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Elle Daniels

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A wounded beast . . .

It took Marcus Bradley forever to find a suitable bride. And then he lost her—all because some meddling matchmaker with a crazy notion about "true love" helped her elope with another man. Now, to save his sister from a terrible marriage alliance, he needs a replacement—an heiress, to be exact . . . and he knows just the woman to help him find one.

A spirited beauty . . .

Danielle Strafford believes everyone deserves a fairytale ending—even the monstrously scarred and notoriously brooding Marquis of Fleetwood. Not that he's left her a choice. If she doesn't help him secure a wife—by any means necessary—he'll reveal her scandalous secrets.

A passion that will consume them both

The more time Marcus spends with Danielle, the less interested he is in any other woman. But the Beast must do the impossible: keep from losing his heart to a Beauty he is destined to lose. (90,000 words)

He's No Prince Charming Details

Date : Published October 28th 2014 by Forever

ISBN : 9781455545551

Author : Elle Daniels

Format : Mass Market Paperback 370 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Adult, Fairy Tales, Beauty and The Beast, Regency

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From Reader Review He's No Prince Charming for online ebook

Samantha says

Ms. Daniels delivers a wonderful and delightful debut. I'm so pleased to find another new to me author who has won me over. I'm on a winning streak!

Marcus Bradley, the Marquis of Fleetwood, is known as the Beast of the ton. His face and big brooding body leaves people shaking in fear. He knows he is not what women would dream of when they think of their future husband but he desperately needs a rich bride to save what's left of his family estate and his sister's future. When he catches Danielle Strafford aka Miss Green aiding his fiancée to elope with another man, he hatches up a plan to get a new bride and Miss Green is the perfect person to help him.

Danielle Strafford is caught between a rock and a hard place when Marcus enters her bookshop and blackmails her. She has to help him find a wealthy bride or else he will tell everyone that she helps women in town escape their pending nuptials with the men they dislike. Danni concedes and they set out to kidnap the daughter, Ginny, of a prominent member of society.

Nothing goes to plan for the two once Ginny is abducted from them by bandits. Marcus and Danni must rescue her back and set things right. Two start to fall in love though their life plans are set in different directions.

My heart literally broke when Marcus reveals how he ended up disfigured and shamed. His story is quite difficult to read but it shows his strength and the lengths he will go through to protect his family. He doesn't believe that he is good enough for Danni despite her growing affection towards him. Despite his rough exterior, he is vulnerable and hurt. The pain of his past is deeply embedded in him and he struggles to let it go even for Danni.

Danni is hiding her own secret and she is promised to another. No matter how much she finds herself falling in love with Marcus, she will stand by her father's decisions and make things right in her family.

Marcus and Danni are perfect for one another. They are both strong and willful. They are stubborn and prideful. They fight and love passionately. I love that they are both willing to sacrifice so much for their families even if it means losing out on what they want. The banter and humor is spot on and the romance ticked all my boxes.

I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to have read this perfect gem of a book. I really look forward to reading the next book. I need to know what's in store for Caro! I'm hoping even feisty little Ginny will get a book of her own.

Also posted on <http://smittenbybooks.com/blog/2014/1...>

Vicky Dreiling says

Seriously, you must read this debut book from Elle Daniels. I knew within two paragraphs why she sold. I loved, loved, loved this book! This is a wonderful, unique take on The Beauty and the Beast.

Kit★ says

Won an ARC of this through the GR giveaway, woot!

As soon as I started reading, I was drawn in. The hero, Marcus, intrigued me right away. Horribly scarred with a tortured past, dependent upon alcohol to get him through each day... I couldn't help but be drawn to his character. I wanted to find out what had happened to him to cause both his physical and mental scars, how had he become the Beast that everyone painted him. The heroine, Danni, on the other hand, took a little longer for me to become invested in. At first, she seemed too... feisty and modern or something. On that note, it wasn't only the heroine's character that felt a bit modern, there were other things that most probably were not historically correct. But once I let go of the 'historical' aspect, and took it simply as a 'fairy tale' romance, those things didn't bother me. Back to the heroine, Danni was nice, and I liked how she helped other girls escape unwanted marriages to be with their true loves. Her attitude toward Marcus was at first a little worrying, but I really enjoyed how she came to see the man under the exterior, how she realized that he wasn't a Beast, that he was worthy of being cared about and more. Marcus was such an endearing hero, I really wanted to see him happy, and see him start to gain some peace from the horrors of his past. I loved him, and I loved the way that he and Danni discovered their feelings for each other. There were a few emotional moments that had me misting up a little.

