



To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield

Bronwen Evans

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Let the Wicked Wagers Begin...

Lady Caitlin Southall's temper has finally got the better of her. She's challenged Harlow Telford, the Duke of Dangerfield, the most notorious rake in all of England, to a wager. She wants her house back. The one her destitute father lost to Dangerfield in a card game. But if she doesn't win their bet, she not only loses her home, she loses her dignity and pride and damn it all, maybe her heart... For the handsome Duke has decreed, when he wins, she must spend the night in his bed.

Harlow Telford is amused by his hellion neighbor, Caitlin, or Cate to her friends, who seem to encompass everyone on earth except him. When she bursts into one of his private gatherings, he mistakes her for the entertainment. Her slap across his face sets him straight and raises the absurd desire to seduce the unconventional beauty into his bed. When she issues her daft challenge to win back her father's pile of rubble, the terms are set. And he'll do anything to win—except fall in love...

To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield Details

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From Reader Review To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield for online ebook

Melody May (What I'm Reading) says

Also on <http://sillymelody.blogspot.com>

All right, last night I wanted to read something quick and enjoyable. So, I started To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield by Bronwen Evans, which happens to be the first book in the Wicked Wagers trilogy.

First off this is a light-hearted story that is mainly here to entertain you, it's short and sweet and nothing more. I personally like to have short and sweet story here and there. They tend to give you a break every now and then. With that said, we meet Lady Caitlin Southall who catches eye of "every woman's wicked fantasy," the Duke of Dangerfield. Even though he's every woman's wicked fantasy, she wants nothing to do with him. All she wants is to live a quiet life and find someone who will love her for who she is.

However, hopes and dreams have to be put on the back burner until she can get back her home that her father so carelessly wagered away to Harlow Telford (the Duke of Dangerfield). Upset at the situation she goes to the Duke to plead for her home. Unmoved by her pleas offers up another suggestion, they could wager for the home. The one who could win two out of the three got the home: faro, cake baking, and a horse race.

Granted the caking baking idea was a little silly, but all the wagers actually made the story light and amusing. Honestly, this story is brain candy. Sometimes we all need something that is light and fluffy. I enjoyed the story and plan to read the rest of the Wicked Wagers. I'm not going to lie, I really liked the ending. Granted it was highly unlikely to happen that way, but it was something I was really hoping for. I am a sap, and the story gave my inner sappiness joy. So, if you are looking for something to read that isn't too heavy, I would suggest you check out To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield you might get a kick out of it. So, have a wonderful day and keep on reading.

Angela says

I am writing this review on my second reading of the novel. If I remember correctly the book was free and I downloaded it because it was in my recommendations list and I loved the cover. Glad I took a chance on this new author to me. Both characters were great. Both Caitlin and Harlow, the duke, were strong and held by their convictions. It is not always the case in romance novels that the hero is committed to his family. That aspect of the book (his love of his family and wanting to do the right thing by his half-brother) made this book in my opinion. I have read all three Wicked Wagers books and loved them all.

Brooke says

The gist: The rug has been pulled from below Lady Caitlin's feet. Her disgraceful father has gambled her inheritance away even though it wasn't rightly his to gamble away. The house had belonged to her mother and was supposed to go directly to Caitlin. Now she has to try to get the house back, but the only way to get it back is to make a deal with the new deed owner. Harlow is the Duke of Dangerfield and he HATES

Caitlin's father with a passion. It gave his heart great pleasure to take the house from Caitlin's father. The fire in Caitlin's eyes when she storms into his den of debauchery, however, has a fire igniting deep in his belly. He's looking forward to having both the estate AND Caitlin.

