



## Talk of the Town

*Joan Smith*

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Daphne Ingleside's visit to her Aunt Effie in London was meant to add a little spark to her placid country life. And it did--once the two women decided to write Effie's memoirs. For Effie, a faded divorcée, had been the beauty of London in her day, and many of the town feared their misbehavior would be disclosed. The Duke of St. Felix, misinterpreting their project as a means of blackmailing his family, antagonized the sharp-witted, beautiful Daphne to his peril.

## Talk of the Town Details

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Author : Joan Smith

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## **From Reader Review Talk of the Town for online ebook**

### **Mary says**

I love a great bickering romance and this book now shares a place with Faro's Daughter by Georgette Heyer on the top of my regency favourites list by modern authors. While some might find Daphne and Richard really high-handed, their characters and conflicts felt organic and not contrived. The chemistry between the characters just sizzles beneath their flirt fights and the story line is amusing and different, Effie is a hoot!

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### **Angela says**

While helping her aunt write her book, Daphne's sharp tongue causes all kinds of trouble.

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### **Kagama-the Literaturevixen says**

I usually like any book by Joan Smith but I couldnt bring myself to do so in this case :/

The hero was repulsive to me,being just so hateful and arrogant towards the heroine. And I cant say I like the heroine much either,she lacked the spirit and personality of Joan Smiths other heroines.

I also didnt care for the misunderstandings between the couple,misunderstandings between JS characters isnt uncommon in her other books. In those the misunderstandings becomes more like a comedy of errors...in this..the lack of communication between them was just painful to read.

If youre a die-hard JS fan and want to read all her works you should read this book...but I dont recommend it at all.

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### **Yukari Watanabe says**

Smith's old fashion romps are my kind of romance novel. Silly and funny.

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### **Amy says**

Not a piece of classic literature but it made me laugh out loud three times and kept me up late wanting to finish. So for that this delightful little novella deserves five stars.

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### **Jennifer says**

Very reminiscent of Faro's Daughter, with less charm. Daphne wasn't that smart in her behavior, and her aunt was downright stupid. There was comedy through a series of misunderstandings, but not enough to redeem the book. I felt sorry that Effie's beloved Standington is apparently still an unfaithful lech with an eye for the ladies (which makes their reconciliation that much less believable). Pretty gross that he was after Daphne too...and on his honeymoon?!

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## **Mela says**

**What great witty banter, dialogues!** Like in the best novels by Heyer.

**Headstrong hero and heroine.** And good chosen secondary and tertiary characters.

**Interesting historical background.** E.g. a conflict between Beau Brummell and Prince Regent.

**Forcing to think of social rules in Regency era, of their fairness (or lack of it).**

**Simply, a great example of Regency romance.**

Weak points?

I would like the book to be longer.

And... no, no more weak points ;-)

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## **Gerrie says**

[ she finally received a coveted vo

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## **Jane says**

2.45 stars - mild r-lite? (see below)

This was a fast-moving story. Some parts of the book were over-the-top ridiculous and some parts were laugh-out-loud funny. More slapstick and sparring than swoony romance. It had the sparkling, crackling, clever, witty banter that I love. However, I felt that, at times, it went too far and crossed the line from charming, romantic repartee to acerbic, biting, spiteful meanness. It was often fun to watch the main couple spar with one another, but I just wasn't "invested" in them or rooting for them to fall in love (or in their case crash into love). And the heroine became increasingly annoying as the book went on. Had this book been cleaner and a little more "sparkling" and lot less "acidic", I would have rated it higher.

This would probably be considered a typical "clean" secular traditional regency. But I would call it more of a "tawdry" clean. One of the main storylines revolves around the soon-to-be-released, tell-all diaries from the "wild" younger days of the heroine's aunt. Therefore, throughout the book, there's a constant undercurrent (and overcurrent) of seediness. No graphic details, but way too much talk of mistresses, infidelity, lechers, lives of debauchery, etc.

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## **QNPoohBear says**

Called the Canadian Georgette Heyer on the book jacket, I've read a few other Joan Smith novels and not really liked them as much as I had hoped. This is by far her best novel of those I have read so far. A young country gentlewoman goes to visit her impoverished aunt in London on a family visit. Upon hearing her aunt's wild stories of the "old days" as part of the Prince Regent's crowd to the dark days of divorce and other highs and lows, Daphne encourages Aunt Effie to write her memoirs. When word of the book gets out to the ton, Effie's old friends reenter her life. Suspicious that Effie's friends are not truly friends, Daphne uses her wit to scandalize and delight Society. She crosses verbal swords with the overbearing Richard Pervival, Lord St. Felix, who tries to keep the ladies from causing more trouble. It follows the Pride and Prejudice model, which I love and though it is predictable, I enjoyed the story very much. At first I didn't care for the stuffy, proud Baron, but Daphne was more than a match for him and their verbal sword play made me laugh. I am quite satisfied they will be very happy sparring with each other for the rest of their days!

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## **Suzanne says**

Loved the fun, snappy, and sexy dialogue between the uber bossy Duke of Felix and Miss Daphne Ingleside, niece of a scandalous divorcee with many tales to tell about the London establishment. The tone of this older regency romance is quite farcical, but the writing is witty and smart. The sexual tension between the hero and heroine is almost palpable, due almost entirely to their ongoing and heated battle of wits. A very enjoyable read!

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## **Sandra says**

Another Joan Smith traditional regency. Clean, full of misunderstandings, and with a well wrapped up HEA.

Beautiful Daphne goes to London simply to visit her once-notorious Aunt Effie. To help relieve her Aunt's boredom she agrees it could be fun to turn some of her memoirs into a book (more of a book on her travels), but once society gets a wiff of a book in the works they all assume their dirty laundry is about to be aired. One after another people come to re-pay Effie their debts from years past...in their mind's they're paying Effie a blackmailer's fee to keep their lives out of her book...to Effie her old friends are just being considerate all of a sudden!

Along comes the Duke of St. Felix who sets up Daphne's hackles, and she can't stop herself from antagonizing him. This is all followed by more push-pull bickering between the two, which evolves into attraction.

A fun easy read.

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### **Miranda Davis says**

This was loads of fun to read. Crackling repartee between the haughty duke hero and the pugnacious and unintimidated heroine. Reminded me of Rosalind Russell and Cary Grant in *His Girl Friday*.

Why 4 not 5 stars? I find there is more slapstick than development of romance, it happens between the lines with a few, lovely lines here and there and I long for more. I'm simpleminded, I like the evolution a bit more explicit. This is probably my weakness, not the novel's but I am the decider. But take my rating as a personal 4, probably others were more enthusiastic.

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### **MrsER says**

A very easy read and well written. Only the young lady's repartee are way too modern and, especially, to advanced for the time. Actually, the whole dialogue was unfortunately a bit too modern. But this book has some very funny moments and is such quick read that I enjoyed it.

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### **P. says**

Vintage Smith: cute & funny.

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