There were also plenty of moments throughout the story that made me laugh, too. From mishaps in the beginning, to the way the couple bickered and bantered, it had me grinning. Even secondary characters had their moments. It was entertaining without a doubt.

As this was an ARC, I did notice a few spots where spelling/grammar needed a fix, but I imagine all that's been taken care of for the official version, so it didn't bother me. I think this new author shows a lot of potential, and I most definitely would like to try her next book. There was a preview in the back of this one, and it's going to be about Marcus' sister... looks very interesting! I look forward to it :)

Gaele says

The first in a faerie-tale inspired series, this story that is inspired by the Beauty and the Beast tale is one of the better uses of the original that I have encountered. Daniels uses her skill to full effect, creating characters that are lovable and flawed with care, giving us a chance to see the hidden gems within as their attraction for one another deepens. Flushed out with solid secondary characters, and a convincing set of obstacles to overcome on their way to the end, Danni and Marcus have plenty of fuel to feed their fire.

Danni is independent, smart and solidly determined to do some good in the world. The bookshop she runs is the cover for a scheme to help women of society escape the dangers of intolerable matches: as arrangements are often made without their consent. Her assisting Marcus' new intended to follow her heart and leave for a life with the barrister's associate. Her involvement in this escape sets the plot in motion, and brings her into contact with Marcus.

Marcus is in need of a well-heeled bride, and fast. In fact, he doesn't care WHO the woman is – he just needed her yesterday. We see his drunkenness, his scars and the aura of danger he radiates. But Danni sees more, and here is where she becomes the more important character in the duo. Her compassion and talent for seeing the heart of a person, and her desire to help those deserving to find love, have her intrigued rather than fearful.

With plenty of misguided actions and some disastrous (at the moment, but funny later) twists that keep Marcus and Danni in close contact. In fact, Marcus can't keep up the blustery/dangerous demeanor constantly as he faces Danni's calm acceptance, gentle chastisement and stubborn refusal to back away from his challenges. She sees the wounded man beneath the harsh demeanor, and her heart goes out to him. Fortunately, she is also willing to fight to make him understand she does want him, for him. Marcus has a little more difficulty understanding that he is worth love, and recognizing that Danni is everything he wants and needs.

I love stories where the heroine is strong and determined, and then uses that with her intelligence in a way that isn't spoiled brat or manipulative, but to accomplish a desired end. Dani also has a strong belief in true love and the power of redemption and caring to feed the most desolate of souls. Marcus had so long been belittled and unloved, fear and a great discomfort in his own skin have him less than polite and blustering, as he hides behind the aura of the Beast. But, there is in him, as in all of us, a need for love and acceptance to help heal wounds and allow us to move forward, and he finds this with Danni.

Elle Daniels has written a lovely story with action, heart and adventure: a read in one-sitting, can't bear to put it down sort of story that leaves me anxious to read her next in this series.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGalley for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Carmen says

This is a (very loose) historical romance retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*.

The 'Beast' is Marcus Bradley, Marquis of Fleetwood. His heavily scarred face and (secretly) heavily scarred body, scowling countenance, and surly attitude have earned him that nickname in society. He also has a real weakness for the drink, and is drunk pretty much 24/7.

However scarred and flawed he is, though, he is a good man inside, and that is why he wishes to save his sister, Caroline (whom he affectionately calls "Caro" (Care-oh)) from a fate worse than death: marriage to the dastardly suspected murderer of fierce temper, the Duke of Harwood. Since Caro and Marcus grew up with a very abusive father (who was responsible for Marcus's extensive facial and body scarring), Marcus is damned if he's going to allow his sister to be married off to another abusive man.

Since his recently dead father drank away most of the family money, Marcus must secure enough money to break Caro's engagement. He plans on doing this by wedding a rich young woman. However, stumbling home drunk one night, he witnesses his fiancée fleeing in the night with another man. He also witnesses the woman who arranged the whole thing: Danielle Stafford.

Turns out this daughter of a baron who sits on Parliament has a secret business: running a bookshop called Gretna Green's Books. But *that* secret business (it's unsuitable for a lady to have a job) is really a cover for an *even more* secret business: Gretna Green's Bookings: a place where young women in love can come to make arrangements to elope with their true love - instead of whatever arranged marriage their fathers are forcing them into. Danni is a huge romantic and a believer in true love. It means a lot to her to be helping couples find their true happiness together.

