



The Naked Duke

Sally MacKenzie

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The Surprise Of Her Life

Sophisticated. Scandalous. In fact, Miss Sarah Hamilton, a proper Philadelphian, finds London society altogether shocking. How can it be that she has awakened from her innocent slumber to find herself in bed next to a handsome--and exceedingly naked--man? The laughing onlookers standing in the doorway are no help whatsoever and surely this amorous lunatic cannot be a duke, as he claims. She is compromised--though she most certainly will not marry him!

The Sweetest Moment Of His

James, the Duke of Alford, is enchanted by his unexpected bedmate--and not at all afraid of her pink-cheeked fury. True, the circumstances and place of their meeting are most unusual, but the spirited American who's pummeling him with a pillow is an incomparable beauty. If Sarah will only listen to his perfectly reasonable explanation, James is sure that he can capture her heart. . . forever.

The Naked Duke Details

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Author : Sally MacKenzie

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From Reader Review The Naked Duke for online ebook

Loucy says

Certains passages sont très drôles.

Letitia says

It started out interesting enough, and held my attention, but by the last few chapters - I really didn't care... There wasn't very much character development, the plot was terribly light... And I didn't feel the chemistry nearly as much as in The Naked Earl. It just an *okay* story. Nothing special.

Bookswithbenefits says

Sally MacKenzie begins her "Naked" series with James Runyon, Duke of Alford, and Miss Sarah Hamilton, the poor American cousin of the Earl of Westbrooke, Robert (Robbie) Hamilton (James best friend).

Synopsis: Miss Sarah Hamilton leaves Philadelphia for England when her father, an English second-son transplant, makes her promise on his deathbed that she will return to her Uncle's, the Earl of Westbrooke, house. Tired, poor, and having lost her luggage in the bay by Liverpool, the red-haired Sarah arrives at an inn not far from her Uncle's house and tries to find a room to rest for the night. Through a series of rather amusing mistakes about her identity, Sarah ends up in a room that is not her own...which she discovers in the morning when she is woken up by the ungentlemanly advances of James who is under the mistaken impression that she is a common prostitute "gifted" in a drunken mistake by his friend. Upon the obvious screams that ensue and the observation of James' family, James and Sarah are "forced" into a slightly different relationship. While James seems rather happy about the predicament, Sarah has her doubts.

This book as well as the series is rather hilarious. MacKenzie has an excellent sense of humor that creates awkward and humorous moments without being either crude or too light. Her characters are interesting and have their own believable realities that define them. Sarah's American identity is both believable and not too intrusive while James' background as a soldier and a Peer give him the necessary credentials as a regency hero, but don't rule his behavior too much. James, in fact, is one of the few...the proud...the incredibly rare and well-written...male virgins. One of my favorite moments in the book is when MacKenzie is flashing back to James' Eaton years; James' father pays a visit to "help" his son out where he's been lacking. James' observations about the realities of prostitutes is both endearing and refreshing. It's also hilarious. If you're looking for a sweet and laugh out loud love story with just enough plot to hold your interest in the world they inhabit, this story is it. You'll find yourself wondering, and rightly so, what happens next when the last page is flipped. Don't worry...MacKenzie keeps calm and carries on.

As posted on <http://bookswithbenefits.com>

Jess the Romanceaholic says

This is a Quickie Review. For the full review, please visit [The Romanceaholic](#)

I am a huge fan of the “marriage to avoid scandal” plotline in my regency romances, because there’s something supremely romantic to me about two virtual strangers who are forced to forge a marriage of convenience due to society’s dictates, and yet find a deep and abiding love together.

Overall, I did feel that the positive points outweighed the negatives, though there were a few things that seemed to be at odds with the otherwise lighthearted comedic romance. In the end, I have to say this was an enjoyable, funny read, and I would indeed recommend it to my friends.

3.5/5 Stars

Rebecca says

Really a two star, but not horrible for a first book. The plot was a little thin and there was way too much rape and attempted rape. That made it too dark for the Regency Romance genre.

The extra star is for Aunt Gladys and Lady Amanda - *great* characters.

Netanella says

First paragraph: *The devil was still asleep.*

Sarah Hamilton squeezed closer to the stagecoach window. The farmer next to her grunted, shifting his considerable weight to take over the small space she'd made between them. The movement sent yet another fetid blast of yesterday's fish and sweat her way.

With that lovely aromatic opening, our book begins with penniless pseudo-aristocrat Sarah Hamilton traveling to her English uncle's estate after the death of her father in America. Arriving late, Sarah stays the night at a local tavern, where she is given a room that actually belongs to the local Duke, and is *ahem* "compromised" when she awakens in the morning to discover a naked Duke in her bed.

And then, of course, his entire family barges in.