Okay, so here's the deal. I really liked Caitlin and Harlow, but the story was just so-so for me. It was going ALRIGHT, but then something completely unexpected happens. I don't want to say what because I don't want to spoil it, but the story just kind of gets a little bit ridiculous. I also had some issues with the historical aspects of the story. The most notable historical issue I had with the story is that Caitlin's father never seems to be in the picture. He's an earl and somewhat impoverished thanks to his poor gambling skills. He refused to give Caitlin a proper Season because he deemed it too expensive, but giving her a proper Season could have set him up nicely since she was incredibly beautiful and could have made a quite prosperous match. So anyway, he refused to give her a Season and evidently just left her to live by herself in the country estate. She's a virginal, proper lady, yet he seems to just leave her to her own devices. I like that Caitlin is unconventional for a Lady of the *ton* and I don't have a problem with THAT, but it's just completely unrealistic that she's allowed to roam around the countryside unchaperoned and I have a problem with THAT. The "something unexpected" is a medical situation and Caitlin is brought to Harlow's house instead of her own. Not only that, but she STAYS at his house while she recuperates, all while her father has apparently no role in her care or anything. Then, when Caitlin and Harlow decide they want to get married, once again her father isn't asked his permission or anything along the lines. It was just weird.

I did feel a connection to both Caitlin and Harlow. When they had a big misunderstanding that hinders their getting closer to each other, my gut was clenching and I just wanted them to COMMUNICATE (which is the prime reason for anguish in romance novels) and be together already. I was happy with their happily ever after, but the ridiculousness that happens dimmed it for me a bit.

The book also needed a quick proofread as there were quite a few typos that drove me a little nuts.

Overall, the book wasn't AWFUL but it wasn't GREAT either. I am intrigued enough to read at least the next book in the Wicked Wagers series, though.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

A sweet and easy read.

The H's sudden and early turnabout is a bit implausible. As is the scene where the h walks in on the H and his friends and their 'ladies' at three in the morning. And the people in the room were just sitting and drinking and posing? Realistically they should have been some active action going on!

And lots more incredible and anachronistic things happen.

But he's nicely redeemed. And 'nuff sweet cheesiness that hits the right spot.

Nicole Laverdure says

Sweet and romantic! I have just finished reading this romantic love story TO DARE THE DUKE OF DANGERFIELD by Bronwen Evans. This is her first book in the Wicked Wagers trilogy. Some scenes are so charming and fun to read. I loved her two characters Harlow Telford, the Duke of Dangerfield and Lady

Caitlin Southall. The story begins as Caitlin has lost her home, because of her father's gambling problems and now wants it back; she will do anything to get her family manor back. She made a bet with Harlow that she can race her precious horse Ace and win. But, what she did not expect, is that he will add a bonus to this challenge. He is fascinated by this woman, and sparks flare and ignite a sweet passion between the two. I loved this beautiful and well written story filled with love and passion. I really recommend Ms. Evans's books, if you are a romantic!

Greselley says

WOW. I never cried that much when reading HR books. THE first part of the book is okay but the good thing is that it became better as it goes to the end.

Lady Caitlin needs to get back the house wagered by her father to the Duke of Dangerfield. It would not be easy. Aside from the known fact that the duke is a rake, he is the most powerful next to Prince Regent. To save herself from ruin, she decided to approach the duke in the middle of the night. She desperately needed it back since it is passed down by her mother to her. So she challenged him to a wager.

Harlow, the Duke of Dangerfield promised Jeremy, his brother that he will get that house for him since it is supposed to be rightfully inherited by Jeremy if the selfish lord married his mother. He hates the man. So he get it in the only way he knew but what he didn't expect is the daughter of the lord to dare him to give the house back to her, looking so good in a trouser. Still, he accepted the wager.

She get the house if she win but she will be on his bed if she lose. Such a very fair trade. They go on with their wager, not thinking it would change their life so much more than they expected.

He'd sworn many years ago to never again engage in the risky game of love. A true gambler understood the odds in any game, and where the game of love was concerned the stakes were astronomical and the odds were always against you. Love was a lie that carved out the heart and left a man hollow inside, with nothing left worth wagering. At least, that's what he'd thought until recently. Until Caitlin. Was this ache in his chest, this driving need to erase the pain from her eyes, and this primal craze to possess her, love?

I really thought it would end tragically. I know books that have tragic endings are legendary but I don't want to expose myself to such ending. I was thankful it did not end that way though that part was my most favorite. Love always prove itself to be more powerful than anything.

Clare O'Beara says

The gentry were more relaxed at their country estates than in town, which accounts for several of the circumstances in this book. Among them, a young lady wearing a groom's clothes to ride astride; swimming in the lake; a lady visiting the neighbour's house without a maid or other chaperone.

