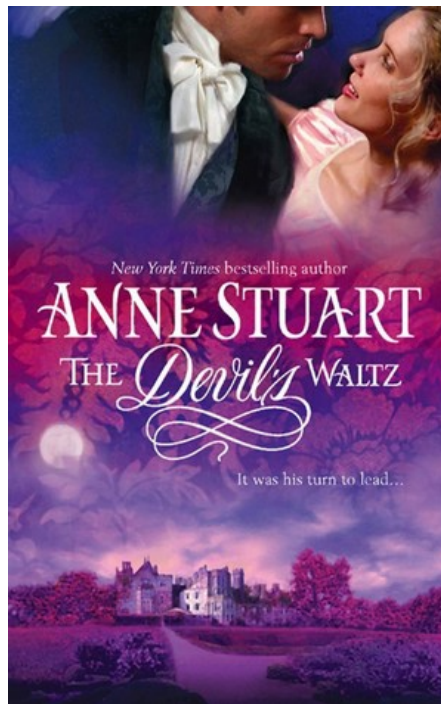




The Devil's Waltz

Anne Stuart

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When you dance with the devil, you hold hands with temptation...

Christian Montcalm was a practical man, if a destitute scoundrel, but his plan to bed and wed the delectable Miss Hetty Chipple would take care of that sticky wicket. However, there was a most *intriguing* obstacle to his success.

Annelise Kempton desired nothing more than to come between this despicable rogue and the fortune (and virtue) of her young charge. Certainly, Annelise understood the desperation that comes from hard times, but Montcalm would fail—she would personally see to it. All that stands in her way is a man whose rakish charm could tempt a saint to sin, or consign a confirmed spinster to sleepless nights of longing...to give the devil his due.

The Devil's Waltz Details

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From Reader Review The Devil's Waltz for online ebook

Glamdring says

Buddy read with Blacky <3<3<3

Tammy Walton Grant says

One of my favourite things in romance novels is when the hero has some kind of special nickname for the heroine. Not some sappy thing like "bees knees", but something witty. Some inside joke between the two of them, something sexy that he would say to her in a particular tone of voice reserved just for her. This book has it.

The Honourable Miss Annalise Kempton has fallen upon hard times. She is unmarried, almost 30 and virtually penniless. Her pedigree does not allow her to work for a living and so she spends her life "visiting" one family after another. Her latest visit is to the Chipples where she will guide young Hetty through her first season and help her to find a suitable husband. Hetty, of course, is headstrong and spoiled and has caught the eye of Christian Montcalm, a scoundrel of the first water.

On her first day Miss Annalise intercepts Hetty on her way to a secret assignation in the park with Christian Montcalm. She comes face to face with Christian and tells him in no uncertain terms what her duties are: "I'm someone who is going to make your designs on Miss Chipple impossible to carry out. So cast your lures elsewhere." Christian considers it a challenge and is intrigued by the woman his friend describes as "a dragon. And a bit long in the tooth. Not your type at all."

"You may be sure we'll meet again, dragon." he said, and for some reason the term sounded more affectionate than insulting. "

Ah, there it is. The nickname.

And away we go.

The story hooked me from the beginning. Christian calls her "dragon" through the entire book - who knew that word could be so romantic? He is fascinated by her in spite of himself, she is wildly attracted to him (again, in spite of HERself).

Their verbal sparring is engaging - you cheer for Miss Annalise from beginning to end. The sexual tension between the two is palpable and when they finally get together it is beautifully done. Christian is a completely unscrupulous rake but you love him anyway. He redeems himself by the end as most heroes do and the epilogue is a perfect finale to the HEA.

There are also the requisite villains, nefarious plots and a minor misunderstanding. Oh, and a fairly comic resolution to Hetty Chipple's search for a husband.

A very entertaining story from start to end. I loved it!

Original review written June 24/10.

4.5 stars

Catherine says

3.5 Stars to be specific.

It seems like this author has quite a talent for writing dark, shady, unrepentant men. Christian definitely fits the bill. He is an actual fortune hunter. I don't think I've ever read about a fortune hunter hero who doesn't have a problem with that status. Christian would have preferred having money himself, obviously, but he had no problem marrying to get it. He was a master manipulator. He was able to look at someone and know how best to portray himself. He also has no problem with any number of other villainous deeds. You want blackmail? He's all over it. How about kidnapping? Well, he doesn't have a problem with that if it proves necessary either. He's unrepentant and makes no bones about the fact that he only cares about what's best for him. He has numerous enemies and very few friends.

