



## Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night

*Stacy Reid*

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## **Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night** Stacy Reid

Georgiana Rutherford, the Duchess of Hardcastle, seemingly has it all—wealth, pedigree, and the admiration of the *ton*, except her heart hungers for a passionate affair. She meets the enigmatic and ruthless Mr. Rhys Tremayne, a man known to low and high society as *the Broker*. The attraction between them is impossible to deny, but she cannot be feeling it for *this* man.

Rhys Tremayne has built his wealth and empire by dealing secrets on the black market of the London underworld. He is determined to take his sisters away from the depraved world they've known their entire lives, and the duchess is the perfect woman to help sponsor his sisters into society. The only problem is that he wants more from Georgiana, even if the social divide between them ensures she can only ever be his lover in secret.

## **Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night Details**

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Author : Stacy Reid

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## From Reader Review Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night for online ebook

### Amira says

Loved it.

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### Kalel says

Very good read.

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### Paula says

I read this book from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review

This is a novel meant to be read in one sitting. It is not a novella but a proper novel, but it can be read in one go, on a cold rainy evening. Actually this is the perfect novel to be read when the winter is so cold that you only want a book, a mug of your favourite hot beverage and a blanket... the heat you are looking for will mostly be provided by the book.

Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night is the story of Georgiana, a dowager duchess who, in times of need, turns to 'The Broker', or as he is known in polite society, Rhys Tremayne, he's a powerful man of sorts for whom knowledge is power and that's his business, he finds and sells knowledge. Even if Rhys never asks for her to become his mistress in payment for his services, Georgiana finds herself unavoidably drawn to him and eventually bound to him as much as he is to her. The chemistry between them makes them become lovers in secret while in the presence of the ton, they keep their distances.

And that is the premise of a novel in which the social divide and the fear of being the talk of the town are the main pillars in their path to their happy ever after. He's a nobody and she's a duchess who has to maintain propriety for the sake of her family and her only son, the young duke, who is still a child. A scandal is unthinkable for her, but she risks everything if not for love at least for lust. She has never been loved properly.

There were a few aspects of the novel that I liked. In the first place the total firmness of this young widow in her refusal of a new marriage. She married once, she provided an heir and she is widowed, her duty in that aspect is fulfilled. I also liked that after she gets to experience a few sexual encounters, she knows what she wants, what she likes and what she doesn't... And Rhys is willing to comply, of course.

I liked that there's the topic of disability representation in the person of Rhys' eldest sister, a lovely young woman who is deaf since childhood and who uses sign language with her brother and can read lips. I loved that Georgiana, when she agrees to introduce her in society, she looks at her and vocalizes so the girl can read her lips, that was sweet. Apart from that, there's no big deal to the fact that she's deaf, she's accepted and she even becomes a success. Perhaps this was one of the best aspects of the novel.

I liked that both Rhys and Georgiana enjoy themselves and have fun together in and out of bed however

there is one thing that I didn't like about the story and it has to do with them. They monopolize the story in a way that the novel is almost only them or rather, their love story.

When the subplots are not properly developed or when there is an incident solved in a way that is poorly explained, then we have a problem. Two times such incidents happen, the two of them happening in Georgiana's home. No one could find a solution, not even the police (or the Bow Street runners, for those who know), the best minds in the realm can't find what Georgiana is looking for. But she calls Rhys and he finds whatever she's looking for in no time, which would be perfectly fine if the explanations given weren't so simple. So it feels like these subplots were mere excuses to make the two main characters meet. This is why the novel feels undeveloped, and therefore my enjoyment was incomplete.

Yet as I said earlier, it's perfect for a cold winter day when the kids are in school or playing in the snow and you're having some relaxing time in your own company.

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## **Tracy DeNeal says**

### **Rhys and Georgiana**

I have a new book boyfriend! Move over Mr. Darcy, Mr. Tremayne has arrived and he is to die for!

Rhys Tremayne is the dark hero you want when the chips are down. He is unapologetically awesome. Generally, alpha heroes are not big on tenderness and communication. This man has a strong family orientation and when he loves, he loves expansively.

Georgiana, Duchess of Hardcastle is powerful in the ton. She is an arbiter of style and grace. She is adored by all around her. But something is missing. She lacks passion in her life. Her one love is her precious little boy, Nicholas.

This book was primarily a relationship study of class boundaries and the relationships that bridge those boundaries. It was a page turner and I refused to put it down.

As usual, Stacy Reid's prose sizzles with sensual promise. Her love scenes are always HOT and this work delivers in spades. I recommend this book to those who love smoking hot chemistry in their protagonists and alpha heroes who also have a tender compassionate side.

