



The Duke of Seduction

Darcy Burke

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Lady Lavinia Gillingham prefers rocks and dirt to marriage. Her passion is science, and she's determined to marry if—and only if—she finds a man who supports her interests and intellect. So far, she's managed to avoid attention on the Marriage Mart, but when the Duke of Seduction pens anonymous letters singing her praises, she suddenly become the toast of the ton and matrimony seems imminent.

William Beckett, Marquess of Northam possesses the reputation of a rake, but is secretly a romantic. Spurned at sixteen, he doesn't expect to feel the sting of Cupid's bow a second time, and yet he's able to woo the coldest of hearts with the anonymous words he publishes. As the Duke of Seduction, he uses his skill to help Lavinia, never anticipating she has no desire for assistance. While Lavinia is pursued by several suitors, Beck is the one who is seduced when he learns that love can strike twice...

The Duke of Seduction Details

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From Reader Review *The Duke of Seduction* for online ebook

Dee Deacon Foster says

In a world where wallflowers are ignored, the Duke of Seduction strives to improve their chances of making good matches.

William Beckett, Marquess of Northam, has long hidden his romantic side. Now, after a devastating family death, Beck uses his talents to ensure the spotlight shines on those girls that society shuns. Until he meets a certain lady makes him question whether he's helping or hurting their chances of happily ever after.

Lady Lavinia Gillingham doesn't mind her status as a wallflower; she'd rather spend her time with her friends there than be paid court by men who will not appreciate her love of science. Until she meets a devilishly handsome man and the Duke of Seduction targets her as his next wallflower to help.

Darcy Burke writes another superb story! Beck's range of emotions jump off the pages as does Lavinia's frustration with the secretive Duke of Seduction and her parents. Ms. Burke's inclusion of characters from previous books feels like a homecoming while providing the reader with a little history that ties the stories together.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

THE DUKE OF SEDUCTION by Darcy Burke is book 10 in The Untouchables series. This is the story of Lavinia Gillingham and William 'Beck' Beckett, Marquess of Northam. I have read the previous books (and loved them) but feel this can be a standalone book if you choose to do so.

Beck when he was younger fell in love with an older woman who didn't return those feelings and it hurt him a lot. So much so that he has taken to not give his heart out again but lives somewhat to himself but he sees enough of the ladies who hang in corners with no one interested in them. So even though he doesn't want to test love again he still has a romantic side that ends up going under the name of 'Duke of Seduction' pens anonymous letters about the women he feels could use his 'help'. Which had led to a few being engaged and really seen to by the town instead of wallflowers of sorts. Beck takes on Lavinia who ends up with so much attention but for her this isn't what she wants. Lavinia is a bluestocking who does want to marry someday but only to someone who loves her and she loves them....but with this Duke of Seduction interference she is being the object of everything but what she wants.

I am such a fan of Ms. Burke and this book just proved again why I always look for her books...just loved it! Could not put it down until I finished it.

Brenda says

Publisher's Description:

Lady Lavinia Gillingham prefers rocks and dirt to marriage. Her passion is science, and she's determined to marry if—and only if—she finds a man who supports her interests and intellect. So far, she's managed to

avoid attention on the Marriage Mart, but when the Duke of Seduction pens anonymous letters singing her praises, she suddenly become the toast of the ton and matrimony seems imminent.

William Beckett, Marquess of Northam possesses the reputation of a rake, but is secretly a romantic. Spurned at sixteen, he doesn't expect to feel the sting of Cupid's bow a second time, and yet he's able to woo the coldest of hearts with the anonymous words he publishes. As the Duke of Seduction, he uses his skill to help Lavinia, never anticipating she has no desire for assistance. While Lavinia is pursued by several suitors, Beck is the one who is seduced when he learns that love can strike twice...

My Thoughts:

Darcy Burke never fails to engage and amuse this reader. Each one of these books in the Untouchables series are expertly crafted stories that draw the reader in from page one and never let go.

Lavinia much prefers rocks, dirt and scientific pursuits to those considered ladylike. If and when she marries it will be to a man who supports her endeavors and loves her in spite of them.

The teenage spurned Marquess, William Beckett is a secret romantic who writes poetry in an effort to try to help wallflowers find their True Love and Happily Ever After. He never expects one of his endeavors to backfire and catch him in it's clutches. He is also an accomplished musician. His love of these artistic pursuits is a well kept secrets.

Now that he has been caught in his own matrimonial endeavor will he still try to find another man for the woman he wants for himself?