Her little piece of happiness is shattered when Marcus bursts into her shop, demanding that she provide him with a replacement bride.

...

This book is a bit silly. I mean, of course it is, it is a romance, but there is some harebrained stuff going on in this book. For one thing, Marcus insists that Danni help him kidnap Ginny, one of the admiral's seven daughters, in order to make her his bride. The whole plan is ludicrous, and results in a crazy and adventurous romp across the countryside which involves kidnapping, kidnapping the hostage from the kidnappers by a second set of kidnappers, highwaymen with very little brains, thunderstorms, hiking through the woods, posing as brother and sister, etc. etc. etc. It's fun - but it requires quite a bit of suspension of disbelief.

One thing that I was worried about was Marcus's drinking. I was never more happy than when he and Danni get stranded in the woods and as a result he gets sober. I was scared that he'd go back to drinking when they reached civilization, but luckily he doesn't.

Another thing that's fair to mention is how damaged Marcus really is. He suffers from severe PTSD from the repeated beatings, whippings, and knifings that his father subjected him to. He also seems to have some form of epilepsy in which he blacks out and has seizures, losing hours of time. Combine that with his drinking and his ... well, I don't want to say 'bad temper,' but it's at least a bit of a temper, and you've got the makings of a very difficult man.

Yet I appreciate Daniels creating this kind of version of the beast. She's not really pulling any punches here. It would have been easy to make him scarred physically and then just leave it at that. Instead, she creates this multifaceted and damaged creature. Despite all this, Daniels still manages to imbue him with a vulnerability and a dose of shame that rounds out his rough edges nicely. He's more defenseless and exposed than romantic heroes usually are. There's none of that cocky, self-assured bluster that usually can be found in these books - instead he is emotionally weak, the walking wounded.

While I found Marcus, and the book as a whole, fascinating I have to say that it was not enticing me on a sexual or romantic level. I don't go for the whole heal-the-hurting-bad-boy-with-your-love thing. Certainly his drinking and temper turned me off, and also his surliness and way of dealing with Danni. He ignores her for long stretches of time, he sometimes goes through hours or even days of giving her the 'silent treatment,' he is constantly saying and feeling that he is not worthy of her. This kind of dedicating yourself to boosting up a damaged man's self-esteem is not my cup of tea.

Danni was enjoyable - I am used to historical romance heroines being a bit daft. But Danni was smart, and she was high-spirited and brave. She really faced everything head-on with an energetic attitude and an intelligent view. I liked that she was unafraid to challenge Marcus when he was in one of his snits, and I liked how capable and inventive she was when faced with problems.

Overall, a fun book. Not really my preference in the romance department, but it was well-written and entertaining. I would be willing to check out the sequels: *Once Upon A Duke* and *A Rogue Ever After* when they are published, if I remember.

3 REAL STARS, 3 ROMANCE STARS

P.S. That dress that the woman on the cover is wearing is a dress that Danni receives from Marcus as a gift. They did a pretty good job of matching the dress on the cover with the one in the book - I was pleased. It's pretty.

P.P.S. I forgot to mention the tiny bit of magic - on two separate occasions both Danni and Marcus run into an elderly woman who seems to be some sort of version of a fairy godmother. This is very subtle and not at all supernatural - just things like she knows their names without being told, and seems to give each of them a nudge into accepting and loving each other. No wands or spells or wings or anything. I liked this and I liked how understated it was.

Smitten says

Originally post on Smitten by Books Blog

Ms. Daniels delivers a wonderful and delightful debut. I'm so pleased to find another new to me author who has won me over. I'm on a winning streak!

Marcus Bradley, the Marquis of Fleetwood, is known as the Beast of the ton. His face and big brooding body leaves people shaking in fear. He knows he is not what women would dream of when they think of their future husband but he desperately needs a rich bride to save what's left of his family estate and his sister's future. When he catches Danielle Strafford aka Miss Green aiding his fiancée to elope with another man, he hatches up a plan to get a new bride and Miss Green is the perfect person to help him.

Danielle Strafford is caught between a rock and a hard place when Marcus enters her bookshop and blackmails her. She has to help him find a wealthy bride or else he will tell everyone that she helps women in town escape their pending nuptials with the men they dislike. Danni concedes and they set out to kidnap the daughter, Ginny, of a prominent member of society.

