect my reading her other excellent novels in the future. But this one didn't sit quite well with me. I was following along nicely until about half-way through, when Serena and Drake travel to Virginia to her "friend's" farm to make their living. For one thing, he was obvious in his intentions, and Serena was obvious in her preference to the man, over her husband. I thought this was rather odd and unlike her character so far. And when their time there was over, it was never mentioned between them, nor did she express regret for her behavior. All of this I was willing to overlook, for the sake of the story. Yet at the end I was so stumped that I cannot give the book more than 2 stars. After everything they had been through in England and Serena felt betrayed, but still loved Drake and knew that he still loved her, she pleaded on his behalf to the King even, and expressed her desire to live with him (in Bath, was it?) and make their living there... Only upon his release from prison and his joy in that she was pregnant, then she told him that she "needed her space" and "time" to sort things out. What things? This announcement came out of nowhere, not only to Drake, but to the reader as well, since we are not given a hint that she was feeling this way! And then in the epilogue, a YEAR has gone by.. a year in which she makes Drake "court" her while she is living with his biological father. WHY!? Even after the birth of their daughter, she still does not move back in with him. I don't get it. And we are not told a) why she decided that she needed "time", b) what she learned during this "time", and c) what made her decide, finally, that after a year she felt good enough to be his wife again. It just didn't make sense AT ALL. In fact, it seemed rather selfish on Serena's part, and again, quite out of character! I realize that as a former Quaker, she might have to reconcile her past with her present living style, and perhaps do some soul searching with God, but we are never given any CLUE as to what exactly she had to sort out, how she did it, WHY she did it, and why she had to do it apart from her husband. I'm not saying she didn't need time to herself, but why a year? What did she learn? What did she

gain? Especially since she admitted before they started their separation that she loved him still. I just don't get why she would deny her husband the joy of living with her and their daughter after her birth as well. I mean, she waited 3 months after she was born.. 3 months that was probably torture for poor Drake!

Well, you get the idea, and why I gave it 2 stars. I love happy endings, and though this one DID ultimately end happy, it was not very satisfying, and a disappointing read from an otherwise great author- I've loved her other books that I've read! And to be fair, I did love the romance between Drake and Serena, and found it hard to put down at times, because I was wondering when she would discover his lies, if he would get away with it, etc.. I think I would've been more forgiving with my rating if we had perhaps been given some clue as to Serena's thoughts at the end, or near the end. Especially if her time away had strengthened her relationship with God and her husband. Perhaps one can tell a good author by their ability to induce strong feelings / emotions in their readers, and in this case, I have to admit that Jamie Carie does a great job. :)

Kelly Moran says

This is the second title I have reviewed for a Jamie Carie book and, as before, I was not let down. This is the author's second title, following *Snow Angel*, a Best Books Award winner. Jamie Carie resides in Indianapolis, Indiana with her husband and three children.

The Duchess and the Dragon, set in Regency-era, is a historical romance. Drake Weston, Duke of Northumberland, England is set to be the heir upon his father's passing, bringing with it influence and wealth beyond imagine. But when his poor temper causes a tragic mistake, Drake is forced from the country he loves and the life he knows, in to America as an indentured servant. Barely surviving the journey and horrid conditions, Serena Winter, a Quaker woman, finds him near death and rescues him by bringing Drake home and nursing him back to health. Thrown together by circumstance, these two individuals, from backgrounds that couldn't be more opposite, discover the consequences and power of what love can do. They must confront the web of deceit that threatens to destroy all that they hold dear, trusting in the power of prayer and their love for one another.

In all honesty, historical romance is my least favorite of the romance genre. This is a tough genre to write in, as I have done so myself, and to invent a story-line that has not been over-used or recycled is a daunting task. I am pleased to report that this was not the case in this book.

I find myself completely enamored by Jamie Carie's ability to tell a great story, with strong characters to back them up. The backdrop and history was stellar, as was the language that tossed you into another time, another era, forgetting that this was fiction. The two very different religions added a great element for the plot and turmoil between the main characters. I liked the diverse family background, as well- One coming from deceitful and hateful surroundings, and the other from a warm and nurturing one. It added to the plot nicely. The characters were realistic and endearing. I especially liked that they were not without common human flaws, as we tend to see in this genre often. The plot flowed well and, at no time, did I find myself disinterested. Mostly, the ending was a sagacious one, in where I did not have to roll my eyes at an unrealistic 'happily ever after.' It was happy all right, and gave closure to such magnitude everyone will be satisfied, but not in an impractical manner.

