



Duchess of Sin

Laurel McKee

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Blonde and beautiful Lady Anna Blacknall is in the mood for mischief. Entering Dublin's most notorious den of vice, she finds herself in the arms of a mysterious, emerald-eyed Irishman. And although he is masked, his tender kiss is hauntingly familiar.

Conlan McTeer, Duke of Adair, has come to Dublin to fight for a free Ireland. But he's suddenly reunited with the young Englishwoman who had once claimed his heart, and his passion turns from politics to pleasure. When their sizzling encounter brings danger to Anna's door, she must decide where her loyalties lie—and quickly. For someone will do whatever it takes to destroy Conlan . . . and anyone he dares to love.

Duchess of Sin Details

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Author : Laurel McKee

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From Reader Review Duchess of Sin for online ebook

April says

DUCHESS OF SIN by Laurel McKee is a wonderful, delightful historical romance set in 1799 Dublin, Ireland. It is well written with depth, details, twists and turns. It is the second in The Daughters of Erin Trilogy but can be read as a stand alone. The first in this series was Countess of Scandal. It has romance, passion, betrayal, loyalties, secrets, trust, distrust, the fight for free Ireland, politics and sweet sensuality. The characters are enduring, enchanting, will grip your heart and are very entertaining. The hero, Conlan, is Irish, handsome, dangerous, determined, has dark secrets, attempting to keep his ancestral home and in love with the beautiful Lady Anna. The heroine, Anna, is beautiful, notorious, full of mischief, has dark secrets from her past, and is falling in love with the dark mysterious Conlan. This is a very intriguing and entertaining story of love, sacrifice and what some of the Irish people had to do to keep their lands. I would highly recommend this book especially if you enjoy history, passion, love of country and countrymen. This book was received for the purpose of review from the publisher and details can be found at Forever, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing and My Book Addiction and More.

Bookaholics says

Duchess of Sin by Laurel McKee
Historical Romance – Nov. 30th, 2010
3 ½ Stars

Duchess of Sin by Laurel McKee is the second book in the Daughters of Erin Trilogy. This new series features the stories of the extraordinary and interesting Blacknall sisters.

Duchess of Sin is the story of middle sister Lady Anna Blacknall who is in the mood for adventure. While in Dublin she dares to enter the most notorious den of vice where she ends up in the arms of a masked man of mystery who seems utterly familiar. Colan McTeer, the Duke of Adair, has come to Dublin to fight for Ireland's freedom but is stunned to encounter the young Englishwoman who once claimed his heart. Colan is forced to deal with not only his political desire but his personal ones as well.

Laurel McKee does an admirable job creating interesting characters that are fun to read. The 2 main characters are both complex. This added another layer of interest as their mutual conflict and desires for one another make it exciting to read. I also loved a lot of the secondary character which I found to be quite interesting and can't wait to read their stories in the next book in this great new series. The author does a fabulous job of creating a story that is a great mix of political intrigue and danger along with a compelling romance that makes this a great read.

Overall, this novel is an enjoyable book. The only thing I would recommend is to read the first one in the series Countess of Scandal first in order to better understand some of the situations and characters.

Reviewed by Mary from the Bookaholics Romance Book Club

Freda Mans-Labianca says

For being the second book in a series, I didn't feel lost at all not reading the first one. I have it, I couldn't find it to read it first. I plan on reading it anyways, I feel it is probably as good as this one.

Which I loved this book!

It had just the right amount of each element to keep me interested and wanting so much more. All in a great way! The characters were meshed well and drew you into their world.

One of my new favorite historical romance authors!

And definitely on my recommendation list!

Tammy Walton Grant says

2 stars

This book had some great things going for it -- a handsome Duke, lots of history and political unrest, and some fairly steamy love scenes. And it's set in Ireland - so the thought of the hero's accent fairly captured my imagination.

Alas, for some reason the author decided the heroine (herself politically active, and with a history with the Hero) needed to be 18 years old at the time the book takes place. The Hero is in his late 20s/early 30s I believe, and had a run-in with the heroine 2 years earlier. That would have made her 16. BLECH.