Nothing goes to plan for the two once Ginny is abducted from them by bandits. Marcus and Danni must rescue her back and set things right. Two start to fall in love though their life plans are set in different directions.

My heart literally broke when Marcus reveals how he ended up disfigured and shamed. His story is quite difficult to read but it shows his strength and the lengths he will go through to protect his family. He doesn't believe that he is good enough for Danni despite her growing affection towards him. Despite his rough exterior, he is vulnerable and hurt. The pain of his past is deeply embedded in him and he struggles to let it go even for Danni.

Danni is hiding her own secret and she is promised to another. No matter how much she finds herself falling in love with Marcus, she will stand by her father's decisions and make things right in her family.

Marcus and Danni are perfect for one another. They are both strong and willful. They are stubborn and prideful. They fight and love passionately. I love that they are both willing to sacrifice so much for their families even if it means losing out on what they want. The banter and humor is spot on and the romance ticked all my boxes.

I'm so glad to have had the opportunity to have read this perfect gem of a book. I really look forward to reading the next book. I need to know what's in store for Caro! I'm hoping even feisty little Ginny will get a book of her own.

Reviewed by **Samantha**

Heat Level: Hot

Daniella says

This could have easily been a winner had it been executed well. This could have been a favourite, goddamn it. It had all the elements of a story that I usually go crazy for: a wounded and scarred hero, a strong and beautiful heroine, a love that would bind them together to their happily-ever after.

But fuck it, what I got were the following: a hero and a heroine of **questionable morals**, a messy kidnapping orchestrated by them (yes, you read that right; THEY kidnapped someone else WTF), a shooting incident (!!!!!!!), a stranded scene (!!!!!!!), a set of shitty secondary characters, and an even shittier epilogue.

Look, I wanted to like this book, I really did. In fact, after reading the excerpt, I was really excited to start it. **But the plot was executed really, really poorly, and the flaws were too many to ignore.**

Everything was messy, and there was just too much shit going on to make a coherent story. The characterisation was bad, as well; none of the characters were likeable. At best, they had personalities of a wallpaper.

But the worst thing about this was the dialogue.

Dear God. The dialogue was just awful and awkward, and I had an overwhelming desire to gag every time Marcus and Danni talked to each other. **Why did he have to call her "little one" EVEN DURING SEX???????** Why did they have to talk as though they're in a bad Shakespearean play???

Overall, this was one chaotic mess. It's really such a big shame because the story held so much promise. If only the writer just decided to stick to a simpler storyline, instead of bombarding this one with too many elements. If only the dialogue didn't make me want to shoot myself. If only the epilogue was better-written. **If only.**

Kiltsandswords says

He's No Prince Charming by Elle Daniels

Overview by Amazon:

A wounded beast . . .

It took Marcus Bradley forever to find a suitable bride. And then he lost her-all because some meddling matchmaker with a crazy notion about "true love" helped her elope with another man. Now, to save his sister from a terrible marriage alliance, he needs a replacement-an heiress to be exact . . . and he knows just the woman to help him find one.

A spirited beauty . . .

Danielle Strafford believes everyone deserves a fairytale ending-even the monstrosly scarred and notoriously brooding Marquis of Fleetwood. Not that he's left her a choice. If she doesn't help him secure a wife-by any means necessary-he'll reveal her scandalous secrets.

A passion that will consume them both

The more time Marcus spends with Danielle, the less interested he is in any other woman. But the Beast must do the impossible: keep from losing his heart to a Beauty he is destined to lose.

There is a reason Disney and Brothers Grimm have successfully captured the interest and imagination of people for ages. We love stories like Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Hansel and Gretel. This story is a reimagining of Beauty and the Beast – although not a PG version! Something about a great, hurt beastly man who can only be tamed and healed by the love and care of an extraordinary woman is a tale that stands the test of time.

Elle Daniels has woven those elements into a clever and intriguing story. I really enjoyed the main character Danni. She must have been so much fun to develop and bring to life. She has charisma, intelligence and compassion. She truly is the beauty to the story. The story would not come to life and be so special if it was not for her perspective and faults.

Danni runs a very special bookshop. Called G. Green Bookstore, it looks like an ordinary shop, but it actually is a front for helping young ladies of the ton escape intolerable matches to men they don't want to marry. Danni and her crew help plot the ladies escape and spirit her away to Gretna Green with the man they truly want to be with. She's cupid for love lorn ladies who shiver with the thought of marrying some old goat for his title and estate.

