



The Reluctant Duchess

Roseanna M. White

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Will Fleeing the Scottish Highlands Only Leave Her in More Danger?

Lady Rowena Kinnaird may be the heiress to a Highland earldom, but she's never felt good enough--not for her father, not for the man she thought she'd marry, not for God. But after a shocking attack, she's willing to be forever an outcast if it means escaping those threatening her life.

Brice Myerston, the Duke of Nottingham, has never been one to shy away from manor-born ladies, yet the last thing he needs is the distraction of the newly introduced Lady Rowena. He has enough on his plate having recently come into possession of a rare treasure for which many would kill, yet those around him seem intent on pairing him with this desperate but beguiling girl.

Rowena is reluctant to marry this notorious flirt. And when she learns that Brice is mixed up in some kind of questionable business with a stolen treasure, she fears she'll end up in more danger than she fled.

The Reluctant Duchess Details

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From Reader Review The Reluctant Duchess for online ebook

Rachel says

Roseanna M. White is a master at weaving a dangerous mystery and a swoon worthy romance! This is an awesome second book in her Ladies of the Manor series. (There is a lot of back story in the first book so I would recommend you read that book first.)

The story of the Duke of Nottingham continues in this book. I love his character! He's a swoon worthy hero for sure! :D Although some of the character traits that have made him so well liked are now working against him. He's so well liked in fact (especially with the ladies) that he has a hard time proving to his new wife that he's never been in love with any other girl. I love the fact that even though he's a really good man and person, the author shows where there is still room for him to change and grow.

And then there is Rowena! Oh my! She will grab your heart! Her circumstances are so dire that she agrees to marry this man that she doesn't know and leave the place she has grown up in. The poor girl is so broken. I love the progression of her healing and restoration in this story. She has to learn how to trust and love again. The process may be painful but the end result is beautiful!

The mystery and danger from the red diamonds continues in this book along with the schemes of Lady Catherine and her brother. I like how the plot moves quickly and makes you question who you think the villains are. There is plenty of adventure, romance, and mystery to keep you glued to the pages of this book!

*Thanks to Bethany House and NetGalley for a complimentary copy of this book for review purposes. I was not required to post a positive review and all opinions stated are my own. *

Dawn says

Five amazing stars... my full review! ♥?

I'm going to get straight to the point and say that Roseanna White's writing is superb. This book was a delight to read from beginning to end. I liked the first book in the series, but wow... this one was amazing.

Because of the continued suspenseful thread (concerning the curse of the Fire Eyes Diamonds) that spreads throughout the series, there isn't full closure regarding everything that happens throughout the plot... but instead, the closure is all about the developing relationship between Brice (the Duke of Nottingham) and his mysterious Scottish Lady Rowena, his surprising new duchess. They get married at the beginning of the novel as strangers to each other, away from all of his friends and contemporaries--which shocks most of them once they return to England. This sudden marriage is brought on for a number of reasons; deceitful ones, heartbreaking ones, and noble ones.

And I have to say, seeing this particular relationship develop as it does, was an utter delight. I love to write swoon-worthy heroes into my own books of course, but I also especially love falling in love alongside someone else's heroine as well when I read a book. it doesn't ALWAYS happen, but it sure happened while reading The Reluctant Duchess. ♥?

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

Blissful sigh.

Those two words pretty much sum up my feelings about *The Reluctant Duchess* by Roseanna White.

Brice Myerston, the Duke of Nottingham, is a “hero of heroes”. Charming. Godly. A man who prays. A man who listens to God. A man who rescues. A man who protects. He’s not perfect, but his flaws – few though they may be – make him all the more endearing. Rowena Kinnaird, his new duchess, is a heroine who immediately wins readers’ fierce loyalty. And then Brice’s. My heart broke for the abuse she had suffered, perhaps the worst sort of abuse a woman can endure, but I cheered for her as well. Because she is stronger than she believes, and it’s her heart and spirit which define her – not what a cowardly abuser did to her. As she begins to realize this for herself and as she begins to flourish under Brice’s steady affection, Rowena wins her own loyalty.

