

La duquesa del amor

Sally MacKenzie

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Era un día muy caluroso y a Venus Collingswood le apetecía darse un baño en el estanque pero no quería que se le mojara el vestido. Total, ninguno de los habitantes del pequeño Little Huffington iba a pasar por ahí. Además, ese era el entorno perfecto donde pergeñar un plan para que su hermana Afrodita, un ratón de biblioteca, conociera y se enamorara del nuevo duque de Greycliffe, que llegaría a tomar posesión de sus tierras dentro de una semana.

Andrew Valentine, duque de Greycliffe, jamás se imaginó que llegar una semana antes de lo previsto a su casa levantara tanto revuelo. El ama de llaves le confunde con su primo. En realidad, tener la oportunidad de no ser duque por un tiempo le apetece.

Puede servirle para interrogar a la encantadora y pequeña ninfa a la que ha descubierto nadando en su estanque... eso si es capaz de articular una sola palabra.

La duquesa del amor Details


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From Reader Review La duquesa del amor for online ebook

Sammy says

Nice silly Popcorn romance book , the one you can read while waiting , or in travel , very short sweet & funny

Susan says

I have to say I pretty much laughed through this entire story. I'm glad I "met" the Duke and Duchess in Lord Ned's story (Bedding Lord Ned). Having seen how strong their love still is, it was fun to learn how it all began. From their meeting in the pond to the garden party this was lots of fun.

Venus is afflicted with a family of bookworms. Both her parents and her sister think nothing of getting completely lost in their studies. Venus is smart, too, but she's much more of a people person. She hates the idea that her beautiful sister could end up and old maid, so when she hears that the Duke and his cousin are coming she plans to introduce him to her sister. While doing her plotting she is drawn to the pond where she spent many happy hours and decides to take advantage of the solitude and go swimming. She's shocked to encounter an equally naked man who claims to be the duke's cousin. In spite of her innocence Venus has no problem looking him over and deciding she likes what she sees. He also makes her feel rather strange, but she likes it. Being a pretty forthright person she tells Drew about her plan and asks for his assistance. I really loved seeing all her planning and maneuvering. She doesn't have a mean bone in her body and I loved how what she did was supposed to make people happy. I liked the way that she went to Drew when she heard what those women said and really let him have it. It was really funny to see him try to get a word in edgewise as he tried to explain. I loved the ending and seeing how she is just what Drew needs.

Drew became the Duke at the age of thirteen. He is so sick of the way people treat him just because of his rank, and how no one seems to be interested in him for himself. When he is mistaken for his cousin by the housekeeper, he convinces Nigel to go along with it so he can have a break. Then, while taking a walk, he comes across Venus just as he's about to go for a swim. Their meeting is somewhat explosive and he is enchanted by her. But once he lies about who he is, he is stuck, because he doesn't want to admit his lie. When he and his cousin are pursued from London by two very determined women things really start to fall apart. I loved seeing Drew cope with her volatility and show her just how much she means to him, even in so short a time.

You know that a case of switching identities is going to have moments when you really wonder if it will all work out. I really understood Drew's desire to escape for a little while, but it sure got him in trouble with Venus. The scene at the garden party was both heartbreaking and funny.

Lisa says

This was a short, fun, sweet novella that I really enjoyed. Venus Collingswood decides to go for a dip in her neighbors lake one last time before the new owners arrive in a few days. Besides, her dog is having fun in the water and it is blasted hot out. Just as she is about to dive in, she slips and is grabbed up by some very strong

arms....male arms of a man just as unclothed as she is. Quite a fun interaction occurs and even though the man identifies himself as the new duke, Venus thinks he is jesting as he seems much too young and decides he must be the cousin instead. As Andrew Valentine, Duke of Greycliffe, is hoping to just be himself, not his title, he sees no harm in letting her think this for the time being. Naturally, problems arise as to him hiding his true identity and it puts the happiness of not just Venus in jeopardy, but that also of her sister.

This is a quick prequel novella to a new series that will feature Venus as an adult matchmaker for her sons and I found it delightful! It is a wonderful mix of humor, sassiness, love, and warmth with just a touch of heat at the end. This was my first read of Sally MacKenzie and if she can make a few hours fly by as fast as she did with this novella, I think I am in for a treat for her full length novels! This is a perfect afternoon treat for a spring day that is sure to leave a smile on your face and I am anxious to see more of Venus and Drew!