Annelise has fallen on hard times. She's wellborn, so she can't work, but her family can't afford to support her either. She lives by becoming a guest at someone's house that needs her help. She's not a servant, and she doesn't get paid for her work, but there's an unspoken obligation involved. The most recent house she's "visiting" has her instilling manners and good breeding (or at least trying to) in shipping heiress, Hetty. Right away she runs into Christian as he tries to lure Hetty down the bridal path. She's knows his true nature and refuses to let him have Hetty.

While I have a weakness for Christian's character type, I have to like the heroine too, and I have to believe in their romance. I found myself wavering on that here. I really feel that there wasn't enough quality time spent on their relationship. It seemed like so much focus was cast on Christian and his shady deeds that there wasn't enough time to develop a believable romance. Also, the I-love-you came awfully fast from Annelise. I just didn't feel that it was believable with so little to work with. On the other hand, I didn't like the fact that Christian didn't admit to falling for her until the very last minute. I'd prefer a little middle ground for both of them.

I was extremely irritated by Annelise's refusal to believe anything bad that was said about Josiah. When multiple different people imply the man is a lunatic, perhaps you should stop trying to tell them they're exaggerating. It made Annelise look extremely stupid. Also, I really didn't see a reason why Annelise wouldn't just leave. Honestly, she had no real attachment to the family, and she didn't even like them. I know it wouldn't have served the plot if she had left, but it really made no sense.

I would have liked this story a lot more if a believable romance had been constructed. As it is, it just average.

Myself says

5/5

Le tengo que dar un 5 porque no he podido dejar de leerlo desde que lo empecé, ayer, hasta que lo he terminado, hoy. Me ha encantado de principio a fin.

Christian es el típico canalla, vividor, egoísta que sólo busca casarse por dinero y esa es su meta, pero da la casualidad que se cruza en su camino Annalise, una solterona seria y rígida, y desde ese momento nada volverá a ser lo mismo...

Christian me ha enamorado totalmente. Me han encantado los tira y afloja entre los dos.

Os recomiendo que lo leáis en este #RitaStuart

Caz says

4.5 stars. Just because :)

I've had a bit of a run of "C" grade books recently, so I wanted my next read to be a bit of a pick-me-up. I haven't read a huge number of Anne Stuart's books, but I've enjoyed the ones I *have* read and I admit to having a rather large weakness for that whole starchy-spinster-meets-delicious-bad-boy thing she writes so well.

The Honourable Miss Annelise Kempton is nearing thirty, overly tall, bespectacled and penniless. Her sisters are married with families of their own, and their father's profligacy left Annelise without home or resources when he died in a riding accident. The daughter of a viscount can't possibly work for a living, so instead, with the help of her godmother, Annelise has spent the last few years providing companionship or chaperonage to a variety of "friends" in return for bed and board.

Her latest home is to be with Mr Josiah Chipple, a very wealthy merchant who wants to gain his daughter an entrée into society so that she can marry a titled gentleman. Hetty Chipple is seventeen, beautiful, stubborn, rude and dismissive of her new companion, and Annelise recognises quickly that she has quite the task on her hands if she is to ensure that Hetty behaves appropriately at all times. For Hetty has her eye on the most scandalous rake in society, Mr Christian Montcalm, a man who is in dire need of Hetty's fortune, but will one day be a viscount.

Knowing of Christian's reputation, Annelise immediately warns Hetty off, but the girl is determined to have him, so instead Annelise decides to try to keep them from seeing very much of each other. It comes as no surprise when Christian finds himself fascinated by the stern Miss Kempton and promptly nicknames her "dragon". It's hardly the most flattering of endearments, yet coming from Christian it's devoid of malice, gently mocking and ridiculously disarming.

The two continue to cross swords at every opportunity; Christian deliberately provoking her, knowing perfectly well that their verbal sparring is a form of foreplay, and Annelise being incapable of resisting his barbs, no matter how infuriating she tells herself she finds him.

Unlike many stories in which the hero has a terrible reputation, we actually get to see Christian live up to his. He can be cold and ruthless, and is certainly not above lies and deceit if it will get him what he wants; access to Hetty's youthful attractions and her money, and to continue to explore his fascination with Miss Kempton on the side. It seems, however, that Christian has come up against an equally ruthless opponent in the form of Hetty's father, who proves to be a villain in more ways than one.