Unimaginable heartache collides with charming wit to create a mood that is the right blend of both. The settings, the suspense, the romance, the characters – all of these elements immersed me in the story and kept me captivated from start to finish. Roseanna White expertly pens an exquisite and powerful reminder that God “never forgets us, even when we feel He has.” And that no matter how storm-ridden our current circumstances, the true adventure lies in anticipating how He will eventually turn the clouds to sunshine. A beautiful story, rich in setting and vibrant with characters, *The Reluctant Duchess* belongs on every historical fiction fan’s must-read list!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Read my full review at [Reading Is My SuperPower](#)

Melanie says

After reading and loving the first book in this series, *The Lost Heiress*, I truly don't know why it took me this long to read *The Reluctant Duchess*. I won't be making that mistake with the last book, as I've already started *A Lady Unrivaled*. :)

I absolutely loved *The Reluctant Duchess*. It was one of those books where I did not want to stop reading and I was just captured by the story. There were some very sad/painful moments, but also ones of joy/happiness. I liked the main characters and their love story was sweet. The way he treated her was amazing.

The ending was great and I'm curious to see how the series will end. I definitely recommend *The Reluctant Duchess*, but be sure to read *The Lost Heiress* first as the stories are connected.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention/review it on my blog. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own and I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Amber Stokes says

Roseanna White is skilled at penning historical fiction! I enjoyed the Scottish elements of this particular story. The haunting setting...the clash of classes and loyalties...the interesting discussion of curses and whether or not they truly pose a threat. It's a good blend of intriguing descriptions, a compelling and varied cast of characters, and a fairly unique topic and backdrop for the genre.

The poor heroine endures some awful trials and difficult changes in this story. But the Duke of Nottingham makes for a very tender and caring hero, which makes for a happy romance reader! The depictions of patient love as the story goes on are simply lovely.

As for the plot, my first impression was that the climax was a bit of a letdown, perhaps a bit rushed compared to all the build-up. But the build-up makes for an engaging read for the most part, and I feel like the conclusion is still satisfying, even if I got a bit bored toward the end and looked ahead to see what was coming.

The Reluctant Duchess is a well-written historical romance that's both sinister and sentimental in turn. And the finale definitely stirs up some curiosity for the third book in the Ladies of the Manor series, *A Lady Unrivaled*.

With thanks to Bethany House for providing me with a copy of the book in exchange for my honest opinion.

Amanda Tero says

I have mixed feelings about this book. On one hand, I thoroughly enjoyed it. I'm not a huge romance fan, but if there's one type of romance I like, it's between a husband and wife who are learning to love each other (as opposed to unmarried people falling in love...I don't know, it's just me). Brice, being my favorite character from *The Lost Heiress*, was still my favorite character. I enjoyed reading how he learned to listen and his wife learned to love. It was really a sweet story.

Throughout the whole book, it seemed like the characters regularly sought God and prayed, which I appreciated. Some of the characters were evidently stronger in faith than others, which I thought gave a realistic aspect.

However. When I think back on the book, the main thread that stands out to me is the marriage bed. Whether it was Rowena being physically abused by her supposed lover or her learning to trust again, this theme just wasn't in my comfort zone, even though it was done fairly discreetly. For this reason, I would not

recommend this book to girls under twenty.

The continued thread of the Fire Eyes was alluring. There is something about them that are enticing and exciting. In this, though, there is a lot of discussion about curses and the spiritual realm. I don't think I particularly disagreed with the author on this, because the conclusion I found was that there are spiritual battles being fought (which I believe is Biblical) and that the curse was not a curse of superstition, but a curse of greed. The way the author brought this about, though, was slightly confusing so I might not have fully grasped her intentions.

So, those two things pull my rating down to three stars--which I realize is just my personal preference and convictions.

I received this book in exchange of my honest review from Bethany House

Dyanna says

Flashlight-Book Couples

Actually rating 4.5 stars

Compared to the first in the series I gotta say this one was way better than I expected. At the beginning I was a little skeptical because of the first book and because of the Scottish dialect but little by little this book conquered me with the development of characters and the faith this character has in the Lord and especially how trusting Him may change your life forever.

Rowena is the daughter of a very strong noble clan of Scotland and all her life she was the victim of cruelties made by her father with the purpose to make her more strong but when her supposed fiancée rapes her, Rowena feels worthless and abandoned by God. But when Brice a man of faith meets Rowena he finds himself marrying her because he believes God gave him Rowena as his wife to protect and cherish.

Now both of them will discover the true power of love and God by bringing two different people in a relationship that they will teach them many lessons. I liked that even if Rowena struggles with issues like fear, believing totally in God and becoming a good wife for Brice, the author does not make Brice the perfect knight. Like Rowena, Brice has also issues like pride letting go of it and learning to love and accept his wife with all of her baggage.