The story itself was fairly entertaining - a love story set against the formation of the United Kingdom in 1800. There is some intrigue, lots of adventure and a scheming villain or two (one of whom is the hero of the next book - which, after the way he acts in this book, is kind of weird).

If you love history and Ireland, you'd probably like this one. I got hung up on the age difference, but I think I'm probably just getting old. :)

Terra says

This is a book that will make you sizzle so watch your toes. Whomever said that the French make the best lovers evidently haven't had the chance to try an Irishman that's for sure. Yowzer!

Lady Anna Blacknall is Dublin's newest wonder of beauty. An air of radiance surrounds her in a cocoon so beautiful that you don't see the need for finding trouble until she's right in the heat of it. If there was ever anyone who could find trouble without looking it would be Lady Anna. It seems to follow her around like a love struck puppy panting at her feet. Needless to say, a tall, dark and handsome Irishman practically falls into her lap leaving Anna no choice or willpower for that matter to not take advantage despite all the warnings.

Conlan McTerr, Duke of Adair is every mischief seeking females man of dreams. He's tall, dark and handsome but not overly so but those emerald green eyes of his will most assuredly make you think twice about trying to avoid him. Eyes like the most specular of gems draw you in and suck the breath out of you before you can even let out a minuscule squeak of surprise. I say YUMM!

The author has given us an action packed love story with a hero and heroine that are more than a match for each other. It's like a dark cloud seems to follow these two around as if it's attached at the seams of their souls. The friction of romance is remarkable and rememberable. It will make you wish that you could find your own Irishman in the dark shadows of nights embrace.

Rose May says

Note: This review, and all my reviews, comes from my blog - Romantic Rose's Bookshelf (<http://romantic-rosesblog.blogspot.com>)

Book 2 in the Daughters of Erin Series

We're going to start off, first, with what I was... miffed by. I didn't like some of the obvious 'detail' mistakes – for instance during a balcony scene when McKee writes that the coat slipped from Anna's shoulders and only a few pages later describes her taking it off her shoulders and giving it back to our hero, Conlan McTeer (the Duke of Adair). I was also annoyed by the fact that there were occasional time line issues, where the author doesn't quite have her story straight. But those issues were minor and will really only bother you if you're a super-close, nit-picky reader like me.

I loved our heroine, Anna Blacknall. She was adorable, strong, and restless in an energetic, enthusiastic way. I'm hoping to see a lot more of her in the third book, *Lady of Seduction* (which I will be reviewing shortly. I really like this series) because I don't feel she's quite done yet. She's sweet and sassy and can stick up for herself (and her man) like nobody's business. She's a wonderful heroine because the reader can identify with her yearning and searching for more as well as her complexity and many different faces. She's also tender and understanding, without losing her backbone - which is exactly what Conlan needs. Again, McKee has developed her heroine excellently.

Our hero, Conlan McTeer was deep, rich, dark, and soulful. I liked him most because he was Irish. Points. I wish I could've known a bit more about him – his past and even his present was left sorely lacking in detail. But he was passionate, fun, sensitive, and consistent. He took care of Anna, and cared for her deeply, just as he cares for the people he's duty-bound to protect. He was compelling.

Unfortunately, there were so many loose ends and things left just floating in the air, that the book was actually a little confusing. Conversations took place that led nowhere, encounters occurred that never seemed to meet resolution. It was strange because there were all these mental notes I'd made about characters and plot devices... that never came to mean anything and were simply left hanging. Anna's role at Adair Court is also left hanging, and I thought there would be some meaningful ending where she finally discovered her usefulness – a theme throughout the book was her desire to be useful – but that never came to be. I'm wondering if perhaps everything will be resolved in the next book, but in the meantime I'm frustrated that I have to wonder at all. Even when my books are part of a series, I like each to have its own separate, fulfilling conclusion. This was a tad abrupt for my tastes.

The romantic plot was good between Conlan and Anna for the first two thirds of the book, after which it grows a little stale. The secondary romantic plot between Katherine (Anna's mom) and Monsieur Courtois was so underdeveloped I would've preferred it not be wasting word count space. The larger plot was decent and suspenseful – and I really enjoyed how the actual events that were occurring in Ireland are woven in to McKee's story. The thrill of reading a story that is a retelling of what someone imagines it was like to live

through a portion of history that can be marked by specific events and dates is really cool – to me at least.

