



Dealing With The Duchess

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The Duchess of Bentley is just out of mourning. As a widow, she has certain freedoms other women do not. But she has neither the time nor inclination to look for dalliance. She's much too busy overseeing the very special properties left to her by the late duke—including the elite gaming hell known as Dante's Inferno.

Until another nobleman returns to London and reminds her that she is still a young, passionate woman.

The Duke of Evermont, has returned from his sugar plantations in the Caribbean. His life is full running his estates and seeing to his investments. The last thing he's searching for is a wife. That is until he sees Eleanor again, and other society beauties fade in comparison.

The last time he saw her, Eleanor was walking down the aisle to another man. This time, Evermont is determined not to let the beautiful and vibrant lady slip through his hands.

Fortunately for him, the duchess turns to him for help—and he's more than willing to sweep her under his ducal cloak of protection. Whether his assistance is required in shielding her from members of society foolish enough to gamble away their fortunes, or from the heartless schemes of her own father—Evermont will do what it takes to show her their future together is a sure thing.

Dealing With The Duchess Details

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Renee says

The Duchess of Bentley, Eleanor, and the Duke of Evermont, Cameron, have known each other since the carefree days of their childhood, spending their summers with their families romping at the seashore. They lost touch with one another when Eleanor turned of marriageable age and her father, a notorious gambler and drinker, married her off to the much older Duke of Bentley, thereby ensuring a new supply of funds for his illicit hobbies, he thought. With Eleanor no longer available Cameron banishes himself to his families sugar plantation, where he will not have to watch the woman he has loved since his childhood make a life for herself with another man.

When the story opens, several years have passed and Eleanor is re-entering society after the passing of her husband. On her first official evening out after her mourning Eleanor and Cameron meet once again and discover the feelings of their childhood have never changed. And so Cameron begins to savor the process of learning to deal with the Duchess.

Knowing he was gravely ill, Eleanor's husband taught her everything he could about finance and the business world before he passed, and Eleanor absorbed it all like a sponge. He also left her one of his businesses, ensuring she would never have to depend on anyone else for her sustenance, ever again. The problem being, she can never let anyone know that she owns this establishment or she will be forever shunned in society. This is the first of several plot twists in this story and sets us on a winding path throughout the book, garnished with intriguing characters, fully fleshed plot lines, steamy love scenes, and a few surprises that will leave you clamoring for more.

This book is a refreshing twist on regency romance, in my opinion, with an extremely strong-willed heroine and a hero who loves her independence and strength and would not change anything about her. I highly recommend this book to anyone who loves the time period and enjoys a little mystery with their romance.

Phoenix77 says

Eleanor, Duchess of Bentley has thrown off her widow's weeds in time to help her sister Prudence make her début in London. Knowing that her family's respectability hangs by a thread due to their father's gambling problems, Eleanor hopes that her presence will help Prudence make a good match. It helps their situation that Eleanor has inside information about her father's addiction because she is part owner of the only club in London that will still give the Duke of Wexwood credit, Dante's Inferno. Without letting her family know the extent of their father's debt she has carefully constructed a safety net around the duke by holding all of his letters and only allowing him to gamble against the house. It's an almost daily struggle to contain his outlandish betting, but Eleanor cannot let her father lose everything and sacrifice her family's future. Seeing Prudence married would secure her future before their father can make a bigger mistake.

Attending their first ball of the season, Eleanor is quickly frustrated by her sister's insistence that their father has already secured a betrothal for her to the long-absent Duke of Evermont. Eleanor didn't even realize her old friend Cameron Dudley had returned from the Caribbean but she is certain he is not interested in Prudence, nor would he have ever spoken to their father. Hoping to warn Cameron of Prudence's ideas

before they become gossip Eleanor makes her way to his side and spends a few quiet moments alone to discuss matters. Amazingly the connection she and Cameron shared long ago is just as strong even after years of separation. Her attraction to him is still there as well, with an intensity that Eleanor had never felt with her late husband.

Please read the full review at **Romantic Historical Reviews**

Susan Walker says

I enjoyed this period romance. It has a strong female lead and will keep the reader entertained.
