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She is difficult, demanding, and at times, quite fierce. And Dr. John Blackmore can't take his eyes off her. The Countess of Randolph is the most striking woman he has ever seen...and the most infuriating patient he has ever tended.

Mired in responsibility, Bathsheba doesn't have time to convalesce in the country. She should be in London, hunting for a wealthy new lover to pay off her late husband's vast debts, not dallying with a devastatingly handsome doctor.

But it is only a matter of time until the good doctor and the obstinate countess will have to contend with the sparks that fly between them. And once their bodies surrender, their hearts may follow.

My Favorite Countess Details

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Author : Vanessa Kelly

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From Reader Review My Favorite Countess for online ebook

Teresa Kleeman says

I so loved this book. The sparks between Dr. John Blackmore and the Countess of Randolph is so electrifying.

The Countess of Randolph swore she would never let another man rule over her. She was in love with her first husband however, that loved he used against her to keep her in line. He was a crazy jealous man and had fetishes that Bathsheba The Countess was appalled by.

The Ton believed the stories and rumors about her. But she doesn't let that stop her. When circumstances leads Bathsheba to have to find another rich man to marry to take care of her late husbands bills, she swears she will marry a man who is wealthy but she only feels fondness for him and she will never let her heart be the deciding factor.

Bathsheba only knows this can happen if she gets back to London. She is staying in the country with her cousin. Because her and her husband didn't have an heir her mild manner cousin who has no head for business has inherited the Earl's title position. He leaves the finances in Bathsheba's capable hands. Matthew never trained to be an Earl in fact Matthew would rather read a book.

Bathsheba has a secret and to protect that secret she needs to capture a rich husband to keep the secret hidden and taken care of. While when she is in the country with her cousin, she is called away on an urgent task. She's gone for over 5 days and when she returns back to the country manor she becomes deathly ill.

When Dr. John Blackmore is called to Earl's house to take care of Bathsheba he finds her to be the most striking woman he's ever seen in his life. He also finds her to be the most infuriating patient he has ever tended too. The longer he tends to her. The more he comes to care for her and realizes she's not the person the Ton believes her to be.

This is a wonderful tale of love blooming between two stubborn people. Reading this was thoroughly enjoyable. I felt so emotions reading these two story. I really believe anyone reading this book will enjoy it as much as I have.

Wendy says

I was not, under any circumstances, going to purchase, never mind read, this story because I so hated Bathsheba from the previous book *SEX AND THE SINGLE EARL*, where Bathsheba nearly destroyed the relationship between Simon and Sophie. But...others who follow the blogs I follow seemed to think this was a wonderful story, so I relented and purchased a copy for myself - but I was determined only to read it for the sole purposes of placating my own feelings about Bathsheba...Well, I read it, and surprisingly, I really loved this book because Bathsheba became human to me - not matter how much I hated her initially. Vanessa Kelly remarkably was able to maintain many of the qualities I hated about Bathsheba (snooty, rude, arrogant) but insert humanity into her that made her real - flawed, but real. She also balanced out her negative qualities with a super nice hero who helped Bathsheba be the person she wanted to be. Excellent read, great characters, great plot, and characters who aren't perfect, but realistic.

Katherine ??? says

Bathsheba, countess yg sudah menjanda sedang kalang kabut mencari suami baru utk menutupi utang menggunung lahan yg diwarisi dari suaminya. Tiba-tiba dirinya jatuh sakit krn memikirkan tanggungjawab yg hrs dipikulnya, terpaksa dia membiarkan dirinya dirawat dan disembuhkan oleh si dokter tampan, John Blackmore. Dan keduanya jelas saling tertarik. Blackmore berniat menikahi Bathsheba, tetapi Bathsheba memiliki banyak pertimbangan. Ketika Bathsheba diajak berkeliling daerah kumuh tempat Blackmore biasanya mengunjungi pasien2nya, Bathsheba ngeri dan mempertanyakan dokter berdedikasi ini. Bathsheba menolak lamaran Blackmore. Tetapi saat dia hrs mencari Blackmore utk menolong Meredith (teman dekatnya yg akan melahirkan), Bathsheba akhirnya menyadari bhw asumsinya tidak selalu benar.

Dengan setting thn 1817, author membawa kita pada suasana saat dimana kebanyakan dokter pd masa itu sangat pongah, hanya mau melayani kaum bangsawan dan enggan melayani dan memandang rendah serta sinis kolega mereka spt dokter Blackmore yg dgn sukarela mendatangi para rakyat jelata. Para bangsawan juga akhirnya bimbang menentukan mana dokter yg kompeten atau tidak. Konflik sudah pasti tak terelakkan krn perbedaan kepentingan ini.

