



Lady Pamela

Clare Darcy

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A SCANDALOUSLY UNCONVENTIONAL MIND OF HER OWN

Bewitching young Lady Pamela Frayne had but one fault--a fault grave enough to make her the talk of glittering London society. This exasperatingly headstrong beauty refused to heed the best advice or accept the sternest orders, no matter what the consequences to her social position and physical safety.

She was the despair of her distinguished if dull fiance, Lord Babcoke, who was shocked by her flouting of the conventions. She was a worry to her powerful grandfather, who warned her not to meddle in affairs of state and perilous international intrigue. And she was an irresistible challenge to handsome, mysterious Lord Dalven, a nobleman of many moods and masks, who had known only easy conquests on the fields of love--until he met and tried to master -- Lady Pamela

Lady Pamela Details

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From Reader Review Lady Pamela for online ebook

Tobinsfavorite says

"Lady Pamela" propounds a preponderance of people parading in puce.

This book is not good, but it is fun. I started it this morning in the jury pool room, mostly because its beat-up hardcover library-discard binding is perfect for staying open flat across my knees while I knit. I read half of it there and I just finished it this evening.

At least this dashing man is not as obviously a reformed rake. He certainly has some sort of a past, but it may well be making rash decisions regarding his money and his safety; there are mercifully no intimations of chambermaids and theater-girls in his past. That is one thing about this genre that really annoys me, so a win there. Another thing that has begun to grate is an author's assurance that a spirited girl is getting an equal husband when so often they are likewise hard-headed men who vow to be able to keep the lady in line, and the lady will respect their authority because they are such strong and dashing men. At least in this one, the romantic interest clearly states that he expects his wife to drag him into all sorts of crazy situations, but as he enjoys adventures, it will all be good. Not that this book is free from the swooning over a strong man who'll tell the girl to sit down and shut up; not by a long shot. I'm not sure what the necessity of that really is; if the girl requires that sort of treatment, isn't she too annoying to deal with?

One other thing: I sure don't care for detailed description of anybody's well-brushed coats or especially their driving prowess. The actual regency novels these are shadows of didn't dwell on such. Is this a trait of the more modern romance; a trait the author sees, but I don't, in those old novels; or something else?

(4 Darcys down. 5 Darcys to go.)

Mary says

I admit I read a lot of the same type of Regencies: outspoken miss of a heroine with an alpha male hero...but I love it so much, I just don't tire of it!

Lady Pamela Frayne (age: 21 if I remember correctly) comes from an illustriously titled and wealthy family and her upbringing has allowed her the luxury to do and say exactly what she wants. She's not spoilt but being an orphan in her grandfather's house, she's pretty much queen bee there and is subsequently, confident and assertive.

A piece of her grandfather's important paperwork has gone missing and thinking her brother may have had a hand in the situation, goes off on a shotgun trip to retrieve the memorandum. She meets the hero, Carlin Dalven enroute and he ends up assisting her to Whiston castle where the papers may have been hidden. She disguises herself as a lady's maid to insinuate herself into the household and starts poking about the place. Some time later the story shifts back to London for both the climax of the paper chase and Lord Dalven's quest to un-engage Pamela from her engagement to the blase and dull Lord Babcoke.

I took a star off for the fact I couldn't care less about the missing memorandum but the rest of the novel was rollicking good fun. The rapid-fire banter from the ever-opinionated Pamela never exasperated me at all and it's always nice to come across an alpha male that smiles and even grins (shock horror!). I think I did read in another review that Dalven is a little domineering over Pamela but I have to say I didn't feel that at all.

Pamela is of the personality where she would always prefer her own opinion above all others. Having said that, she would listen to you if your opinion had merit and sensibility, which Dalven's tended to have. Dalven isn't shy about telling her a goose when she is one and she has enough common sense to know when to back down and when to fight.

In Lady Pamela, there is the typical Regency whirlwind romance with a very short period of time passing between acquaintance and 'enduring protestations of love'. The events in the book happen over a brief timeline of about two weeks. I do always feel that anything less than a month is short but it's not a deal breaker either way.

The plot isn't complex so a lot of the enjoyment is just in the light and bubbly dialogue, the main reason why I'm teetering between giving the book 4 stars or 4.5 stars. It has got that addictive balance between being sweet (but not saccharine) and breezy (but not so simplistic that it is forgettable). The writing definitely made me want to read more of Clare Darcy's other works to get more of that *fizzy goodness*.

If you like all the Regency usual suspects (aka Heyer, Metzger, Smith, Chesney etc) add Clare Darcy to your list!

Rating: 4 boxes of fireworks

Re-readability: Will definitely re-visit snippets of the fun dialogue and more of Darcy's novels too.

