



The Haunting of a Duke

Chasity Bowlin

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Communing with spirits has been both gift and curse to Emme Walters. Now it's made her a killer's target.

Emme knows why the Dowager Duchess of Briarleigh invited her to a house party--to investigate whether the duke, Rhys Brammel, murdered his wife years ago. But Emme never imagined she would fall in love with the brooding duke. Branded by society as a possible killer, Rhys is suspicious of Emme and her alleged "gift."

Then a late night encounter creates awareness of her other, more attractive, aspects. When Emme's life is threatened, Rhys becomes her protector. Emme and Rhys find passion and peril as they join forces to solve the mysteries at Briarleigh.

She made him believe in spirits, but can she make him believe in love?

The Haunting of a Duke Details

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From Reader Review The Haunting of a Duke for online ebook

Barbara Rogers says

I believe this is the first book I've read by Chastity Bowlin, but it certainly won't be the last. I do not normally care for paranormal books, but this combination of paranormal and historical is just perfect and I'm so glad I decided to give it a read. I assume it is considered paranormal because the heroine can converse with ghosts. I'm heading to Amazon just as soon as I finish this review to buy the other two books in the series!!!!

You certainly have an engaging and odd mixture of characters contained within the pages! There is a young girl who was murdered, a psychic, a Duke who many think murdered his wife, a mother who is strange, the villains (of course), a jackass of step-father, a sister who can see the future (but it isn't showcased in this book) and wonderful supportive friends. What more could you ask for?

Emme is invited, by the dowager Duchess, to a house party at the estate of Rhys, Duke of Briarleigh. The dowager Duchess wants Emme to use her talents to determine the facts surrounding the death of her daughter-in-law. Emme doesn't like to be the center of attention and tries to downplay her talents. However, if the ghosts present themselves, she feels she cannot ignore them and must pass on whatever information she is given.

The ghosts present themselves almost immediately and cause Emme to be found in a compromising position. She has been sleep walking and is in absolutely nothing but her thin night rail. When she 'comes to', she doesn't know where she is or how to get back to her room. Luckily Rhys sees her and manages to get her back to her room without anyone else being aware.

Rhys is very skeptical and doubting of Emme and would love to show her as a charlatan. However, whenever Emme's life is in danger, Rhys becomes her protector.

Rhys and Emme -- along with Rhys' friends, Lord Michael Sutherland, Viscount Ellersleigh, and Spencer, Lord Wolverston -- manage to solve multiple murders while Rhys and Emme fall in love.

I'm looking forward to the next two books in the series!

Vicki says

Great mystery and romance

Rhys doesn't trust Emme as she is rumored to be a psychic. He believed that she must be a charlatan or a fake.

He finds her in the night and he is drawn to her. He begins to worry about her safety after a medium is murdered.

Emme is being approached by the ghost of a young girl. She wakes up in strange places in the house and knows she is being led to solve a mystery.

A great cast of characters. I really liked Rhys and Michael. This is a very interesting book. I enjoyed it immensely.

Nikki McCarver says

This was an absolutely fantastic read!!! Emme has a gift, one that she tends to hide from others. She can see and communicate with spirits. She does not capitalize on this particular gift, rather tries to help people with it. She built a reputation that was large enough to attract the attention of the 'ton', which is how our story begins. Emme is at a party at the personal invitation of the Lady Phyllis, for the use of her special skills to help put to rest the mystery surrounding the death of her son's wife. Emme didn't like being lumped in the same category as witches or mediums. They were fake and out to scam their way to a comfortable living, such as the great Madame Zuniga who was also at the party. The secrets that are buried within this particular house are thick, and the spirits that haunt this particular land are quite restless. They seek closure and Emme's appearance can offer more than she thinks is possible.

