



## **A Well Favored Gentleman**

*Christina Dodd*

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Where has she been? The rumors fly throughout the Scottish countryside about Lady Alanna, the beautiful and mysterious displaced mistress of Fionnaway Manor. And now she has emerged from hiding, only to find her beloved estate besieged by greedy relatives. . .and coveted by a darkly handsome Englishman.

Ian Fairchild knows that Fionnaway belongs to him alone. For years he yearned for the cherished place where he passed his childhood. He can secure his rights to the manor only through marriage with the enigmatic Alanna, but the exquisite hellion has warned him at knifepoint to leave her house.

Now with skill and charm, Ian must penetrate the lady's defenses, and boldly lay claim to her body and spirit. But first he must prove himself worthy, and he holds the power to enchant and delight, inflame and inspire. . .and to convince this lady her true home is in her lover's heart.

## **A Well Favored Gentleman Details**

Date : Published (first published 1998)

ISBN :

Author : Christina Dodd

Format : Kindle Edition 400 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Fantasy, Paranormal

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## **From Reader Review A Well Favored Gentleman for online ebook**

### **Alicia Franco says**

Increíblemente sexista, la trama predecible y sin profundidad, demasiado largo y repetitivo, llegando a hacerse aburrido. Descripciones y narrativa muy pobre.

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### **Susan (the other Susan) says**

I'm surprised to see this book referred to as "paranormal" romance. I happen to dislike paranormal, and was disappointed when Christina Dodd began to write about shape-shifters etc, so feel compelled to defend this delicious historical romance. A Well Favored Gentleman has a great deal more in common with Dodd's delightful (and steamy) Governess Brides series than with her paranormal series. Yes, there is a touch of myth and magic here, inspired by local lore, but the story doesn't really hinge on this. Rather, the "selkie" legend adds to the atmosphere of a particular place and time. This next part is SPOILERISH, but only to the extent that might help readers who dislike paranormal choose not to miss out on this book for the wrong reason: If the well-favored gentleman of the title is exceptionally beautiful, charming, and determined not to be separated from his chosen mate, maybe it's because he's descended from a long-ago, doomed union between a human and a selkie, the irresistibly enchanting sea-creature of Celtic coastal mythology. Dodd's story doesn't hinge on our believing in the myth. It's just a magical idea that happens to parallel certain aspects of the H/h relationship. Selkies, in the authentic myth (not invented by Dodd as a basis for her novel) were enchanted seals who could live briefly as human beings of ethereal beauty. In order to keep a selkie as his wife, the man who fell in love with her would have to play a cruel trick, stealing and hiding her seal-skin so she couldn't return to the sea. When the bad-boy hero of A Well Favored Gentleman uses less-than-honorable methods to secure his bride, there is an implicit relationship between his behavior and the act of the long-ago male ancestor who tricked, captured, wed, loved and finally lost a magical selkie bride. That's pretty much the extent of this novel's paranormal influence: a poignant and bittersweet backstory that makes us long for an HEA.... This book and it's companion novel, "A Well Pleasured Lady" (both can stand alone) are among my favorites in a long history as a fan of Christina Dodd's sexy, witty and beautifully crafted historicals. Even when her bad-boy characters behave abominably, they can't quite hide the intrinsic goodness at their core. And instead of making us loathe them until some Big Misunderstanding is resolved, Dodd redeems her male protagonists in time so that we can enjoy seeing their women enslave them in return.... Recommended, especially to fans of Connie Brockway's historicals. I think Dodd and Brockway have done a book or two together; their styles are complementary and both excel at gentle humor, sharp repartee, and luscious sex scenes.

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### **Lynne Tull says**

This was a "Nook" e-book read. I am beginning to get the hang of it and like the feel of it in my hand. This was the second book in a set and it was okay. I read it while I was on vacation and am just now commenting on it. All that comes to my mind is...seduction, lust, sex...over and over again. Quite boring. Also, it left some of the characters wanting for their stories, but I did not find any links on Ms. Dodd's web site to indicate there were any.