I received this ARC from Kensington Books. It is actually printed in the back of the upcoming book, Bedding Lord Ned but will be available as an ebook first and then will be printed in its entirety when Bedding Lord Ned releases on June 5th.

Kaycee ♥? says

ng.

This is a quick prequel novella to the Duchess of Love Series. And it's actually my first taste of the author's writing, but it most certainly will not be the last because I enjoyed this book so much even though it wasn't totally what I was expecting. It's delightful, sexy, humorous, entertaining. Just an all around fun read. And for a short story, the character development was beautifully done. So yes, I am looking forward to seeing where this series goes.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

review first posted on Demon Lover's Books & More

3.5

You can read this either before or after Bedding Lord Ned and Surprising Lord Jack, but it's more fun to read it after Bedding Lord Ned just because it gives you a glimpse into the Duke and Duchess before they had children.

Here we see Venus, who will later become known as the Duchess of Love, trying to pull her sister out of her books and towards some eligible men. Living in a small town, and being daughters of a vicar aren't really conducive to meeting handsome men.

Enter the Duke of Greycliffe and his cousin.

The duke, Andrew is only 21, while his cousin Mr. Valentine is 28, so when his new housekeeper mistakes Valentine for the Andrew, Drew decides to roll with it. It would be nice to not have to be himself for a few days. He could merely be Drew.

But Drew comes upon a beautiful girl about to skinny dip in the pond on his property, and well, he falls head

over heels. But he sort of lets her believe he's Mr. Valentine, and then promises to introduce her sister to the duke (or, really, his cousin).

It is a cute little romance with a Big Misunderstanding, but because it's short, it works. When Venus finds out he's lied to her (and she finds out in a horrible way), she thinks he did it to make fun of how gullible she is. It was pretty heartbreaking. I wish that there had been a teensy bit more at the end, maybe just to see what happened with her sister, or the horrible ladies from London (I mean, we can assume it all works out, of course, but it would've given the story some closure).

I liked this one, and from what I've heard, this short story is at the back of the paperback edition of *Bedding Lord Ned*.

Ana M. Román says

2,5 Estrellas

No han sido un inicio de serie apoteósico. Aunque es corto y se lee en un suspiro la verdad es que tenía situaciones y conversaciones muy poco creíbles para la época en que se supone está ambientada. Aún así voy a seguir leyendo el resto de los libros de la serie.

Pepa says

Un relato corto, muy corto. Con algunas escenas tan inverosímiles que resultan divertidas. Pero tan tan corto que no llega a mucho

Shawna says

4 stars – Historical Romance Novella

Cute, winsome story! This is the first I've read by this author and I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

And I might give the author's *Naked Nobility* series a try at some point as well.

*Note: According to the author's website, this prequel novella will be included in the print version of the first book, *Bedding Lord Ned*.*

D.G. says

I should have known.

In general, I don't like historicals where people act like they are in the 21st century but something made me want to try this one out. I shouldn't have bothered. The characters act in such outrageous ways that it really didn't feel like a historical AT ALL (the heroine swimming naked and then telling the hero all about how she wants to hook up her sister with the Duke, etc.)

Also, this novella borrowed the beginning from P&P with a young Mrs. Bennett (yes, MRS. Bennet...Lizzie's mother) as the heroine. Perish the thought!

DNF

Vikki Vaught says

Great novella, just a little short for any true depth of characters. I loved the plot and the characters, just would have liked more development. Happy reading!

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

Although this is a prequel to *Bedding Lord Ned* showing us how the Duchess of Love, matchmaker extradonnaire, the hero's mother and the Duke met and fell in love. I would recommend reading this after having read *Bedding Lord Ned*, or atleast I liked reading this knowing what is going to happen in the future and seeing them just as in love as they are when the novella ends, it made the romance that did seem a little bit rushed (it was love at first sight) seem more viable.

It is hard to judge it though when it was only 100 pages long, but having got to know and like the characters already from reading *Bedding Lord Ned* I already liked them and this book didn't make me think otherwise. Venus was already matchmaking at 19, trying to find someone for her beautiful but bookish older sister and hoping her sister would catch the eye of the new duke in their small village. Of course a case of mistaken identity ensues and things get rather tangled.

It was a fun novella, funny and romantic and a great background story for some of the characters in the full length book in the series.

Diana~ (Kiss Me Books) says

Oh, this was a cute one! I can't wait to read the next one. :)

Tonileg says

I got a flash of the image from the classic BBC *Pride and Prejudice* moment when Mr. Darcy dives into the pond at Pemberly when Drew (Andrew Valentine, Duke of Greycliffe) jumps in the water to save Venus Collingswood when he thinks she is drowning.

