



The Captivating Lady Charlotte

Carolyn Miller

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Her heart is her own--but her hand in marriage is another matter

Lady Charlotte Featherington is destined for great things on the marriage market. After all, as the beautiful daughter of a marquess, she should have her pick of the eligible nobility when she debuts. She, however, has love at the top of her list of marriageable attributes. And her romantic heart falls hard for one particularly dashing, attentive suitor. Sadly for Charlotte, her noble father intends her betrothed to be someone far more dull.

William Hartwell may be a duke, but he knows he was Charlotte's father's pick, not the young lady's own choice. And the captivating Lady Charlotte does not strike him as a woman who will be wooed by his wealth or title. While she has captured his heart, he has no idea how to win hers in return--and the betrayal and scandal his first wife put him through makes it difficult for him to believe that love can ever be trusted. His only hope is that Charlotte's sense of responsibility will win out over her romantic notions.

Can a widowed duke and a romantically inclined lady negotiate a future and discover love beyond duty? Will they be able to find healing and hope from the legacy of grace?

Poignant and charming, this is another beautifully written, clean and wholesome Regency romance from Carolyn Miller in the tradition of Georgette Heyer and Julie Klassen. Fans of *The Elusive Miss Ellison* will meet compelling new characters--and a few old friends.

The Captivating Lady Charlotte Details

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From Reader Review The Captivating Lady Charlotte for online ebook

Kav says

Are you ready for my trademark Regency Romance squeal? Plug your ears -- Sqqqqquuuueeeeeee! I adored Carolyn Miller's debut novel, *The Illusive Miss Ellison*, which I read earlier this year and I'm happy to report she's wowed me again with Book Two in her Regency Brides : a Legacy of Grace series.

If you've read the first book, you'll be thrilled to discover Lavinia and Nicholas play a major role in this one, though *The Captivating Lady Charlotte* reads beautifully as a standalone so no worries if you haven't.

It features Lavinia's cousin, Charlotte -- the captivating lady who catches the eye of a duke. It's drawing rooms and balls and genteel conversation and all the social niceties associated with a young lady's 'coming out'. Including a dragonish mother's determination to find the perfect (aka rich and powerful) match for her marriageable daughter, which provided many laugh-out-loud (in a cringing kind of way) moments.

Honestly -- such a delight to read! The staid Duke; the guileless young miss. He's a little world weary and cynical. She's wide-eyed with wonder -- though I have to admit that Charlotte irked me in the beginning. Her husband hunting seemed so shallow. Like she hadn't thought much further than achieving a proposal. But this is the kind of story that shows growth in the heroine which was a privilege to be privy to. Particularly her spiritual growth as she comes to understand that being a Christian and living as a Christian are two entirely different things.

And then the author throws a bit of Gothic in with suspicious happenings at Hartwell Abbey and the sinister specter of danger threatens the Duke and all he holds dear. (Cue alarming organ music,) Soul-stirring, toe-curling and completely captivating.

Book provided courtesy of Kregel Pulications

Shantelle says

This book was so beautifully written, from the unique romance, to the authentic faith theme. From the painful experiences, to the heartwarming friendships. I think I have found a new favorite author in Carolyn Miller—*The Captivating Lady Charlotte* was definitely a five-star read for me.

Book Two in the REGENCY BRIDES: A LEGACY OF GRACE, this novel brings us to St. James's Palace where the beautiful Lady Charlotte Featherington is officially being brought out into society. From thence forth, there will be many a ball and marriage prospect before her.

Little does she expect an older man to approach her, and her parents to jump on the idea ... because he's a duke.

But scandal and danger surround the Duke of Hartington. Will Charlotte and William learn to love and trust before it's too late?

sigh The regency era ... there's just something so delightful about it. And Carolyn Miller did a lovely job bringing this time period to life. *The Captivating Lady Charlotte* made me think of the newest movie

versions of both "Pride and Prejudice" and "Sense and Sensibility" more than once, and I loved it! So much fun.