This was a heart-pounding and moving read. Jamie Carie is still new to the publishing world, but she won't be for long. She has immeasurable talent and I look forward to seeing her on a best-seller list some day.

Kelly Moran
Author and Reviewer

Barb says

An excellent story but.... I choose to read inspiration novels to avoid the sexual content. There was definitely more than necessary in this one.

Another concern I have is that Serena married Drake before he became a Christian. This is something that is in opposition to what the Bible teaches and it suggests that if you feel "led" of God to do something you should just do it. The Holy Spirit will not lead us to do something contrary to God's Word.

Susan says

The story was ok but the narrator was wonderful.

Ellen says

I didn't finish this book that I have been eyeing for years. Why I can point to the weak point right now SERENA.

This book is the story of a disinherited noble named Drake and Quaker Serena. Drake is fleeing England and Serena saves his life.

So I liked Drake and all the other characters. They felt full of life and I would have kept reading for there sakes if not for the biggest problem: Serena

Oh I liked her, at first. But then as she fell in lust with Drake (and he with her) they kept getting more and more physical. Drake is not a Quaker or Christian so while I don't like how physical he can be, he hasn't changed yet and clearly theres character development to come. But Serena, she decides not to marry the nice farmer because... he doesn't make her feel like Drake does. And to me at least, it sounds crude. Her mother even talks about how one needs to be careful about love. She fell in love with her husband after another man showed her how cruel men can be. I think Serenas not paying attention.

While I did not go beyond page 120 I know from peeking that Drake and Serena will marry . This is where my biggest annoyance comes from. If Serena marries Drake, she will be excommunicated! But she's willing to give up everything for this man she's in lust with. Makes me want to shout " Hey serena when your pregnant and alone will you be proud of this choice?"

I will not be finishing this book and instead will read other more interesting books. Read this only if you are bored.

anieva says

I was surprised at how well-done this book was in a number of ways. I won't go into it now, but Carie is a born-storyteller and quite good at using words to make new to us feelings that we've all had. She also paints an almost fairy tale world - in the right places - without laying it on too thick. I did prefer the first half or so to the end, as I didn't quite grasp what became a significant moral in the tale.

I really don't know why everyone is so upset about 'titillation' in this Christian fiction novel. I feel people have used by far the wrong term there. This was an nod to sexuality that is born of love; surely that has a place in God's world and, therefore, in our representation of this world of God's. It happens; it needs to be acknowledged in the honorable of ways. Something I liked in this book is the suggestion that there is nothing sinful about sensuosity or sexuality, from the joy Serena took in paints and colors to the physical expression between Serena and Drake.

I was really surprised that a novel with such a lovely, perfect fairy-tale-like name could prove itself so well. Kind of like the book that library-haunting readers always expect to find on a shelf but don't.

Well, looks like I went and got into it, after all.

Michelle says

Jamie Carie knows how to pull a reader in to a story. The inheritance scandal and Drake flight's for his life and near-tragic sea journey really grabs you. That was all great stuff, if not too descriptive. Some details even turned my stomach. Then the romance begins, and my first thought was that it reminded me of a Harlequin historical romance. I haven't read them in years, but the attraction Serena feels toward this obviously sick man doesn't make a lot of sense because you know he had to look skinny and bedraggled, but I suppose the pull she felt was reminiscent of Florence Nightingale syndrome. I would think her desire would be more from pity that actually having the hots for him. That is just a minor issue. At any rate, the attraction between them sizzled and that was pretty exciting stuff.

I was amazed at how much was implied that goes above and beyond what you find in most inspirational historicals, but it was enjoyable and refreshing to read. Like many woman, Serena felt a strong pull toward the dangerous guy and felt mere friendship for the safe one. The fear, excitement, pangs of regret, renewed hope, and roller coaster of emotion that played out in this story all made sense to me. I especially enjoyed the faith portion and the change exhibited in Drake's heart over time. He truly was not the same man he was before. Isn't that just how it is when God uses trials and hardship to soften us and draw us close to His heart?