This was a quick, fun read, although not as humorous as it was made out to be. I enjoyed the two spinster Aunts with their blustering and their sometimes misdirected good intentions. The evil plot element, that of the jealous and insane cousin Richard who wants to steal the throne...no, no, make that the Dukedom...was a little too dramatic and unrealistic to me. However, I did love the character of James, the Duke of Alvord. Charming, romantic, straight up, no games. What can you say? Maybe too unrealistic as well, but a girl can always hope. Isn't that what most romances are all about?

Well done, and recommended.

Yumru says

Kitap çok hoş başladı de?i?ik bir konu diyerek okumaya devam ettim ve sayfalar ilerledikçe bazı bölümler ciddi anlamda rahatsız etti, özellikle kötü karakterin yapt??? ?eyleri okumak sinirlerimi bozdu açıkçası?.

Hadi dedim tak?lmamaya çalış?? devam et ama bazı erkek karakterin bir an?s?da beni iyice gerdi, açıklama yapmak isterdim ama okumayanlara haks?zl?k olur diye yazm?yorum ama ben cidden etkilendim özellikle titiz biri olarak bazı ?eyler beni etkiliyor:))

K?saca söylemek gerekirse bazıları güzel bazıları da devam? benim için hayalk?r?kl???yd?, ke?ke yazar bazı ayrınt?ları yazmasaydı dedim, tabii içerikteki bazı detaylar beni etkiledi?i gibi sizi etkileyebilir.

Hannah says

A cute story, with one or two interesting characters, but nothing particularly fascinating or original.

James, the Duke, is guaranteed to sweep girls off their feet with his charming manners and determination to convince Sarah to marry him. Sarah's supposed naivete and lack of understanding in the social life and rules of her class in England are bordering on unbelievable, however. I found it hard to seriously believe that she couldn't understand the danger that James' brother and his hirelings posed to her, or her confusion at the steps that James and his aunts took to protect her reputation after the incident at the Green Man. MacKenzie couldn't seem to decide whether to make her heroine spunky and smartass, or innocent bordering on stupid. Sarah and James' occasional debate about societal issues only made her look like a petulant child, instead of appearing independent of thought and intelligent.

The only thing of intellectual interest, the culture clash between her and James as a result of her American backgrounds, wasn't dealt with very well by MacKenzie, either. It felt like it was placed in there to make the novel sound more "classy" with its discussion of cultural differences - something happens to make Sarah insist that America's considerably better than England, James fires back with a reasonable rebuttal, and the argument gets dropped in favour of another topic. The language was also slightly doubtful at points; some of the words that the characters used, particularly Robbie, is rather unlikely to have come from an Earl. Lizzie also says "his voice freezes you dead" at one point.

Female readers will most likely adore James but find the airheaded Sarah rather hard to bear at times, particularly her constant bouts of indecision regarding James, just because two people (obviously enemies, no less), mentioned to her that James was a rake. James' aunts and Robbie, the Earl of Westbrooke, are charming side characters, and his messed up brother is interesting, creepily so. All in all, "The Naked Duke" is a nice little romance that makes a decent read if you have a spare moment, but it's nothing to write home about. If you can ignore the numerous, ill-fitting romance tropes, it's actually a reasonably enjoyable quick read.

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

Although this book did have some good bit and some humourous situations and dialogue, I can't rate it more than a 3 Stars, as for me it was just a bit average, I didn't hate it and I didn't love it and I will probably forget about it fairly quickly.

Everyone was very pleasant in it, and it was very lighthearted, I was hoping it would be a bit like Julia Quinn's style of romance; humourous and romantic and with no real angst in it. However, it was nowhere near as good. The hero James, the Duke of Alford (the Naked Duke of the title!) seemed a bit lecherous most of the time, all he seemed to be thinking about was the quickest way to see the heroine's breasts! For me it wasn't very romantic, they didn't seem to have a single conversation where he wasn't talking about getting her naked. There was also a slight discordant note to this book, as one minute you are reading light hearted banter and the next it cuts to a scene where his evil cousin rapes and strangles (simultaneously) a girl, which just completely threw me off!

But it was a light, easy read which although I may not seek another book out I would pick it up if it showed up in my library.

Megan says

Meh.. there were parts I liked and parts I didn't. More parts I didn't like though. It was just kind of boring and creepy and cheesy and not for me. I might read the next one eventually.. maybe.

A court de mots says

Pas convaincu par cette romance. On a bien tous les codes du genre mais rien ne se démarque, les héros sont plats et les dialogues sonnent faux.

Noura says

I had this book for some time, read a few pages, lost interest and then lost the book. And I found the book again recently. I figured that it must be a sign that I should make the effort to finish the book and find out if it's any good.