This is a fun story of a desperate wager over a house and a horse. I like particularly that our heroine goes beyond the bounds of convention. The duke is pretty much a stock caricature by comparison. As far as I am aware, a trustee was not allowed to dispose of or gamble away a house. I thought some other way should have been found to account for the debt. Enjoy. This is an adult romance.

I downloaded an e-ARC from Instafreebie. This is an unbiased review.

Lisa says

Lady Caitlin Southall can not believe that her home, her mothers home which is being held in a trust for her, was lost in a card game. She becomes even more frustrated when she learns the most notorious rake and her neighbor, Harlow Telford, Duke of Dangerfield is the one that won her home and will not return it like a gentleman when he learns of her situation. Oh no. Caitlin's temper gets the best of her and she challenges Harlow to the best of three events to see who wins the home--but her loss will come with her losing herself in his bed.

Harlow is troubled when he hears that the home he won was being held in a trust but he has his own personal reasons for needing to own Caitlins home and he has no intention of losing the bet. He knows what must happen after Caitlin loses and he hopes it will be a win/win situation for them both but in the process he needs to trump the lovely lady in cards, baking and horse racing all while trying to hold on to his heart.

This was my first experience reading Bronwen Evans and I really enjoyed it. The story worked well with the length, about half the length of a full length novel, and I didn't feel like the romance was rushed. There is a back story of our couple knowing each other previously and that always helps move a novella along for me. I really enjoyed Caitlin and her passion for securing her future and her boldness but who I really enjoyed was Harlow. I don't really want to give away much of the storyline as it came as a pleasant surprise, but I was really surprised at the decency of him underneath his rakish persona. Watching the sparks fly between this couple was fun and leads to some very steamy encounters until they finally seal the deal. However, Harlow is still keeping quite a big secret from Cate and when it is finally revealed it leads to heartbreak and sets up for tragedy. The only thing that sort of bothered me about the story was the ending. It has a double whammy that is a bit over dramatic and I'm not sure it needed to be in there. I understood the first punch but the second tied everything up a little too neatly. This was the only part where I felt a longer story would have been welcome.

Overall though I really enjoyed this story. It is fast paced and filled with sharp barbs between our couple and plenty of heated passion all while gradually falling in love with each other and learning to appreciate what the other had to offer . The supporting characters (two of Harlow's friends whom I hope are the next two books) add a bit of humor to the story as well. If you are looking for a great way to spend an afternoon, Harlow and Cate's romance is one that is sure to heat up your blood, make you laugh and end with a sigh. 4 stars

A fun quote:

"Good God, how's a man to concentrate with those staring at him all night? And I thought I preferred you in trousers. Well, played Lady Southall."

Toni says

To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield is a fast and furious read. I was captivated from start to finish, and couldn't wait to see what was up next for these two stubborn people.

Lady Caitlin Southall's lost her home and she knows if she can race her prize horse Ace against the Duke, she can win it back. What she doesn't count on is him making a counter bet. Even though his bet has a steep price, she can't back down. Her home is the only thing she has left from her mother and this rake will not deter her.

Harlow Telford, Duke of Dangerfield, was instantly fascinated by the beauty bent over her horse's hoof. His passion ignited and desire flared. What he didn't count on, was that she was the brat that dared laugh at him years ago. Even though he now knows her identity, he is more determined to bed her. But what surprises him the most is that his desire to bed her turns into a need to wed her.

What was once to be one bet turns into the best two out of three; wits, skills and tenacity are used to win at all costs. Down to the last trial, things are neck to neck; one wrong move and everything changes. Can they heal from this new disaster?

To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield is the first in the Wicked Wagers trilogy. They are a collection of novellas involving three friends. To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield is a wonderful start to the series.

Sometimes you can't get a clear picture from a shorter story. Ms. Evans does a fine job telling the story, detailing the characters and engaging us in the plot. As I sit here, I don't even wish To Dare the Duke of Dangerfield was longer, which is frequently the case. I'm very pleased with this little gem and I can't wait to read the next in the trilogy, To Wager the Marquis of Wolverstone.