Overall, unfortunately, I felt the ending lacking spice and conclusion – despite the wonderful characters. The book had great build-up – but fizzled right before the explosion. Was it a good book? Yes. Do I want to read the next one? Yes. Do I wish there had been less unanswered questions? Definitely. Could it have been better? A lot. This book was delightful... but rather ordinary.

“Sexy”ness rating: Explosive

Overall Rating: C+ to B-

Bottom Line: Great characters, a good love story, excitingish plot, but the ending fizzles sadly. Delightful... but nothing extraordinary.

Lucy says

Set in Dublin, this is the story of Lady Anna, who is 18 years old, and has a huge curiosity about things outside the boring Society life. She wants more than tedious Society balls and sedate parties. To this end, she is always trying things. Things such as sneaking into the Olympian Club, an exclusive members-only club known for its wickedness. She is aided in this by her friend, Lady Jane, a widow with a wild streak of her own. At this party, she runs into the Duke of Adair, who she had previously met under horrific circumstances two years previous and has never forgotten. The Duke is Irish to the core, and here to fight against the Union with England. His cousin, Sir Grant, is on the opposite side, and in fact tried to steal the Duke's title and property from him. He is also after the Lady Anna.

While I am not a stickler for details in my historical stories, I did question some of this, mainly the freedom which was allowed the women of this time. The rumors that follow Lady Anna, horse racing, politics and whist, seem amusing to the people, whereas usually they are reputation-breaking. I also didn't like the fact that when Adair and Anna first meet, and have their first kiss, she is only 16. He is nearly double her age, so being that young was a little off-putting, but not a deal breaker, as the remainder of the story continues two years later.

There are several storylines involved here. The main, of course, is Lady Anna and the Duke of Adair, combined with the fight for/against the Union. The Duke is a target, so assassination attempts, spies and betrayal follow him, and by extension, Lady Anna and her family. Lady Caroline, Anna's younger sister, is also involved in both a love triangle and betrayal. Best of all, in my opinion, Lady Katherine, their mother, also gets to find love, although the path to it is strewn with obstacles, just as her daughter's paths are. I particularly liked this because the heroines in historical tend to be so young (hence, Anna at 18, Caroline at 16). Katherine is in her early 40s, and it was refreshing to see someone of age find happiness.

The bitterness regarding the Union battle rings true, vile words and desperate actions, spies working every angle and every aspect and innocent people getting caught up in it. I am unsure of the accuracy of the historical details since, as mentioned, I focus on the story itself and consider the setting to be part of the fiction. However, that being said, it seemed historically accurate for the most part.

The ending has a twist that veers from the usual romance novel slightly, and I liked that. The book is well written, with few editing errors. The characters are well developed, and the setting fully described. This is a

great book for historical romance fans, differing from the usual Regency, with a strong hero, a strong heroine and interesting secondary characters who are not just fluff, but carry storylines of their own. An engaging read.

Chrissy says

Duchess of Sin is Book 2 of the Daughters of Erin Series. I was lucky enough to win a copy of the 1st book in the series called the Countess of Scandal and that was a wonderful book so I was extremely happy about being able to review Laurel's Second Book in this series.

Duchess of Sin was well written with wonderful character descriptions which made it easy to get to know each one of the characters that you wouldn't need to read the first book in this series to enjoy this one. Even thou I think it is always good to read them in order you can read Duchess of Sin as a stand alone book. I read the first book and enjoyed it and now that I have read the second in the series that was equally as good I can't wait for the third book Lady of Seduction to come out on May 31st 2011.

* I have been provided a complimentary copy of Duchess of Sin for review from Hachette Book Group through an opportunity from Reading Romance Group. By receiving a complimentary copy and a giveaway opportunity, it in no way obligates me to write a good or bad review. I am an honest reviewer and my reviews are based on my own opinion and only written by me.*

Blodeuedd Finland says

This was different, cos usually I read books that take place a bit later, but this was 1799. Ok so that does not sound like a lot, but it was. Not to mention that the setting was Ireland and the fear after the last uprising was still in the air.

Anna flutters from party to ball to anything to live and dance and forget the fears she had 2 years ago. She was interesting as she could seem feather brained at one moment and smart the next. She changed as it suited her.

