



El Capitán Intocable

Erica Ridley

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El cuerpo del capitán Xavier Grey está de vuelta en la alta sociedad, pero su mente no ha sido capaz de liberarse de los horrores de la guerra. Sus amigos quieren tratar de ayudarlo a encontrar la paz. Él sabe que no la merece. Al igual que no merece las atenciones de la sensual literata con la intención de seducirlo hasta su cama...

La solterona Jane Downing quiere dejar de vestir santos y lanzarse a los brazos de un hombre de sangre caliente. En concreto, el oscuro y peligroso capitán Grey. Puede que no esté destinada a ser su esposa, pero nada la detendrá de ser su amante. Podría citar a los griegos clásicos cuando tenía cuatro años. ¿Cómo de difícil podría ser aprender el lenguaje del amor?

Título original: The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress (Dukes of War #3)

Novela Corta Histórica Romántica del Período Regencia de Inglaterra durante las Guerras Napoleónicas

El Capitán Intocable Details

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Author : Erica Ridley

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From Reader Review *El Capitán Intocable* for online ebook

Mojca says

copy provided by publisher through NetGalley

Jane Downing is tired of giving people *Janenesia*. She's tired of not being memorable, of being forgettable, of passing through life unnoticed. Yes, her predicament might be a little bit her fault, but she's tired of it. Unfortunately, there's nothing she can do about it, but there is something she can do for herself. Like getting rid of her virginity, for example.

But a man or other won't do. She wants someone she likes to do the honors. Someone she desires, someone she respects...And that someone should be the honorable Captain Xavier Grey. He's no longer a vegetable, hiding from the world inside his mind, so Jane's confident he's up to the challenge. Only, it turns out the real challenge is convincing him.

This was another lovely addition to the *The Dukes of War* series, although I have to admit I was a bit disappointed with the story. I can't really put my finger on what bothered me (not enough, of course, to drastically lower the rating), there was just something off. The pacing was good, the story had just the right amount of humor to start with, the characters were lovely (even the Satan-cat—can a cat be deemed a character?), the plot and story were nice...

I guess what bothered me was what happened after the *deed*. Not Xavier's confession of what he truly did during the war, but how Jane dealt with it immediately after hearing it, and her thought process afterwards. It somehow didn't quite fit with the Jane we've been introduced to, the Jane that barged in on a gentleman in the middle of the snowstorm. Granted, she needed time to adjust, but it felt discordant with everything else. Also, I wouldn't have minded a bit more pages after it, because the resolution (Xavier's reasoning and the final "show") seemed a bit rushed.

I know I'm nitpicking, but the last third of the story didn't seem "in harmony" with the rest of it.

Laura says

I just wanted to say, this is the first book in by this author I have every read; the review for this book will not be compared to the rest of the series because I have had no exposure to the other books. It fully works as a standalone.

There are some regency books that use modern speech where the only hint of time is the imagery and rules of society. That is so not the case with this novel. And the characters... right from the beginning, Jane's character pulled me in. She enjoyed theater and music so much... like it was made only for her but had her own reasons for disliking being out in society. Her brilliance was apparent right from the start right until the moment... she threw herself at the Captain. In someways it seemed like Jane had two personalities; the brilliant recluse and a smitten girl prior to her first season. I was in shock how she declared her intentions so suddenly but in the next breath, the confession of her proposal actually proved to be well thought out. Xavier noticed it too. Jane does that... a lot. Pulling out something brilliant or real after acting like a foolish girl or

attempting seduction. It really is an interesting weird dynamic that works. After a while you realize she's really just being herself. I enjoyed how the novel unfolded even though the big picture was utterly predictable, between the milestones weren't.

I particularly liked the end... the grand gesture was out of character for Xavier but it worked. I would have liked to see it stretched out a bit more. I would have liked to see her brother and friends' reaction to the grand gesture which really came out of nowhere (please tell me the next book is Issac's story and the beginning starts with this). I would have used a different word for plump; I have a hard time visualizing anyone describing themselves as plump. I thought the dialogue about reading *The Odyssey* in the library was really creative; another favorite moment. And that cat... that devil of a cat Egui. This cat had so much personality; and the name as you will see, perfect!