Karakter Bathsheba adalah type heroine yg berani, tegas, keras kepala dan agak sedikit jalang. Dgn masa lalu gelap yg dilaluinya ketika mengarungi bahtera rumah tangga dgn seorang bangsawan brengsek, mengajarkan Bathsheba utk berhati-hati dalam menentukan calon suami berikutnya. Sedangkan karakter Blackmore adalah type hero yg kompeten tetapi cenderung mengorbankan dirinya sendiri.

Alur cerita awalnya memang agak lambat dan sedikit membosankan, tetapi author piawai dgn diselengi adegan romance yg hot. Storyline terjalin apik dan tidak membingungkan. Bagi pecinta historical romance, buku ini saya rekomendasikan utk dibaca.

Janga says

With an intriguing transformation of villainess to heroine and a doctor hero who captured this reader's heart--and her mind, Vanessa Kelly added another keeper to my library.

Look for my full review at Just Janga (March 10, 2011):
<http://justjanga.blogspot.com/2011/03...>

Diane says

I really and truly highly recommend this book. Vanessa is really a fantastic writer. My Favorite Countess will draw you in from the beginning, so much so that you won't want to put it down. And, the sex scenes are absolutely RED HOT!!! This book will appeal to all readers that love Historical Romance. In 1817, Widow Bathsheba Compton cannot enjoy her new marital status as she cannot pay her abusive late husband's major debt, nor pay for the care of her mentally disturbed sister who she never sees. The aristocrat knows her only hope to pay the bills rests with marrying a wealthy noble. She is difficult, demanding, and at times, quite fierce. And Dr. John Blackmore can't take his eyes off her. The Countess of Randolph is the most striking

woman he has ever seen...and the most infuriating patient he has ever tended. Mired in responsibility, Bathsheba doesn't have time to convalesce in the country. She should be in London, hunting for a wealthy new lover to pay off her late husband's vast debts, not dallying with a devastatingly handsome doctor. But it is only a matter of time until the good doctor and the obstinate countess will have to contend with the sparks that fly between them. And once their bodies surrender, their hearts may follow. . . My Favorite Countess

April says

RATING: 4.5)MY FAVORITE COUNTESS by Vanessa Kelly is an exciting historical romance set in 1817 London and 1817 Compton Manor, Yorkshire. It will be written with depth and details. The characters are not only enchanting, charming but also obstinate, demanding at times, difficult at times and quite fierce. When Bathsheba meets Dr. John Blackmore she never expected to feel not only a sensual pull toward the good Dr. Blackmore but to also, dare I say, fall in love with him. For, Bathsheba, the Countess of Randolph, is in desperate need of a rich husband since her dead husband left her near penniless. She must support not only a household but also her sister, who is hidden away due to her illness. The now Lord Randolph, who is her ex-husband's cousin is not good with money. So Bathsheba feels she has a responsibility to them, even if it means her unhappiness. Dr. Blackmore is not only handsome, sexy, but he can't keep his eyes off of Bathsheba when they first meet and she him. What follows can only be sensual tension, while they both come to grips with their new found lust for each other. In the meantime Dr. Blackmore, also is on staff at one of the finest hospitals in London and he is working toward helping the less fortunate citizens of London. While the money isn't good he is in his own right wealthy. Together, Bathsheba and Dr. Blackmore will surrender not only their bodies but also their hearts. This is a fast paced, page turning story that will leave you in awe of the differences between the upper and lower classes of Regency London during the 1800's, the sacrifices some make, and the differences some can and do make during this era. This is a must read. My Favorite Countess will become your favorite also. This book was received for the purpose of review from the publisher and details can be found at Zebra Book, published by Kensington Publishing Corp. and My Book Addiction Reviews.

Verity says

The unfortunately named sheep, Batsheba, is not verily accepting of his profession (Obstetrician). Per doctor's orders, nauti John can board my rusty ship & detonate me w/ his medically certified staff.

Michelle says

Ok. Vanessa. Good Job.

You took that character I loathed from the previous book and made her a heroine. Not necessarily a likeable one but a heroine nonetheless. She was flawed, snarky, harsh, and exactly how she was portrayed before. There wasn't some drastic about face with Bathsheba, and I think when you name a character Bathsheba you gotta live up to that name. And you did.

John was a great hero, sensitive and grumpy and hard when he needed to be (the pun was fully intended people revel in it). The two worked well together and the romance was well paced.

All in all great read, extra great because it made me go back and pick up Mastering the Marquess (which I own!!) and want to read Meredith and Silverton's story again. So A+ work

Jan says

This book had an incredible good premise, very interesting and original characters, and some original conflicts.