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## **Meesh says**

I've read a couple of books from Stacy Reid and really enjoy her writing. This story is about Georgiana, a duchess, and Rhys, a man from a completely separate social world where he deals in the black market with secrets and information. He straddles the world between the lower and upperclass and has been working to find a way to elevate his sisters into the world of the ton. When Rhys meets the duchess, he feels that he may be able to use her to help his family. Little does he expect the chemistry between the two of them. The book was a relatively quick and easy read with a lot of excitement and heat. I really liked Rhys and was rooting for him throughout the book.

I received this book from NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

## Norah Gibbons says

I read an ARC of this book from NetGalley in exchange for a fair review. This is the first book in the series *Rebellious Desires* by Stacy Reid. Sizzle Factor very hot. Georgiana Rutherford, Duchess of Hardcastle was married off to the Duke of Hardcastle at the age of 16, now at the age of 26 she has been a widow for 5 years and her family would like her to marry again. She meets Rhys Tremayne a broker of secrets when her sons beloved nursemaid goes mysteriously missing. Rhys is able to locate the missing woman for her when other resources fail to. Despite herself Georgiana finds herself attracted to the dangerous Mr Tremayne. When Georgiana's beloved 6 year old son is kidnaped she immediately turns to Rhys to rescue him and afterwards they begin a passionate affair. Their journey to HEA Is not an easy one because of the great gap in their social standings for a Duchess cannot marry a mere Mister. I very much enjoyed this book and do recommend it.

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## Tracy Emro says

After finishing the book and mulling it over, I upped my rating to a 4.5, rounded up.

I really enjoyed this book, Georgiana and Rhys are both extremely likable characters.

Georgiana is the widowed Duchess of Hardcastle, she is admired by the ton, a patron of the arts, a loving and devoted mother to her young son and she is restless. She is being pressured by her family to remarry, but what she longs for is passion. When a nursemaid in her employ disappears without a trace and all her efforts to find the woman fail, Georgiana is introduced to Rhys Tremayne, "The Broker". Georgiana is immediately attracted to Rhys, but an affair with him would mean social ruin for not only her, but her family and her young son.

Rhys is a self made man, he has clawed his way up from the gutters and collects secrets which he uses to barter for favors - he is sort of the regency era "Godfather". He has used his talent to build a fortune and owns several profitable businesses. He has the wealth and the power to topple governments, but he doesn't have what he wants the most - the ability to introduce his sisters to the ton. When he meets Georgiana for the first time, he is stunned by his reaction to her, he wants her more than anything he has ever wanted in his life, but she is so far out of his social realm that he knows that there could never be anything between them. He helps her find her missing nursemaid and asks for nothing in return.

Weeks later Georgiana is in need of Rhys' help again, but this time he does ask for a favor. He asks Georgiana to sponsor his sister and she readily agrees. They finally give into the barely contained attraction between them and begin a scorching HOT love affair. They are extremely discreet, but when there is a caricature in the papers implying Georgiana and Rhys are involved, she backs away from him - but she can't seem to let him go.

When Rhys confronts her and learns a secret about her, he asks her to marry him, shocking both of them. Georgiana turns him down, afraid of what society will do to both of them and their families and they end their affair.

Weeks pass and Georgiana decides that she is willing to face the censure of the ton, if it means she can be with Rhys - but it appears that Rhys has moved on. Can these two have a HEA? You will have to read the

book to find out.

I thought this was one of the best books I have read by this author, it is well written, flows perfectly, has super HOT love scenes, wonderful secondary characters, believable obstacles keeping our lovers apart and finally a sigh worthy ending. Ms. Reid has come a long way in her accuracy of titles and formal address, but there were still a few mistakes in the book and I didn't 100% buy that the ton would so willingly accept his sister - so that is why I knocked off 1/2 a star. But I would happily recommend this book to anyone who likes a HOT historical romance.

\*I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher\*

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### **Stacy Reid says**

I'm so pleased to introduce you guys to Rhys Tremayne and the Duchess of Hardcastle. I dreamt their story and was so excited about the possibilities. I babbled for days about my dream until my hubby said, "Babes, go write their story." So I did. I hope you enjoy reading about Rhys and Georgiana as much as I loved writing their journey to happy ever after.