But beyond that, this author writes with such depth! Her characters think, are challenged, grow. They take their walk with God seriously. And it is a walk—a real relationship. I especially liked some of William Hartington's prayers and his mention of Proverbs 3:5-6 (some of my favorite verses!).

Charlotte was young and a little flighty in the beginning, but still she desired to do the right thing. And as the book progressed, she grew and matured and walked closer with the Lord. I simply felt the faith theme was so authentic and heart-touching. It really blessed me. ^_^

And the romance. William, the duke of Hartington. Ah, everything about the love story was unusual and beautiful! Charlotte is young (seventeen or eighteen?), just brought out into society, dazzled by the attention and flattery of masses of striking young men.

William is a widower (with scandal surrounding his late wife), ten years Charlotte's senior, and short-ish, more lean of build, and not particularly dashing.

Let me tell you, this was so refreshing. Why do all the men in novels have to be tall and devastatingly handsome, with "distractingly muscled biceps"? Ha! What about the short guys? Who don't have glorious blue eyes? What about their stories and adventures?

Anyway, enough of the rant. It was amazing to watch Charlotte realize that deep faith and strong character are what matter most. Realize that love is not just a feeling—butterflies in the stomach and heart skipping a beat—but something much, much deeper and beautiful.

To watch William's gentle and heartfelt pursuit! Eep! What a man. Though I did get frustrated with him a couple times, his struggles were understandable ... and overall, I just really, really loved his character. He was so unique. Such a gentleman. Such a godly man.

So there was a slowly-unfolding love story of beautiful depth. A few lovely and poignant peeks at the two main character from Book One. Just the normal Regency delightfulness. Lots of faith content. A generous dash of suspense and danger toward the end. Fun. Lessons. Pain. Beauty.

I loved it.

Absolutely can't wait to read *The Elusive Miss Ellison* (book one) and *The Dishonorable Miss DeLancey* (book three). Carolyn Miller, you have a new fan! *smiles*

I received a copy of The Captivating Lady Charlotte from Kregel Publications in exchange for my honest review.

Susan says

Carolyn Miller has definitely earned a spot as one of my favorite authors. Miller's love of the regency period and well-researched historical detail combine into an entertaining story, one that is full of wit, romance and a bit of gothic mystery. However, it is with her gifted writing that delves into the trials and fears of the human spirit that caused this reader to be invested in this story. I found this to be humorous, entertaining but mostly inspiring as Miller's characters struggle to find the meaning of real, everlasting love. Can they learn to trust others as they find their strength in God?

William is a man of faith, honor and integrity. He definitely belongs on the swoon-worthy hero list. Can Charlotte find love that exists beyond the superficial level, one that is unselfish and filled passion? Can she

find love with a man of faith that will cherish her, not use her for his own advancement? While the end result was not a surprise, I cheered Charlotte's journey as she grew from a young lady who at first appears rather shallow, to one of maturing depth, seeking to become selfless, showing grace to others. Fans of Jane Austen and Julie Klassen will love this series.

Carolyn Miller's books will always find a spot at the top of my To-Be-Read pile.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book which I received from the author/publisher. I was not required to write a review. All opinions expressed are my own.

4 likes

Seema Khan says

An honest and heartfelt review in exchange of 'Two' copies of the book! ;p

This review may contain spoilers.

Where do I start? There's so much I have to say, and I'm at a loss for framing it! Nonetheless, I shall try my level best :)

About The Captivating Lady Charlotte:

“Real love perseveres through the hard times, never giving up. True love trusts.”

The Captivating Lady Charlotte is the second book in the Legacy of Grace series by Carolyn Miller. And as bowled over as I was after reading the first one, The Elusive Miss Ellison, I can earnestly say I continue with the sentiment with TCLC.

Lady Charlotte Featherington is the estranged cousin to Lavinia Stamford, Countess Hawkesbury, the protagonist from TEME, and they have only recently been acknowledged and united (towards the last third of TEME). The book follows the adventures and growth of Lady Charlotte and is indeed very interesting and engaging.