I really enjoyed this book. It was an accurate historical with some incredibly naughty and erotic sex scenes, which I absolutely loved. The characters were complex and jaded, each one harboring a wealth of pain and deep set emotional scars. The plot was brilliant. Every time you thought you were on the right trail to figuring it out, believe me you'll be wrong. The emotions throughout the book were gripping and heartfelt. I was in denial myself and the twist at the end quite threw me. If you like your historical romances with a touch of spice, intrigue, mystery, and suspense, than this is defiantly the book for you! Hat's off to you Chasity for unique treat. I vastly enjoyed it! Excellent read!!

Mojca says

****eBook available for free on Amazon****

The Dowager Duchess of Briarleigh invited Emmaline Walters to a house party to determine whether the duke had indeed killed his wife a few years ago and finally put the rumors to rest. But the late duchess isn't the only ghost in the house, and someone among the living will prove to be the most malevolent creature of all.

I'm having trouble rating this one. The story was great. The suspense, the mystery, the ghosts, the living, good and evil...all mixed up in this historical paranormal with a slight gothic vibe. But there were problems as well. First, it was the flowery prose during the sex scenes, which made me cringe a little. The second was the pacing, also suffering from the overabundance of sex scenes. They were hot and sensual, yes, but they also stopped the flow of the story.

The plot was so intense, with the vivid imagery of the manor and its wordly and non- inhabitants, the malevolent thoughts of the villain, goosebumps rose as the (almost) imminent danger, the intrigue of what would happen next beckoned...and the MCs decided to bang. *record scratch* Then, we were back in the gothic mood, the villain was lurking in the background, peeping through holes, imagining all kinds of dastardly things, then ghosts started to appear with warnings and taunts...and the MCs decided to bang again. *record scratch*

And so it went. The story flowing beautifully, the plot progressing nicely, with good character development, great mystery and suspense, and chilly apparitions, then it stopped dead in its track for some mattress dancing, and then resumed.

It was jarring, since the love scenes seemed to be added as an afterthought, either to fill the pages or to...I don't know why. Again, they were well-written, but disruptive to the overall flow of the story.

3½ stars

Mariana says

Easy Read

Even though paranormal is not my preference, I liked the murder mystery story; but the writing style felt too easy.

Ally says

If I never read another gothic book, I'll be very happy.

It's probably me. And this is probably a great book. Or perhaps not. But these people? This life? Maybe I prefer my river called De Nile where life is good and not so god awful depressing.

Read for the Gothic category in New Years 2017 Reading challenge and as a Buddy read with Priya, Gio, and Mariana.

Setting / Time / Genre: Regency

Series: Yep

Sexy times: I think so. Wait, I remember. Yes! Standard regency. Hotter than a Julia Quinn but just barely.

Plan on reading more by the author: Abso-frickengly-lutely not.

Synopsis The back of the book says it all. Seriously. You don't need me regurgitating stuff for you, do you?

Heroine She sees dead people. And talks to them. And is inhabited by them. And....

Hero He deserves to be punched. For his entire life he's lived with an awful woman and turned a blind eye. Who does that? He does redeem himself later on. So props for that.

Why it did or didn't work for me: We (the US) just bombed Syria, chemical weapons are being used to kill kids, people around the world are living in refugee camps, women are being discriminated against, hell,

discrimination of all sorts is running rampant, people are being raped, and people are dying. I am fairly sure our world is all sorts of messed up and so I choose to avoid books where everyone is awful and depressed. I've got plenty of that going on IRL. These people truly are f'd up. I mean it's like the author decided every character in this book other than the h's and their one friend, oh and her sister, is evil, mean, spiteful and capable of doing HORRIBLE things. This is not my bag baby.

I can't tell you if the writing is good, bad or indifferent. I just wanted the book to end so I could check off the Gothic category on a book reading challenge. Done.

Signed,
F this sh!t

Bam!

Heather says

I LOVED this book!! A Regency romance with a paranormal twist...AWESOMENESS!!! I can't WAIT to read the next one

Zoe says

An interesting read. The paranormal element is more interesting than the romance in my eyes. The romance is what you would find in mediocre historical romance novels, nothing spectacular or though-provoking, just 2 people who happen to find each other attractive and enjoy bedsport a lot. I was not very impressed with Emme and the duke.

