



## Love's Duel

*Carole Mortimer*

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*Read this classic romance by USA Today bestselling author Carole Mortimer, now available for the first time in e-book!*

### **From scandal...to seduction!**

Leonie is trying to rebuild her life after a scandal that rocked her world and ruined her reputation. Four years ago she was accused of blackmail and brought to trial for the crime she had not committed. But for which, powerful prosecuting attorney, Giles Noble was convinced she was guilty! Now Giles is back in her life and determined to make Leonie pay for the injustice...in his bed! But feisty virgin Leonie won't be fooled. If Giles wants to bed her, he'll have to wed her!

Originally published in 1981

## **Love's Duel Details**

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Author : Carole Mortimer

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## **From Reader Review Love's Duel for online ebook**

### **Sapheron says**

I read another book, by Penny Jordan , that seems eons more believable. That was a hard phrase to say where these two authors are concerned.

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### **Jean says**

There were some interesting twists in this well written romance!

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### **Shallowreader VaVeros says**

This book was convoluted, ridiculous and full of alphabrute suspicion and anger. Classic Carole Mortimer. I enjoyed reading it particularly with the underlying moral message of those wicked people in open marriages.

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### **Jen says**

I was just passing by a Bendigo op shop and bought this battered book for 20 cents, since I thought it'd be worth adding to my vintage collection. It's hard to be objective and remember the time when it was the norm for the hero to be aggressive and misogynistic towards the heroine, and the stories were incredibly melodramatic. However, the heroine, Leonie, in this particular book is feisty indeed and gives the hero, Giles, a bloody good run for his money, although the premise for their "love/hate" relationship is laughable (he, being a hot-shot lawyer, publicly condemning her for having an illicit affair with a married man, hoo-hah).

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### **Maria says**

This is a very old Harley, from 1982 in my library. I keep a collection of the old books missing a few from the 80s but not many. Anyway Giles and Leonie were a very odd couple. He was a lawyer very rich of course. He believed she was a lying all the time about everything but he still wanted her now ain't that something? It took the last three pages of the book for him to come around. I don't see these two married long. I did however loved the secondary couple Phil and Wanda they were cute together. Wasn't crazy about Giles just a little too intense for me. If you like the push over heroine and ass hero with a slap to go with it go ahead and read this one

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### **Vanessa says**

## ANGST 5 STARS, ROMANCE 1 STAR, LAUGHS FOR OTT 4

Leonie had gone against the barrister J.G. Noble four years ago in a blackmail case. He was convinced that she was a lying, scheming manipulative 18 year old hoping to gain money from blackmailing one of his good friends. Of course she was released and her step brother, Phil, the true culprit was jailed for four years. Leonie has since moved on w/ her life, but she carries around a lot of hate and dislike for that barrister. He ruined her life and embarrassed her when she had simply been taken in by a shark! Leonie never dreamed that she would come in contact w/ the sleazy attorney ever again. . . but she does!

John Giles Noble was convinced that his friend told the unvarnished truth about Leonie all those years ago and he truly believed that justice had not been carried out then. He felt she should have got life! Now he finds her staying w/ his elderly aunt as the illustrator for her books. Giles wants Leonie and he sits out to get her at any cost. He knows all about her and her crazy bedroom antics all via his good friend. He means to have her at any cost.

Loved the set-up, loved the by play, I even enjoyed the first kiss – to me it showed her loathing of Giles in that instant. Of course it was later played out differently as she remembers it. (she asked if he believed what OM told him about her and he says he didn't think he ever did. Oh but since she responded to his kisses . . . then –sorry the first time wasn't a response.) She constantly fought him and then she finally set her price to what she thought he wouldn't meet . . . marriage!

He is mean to her, insults her, calls her names, never believes her, he actually threatened to break her wrist ("I can break this as easily as you broke that china figurine."), twists her arm behind her back, tells her he will hit her and actually does later! She even feels that he would hit her – nice so she knew deep down that he is an abusive man.

Giles isn't a very good attorney he believed his friend over her even when he is around her for a while he still believed the sleaze – oh well sleaze must stick w/ slime! Giles also claims that he can admit when he is wrong – he just isn't wrong about her.