Finally, the most haunting lines and the catalyst for the change in the story:

"I don't judge you for what you did before." Her chest ached as she looked at him. "I judge you for what you're doing now."

His eyes darkened. "What, pray tell, am I doing now?"

"Absolutely nothing." She stepped out into the cold. "Like you always do."

Oh how he proves her wrong... if you're like me, you'll love this novel.

Farrah says

Charming and romantic, *The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress* was a fantastic historical romance. It was a lovely addition to the *Dukes of War* series and I really liked it.

Jane was great. She was tired of being forgotten and wanted a taste of passion, which she was totally unafraid of going after. She was kind, understanding, and a likable character.

Xavier was wonderful. He was a man with a heavy conscience, burdened by what he did during the war. But, he was a good man at heart who was haunted by having to do bad things and a sweetie at that.

The romance was delightful. Jane and Xavier were perfect together. They had a strange start, but they were a perfect match.

The plot moved quickly and kept me hooked right from the start. I really liked the story and I loved how it ended.

The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress was a fantastic historical romance. I really enjoyed reading this lovely book. Romance lovers, this is a book you'll want to read.

*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Georgie says

2.5 stars rounded up

Erica Ridley is surprisingly hit & miss. I had greatly enjoyed *The Viscount's Christmas Temptation*, and looked out her backlist, only to be disappointed. With *The Captain's B.M.*, however, there are signs of a return to form.

Major points for -

- * clear characterisation;
- * a focus on H&H talking, and actually communicating;
- * some gentle humour along the way

Not so keen on -

- * a highly contrived set up to give H&H 1-2-1 time
- * slightly rushed analysis of the hero
- * a deeply cringe-making finale

I'll give this series another shot with the next book. But I'd prefer a little more consistency.

Julia says

Quite enjoyed this one, read it in one sitting.

A bluestocking wallflower who is so unremarkable, she is met by everyone in the ton for the first time.
A Duke of War who would rather be forgotten about, because he is not at all proud of his war time achievements.

A terrible cat.

A plan, its execution and a HEA.

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: *Bodice Rippers, Femme Fatales and Fantasy*

Four best friends go away to war.. One returns to discover he is now an Earl but an impoverished one.. The Earl's Defiant Wallflower, One a shell of a man unable to face what he became during the war. One missing a leg and one didn't return at all. Then there is the friend that had to watch them go, watch them return and watch them have to re learn how to live. Each of them must learn to live with not only their pasts but their futures.. These are the Dukes of War.

The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress is Book Two in Erica Ridley's *Dukes of War Series*. While it isn't an

intense, crazy book it does address the realities of war and those who survive it and she does a very good job with it.

Spinster Jane Downing just wants to be noticed. She feels invisible, always watching, meeting the same people time after time after time. They all act appropriately polite about meeting her, every time. It seems no one remembers her and Jane is tired of being less than a wallflower. Since it seems she is destined to be alone, she wants one night of passion and has just the man she wants to seduce.

Captain Xavier Grey came back from the war basically catatonic. He could walk and function but refused to interact with anyone. A closed mind.. seemingly a blank mind. He hid himself deep within because he just couldn't face what he had become. Wanting to hide himself away from everyone he escapes to his cabin, lets his servants go and plans on a solitary time.. But Mis Jane Downing has other plans. And when she arrives on his doorstep bringing a storm with her.. he is forced to play the gentleman. When he learns just why she is there.. Poor guy.. he still tries to remain the gentlemen.

Forced closeness can sometimes be a good thing and both Jane and Xavier have to face more than each other. Both of them have to face themselves..

While the concept is dark, the story isn't. Ms. Ridley writes a gentle reminder rather than a raging storm. There is no haranguing or dark desires. Just two people who need each other.. both physically and emotionally..

This is a nice book to sit beside the fire with.. a way to chase away a stormy evening.. an extremely pleasant read that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of *The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress*, provided by netgalley and is scheduled to be released on March 2, 2015

Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says

This review was originally posted on (un)Conventional Bookviews

The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress was a fun read, where the heroine used everything she could to try to seduce the good captain... who would do anything in his power not to ruin her

Story:

I don't even know where to start! I loved how Jane knew what she wanted, and that she did what she could to get it! At the perils of her being eligible for marriage, even. *The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress* brought both romance and humor, and a very unconventional heroine I loved to get to know. And I can't forget that darned cat, who both made things more difficult for Jane, and at times somehow better.

