



Confesiones de una Duquesa

Nicola Cornick

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Cuando se invocó una antigua ley de tributos, por virtud de la cual todas las damas no casadas debían contraer matrimonio o pagar la mitad de sus riquezas, el tranquilo pueblo de Fortune's Folly se vio invadido por una avalancha de solteros cazafortunas.

Después de lo que Laura, la duquesa viuda, se había visto obligada a soportar en su primer matrimonio, no estaba dispuesta a casarse. Aunque su antiguo amante, Dexter Anstruther, fuera una tentación tan irresistible, ella sabía que sus secretos destruirían cualquier posibilidad de compartir el futuro con él.

Pero Dexter, joven, guapo y escandalosamente atractivo, estaba decidido a descubrirlo, valiéndose de los medios que fueran necesarios.

Confesiones de una Duquesa Details

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From Reader Review *Confesiones de una Duquesa* for online ebook

Krista says

I had this down on my to-list read, so I got it from the library. Now, frankly, I'm wondering why I had it on the to-read list.

Plot nutshell: inside an English village, a medieval law is re-instated. The law says every single woman must marry or lose half of her fortune. Naturally, this leads to dramatic tension between the independent young widow and a one-night stand from the past.

Pros: It is what it is: a romance set in some fuzzy historical period. (It's supposedly regency, but since there's no historical detail, I can't confirm that.) And the writing is at least literate.

Cons: There's no characterization, the storyline is predictable, and the historical detail is not the slightest bit convincing. Plus, the author insists on using the phrase "dowager duchess" on almost every page.

Overall: I am sure someone out there will like this book. It just wasn't me.

Cherise says

3 1/2 stars

I started this series with the second book first... I liked that book enough to want to go back and read the first and third books in this series.

I like this author's story lines, there is a lot going on to keep you entertained. However, I think she tends to be a bit long winded here and there and drag things on a bit longer than necessary. She's definitely got my attention with this series, and I plan on reading the third book as I really like the characters and I want to know what happens.

Worth the read, for sure, even if I have to skim over some of the more tedious parts.

Carolyn Storer says

Confessions of a Duchess is the first book in Nicola Cornick's 'The Brides of Fortune' trilogy and it is quite different from other historical romance novels I have read. It's not particularly light reading as I felt there was a slight sombre tone to the book, however, there are a few fun elements and a certain amount of humour injected throughout.

Laura is a widow, a dowager Duchess, who has decided to live on her own with her young daughter in a small rundown cottage in the village of Fortune's Folly. Her husband didn't leave her much money so she is not a wealthy widow, but she's fairly happy and takes pleasure in watching her daughter grow.

Dexter works for the government as a spy and has been following and trying to capture Glory, a highwaywoman who is taking from the rich to give to the poor, Robin Hood style. The identity of the highway woman is revealed to him later in the book, and although it surprised him, I could see it coming a mile away. But the revelation was fun all the same and I really enjoyed this aspect to the novel. Dexter is also penniless and is burdened with providing for his family, so he sets off to Fortune's Folly to try his luck and land a wealthy wife.

There are a few little sub-plots that lighten the tone, such as the introduction of an ancient tax law ordering all unwed ladies to pass on half their fortunes to the owner of the village, which leads to some funny scenarios, but overall I felt as though both Laura and Dexter were full of melancholy. There is quite a lot of sexual tension between Laura and Dexter, having already been lovers years before, and I wanted them to be together, as I knew together they would be much happier.

Unfortunately, Laura has two, very big, life changing secrets that she can't reveal to anybody, especially Dexter and this is what is keeping them apart. Dexter can feel this obstacle between them, but, as a typical clueless male, decides it's because she's a heartless, cold woman, rather than just looking a little deeper. Of course, as the novel progresses these secrets are revealed...

The one major criticism I have with this book is the constant expression of lust. I get that this book is a romance but it is in the thoughts of Dexter incessantly. Every time he saw Laura his thoughts revealed how much he wanted to ravish her and how much he needed her. I get it, Dexter is in lust/love with Laura, I don't need it rammed down my throat, it became tiresome and unfortunately spoilt, what is essentially a very good read, just a little bit.

Verdict:

Overall I enjoyed Confessions of a Duchess. The characters are vivid and, for the most part, believable, the descriptions of the village and lifestyle is described well and I liked the plot and other storylines that ran alongside it. I will certainly be reading the next instalment in 'The Brides of Fortune' trilogy, Scandals of an Innocent, I just hope the hero's thoughts are not constantly in the gutter! I would recommend this book to other historical romance readers.