Trish R. says

Excellent book..

Sexual tension is alive and well and wonderfully written by Ms. Evans. I absolutely hate books where there's no desire, no want, no nothing, but then there's sex. How crappy is that? You can go through 50% of a book and there's no kiss or anything and the next minute they're having sex. Ugh! Harlow's desire for Caitlin is obvious from the minute she rides away from him. Absolutely loved it.

As I loved this entire book. Loved that Harlow was so arrogant and self-centered but Caitlin didn't take any of his crap. She was one tough cookie. And I'm happy that it all worked out for her at the end.

I really liked Marcus and Henry, I've already bought Marcus's book and will start it as soon as I finish this review. I liked the Dowry Duchess, Jeremy, even though he really screwed up, and Mrs. Darcy.

One thing I did like was the swearing in the book. There's nothing worse than descriptive sex but the author being afraid of using a cuss word. This was well written all the way around. This was my first book by Ms. Evans and as soon as I read about Marcus, then Henry, I'll see what else she has to offer.

Christine says

OMG! I laughed, cried and squealed with delight. I love a strong woman who does not sacrifice her strength

to please a man, Caitlin was that woman. Poor Harlow did not have a chance after the cake challenge, he fell hard, really hard. I loved how Caitlin got her wishes at the end- all of them ;-)

Dee Deacon Foster says

At the age of twenty three Caitlin Southall wears britches to ride/train her beloved horse, Ace of Spades in hopes of winning the Two Thousand Guineas race at Newmarket. A race that she hopes will save her beloved home from being gambled away by her father & out of the hands of the Duke of Dangerfield who, for reasons unknown to her, is determined to ruin her father.

Known as a rake of the first order, Harlow Telford, the Duke of Dangerfield, is determined to ruin the man who ruined his mother after the death of his father & to secure the inheritance his half brother should be given. What he doesn't figure into his plans is the daughter of his nemesis/neighbor calling on his conscience & making him take a better look at his life.

Caitlin visits Harlow in hopes of convincing him to relinquish her home back to her. When she walks in on his "bachelor" party (complete with his mistress) & he refuses her request she bets him that she can win the home back from him in a horse race. When he refuses, she forms the bet into a dare. However, when he agrees but 1) only if she comes to his bed when she loses & 2) he picks the challenge - a game of Faro. They eventually come to the understanding that it will be the winner of 2 out of 3 challenges - Faro, a horse race & cake baking. Caitlin reluctantly agrees to his demand of going to his bed should he win.

Spending time together as she learns Faro & they both learn to bake shows Caitlin that Harlow may not be the self-centered rake she thought & she could fall in love with the man. It also shows Harlow that Caitlin may be a woman but she is not like other women he has known. She also makes him take a better look at himself & he's not sure he likes the person he has become.

Through the weeks leading up to the final challenge Caitlin realizes that she could have a life with Harlow & her beloved home for any daughter they may have. Harlow comes to realize that he cannot live without Caitlin but can he betray his half brother & let her have her home back? If he does will he lose her for good? At the final challenge will sabotage keep these 2 apart? What will Caitlin's reaction be when she finds out what her father has done to cause the hatred of Harlow & his half brother?

This is the first book I have read by Bronwen Evans & am thoroughly impressed. A story that will make you laugh, cry & yell at the characters. I've already started the 2nd book in the series To Wager the Marquess of Wolverstone & it promises to be as good as this one.

Ms. Evans is an author that can make you want to start the next book in a series right away...which in my opinion is the mark of a great author!

Carol *Young at Heart Oldie* says

This was my first book by Bronwen Evans and I really enjoyed it. It was longer than the average novella and I felt this allowed for effective characterisation and a well-paced story.

Harlow turned out to be quite a surprise. He appears to be a typical rake, only concerned for his own pleasures but, deep down, he is a man who really cares about his mother and half-brother, Jeremy. I could understand his desire for revenge against the man who brought ruin to his mother and his desire to secure Jeremy's birth right. His honourable actions towards Caitlin were not at all what I expected. It was clear that he would not have gambled with her father had he known that Mansfield Manor was in trust for Caitlin but it created a real dilemma for him. He felt obligated to keep his promise to Jeremy but he also needed to secure Caitlin's future by marrying her.