Emme could see spirits and communicate with them. Rhys, the duke, ran into her at his house party while Emme was in one of her "episodes". Rhys' mother invited Emme to the house party hoping to find out whether Rhys really killed his own wife. (Charming, right?)

The story has many threads, Rhys' younger sister was also murdered but at a young age. Rhys' best friend Michael, an interesting character who was in love with Rhys' murdered sister. Emme's younger sister who also had a "gift" and her potential match with Michael hinted at the end of the book. I think the writer has many interesting materials in the book but she chose to develop the mystery line, which I found interesting. But the relationship and character development suffered, either because the writer did not have the material to develop them well or because her focus was on the paranormal mystery.

I have read other "gothic" historical romances where the relationships are a lot more developed than that between Emme and Rhys. Other than sex I do not know what they had between them. But that is hardly anything new. So many writers settle for sex.

I may or may not continue with the series or read another book from the writer. I am not interested in another

"sex equals love" kind of story.

Kristina says

Holy hell. Can I give this book six stars? Paranormal meets Historical plus romance? This genre match up is one of the most genius things I've ever read. (Paranormal and Historical are my favorite genres) After reading what the book was about, I knew instantly that I would enjoy it, but I honestly loved it way more than I thought I would, which is really saying something. This book is beyond fantastic and definitely one of the best books I've read all year.

The story is haunting and beautiful, dark, gritty and sexy, written in a lovely flowing way. It also has a fair share of mystery and suspense- an aspect that keeps your eyes glued to the pages and on the edge of your seat. It's a unique adventure with two great main characters that have quite interesting lives/pasts. I loved that Emme was a feisty medium. She has such spark despite all she has been through and all that rests on her shoulders. She made a fitting match for Rhys. The Duke is so swoon worthy and mysterious. The pair comes together in an unexpected way and I loved every second of it. Waiting was totally worth it as sparks flew with their chemistry. Throw in a good dose of sexy and sweet for all a romance lover could ever need in a story.

I haven't read many novels that fall under the Regency category, but after enjoying this one so much and being very intrigued, I will have to pick up some more! That is, after I get my hands on book two in this series!

If you are a fan of Paranormal and Historical romance, buy this book now!

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

HEART WARMING STORY OF LOVE AND BETRAYAL!!

I loved The Haunting of a Duke, the story of Rhys Brammel the Duke of Briarleigh and the Emme Walters, Medium and Mystic was fast paced, slightly erotic highly sensual and loving with on the edge of your seat action.

Emme is invited to Briarwood Hall for the summer garden party by the Dowager Duchess Phyllis Brammel. She wants Emme to find out what actually happen to her deceased daughter in law Elise, because there are rumors that her son the Duke might have murdered her.

Rhys knows of Emme's reputation and is very skeptical at first. When Emme describes her encounter with Rhys deceased sister Melisande, he starts to believe there are unexplained phenomenons on this earth. The target death of Melisande at such an early age causes Rhys and his best friend Michael Ellensleigh who loved Melisande to seek out answers to her death. You discover very quickly who the responsible parties are, but the why is not discovered until the end of the story. The childhood love story of Michael and Melisande will have you in tears. The characters, back story and the plot were all very well written and developed. I Highly Recommend The Haunting of a Duke.

Celestine says

Quite a few reviews for this book said it was formulaic, and I would have to agree. It started out quite well, with four villains vying for the role as "Col. Mustard in the drawing room with the candlestick."

Unfortunately, by the middle I had it all figured out, but still kept reading just to make sure. Chastity Bowlin does a decent job creating different types of despicable characters, so part of the reason to keep turning pages is to see them get their comeuppance.

Probably my biggest issue with this book was that Rhys was no hero. He kept talking about keeping Emme out of danger, but never really carried through. At one point he and his two buddies went to search the tunnels under the house, leaving Emme to her own devices....and (gasp!) the murderer came after her. On page 341: "Rhys had decided it was best to have his potential enemy where he could keep an eye on him." Really? Rhys was without cunning, deductive reasoning or even the insight to be at the right place at the right time.