If I could summarise what I feel about the book in a word, it would be: Unputdownable! ;p One just can't shut it (and go to sleep!) And one is always curious to know what turn events will take with absolutely no clue as to what to expect.

The Story:

The story play is interesting, as in you understand things from the perspective of not only Charlotte, but also William. What I find really different, and believable, about the story is it is very realistic, with actual human reactions, especially to things which are not to one's liking. There are no excessive or profuse declarations, but expressions that are understandable and imminent. The overall feeling to me was of subtlety, and that makes the book a classy one for me.

With a major part of the story happening at Hartwell Abbey, the story has a gothic appeal to it with the secret passages, tunnels and priest holes. I loved the feel I got with the descriptions of the rose gardens, endearing the location to me.

Once again, the author has managed to keep the reader engaged up to the last page of the book with her distinctive style and story flow. And nothing in the story is unwanted or excessive.

William Hartwell, Duke of Hartington:

The Farmer Duke. Imperfect, yet perfect is how I'd like to describe William. Once bitten, twice shy. Having been scandalized and betrayed by his first wife, he has difficulty trusting women and love. He is flawed, is unable to express his feelings, though he feels deeply. And being reserved by nature doesn't help him either, with verbosity a far trait from his character.

But at the same time he is straightforward, kind, compassionate, forgiving (eventually, yes), faithful and full of Grace. He is generous, loving, caring, loyal, perceptive and selfless. Even after having been made to suffer emotionally, by his family and first wife, mostly for his physical flaws, he holds onto himself with dignity.

William is very intelligent, nature loving, interesting, scientific, innovative, patient and a kind master. He has an exemplary character and a distinctive dry humour. There are a myriad of facets to his personality, which are clearly visible if one overlooks his physical imperfections and tries to understand him closely. But unfortunately, most people are too shallow to go beyond his looks and physical stature.

My heart goes out for him so many times through the course of the book, as he is trying to please Charlotte and I was annoyed many a times with her, on being unable to truly see him and failing to recognise his efforts.

The author has sketched such a believable character in William, it definitely needs praise, as it is very easy to depict a spotless character, but very difficult to bring out the flaws in pen and yet make them lovable.

Lady Charlotte Featherington:

Charlotte is beautiful, and has great expectations from her future and her marriage. She is destined for great things, but her romantic heart has listed love a top priority as an essential attribute in her future husband.

Charlotte, unlike her cousin Lavinia, is fairly naïve. She is very young, and over protected and basically unaware of people's duplicity and deviousness. But she is not a fool. She may be swayed by first impressions, but is also a thinker. Initially, she is not a fair judge of character, and suffers from infatuation, but eventually there is a growth in her that brings out maturity and proper judgement. The initial flaw is majorly due to the fact of being over protected and considered too young to be acquainted with life's realities and has not been given the space for growth and expression.

These aren't the only facets to her. She is compassionate, obedient, respectful and kind. She is accommodating. Like any young girl, she enjoys the fun surrounding her and is apparently frivolous, but with proper influence, she also grows to recognise her Faith. Like William, she too has a dry humour.

She has formed distinct opinions about her requirements from her husband, chiefly being influenced by Lavinia and Nicholas. She also suffers from certain pangs of jealousies with comparisons, and wishes for a similar marriage and relationship. She is so influenced by the fact of Nicholas's being a handsome and loving husband that she makes it a standard and expects the same in her life, and overlooks the character underneath the skin. And that is majorly why she is not chiefly interested in William initially and is unimpressed by him and finds him dull and boring. But on closer observations, she understands that no one leads a perfect life and have their sets of problems to deal with. Also, she grows to recognise the exceptional character that William is blessed with, how interesting he is as a person and values him for all his worth and understands and acknowledges that she would never find his equal.