Shakira says

1.75 stars

This was a cute, Georgette Heyer type book which had some funny moments, an intelligent heroine and an enterprising hero who had some alarming qualities that were not considered so by the author. A person who routinely puts his life at danger for random larks and wagers as well as loses money is not really a stable person. However, this might be attributed to pre-marital bachelor pursuits that apparently every rakish hero must engage in.

The heroine was intelligent, had a strong awareness of familial obligations, was courageous and best of all, true to herself. I agree with the author in that she needed a strong husband who would stand up to her and call her on her inadvisable actions. However, my enjoyment of the story soured to an extent when she proceeded to say that Lady Pamela needed someone to manage her. Such a person would drain out all the energy from her and leave her severely depressed. Her lifestyle and upbringing, no parents, an unconcerned and mostly ill grandfather and a flaky younger brother had shaped her character and that was not something she could surrender overnight or even need to change.

All in all, it did not have Heyer's beautiful portrayals of the environs and fashions, nor her remarkable grasp on vocabulary but the tone was the same, slightly sarcastic, witty and insouciant. I really enjoyed it but was not compelled to finish it quickly.

Stephanie says

Loved this Regency Romance. Made me laugh and I know I will read it again. Clare Darcy's writing is not as good as Georgette Heyer's, but she did research actual speech and actions of the period, rather than steal what Heyer researched.

Lady Pamela goes on a mad plan to get back a purloined government document. Getting to an inn during a snowstorm, she meets what she believes is a down-on-his-luck gentleman now working as a coachman and enlists his aid.

Mela says

This book have all pieces which make a witty Regency romance: a hero and a heroine with a temperament, sparrings between them, one or two plot twists, funny situations, even a mystery to solve. And I like it. Of course Clare Darcy isn't Georgette Heyer, Darcy wrote simpler books, in Heyer I see something more to tell and more work done. But still, Darcy's books are enjoyable.

Nevertheless, this book was amusing but I have read better Darcy's books, for example Victoire and Eugenia.

Susan says

This was another entertaining Clare Darcy book. Lady Pamela finds that a secret document is missing from her grandfather's Foreign Office box, and fears that her brother may have taken it to sell in order to get some extra money. She decides to track it down, and ends up going to Whiston Castle, disguising herself as a lady's maid to the Whiston's young daughter. On the way, she meets Carlin, a coachman, and tries to enlist him in her plan. Imagine her surprise when Carlin later turns up at Whiston Castle claiming to be Lord Dalven! She has no luck finding the document, although she is sure one of the people there has it, probably the Whiston's rather nefarious son. Her brother also shows up and is unhappy to find her there. He and Carlin eventually convince her to leave, but of course the people there think that the lady's maid has run off with one of the men. Once home again, she continues to try to find a way to get the document back. When the Whistons come to London and recognize her as the erstwhile lady's maid, all sorts of tittle-tattle ensues, and her fiance, Lord Babcoke is not very happy about that either. When "Lord Dalven" again shows up, she is still convinced that he is the coachman Carlin, and all sorts of confusion arises. Eventually she realizes that perhaps she and Lord Babcoke are not really suited, the document turns up, and everything is straightened out. But it takes a while!

Megan Gee says

I loved this book! Lady Pamela is such a wonderful character and Lord Dalven is such a doll! I enjoyed observing them interact. I've read some of Clare Darcy's books, and I liked this one in particular because she let us into Lord Dalven's head a little bit and see what he was thinking about some things which made the story that much better.

Donna says

Great story. A bit uppity language, but you soon get into the flow.

Rose says

For Clare Darcy, this is a rather dull book. It is very run of the mill teen type Regency Romance.

Megan says

Fluffy regency romcom that was okay but not memorable.

Christina Brennan says

I have to say, as a Georgette Heyer fanatic i wasn't expecting anything as great as this book. 'Clare Darcy' allows Heyers influence to shine through and the hair-brained plots of this heroine are almost as good as any Heyer creation. The heros are always drool worthy.