Sophie Renwick says

I had a hard time getting into this book. I don't know why, might just be. I had a hard time picking out what I wanted to read from burgeoning pile. This was on top, so I just grabbed it.

After the first third, I found myself enjoying it more. Emotionally satisfying, but I could have had a bit more steam between the hero and heroine.

I did go ahead, however and ordered the next two books. The series premise is unique and I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in them.

Bronwyn says

This was a well written book, and an excellent introduction to the series.

The heroine Laura is (gasp!) a 34 year old Duchess, and the hero Dexter is 8 years her junior. 4 years ago they shared a night of passion, and the morning afterwards she coldy dismisses him.

Fast forward to the present day, and Laura is widowed with a young daughter in a small village, and Dexter shows up with a mission to marry an heiress and do some work as well.

The storylines are well written and the suspense is interwoven instead of thrown in at the end like in some romances. I loved that the book was set in the village rather than in town, and I thought the author did a marvellous job of conveying 19th century village life and society.

The romance itself, and specifically the heroine is the reason why I rate the book 3 stars. ****spoilers ahead****

I thought that the heroine Laura was a bit wishy washy for example, enjoying Dexters physical affections and then the next morning acting coldly. Her excuse was that she did not want Dexter to learn the secret of her daughters parentage. How she handled that left me shaking my head. She stated that she did not want to disclose the truth because of her daughters best interest , yet when she is offered marriage, she balks at it because it is not in her best interest (in that he does not love her). Maybe I am overreacting however I totally sided with Dexter on his reaction. I think it truly tragic for someone to not know who their child is, and to be denied the right to get to know them.

All in all, I think that Lauren was a spirited character, I liked her a person not as the romantic lead in the book.

I look forward to reading the other installments.

Sally says

I had this on my shelves for ages - one of a bundle of books passed on to me by a friend. I picked it up as comfort reading due to my never ending cold.

It's an interesting read. Some bits were unbelievable but I liked the relationship between the main characters. I also liked the rather unusual perspective - rather than a woman making a hugely advantageous marriage, this followed a man who was in the position of being a 'fortune hunter' and needing to marry money, and that this is an understandable, even honourable, course. It was a refreshing perspective.

I was a bit confused by Dexter, though - he was so desperate to know that Laura had loved him but he kept saying that he didn't believe in love. Laura was a bright, shrewd woman and I don't believe that she wouldn't have picked up on that.

The relations were rather **too** awful and became cardboard cut outs, but generally, a good read.

M. says

Fast read novel-thingie, specked with humor, not too unrealistic in the wrap-up (quite natural and subtle plot-ending) and neat, not all that shallow character-sketches. Characters of future books have already been thoroughly introduced, so that you want to continue with a new book right away.

The book contains few explicit love making-scenes. +1: no vile language.

[Extra note: I read this book in the Dutch translation, 'In het geheim'. Spotted quite a few typo's. As a whole, the translation was OK.]

Liz says

I didn't know what to expect with this novel. I never read a novel from this author. I felt this book was a little far fetched, but that is okay. It was a historical romance novel set in the early 1800's. A one night stand is rekindled after a few years of hiatus. Laura and Dexter try to fight their feelings, thinking that it is not right for them to be together. Laura is a widow, and Dexter is a bachelor. As they fight their love for each other. The women of fortune are taxed if they are not married or do not get married. Laura fights this with a passion and the women rally against the men with many stipulations to the original law such as letting live stock roam free on the Lord's property, and taxing men as they cross over the bridge, and finally stealing his wine and champagne since a percentage of it is for the village. As for the budding romance you know how these stories end.

Sandy M says

We first met the hero and heroine of this book in Unmasked, where they shared a wonderful night of lovemaking, after which Laura, the Duchess of Cole, cold-heartedly told Dexter Anstruther they could never be together, he was only one of many to grace her bed. Dexter returned to London, continued to do his job and look after his family the best he could. Laura later became the Dowager Duchess and moved with her daughter to Fortune's Folly to enjoy her independence after enduring a horrible husband and marriage.

It's four later years when Dexter is sent to Fortune's Folly to investigate the murder of a local man and he meets up with Laura once again. In that interim, he'd become something of a rake after Laura's rejection, but since his father's death, he's now reined himself in and become a conservative and very in-control man and the head of the family. The excesses his parents took part in over the years have served as an expensive lesson for Dexter, he is now penniless and must marry for money to take care of his mother and siblings.