William and Charlotte:

“Charity ... beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

Their thinking is very relatable. Both are flawed. Both have trust issues. Each has it's own doubts and reservations, but where William is quick in realising his heart, Charlotte takes a long way to come and meet him at the same point.

Then, there is always this juggling in the feelings of both, with trust, distrust, doubts, affection, love, Hope and Faith playing an acceding-receding game. While Charlotte wants profuse declarations, William is the passive loving kind who feels deeply but is unable to express. But thankfully, his deeds do the speaking. His love and feelings are apparent in the way he treats Charlotte. And thankfully again, Charlotte recognises it.

The story is not just about Charlotte understanding and following her Faith, but is also a test of the endurance of the Faith, for her and William as well.

Together, I find them to be perfect for each other. Her vivacity balancing his cool, reserved ways, her youth giving him a buoyant feel, while his staid ways bringing her stability and maturity. They complement each other exceptionally.

The Ensemble Cast:

As the blurb mentions, we meet old friends here. More about them under a separate heading :)

Amongst the other characters, a major role is played by Lady Exeter, Charlotte's mother. Overbearing, manipulative, managing, interfering, a stickler to suit her own purposes, verbose and indiscreet in many instances, she reminded me of Mrs. Bennett from *Pride and Prejudice*. Once again putting us in mind of some similarities the author bears in her style of characterisation and writing with the exceptional Jane Austen.

While Lord Exeter is reserved, he still cares for how Charlotte feels and Henry is a loving brother, and is kind to her. Lord Markham is devious and uses his charm and looks to entrap Charlotte. Lord and Lady Ware are fine people trying to play their part by William. The staff at Hartwell Abbey also have some involvement in the story. Overall, there is not a crush of characters, and the concentration is on the storyline.

Elements from The Elusive Miss Ellison:

I loved this part of the book as well. We have Lavinia and Nicholas playing major parts in this book, and yet they do not overshadow Charlotte and William. We understand what is currently happening in their lives and how they are handling the ups and downs. So, for all the readers who, like me, were inquisitive about Lavinia and Nicholas's future, you will get not just a glimpse but a chunk of a view from their lives. It was interesting and satisfying, yet not overboard.

To summarise:

A DEFINITE RECOMMENDATION FOR ALL ROMANCE READERS AND SPECIALLY FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR A POIGNANT TALE OF TRUE LOVE, HOPE, TRUST AND FAITH, NOT IMPUNGED BY TRIVIALTIES AND SHALLOVNESS.

I look forward in all earnestness and enthusiasm for *The Dishonourable Miss Delancy* releasing in October.

About the author:

Carolyn Miller lives in the beautiful Southern Highlands of New South Wales, Australia. She is married,

with four gorgeous children, who all love to read (and write!).

A longtime lover of Regency romance, Carolyn's novels have won a number of Romance Writers of American (RWA) and American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) contests. She is a member of American Christian Fiction Writers and Australasian Christian Writers. Her favourite authors are classics like Jane Austen (of course!), Georgette Heyer, and Agatha Christie, but she also enjoys contemporary authors like Susan May Warren and Becky Wade.

Her stories are fun and witty, yet also deal with real issues, such as dealing with forgiveness, the nature of really loving versus 'true love', and other challenges we all face at different times.

Her books include:

Regency Brides: A Legacy of Grace
The Elusive Miss Ellison
The Captivating Lady Charlotte
The Dishonorable Miss DeLancey

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

Lady Charlotte is a gently bred woman in the Regency Period. She has grown up with expectations on what her life should be. As she has her presentation to the Queen and is accepted for her Season, her hopes for love in a marriage are dashed when she realizes that her parents will not approve of the men who are turning her head.

Charlotte grows up a lot in this book. She starts as a silly girl and becomes a woman of grace and compassion. She grew on me as the book progressed. She has to learn what love really looks like, what she wants in her life, and how to serve others.

The Duke is a complex man. He lived a lie with his late wife and is still hurting from deceit. For some reason he is drawn to Charlotte from the moment he met her, but he is not wanting to put his heart in the hand of another and be hurt again.

