



The Perfect Duke

Dawn Ireland

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Known as The Marble Duke amongst the Ton, Garret Weston, the Duke of Kendal, sets himself apart from his peers. Nothing will hinder his guilt-driven attempt to become a perfect duke. Nothing, that is, save the alluring and imaginative betrothed he'd thought dead. His intended believes—of all things—that she is a Vicar's daughter. The "perfect" duke needs a "perfect" duchess, but how is he to discern her suitability? Employing her as a governess to his niece seems like an ideal solution. But whose "suitability" is being tested? His betrothed refuses to see he is beyond redemption. And most grievous of all, she stirs his blood, making him forget what's important.

Cara believes fairy tales really can come true, until she meets the unrelenting and arrogant Duke of Kendal. He looks like a Prince, but acts like a Beast. Why must he challenge her at every turn? Her greatest peril is her attraction to the vulnerable, seductive man behind the title. A match between them would be impossible. But can she show him, without losing her heart, that "perfect" is in the eye of the beholder?

The Perfect Duke Details

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Author : Dawn Ireland

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From Reader Review The Perfect Duke for online ebook

Felicity Steenkamp says

A lovely read

I loved the story of the marble Duke been softened by the lovely carjng Cara So romantic. I wish you wouldn't let your characters take the Lords name in vain. It is in the 10 commandments not to you know. I was getting tired of the no I won't marry and please marry me but the drama at the end made it worth the read. May you and your family have abundant blessings

Deb Diem says

The Perfect Duke by Dawn Ireland is an awesome historical romance. Ms Ireland has delivered a well-written book and packed it full of outstanding characters. Cara and Garret's story is full of drama, action, suspense, humor and sizzle. I loved this book and look forward to reading more from Dawn Ireland in the future. The Perfect Duke is book 2 of the Georgians Beyond The Pale Series but can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

Katie Jo says

I have not read the first book in the series, but I immediately loved Cara and her spirit. Garret is a bit stuffy, but he grows on you throughout the story. Cara doesn't know that she's not just a vicar's daughter; she's also betrothed to the Duke (Garret) who thinks, along with everyone else, that Lady Caroline (Cara) has been dead for 14 years. Cara has set up a school for the less fortunate with her father and is pulled away to be a governess for Garret's niece Rachel for the summer. He wants to be sure she is what every duchess should be and sets up tests for her. It's a fun, mysterious story with romance and intrigue.

Kyla Lockwood says

Very good read

Let me juz say the twist I was not expecting...you know the bad guy part....however that's what made it so amazing!

I loved it from the downright beautiful Cara and her stubborn ways of dreaming to the Dukes Stearns wall that comes crumbling down. It all is amazing.

From the beginning I was drawn in to the very last page....cannot wait to read more from this author

Hanna says

Stupid people make for a stupid read

A cold, unfeeling duke with a good heart buried under the abuse of his father/grandfather (I was too confused to be sure). An amazingly perfect young woman who falls in love with him in spite of his harsh, uncaring mien. A very bad example of a seriously psychologically damaged man redeemed by the love of a good woman. Exactly the kind of c#%p that leads a naive reader to marry a sexy abuser. Trash.

betty says

This is the second book I have read by her and I am already making plans to buy more of them. Mallory is my favorite person in this book because she is almost like me. I love getting into trouble and mischief as,much as she does.

This is the second book that I have read by her and I'm making plans to buy more of them. Mallory is my favorite character in this book. I love how she manages to get her brother and Cara back together.

Linda Hays-Gibbs says

Title: The Perfect Duke

Author: Dawn Ireland

Review Rating: Five Star

Reviewed by: Linda Hays-Gibbs

Garret Weston the Duke of Kendal was betrothed when he was a child to Lady Caroline Pemberton, the Earl of Pemberton's daughter. She was thought to be dead by drowning but was actually kidnapped when six years old and raised by a country vicar as Cara McClure. She has no idea of her true heritage. He has just learned these details from an investigator he hired.

Garret's older brother Edward was supposed to be the Duke after their father's death but Edward died in a boating accident. Garret felt responsible for his brother's death and was urged by his brutally mean grandfather to be the perfect Duke that his brother would have been.

If Cara was raised by a vicar, then she can hardly be appropriate for the perfect Duke. Garret has a woman in mind to be his perfect wife, Lady Regina Stanton. His plans were interrupted by the discovery that Lady Caroline is still alive.

Since Garret is an honorable man, he will see if Lady Caroline is still acceptable as his Duchess by watching her in his employ. He will hire her as governess to his brother Evan's daughter, Rachael. He feels he has hatched the perfect plan to see if she will be able to function in the Tun and not embarrass the Kendal name. He is haughty and mean just like his grandfather wanted him to be. In fact, he is even looking just like his grandfather's nasty portrait. He is cruel to Cara but she is kind to him. She does not behave as he thinks she should. He has met his match and slowly his heart starts to melt but will she care?

This is one story I could not put down. The characters were developing and growing before my eyes. I could not believe the arrogance of the Duke and how innocent and trusting Cara is. There was a host of characters that had their own personalities too. The blunt sister of the Duke, Mallory. The kindhearted vicar. The haughty butler and sentimental cook. I felt like I knew them all intimately before the end of the story. I was

amazed by the twists and turns and would read it again. I did not want it to end and I will look for this author again.

This was an outstanding read for anyone that loves romance in 1787, London, England. The love story made me cry. There is so much to tell but I would never want to spoil it for the next reader.

I give it Five Stars out of Five and a thumbs up. I loved it.