I have to say that it was a meh kind of book. Not so bad that I would shelf it again as a DNF but not something that would give me a post-reading buzz. To make it easier, I'll list down why:

1) The hero, James Runyon aka Duke of Alford, is a complete darling. He's a war hero, a gentleman and a virgin (yes...at 28, which is a bit unrealistic in that era or any era). It's like he's a nerd that became a hottie when he got older. But, he's also a nice character - very much a good guy type. It was implied that he's powerful, but is it just because he is a Duke or an ex-soldier? This was never really fleshed out. And he is constantly horny when the heroine is around.

2) The heroine, Sarah Hamilton who is also a cousin of Jame's bestie is....well..ok. I understand that women of that time, especially the ones who come from distinguished families are very protected from any knowledge on sex and the human body. It was implied also that even she is not familiar with her own body. So she's really innocent and naive and goes "Stop it James" almost every other sentence for most parts of the book because she's embarrassed but turned on with Jame's randy come ons.

Sorry...Sarah just annoyed me for many reasons. She is often in the state of "no but yes but no but yes" ...ughhhh!!! I've read books with similar characters but they're not this annoying. Probably the presentation of the character here is just not to my liking. I have read historical romances where the heroine is an innocent but the sexual tension between Sarah and James was just stress inducing to me. I felt like telling the heroine shut up and let him kiss properly! Because she has that I want but i can't...i really really want but i must appear innocent and not a wanton. Oh please. The guy's madly in love with you. And the not saying what really needs to be said part where she assumed he's a rake when she got the information from really dodgy characters? For f***s sake doesn't she have the brain to investigate. But no...she's rather feel sorry for herself that she might have to marry the young, handsome, good and crazy over her Duke after all like it's such a chore. I just don't get it. That's not being innocent or naive. That's being helpless and stubborn for no good reason.

So yeah the heroine annoyed me for most parts of the story. The saving grace are the side characters - family and friends who are so devoted to their aim to get the Duke married and with an heir and getting Sarah to be the Duchess. And the villain is seriously horrible and crazy he's like a nightmare cartoon villain. In fact he's so deranged...he's probably the only character there that knows his part - a vengeful person full of hatred for a lot of things but most especially the Duke.

There are rape scenes that seem a bit too dark for the fluffy parts of the book. And the sex scenes? I read and wentwhat exactly happened? Was it in already?Waahhh wahhaatt???

And the ending. What ending???

So....after this book, i don't really feel like reading the next one. I might crack open one of the books in the series that seem to have some promising looking reviews but the others? I think i'd give them a miss unless my curiosity and that OCD-ish feeling that i must read ALL the books in the series gets the better of me.

Samantha says

This story as a whole wasn't bad, it was just... boring. Nothing really stood out about it, the heroine, Sarah, wasn't annoying or bitchy or a doormat; she was just average. Same goes for the hero, James, who was just average (except for the whole virgin thing). Then there's the villain, who is James' cousin and is just an average mustache twirling villain who's out to kill James so he can become the Duke of Alvord.

The most disturbing thing about this book was all the rape. If it wasn't actually happening then it was either being attempted or talked about. The villain, Richard, rapes the prostitute that was supposed to be put in James' bed instead of Sarah and then kills her. That whole scene made me wince and debate if I truly wanted to continue on. For whatever reason, I was determined to get through the whole story so I continued. But I should've just stopped there because Sarah has at least two different scenes where someone tries to rape her. I managed to make it through the first one, but the one at the very ending of story was just intensely disquieting to me. Most of this book is pretty light-hearted, so to throw heavy subjects like that in and not

really deal with them was intrusive and disturbing.

Throughout this whole book it felt like there were two different stories going on. One was a light-hearted comedy of mistaken identity and crazy family members. Then there's the darker and serious story of Richard's obsession with overcoming James. I had the feeling Richard could've been a really complex and interesting character, but every time I thought Mackenzie was going to go more into his motives and background, his scene would abruptly cut off and things would switch back to James and Sarah's antics.

So basically, I was either disturbed or bored during this book. I definitely won't be continuing this series.

Charan says

I would have given this 4 stars except for the fact that it wasn't intense enough. The hero is such a normal guy, nothing special except for the fact that he knows what he wants. The heroine is from America and doesn't like British lords. But at the end she loves him anyway.

The interesting fact is that the hero is a virgin. There are less stories of Virgin hero's and this is my first :D . Love, Villain, Fight, Jealousy, Murder, Rape.. it has all the factor except for the fact that it wasn't intense enough.

Hopefully the second book will be better.

Susan (susayq ~) says

What a great story! I want a James for myself! *whispers* And he was a virgin!!!

This had some definite funny moments, but don't think this was all roses and smiles. James had a nasty cousin, who made his nastiness known, loud and clear. Other than the ending being a bit abrupt for my taste,(I would have liked to have an epilogue) this was a great read:)