This book was a interesting. Carolyn Miller's tale takes us into ballrooms, drawing rooms, London, and the countryside. The book's romance is not sudden, but it is built upon and nurtured. There is also a mystery on the side that adds intrigue.

This book contains some kissing and a little violence. It is also a Christian Regency Romance

Fiction Aficionado says

Lovers of Regency romance, look no further. This is one of the most satisfying Regencies I have read in a long time, partly because the style of writing harkens to that of Austen and Heyer, but mostly because of

everything this story holds: I love that it gives the ‘arranged marriage’ trope a thoughtful treatment that I haven’t come across before; I love the way Lady Charlotte matures over the course of the story; and I love that it was full of wonderful period detail, such as Charlotte’s presentation at Court, a visit to Vauxhall Gardens, and the general experiences of both Town and country life.

Like most eighteen-year-olds, Lady Charlotte chafes under that sense of being an adult, yet not quite an adult. She’s been presented at Court and now has some freedom to move about in society, but her mother dictates where she may or may not go, and whom she will associate with and speak to. She comes across as a little petulant and self-absorbed at the beginning of the story, but it is to her credit that she allows her cousin Lavinia’s (The Elusive Miss Ellison) gentle reproofs to take root as she considers the truth that while she may not have as much control over her circumstances as she wishes, she does control how she responds to those circumstances. And thus begins the maturation of the captivating Lady Charlotte.

It was lovely to see Lavinia and Nicholas feature so prominently in this story, and especially to see the way in which Lavinia’s Godly example paved the way for Charlotte to think more deeply about what true love is: that it is more than feelings and emotions; that it is patient, always seeking the good of the other person; that it is steadfast in all things; and that it can be cultivated. Charlotte definitely blossoms through this friendship, as does her relationship with William, hesitant though it may be.

And William...there’s something about the quite ones that always squeezes my heart. They’re harder to pull off in fiction, but Carolyn Miller manages to capture the nuances that bring warmth and vitality to William’s character, despite his less gregarious nature. Sometimes it truly is slow and steady that wins the race!

If you love Regency romance, don’t pass this one up!

I received a copy of this novel from the author. This has not influenced the content of my review, which is my honest and unbiased opinion.

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

The Captivating Lady Charlotte is another delightful Regency romance from Aussie author Carolyn Miller. The tone is different than in the first book of the Regency Brides series – The Elusive Miss Ellison – but I love them both! In Miss Ellison, Lavinia and Nicholas and their delicious banter reminded me of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy while Lady Charlotte’s hero and heroine made me think of Marianne Dashwood and Colonel Brandon.

Perhaps my favorite thing about Miller’s new book is its approach to love and romance. It’s a story of true love – the kind that endures, trusts, and hopes. The kind of love formed not from fairy tales but from trials and obstacles. The kind of love that requires dying to self and putting someone else and their needs first. Along those lines, it’s also a story which sees refreshing character growth. At the beginning of the story, Charlotte is rather shallow and self-centered, her young age in stark contrast to William’s maturity (yet he’s still younger than me, so let’s not ship him off to Shady Acres quite yet.) She has an ‘others-focused’ side just waiting to be set free and as the story progresses, so does Charlotte – and William too for that matter.

I also loved revisiting Lavinia and Nicholas who, while not the stars of this particular show, still play a prominent role. Seeing them married and doing life together made my romantical heart smile. Of course, Nicholas’ momma as well as Charlotte’s both still need a good reticule whomping, but every good Regency

romance needs a character or two like that to liven things up a bit!

Bottom Line: If you're a fan of Julie Klassen, Julianne Donaldson, Kristi Ann Hunter and/or Sarah Ladd, you need to make sure this series is on your TBR list! The Captivating Lady Charlotte is poignant and gentle while at the same time boldly showing faith lived out and love lived in. I'm so looking forward to the next book, where we finally get to see more of Clara's story!!

