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Given To The Duke (Historical Romance Tale)



Synopsis

The young Lady Helen Wesley has a grave problem. Her father, Lord Alfred Wesley has done the unthinkable. To pay for his excessive gambling debts, that wastrel of a man has offered to send her away to be taken care of by his friend, Drake, the enigmatic Duke of Archerville. When Helen meets with her new guardian the Duke, she learns that her father was not entirely telling her the truth. She is crestfallen to know that instead of attending the London Season to find herself a dashing suitor, she is to be wed to the mature Duke on the very first day she meets him. And in a time when women were given little rights or choice, she has little say in the matter. And so, Lady Helen Wesley finds herself marrying the mysterious figure. The Duke is a stern and forbidding man, and his preferences for a good marital union require pain and pleasure blended as one. Helen has never experienced such things before, but strangely enough, she finds herself drawn to the strict treatment and passion that goes along with it. However, as if often the case with love and romance, not all is as it seems. Helen discovers a hidden truth that could threaten to tear her world apart!

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Customer Reviews

Given to the Duke is a novella of a bit over 100 pages which employs a relatively simple plot with a slightly different twist. Lady Helen's wastrel of a father has gambled away his fortune and must escape his creditors by leaving the country. He tells her that he's sending her to become the ward of his old friend the Duke of Archerville. When she arrives, she finds instead that she is to marry the very stern and domineering, but handsome man who fits perfectly into this historical time period. Despite his strict and dictatorial manners and some confusion about his first wife's fate, love blooms. The tale is badly in need of editing due to numerous grammatical errors and confusion as to the meaning of some words and concepts. The duke would become her "guardian" if she were his ward. Under most circumstances, such guardianship is required only upon the death of a woman's parent. And entailed properties would normally be passed to the next male relative who inherited the title, (Lord Alfred's title is never stated, but must be at least an earl if his daughter is properly titled Lady Helen), or would revert to the crown, not her husband or son. If this is one of those rare situations in which the title and property could be passed through the female line, that should have been mentioned. Helen is both overly knowledgeable and overly ignorant of other women's opinions of the duke. Mostly, I felt like the story needed a bit more conflict than just some misunderstandings and a strong dictatorial personality. After further editing, this tale **could** be a good story in a slightly longer format. The story's saving grace was its brevity, though it seemed far longer while I was puzzling through the grammar to determine the author's meaning. Its abrupt ending left me wondering how the new duchess was received and what would happen should she find herself enciente. So... the story is okay if you've a little bit of time to kill and have no "inner grammar nazi" to torture.

This is definitely the worst book I've ever read. So much for free Kindle books, there is a reason why they are free. Even the sex scenes in this book were ridiculous!

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