



## The Reluctant Duke

*G.L. Snodgrass*

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## **The Reluctant Duke** G.L. Snodgrass

The last thing wounded veteran Major Thomas Marshal wanted was a title. It wasn't supposed to happen. But duty has a way of pulling a man into things he doesn't want and away from the things he needs.

The only thing Miss Guinevere Harding needs is a safe place to hide. A job as the downstairs maid at Brookshire is the perfect place to hide from a frightening past. Or at least it was until the arrival of the new Duke.

Heat and passion pull Thomas and Gwen together even as society and duty fight to keep them apart. She won't become his mistress and can't become his wife.

Thomas is determined otherwise, even if it cost's him everything.

## **The Reluctant Duke Details**

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## From Reader Review The Reluctant Duke for online ebook

### Lynn says

The ending actually brought a tear to my eye. A nice break.

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### Barbara "Cookie" Serfaty Williams says

#### The Reluctant Duke (Love's Pride Book 1)

The love story of Thomas and Gwen. Major Thomas Marshal had return from war and had found out he is now the Duke of Bathurst and his house hold is gone because no one had been pay. Gwen is on the run from the Earl of Grainbell because she think she has kill him. She has taking a job as a maid in the Duke's households to hide. When Thomas see Gwen he want her but cannot have her because she is a maid. Will he fond out the tire about her? Great story

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### KI says

This is a sweet story about a wealthy merchants daughter, Gwen,who was sold to a weasel to pay her step fathers gambling debts and a 2nd son of a second son of a duke.

He was a major, his uncle was to be the duke, then his cousin, then his dad. He would never be a duke. But then he was.

Gwen ran away from her step father and found a job as housekeeper for the duke, whoever he was. She was one of 3 employees. The cook, the kid that pretty much did everything but clean and Gwen, the maid. She thought she was safe, until he came home.

He didn't want to be a duke but he did want to marry Gwen. The story was about working all that out.

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### Aud says

A delightful read. 5-stars..

A military son that never expected that the three twixt himself and the title of DUKE would expire and leave the duties to himself. and then there is the lady, of course... the perfect wife for a military man... but ... will she be willing to become a duchess? will society allow her to become a duchess? AND then, ...love happy ending fiction is that not one of our favorite worlds to abide within?

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### Joan says

This could have been a strong four star read but for several things:

1: Either this was a flawed file downloaded to Amazon, or the author hadn't bothered to read through before

adding it. There are what appear to be 'footnotes' spattered throughout the story - e.g: ..... *putting Isabel next to Rev[SAT8] Moore for some reason.*

And when I clicked on one of these it took me to a whole raft of suggested 'edits' at the back of the book - 32 of them!

Did the author not actually 'READ' the final version? Each time I came across these 'links' (and they are in blue as well!) I was dragged right out of the story. Its not just sloppy, it's treating the reader with contempt, as if we don't deserve to be given properly edited books.

**'That'll do'** WONT DO anymore!

2. Spellings: Yes, the author is American and therefore some words are in US spelling, but whiskey is NOT the same as the whisky drunk in the UK. I doubt that Thomas would be drinking Irish whiskey ;) . Other spellings? eg: horses 'canter' - not 'cantor'.

3. Punctuation - particularly that of direct speech - needed drastic improvement. There are set rules for the punctuation of direct speech and its not that difficult to learn them, surely?

4. The verb tenses! OMG, the tenses!! Paragraphs switching from past to present and back again until I was spinning!

*He saw a brief smile flash on Gwen's face and then her shoulders slumped slightly in resignation. **She probably thinks that I was talking about Celeste and the girls only.***

I think this could have been an enjoyable read, but the dreadful proof-reading and the lack of a final check by the author made me rate it at one star. A shame actually, because I really liked Thomas and Gwen.

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## Emma says

I'm so sorry I read this. I had enjoyed a different book by this author despite some minor grammar and spelling issues and I foolishly did not read reviews on this one before starting. A disaster in so many ways.

First we have the technical issues. Things like poor grammar, punctuation errors, and mismatched tenses. But what bothered me no end was a complete ignorance of the English language. Horses do not "cantor". It is "popinjay" not "popping jay", similarly it should have been "namesake's" not "names sake's". And "heartedly" is not a word, perhaps she meant "heartily". If I had handed this in to my grade 10 English class I would have failed on these points alone. Publishing this in any form contributes to the dumbing down of the populace.

Then we have a few style issues. I would not comment on them if I had liked the book but they just added fuel to the fire. I have a hard time imagining a regency lady calling someone "evil scum". And I think it is bad style to use the word "flashed" nearly 2 dozen times in a short book.

For lack of period knowledge we have Jane Austen's name being given as the author of the "recent" book Emma. Of course at the time Austen was still alive and her name was not public knowledge. Emma was

listed as "by the author of Pride and Prejudice". Once I saw this failing I had no faith in the rest of the facts.

Now I persisted because at first I liked the characters well enough but as the story got worse I just kept hoping it would redeem itself. The little romance there is was not at all believable or moving. The actions lacked logic, and later descriptions do not match earlier actions.

(view spoiler)

This writer needs an editor and better proof-readers.

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## **Edwina " I LoveBooks" "Deb" says**

JUST OK, BUT IT WAS FREE!!

The Reluctant Duke has a plot line that has been done many times and many ways by different Historical Romance author and have been written much better then the Reluctant Duke. I do however like this type of plot line and if the story had more developed characters and made me feel like I was in Regency England it would have given it more stars.

