



## **Saving Grace**

*Michele Paige Holmes*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Saving Grace

*Michele Paige Holmes*

## **Saving Grace** Michele Paige Holmes

After the death of her grandfather, the Duke of Salisbury, Grace Thatcher wants nothing more than to live quietly in the country with her younger siblings. Her father's debts thwart those plans, and to protect her sister, Helen, Grace must marry a man of her father's choosing.

As each suitor proves less than desirable, Grace comes up with clever schemes, causing each to reject her. While staying at the mysterious Sutherland Hall, a middle-of-the-night mishap sends Grace into the arms of a stranger, Nicholas Sutherland—and provides inspiration for her grandest plan yet—one that will leave her reputation in tatters yet free both her and Helen from all possibility of marriage.

Too late Grace regrets her rash actions when her father's last choice, Mr. Samuel Preston, proves to be a gentleman and a friend. But Samuel is the sworn enemy of Nicholas Sutherland, the man responsible for her "ruin." Now instead of being free, Grace is caught between two men—each with his own agenda.

## **Saving Grace Details**

Date : Published October 15th 2014 by Mirror Press (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781941145234

Author : Michele Paige Holmes

Format : ebook 380 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical, Regency, Historical Romance, Clean Romance, Historical Fiction, Regency Romance

 [Download Saving Grace ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Saving Grace ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Saving Grace Michele Paige Holmes**

---

## From Reader Review Saving Grace for online ebook

### Kim says

I think I am in Regency era fangirl swooning delight. I am an avid historical fiction fan of the Georgian era and its latter half sub-eras of the legal and cultural Regency. Of all the Regency era works I read this year, only this work and *Prelude for a Lord* by Camille Elliot totally blew my mind and I could find no fault in them.

This is a clean secular traditional regency romance. I know it's unfair, but I hold clean secular historical romance authors and Christian historical romance authors to a higher standard when it comes to research compared to proverbial bodice or corset ripping explicit sexuality romance authors. On that note Michele Paige Holmes's regency era research is accurate and phenomenal for this novel. You can tell she bothered to research the strict British caste system structure, the life of the individual castes at the times, the sociological ills/social problems of the era, and "**The Rules**" of society.

I just loved the heroine in this novel with her strong moral character, unpretentiousness, work ethic, kind empathetic heart, and resilience through great adversities. Grace's back life story that prequels the beginning events of the novel are hard not to feel some emotion about and endear you to her, as well as her strong kind character through the rest of the novel. Though she is the daughter of the daughter (granddaughter) of Eugene Durham, The Seventh Duke of Salisbury (a duke is next to being a prince) she is considered a commoner in the strict British caste system by her immediate patriarchal hereditary and mother's marriage to a commoner. Her father has a severe life consuming addiction to gambling and a substance abuse problem with alcohol and has the family living in the urban slums never providing financially straight from the beginning of marrying the heroine's mother. She and her two younger siblings suffered severe physical neglect in nutrition, warm shelter, and other basic life necessities. After her mother dies of tuberculosis when Grace is 8 years old, Grace has to pretend her mother is still alive to take over her mother's clients as washerwoman (which she already had been helping out with) to become a parentified child and sole provider for her younger siblings and selfish father. Her hands are painfully scarred by boiling water, lye soap, and the infrequent scraping of her hands as a child against the wash board. The novel starts with her father trying to sell her to "suitor" after "suitor" to repay his gambling debts to these men and Grace with great entrepreneurship creativity getting rid of each one. Yet when she relates all this to one of the two heroes, she does this with pride, not to commiserate in self-pity and receive pity. Grace is not like that. When people think they are **Saving Grace**, she is actually saving them. Her grandfather told her, *"You are as the pearl emerged from an oyster after a long period of refining- every bit as strong as when you were a grain of sand, now polished into something beautiful."*

Yes, I did say above there are two heroes, but I promise you the love triangle accidentally caused by one of Grace's grand schemes is not at all aggravating. I had a hard time at the 49% mark deciding if I was Team Samuel or Team Nicholas. There was Samuel, so Mr. Dreamy and so Mr. Right, whom had everything you could ask for inside and out if you made a list for Grace. Then there was Nicholas, the brooding beastly bad boy, poisoned and consumed with revenge, whom Grace might be the cure for.

