



## Griffin Stone: Duke of Decadence

*Carole Mortimer*

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Who: Griffin Stone, tenth Duke of Rotherham.

What: A disheveled woman who is nearly trampled by his carriage horses.

When: Late one summer night while the Duke is in pursuit of would-be assassins.

Why: When the mysterious beauty's identity is revealed as Lady Beatrix Stanton, Griffin realizes it's she who holds the key to everything. Bea's memory must be unlocked, but with every second in her presence inflaming Griffin's desire, keeping his mind on the task ahead proves nigh on impossible!

## Griffin Stone: Duke of Decadence Details

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## From Reader Review Griffin Stone: Duke of Decadence for online ebook

### Susan says

Griffin and his fellow "Dangerous Dukes" are still working to shut down the network that attempted to assassinate the Prince Regent. Griffin is following a lead that sends him back to his estate in Lancashire when a woman darts out of the woods and is hit by his carriage. He feels responsible and takes her on to his home to care for her.

Thanks to his secret work for the Crown, Griffin is cynical and mistrusting of anything that seems out of the ordinary. But once he sees the woman's injuries and discovers that she has no memory of who she is or what happened to her, he suspects that she's more victim than conspirator. And as bits of her memory begin to return, her presence may be more than coincidence. For her own safety, they need to find out who she is and what happened to her. Griffin sends word to his boss asking for his help. In the meantime, he's determined to protect her, especially from himself!

Griffin has been attracted to Bea from the moment he saw her, but tries hard to subdue it. He had been married once, but it hadn't been a happy marriage. His wife was cold to him, apparently fearful of him, and eventually unfaithful. She drowned a year after their wedding, possibly taking her own life, leaving him feeling responsible for her death and undeserving of anyone's love. The intensity of his desire for Bea takes him by surprise, as does her reaction to him. When Bea awakens in Griffin's home, she has no idea who she is or what happened to her. She does know that being near Griffin makes her feel safe. He also makes her want to get closer to him.

I loved seeing the relationship grow between Bea and Griffin. She may be young and well born, but she is also a very strong and determined person. She isn't about to let what happened to her turn her into a quivering mess. She is also a pretty good judge of character, and she doesn't let Griffin's gruff, blunt and sometimes rude behavior blind her to the caring man she sees. She also knows what she wants, and isn't afraid to go after it. I really loved seeing her work her magic on Griffin's resistance. I loved seeing Griffin's reactions to her advances. He was so used to the way that his wife had treated him that he couldn't believe that someone like Bea wasn't terrified of him. I loved seeing his protectiveness, and how thoughts of her kept distracting him from things he was trying to do. Even trying to avoid her didn't help him. He knew he was in trouble when he found himself jealous when she spoke to a gardener. I loved seeing how just having her around affected him, making him happier than he'd ever been. But he still didn't believe that love was possible, even when his friend tried to tell him it was. I loved the ending as Griffin came to terms with his past and embraced the changes that Bea brought to him. I loved seeing him open up to Bea and how she showed she loved him just as he was.

The mystery of who Bea was and what had happened to her was very well done. Her fear after her nightmare revealed a little of what happened to her was intense, and gave Griffin just enough information to start to put the pieces together. When his two friends arrived with more details, Griffin's fear for her increased. I loved seeing Bea stand up for her right to know what was going on. The danger for her went up when she found out about the kidnapped boy and she insisted on being involved in finding out more about where he was. The final confrontation had a couple of very interesting twists, including one about Griffin's wife that I never saw coming.

## Ivy H says

OK Carole Mortimer must have a special thing for guys with raven black hair and silver grey eyes because this H ( just like the H in Zachary Black: Duke of Debauchery ) also possesses these physical traits. Our H is Griffin, the Duke of Rotherham and he is an aloof but sexy bastard. He's a widower who had a hellish marriage because his late wife Felicity was totally not into penis polishing. That lady had more of a penchant for clit nibbling but the H didn't know that. He thought her secret lover Frank was a man. It's only towards the end of the story that his middle aged, married neighbour Lady Francesca is revealed to be "darling Frank". Our H actually thinks that Felicity was turned off of him because he was too tall and well endowed. In spite of his brooding and surly personality, however, Griffin behaves like a chivalrous knight in sexy hessians when he rescues the beautiful heroine Bea. I loved how he took care of her himself, even though he could have let his housekeeper or the maids do it.