The part of the story that trotted along briskly was the relationship between Rhys and Emme. The Duke does get points for recognizing pretty quickly he likes this girl and moving to secure her in his life. There were several spicy scenes, but I didn't find them particularly swoon-worthy. What stagnated was the murder mystery plot. At 83% Emma and Rhys are still dealing with the same basic clues unearthed in the beginning. The plot just didn't move forward. Even the ghostly spirits weren't all that creative or menacing.

Jennifer says

currently available for kindle for free

I was browsing the free kindle books at amazon, and stumbled across this one. I thought the premise of this sounded intriguing as it mixes several genres I enjoy: Historical, Paranormal, and Romance. Kindles freebies, in my experience, are more often miss than hit, but every once in awhile you find a gem.

This is one of those.

Emme, our heroine, has a gift: She can see spirits. She is asked to come to a house party by the Dowager Duchess of Briarleigh to ascertain if her son, The Duke, is guilty of murdering his late wife, a death which officially was declared a suicide. Rhys, our Duke, is, of course, suspicious of Emme and her gift, and for her part, Emme wants no part of her gift. Or at least not to capitalize/profit from it.

That's not much of a synopsis, but any more than that, and we get into spoiler territory.

I really enjoyed this book. It's by turns creepy, and sexy, and funny, and heartbreaking. It has this really cool gothic feel to it that really just amps up the atmosphere.

I thought the two leads, Emme and Rhys, were very well written, well-balanced characters. The attraction between the two is instantaneous, but yet there's this marvelous slow burn between them that makes the eventual consummation of their relationship all the more satisfying. (No pun intended.) The two end up

having to get married due to getting caught in a compromising situation, and if you've followed me for any length of time, you'll know this is a trope I enjoy, though I have no idea why.

Anyway...I really loved the fact that there was no Big Misunderstanding that separated our couple. I loathe those. So. Much. They were already both well on their way to falling in love with each other before they were married, and to watch their relationship progress was delightful. When they got together, they stayed together. And the author avoided some H/h character tropes I despise. He, while wanting to protect Emme from the threats she was facing, never veered off into high handed He-Man Alpha Male territory, and Emme never, ever veered into TSTL territory, and there was a moment in the book where she very well could have. I was so relieved when the author chose not to go that route.

In addition to the love story, there was also the mystery of what really happened to Rhys' first wife as well as his sister, who was killed many years before.

The secondary characters were great (especially Michael, who is the lead of book two), and the villains were very, very creepy.

Ugh, and this review is not doing the book justice at all, for which I apologize.

Candace says

Emme and Rhys

Emmaline "Emme" Walters is invited to Briarwood Hall to commune with the ghost of Lord Rhys Brammel's, Duke of Briarwood, late wife, Elise. It is rumored that Rhys murdered Elise. Emme doesn't like to admit to people that she corresponds with ghost. When Lord Michael Ellersleigh questions Emme about talking to no one in the gardens, she admits to talking to Melisande, whom she later discovers is Rhys murdered sister. From Melisande Emme finds out there were two murders and the murderer still lives. When Rhys learns of Emme conversation with Melisande, though he is not a believer in spirits, he never the less feels he must protect Emme. Can they fight the attraction they feel for each other? Will Emme uncover who the murderer is before it's too late?

This novel is a paranormal romance with a dark villain. We know that this villain is jealous and vengeful from the start. We begin to know who he is by the clues Emme and Rhys uncover along the way. The attraction between Emme and Rhys is strong. The sex scenes are blended nicely into the storyline. They are tastefully written. The plot has a twist or two which keeps the reader reading the story. Some of the subplots are left unresolved. I look forward to the next book in the trilogy.

Joan says

A great fun read. More froth than anything else but I liked the characters and the writer's style.

Michele bookloverforever says

the lady who sees and speaks with ghosts is compromised by the duke and they marry. his sister was murdered as was his wife. who did it and why?