Unfortunately she helps the wrong lady escape. She helps Marcus's fiancé runaway with the barrister's assistant. Marcus really could care less who his bride is, but he needs an heiress and fast. He tracks down Danni to her bookshop and confronts her. Not only does he threaten to expose her, he blackmails her into abducting a young woman and accompanying them to Gretna Green to be married post haste.

Danni is thankful that this beastly man, with is horrible facial scars, doesn't know her real identity. Instead of being repulsed by the man in front of her, who is most certainly dangerous, she is intrigued and surprisingly attracted to something about him.

The great thing about this book was the hijinks and adventure the characters get into. They kidnap an heiress, but of course it goes awry. They lose her, they are robbed, and they are forced to spend days together slogging through the wet English countryside. There were moments of danger and suspense, but also of signs that the beast was a man with a heart.

The time they spend together searching for their lost heiress, is not in vain. Danni comes to learn more about the elusive Beast and comes to realize what a good man he is. He is not doing a dastardly deed because he is a beast; rather he is protecting his family from a horrible fate.

Marcus lets Danni into his life more than he has ever let someone before. Marcus is a truly complex character. For the first part of the book he is drunk. He has deep, deep wounds that go beyond the scars covering his flesh, inflicted by the father who should have loved him. He seems to suffer from some form of social anxiety and that is when the beast shows up in appearance and behaviour. There wasn't a lot to redeem him as a character at first, but as Danni gets to know him, we learn that he is a wounded person who is deserving of compassion and love.

When Danni and Marcus share some intimacies, he can't believe that she would want him. He truly feels that she must pity him, as who would want to be with such a beast. It's Danni's kindness and compassion that is his undoing. This is where I loved how plucky and stubborn Danni is. She wants Marcus, but is afraid to reveal her identity, because then she will never know if he truly cares for her or wants her because she's an heiress, but she wants him. And she is willing to fight for him.

When their bad deeds catch up with them, Danni has the strength to fight for what she wants. She has the tenacity to do the right thing and make difficult choices. Once again, this is why I loved her as a character. She truly is the beauty to his beastliness. Marcus may have forced Danni to do things she felt were against

her morals, but in the end her love and devotion saved Marcus from his demons and his past.

I always like books where the characters are on a grand adventure. Even though this one had a nefarious bent to it, it was still a great rollercoaster of adventure and passion. Through Danni's eyes, I didn't see Marcus as the beast at the end. I saw him as a man who needed love to heal him and he found the one woman who could save him.

Reviewed for www.kiltsandswords.com Thank you to Net Galley for a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Christy LoveOfBooks says

It has been a very long time since I've read a historical romance, so I'm glad I jumped back into the genre with *He's No Prince Charming*. It was so much fun!

I'm not the type that seeks out retellings or even gets excited about them, but I've had great luck when I do read them. *He's No Prince Charming* is a take on *Beauty and the Beast*, and the author did a fantastic job. And to think this is Elle Daniels' debut novel. Bravo!

All of the wonderful characters in this book are such a treat! Danni is feisty, intelligent, and just an all-around great heroine. Marcus broke my heart, though. Oh, I love the guy. But man, what he had to endure, the way people treat him, and the self-hate ... I wanted to hug him myself! He had a hard exterior and keeps people at bay, but he's a beautiful soul who craves love.

Their relationship is my favorite kind. That's right, the good ol' loath to love. The banter and teasing between Danni and Marcus is absolutely delicious! I love when the author actually gives us great dialogue, with witty back-and-forth between the characters. It was very entertaining, and so sweet as they grew closer.

The shenanigans and the crazy situations they get themselves into are extremely humorous. You can't help but to shake your head and chuckle. I truly appreciate how much this book made me laugh.

The secondary characters were just as entertaining as Danni and Marcus. I got such a kick out of Ginny! I don't mean literally, like the way she kicks the hell out of everyone. She lets society see her one way, but she's so much more. Even Hu made me smile, and he didn't even say much.

I love when an author incorporates familiar characters and themes. I get so excited when I recognize who certain characters from other stories are supposed to be, and the little things mentioned from other versions of the story.

I do have to say, their thoughts did feel a tad repetitive at times. It wasn't terrible, but I just found myself wanting to skim little parts here and there. Really, though, it's a small thing compared to all the good there is.