I love how from strangers through God they fell in love and become better persons and renew their faith in the Lord. I always smiled at Brice's humor and how Rowena does not follow for his charms. I like the way Stella becomes so obsessed for the duke because of his flirtations. Here I think God showed him the consequence of flirting with women.

This book had a lot of lessons of life and I disagree with some Christians that a book should show only the bright parts. I think the fact that the author put the rape and then the child make it more realistic than rainbows and roses. I liked that the author did not sugar the consequence of the rape and also I think the most important was the fact that from a terrifying and ugly event of life, God took it in his hands and transformed in something beautiful . And I think that was what the author tried to transmit us readers.

Sarah Grace says

Just . . . Brice. Why does he have to be so amazing? I love how respectful, kind and gentle he was with Rowena, giving her her space, but not letting her distance herself too much and fall back into her self-consciousness.

I had a hard time relating\ understanding Rowena a lot of the time, maybe just because I've never dealt with the issues she did.

The storyline was more focused on Brice and Rowena than the Fire eyes, which I kinda liked, but kinda didn't.

Oh, and did I mention how gorgeous that cover is? Swoon! I adore it.

The reason I docked two stars was for content reasons. There was some stuff that made me uncomfortable throughout. Some of it was just adult issues - realistic, but not meant for younger audiences. But other stuff I feel like should have been cut.

Recommended for ages 18+ for adult themes and issues such as (view spoiler)

Staci says

This second of the Ladies of the Manor series continues the family jewelry thread that began in the first novel. The main characters are Brice, the Duke of Nottingham, and Lady Rowena from the Scottish Highlands. It was a lovely novel and I especially enjoyed the Scottish language inserted into the book.

I look forward to the final book of the series.

Amber Schamel says

A masterpiece.

I love the way Roseanna dug deep with these characters. They felt very real.

I also loved the post-marriage romance and how it blossomed through the struggles. One of my new favorites.

Hannah says

4.5 stars

While I didn't "love, love, love" it quite the way I did the first book (this one is more heavy on the romance), it is still a good, solid story. The focus is mainly on Rowena and Brice's hasty marriage and less on the ongoing saga of the Fire Eyes diamonds. I loved the historical feel of the setting and the well-researched Scottish flavor.

Eager indeed for book three!

Hayden says

While I didn't enjoy *The Reluctant Duchess* quite as much as *The Lost Heiress*, I still devoured it. I haven't been reading quite as many historical romances lately, which has been a very good choice for me-I find that I'm much more enjoying the ones that I *do* read.

One aspect of the book that I really liked was how the author treated Rowena's father. He could have easily been made into a one-sided villain or tyrant, but instead White chose to make him a more complex character. While I did grow frustrated with some of Rowena's ideas and decisions, I thought the book did a good job of showing how easy it is to get a skewed view of things when we can only see pieces of a greater whole. I loved Brice, but I also appreciated how some consequences of his flirtatious nature came back to bite him. Basically, one thing I find that I really enjoy about Roseanna White's books is that she'll take a lot of situations, ideas, or character archetypes that you typically find in romantic fiction, but then flesh them out and make them real. I'm looking forward to seeing how this series wraps up in *A Lady Unrivaled*! After all, we have to find out what's going to happen with those red diamonds...

I received this book for free from the author in exchange for my honest review

note: this book, while "clean" does deal with the aftermath of a woman who had been raped, something younger readers should be aware of. There is some violence and a few kisses between married couples.

Jazzy says

4.5

Love this!

Rachel McMillan says

As with all Roseanna White books, the research, vernacular, verisimilitude and historical canvas are spot on.

This is an intricate plot involving the continuation of bloodlines, jewels that hold the key to heritages and familial webs. Its core is a marriage of convenience between a woman, Rowena, who could find herself out of a name and influence by the arrival of a new heir and Brice, the Lord of Nottingham.

Painted against a backdrop of severe abuse, compassion and slowly-growing love, *The Reluctant Duchess* is deep inspirational fiction that echoes the Hosea and Gomer story.

While the subject matter of the novel may be strong for some CBA readers, Brice's grace and Rowena's goodness emulate some of the finer tenets of Biblical charity and calling.

My one regret is that due to the intricate outside plot affecting their marriage, we did not spend as much time with Brice and Rowena as this romantic would have hoped.

But, for a dashing hero (he really has some charming lines) and a sweet as a bird heroine (who is frail but strong), this couple is well-met and sits lovingly in White's impeccably written setting.

With thanks to Bethany House for the review copy

Kellyn Roth says

[A baby came from that attack, but ... how does that make it any worse? (hide spoiler)]