A novel that kept me turning the pages that I recommend to historical and clean romance fans.

Sensuality content: kisses only

Source: Review copy in exchange for my 100% honest opinion.

---

## **Heather says**

This book is sigh-worthy. It's a pleasure to read a story in which it's plain that the author took her time and put her heart into it. I got to read an advanced copy of *Saving Grace*, and even though I have a million other books stacked up to read, this was worth moving to the top of the stack. Grace is spunky, sweet, and incorrigible. Nicholas is living in the past and can't see past his vengeful heart. He needs Grace, and she needs him. But they are almost both too stubborn to see it. Many tender moments, plenty of sweet romance, and great humor as well.

---

## **Melanie says**

This book grabbed me from the beginning and didn't let up the entire time. Grace's father has a lot of debt and needs her to marry someone wealthy asap. Grace, however, has her own plans and is determined not to get married and finds ways for her suitors to reject her. They are quite entertaining and I got a laugh out of her antics.

On the way to the last suitor's house, Samuel Preston, she is forced to make a stop at Nicholas Sutherland's home. While there, something happens and she concocts a plan to get her out of marriage altogether. However, when she meets Samuel Preston and gets to know him, she starts to wonder if she's made a huge mistake.

Grace is a great character! As she described the men her father wanted her to marry, I didn't blame her at all for trying to get away from them! She cares about her brother and sister and has a plan for them to live safely and happily together. While she's trying to figure a way out of her current predicament, she gets to know Samuel Preston and Nicholas Sutherland and begins to realize that maybe marriage wouldn't be so bad after all.

I loved Samuel and was glad that Grace got to know him. Nicholas had a gruff personality and it took more effort for her to get to know him. I was torn between the two men, but felt that she made the correct choice for her in the end. There were big issues between Samuel and Nicholas and as we got to know more of their history, I felt for each of them and wanted them to find a way to come to terms with each other. I thought the ending was perfect! This is a fantastic book for anyone looking for a clean regency romance!

I received a copy of this book to review. My opinion is 100% my own.

Mel's Shelves

---

## **Mindy says**

Oh my goodness, this book is perfect. I loved it! The characters are brilliant and enjoyable. I loved Grace in an instant. What she does at the beginning of the book to get herself out of a bad situation, had me liking her from the start. She is in an impossible situation, put there by her father's stupidity and heartlessness. I admit I was nervous about Grace's scheme at first, but I enjoyed how events unfolded and I loved the end result. For

a little bit, I was torn between who she should end up with, but during the course of the book, and getting to know the characters, there was a clear winner. Grace puts herself in a tough situation and didn't think initially about what could transpire. Not only to her, but everyone around her. Nicholas reminded me of the beast from Beauty and the Beast. He needed his tough, strong-willed heart softened and Grace worked her way into it. She had a way of doing that with everyone she came in contact with. Grace's genuine demeanor and kindness were my favorite things about her.

5 out of 5 stars. This is an excellent, clean romance that will have you quickly turning pages. I have always enjoyed Michele's books, but I have to say, this one is my favorite.

---

### **Tammie says**

Saving Grace is a Regency romance set in the latter part of the Regency period. Just like in most of these type books there was a lot of second guessing how the other person feels and being foolish about it, but for some reason I just keep enjoying these anyway. They are mostly great for when I don't have a huge attention span for reading, but just want to breeze through something light and easy. And they also warm the heart and make me feel good, sort of like a Hallmark movie. This one had a very grumpy love interest whose heart needed melting after the loss of his sister and father.

The novel started out a bit shaky, but got much better as it went on. At one point I wasn't sure if I liked the protagonist when she was so willing to ruin other people's reputations without seeming to give them much thought, even if it was to save her sister. But later she seemed to realize what she had done and she grew on me until I really liked her. This is a clean romance and can be read by teens as well as adults.