Of course they're both in their birthday suits (aka butt naked!) what else would you expect from the author that wrote the Naked Nobles series like Sally MacKenzie Bundle: The Naked Earl, the Naked Gentleman, the Naked Marquis, the Naked Baron, the Naked Duke, the Naked Viscount, the Naked.

This was short and very sweet about mistaken identities and wonderful coincidences. I love Sally MacKenzie's style of modern/regency English romance novels.

Delicious like chocolate taste without the guilt of any fatty calories. I'm looking forward to reading Bedding Lord Ned when it comes out this year.

106 pages and free for kindle June 3, 2012

3 stars

Rosie Comia says

A short, cute & humorous, very fun to read historical romance with a case of mistaken identity or mistaken assumption & love at first sight.

The Duke of Greycliffe, Andrew (Drew) Valentine & his cousin, Mr. Nigel Valentine arrived at the former's inherited property Hyndon Hall at Little Huffington where the housekeeper mistook Mr. Valentine (Nigel) as the duke since he is older (28) than Drew who's only 21. Drew took advantage of this mistake since he wanted to experience how it is to be a simple "mister" especially when immediately after this incident he accidentally met & was smitten by the beautiful & very naked Venus Collingswood, 19 y/o.

Venus is the vicar's daughter & the village matchmaker. She feels it's failure on her part not to find a match for her older bookworm sister, Aphrodite (Ditee) Collingswood, 23 y/o. Venus decided to play matchmaker to Ditee & Nigel, who she also assumed to be the Duke of Greycliffe. With the help of Drew she devised ways for Ditee & Nigel to meet. Although Ditee & Nigel only met once & only briefly, they fell for each other with them having the same interest, reading the classics.

Despite Nigel telling Drew to tell Venus & the rest the truth about their identity, he wanted to prolong the subterfuge since having fallen for her, he wanted to know if she cared for Drew Valentine before he introduce her to the Duke of Greycliffe. He believe that he'll never knew her true feelings for Drew once she knows that he's the real Duke.

As it happens, when Drew finally decided to tell everybody especially Venus the truth, she inadvertently came to know that he is the Duke from one of the pushy London ladies who's pursuing after the Valentines.

As in a fairy tale, all's well that ends well when Drew explained everything to Venus & he asked her to be her duchess.

I like this story although it's short & I feel it ended abruptly & left me hanging. I wanted to know more on how the relationship between Drew & Venus further developed & prospered since they're both so young. I wanted to know what happened to Ditee & Nigel's relationship.

I like the other secondary characters in this novella & the funny circumstances they found themselves in. I even like old Mrs. Fedderly, the village gossip who even with her short stint in this novella left her mark.

Looking forward to Ned's & Jack's books.

Victoria says

This review is also posted on Always a Booklover

Note: This is just gonna be a really short review. I simply have way too many reviews to write and not enough time?

The Duchess of Love was a very fun read. I did wish it hadn't been a novella though, there was a lot of scope for the plot development. Nevertheless, I really enjoyed reading it. When I first saw the blurb, I just knew I had to read it. It seemed like everything I would enjoy. I mean, mistaken identity, headstrong heroine, what's not to love? I don't normally read novellas, but this was a really enjoyable one.

To sum up the plot, it's basically about how a duke came to Little Huffington and the heroine, who wanted to marry the duke off to her sister. However, as you can guess, things didn't turn out the way that she wanted.

The heroine, Venus, was a very nice heroine. A little headstrong and not someone you bully at all. I liked how she stood up to Drew. I had hoped for more character development, but I felt the author did really well, with what little space she had to write. Drew was a rather good hero. Though I would have liked him to be older, I felt that he was very mature for his age.

The storyline was interesting and I was addicted. I just kept on reading. Though there wasn't enough angst for my liking, the love depicted in the story was still very good and I really enjoyed reading about it. The plot was intriguing and I loved that mistaken identity part to it.

After reading this book, which I got free off Amazon, I read the teaser to Bedding Lord Ned. Instantly, I just knew I had to read it. Which is what I'm about to do! I finally got my copy and now I can't wait to get started.

So yep, I really enjoyed this book. Lighthearted, easy read. If it was a full-length novella, I am pretty sure I would have loved it even more. Overall, it was a very fun and easy read. If you're looking for something easy and short, then this is the book for you!

Ok fine, it wasn't short as it should be. I don't know, I guess I can't really write short reviews?