Major Thomas Marshall has returned home from the war and is now the newly ennobled Duke of Bathurst. He was a 3rd grandson and never expected this to happen. Its a very rich and powerful Dukedom. Which made me wonder why he had such a lowly secondary tiles such as Viscount and Baron, most Dukes secondary titles would be Marquess and Earl and down the Aristocracy line from there. Some Duke's carry every title in the Aristocracy. The story open with Gwen escaping a attack by and Earl. She gets away and finds herself hiding as a maid/housekeeper at Brookshire Estates. She is noticed right away by Thomas upon is arrival to take up his title. They are a lovely couple and I liked both of them very much. I also, loved Thomas Aunt Lady Celeste. However I didn't really feel as if I was in Regency England. There tone seemed a bit to modern. There was no backdrop to place me in that particular time. Just a visit from Prinny The Regent Prince George which gave me an idea of the era and the mention of balls and gowns, but that was all. I also hate it when the evil villain is allowed to get away with a tap on the hand. In this case the Earl after cheating in the duel with Thomas by turning an shooting him before the count was ended. Just gets sent off to France. Thomas did worst damage to the other two villains in the story, but lets the main villain go. Whats to stop him from coming back? he still has his title and his wealth. So I didn't like the ending. The saving grace was the main characters, which I enjoyed.

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## **Shelley says**

### **Five stars for G.L. Snodgrass' The Reluctant Duke**

G.L. Snodgrass has written a splendid tale that you will not want to miss. Her characters are marvelous and once they meet, the adventure to love begins. Both have strong personalities and play off each other beautifully, like the soul mates they are. I loved the secondary characters as they only added to the richness to The Reluctant Duke. Wonderful story, one I enjoyed tremendously.

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## **Vintage says**

Super sweet Regency romance of heroine in hiding and an honorable Duke. He is smitten!

Low key romance that is still enjoyable as the protagonists get their happily ever after and the bad guys get their comeuppance.

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### **Pansy says**

What a lovely story. The premise intrigued me. Just exactly what was Miss Guinevere Harding running from and/or hiding? Why didn't Major Thomas Marshal want a title? After all, so much comes with a title - wealth, prestige, power - just to name a few. I could not resist.

Loved the story. The sparks between Thomas and Gwen were sizzling hot. Their histories, wow! They did have some interesting things to overcome. In spite of the title being a complete surprise, Thomas has no problems with the aristocratic arrogance. It seemed to come rather naturally to him. Now Gwen, talk about not being from either upstairs or downstairs. Those are always fun stories to read. Just how are they going to get around all that?

It was done with some interesting twists and turns. Not to mention the usual interfering relatives. I adore those interfering relatives. They can be so fun.

The ending was very satisfying. I thought the epilogue was inspired. Very sweet. Thank you!

My biggest issue? Just why did it take me so long to read this? It has been languishing on my reader for well over a year. So much to read, so little time.

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### **Pepper says**

The story was okay... a little light on plot and pretty cliché.

What I found hardest to get past were the innumerable grammatical errors, most notably consistent misuse of commas, apostrophes and too/to, as well as misplaced question marks.

I think the book would have been greatly enhanced by having a proofreader and an editor who speak English.

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### **Natasha says**

Gwen Marshal has been forced to flee her London home. Her lecherous stepfather has arranged for her to be abused {physically/sexually/emotionally} by the Earl of Grainbell to pay off a gambling debt. This depraved agreement has been covered up under the guise of a betrothal. Gwen flees to Brookshire where she is hired as a maid. By the time the new duke arrives, Gwen is serving as the housekeeper in the large house on his estate. Army veteran Thomas Marshal, the Duke of Bathurst, returns to Brookshire and discovers all but four of the servants have left the estate. He's impressed with the young, attractive housekeeper who has managed to keep the house in good order. Her intelligence and fearless attitude make him wonder who she really is and what secrets she is hiding.

This book was extremely delightful. It was easy to read and the plot flowed rather nicely. I must admit once the family traveled to London for the season, I became very anxious wondering when the villains would re-

emerge to torment the heroine. Fortunately, they didn't get their hands on her again. **NO KIDNAPPING SCENE! :) In fact, there wasn't even the threat of kidnapping.** The way the author avenged the heroine was the **COOLEST** bit of writing I've read all year. I hate it when minor characters take out the villain or when the revenge is anticlimatic. The Duke of Bathurst is one smooth dude. The way he took down Gwen's stepfather is the stuff of legends. He planned his moves carefully and took his time doing it. (view spoiler)

**MIC DROP!** This is a hero I couldn't get enough of. More please! He rids England of the sexually deviant earl as well, but you'll have to read the book to find out what happened with him.

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### **Marie says**

#### **Well written**

The story starts with a young woman running through the streets of London in fear of her life then focus changes to war hero major who unexpectedly inherited a dukedom. It turns out the young woman is the sole maid become housekeeper when the former duke's staff all left his service. Sparks fly between the young woman, Gwen and the new duke, Thomas. Thomas becomes determined to have Gwen for his duchess and enlists his elderly great aunt to assist. A serious story with some serious topics.

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### **Eleanore June says**

blah. I got bored. So bored. I only made it to chapter 12. I got the feeling that I knew what would happen and I just didn't care.

The Duke, while limping, didn't seem impacted by it at all. He was not a wounded hero. It was like they just needed something to make him less perfect. It just didn't do it for me.

Disappointed.

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### **Book Him Danno says**

If you are a fan of historical romance novels this is another winner by this author. The author is able to build a story that the reader can immerse themselves in and feel comfortable. The characters are believable and the plot is realistic. I enjoyed this book and have read other titles by the author and have never been disappointed. I would put any offering by G L Snodgrass on a must read list.

I have given this book a four star rating.

I obtained this book from Amazon in Kindle format.

Thank you Frank for the Review

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