(I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book)

first seen at Reading Is My SuperPower

Rebekah Rodda says

A clean Regency read

3.5

This novel has much to say about real love verses the feeling of being in love. I liked the Duke more than Charlotte who seemed to require a lot in a husband for a young girl. This is well-written but I didn't strongly engage with either the characters or the plot.

Rachael says

This read truly was captivating. There were several elements that made this a great one and different from other reads.

First, this book delves deeper into real love. It isn't just the blushing, butterflies, and emotional feelings. It is an action word and a choice as well. I love that about this read. "She's wrong I know that love is more than just a feeling, more than just emotion....Real love perseveres through the hard times, never giving up. True love trusts." Oh, how I loved reading words like this. The words more people need to understand.

This book doesn't treat life as a fairy tale either. Difficulties come, and faith is needed. Bringing the lesson that no matter the circumstances, God IS good, we just must trust He knows best.

I loved that characters from the previous novel continue in this one. It's like meeting old friends. Charlotte is easy to be drawn to as she starts her season young and naive, but she learns and grows through the book!

I loved the characters, plot, and the beautiful faith theme. I guess I thought the ending a bit rushed. However, I think perhaps I was just sad to see it end. It was an enjoyable read, and I stayed up past midnight to finish.

"Did God promise a life of roses? Or was faith more about remembering His presence and strength in the midst of suffering."

I received this book from the publisher. All opinions are my own.

Lucinda says

3 1/2.

This one was reminiscent of Persuasion and William made a great Colonel Brandon. I didn't like Charlotte as much. For all her protests about not being too young, she did act a bit too fickle at times. Well written story that kept me reading.

Susan Snodgrass says

When Carolyn Miller's first novel, *The Elusive Miss Ellison*, debuted, I knew right then I wanted to follow her. She has burst upon the scene and written an impeccable Regency novel! Perfect in every way. Now, with her sophomore offering, *The Captivating Lady Charlotte*, my opinion has only been further cemented. Miller can do Regency and do it well.

Her dialogue is witty, her plot and scenes compelling. Miller will absolutely delight Regency fans. Her two novels thus far will draw the reader in at once and hold on until the end. The book is just beautifully written and totally enjoyable. And Miller's spiritual theme is awesome, too: God's forgiveness, grace and mercy and indeed, His healing of emotions runs throughout. I loved how she has portrayed the praising of God to overcome burdens. I am now looking forward to her next novel.

*I was given a preview copy of this book by Kregel Publications and my opinion is my own and honest.

Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says

About this book:

“Her heart is her own--but her hand in marriage is another matter

Lady Charlotte Featherington is destined for great things on the marriage market. After all, as the beautiful daughter of a marquess, she should have her pick of the eligible nobility when she debuts. She, however, has love at the top of her list of marriageable attributes. And her romantic heart falls hard for one particularly dashing, attentive suitor. Sadly for Charlotte, her noble father intends her betrothed to be someone far more dull.

William Hartwell may be a duke, but he knows he was Charlotte's father's pick, not the young lady's own choice. And the captivating Lady Charlotte does not strike him as a woman who will be wooed by his wealth or title. While she has captured his heart, he has no idea how to win hers in return--and the betrayal and scandal his first wife put him through makes it difficult for him to believe that love can ever be trusted. His only hope is that Charlotte's sense of responsibility will win out over her romantic notions.

Can a widowed duke and a romantically inclined lady negotiate a future and discover love beyond duty? Will they be able to find healing and hope from the legacy of grace?”

