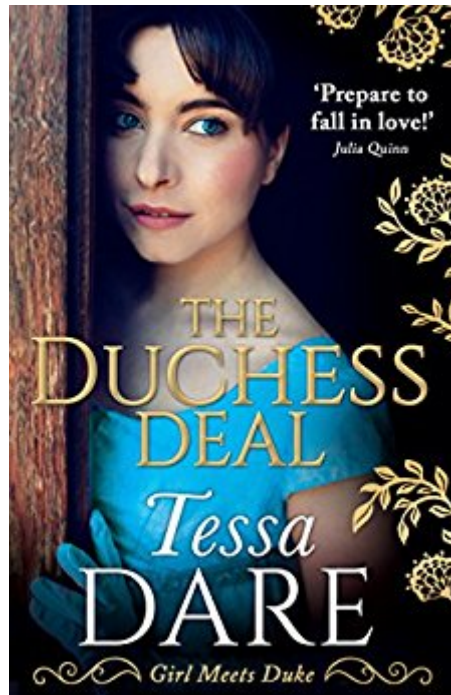




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# The Duchess Deal



## Synopsis

“Dare perfectly crafts an ever-present romantic tension that propels the novel swiftly forward to its breathless conclusion” Publishers Weekly  
Witty, Saucy Regency Romance  
“I am a Duke. I am not asking you to marry me. I am offering to marry you. It’s a different thing entirely.”  
When the Duke of Ashbury returns from war scarred, he realises he needs an heir which means he needs a wife! When Emma Gladstone, a vicar’s daughter turned seamstress visits wearing a wedding dress, he decides on the spot that she’ll do. His terms are simple:- They will be husband and wife by night only.- No lights, no kissing.- No questions about his battle scars. - Last, and most importantly  
“Once she’s pregnant with his heir, they need never share a bed again. But Emma is no pushover. She has secrets and some rules of her own:- They will have dinner together every evening.- With conversation.- And teasing.- Last, and most importantly  
“Once she’s seen the man beneath the scars, he can’t stop her from falling in love  
“When a girl meets a Duke, their marriage breaks all the rules”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

All of Tessa's books are wonderfully written, full of heart, emotion, and humor, and *The Duchess Deal* is no exception. Ash and Emma felt like such real characters who you will immediately fall in love with and root for. Ash's acerbic sense of humor appealed to the snarky side of my personality, and you can see Tessa had such fun with this character. She wrote *Regency Deadpool* y'all! And as for Emma, you can only admire her strength and resilience. The best thing about Tessa's books is how relatable her heroines are. Emma has quirks and insecurities, and has moments of awkwardness and feeling of not belonging. Who can't relate to that. But the magic is Tessa's heroes don't fall in love with the heroine despite the quirks but because of them. That is the dream, isn't it? I can't recommend this book highly enough!

The one thing that separates Tessa from other romance authors, is she always tends to have more humorous plots. Ash was by far the funniest, tortured duke i've come across. And Emma was perfect in character to match his royal moods. The dialogue between the 2 are quite entertaining, definite good read for the night.

I was recommended this book by people in my book group on FB and I can only say: THANK YOU! It is fun. It is sweet and I even shed a tear. Loved it!!!!

This book is amazing. Fresh, light... HILARIOUS! Started it as a light read to help me sleep at about midnight... ended up still fresh eyed and laughing out loud in bed at 2am. The witty comebacks gave me ALL OF MY LIFE!! A must read for historical romance lovers who love a touch of humour.

I loved the tormented hero who wants to keep his dignity and heart intact and I adored the heroine, a woman worthy of his heart.