Unfortunately the writing voice started to irritate me after a while, there were just so many adjectives... I mean, I do not particularly need to know that the hill of Sheba's palm is plump, and it definitely doesn't need repeating. Especially in the more steamy scenes, the adjectives were out of control.

The pacing seemed a bit off at times as well, especially in the last chapters, where all conflicts seem to come to a simultaneous blow up, which was a bit much. And at least two of the conflicts/problems deserved more time for the resolution.

I'm a bit frustrated really, because Bathsheba was such an intriguing heroine. She isn't a particularly nice person, in fact at times she's quite the shrew, but there were a lot of layers to her. John is one of the few people who actually takes the time to look beyond her harridan facade, and see the whole person.

However, even this aspect of the story, which I was looking forward to most, wasn't paced very well. I felt like John 'knew' who Sheba was too quickly. It was a little bit too much insta lust into love for my tastes.

The medical parts of the story were good though, and it's what kept me from stopping with it. I have a thing for Historical Romances with Hero's who're not from the ton but have a profession in stead, and John's story was excellent in that aspect. All his frustrations and worries with medecine, the poor people who can't afford proper care, and the rich and wealthy who rule the hospitals with politics. There's never enough of that.

It could have been a great book, but the voice and execution were really not for me.

Manda Collins says

I loved this sexy, passionate story pitting a worldly widow, desperate to keep her family from losing everything, against an up and coming doctor/midwife who treats both the wealthy of Mayfair and the poverty-stricken of St. Giles. Bathsheba isn't an easy heroine to love, but the fact that she is all too human made her a refreshing change from the typical angelic historical heroine. She unrepentantly enjoys sex. She does not suffer fools gladly. And she speaks her mind. I loved that she had real flaws and an actual character arc that showed her change from the beginning of the book to the end. John, a physician-midwife, was stubborn and high handed and arrogant, which made him strong enough to offer Bathsheba a relationship of equals. The multiple strands of plot, featuring disgruntled doctors, judgmental matrons, and plenty of sexytimes, are woven beautifully together into a story that will satisfy anyone who loves gritty historicals and passionate love stories--not unlike Liz Carlyle's earlier works. And the fact that John is a physician/midwife is a welcome relief from the usual noble heroes. Thoroughly enjoyable read.

Shawna says

3 stars – Historical/Regency Romance

Lena Diaz says

This is my first Vanessa Kelly book, and it certainly won't be the last. This is not your traditional, predictable historical romance with balls and teas and carriage rides. This is gritty, real life and features two characters I would never have expected in a story with a Countess on the cover. The heroine is a widow who, at first blush, is extremely unlikeable. She's arrogant, sharp-tongued, and rude. The only reason the ton puts up with her is because she's so beautiful and because of her title. Kelly does an incredible job of redeeming this character in a realistic way. The character stays true to herself throughout the novel. She doesn't do a one-hundred-eighty degree shift and completely change. Instead, she gradually grows and changes because of the experiences she endures. She learns to care about others, and the reader learns to care about her, and to understand what made her the woman she became. She is a deeply flawed character. I love that the author doesn't try to totally redeem the heroine and make her turn out to be perfect. She remains a flawed character throughout, but what she goes through does change her and make her a better person, flaws and all.

The hero isn't an Earl or a Duke. He doesn't even have a title. He's a doctor, in today's terms, an obstetrician. Kelly takes us into the gritty world of the very poor, showing us their very real plight through the eyes of a man who cares deeply for the people he treats. He risks his life and his reputation to save society's throwaways. It is precisely his gift as a doctor, his ability to read people's expressions and body language to understand and diagnose them, that enables him to see past the aloof, arrogant exterior of the heroine. He is the only person who sees the scared, vulnerable woman beneath the shell. He is the perfect match for the heroine, in every way.

The love story between these two complex characters is incredibly emotional and riveting. There are so many layers to these characters and they are so compelling that I still can't stop thinking about them even after finishing the novel. In spite of all the baggage and secrets both characters have, the resolution of the conflict does not rely on any gimmicks or frustrating misunderstandings. The author resolves each conflict realistically, using the hero's keen sense of understanding of human nature to help him see the truth, rather than let silly assumptions stand in the way between the characters.

If you enjoy deep, emotional, complex characters and an original plot with two unusual characters, you will love My Favorite Countess. This is one of the best historical romances I have ever read.

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

My Favorite Countess explains in a delightfully awesome manner why a woman from a previous story was such an unbearable and nasty harridan and how she ends up deserving the love and acceptance she gets in this book. Once I realized who this book was about I was all excited with anticipation and the author met every one of my hopes as the plot unfolded.