The main thrust of the story, though, is the relationship between Christian and his "dragon", which is really

well done. Ms Stuart writes Christian in such a way as to keep him on the right side of the line which has “hero” on one side and “arsehole” on the other. He’s an alpha-male, for sure, and he wants his own way; he’s unscrupulous and manipulative – but there’s something about him that makes him loveable at the same time, a sense of an underlying vulnerability that is breathtaking when glimpsed, such as the moment he tells Annelise:

”Anyone who loved me died twenty years ago.”

Christian is simply delicious, a man trying desperately to prove he doesn’t need love because he doesn’t feel he deserves it, and who does have a strong sense of honour in spite of his attempts to prove otherwise.

Annelise is a terrific heroine, a woman who has been betrayed by those who should have protected her, and who has to tread a very uncertain path, dependent upon others for her very existence. Her loneliness and the true pathos of her situation is brought home in a scene late on in the book in which she discovers that her favourite mare, sold off after her father’s death, is part of Christian’s stable. Rather a large co-incidence, it’s true, but it’s one of those moments that made me feel as though my heart had been ripped out and stomped on:

Nothing mattered but that the one creature left on this earth who loved her unconditionally was suddenly there once more.

In the face of insult, she retains her dignity, resigned to her spinsterhood and wanting nothing more than a cottage of her own and a few cats. Or so she tells herself. But sometimes the thought of a solitary life is too much to bear, and she can’t help but be just a bit smitten by the handsome scoundrel who sends her snapdragons and makes her want things she knows can’t be hers.

Their exchanges are sharp, witty and laden with the kind of sexual tension that is guaranteed to be explosive should it ever be allowed full rein. And when it is... phew! The book may be almost ten years old and devoid of many of the words and terms found frequently in HR these days (no barnfowl, unfolding petals or f-bombs) but the seduction scene is so hot I thought I’d have to go and stand by the open fridge for a few minutes to cool off! And what makes it even better is that they still snipe at each other even as they’re ripping their clothes off ;-)

He tugged at his loosely tied cravat, sending it sailing. He ripped at his own buttons, opening his shirt and reaching for his breeches, when he stopped. “One last warning, love. This is no fairy-tale business, no pretty dream. It’s real. It’s dark and messy and for you, painful. In the beginning, at least. You’ll end up hating me.”

“Don’t worry about it, Christian,” she said. “I already hate you.”

Seriously – what’s not to love?

The Devil's Waltz is a great read. The characterisation is excellent, it's funny, incredibly sexy and the while the storyline may be formulaic, it's a formula I enjoy. And nobody writes those redeemable-by-the-right-woman-bad-boys like Anne Stuart.

Alba Turunen says

4 Estrellas. Estaba tardando en leer este libro, y es de esos que probablemente lleva años entre mi lista de pendientes. Por fin le he dado la oportunidad, y ha sido un acierto de lectura.

De Anne Stuart puedo decir que tiene libros y libros, algunos son un truñaco, pero cuando sabe hacerlos buenos, son buenos; y ése ha sido el caso de "El vals del Diablo". No puede decirse que sea una joya, pues si hay que profundizar diría que la historia es bastante normalita, y en cierto modo harlequinera, no en vano vemos qué editorial la ha publicado, pero a eso iré más adelante.

"El vals del Diablo" es una historia algo tópica de la regencia inglesa. La protagonista Annelise Kempton es una dama de buena familia venida a menos, tiene su clase social, su educación, pero nada de dinero; y por si fuera poco, su aspecto físico no ayuda a la hora de elegir marido, así que con casi la treintena está abocada a ser la tía solterona que vive de la generosidad de sus parientes. Pero gracias a su madrina, puede conseguir algo de dinero que la permita independizarse de una manera discreta: hacer de dama de compañía o cicerone, de una jovencita venida del campo, cuyo padre es un rico comerciante, decidido a que su niña se case con un título.

Así es como Annelise acepta el encargo de introducir en sociedad a la mimada y caprichosa Hetty Chipple, cosa que no será nada fácil. Hetty es vanidosa, egocéntrica y no duda en hacérselas pasar mal a su actual chaperona, y por si fuera poco, Hetty tiene las miras puestas en quien menos debería haberse fijado, el canalla Christian Montcalm, un crápula desalmado y sin un céntimo, a pesar de ser heredero de un vizcondado, pero famoso por su libertinaje.