The way she loved this guy or realizes she loves him – OTT; the way the OM blackmails her. Seriously what happened to all of her hate? Oh yeah she suddenly love this sadist or is it masochist/wasn't buying the OM's blackmail but of course she gives in because she loves the beater! This guy truly loves her as well! Is there anyone who doesn't? I half expected her step brother to do some duplicitous activities against her as well. Leonie does exactly what he tells her to do, but then he changes his mind. She actually grew a neuron or two when she did, but then I think they rolled out of her head shortly after. I couldn't believe how quickly Phil tossed her under the bus either. Oh I guess he suddenly couldn't trust her just like Giles couldn't so . . . heave ho! Giles had loved her all along – I couldn't tell maybe you can. He says that everyone is entitled to one mistake – but NOT her. Those that he loves don't get to make any mistakes!

Way OTT soap opera! Angst galore but I not sure I believe in romance. The ending was a big clincher too! Poor baby! NO WAY!! This abuser never showed that type of emotion before and I'm guessing he still didn't trust her until he discovered that little thing!!

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**Verity says**

H/h have an emotional range of a teaspoon. Un-PC, implausible plot, twisty family entanglements, readable train wreck. Virginal widowed Heroine got used like wipes by 3 different men : step-bro (who got thrown into the slammer & turned out to be a nice guy), sleazy doc (who had an affair of the heart w/ heroine even tho' he's married w/ a teen daughter who ironically marries heroine's step-bro later on) ; tunnel-visioned hero (the prosecutor aka sleaze bag's BFF who persecuted heroine & step-bro). Not exactly stinko de mayo but coulda been bettah executed if it was penned by a more dramatic writer. The highlight of the book : heroine throws down the gauntlet & ups the ante that the only way she'll be hero's dinky receptacle is holy matrimony & he agrees to pay her up 100,000 as requested (the capital needed to start up step-bro's restaurant). Hero believes all the venomous tales fed by BFF that heroine was & is a promiscuous slut & slings mud in her face every chance he gets, regardless of her protestations that she's not bangin' her step-bro. Oh yeah Freakyville that HP is, her step-bro becomes friends of benefits w/ hero by the end & hero steps outta his comfort zone by spontaneously producing a twinge of fluid in his eye upon discovering on wedding nite that his bride's hymen is miraculously still intact. And we're told he fell in luv w/ her @ 1st sight the moment the jailbait heroine walked thru' the door. She got away from the blackmail charges by a whisker & married an invalid & we're supposed to believe hero searched for her in every nook & cranny after the trial ended, but came up nil. Sherlock Holmes he ain't.

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### **Kay says**

4 ½ Stars! ~ Leonie Carter is only 22 but she's survived public scandal and the death of her husband. Now working as an illustrator of children's books, she's living a quiet life and sharing the cottage of the book's author. Emily's in her sixties and much prefers to have the illustrator of her books reside with her while she's writing. This suits Leonie perfectly, until she meets Emily's nephew. Giles Noble is the prosecutor who tried to have her convicted of larceny. He brutalized and ruined her reputation on the witness stand, and though he succeeded in convicting her brother, the jury had felt that Leonie was innocent. Seeing the con artist living in his Aunt's home is enough to make Giles see red. And just as it was four years ago, he can't deny that he still desires her. It was his strong attraction to Leonie that had made him attack her so forcefully, with such bitterness, after all she and her brother had set his best friend up for blackmail. He believes Leonie uses men to get what she wants, and when he proposes that she become his mistress she insists that if he wants to bed her he must wed her first.

Ah, talk about chemistry! This book was published 26 years ago, and though some of the behaviour on Giles' part would not be acceptable in a Presents today, the story itself holds up quite nicely. And although we aren't given Giles POV (as was the norm in 1982) we do get to see how very much Leonie affects him. They can't seem to be in the same room with each other without sparks flying, be it bitter confrontations or sizzling sexual tension. Leonie is at first terrified of Giles, but later she realizes she just doesn't give a damn what he thinks and she gives back just as good as she gets. Though Leonie could quite easily prove her innocence, she wants Giles to believe in her for herself and not on evidence. The ending is extremely well done, and the scenes where Giles realizes his mistakes are quite poignant. Bravo to Ms. Mortimer. This one's a keeper!

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### **sbf20112011 says**

This is a classic old-school story of a hero who thinks the heroine is a lying whore based on a misunderstanding, while of course in reality the heroine is as pure as the driven snow despite even having

been married once before. Very fun to watch the hero going crazy for her despite his beliefs, and to watch him discover the truth. Very good read if you're in the mood for an old-school, irrationally angry hero.

