



The Diamond Slipper

Jane Feather

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Dear Reader,

What comes to mind when you think of a diamond slipper? Cinderella, perhaps? That's what Cordelia Brandenburg imagines when her godparents arrange a marriage for her with a man she's never met--a marriage that will take her to Versailles, far from the rigid confines of her childhood home. The betrothal gift is a charm bracelet with a tiny, glittering diamond slipper attached...as befits a journey into a fairy-tale future.

But Cordelia--young, headstrong, and completely adorable--runs into trouble right away. Her escort to the wedding is the golden-eyed, sensual, teasing Viscount Leo Kierston. For Cordelia, it's love at first sight. Yet Leo seems to see only a spoiled child--perhaps it's the way she cheats at chess--and Cordelia is determined to show him the woman beneath.

There is, however, no escaping her arranged marriage. She's devastated to discover that her new husband is an utterly loathsome tyrant who will stop at nothing to satisfy his twisted desires.

My heart went out to Cordelia as she struggles courageously against a man determined to break her spirit. But her husband has a secret, one that will bring down the vengeance of Viscount Kierston and all who have reason to hate him.

I hope you'll enjoy this love story of two of my very favorite characters.

Warmest wishes,

Jane Feather

P.S. The charm bracelet makes its next appearance in *The Silver Rose*.
Look for it next summer.

The Diamond Slipper Details

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From Reader Review The Diamond Slipper for online ebook

Mari says

I thought it was going to be a retelling of Cinderella because of the sleeper charm but it was far from that... It felt super long and wordy and had to skip through it to finish it... And the end even though tied up felt incomplete somehow...

penelopewanders says

Not my favorite Feather - partly due to the age discrepancy...even if 16 was ripe for matrimony at that time. Also the stupid risks they took were too... stupid. Towards the end I did warm up to it. I know I read (and traded) another in this series and enjoyed it... and was wondering about the third by the time I finished.

Manuela says

Un romance originale, che mi ha sorpresa molto positivamente. Inanzitutto l'ho trovato diverso ed atipico rispetto alla quasi totalità dei romance letti: questa volta è lei, innamorata fin da subito, che corre dietro a lui, che inizialmente si mostra indifferente, non per tattica, ma perché lo è veramente, a differenza di molti romance dove lui insegue lei quasi senza un motivo apparente. Già questo cambio di ruoli e di prospettiva mi ha piacevolmente impressionato. I due protagonisti crescono nel corso del romanzo, con lei che da bambina viziata diviene donna consapevole delle difficoltà della vita, e lui che mostra di essere un personaggio maschile dalle molte sfaccettature, con le sue ombre e le sue debolezze, che prende coscienza dei suoi sentimenti forse troppo tardi, e che non appare mai come l'eroe infallibile e il cavaliere tutto d'un pezzo. Quello che mi ha convinto del tutto poi è stata la profondità e l'attenzione mostrata dall'autrice nella narrazione delle sofferenze e delle pene inflitte alla protagonista: nulla è lasciato all'immaginazione, e forse per la prima volta il cattivo prende il sopravvento sull'eroe per quasi tutto il romanzo, e Cordelia deve passare per un lungo tragitto di sofferenze, molto umane e reali, prima di avere il suo lieto fine. Consigliatissimo.

Elle says

This one is kind of Silver Nights retold. Cordelia Brandenburg, an orphan fostered at the Austrian court alongside the young Marie Antoinette, is given in an arranged marriage to a Prussian prince who attends the French court. She's married by proxy to the prince, with his friend Viscount Leo Kierston standing in for her husband, then he's to escort her to France along with Marie Antoinette's party.

Thing is, Cordelia falls in love at first sight with Leo. She pretty much pursues him the whole way to her husband, without much regard for the ethics or morals of it (here she differs from the heroine in Silver Nights, who doesn't much like her escort, at least at first). For Leo's part, he thinks she's a scandalous little

brat, but he can't seem to stop kissing her whenever they get close.

Leo's sister was the prince's first wife, and she died suddenly of a wasting illness while he was away. He's suffering from guilt and an uncomfortable dislike of the prince, but he plays the friend because he wants to stay near his young nieces. He has a fair idea that Cordelia and her hubby aren't going to get on well, but he doesn't try very hard to reel in her behavior or help her try to conform to what's expected of her.

And the prince (no spoiler here, since it happens in the first scene) is actually a real creep who murdered his first wife, and enjoys making women fear him.

Leo sees the same flashes of fear or misery in Cordelia's eyes that he saw in his sister's, and eventually gets a clue. The denouement is a bit dodgy; I didn't like the way Leo handled it, because it seemed he cared more for his revenge than for Cordelia or his nieces. But I did like the characters, in general, and the story. Almost as much as Silver Nights.