Thank God for dreams :)

Stacy

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### **Angela says**

I have read several stories by Ms. Reid and I feel drawn into her stories. They flow nicely and the characters show a real progression throughout the story. I love the idea of Rhys being a broker. It is not something you read in books and made him all the more intriguing. Rhys and Georgiana's relationship smolders off the pages. His relationship with her and her son is precious – he genuinely wants to court her but she is afraid since their status in society is so very different. Loved the ending...you just want to say “ahhhh” and “to hell with society”. Also, his relationship with his family is something I love to read about in stories. He will do anything for them.

I received a complimentary copy from the publisher through NetGalley.

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### **Al \*the serial series skipper\* says**

\*\*\*I received this arc courtesy of Netgallery in exchange for an honest review.\*\*\*

This author is a hit or miss for me and I'm pleasantly surprised I enjoyed this one. Although this was more smut than actual story, it was still interesting to read.

Georgina is in need of an investigator, she tries to find her nursemaid that has vanished into nowhere, she has tried other investigators and no one can find anything until her brother suggests Rhys, The Broker of information. They meet and their chemistry is instantaneous. He ferrets out the her maid's whereabouts and

goes on his way.

At this point I did wonder what direction the book was going to take, seeing as he there was no other need for his services but she needed him again when her son gets kidnapped. Again he is able to find her son even after the bow street runners could find nothing and he did it in such a way that there should have been some consequences. (view spoiler)

As much as I enjoyed this book I think more should have been done, especially with Rhy's character, I didn't really buy that he could do whatever it is he wanted and that he had that many connections and yet still had to wait for Georgina to set all his plans in motion but yet was able to get a (view spoiler) in the span of a week.

I enjoyed the secondary characters and I do hope they get their story.

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### **Sofia Lazaridou says**

The thing I hate the most in any HR novel is the feeling that the book belongs in the modern day era. I am not sure if I can fit the book into this category but a few things annoyed me. How could Simon talk to his sister about finding a lover? This is not something that's happening even in our time, because ew. Then, there were a few words that felt out of place and I stopped taking this book seriously. One of my biggest disappointments is the lack of interactions between Nicholas and Rhys. Why couldn't they have spend a little bit more time together? Well, even Georgianna wasn't able to spend time with her son since it didn't help the plot so I will just have to accept it. I liked Rhys more than I liked Georgianna. He is a man who has made something in his life and he just wants to see his sisters happy and married. I hope the next books will be about them since they were the most interesting characters in this book. Each of his sisters has something that makes them different than the average heroine, like the oldest sister who is deaf, so their books are bound to be interesting. I am not sure if I would recommend this book because I am a little disappointed. I feel like the content of the book wasn't able to make the best of its title. The thing that drew me to this book was the title and it wasn't what I expected. I did like that Georgianna was able to understand the mistake she had made and was the one who repaired their relationship, even if Rhys also tried to.

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### **Cathy Geha says**

*Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night* by Stacy Reid  
Rebellious Desires #1

Rebellious indeed – I would be, too, if I were Georgiana Elizabeth Rutherford, Dower Duchess of Hardcastle! I mean, being groomed from childhood to be married to a person with position and pedigree to further family prestige whether or not love is involved and then knowing so early who your ancient husband will be and studying hard to be a good duchess could not have been easy. That said - Georgiana was impeccable in person with purpose aplenty. Widowed young with a son who will one day be Duke she is focused on her duty as mother and more BUT she is missing something...and...that something just may be a lover – or so say her family and friends.

When a woman working in Georgiana's employ goes missing she is advised to bring in The Broker, Rhys Tremayne, to find the woman. Little does she realize that meeting this man will change her life forever. Rhys deals in secrets, brokers deals, barter one secret for another and does most of this to help elevate his mother

and three sisters from a past that none of them deserved. His service to Georgiana might provide a foothold toward his goals for his family's elevation in status, or perhaps not, whatever happens in the future his life will be changed forever, too.

I really liked Rhys and his love of family. He is an honorable man with tentacles throughout all levels of society. He is a mongrel and considered common but he is also oh so caring, he is able to mingle with the ton or hold his own with louts, he is a man women eye, he is a man that men admire and also sometimes fear. He is a man well worth knowing and Georgiana ends up knowing him very well indeed.

When another situation arises that requires The Broker's assistance Georgiana finds herself feeling indebted but also afire with desires she decides to quench and thus ensues a torrid time for the two of them. Yes, she has to deal with the matter of station and he does, too, but ultimately can they overcome the levels in society they are positioned in to become more than just passing souls enjoying an affair for a time...or not...

This is my first book by this author and I am intrigued. I am eager to find out who will star next in this series. Will it be Rhys's sister Lydia? Will it be Rhys's friend Riordan O'Malley? Will it be Simon – the brother of Georgiana? Just who will it be? I am eager to find out – that is for sure!