Sí, así es Christian Montcalm, un protagonista masculino que realmente es lo que aparenta su personaje. A mí personalmente los libertinos no me gustan, ni me llaman la atención, pero hay veces que si el personaje está bien creado o estructurado, me los creo o me gustan, y éste ha sido el caso de Christian. Es un libertino y un canalla, lo sabe y alardea de ello, y su fama de peligro atrae a las mujeres como polillas a su cama. Hasta que su tío fallezca, Christian no puede optar a su título, y en éste tiempo no tiene dinero, y lo necesita desesperadamente para seguir llevando a cabo su vida disoluta y sus apuestas. Así es como Christian pone sus miras en la bella y caprichosa Hetty, por supuesto no la quiere ni por su belleza, ni por sus encantos, si no por su dinero.

Annelise sabe que Christian quiere casarse con Hetty por su dinero, y con la fama que éste tiene, pone todo su empeño para desbarajustar los planes del libertino hacia su protegida. Ahora es cuando me llevo a lo que más me ha gustado: la guerra dialéctica que se crea entre los personajes. Ha sido una delicia leer los reproches, pullas, e insultos que se lanzan el uno al otro, y a pesar de ello, ver la química que nace donde no debería haberla, pues si te paras a pensarlo, ambos protagonistas no pegan nada, hasta que estalla el debido romance entre ellos, y ves que realmente es juntos como deben estar.

En el fondo el romance no me ha parecido como para tirar cohetes, pues tarda bastante en desarrollarse, y la

verdad es que la actitud de Christian no ayuda demasiado; pero repito, lo mejor han sido los diálogos de ellos dos.

Dividiría el libro en dos partes, una primera donde se va desarrollando la relación de tira y afloja de los protagonistas, y una segunda donde se complica la trama y empieza a surgir el romance. Pese a que la segunda parte ha estado muy bien llevada, me ha gustado más la primera, cuando empiezan los insultos entre el canalla y la dragona. Admito que me lo he pasado muy bien leyéndolos.

Así que ha sido una lectura muy atractiva y entretenida, que creo gustará bastante a las fans del romance histórico de Regencia. Como he dicho más arriba, éste sí es uno de esos libros de Anne Stuart que merecen la pena.

Pepa says

3.5

Reseña completa: <http://masromance.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

Me ha gustado mucho, en serio. Pero al final se ha cargado la novela con unas escenas que no me llegaron a creermelo. Eso sí, me he divertido mucho con esta relación, estas protagonistas son de las que me gustan, aunque sorprenda y él, aunque con varias frases se gana más que un buen guantazo, lo dice todo con tanta gracia que lo pasas por alto y no lo analizas mucho

Una novela muy previsible pero que recomiendo para echarse unas risas

Alejandra says

Menudo descubrimiento este del #RitaStuart! Me ha encantado! Este libro tiene de todo lo que me gusta.

Annelise es, aparentemente, una solterona seria y seca. Pero nada más lejos de la realidad. En el fondo, es una mujer decidida y muy apasionada.

Christian Montcalm es un sinvergüenza encantador y un bribón al que solo le interesa casarse con una señorita muy rica y así poder salvar su situación financiera.

Pero, ay madre mía cuando estos dos se conocen! La tensión sexual entre ellos es magnífica y, aunque ella se haga la remilgada, no pueden quitarse las manos de encima (yo también soy Annelise ?).

He disfrutado como loca con sus peleas, con sus lenguas afiladas y con todos y cada uno de sus momentazos juntos. Maravilloso. ???

Yolanda says

#RitaStuart

Mi segundo libro #RitaStuart y qué deliciosa historia. Sus dos protagonistas me han parecido maravillosos y toda la historia me ha hecho disfrutar mucho.

Christian un canalla con todas las letras, su aspiración es casarse por dinero y quitarse sus deudas de encima, egoísta y acostumbrado y decidido a hacer su vida sin encariñarse de nadie.

Annelise, deliciosa. Una mujer firme, que sabe que no es una belleza y ya hace años que asumió que su vida será siempre la de una solterona.

Ninguno de los dos pierde su esencia en ningún momento, de principio a fin y eso me ha encantado.

Una historia que me ha mantenido enganchada desde el principio. Sus tira y afloja inteligentes y con momentos divertidos. Ha habido momentos en los que pensaba "ay pobre Annelise" pero la veía tan firme y decidida aun estando en circunstancias complicadas que me he divertido muchísimo.