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### **Leona says**

These two drove me crazy. They were toxic, but that isn't the reason for the two stars. After all, I read HPs for that very reason.

I just couldn't buy into the ending and "his love" for her. It just wasn't realistic. Oh well....another day, another HP.

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### **Azet says**

I understand perfectly the title to this book. This book is about a duel,a coldblooded battle between two lovers who hate each other against all odds..and fall in love in the middle of it...and they fight through the torment to hide their love for each other.

OH GOD,the passionate love-war between the cynical and sexy lawyer Giles Noble and the humble and stubborn illustrator Leonie Carter.

How i enjoyed their scenes together!There are 90% angst in this one, and i LOVE how they fought all the time...and the hot passionate encounters between them were SO YUMMY!

Their love...oh how obvious it was to me, and the end nearly broke me. Giles let go of his pride and nearly gave his heart to her!!!He is a wonderful hero and a brave one too,when he thought that she loved another man...and the epiluge,after their first night when he cries!!!!I cried for him too!He knows of her virginity and hates himself for everything he accused and did to her!

He is a cold-blooded and arrogant man from the start, but we see him soon for what he are,a madly possessive man,desperately in love with the heroine.He couldn't stand another man near her!

I loved the heroine for her pride and stubbornness,she gave back and always fought back. This is a really enjoyable 5-star,"Love's Duel" has come to be one of my favourite angsty-reads!!!

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### **Su says**

Not bad at all. I just couldn't believe his "love at first sight" with all the intentions of getting married to her from the beginning. How come he trashed her so bad and tried to send her to prison with no hard evidence.

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### **StMargarets says**

OTT Carole Mortimer goodness. The then-18 year-old heroine was falsely prosecuted by the hero four years

before for her part in a blackmail scandal. She was acquitted but her stepbrother went to prison for four years. The married doctor who testified against her was the hero's friend and told a pack of lies in court because she refused to sleep with him (even though she had a crush on him).

Since then, the heroine married an older man with a terminal illness – their chaste marriage lasted a year. Then she got some art training and is now an illustrator for the hero's aunt.

At the beginning of the story, the stepbrother is fresh out of prison and is shacking up with the daughter of the doctor who testified against the heroine in court.

Meanwhile, after their first surprise meeting, the hero pursues the heroine for a sexual affair under the benevolent eye of his aunt. She has no idea what a jezebel the heroine is in the hero's eyes.

The hero thinks that at 18 the heroine was sleeping with her stepbrother and the doctor. And now that she has one marriage under her belt, she is looking for more easy marks to blackmail.

The heroine rarely finishes a sentence and when she does, it makes her look even worse.

The only smart thing the hero does is make the hero propose marriage. She is just as attracted to the hero, but she thinks the marriage-or-else proposal will make him go away before she loses her resolve. The hero calls her bluff and arranges a wedding. When she asks for money so her stepbrother can marry his gf and open a restaurant, he writes the check. Yes, our hero is smitten with his little jezebel and will move heaven and earth to have her.

It's only after he confesses his love for her (I'm leaving out a lot of the plot) does the heroine confess her love for him. They marry and we are treated to the hero's tears as he realizes she was a virgin all along.

While the doctor should have gone to jail for perjury with his reputation in shreds, he did get kicked out of his daughter's life. He was truly lower than low and the hero was an idiot to believe him.

If you like falsely accused heroines finally getting justice in the eyes of an unforgiving hero, you'll like this one.

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## Booked says

She'd barely survived the terrible scandal

Leonie knew the nightmare was behind her now, yet she couldn't help feeling bitter. Four years earlier her name had been splashed across the country on a charge of blackmail--a crime she'd been completely innocent of.

But Giles Noble, the powerful prosecuting attorney, hadn't been convinced. Leonie still burned at the memory. How she longed to set the record straight!

Her chance came when fate threw Giles and her together for a weekend--a weekend that brought changes to last a lifetime!

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**Αγγελικ? says**

Very cool novel ! I really enjoyed how Leonie drove crazy the bossy,prosecuting attorney, and how finally she proved that all those bad rumours about her were lies ! My favourite thing in this novel is when Giles admits that all his "hate" about Leonie originated from his strong attraction to her...In my opinion this novel is a good "manual" to get inspiration on how to deal with bossy,misogynistic and disrespectful men/playboys who think that they can play on young ladies (there are many such men almost 40 years later haha)

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