While Conlan is dark and brooding and wants Ireland to be free, and to be able to be Catholics that is what you want. So he works in the open and in secret for that.

They met before and now they meet again. He tries to stay away as he is in danger, while she can't stay away. Cos hello, hot dark and brooding.

There is danger, passion and will they want them moments. And I read it cos it takes place near Christmas. So here it was, my xmas book.

Mary Gramlich says

Heartwarming and entertaining story bundled with a history lesson

Lady Anna Blacknall was the toast of the ton and pursued by every unmarried man. She thought of herself as attractive but not stunning and wondered what kind of match was out there for her. Anna was also the master of pretense and knew how to act properly and ensure that everyone knew how happy and content she was even though it was all a ruse. Anna sought a love match but knows that does not always produce the result you want when it is expected of you to find a titled gentleman to provide for you and your family. Anna had been pursued by Grant Dunmore who was attractive and indeed titled but it turned out his cousin and mortal enemy, Conlan McTeer, the Duke of Adair was the titled, handsome and absolutely intoxicating man for Anna. He was danger and seduction in one package that kept her up at night dreaming of his touch and longing for his kiss.

Conlan and Anna had both survived the Uprising that had caused so much division between Ireland and England and knew the fear of attack or death that could come at any moment. The trouble still brewed under the guise of polite society and while Conlan tried to keep Anna from it she was turning out to be the master of deception and a champion for her hero, Conlan. On more than one occasion she stands up and fights off the enemy he is trying to protect her from. They had both seen death and been forced to cause some to die but both knew regardless of their religious differences that the power drawing them to each other.

Anna's sister is determined to keep her safe as well while her mother is distracted with her own gentleman caller. Anna is a survivor and fighter and will let nothing stop her from being the one woman Conlan cannot get over and ensuring that he knows they are a love match and he is truly worthy of his name. Plus what is Katherine, their mother up to with the art instructor?

It would be easy to say this book is sweet and tender which it is but you have to go further and say it is determined as well as enlightening. You have a wonderful relationship against the backdrop of very tumultuous times where it is difficult to trust anyone especially someone with your heart. But Laurel McKee has written such a book that draws you in with romance, educates with some history and melts your heart with their story.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Lady Anna Blacknall, a member of the Protestant Ascendancy, is bored with the endless ball and dinner invitations and her widowed mother's attempts to marry her off to a wealthy man...any wealthy man. Anna, however, is in the mood for mischief and visits a notorious den of vice in Dublin where she finds herself in the arms of a dark-haired Irishman with green eyes. A man she has tried in vain to forget, along with a night of terror.

Conlan McTeer, Duke of Adair, fights for a free Ireland and his encounter with the blond young woman who claimed his heart two years earlier creates confusion for him and danger for her.

It is December 1799, two years after the ill-fated Rising and the fight is on between Union and anti-Union forces. Conlan owns the Olympian, a gaming establishment where he watches and tries to influence pro-Unionists to aid in his fight to reject unification. Conlan, a wealthy Catholic landowner, treats his people with

respect. However, he has acquired a number of enemies, including his cousin Sir Grant Dunmore, who tried to gain ownership of the estate under the Penal Laws (which forbade a Catholic to own land).

The politics of the time are present throughout the book, and as danger mounts, Conlan tries to shield Anna, who seems oblivious to the danger or the reasons behind it. But finally, she decides to take the risk with the dark, intense man who has captured her heart.

At first, Anna seems unrealistic, even difficult to like, however, she reaches an epiphany where her character changes. As her past experiences are woven in a little at a time, the reader has more sympathy for her.

A secondary love story is added as Katherine, Anna's still beautiful mother is courted by Nicolas, younger sister Caroline's art teacher, a man who is not entirely what he seems.

I felt the story was well written, and I enjoyed the Dublin setting, refreshing for a Regency period book and as a student of Irish history, especially interesting to me. As mentioned previously, Anna's character came across at first as that of a spoiled society girl, but as she spent time with Conlan, her character became more interesting, and one could see that, having a carefree nature, she struggled within the confines of the period.