Review also posted at [Writings of a Reader](#)

---

### **Mela says**

I am disappointed. And it will be my first review with only two stars (I have given two stars earlier but I haven't written full review then).

What is good: the main idea, the main thread of the story and the idea about characters. Thanks to these there are a few interesting scenes.

But it isn't all used as it could and should be. There is too many descriptions of emotions, hopes, regrets and so on. [I would never thought that I would write it "too many descriptions of feelings", because I think it is one of important things in the books, but...] An author repeated all over again the same things. I was so bored that I skipped many paragraphs. I know, there are authors who write much about feelings (and I like some of them) but when you are doing it you have to do it good. In other case, your book will be... some kind of cheap and rubbishy piece.

So, I liked (during reading some parts of books) Grace, Nicholas and Samuel. But then in another parts I have difficulties with acceptance what they did. Not because it was wrong but because it didn't fit to their personalities, in my opinion.

By the way, sometimes the hardest thing is don't write about feelings at all and do it in such a way that a reader learns what those feelings are.

---

## **Olivia-Savannah Roach says**

Review originally posted on blog: <http://olivia-savannah.blogspot.nl/20...>

\*Thank you to ebooks4review for the review copy\*

I am someone who loves a good historical fiction. Seeing as I have also been trying to read more romance as well, putting the two together seemed like a good idea. And this novel definitely followed through.

We get Grace Thatcher, a girl who has been trying to escape marriage and avoid her father selling her off to pay his debts. I had to admire her, because she was someone who had a tricky past, living underneath a father who had gambled away everything they owned, her mother dying when she young and being left to care for her two younger siblings. She had a hard life as a child, and when her Grandfather came to show her the life of luxury it was the best thing that happened to her. Yet Grace didn't let it take over who she was. She may have joined the upper class, but she hadn't forgotten her own hard life. It made her a caring, responsible and graceful character. I loved her.

We also have the two love interests who she was torn between. Mr. Preston seemed to be almost as perfect as possible – slow to anger, kind and willing to hear your opinion on matters before making a judgment. Lord Sutherland seemed to be just the opposite – a storm of emotions, commanding and cold. But really, both of them were suffering from the grief of loving someone they both lost who happened to be Nicholas Sutherland's sister and Mr. Preston's former wife.

The plotline of this book was good, because although it was a romance with a love triangle, it wasn't just a romance. I can't stand when the book goes on and on about which guy to choose. Instead this one was more about what it means to be part of a family, about making choices and also about trying to be independent. All the time Grace is caught between her difficult situation and with the two men at each other's throats, she is also trying to help them escape from her grief and watch over her siblings. She was definitely a strong woman.

The one thing that lacked for me in this novel was the setting. It did have the customary things like maids, balls and carriages and horses, but I felt like it could've delved a bit deeper into the historical side of things. But that aside it was a great book! I look forward to 2015 when the next in the series is published.

---

## **Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says**

Regency romance Kindle freebie as of May 17, 2017, of the squeaky clean variety, with a sweet, spunky heroine who finds herself in a fix and a resulting engagement-of-convenience.

Grace Thatcher is a duke's granddaughter, but her father is a gambling addict and her mother (the duke's estranged daughter) died when Grace was eight. She pretty much singlehandedly raised her two younger siblings in poverty before her grandfather swooped in and rescued them, but now he's passed away as well

and Grace's father is angling to marry Grace off, in any way that will bring him the most money to pay his debts and, one assumes, gamble some more.

Grace is sent off to visit several potential suitors, and she comes up with some admirably sneaky schemes to discourage them from making an offer for her. The last one goes bad, however, and she needs to take off in the middle of the night. The coach breaks down and Grace ends up, very sick and dirty, in the country home of one Nicholas Sutherland. The house has a few servants but most of the rooms aren't ready for company, so Nicholas' butler makes the mistake of putting an ill Grace in his master's bedroom. The master comes home unexpectedly and there's a scene (not at all a sexy one, though! ... too bad).