I gave this newest Untouchables book 4.85 of 5.0 stars for storyline and characterization and a sensual rating of 4 of 5 flames. The intimacy between our hero and heroine is an essential part of this well developed plot.

I received a complimentary digital ARC of this title from the author via BookFunnel to read in advance. This in no way affected my opinion of this engaging title which I read and reviewed voluntarily.

Barbara Rogers says

Series: The Untouchables #10

Publication Date: 8/21/18

What a delightfully, refreshingly different addition to the Untouchables series. It is lighter and more humorous than the previous books in the series. It is excellently written and I loved both the hero and the heroine.

William Beckett, Marquess of Northam is a very private man. He shares very little of himself with anybody except his butler and his best friend Lord Ware. Beck sometimes has black moods and will secrete himself away for a day or so – playing music and writing. Really, Beck's standoffish personality is just to hide this big bowl of romantic mush. I know – I loved him!

Beck had a teenage love who was older than he was – and she spurned him. He was so hurt, he never thought – never even looked for love again. He couldn't stand seeing all of these lovely, unappreciated young ladies

hugging the walls at all of the balls, so he decided he'd help them by becoming The Duke of Seduction. He'd write poems about a particular young lady – nothing intimate – just enough to catch attention for them - and they'd be published in the newspaper. Two of his first four young ladies are already engaged. He's really feeling good about what he's done for them. They'd be really grateful to him if they only knew . . . or not.

Lady Lavinia Gillingham is one of my favorite heroines. She is very intelligent, steadfast, level-headed, kind, generous and funny. She is a bluestocking geologist but unlike many heroines we read about in books, she wanted to marry – she just wanted to marry for love – someone who appreciated and supported her intelligence. So, when the Duke of Seduction wrote a poem about her, she was incensed. If she could just find out who he was, she'd give him a piece of her mind! Imagine, bringing all of that unwelcome attention down on her and now her parents were pushing her to marry. She'd really love to skewer that self-proclaimed Duke! The man was a menace, and Lavinia meant to unmask him.

From their delightful first encounter in Lord Evenrude's library, their interactions were both funny and serious. He couldn't believe some of the things that just came tumbling out of his mouth – he didn't share those things with anybody. He's also helping her find a husband since he brought so much unwanted attention.

While the book is filled with humorous quips and encounters, I liked this encounter from a scene where they are hiding behind some curtains during a hide-and-seek game.

“Are you going to, then?” she asked, her breasts grazing his chest as she edged herself against him. “Kiss me.”

“By God, I think I am.”

“Oh, good”

There is a mystery in this book and the solution to that mystery is my only problem with the book. First, it was just too quick – I mean the whole book leads up to it and then it was over before you could blink your eyes. Second, all I'll say is that peers were tried in the House of Lords rather than a court – and – if somebody ingests too much of something you provide them, you didn't murder them if they die.

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"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says

Thanks to Darcy Burke the author for Kindly Providing me with an ARC of The Duke of Seduction!!

I loved this story from the first page to the very last page. This is a great Romance story between William Beckett/Beck The Marquis of Northam and Lady Lavinia Gillingham only daughter of the Earl of Balcombe.

Beck writes poetry that is published in the newspaper about Wallflowers and Spinster, with hope that these will garner young men to notice these lovely young ladies. Beck has a sad and personal reason for helping them. But sometimes his help goes array. Lady Lavinia isn't keen on being married off to just any sort of peer or gentlemen. She wants a man of intellect who would love her for her intelligence. These two H/H paths collide. Leading them into a wonderfully written friendship, courtship and finally a Great Love.

This is a real feel good story that leaves you feeling happy and smiling inside. The readers will love Beck and Lavinia. They also, have a lively cast of secondary characters with there own stories too come. I can't wait for November to read Fanny's story The Duke of Wishes!!

I Highly Recommend The Duke of Seduction to all lovers of Historical Romance you won't be disappointed!!

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?♥?

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The words upon the page ring clear,
And pictures in my head appear,
The ending is written, the book in production
Will Lavinia fall for The Duke of Seduction .

I had to give it a go , and believe me it's not easy , our author has not only given us a wonderful book and further addition to the series ,but has also give us some stunning verse to begin each chapter .

I loved this book , even if your not a fan of poetry you have to admire those can write it , not me obviously , and the verse in this book is very good .

Lavinia and Becks story is great , she's a wallflower and even though she want to marry , she hasn't found the right person yet.