Tessa Dare's newest series, *Girl Meets Duke*, begins with Emma Gladstone, seamstress and Vicar's daughter, doing laps around Mayfair square wearing a wedding dress. She needs payment for all the work she put into the monstrosity of a frock and since the bride won't pay now that the wedding is called off, she's about to demand payment from the would-be-groom. When she finally works up the courage to knock on the door and is admitted to Ashbury House, the Duke doesn't just offer to pay her, he decides to wed Emma too. Thus Emma and Ash begin a marriage convenience in *The*

Duchess Deal. This book was my first introduction to Tessa Dare's work and I'm honestly not sure why I've waited so long to read her historical romances. I found Dare's character development for Emma and Ash to be basically flawless; I understood each of their motivations going into the marriage and I found their reluctant fall into love to be endearing. Dare has a unique ability to make characters sing and she found a way to make me love her hero and heroine without hiding their flaws. She stiffened her posture. "Your Grace, you called my work unicorn vomit." You asked me to disrobe for money. Then you made the absurd declaration that you would make me a duchess, and that I should visit your bed on Monday. This entire interview is nonsensical and humiliating. I can only conclude that you are making sport of me. He lifted one shoulder in an unapologetic shrug. "A scarred recluse must have some amusement." Our H/h, Ash and Emma, are funny. Like, laugh out loud, snort milk out the nose funny. I found myself in love with the idea of them way before Emma or Ash had declared any sort of commitment or appreciation for one another. As the book went on I just became more and more convinced that these two were perfectly suited for one another. Beyond the romance, Dare wove little side plots and details into *The Duchess Deal*. My absolute favorite detail was that the servants at Ashbury House were worried about the Duke. They wanted for Emma and Ash to fall in love so badly that they came up with all sorts of ways to push them together. They weren't even trying to hide it from Emma, they gave her ideas for how to turn his affection like turning her ankle or spilling wine on her dress. Adorable. Emma and Ash both had side plots of their own moving in the background of *The Duchess Deal*. Emma was trying to help a friend find housing as she approached the birth of her child and Ash had a secret identity. Sadly, neither of these side plots were built up strongly enough to make a ton of sense. They served their purpose in humanizing Emma and Ash, but I didn't think they were grounded enough to make the book wholly better. *The Duchess Deal* is a solid start to a new series. It solidified my desire to read more Tessa Dare and the next book in the series, releasing in 2018, is already on my TBR list. 4 stars for *The Duchess Deal*! A copy of this book was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This review was originally published at Straight Shootin' Book Reviews.

Both hilariously enchanting and romantic, *The Duchess Deal* will appeal to all readers, even those who don't normally veer into this genre. Tessa Dare excels at bridging the gap between Contemporary and Historical with her signature humor and authentically fresh characters.

A marriage of convenience grew to have such unexpected depth and twists and turns, and a love story that was captivating from the very beginning. Dare manages to always perfectly capture the strong, defiant heroines that don't fit into their expected place in both society and relationships, and with Emma she brought a great sort of bold shyness to her which made her even more endearing. It greatly contrasted with the Duke of Ashbury's brittle outer shell as it hilariously pushed his buttons and pulled at his heart, both of which took him out of his comfort zone. The dynamic between the two (made even more fun by the meddling of others) was hysterical and completely charming; watching them step about and cross boundaries, sometimes on purpose or not, was the most fun of it all. The heat between them was beguiling and became this powerful thing to unite two people merely in it for what it brought on paper. For all of Ashbury's protestations, watching her slowly become the balm to soothe his soul was absolutely the best part of the story. The Duchess Deal was a fantastic love story with compelling characters that effortlessly elevated this tale to the grand story it became. Dare's writing flowed seamlessly from start to finish and easily brought to life a long ago time period. A top-notch start to a series and one that I cannot wait to continue on.

My headline pretty much says it all. The scarred hero/Beauty and the Beast trope is usually dark and gothic and brooding, but Tessa Dare somehow keeps it light and witty and laugh-out-loud funny without downplaying the severity of Ash's injuries or the physical and emotional trauma he has suffered. Emma has her own painful past and less obvious scars, but she, too, has a sense of humor and enough optimism and determination to rescue both of them. The secondary characters- Khan, Trevor, and the Ladies who Eat Sham- are all delightful, too. I hope to see them as recurring characters throughout this series.

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