He's No Prince Charming is definitely a book you should read, especially if you like plenty of humor. I am for sure looking forward to the next book in the *Ever After* series!

Lisa says

Very enjoyable! Great take on the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale. Can't wait for the next book!

Connie Fischer says

At age 31, Marcus Bradley, Marquis of Fleetwood and also known as “The Beast” is a deeply depressed man who drowns himself in drink. His father had been a very evil man who abused and beat him all of his life leaving him scarred both physically and mentally. Many of his beatings were endured to protect his younger sister from sharing the same fate. Their mother ran away and left the children with their father in an effort to protect her own self. Now that his father is dead, his next concern is to try and protect his sister, Caroline, from having to marry The Duke of Harwood. Their evil father had contracted a marriage between Caroline and Harwood many years before. Sadly, the Duke of Harwood is a man like their father - evil and in possession of a foul temper.

Miss Danni Green, age 24, is from a wealthy family but as she is also very intelligent, she is too restless to occupy herself in the usual manner. Instead, she runs Gretna Green Bookings, an illicit elopement agency. It is privately housed in the back of the Gretna Green Bookstore. As she enjoys seeing people marry for love, she assists couples by helping them to run off to Gretna Green to get married.

One night, Marcus happens upon Danni assisting a couple ready to elope only to find that the bride-to-be is the woman to whom he has been affianced for a marriage of convenience. Angry at the whole scenario, Marcus blackmails Danni into helping him kidnap a very wealthy young woman with a large dowry and take her to Gretna Green to marry him.

Their journey soon becomes a comedy of errors. The following days are filled with events that will have the reader laughing, chewing their nails and generally falling in love with both Marcus and Danni.

This is a very sweet novel. The author’s ability to dig down in the damaged soul of Marcus and allow Danni to enter his heart was very well written. The story is loosely based on the tale, Beauty and the Beast.

This is a debut novel for the author and I look forward to reading more from her.

Marcela (BookaholicCat) says

Originally posted at The Bookaholic Cat

4 ½ Stars

He's No Prince Charming is the first book in the Ever After series by Elle Daniels.

I love takes on fairy tales and He's No Prince Charming is one of the best takes I have read on The Beauty and The Beast. On one side, we have Marcus Bradley, the scarred man known by the Ton as “The Beast” and the epitome of a tortured hero. On the other side, we have Danielle Strafford, an heiress with a secret identity who helps people be with their true love.

Marcus is one of those characters you need to know to understand and after seeing him for what he truly is, you can help but fall in love with him. Saying he had a trouble past is an understatement. For years he was brutally abused by his father, abuse that left him scarred inside and out. As a result he suffers from a serious case of PTSD, a condition that keeps him away from people and finding solace in alcohol. Despite his limitations he does whatever needed to protect his those he loves, especially his sister.

Danielle grew up surrounded by love. Her parents loved her and loved each other deeply; but after the death of her mother her father got lost in bereavement and kind of forgot about her. Instead of wallowing in despair, Danielle decided to dedicate her life to help Ladies of the ton to elope with their forbidden lovers. This led her to meet Marcus, an encounter followed by unfortunate situations that brought them together.

Danielle and Marcus romance is the kind of romance I love to read about. Even though on the beginning there is a small dose of attraction, there is not insta-love. They need to spend time together to know each other to then fall in love. The road they follow to get there is packed with adventures, misfortunes and many laugh out loud moments. Seeing them come to the realization that they have fallen in love was a delicious and an emotional treat, especially in regards to Marcus, a man who doesn't believe is worthy of love. Luckily for him he found the perfect woman for him, Danielle. *swoon*

He's No Prince Charming is a romantic, cute, fun emotional and all around an amazing debut novel. Elle Daniels' writing is fluid and engaging. The characters are likeable and well developed and the story has enough drama, action, and funny moments to make of He's No Prince Charming an impossible to put down book. Be ready to have a smile on your face while reading it.

The end is more like a little tasting of what we can expect in next book, Once Upon a Duke. There is no release date yet, but I'm sure will be ~~stalking~~ following Elle Daniels for updates.

I recommend He's No Prince Charming to historical romance fans and to those who like takes on fairy tales.

Jane says

I literally could not put this book down, as evidenced by my writing this more than a little blurry eyed and sleep deprived.

There was something extremely likable about the hero and heroine, she is strong without being pig-headed and he was just well... him (sigh). It was nice to read a romance novel where you can see why they were falling for each other, rather than love at first sight but nothing else which is commonplace in this genre.