Thank you to NetGalley and Entangled Publishing LLC for the ARC – This is my honest review.

4.5 Stars

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### **Petula says**

Georgiana Rutherford, Duchess of Hardcastle seems to have the best life. She is a very wealthy widow with a young son and is popular with the ton. However because her family have always been extremely respectable she must be very discrete if she does what she wants to do, and take a lover. She has no need or desire to marry, but she misses the touch and company of a man.

Rhys Tremayne is the Broker, a man who had dragged himself and his family up from poverty to richer than most of the ton. He deals in secrets and information. He has bought his family all the trappings of luxury but can't get them what they want most, to be accepted by the ton.

This is lovely twist on the usual historical romance with the woman in a place of strength. There is danger, intrigue and fights along with laughs, sex and fun. Great characters that hopefully we might meet again in other books.

I loved it.

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### **Carvanz says**

Georgiana Rutherford, Duchess of Hardcastle, is desperately seeking help in locating her son's missing nursemaid. She will do anything to find answers to her questions. When she meets Rhys Tremayne and enters into an agreement for his services, she is all too aware that the cost may be a high one. But there is a small, lonely part of her that longs to pay whatever that price may be.

Rhys, better known as The Broker in the underground world he moves in, is immediately taken with the

beautiful woman he spies at a ball. When he discovers she is the person seeking his services he is all too willing to assist her. However, once he uncovers the information she desires he surprises her when he tells her the cost.

This couple, two individuals who long for more but are unaware how or even if they will ever find it, have instant chemistry. Their story flowed organically, each scenario being the only thing that could possibly happen.

I was impressed with Rhys' honor and strength when it came to those he loved. While I did get a bit aggravated at Georgiana's continued pushing away due to her social status, she was an independent woman who had found her place at a time when women were nothing more than a bargaining chip. A lifetime of being groomed for her role seemed to be a part of her very DNA.

I really enjoyed this book and especially Rhys and his dark ways. It is a fast paced read with awesome secondary characters that I hope will receive their own stories. Ms. Reid has a way of spinning her tales that pull you in and keep you engaged.

This is an honest review of an advanced copy provided by NetGalley and Entangled Publishing.

Dual POV

Safe

No apparent triggers

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## Kimberly says

My review cross-posted from **Wit and Sin**

*Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night* is sensual, interesting, and completely captivating. Stacy Reid has a way of wrapping you up in her writing, which made it really, really, *really* difficult to put Rhys and Georgiana's story down.

Rhys is known to one and all as "The Broker." He's a man who deals in secrets, all so that he can make a life for his family and give his mother and sisters the life they deserve. Though he's accumulated wealth and power, the one place Rhys hasn't been able to infiltrate is the social whirl of the *ton*. Georgiana is the key to getting his sisters into society, but he finds that he cannot use her as a pawn, not when he's drawn to her like no other. I absolutely loved Rhys. He's worked and fought his way up the ladder for the sake of his family. He's tough, but with a loving heart, and he's got a quick and canny mind that I found incredibly appealing. Even though he deals in secrets and favors, Rhys has a strong sense of honor. Add in a few hidden pockets of vulnerability and the fact that he's unbelievably sexy and you've got one heck of a swoon-worthy hero.

A hero as confident as Rhys deserves a heroine who can knock him a bit off his stride, and Georgiana fits the bill perfectly. She's been raised all her life to be a proper duchess and now that she's a widow with a young son, she continues to fulfill the role her parents and late husband set out for her. But Georgiana is unbelievably lonely, even though she's the darling of society. Rhys is the first man to see behind the mask, to make Georgiana feel completely alive. The pull between them is so strong that she risks everything to engage in a clandestine affair with Rhys. But it's clear to readers from the start that these two were meant for so much more than a few heated encounters. Rhys and Georgiana have searingly hot passion going for them, but they fit extremely well outside the bedchamber as well. Ms. Reid made the pages of *Duchess by Day*,

*Mistress by Night* come alive with their chemistry and I loved getting lost in their romance. The divide in Rhys and Georgiana's social classes is a huge obstacle in their love story and I liked that I really didn't know how they would get their happily ever after. I won't say how things work out, but Ms. Reid definitely did leave me smiling by the end of this book.

*Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night* is the first book in Ms. Reid's *Rebellious Desires* series and I absolutely cannot wait for more. From Rhys's sisters to his best friend, there are a number of characters whose stories I am hoping will be told. If you like engaging, emotional historical romances with a healthy dose of heat, then you won't want to miss *Duchess by Day, Mistress by Night* !

*FTC Disclosure: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

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