Grace thinks she'll play it smart and use this event to ruin her reputation and discourage the last of her suitors, Samuel Preston. She really doesn't want to marry ANYONE. But Nicholas, the habitually short-tempered kind of hero, nevertheless finds it in his heart to try to save Grace from her ruin, even though she doesn't really want to be saved. To spice up the story, Preston is actually a nice guy, but Nicholas is determined to destroy him because ... well, they've got a long, problematic history and you can read it for yourself if you're interested. :)

Not bad at all for a Kindle freebie romance, but the pacing gets pretty slow in the middle and I found myself skimming. There's a foolish misunderstanding, a feud to resolve, a bitter potential mother-in-law to win over, and a hardhearted hero to soften. And a few pretty good kissing scenes. Recommended for clean Regency romance fans.

---

### **Alisa says**

Grace Thatcher is the granddaughter of Eugene Durham, the Seventh Duke of Salisbury. She is also the daughter of a useless gambler who doesn't know how to care about anyone but himself. Grace's grandfather has passed away and her father is now trying to marry her off to a rich man to pay his gambling debts. But Grace has no interest in being married. She is trying to stall until the inheritance from her grandfather (that her father knows nothing about) comes through so she can take care of her younger brother and sister. With the help of her servants Miranda and Harrison, she has done a great job being turned away from each of her suitors... until she meets Nicholas Sutherland, the Earl of Berkely - a man not even on her father's list.

Nicholas wasn't always a tyrant. But when he lost his best friend and sister, Elizabeth, three years ago he became obsessed with revenge, a man who lived for little more than destroying his former brother-in-law, Samuel Preston. Until Grace shows up and turns his life upside down.

I don't think this story is a retelling of Beauty and the Beast, but there are definitely some of the same elements in the story. Once I got into the story, I did not want to put it down! I love how kind and gentle Samuel Preston is, and I loved watching Nicholas learn how to live again. Grace was such a likable heroine, kind and tough at the same time, and so unselfish! I was glad to read that this author is planning more books in this series because I definitely want to read more!

Content: Very clean

Source: Review copy (review is 100% my own opinion)

---

## **Chrissy says**

I just finished this book and I loved it, especially the ending. In fact, during the middle I might have given it 3.5 or 4 stars, but the last part was so good! I highly recommend it to lovers of clean romance, especially regency. There was no mystery, suspense, or danger, just a well-told story about an "arranged" engagement (a forced engagement where both parties don't like each other but ending up falling in love), love, forgiveness, and making the best out of life's tough situations.

---

## **Julie Carpenter says**

There is a lot of depth to the characters of this first book. The beginning starts off pretty fast paced and with some funny, wild haired ideas, all concocted by Grace and pulled off with help from her lady's maid and groom. I was laughing along with her spunk and great attitude throughout her first debacle(I think that's a great word for it although it's a self planned debacle).

Maybe I should explain a little...I don't want to give anything away so just enough to help. Grace is unfortunately left at the mercy of her father. Her mother has passed away years ago when Grace was young, leaving her to care for her two younger siblings. Grace will do anything to protect them. As she grew older, her saving grace came in the form of her grandfather who had disowned her mother. He takes the three in and saves them from their drunken, gambling, wheeling and dealing father. Unfortunately, Grace has fallen back into his clutches after the death of her grandfather and a new Duke taking control of his estate. Grace's father is ready to sell her and her sister to the highest bidder in the marriage mart. Grace would rather she be disgraced in name and reputation only(not in all actuality) and sacrifice suffering through the suitors who are all too similar to her father, if it means she can spare her sweet, gorgeous and overly shy sister Helen.

Hence we start off the novel with Grace enduring several encounters with said suitors and the help of two trusted servants(who are more like family) trying to outmaneuver her father and hope that her inheritance will be released to her by the courts soon.

Unfortunately Grace falls into a little bit of a conundrum and is stuck in the clutches of two men. I really want to explain what happens because it is quite funny(very shocking to Grace) but I don't want to ruin it for you. On a dark stormy night, a carriage accident occurs leaving a very sick and struggling lady to be taken to the nearest house by her servants. When she arrives nothing that she expects to happen, happens, everything opposite of her expectations occurs. The real question is...should she embrace it and use it to her advantage to help her siblings? Or will it cause a whole slew of other problems for her to try to wriggle her way out of? Either way has her in quite the sticky situation and quite frankly leaves us readers set up for a fun, witty and page turning read. Oh, and did I mention a very well written sweet and clean romance?