QNPoohBear says

Lady Pamela Frayne has been managing her Grandpapa's household on her own for two years now, so when Grandpapa gets in a state about a despatch missing from his Foreign Office box, Lady Pamela decides to take matters into her own hands. Grandpapa, Lord Nevans, fears Lady Pamela's brother, Viscount Wynstanley (Wyn) stole the document and gave it to his disreputable friend Cedric Mansell. Pamela is certain her brother had nothing to do with it but a shadow of a doubt remains so there's nothing to do but go after Wyn and follow him to Whiston Castle. In February. In a snow storm. Lady Pamela is unable to obtain a vehicle to take to Whiston Castle, but upon spying a public coach she absolutely insists on riding in it along the Bath Road to Marlborough despite the coachman's assurance that they will likely overturn. Such a thing comes to pass and so Lady Pamela is stuck at a country inn with an infuriating man known as Carlin. He appears to be a gentleman come down in the world and reduced to working as a coachman. He dares say no to Lady Pamela's schemes! Alas for Carlin, Lady Pamela finds a way to Whiston Castle after all and when next she sees the man, he's calling himself Lord Devan and is accepted as a guest at Whiston Castle! Danger and intrigue are afoot as Lady Pamela plans her next move. With the help of Carlin/Lord Devan and her brother Wyn, she manages to escape back to London. Grandpapa is unwell so Lady Pamela feels she can not consult him on her next move. Much to her dismay, Carlin/Lord Devan arrives in London to infuriate her and help her steal back the despatch, much to the dismay of her long suffering fiance Lord Babcoke, a most proper gentleman who dislikes making a fuss more than he dislikes Pamela's not so seemly behavior!

This story could almost be another Georgette Heyer novel. The plot is more mystery than romance, and very predictable, but it had enough going to make me want to keep reading to find how just how things got to the inevitable conclusion. The writing style is similar to Georgette Heyer and there is a lot of period slang in the novel. The language isn't too difficult to figure out from the context and it's used more sparingly than in Georgette Heyer's books. The plot pacing is very good until the end when it could have used a little more time to develop the romance.

Lady Pamela is crazy. She's somewhat young, being one-and-twenty, but she thinks being the head of household gives her wisdom beyond her years. Not so. She's headstrong and impulsive which leads her into some wild escapades and crazy scrapes. She doesn't take no for an answer and no one even bothers to tell her

no, except a certain person. Despite her faults, I found her enchanting. She's a delightful character who provides a lot of laughs. The only thing I found really unbelievable about her is her naivety when it came to a certain person's identity. It was perfectly obvious to me but she's more innocent than she realizes and took what she saw at face value.

Lord Babcoke is an unsuitable suitor for Pamela. He was pretty much tricked into offering for her because she decided to fall in love with him when she was 15. It's clear he doesn't approve of her behavior but neither does he try to correct it. He's so weak-willed, he's unable to stand up to any woman who dominates him. I didn't like that about him but he exhibits character growth which I did like. That leads to one of the funniest parts of the book. He is in danger of becoming another Lord Whiston whose wife is so domineering, he doesn't have any independence.

Carlin/Lord Devan is a Corinthian/alpha hero. We don't know much about him personally except that he likes to get into scrapes as much as Lady Pamela does. Unlike Pamela, he knows how to proceed carefully and when to stop and how to get help if the situation is serious. He actually stops to think. His dialogue is witty and amusing. If we knew more about him, I think I could love him.

Wyn is a typical young man about town. He is afraid of his tyrannical grandfather and his sister but he does know how to stand up for himself on occasion and he cares about his sister a lot.

The villains are fairly stereotypical villains but one has some character traits that make him more unique.

The Whiston family round out the major characters. They're a pretty colorful family but each one is a superficial character type rather than a fully fleshed out character.

I really enjoyed this story in spite of having read it once before. I didn't really remember anything about it so I'm giving it 4 stars because it obviously isn't all that memorable.

Laura says

SO slow. I found myself skimming to get through all the extra fluff. If it was half as thick it would have been much better!

Emmy says

3.5

This was almost a four for me, except that the attitude of the hero, particularly near the end, put me off a little bit.

Overall the book was funny and charming, very reminiscent of Georgette Heyer. The heroine was spunky and likable, she went off on rather unrealistic, harebrained schemes, like disguising herself as an abigail and installing herself in an aristocratic household. The secondary characters were good, but not great like Heyer's.

Semi-spoiler alert

I thought the romance between Lady Pamela and Lord Dalven developed well throughout the book, but near

the end I was left a bit wanting. Lord Dalven is one of those characters in Regency romance who views the world around him with amusement. He takes silent delight in the ridiculous and appears to the world as aloof, but in reality is very smart. I usually love this character, but at the end of this book I found Lord Dalven's arrogance and high-handedness very unattractive. He basically kept telling Lady Pamela to sit down and shut up, which, given Lady Pamela's independence and spirit, I would expect her to reject him just out of pride/spite unless he made some final, grand romantic gesture. But in the end, he just told another of her suitor's that he was going to marry her and sent him off. Again high-handed. By the end I just wasn't liking him very much. The final declaration is always my favorite part and I just felt that it lacked much romance. Others may not have as much problem with this as I did though.

All in all, I thought the writing was good - lots of complex sentence structures, but done well - and I will definitely give Clare Darcy's other books a try.

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

Margaret Mckeever Sweet vixen