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## **Cheap and Lazy says**

I love regencies with some fantasy woven in, especially if they include some pretty hot love scenes. Warning: if forced seduction is an issue for you, you'll want to pass on this one. While I wouldn't tolerate the hero's behavior in a contemporary romance, it worked for me in this setting. Both Ian (dark and brooding) and Alanna (proud and independent), as well as the other important characters, were nicely drawn (I especially enjoyed Wilda). The plot moved along well with a couple of surprises. The use of magic enriched the story, as did the Scottish coast setting. There were a couple of instances of anachronistic dialog, but they didn't detract from the overall story for me. I don't feel it was necessary to read the previous book, A WELL-PLEASURED LADY, in order to enjoy this one (although you would have more background on Ian and his family).

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## **Margaret says**

DNF. I couldn't get into it.

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## **Chloe Andrews says**

I used to love Christina Dodd's novels... but after I read this the second time, I noticed that the Hero "R.A.P.E.D." the Heroine twice. :(

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## **Greymalkin says**

Ugh, so many things I hate in a romance in one book! I did like that it had selkies but there was so little of actual selkie culture and magic. They were just a magical plot device. Could have been faires, witches, weres, vampires or aliens and come out about the same. The main hero and heroine have zero chemistry and fall in love for absolutely no reason. This is not a clash of two equal partners, it's the clash of a spoiled brainless little girl and a self centered jerk. It's such a pity the story was about them because the rest of the secondary characters were much more interesting. Even the evil dad was more interesting. I would have preferred to hear his story and turn it into a redemption or something, that would have been interesting. BAH.

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## **LJ says**

A WELL FAVORED GENTLEMAN - Okay  
Dodd, Christina - 2nd in Well Pleasured series

Where has she been? The rumors fly throughout the Scottish countryside about Lady Alanna, the beautiful

and mysterious displaced mistress of Fionnaway Manor. And now she has emerged from hiding, only to find her beloved estate besieged by greedy relatives. . .and coveted by a darkly handsome Englishman.

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Sulkie make, witch female, set in Scotland. It was okay, but not great.

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### **penelopewanders says**

Just before starting this book I began wondering if I'd truly read the first in this short series- I was convinced I had, but can't find a review of it on my bookcrossing shelf or elsewhere. I can't seem to locate the actual book either. After a few days of dithering, I finally decided to just go ahead and read this, the second. I was quite (pleasantly) surprised to discover the magical aspects of this story, and I do like stories about selkies....

This being said, I've since checked the date of copyright and was somewhat reassured to see it's not at all a recent book. I think certain scenes in the story would no longer be considered acceptable. Ian's insistence on claiming his due, and having his way, whether Alanna agrees or not, is more than over the top. Drugged and compelled?? not quite what we would deem a situation of consent. Likewise Alanna's total acceptance of the "obey" aspect of the marriage vows, even when that obedience could jeopardize what is most important to her, seems unreasonable. Putting that to the side, I did quite enjoy the story.

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### **Beanbag Love says**

Confusing paranormal elements.

Bizarre and somewhat squicky ... seduction.

Felt like it could have been much shorter.

Vague bad guys with a nefarious plot that makes little sense.

Deus ex machina ending.

For all that, some of it was charming. Too much weighing it down, though. I will try Dodd again, but I'll look for another sale price.

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## ? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Anything to do with the sea will generally entrance me. This one is a mix of selkie and Scottish lore. I enjoyed it and can only wish there was more of a selkie presence. This was a sweet story of Ian and Alanna coming together for a happily ever after. The sacrifices from those in the book were sad and a bit unexpected. I recommend this book to people who love romance with a hint of ocean magic.

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### Kathy says

A charming story... The MacLeod's have a pact with the selkies off their shore - a mutual pact to aid and protect one another. the selkies provide a rare pearl from the ocean's depths, the MacLeod's protect their section of the ocean, with an elaborate set of checks and balances.

before Alanna's birth, Leslie Fairchild came to Fionnaway Manor, and fell in love with a selkie, Muirne - a wild selkie, who was eager to know what the above water world was like... but Leslie was not true, and when Muirne is pregnant, he abandons her & she raises her son (Ian) until his 11th birthday, when she must return to the sea, after delivering him to Leslie. Leslie was a horrible father, demeaning, angry, and Ian eventually struck out on his own, made a fortune, traveled the world, but didn't find hme.