We have two male MCs, Nicholas Sutherland and Samuel Preston. Both are at a loss of what to do with the other. There is some pretty intense history between the two that is slowly revealed throughout the novel. Their shared history combined with Grace coming in between them causes quite a bit of tension. Yet I will spoil it here saying that we get a sweet HEA ending with plenty of swoony sighs.

I couldn't help feel while reading this that it is a type of Beauty and the Beast retelling. Not an overly strong tone of that unless you are looking but I love B&B so no complaints here and it added very nicely to the whole of the story.



I have read many of Michele Paige Holmes books and can say that I honestly have not been disappointed by any of them.

Oh can I just say, the carriage rides? The key in the lock? The garden fence? Lady Sutherland? The berry pie? The waltzing? Yeah there's lots of great moments written throughout. I had a hard time wanting to put it down. But luckily(well not really luckily) I've been sick and not really able to do much without coughing when I move so I've been able to enjoy some sick days and read lots. \*happy dance-starts coughing\* I'll save the dancing for when I'm better. >.<

Content: clean with some sweet kisses.

My own personal copy

Happy Reading!!!

---

### **QNPoohBear says**

Grace Thurston may be the granddaughter of a Duke, but she's the daughter of a gamester who hasn't lifted a finger to help his family in 25 years. Since the death of Grace's mother when she was only 8, she has been mother and sister to her two younger siblings. Determined to protect her shy sister Helen from her father's scheme to marry his daughters in exchange for a fortune, Grace agrees to his plan to meet her prospective suitors. Little does Papa know that Grace has a plan to reject them all, certain that none of them are suitable. Far more preferable is a quiet life in the country with her siblings once they receive the inheritance her late grandfather left them. Everything seems to be going according to plan until late one night when her carriage breaks down on the side of a deserted road. Assisted by her two faithful servants, Grace makes her way to Sutherland Hall and ill with fever, she collapses on the doorstep. Plans go awry in the morning and Grace finds herself in the midst of a scandal. Certain it would all work to her advantage, she thinks to manipulate the situation, however, she neglected to inform Nicholas Sutherland of her plan. Soon she finds herself in the suds again and this time she sees no way out. She is determined to make the best of a bad situation and thaw the black heart of Nicholas Sutherland, who has been suffering since the deaths of his sister and father two years ago.

This story seems to be a retelling of Beauty and the Beast without the charm or magic. I really didn't care so much for the story but I had to know how it all worked out. I did put it down to sleep but picked it up again in the morning. The story went on a little long but it needed to in order to make the romance plausible. I didn't really buy the romance. I can see why the heroine is appealing but the hero is not. More on them later. I just wanted them to talk honestly with each other early on and avoid the pitfalls of the rest of the story. The actual falling in love is told more than shown. The key scenes are missing from the story! There's a secondary romance that I didn't seem coming and some other surprises that keep this story from being utter drivel. It ends up corny and heartwarming.

Grace, the heroine, is TSTL. She rushes headlong into a madcap scheme without thinking of the consequences. She discovers that her plan had very dangerous consequences and severe repercussions. Her actions reflect not just on her and her siblings, but also on the men she's playing a dangerous game with. I wasn't surprised when she revealed what sent her off running into the night and figured there would be more of that to come. Only illness saves her from complete disaster. Then the hero steps in and the two have conflicting plans. Nicholas is word which here means donkey or behind. He loathes his neighbor for no good

reason and is busy plotting the man's revenge. SPOILERS ahead (view spoiler) Nicholas holds anger and revenge in his heart for far too long. I kept yelling at him in my head to get over it and move on. Yes it was tragic but it's been 2 years! He also expected his enemy to feel the same as he does and expected them both to be in perpetual mourning. This anger in his heart makes Nicholas rude, selfish and domineering. He willfully misjudges Grace and doesn't bother to let her give her share of the story before judging her. His mother is even worse. She's word which here means female dog. The only Sutherland who seemed likable was Elizabeth and she's dead.