Linda Hays-Gibbs

Kathy says

Easy reading. A missing lady is found. After being kidnapped as a child she is now a Vicar's daughter and a teacher. Since she was betrothed to the son of a duke when she was six, the Duke wants to find out if she is worthy to be a duchess. She is hired to be governess to the Duke's niece.

Norma J. Anderson says

This Lady knows how to write

Depending on the length of the book, I usually read at least two books a day. There is a great difference between a real author and someone who took up writing as a hobby. Ms. Ireland is a real author, and is well within her calling. This book is very well written, with everything you could want in a book. There is adventure, there is love making, it keeps you guessing as to who the antagonists are, and it is very well edited. I would definitely read another book by this author. My only pet peeve is that I like shorter books.

Ann Gonzalez says

Quick read

This book was a great read that was a page turner. It can be read alone. The characters were full of life and kept the story interesting. The story was full of love, lies, and regrets.

Susan Frances says

Many of the situations described in *The Perfect Duke* by Dawn Ireland seem forced to happen and actually work to make the reader distrustful of the story's hero Garret Weston, the Duke of Kendal. The first time readers become distrustful of Garret is when they're told he wishes his fiancée Lady Caroline Pemberton, the daughter of the Earl of Pemberton, was dead. Not the start of an enduring and heartfelt romance. He discovers from his brother Evan that she survived the boat accident which everyone assumed had taken her life when she was a child. Over the years, she's been raised by a vicar and his wife who gave her the name Cara McClure. Now she is a budding woman.

Garret's distrustfulness grows when he convinces his brother not to tell Caroline or her parents or society about her true identity. They keep her real identity a secret in the hopes, the reader can only presume, that

Caroline's father will not hold Garret to the betrothal formed when Caroline was six and he was still a boy. Viscerally, the reader determines that Garret's purpose in keeping the secret is so he can be free to marry Lady Regina Stanton.

Garret adds to his distrustfulness when he exacerbates the insult done to Lady Caroline by having Evan's 10-year-old daughter Rachel live with him, giving him an excuse to hire Cara McClure as the girl's governess. Granted, it's a new twist on the governess theme but if he wanted to keep Caroline out of his life, why in the world would he hire her to be his niece's governess, and why would his brother and his brother's wife Penelope allow their daughter to live with Garret knowing his motive is to use their daughter as a pawn in a game that can only hurt Caroline?

Although Caroline and Garret begin to care for one another while she lives under his roof as a governess to his niece, the romance lacks genuineness. The reader can only guess that Garret is meant to undergo a change from the cynic that his grandfather had raised him to be, into becoming a caring companion and tender lover to Caroline. The change is hard to fathom as Garret goes from ruling his household with an iron-fist to suddenly becoming a kind employer and attentive lover to Caroline. The narration describes that it's Caroline who stirs this positive change in him as she persuades him to reveal the pain and sadness he harbors over the loss of another brother Edward. Expressing his wound is moving, but it has a contrived feel to it because the magic Caroline wields is common. Many women in the story are capable of her insight, compassion, and cheery demeanor including Garret's housekeeper.

Peppered with fairytale motifs, the hero in *The Perfect Duke* is far from perfection and the image of Prince Charming. Dubbed the Marble Duke, Garret Weston is a flawed character. It's hard to fathom him plausibly becoming the man that Lady Caroline deserves. Even as he undergoes a positive change in his character, the reader wishes Lady Caroline would find a better man to give her heart to.

Dessi Bradecich says

A perfect summer weekend diversion.
Fun read filled with suspense, action and love.

Things that could be better: I didn't think it realistic to have the duke change his demeanor from guarded to the sweet guy next door so quickly.

It could have been ok if we were not regaled with the sexual scene in the theater, especially since Cara is portrayed to be virtuous throughout the book. A contradiction in the character- the chaste Miss McClure turning into a wanton for a night.

A couple of typos and one change in names from Emily to Elizabeth could have been easily noted and fixed by a good editing.

Also, I didn't understand how did the young Garret fell in love with a 6 yr old child to the extreme of holding her ribbon in her pocket for 14yrs- would have liked to see some explanation for the teenager's deep feelings.

Overall good plot, with interesting twists.
I enjoyed the small snippets from fairy tales in teh beginning of each chapter.
I had hard time putting the book down until I finished it.

Barbara Staffo says

A Must Read.

Okay. So I read book two first. Not in order, I was charmed, sad, angry, oh so scared, mad, happy, and very puzzled. Can you figure out who the real bad guys are? I only guessed one. Read the book. Great author. She is new to me, but I will be adding her to my list of favorite authors.

Alice says

premise was basis for my reading--(premise being -- what is the standard for perfect?)

but execution of story aggravated me--Male character's motivation for being so rigid was tortuously revealed

inserts of various fairy tales/folk romances as guides to segments were distracting.

Sexual encounters were contrived and seemed out of character for the moral/social values that protagonist professed to hold

but I bookmarked scene (978) where Garret show her the telescope and they discuss the rules set by society.

Cecily says

Based on my previous reactions to a) storylines that rely on deception, b) conveniently resolved holes in the action off-page, and c) preposterous set-ups, I wasn't confident I was going to get to the end. But it appears I ended up rather liking this book despite the huge leaps of logic and faith the reader has to make to get to the end and the HEA. And that's before we address the question of why Cara - despite not being portrayed very often with needle and thread in hand - is the doyenne of handmade sleepwear (but not lingerie). Or why - given everything else we know about her self-contained and private nature - ends up (literally) staging the celebration of the loss of her virginity. In the end I just stopped looking for consistency in characterisation, and went with the pantomime villains, unlikely plot developments, and anachronistic nightwear descriptions. Oddly enjoyable.