Alanna is born lady of the manor, to a weak mother who died when she was young and to an alcoholic father, who did not attend to the needs of his people. Alanna learned to manage her father and the estate, loving the people and the land. Until her 16th birthday, when her father died, and left Leslie Fairchild as her guardian... when she turned 17, he tried to rape her, and would have succeeded (she could not escape him) except he could not hold an erection. She runs away to the witch's hut, and lives and trains with the witch, disguising herself to look old and witchy, and stepping into the witches' shoes on her death; until she turns 21, and can claim Fionnaway. She loves her people, she deeply feels the responsibility of the land, the people, and the pact. She plans to claim her land, to find a weak man who will concede control to her to marry, and not repeat her mother's mistakes.

Leslie is dying (we find out of a wasting, drowning disease because he broke his marriage vow to Muirne)... and sends for Ian - suggesting to Ian that he will inherit Fionnaway... and Ian comes, and feels at home, and remembers his youth... he is half selkie, and fears the ocean (he almost drowned at age of 4, when his mother could not protect him), affects the weather, wears a ring with a pearl given to him by his mother that allows him to read people's auras/emotions, low self esteem, lonely, and a lot of money. and Ian arrives a month before Alanna's birthday.

and it takes a bit, but Ian finally figures out that the witch, who is easing his father's pains, is in fact the Lady Alanna that all the workers and land renters tell stories about - some saying she is dead, some saying she'll return...

and he goes to her hut, and she has taken some laudum because she hurt her ankle and he seduces her - slowly, gently, thoroughly... and she wakes up with vague dreams, but no memory... He seduces her with the intention of claiming her and her land, of forcing her into marrying him (as she will inherit in a month) and the lands won't go to her cousins.

She has the priest (who is the selkie caretaker) and Armstrong (who is the human caretaker) to consult, and

decides it is time to stake her claim... and she sheds her costume in the town square, and takes her rightful place.

And Ian does claim her, and tells her to leave her door unlocked, and when she doesn't he visits her in her dreams, making love to her, but not taking her to completion... During the days, he accompanies her all around the lands, meeting and helping the crofters and workers; and after a week, on her birthday, she leaves the castle, and goes out a secluded grass area overlooking the sea alone... until he joins her, and seduces her out in the open... and she remembers their first night... and she takes him to the hut, and they talk... and she realizes she loves him and that he needs her more than even the land -

She takes him to the priest, they tell him of the pact, he agrees to uphold his part, they marry... she is to take their marriage certificate and other important documents to a cave that one needs to swim to, and he orders her not to - his fear of the ocean requires it.

But then, that evening, his father tells that they cannot inherit the land, because Ian is a bastard... they leave the castle for the hut again... she tells him she loves him, though she knows he isn't quite ready to hear it... and in the morning she goes to the priest, verifies that Ian is not a bastard - which she suspected because Leslie is dying as the legend says one would do who breaks a promise to a selkie, to Ian's mother and Leslie's spouse. and she goes to the cave and gets the required documents, but the tide is coming in and she is being pulled under - and Ian goes to the priest, who sends him after her... and he overcomes his anxiety and plunges in, and finds her, and with the help of his mother/selkie/seal, they are propelled to shore and to safety... only to find her cousin has killed the priest (who is a selkie), and attacked his brother, and attacks Ian... and Ian is stabbed, and dies, and Alanna calls to the powers that be, and the ocean takes him, and then returns him, and then he lives... and he can accept her love, and give his love in return. ahhhh..

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### **TinaMarie says**

While there's a magical element and selkies in the story it's mostly about Ian's pursuit of Alanna to obtain Fionnaway. As they fight off the evil that is his father and the grasping hands of her cousins who want the land for themselves. Okay read.

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### **Janyn says**

I admit I'm not too fond of paranormal romance. I like a good ol' historical romance without any magic and such. I came to a conclusion that I wouldn't have minded it too much. Maybe that's part of the reason the book did not sell to me. But what mostly bothered me was SPOILER SPOILER the heroine being taken in her sleep O\_O I just really cannot fathom how this can be considered romantic. There were some nice and funny parts though. I liked the "Dream of me" part and Ian's confession. But I think their pairing lacked some chemistry.

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### **Marionela says**

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