Ms. McKee has done a thorough job in her research of the period, and she weaves in just enough history to make the plot interesting and realistic without overwhelming the love story. This is the second in her Daughters of Erin trilogy. I look forward to Caroline's story next.

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.com>

Angelic says

"Duchess of Sin" is just the kind of historical romance that I love. The love story is so sweet and heart-stoppingly romantic. The lead couple is caring towards each other, and the secondary characters are vivid in their own right. The plot is fast-paced while still focusing on the romance.

Anna and Conlan aren't stereotypical romance characters, they're both fully developed and have many sides to their personalities. In fact, one of the things Conlan loves so much about Anna is that he is always learning something new about her.

I love that Anna is a bit wild and reckless (but not to the point that she's stupid or puts herself in real harm). She's so different from most of the super innocent and straight-laced society ladies we generally see in historical romance.

Conlan plays the role of dark, brooding, reclusive duke to a tee. However, he's also kind, caring, and heroic to anyone who cares to look past the surface.

As an added bonus, there are two more romances woven into the story. Anna's sister, Caroline, finds herself almost falling for 'the wrong man', a story that looks like it will be continued in the next book in the series. And Anna's mother, Katherine, has her own romance with Caroline's gorgeous and sensitive art tutor. I loved all of the supporting characters just as much as the leads.

The Irish history was not the typical historical romance fare, either. I really enjoyed reading about this time

period in Ireland's history.

The story does have a bit of Christmas spirit, one part of the book focuses on a house party celebrating the season. It's fun to see the holiday traditions they took part in.

I loved this story, the leads were perfectly multi-dimensional and I really cared about what happened to them. Laurel McKee has just become one of my must-read historical romance authors.

book was sent by the publisher in exchange for honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

Cheryl says

5 stars, loved it!! This is the story about Anna- the second daughter in this family of three girls. I really enjoyed this one, even more so than the first book, because I actually felt like I could relate to Anna. She is the middle daughter, as am I, so I was able to relate to that, but also some of her feelings and inner turmoil she was going through. Also, Anna often compared herself, or pictured herself, as the heroine in one of her beloved Gothic Romance novels! :)

I also loved the hero, Conlan the Duke of Adair. He was dark and mysterious and so sexy! I loved the interactions between him and Anna and their chemistry was amazing! These two really knew how to heat up the pages!

I'm really looking forward to the next installment!

Mary Kathryn says

I really enjoyed this second book in the Daughters of Erin Trilogy. I was really looking forward to this one because we had already learned so much about Anna in the first book and had meet Conlan twice in the first one. But it was a bit of a disappointment to me and this book definitely could have been a five star book. But for some reason and maybe it was just me and the mood I was in while reading it but I didn't feel like I fully understood Conlan. I didn't understand why he felt like him and Anna didn't make a good match and I wish the author would have gone into more detail about him. But that was the only thing I didn't like. I really enjoyed all of the secondary characters. Anna's mother finds love and we meet (I think) the hero in the next book with Caroline. Which looks like it will be a very good book because the hero is a bad guy in this one! Can't wait till June. I am very glad that I got this book in the mail to judge because I don't think it is a book that I would have picked up to read. I really like Laurel McKee and her style of writing.

DKAY says

I thoroughly enjoyed this read. This is the 2nd book in the series THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN TRILOGY and this book can be read without reading the first. There is enough details for the characters and you won't feel like you missed anything but I think that it would have even been better had I read the first one before this. I will be reading the first in the series "Countess of Scandal" because the 2nd one was great and I want to read the whole series. I love the way that Laurel McKee writes. The chapters have a good feel and flow nicely and the story blends well. I have to admit I just love a historical romance with a good Irishman in it. The characters work well together and you get a chance to know them and get a feeling of being there with them. If you want a good Historical Romance this would be a great choice. It would make the perfect gift for any romance reader.

I was provided this book from the author Laurel McKee, Grand Central Publishing, Forever- Hachette Book Group & Anna Balasi through Book Blogs. This review is of my own honest opinion on the book that I have received from this company free of charge to do this review and that in no way influences the way I do my reviews. I am under no obligation to give a positive or negative review. All reviews are of my own thoughts and should not influence a non-purchase on any item solely based on my reviews as these are only my own opinions. ?