Since the Duke passed away, Laura has lived in Fortune's Folly with her daughter, the child Laura never thought she'd have. Dexter's presence is upsetting for Laura on several levels, one of which would alter her life and that of her daughter drastically. She tries to stay as far away from him as possible, but they seem to cross paths in the most unexpected places and ways.

When the local squire assesses the ancient Dames' Tax on the women of the Folly, Laura is back in rare form with her friends, instituting old laws of their own in retaliation. Things end up going a little too far, a murder

is discovered, secrets are revealed, forgiveness is withheld, and Laura can only hope and pray their decisions made in time of personal turmoil will not be the biggest mistake of their lives.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

Marcia Carter May says

Good love story. Typical story, typical writing, but reads quickly. Just what you want in a romance book.

Gizella Tóth says

Biztos vagyok benne, hogy a harlekin romantika kedvelői nem fognak csalódni.

Az uraság – hogy pénzhez jusson, és egyben bosszút is álljon az őt kikoszorózó hölgyön – bevezeti a „hölgyadót”. A hölgyek azonban nem hagyják magukat, és ellenadókat keresnek ki ugyanazokból az ősrégi papírokból, ahonnan az uraság is szedte az ötletet. Nem sok, talán két vagy három ellentámadást indítanak, de remek, humoros jelenetek kerekednek ki belőle.

Amúgy nem sok minden történik, a körmét nem rágja le az olvasó izgalmában. Szerintem nagyon érződik, hogy mennyiségre fizetnek (azóta túl vagyok a második részen is). Ha úgy cirka felét-harmadát kigyomlálnánk, szerintem nagyon jó kis könyv lehetne, de így csak azt tudom javallani az olvasóknak, hogy ne adjátok fel. Amikor úgy érzitek, hogy most lövitek főbe magatokat, ha nem történik valami, lapozzatok, és keressétek a cselekményt. Mert ahol történik valami, ott azért jó a könyv. Nekem kicsit levon az értékéből, hogy a szerkesztő – ki tudja, miért – eltüntette a dőlő betűs részeket. Pedig nem véletlenül van nyomaték egy-egy szón...

Volt egy pont, amikor azt mondtam, inkább azt a címet kellett volna adni neki, hogy „Dexter was fishing”. :) Szép, nyugodtan csordogálnak az események, és persze jó véget érnek.

Bruna says

A typical love story. However, it had a good plot and well-built characters. Interesting read.

HÜLYA says

S?rad??? bir Historical kal?pla?m?? Marki Dük d?es yok bu kitapta.Zengin de de?iller.Kad?n erkekten sekiz ya? b?y?k ama bu birbirlerini sevmelerine kesinlikle engel de?il.Kelle vergisi denen bir olayla ba?l?yor roman?m?z.Vallahi ben ?ok be?endim.Yazar da m?thi? bir anlat?m g?c? var.San?r?m bu ?? kitapl?k bir seri.Ben bu seriyi kesinlikle takip edece?im.De?i?ik bir historical okumak isteyenlere tavsiye ederim

Desi says

Leído en Julio 2014

No sé pero a mi me encantó.... me pareció un buena trama y nos protagonistas muy especiales!!

Christine says

I enjoyed *The Confessions of a Duchess* very much. The female lead in *The Confessions of a Duchess* is the Dowager Duchess of Cole, Laura Cole. Now living in the country on her grandparents estate in the village of Fortune's Folly, Laura will do anything to keep the scandals of yesteryear a secret. Then a medieval tax law is revived in order for the lord of the land to recoup some of his lost fortune. The tax law requires all single women--spinsters and widows to pay half their wealth to the lord within the year. The women protest in creative ways, while men flock to Fortune's Folly to find an eligible bride with a fortune to share. Laura's one time paramour, Dexter Anstruther, arrives in Fortune's Folly to find himself a wealthy heiress to wed and simultaneously--and secretly--investigate a murder for the government. Laura and Dexter struggle to get along all the while fighting their still present attraction for one another--and Laura adamant to keep things from their shared past a secret from Dexter. This story is almost a battle of wills between the two as they attempt to avoid each other and make sense of their emotions. Circumstances practically bring them together, but their love for each other since their affair four years ago never died... if only they both can admit it!