Beck is a musician a poet and a Marqess and seems to have some tendency toward depression, he's still trying to cope with the loss of his sister from years earlier.

Can she help him and in return find the one man to make her happy .

A perfect story to continue this brilliant series .

I received an advance copy of this book and chose to submit a review

Tanya Sridhar says

4 very surprised/5 stars.

I received this book from Netgalley and Darcy Burke Publishing for an honest review. This does not in any way affect my opinion of the book and it's characters.

When I picked up this book I was quite unsure of what to expect, I know for sure that I did not think I'd

enjoy this as much as I have. I read through the book in about two days and could have done it much faster if this pesky thing called my job didn't come in between. This is the 10th book in Darcy Burke's The Untouchables series, and the first I've read. Though I am extremely intrigued to read the previous books now.

Lavinia is a bluestocking wallflower wishing she could spend her days examining rocks, talking about stratification and reading geology books. Instead, she is thrown steadily into the marriage mart - and at one point the author makes a comparison of the marriage mart to a vegetable market, where women are on display for sale like delectable produce, and I couldn't agree more. She has no wish to marry, knowing that a husband who not only appreciates her love for science but also encourages it will be near impossible to find. You know where we're going from here.

William Beckett, fondly known as Beck (because why not?) is rake extraordinaire - and our MC's meet for the first time when he mistakes her for his paramour in the dark and kisses her - but he's a poet and musician at heart. Under the guise of the "Duke of Seduction" he pens beautiful poems about young unmarried misses on the marriage mart, giving them the push they need. Only, in the case of Lavinia, the poem he writes for her is a bit like pushing her off the cliff into shark infested waters. From here builds the love story of our couple.

You instantly connect to them, and I was definitely down the "kiss-now" rabbit hole by their second interaction. They balance each other out wonderfully. I do believe Beck is shown to have shades of Bi-polar or something of the sort, and personally I'd wish if that was a little more fleshed out. That would perhaps be one of the few misgivings I have about the book.

The writing is very easy to read, and flows smoothly. It has a very light tone to it, and while I enjoy my deep, gritty books, once in a while I want a light, fun, swoon-y read. And Darcy Burke's combination of romance and humor made for a perfect read. The book was much wittier than I expected, and I could sense undertones of a Julia Quinn-esque style. There are some points however where I did cringe at a line or two (Like when Beck tell Lavinia that "he feels deeply") but it didn't puncture the experience one bit. I even managed to laugh it off.

What I did however truly, truly, *truly* truly admire was the absolute lack of melodrama or theatrics from either of the characters. There weren't any unnecessary plot points simply for the sake of drama, neither did we get a typical roadblock in the HEA. Whatever conflicts that arose were because of the *characters* as individuals, and not interfering third parties. I do truly enjoy that reprieve from the dramatics. Also, another thing I admired is the departure from cliché tropes. The author has gone for straight up emotion and character driven romance, and not pure circumstance and I admire that. It might feel a bit campy at times, but it definitely did not deter me from enjoying this book.

Also, the small little back story mystery had such a plot twist that I was shocked. Shocked, I tell you. Or maybe I was so involved in the love story that I didn't give it much thought!

If you're looking for a sweet, heartwarming HR to curl up with then this will definitely be a good choice.

Caitlyn Lynch says

The Duke of Seduction is Book 10 of Darcy Burke's Untouchables series, but don't worry if you picked up this one first. You can read them in any order, even though previous characters do make occasional

appearances. Each story stands perfectly well alone.

The Duke in this one is actually a Marquess to be precise, but he has an alter ego - one who pens poems dedicated to young ladies in a popular newspaper. The young ladies he praises are usually the unnoticed gems, sometimes actively wallflowers, and his notice propels them to sudden fame among the Ton. Thus far, three have made successful matches.

Now, he's unexpectedly turned his sights on Lady Lavinia Gillingham, who couldn't be more furious about it. More interested in geology than flirting, the last thing she wants is a bunch of useless dandies dancing attention on her. The only kind of husband she might be interested in is one who shares her scientific bent, or at the very least will permit her freedom to pursue her own interests.

Beck, Marquess of Northam, meant well. After accidentally offending Lavinia, he just wants to see her happy, but on realizing he's actually complicated her life he has to try and help. The more time he spends with this intelligent young lady, however, the more he realizes he's falling head over heels!

I adored Beck so much! A musician and a poet, he hides his sensitive side from everyone, but felt safe enough around Lavinia to let her see his hidden depths, and she can't really help falling for the rake with the heart of an artist. I thought they made a lovely couple; his respect and admiration for her practically shone out of the book.