Bea is the orphaned daughter of a late Earl and has been kidnapped and badly beaten by her aunt ( the clit nibbling Lady Francesca ) and another villain called Harker. Lady Francesca and her cohorts have kidnapped the grandson of an important spymaster called Lord Maystone. They think the heroine overheard them discussing their plans and that's why they kidnapped her and brutalized her. Bea managed to escape from the shack where she was held but was hit on her head after running into the H's carriage. Bea developed amnesia but Griffin took great care of her. The MC's are attracted to each other and Bea is not shy in the least. It's Griffin who holds back at first, because he's an honorable man who doesn't want to compromise the heroine in case she's married or betrothed to someone she can't remember.

Griffin was a wonderful H. He wasn't a rake and he also worked part time for Lord Maystone as a spy. I enjoyed this novel a lot more than Zachary Black: Duke of Debauchery because I loved Griffin more than Zack and Bea was a lot more likable than Georgianna. Bea was a determined and strong heroine in spite of her amnesia and she never put up with the barriers that Griffin tried to place between them. There was a little bit of misunderstanding between them, because Griffin thought Bea was in love with a man called Michael and she believed the H was still pining for the dead Felicity. There was one OTT love scene that had me awed and afterwards laughing: the heroine got an orgasm with no physical stimulation to herself WHILE giving a blow job to the H. THAT was the first time I ever heard of that happening. Griffin's penis has got to have greater powers than the average magical penis one encounters in RomanceLandia ( unless you're a lesbian of course...).

The H for the last novel in the series, Christian Seaton: Duke of Danger is also introduced in this story and he is a happy go lucky charmer !

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## Harlequin Books says

"Deliciously sexy and highly lethal, Mortimer's Dangerous Dukes series continues! Book five is just as daring and adventurous as the others. This time a stubborn duke rushes to rescue the damsel in distress only to be rescued in return. Memorable characters and authentic scenes and dialogue will delight Regency fans everywhere" (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars).

Miniseries: Dangerous Dukes

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## **Abi Nottingham says**

When I started this book my enjoyment was derived purely from its cheesy plot line and overdone gushy dialogue, but by the end of the book, I was 100% invested in the shitty two dimensional characters (for serious). Not well written, but compelling in a guilty pleasure sort of way. I have still kept my rating to only two stars though, because I feel that giving it more would insult all other fiction by association. Also, I'm upset that I need to rate this in stars, as I feel "2 out of 5 erect members" would be more suitable.

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## **Sheila Melo says**

### **Amnesia is Catalyst for Conflict Between Characters**

"It made no sense that this woman was roaming about his woods wearing only her nightgown."

**THE STORY:** Griffin Stone, Duke of Rotherham is coming to his country home in search of a traitor when a woman runs through the woods and is hit by his carriage. The woman is unconscious but has been obviously mistreated. When she awakes, she doesn't have any memory of who she is or what happened to her. The two go on a search to discover her true identity (Lady Beatrix Stanton) and to solve the mystery of what happened to her.

**OPINION:** I liked the premise of this story very much. There was great tension between the characters because of Bea's amnesia. In addition, Griffin has much baggage as a result of his unhappy marriage. That created a great amount of sexual tension between the two main characters.

There is also a very interesting mystery surround what happened to Bea and how that might or might not be connected with Griffin's mission.

Unfortunately, I felt that this book was not as sexy or hot as previous books in the series and thus was somewhat disappointed by the romance. The book felt a bit incomplete as a result.

**WORTH MENTIONING:** There is only one incomplete sex scene between the couple making this book less hot than others in the series.

**FINAL DECISION:** I liked the story and the relationship between Griffin and Bea, but I kept wishing for more heat between the couple.

**CONNECTED BOOKS:** GRIFFIN STONE is the fifth book in the Dangerous Dukes series. It can be read as a standalone without missing anything.

**STAR RATING:** I give this book 3.75 stars.

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## **Harlequin Historical says**

Miniseries: Dangerous Dukes

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### **Carrie says**

I quite liked this continuation of the Dangerous Dukes series. It was an original set up, particularly the reason for Griff's unhappy marriage, and I didn't figure the whole of it out early on. There were plenty of surprises along the way! My one complaint is the Beauty-and-the-Beast element of this. Bea, who is named Bella (beautiful) when she cannot recall her identity, juxtaposed with Griff's considerable physical stature, very much reminded me of Beauty and the Beast and was a bit unoriginal in that respect. However, I do love both characters and how they developed, and I love that Bella's real name was Bea, which was very fitting for her. A great read and definitely recommended.

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### **Paraphrodite says**

This book probably was the darkest so far for this series. In each, the hero works for the Crown to stop Napoleon sympathizers from putting Napoleon back on the French throne.

In this one, our young heroine has lost her memory and shows signs of severe physical abuse. Not as light as the previous books. Griffin is aptly named though as the hero who hides his vulnerability under his big, gruff demeanor.

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### **Elaine says**

O.K. read. This story is not as entertaining as the first 3 books in the series, imo.

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