Ridley's *Dukes of War* series is so good, the heroines are not the ton's usual ladies, standing demurely in the

shadows, they take charge of situations, and that makes them loveable. Broken heroes who can be put back together and become stronger are the best, and Xavier definitely fit that bill.

Characters:

Jane, the younger sister of a man whom the ton liked, has set her eyes on the man she wants to marry. And she will not back down for anything.

Xavier felt like he had nothing more to offer after he came back from the war. He had seen too much. Done too much. And came back alive, while not all of his friends did. He was sure he didn't deserve anything good, but Jane did her best to convince him otherwise.

Side characters from prior books, and hopefully one who will be featured in a future book.

Writing style :

The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress is written in third person, past tense, with an external narrator who knows most of what is going on. The dialogues were hilarious.

Feels :

Uplifted! That's my main feel for this one.

Even with all this snow and the serpentine trail of coaches, she and her companions would have plenty of time to mingle by the refreshments before taking their seats. Jane slumped against the squab. Mingling was horrid.

He must resume his scheme of converting her image of him into one of a mere acquaintance. It had to work. One did not seduce one's acquaintances.

Lord save him. He moaned into his hands. Things had somehow got even worse. His mission hadn't failed after all. Instead, he had accidentally become the friend-to-which-she-shared-all-erotic-secrets. Platonic was worse than lovers. Platonic was hell.

mirada says

Novela donde todo el peso de la historia recae en sus dos protagonistas, prácticamente los únicos personajes de la novela. Trama bien llevada que la traducción tan penosa que tiene estropea por completo.

Amanda says

Jane Downing isn't so much 'plain' as her name would have you believe, just...forgettable. At least according to the *ton* who have passed her over for years. But Jane accepts her spinster status with pride and would much prefer her mountains of books to a stuffy husband anyway. But one thing Jane *does* long for is to experience the passion of lovemaking firsthand. And since marriage eludes her, she's decided to make her dream a reality, sans spouse. And who does she choose to cast in the role of her would-be seducer? Why the heroic and dashing Captain Xavier Grey of course! A jaded former soldier home from the Napoleonic Wars, all Xavier wants is peace and solitude, not to fulfill the the desires of the raving mad bluestocking on his doorstep. That is, until they end up snowbound together, ALONE, in Xavier's country cottage. What follows is a series of steamy encounters, a naughty novel or two and a public declaration of love that left me smiling like a loon.

I loved Jane so much. She's my favorite kind of heroine, and so, so relatable. She's clever, honest, quirky, a bibliophile and unafraid of going after what (and in this case *who*) she wants.

Xavier likewise was an equally lovable hero with endearing imperfections. His guilt and disillusionment from the war did not prevent him from being kind and considerate, especially towards Jane. He even pours her tea (see Meredith Duran's Rules for the Reckless series if you need to know how important this small act is) and brushes her hair. To say he made me swoon is putting it mildly.

So of course, these two made the ideal couple. Xavier *saw* Jane when no one else even looked twice at her. And Jane saw beyond Xavier's inner demons and showed him that his past does not have to define his future.

The Captain's Bluestocking Mistress (can I just draw hearts around that title please?) had everything and more that I love about HRs: a daring heroine, a gruff but darling hero and a cat (who may or may not be homicidal, the jury's still out on that one). Read this book!!!

Trish R. says

Not another one..

Good grief! We're back to me being shallow! Sorry!

On the cover there's a pretty girl in a peachy-orange gown that's looking pretty thin to me, BUT she's plump and Ms. Ridley doesn't let you forget it. She feels the need to beat you over the head with it. How many times have I said I read to get out of the real world? I don't want to read about heroines who are too big, too plain, too much red hair like a Brillo pad, especially when she looks like that and the hero is drop dead gorgeous. Here are examples: On page 14 "quite pretty for a plump girl." Page 14 "did nothing to hide her plumpness." Page 41 "is it because I'm plump?" Page 44 "I'm plump." Page 44 "If she was plump." Page 47 "any other explanation beyond her plump frame," and on and on it went.