This is the third I've read in this series, after Duke of Ice and Duke of Lies, and it's the third I'm going to give five stars to. Darcy Burke doesn't seem to be able to write a bad book. If you love historical romance and you're not already reading her, do yourself a favour and add her to your TBR shelf.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review through NetGalley.

Tracy Emro says

William Beckett, the Marquess of Northam meets Lady Lavinia Gillingham when he mistakes her for his current lover. Intrigued by her, he asks a friend her name and wonders why she is not married. Northam has a tender heart, he believes in love, but thinks his one and only chance was lost years ago, he also lost his beloved sister and now uses his talent for writing to anonymously "help" young ladies he believes are being overlooked. He writes poems about the lady and has them published in the paper - he believes he is helping these girls by forcing the ton to "see" them. And after meeting Lavinia, his muse is screaming for him to write about her.

Lavinia is not pleased to learn that she has become the Duke of Seduction's latest subject, she doesn't want the attention and will only marry a man that will support her geological studies. She is determined to learn the identity of the "Duke of Seduction" and stop him from interfering!!

Through the course of her investigation, she becomes acquainted with Northam and rants to him about the Duke of Seduction - when she says she is going to write a letter to the paper, he offers to deliver it to the editor and he defend the "Duke" - angry, she demands the letter back and Northam knows it is time to come clean - he confesses that he is the Duke of Seduction and Lavinia learns about his sister, they come to an agreement, she will help him find women who actually want his help and he will help her find a suitor that will accept and support her desire to study geology.

This was a lovely story that while it had some darker moments, was not nearly as dark as the last few books. There is a lot of emotion, some amusing moments, secrets, betrayal, blackmail, surprising revelations and a very hard earned HEA. I will agree with other reviewers that the ending was rushed and perhaps improbable - but I was so elated that Eleanor, the Duchess of Kendal (The Forbidden Duke) finally got some closure that I really didn't care! This is the tenth book in the series, but it can absolutely be read as a stand alone title, however, you might enjoy the ending more if you have read at least the first book, The Forbidden Duke.

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me

Isha Coleman says

A reversal of roles paves the way for an intriguing opposites attract romance. The Duke of Seduction is my favorite Darcy Burke novel to date. In a world full of complications the answers can prove to be quite simple. He's a free spirit. William has a love them, then leave them reputation that hides a sensitive heart. He dreams of a forever love. A soulmate to own his heart and share his life. When his perfect woman turns out to be a cryptic puzzle. He's determined to learn more. Lavinia is a woman on a mission. She knows what she wants and will buck the odds to get it. Will her passion for science blind her to the acceptance she's always craved? The Duke of Seduction enchants because it's not just a romance. Lavinia and William are seeking their own place in a world of stereotypes. With charm and emotion, Burke uses humor and heart to deliver a powerful message about the benefits of being true to self, no matter what. Reality meets fiction.

eyes.2c says

The Duke of Presumption!!

I really liked both lead characters in this addition to the Untouchables. But then I adore those women who are somewhat different to the empty headed Marriage Mart parade. Lady Lavinia Gillingham is a foreword thinking, intelligent woman who apart from being enamoured by the geological, wants to govern her own life. So far she has been able to eschew the Marriage Mart.

William Beckett (Beck), Marquess of Northam, rake at large, hides the pain of a sister scorned by society, by taking up the cause of such wallflowers and derided young woman. He anonymously writes poems about them, catapulting them into the eyes of society. And the fickle ton, being the rapacious and untrustworthy construct it is, rushes towards the light shining on these young woman. They instantly become marriageable. Grr!

So when this attention is turned on Lavinia she is NOT HAPPY!

As she espouses to a rather shocked and chagrined Beck,

"He writes poems about ladies he seems to think require assistance on the Marriage Mart. It's incredibly presumptuous. And pompous. And many other words that end in 'ous,' I'm sure." "

She becomes determined to expose the culprit just as she is reacquainted with Beck, long a friend of her brother's. Beck of course has not even considered that some young woman mightn't want to be forced into an eligible marriage. That they might want something more, or even different.

The premise that Duke would write poems to aid a woman's marriageability was to my mind slim but worked for this story, given what I've already said about the 'ton'. And of course the tension rises as Beck and Lavinia become attracted to each other whilst the chasm of Beck's alter ego yawns between them.