Overall, I'd say this book was a dynamic read. It was hard to put down and I found the story and the setting incredibly engaging, plus the emotional and physical interplay between the hero and heroine was breathtaking. If you loved *A Bride Most Begrudging* by Deeanne Gist, you will enjoy this story.

Rachel says

I've read three of Jamie Carie's books before this one, and I was so excited to read it. I was really expecting it to be good, but I was disappointed.

Selena is a quaker girl who is helping the refugees who have come to America. She loves painting, and lives with her family of sisters and parents.

Drake is a rich duke, who has found out that before his death, his father changed his will and made it so he does not inherit anything. He makes a plan to find a girl, pretend she is his step-mother, have her child and

pretend he is his brother. That way he will still keep the title of Duke in his family. He begins his deception of pretending that his father is still alive, but things don't go his way. After he makes a mistake, killing a man by mistake he flees to America, on the pretension that he is a poor Englishman. He falls ill with a fever, and Selena meets him and nurses him back to health. He is taken in by her family and works for her father as a silversmith.

This book started out great. It had much potential, and I thought it would turn out good. As the book continued on, I began to question it, and dislike it. Selena was a great character, naive and innocent, and kindhearted. Clark was not innocent, and he began to change her view, and I really did not like the romantic aspect, and the way it was not kept pure. He didn't love her, he more thought of her as a light that had led him out of darkness, a beautiful light.... She was starry-eyed over him, and swept away by the mystery of him. Of course, her parents didn't really approve, they wanted her to marry a quaker.

She ends up marrying Clark, even though he is still not a Christian. I kind of began to skip through the book, because I was getting a little bored, and both characters were beginning to annoy me a bit. Selena completely threw away her family and religion for a man she barely knew, and wasn't even any type of Christian. He was still lying to her, and there was pretty much no character change.

When they go back to England, I was disgusted that he still wanted to follow his original plan to make a heir, and that he hid it from Selena! I know at the end he changed, but still there was little to no character change till the very end and I didn't like that. I pitied Selena, and really thought it would have been better had she married Christopher, the quaker farmer.

Overall I rate it 2/5, because it had a good beginning, but after that everything went downhill. I'm really disappointed in Jamie Carie, as I really like the other books I read of hers.

Rebecca says

Mesmerizing! Serena and Drake had my full attention from the first page until the last. A beautifully written story filled with the artistry of romance and the divine tapestry of spiritual reconciliation. My favorite Jamie Carie novel so far!

Melissa says

This is a deep, passionate book that surprised me with how well it was written. I expected the normal romance and drama but got a deep heartfelt book with some sweet steamy kisses:} This book is Christian with a theme of redemption and it was done very well. I enjoyed the depth of each character and there love story was sweet and strong. I love a strong heroine and she was awesome. I will be reading more by this author. This was more an adult read.

Anita Estes says

At first I gave this four stars, but I changed it to five. This was a great read. Everytime I thought I had it figured out, the author threw something new into the mix. Great characters, good mix of mystery and romance.

Angie says

I really wanted to like this book which is why I did read it instead of tossing it aside when things started to plod along for me. I know I'm probably one of the few people who didn't enjoy this book, but I felt like instead of falling in love the characters just fell in lust with each other. Also the story had so much potential but sadly just fell short for me.

Anya says

The bare-bones premise of this story was good. A man raised to be a self-centered nobleman, stripped of his title and learns a new way of seeing and being; the ultimate redemption story, and we never tire of it. Unfortunately, the author does not yet possess the experience to carry it off convincingly. I found it to be rather artlessly contrived and unbelievable. I think this author has potential but a good editor is to be desired in the future.

One further note; if one endeavors to write good Christian fiction, one ought to lay off the titillation factor. Romance novels can insidiously slide into a serious fantasy sin issue for Christian women that is something akin to porn. In addition it can set us all up for unrealistic expectations and big letdowns when our own lives lack the passionate sparks invented on the written page. If this is something you struggle with, please look for the book, Every Woman's Battle by Shannon Ethridge.

I am not against romance in fiction, per se, but it can be managed better than seen here.