Os lo recomiendo. Me ha encantado, he disfrutado muchísimo.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

I love Anne Stuart. I need to do a marathon of her books real soon!!!!

Anyway, as the dudes I've read in her other books, this one is gamma too, a lying, scheming, money-grabbing jerk scoundrel!!!! I loved him like crazy *.*

He is so perfectly wicked and a complex character, no one-dimensional goody-two-shoes here, and I recommend it to all who like reading their heroes who are not on the saint side but a little bit wicked and bad :D

Consuelo says

Por mucho que me haya gustado el final....si un libro te aburre hasta el 70% ...dice mucho...En fin un 2.5 por esa parte.... el resto nada de nada

Kimberly Carrington-Fox says

Entre 3-3'5 estrellitas anda la cosa.

La verdad es que, aunque la nota haga parecer lo contrario, he disfrutado bastante leyendo este libro. Lo que pasa es que las partes que me han gustado mucho no han tenido tanto peso como para compensar las que no me han tenido croqueteando precisamente.

Definitivamente los protagonistas y su modo de relacionarse son los mejor del libro. Soy fan total de la protagonista, una solterona (¡con 29 años, válgame Dior!) que tiene una lengua que ni un mozo de cuerdas y que tiene los ovarios cuadrados. Adoro ese tipo de heroínas que no son damiselas en apuros y que aguantan un combate verbal mejor que cualquier deslenguado sinvergüenza (puede que no se acerque ni de coña a la realidad de las mujeres en la época pero cuando leo una novela romántica me paso la exactitud histórica por el forro del **** si con ello disfruto mucho más de la lectura). Obviamente, siendo el protagonista un sinvergüenza (pero muy sinvergüenza) melofó me tenía que gustar irremediablemente. Así, los momentos entre ellos son espectaculares, unos combates dialécticos de lo más estupendos. Y no hablemos de la secuencia (sí, hablo en singular) amorosa... ¡Calores supremos! ¿Cuál ha sido el problema? Pues que fuera de esos momentos y de la relación entre los protagonistas el resto de lo que cuenta el libro no me interesaba nada, ni la petarda de Hetty, ni las malvadas intenciones de su padre, na-da. Y claro, esto va adquiriendo más peso en la trama hasta culminar en una parte final loquísima y muy mal ejecutada para mi gusto. Me queda la

misma sensación que con Tras la máscara, que Anne Stuart es fantástica a la hora de plantear situaciones y crearnos expectativas para luego no saber desarrollarlas y culminarlas bien.
De todos modos ha sido una lectura entretenida y he pasado un buen rato leyéndola.

Floripiquita says

Segundo libro del #RetoRita2 #RitaStuart

Estoy entre un 3,5 y un 4. Me ha gustado mucho la relación entre los dos protagonistas: una aristócrata solterona de ¡29 años! y un lord que busca casarse por dinero y que más que un sinvergüenza se comporta como un hijo de p*** el 90% del tiempo. No sé si es algo común en la obra de la autora, pero en los dos libros suyos que he leído, sus protagonistas son bastante cabrones. Me han encantado las interacciones, los maravillosos diálogos y la innegable química entre Christian y su dragona, pero he echado en falta que la trama de suspense fuera más redonda y un final menos precipitado.

Y que alguien me explique cómo se pasa la protagonista días descalza o con un solo zapato y nadie le dice nada. Ehhhh?

Noemí says

#retorita2 #retostuart

Gracias al reto descubro otra nueva autora.

Un libro entretenido, bien escrito y que me ha gustado bastante.

los protagonistas no han estado nada mal pero la que me ha ganado a sido Anne, la verdad que ha sido toda una buscavidas y no he soportado a Hetty me sacaba de quicio Jajajaja

Aunque tengo que reconocer el prota a veces también.

No ha estado nada mal

Sonia says

Ha sido un si pero no... después de ver buenas puntuaciones de otras lectoras del #RetoRita2 #RitaStuart , me he decidido por esta historia, pensando que iría mejor que en los meses previos, pero no me ha parecido ninguna maravilla.

He disfrutado mucho, incluso he sonreído, en algunos momentos, sobre todo en varios dialogos entre Christian y su dragona, per la historia me ha sabido a poco; me han faltado cosas. Justo al final, cuando empiezan a pasar cosas, se arregla todo muy rápido. De repente, ambos están enamorados. Me han faltado conversaciones entre los protagonistas, donde se sinceraran, no sé, algo más de sentimiento...

Y no he visto el vals por ninguna parte ???