I enjoyed seeing the growth in Harlow's character. Getting to know Caitlin makes him take a good look at his life...a meaningless life in which he has achieved very little. He is afraid that by opening up to Caitlin and sharing his life with her, she will find him sadly lacking and, for the first time, he wants more.

Tonight had been a revelation. Caitlin stirred more than his lust. He wanted her respect. He wanted to be... more. More for her. He suddenly found himself in the unenviable position of wanting a woman to be proud of him. He wanted her to look at him with pride, rather than simply seeing him as a title and a means to a life of wealth and ease.

Looks can be deceptive. Outwardly Caitlin may look delicate but she has a will of iron, shown in her determination not to lose Mansfield Manor. It takes boldness and daring to put the mighty Duke of Dangerfield firmly in his place.

"I'm Lady Caitlin Southall," she called over her shoulder and, filled with satisfaction at seeing his mouth drop open, she kicked Ace of Spades and tore off at a gallop— spraying His Grace with clods of earth. The string of curses behind her made her laugh out loud. Bumping into the duke or, rather, leaving Dangerfield in a shower of dirt, made her day.

I like how she refuses to compromise over what she truly wants from life... a partner in marriage, a man who truly loves her and understands the meaning of commitment. Despite the fact that Harlow represents everything that she despises, arrogant and overbearing, she can't help but be attracted to him. He challenges her and treats her as an equal and, for the first time in her life, she no longer feels lonely. Her life is full of fun and happiness.

The romance...the battle of wills, the witty banter, the wagers (particularly the cake baking one), the heated, passionate encounters...is immensely enjoyable.

I was intrigued by Harlow's friends and fellow rakehells, the arrogant Lord Marcus Danvers, Marquis of Wolverstone and the rather more honourable Lord Henry St. Giles, Earl of Cravenswood and look forward to reading their stories.

My only criticism is about the ending. While I understand the necessity for Jeremy to feel genuine remorse for his actions, the events do seem overly dramatic and somewhat contrived. However, this was a relatively small point and didn't really spoil my overall enjoyment of the story.

Favourite Romantic Quote:

"I need a woman who completes me. Who fills my soul with song, and who can bring me to my knees in adoration with one simple smile."

Overall, romantic, witty and entertaining.

REVIEW RATING: 4.5/5 Stars

Wicked Wagers series (click on the book cover for more details):

This review is also posted on my Rakes and Rascals Blog:

<https://rakesandrascals.wordpress.com...>

Daniella says

DNF@50%. The stupidity is high in this one. I expected so much from this, especially since I love the whole "kick-ass heroine challenges the hero" premise, but boy, did it suck in its execution.

The main issue I have with the story is the **inconsistency in the characters**. The heroine, for one, was established as strong and smart, and I really believed that. That is, until the 50% marker when she did something so totally ridiculous that it made me go:

Also, the hero kept on switching from cold, calculating bastard to sweet, sensitive lover. I mean, I'm all for character development, but this ping-ponging from one personality to the other is just downright confusing and does not qualify as development.

Another issue I had with the story is this: (view spoiler) **Too close for comfort, if you ask me.**

I wouldn't re-read this, and I'm sure as hell wouldn't recommend it.

Aldy says

Es un libro genial, todas las emociones por las que pasé, desde cuando se conocen y cómo se van enamorando, él nunca deja de ser un caballero aunque sea coqueto con ella, maravilloso.

La trama del hermano de ambos, cómo quería ser fiel a los dos pero no sabía a quién proteger, un hombre leal.

Y el final donde ella pierde la apuesta cayéndose de su caballo y queda ciega... se me partió el corazón, pero ver como es una persona tan grande que no guarda rencor a su medio hermano, y cómo no quiere "atrapar" al duque sintiendo que es una carga... todo para que él se le declare otra vez más con palabras hermosas.

Al final recupera su vista en el día de su boda luego de haber sufrido otro golpe, y le propone que lo hará más feliz de lo que es, diciéndole que está embarazada.

Me pareció un libro perfecto.