An excellent debut novel, with some funny secondary characters, adventure and sweet moments - will definitely be looking out for future offerings from the author! I recommend you give this a go, perhaps don't start this at night and when you need to be somewhere to be in the morning...

Jen Davis says

This book totally hit my sweet spot. If you know my taste at all, you know I am a sucker for a Beauty and the

Beast retelling, and for me, this one knocked it out of the park. Elle Daniels has crafted a pitch-perfect tortured hero, who is just the right blend of hard and vulnerable; and his heroine is the ideal balance of pragmatic and romantic to see beyond his gruff exterior.

The villain in this story is dead before the book ever begins. Marcus owes all of his scars to his late father, and believe me, he has plenty on the inside and out. If it were up to him, he would never marry –never carry on the family line– but even from beyond the grave, his father has the last laugh. In order to save his sister from the abusive man his father promised her to, Marcus must marry a woman of means to help buy his sister out of a broken betrothal.

He thought he had found just the right woman. He had already worked out a settlement with the girl's father. But he caught her running away with his very own employee, and he found she had an all-too-willing accomplice. It seems Danielle has made a business helping women elope for true love. But now she owes Marcus a bride, and he insists she help him kidnap a replacement heiress.

Of course, Marcus has no idea that Danni is an heiress in disguise. Yet over the course of their adventure together, he can't help but fall for her. And it's only a matter of time before she sees beyond all of the scars and masks to the wounded, gentle man hiding underneath. I loved the way their attraction and their emotions evolved. I thought the sexual tension was fantastic, but so was the emotional tension. Marcus is so damaged, but so loyal and he tries to be a better man than his father. His feelings for Danielle rang so true for me — his disbelief that she could ever want him or love him in return. Which made it all the more satisfying every time they touched... every time they kissed... every time she showed him he meant something to her. I just wanted to crawl inside this book and roll around in it.

The love scenes were both sexy and poignant. The dialogue was good. The pacing was good. The characters were well drawn. And the set-up for book two left me totally intrigued. I will definitely read from this author again. My only small niggle is the unanswered question of who the mystery woman was at the inn. Maybe we'll find out in Caro's book.

Would recommend.

Rating: A-

**ARC Provided by Forever*

Phoenix77 says

I try to finish any book I've committed to (especially one I've paid for) even when the going gets tough, but this time I just couldn't. The story NEVER improved upon its convoluted and slightly disturbing premise of how the hero Marcus and the heroine Danni meet and come together.

We the reader are supposed to feel compassion for Marcus's situation and believe that while his actions are menacing and criminal his heart is really innocent and his choices justified. I call that a whole lot of baloney! This is not a story of a villain being redeemed as a true hero; it's more like the deconstruction of a hero to his most basic elements and the author asks us to only pick up the good traits while ignoring the dark and damaged parts that force him to do wrong.

"Ignore the fact that Marcus is a barely functioning alcoholic..."

"Never mind that he uses threats and blackmail to get what he wants..."

"Please forgive how badly he treats his younger sister all in the name of protecting her..."

"Don't think about the minor detail that his best solution to a problem is KIDNAPPING and a FORCED MARRIAGE..."

Seriously???

Danni isn't innocent in her own bungled actions throughout the story, especially how she parties herself to Marcus's madness. She is on a one-woman crusade through the *ton* to protect the virtues of love and the sanctity of marriage for the emotion, but she can't go against her father's wish she marry for political reasons. Oh No! And once Danni understands why Marcus is kidnapping a completely innocent girl for her money couldn't she just speak up and say "Hey, instead of kidnapping a completely innocent girl for her money... Why don't you marry me for mine?" **Nope!** That would be TOO convenient and then we'd never get to deal with all the problems these two morons encounter while on the road to Scotland.

I gave up about mid-way through the story and skipped to the end in the hopes that everything would be redeemed in a BIG finish full of emotions, declarations and other happy feelings. At least in that the author got it right. Unfortunately it just wasn't enough to get me to go back and read what I'd missed.

I truly wish, from the bottom of my heart, that Ms. Daniels hadn't tried to be clever in her storytelling and had just kept the premise simple. If Marcus had kidnapped Danni (not the innocent girl) and then all the hi-jinx happened to just the two of them then perhaps I would have gotten past a lot of the other issues I had with the book. Shading both the main characters as morally gray left too much room for other bad triggers to creep into my interpretation of the story.