Lady Randolph, Bathsheba, truly earned the title of heroine. She's a woman of her time who has been dealt with an overabundance of bad luck, sadness and victimization. As a woman with a noble title she's not expected to have to worry about much and it's acceptable for her to grace the parties and the dress makers in

fashion and with attitude. All of it is a front. What a reader will find out is that Bathsheba is a woman driven to desperation and she will do anything she has to in order to protect her family. She has tried it in the past and fortunately failed. She can't fail in this book and a reader comes to understand how much is riding on the success of her personal sacrifices. A reader feels her wounds, her worry and her crushing fears of failure. She's a truly tortured heroine and it's going to take a special kind of man, a genteel warrior, to reach her heart and the terrified woman hiding within.

Enter Dr. John Blackmore. He needs more patience than patients. I couldn't resist saying that. But it's also very true. Bathsheba has the poor guy dancing down an emotion-filled path filled with thorns, potholes and honeyed candy. He's a smart, educated and intelligent man who would do Sir Sherlock Holmes proud. He watches, observes and sees what everyone else has failed to see and benefits from the insight he gains. He applies it to his practice with the poor and he applies it to the heroine. She is as injured as some of his patients to be sure and I really enjoyed watching the hero peel back Bathsheba's defensive layers to find the jewel within. He is as methodical as a surgeon -- focused and intent. I loved his steady strength, his sense of humor and his finesse. He's not perfect and I liked that too. Readers will find out that he has his own burden, his own fear that dogs his path and colors many of his decisions. It will take a very scary and dramatic confrontation to bring it all to the fore.

The conflict in this story is complicated and delightfully meaty which kept me turning the pages at a swift clip. I never could second guess the hero or heroine because they never did quite what I expected. It kept me off kilter but I'm glad to say they did that to each other too. That was fun. There were a few elements of external conflict that really showcased the strength of character and personality of both the hero and heroine. I also thought it made them grow into better people as the story continued. It wasn't an easy growth nor was it without pain. Those make for the best reading and Ms. Kelly delivers.

When John and Bathsheba succumb to the passion that burns inside them for each other, the pages turn smoking hot. I simply have to say that playing doctor was never so much fun especially when the guy is a real doctor. I found that I fanned myself from frequently heated cheeks because the scenes were so well written, I could visualize them. Thank goodness it's winter right now.

I also appreciated how Ms. Kelly had Lord Silverton and his family, as well as the Stantons from the previous book, play pivotal supporting roles in this story. I enjoyed seeing them again and I thought their gradual acceptance of Bathsheba a sweet and telling addition to the book. It gave me the warm and fuzzies. And no, readers do not need to read the first book to appreciate My Favorite Countess. This book completely stands on its own because the hero and heroine are such vibrant and well rounded personalities. The secondary characters are frosting on a very yummy cake.

My Favorite Countess is a thrilling and heart-touching historical romance that truly grips a reader right from the emotional beginning. The pace, dialogue and dramatic conflicts kept me on the edge of my seat while the interaction and by-plays between John and Bathsheba kept me entertained and committed to their story in the hope of their finding a happily ever after. That they did with a very poignant, sincere and lightly humorous wrap up that satisfied the romantic in me. I am thrilled with the quality of writing that Ms. Kelly provides and I heartily look forward to her next book. My Favorite Countess is quality romance.

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

D.G. says

Too bad this book languished on my TBR for such a long time. I really liked it!

- ✓ Doctor is a hero who cares for the poor but still used the knowledge of the time - no advocating methods that hadn't been discovered yet!
- ✓ The heroine was experienced - no simpering miss! - and ruthless enough to do whatever it takes to protect her family.
- ✓ Heroine was freaking afraid of illnesses - as a any normal person should be, specially during that time, when if you weren't careful, an infected toenail could kill you.
- ✓ Hero would come toe to toe with the heroine - who was very strong willed - and come out on top (pun intended)

I'll definitely read this author's backlist.

Ilze says

Engaging story about the redemption of a woman who has made grave mistakes and earned people's dislike, although she has had to deal with some tragic situations not of her making. Bathsheba had a vile husband, she feels huge guilt over the fact that her mentally-crippled sister is in care (but not with her) and she is in severe financial difficulty. She decides that she has to nab herself a rich husband to solve her financial difficulties, but falls for an idealistic doctor instead.

Everything works out in the end, of course, but the bumps along the way, as well as the details about obstetric practice in the early 19'th century, make for an interesting story. 3.6 stars.