The supporting characters are better than the primary ones. I loved the servants. Harrison and Miranda are devoted to Grace and serve as substitute parents. They reward her for her kindness with loyalty and care. I was appalled at the way Nicholas treated them. He had no right at all to do what he did. His servants, Kingsley and Mrs. James are kind too, especially Kingsley. If Nicholas bothered to be kinder to his servants he might have avoided his conflict with Grace. Kingsley seems like a loyal man. I loved Samuel. He's a million times more appealing than Nicholas and though I don't approve of all of his actions, he makes up for it by being nice.

Grace's family rounds out the cast of characters. Her sister Helen is a bit of a ninny. She's more than shy-she seems to have social anxiety disorder. She's a little too sweet and innocent for my tastes but she's very young. Christopher isn't in the story much and I'd like to know more about him and his take on things. Their father is a louse and clearly had no intentions of ever doing anything to support his family. He complicates the situation and made it much worse than it would have been otherwise.

I think I'm in the minority with this one but at least it was free.

**Kindle Freebie** Thanks Tadiana.

---

## **Katie W says**

I love a good Regency romance and this one was great! When Grace attempts to escape a man who has less than desirable intentions, she finds herself without a carriage and with poor health in the middle of the night. Her servants take her to a home to rest up and she ends up in the funniest situation. It had me laughing out loud! That's where the story really got interesting.

I wasn't really expecting a love triangle, but that what happened. Grace is very clever, resourceful, and kind-hearted. She will go to any length to finally be free of her father--including "ruining" herself. I adored her character. Grace is a good mixture of strong and meek, if that makes any sense.

There's something about Grace that both endears her to Nicholas and riles him up. He is a suspicious man by nature, one who holds grudges for far too long, but he's a big softie with so many walls built around his heart, that it's hard to break in. He can be gruff and prickly, yet underneath that exterior, I really liked him.

Samuel, the closest neighbor, doesn't need anyone else to blame him for things that have happened in his life--he heaps enough guilt on himself. Grace regrets trying to ruin herself when she realizes that Samuel is a very kind man and a dear friend. From what I read, I was expecting to hate Samuel, but there's more to him than I realized.

I enjoyed watching the story and relationships play out. There were some secrets that needed to be uncovered and a few things that needed to be resolved. I thought everything was wrapped up nicely when a few twists

happened that I wasn't expecting. I love to be surprised! This is going to be a fun, new series.

Content: no language or violence; mild romance--very brief and vague talk of mistresses, mild kissing.  
Clean!

\*I received a copy in exchange for an honest review\*

---

### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

4.5

I love picking up a book and falling into the story right from the start. I knew early on that I was going to enjoy this one, and I did. Grace Thatcher finds herself in a tricky spot, her father is trying to marry her off to any wealthy man that he can find to cover his extensive gambling debts. Grace has no desire to marry and simply wants to take her siblings and hide away in the country. Her plans run amok when her carriage breaks down and she finds herself in the home of Lord Sutherland. Through a series of unfortunate events the two find themselves engaged.

I loved the evolution of their relationship, from hating one another to eventually caring rather deeply for each other. I thought this had a strong start, I did feel at times it was a tad slow, but I enjoyed it. Grace was a likable heroine, she was kind and honest. I liked that she always attempted to make the right choice, even if it didn't always turn out the best. Nicholas was pretty broody and full of revenge when the book starts, but Grace brings out his softer side. They were a good couple and it was fun seeing them together. There was a bit of a love triangle, but was well done. I actually came to like Samuel Preston quite a bit. (view spoiler)

Overall, a fun regency story and one I'd recommend!

Content: Clean

Nominated for a Swoony Award.

---

### **Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says**

This story reminded me of Seeking Persephone by Sarah M. Eden and The Stranger She Married by Donna Hatch, but of course it has its own twists and turns that make it a story worth reading- especially if you enjoy a Regency England setting and the marriage of convenience trope. I enjoyed the characters and the conflicts that had to be resolved as the story progressed and relationships grew complex.

---