???'s ~~X~~amante de los spoilersX says

I liked the heroine, she's a woman of science and she's adorable. And the hero too. He's the "Duke of seduction", he writes poems about wallflowers to help them find suitors and do a good match. He writes about Lavinia and she's angry because she didn't want the attention. I liked that there wasn't any silly misunderstanding and that Beck apologized. He had good intentions, he wanted to help, even if the women didn't ask for it but he was quick to apologize and to try to do things better with Lavinia.

He's a hopeless romantic even if he says that he doesn't want to marry.

This was a slow burn friend's to lovers romance. I liked the characters but sometimes I found the story boring.

Monique says

William Beckett, Marquess of Northam, "Beck" to his friends, is an unrepentant rake, he is also a poet and a musician. He has endeavoured to use his literary skills to help the young women of the ton, so they don't suffer as his late sister Helen did. His poems praising the largely ignored young ladies on the Marriage Mart appear anonymously in the Morning Chronicle under the pen name of THE DUKE OF SEDUCTION. Lady Lavinia Gillingham is one of those wallflowers; she is captivated by rocks and fossils, and she will only marry a man who will allow her to pursue her interest, or else she will remain a spinster. Until the day when a poem about her shows up in the newspaper and Lavinia suddenly becomes the toast of the ton. Lavinia's mother is overjoyed, Lavinia infinitely less so.

What a gorgeous, lovely, tender, beautiful romance! If all rakes were like Beck, reading about them would be so much more pleasant. He is charming, a bit mercurial, and he really respects women, even more so after meeting Lavinia. It was nice to see a male protagonist, and a rake to boot, who truly understood the plight of women. Lavinia, for once, in her scientific endeavours is entirely credible; her intellectual pursuits are not exaggerated, and I loved her for being a sunny – yet sensible – presence. The romance that blooms between her and Beck and something to behold: unrushed, sweet, and initially based on mutual respect and a common cause. It's rare to see a romance that feels so genuine; there was no doubt that Lavinia and Beck belonged together, and to watch them realise it in a realistic timeframe.

There is a subplot about Helen, it is superbly done, very exciting; it includes some startling plot twists, and also leads to tremendous character development. However, I could have done without yet another sex-against-the-wall episode: this is a particular pet peeve of mine, as I never see it as romantic; I simply don't see the appeal, and I felt it was superfluous. THE DUKE OF SEDUCTION is a story that unfolds in a mostly quiet tone, the writing is gorgeous, and Lavinia and Beck's chemistry is palpable from the very first time they meet. It is a very beautiful story, and probably the most romantic in this magnificent series, which even at book #10 has lost none of its charm, potency, and relevance. Long live The Untouchables!

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

Stacee says

I had enjoyed the previous book in this series and was eager to read this one.

I really liked Lavinia and Beck. It was sort of refreshing to see them enjoy something different {her: geology and him: music} and I liked that they both supported the other in those interests. There were a couple of Lavinia's friends I liked and I am hoping they get their own stories.

Plot wise, it did get a little repetitive. My main complaint is that I didn't see the leap from like to love. They did talk often, but not for long periods of time. It seemed like they just didn't know each other well. And while the plot thread about Beck's sister fit, to me it sort of felt like adding drama and conflict for no reason other than to have it.

Overall, I did enjoy these characters and this story and especially the epilogue. I will definitely be reading the next one.

****Huge thanks to Darcy Burke for providing the arc free of charge****

Shell Cunliffe says

As you know I'm a big fan of Ms Burkes books and this one was brilliant and if you are following the series then we are on book 10, this time we are following Lavinia and Beck.

Don't you just love it when man or woman can write poetry and play music, for me I am in awe of anyone that could do either of these, because I'm hopeless at doing both of these. Beck is a man that has never got over his sister's death, and as we know the ton can be horrible, so to help other girls like his sister, he writes poetry under the name of The Duke of Seduction and these are published in the newspaper, and they prove to be a big hit, until he meets Lavinia.

Lavinia isn't like other girls, she loves looking for fossils and when she's not doing that she is reading about them, even at balls you would find Lavinia in the library rather than in the ball room, and it's at one such ball that Lavinia is in the library quietly reading when a man kisses her neck, because Beck has mistaken her for someone else.

During the course of the book, we find that Beck wants to know what happened to his sister, I won't reveal what happens and let's just say it's shocking. And as you can gather Beck does write Lavinia a poem that gets published in the newspaper and the outcome isn't what Lavinia wants. To find out you must read the book.

I will give this book 5/5 stars.