Elisa Vangelisti says

posso tollerare un libro con una trama che langue nell'attesa di un evento che lo riscatti, ma non posso tollerare gli abusi sessuali nei confronti della protagonista 16enne vergine (e innamorata di un conte) da parte di un principe con 30 anni in più di lei. promessa oppure no, sarebbe già abbastanza come condanna a vita. aggiungerci le sevizie mi sembra eccessivo e così chiudo.

Christy English says

I have just discovered Jane Feather...I know...I'm really late to this party. I loved this book. Fabulous love scenes and two characters I could really enjoy as I watched them fall in love.

Charlene says

Here's the thing: I did not like the plotline because I am not comfortable with adultery plotlines. However, for whatever reason, ten years after I read this book, I can't forget it.

Dippedinink says

Wow! This is an amazing book. I have never read a romance like it. Usually the woman is rescued from having to endure the evil husband/husband-to-be. But not THIS ONE! I was not expecting the depth of emotions. I loved that I was constantly surprised and on the edge of my seat. The story never grew tedious and I didn't find myself skimming the pages. Yea, yea, yea.. she's 16 and it's awkward to think of the age difference. But honestly, I forgot about her age a lot bc she didn't act her age. I'm definitely reading book two in this series

Anna says

i really liked this novel i just felt at times it was too brutal for my taste. The heroine's husband abused her during sex and he enjoyed it. you saw this fiery spirit become a subdued and battered women. if it wasn't for her love interest i probably wouldn't of like the book but at least at the end he got his. overall it was a good story and it had a happy ending but throughout the story it wasn't very happy in my opinion. if your looking for a light read this is not it.

Jane says

The following review was originally posted on my book blog The Book Challengers.

When I purchased my copy I didn't try to read other reviews on Goodreads (or anywhere on the web for that matter) and hoped that the blurb on the cover would give me the right idea about a possible Cinderella retelling. Even if it would be a very loosely based story but unfortunately it was not to be.

Instead I got a story of a 16-year-old girl who "falls in love" (more like in lust, if you ask me) with a man 12 years her senior. And he seems to fall for her as well... Despite the fact that he's to be her proxy-husband for almost a month till they travel from Vienna to Paris where Cordelia is to be married to man 30 years her senior. Alright, I can live with this. It has happened before that the people who are to be married are not in love. Maybe she won't go with her marriage in Paris and Cordelia and Leo will marry instead?

Yeah, too much to ask for.

I try to understand that this novel is loosely based on real historical events in the late 1760's, but I still find it pretty difficult to believe that the readers of today are all that comfortable with a couple where the girl is only 16 years old. I'm all for couples where one partner is older than the other one, but I must admit that I have to draw the line somewhere and my line is here. Here, where a sadistic man in his late 40s rapes his wife and we have to read about it more than once. Here, where a man in his late twenties seduces a teenage girl who didn't seem all that grown-up to me.

Whatever a 28-year-old seemingly sensible man saw in this silly teenager, I did not understand even when I finished the novel. Feather could have made us see why Leo liked Cordelia besides her spirit, but she didn't use the opportunity to tell us more about their journey from Vienna to Paris. If these two were supposed to get to know each other for almost 3 weeks on that journey and the readers actually get a short glimpse of only the beginning of the journey... well, I must say that something's amiss and maybe Feather could have cut down on the intimate scenes instead.

About those intimate scenes... Yeah, Cordelia had her first orgasm with Leo, but I find it highly improbable that a girl such as herself would escape from her marriage bed (where her husband had just raped her, mind you) and ask Leo to make love to her. Or is it just me that finds this a bit cringe-worthy?

So much for a Cinderella retelling that I hoped for...

Sandra Baši? says

Jane me uvijek oduševi svojim povijesnim romanima u kojima ima ljubavi, zlo?ina i spletki, i ovog puta dojam je isti, odli?no!

LuvGirl says

2.5 stars. I love a heroine in pursuit and the heroine in this book was the one pursuing the honorable hero, but something just wasn't right. The hero was a little too dull, and the words of the villain "too gullible" for my liking, and the heroine a little too immature at the age of 16! Her antics just wasn't cute and I kept thinking the poor thing was just a child that didn't know better. It's weird because I read Almost Innocent which pretty much had the same story-line but I enjoyed that one a whole lot more than this.

Joan says

Excellent series.

Ria says

I absolutely adore this book, it is in my top 10. The only things I didn't like were a few things seemed to be left unsaid between the main characters, but still very enjoyable!

Firery says

I read this book quite awhile ago, but I thought it fit nicely into the group category. Although it has been so long and I don't remember it all, I do remember thinking Leo should have done more, however I still thought it was interesting.