I really was looking forward to Xavier Grey's book but I've reached 35% and I can't finish. *Sigh* shallow, shallow, shallow. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way, but I am the one who will expound on it....Again and again... Another author I will not be reading anymore. I can't read books where the heroine is just like me, unattractive and fat. WTH kind of book is that anyway? I don't want to be dragged into the real world when I read.

If the book cover had matched Grace's description I would never bought this book. I hate being tricked.

As to the narrator: Always a real pleasure to listen to Stevie Zimmerman lately. Great voices and terrific emotional reading.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

3.5 stars

I've been very pleased with Erica Ridley's books, most of which I've picked up for free or nearly nothing, making them amazing deals. This book was another pleasant surprise for me.

I want to talk about the audio, which I have very mixed feelings about. To start, I think that **Stevie Zimmerman has a great narrating voice and style, and does a surprisingly competent male voice, despite her very high register.** What I had a HUGE issue with was the recording quality. To be frank, **it sounds like Stevie Zimmerman recorded this in her bathroom.** The quality was pretty bad at parts, sounding either tinny or scratchy and unclear, and coming from listening to a professional recording to this was jarring.

The story was fun and easy. It isn't as complex as some other historical romances that I've read and loved, but it was entertaining without feeling frivolous or silly. It kept Erica Ridley on my list of author to watch, and I'll keep buying her books in the future.

Andrea says

This was surprisingly more enjoyable than the horrible cover would suggest. And let's talk about this cover: the heroine is a plump, plain spinster. She is so unremarkable that people forget her name the second they are introduced to her, so easily overlooked that no one even notices crazy antics like zombie walks in the middle of a crowded ballroom, so invisible that even the most shocking comments she can come up with go by unnoticed. Yep, that cover is dead-on...

But horrible cover aside, this book ended up surprising me. In the beginning, the heroine decides she has enough of being overlooked and shows up at the doorstep of the man she's been crushing on for a while to ask him to show her what the big deal about passion was. Just a little affair, nothing more, she just wants to be seen and desired. And who can blame her. The only thing that bothered me was her romanticized notion of him. As a Captain she imagines a dashing hero, a worthy soldier, someone who sacrificed his life to save others. For someone who has Antigone memorized in both Greek and the English translation, you'd think she would be a little more realistic, but never mind. Once they start getting to know each other, I ended up enjoying the story, even if it was a bit too short for me to buy that they'd fall in love that fast (less than a week).

Keri says

This was such a fun read that I went out and promptly bought another book in the series. I loved Jane and Xavier as a couple. Looks like I have lots of good reading ahead of me.

Wollstonecrafthomegirl says

Two stars is harsh, but, I think, necessary. This was a quick read, so there's that. But, but, but the writing was juvenile and frequently anachronistic (I'm not a geek about that stuff usually, but the book does have to absorb me for the anachronisms not to stick out like screams on the page, this one didn't). The story was

frustrating. Lots of time talking about sex and the possibility of seduction without any real sex or seduction. I liberally skimmed the last quarter. I didn't feel any real chemistry between the h/h. I liked the heroine the more I read but the characterisation generally wasn't strong. I think there's a glimmer of a good book here but the writing let it down, seriously so. Sex was not hot, pedestrian, no dirty talk. I won't be running out to buy any more Ridley's any time soon.

Dixie Conley says

The best of the series so far. I particularly liked the disease of Janenesia and wished there had been more scenes with Jane saying outrageous things only for them to go ignored. I also would have liked to hear about her coming out and why it was nothing, and to see her brother's reaction to her suitor.

However, I very much liked the story that we did get. Jane has been 'on the shelf' her entire life. Everyone who meets her has to be reintroduced each time, as they consistently forget her. Jane has given up on love, but not on physicality, and decides to become a demimondaine, or high-class courtesan. And she's starting with Xavier Grey, the man who came back from the war in catatonia. I would have liked her to bring him out of it, but the way it played out, with her persistently chasing him until he gave in was quite amusing. The demon cat only added to the hilarity. It was more of a light farce, up until the end of their affair, which drew seriousness back into things.

A good read.

I received an electronic copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.