Series: Book #2 in the “*Regency Brides: A Legacy of Grace*” series. Review of the Book #1 [Here!](#)

Spiritual Content- Scriptures are mentioned, remembered, thought over, & talked about; Bible reading; Many prayers; Being witnessed to & discussions; Talks about God, trusting Him, Christians, & Jesus' teachings; 'H's are capital when referring to God; William doesn't feel God's presences recently; Many mentions of God & trusting Him; Many mentions of prayers & praying; Many mentions of thanking God; Mentions of praying out loud; Mentions of Bibles & Bible reading; Mentions of those & events in the Bible; Mentions of churches, services, worship, hymns, & ministers; Mentions of strong faiths; Mentions of faiths & Christians; Mentions of miracles; Mentions of being blessed & blessings; Mentions of sins; A few mentions of monks & monasteries; A couple mentions of a godsend;

*Note: The phrase "Good God!" and other forms are exclaimed many times; Mentions of curses & someone being cursed; Mentions of ghosts; Mentions of evil; A few mentions of bad luck; A mention of the last three days being hell; A mention of dueling with Satan; A mention of demons.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a form of 'biddy', a 'shut up', and ten forms of 'stupid'; Mentions of curses (said, not written); Sarcasm & Eye rolling; Shooting, being shot, & blood/bleeding (up to semi-detailed); A kidnapping, pain, blood/bleeding (semi-detailed); Pain, being poisoned, & passing out (up to semi-detailed); Rocks being thrown at someone & being in danger (up to semi-detailed); A fire (up to semi-detailed); A duel (up to semi-detailed); A bit of drinking; Many mentions of gossip & rumors; Mentions of deaths; Mentions of killing; Mentions of being hanged; Mentions of a duel & shooting someone; Mentions of an injured person, blood/bleeding, & how it happened (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of an attack, crimes, & injuries; Mentions of a war & fighting; Mentions of gunshots; Mentions of assailants/troublemakers & threats; Mentions of hitting & wanting to hit someone; Mentions of a fire & how it started; Mentions of being in danger; Mentions of inhumane treatments at an asylum (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of injuries; Mentions of poisons; Mentions of gambling & bets; Mentions of alcohol, drinking, & drunks; Mentions of poachers, thieves, & stealing; Mentions of lies & lying; Mentions of nightmares; A few mentions of an accident & deaths; A few mentions of throwing up; A couple mentions of jealousy; A couple mentions of divorces.

Sexual Content- a palm kiss, a cheek kiss, two almost kisses, a barely-above-not-detailed kiss, a semi-detailed kiss, a forced semi-detailed kiss, and a detailed kiss; Remembering kisses (up to semi-detailed); Touches, Embraces, & Heat (up to semi-detailed); Nearness & Smelling (up to semi-detailed); Noticing (up to semi-detailed); Blushes; a 'harlot', a 'strumpet', and a 'whore'; A man is obsessed with Charlotte & forces kisses and touches onto her (up to semi-detailed); Many mentions of affairs, lovers, infidelity, & a child conceived from an affair (William's wife); Mentions of a man leaving the bedroom of a married woman not fully dressed; Mentions of men and women enjoying the "company" of many of the opposite gender; Mentions of desires; Mentions of touches (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of kisses, kissing, almost kissing, & wanting to kiss; Mentions of seeing couples kissing; Mentions of noticing; Mentions of scandals, reputations, & couples alone together; Mentions of flirting & flirts; Mentions of jealousy; A few mentions/hints of a husband showing his wife his love for a desperate attempt for an heir; A few mentions of hand kisses; Love, falling in love & the emotions;

*Note: Seeing a woman die during childbirth & blood (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of a woman dying in childbirth, blood/bleeding, & her screams (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of a miscarriage & the aftermath; Mentions of the possibility of a pregnant wife & her baby's lives in danger; A few mentions of dresses suiting a woman's curves (and it being noticed by a man); A mention of a wife not needing her husband's love or his seed; A mention of William desiring a woman's curves; A mention of a woman's form.

-Charlotte Featherington, age 18

-William Hartwell

308 pages

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My personal Rating- Two Stars

There was a lot of faith content that I enjoyed seeing and the message of trusting God is why I'd like to give a bit of a higher rating, but unfortunately, I don't feel like I can.

<https://booksforchristiangirls.blogspot...>

\*I received this book for free from the Publisher (Kregel) for this honest review.

### Beth Erin says

Full series review on Faithfully Bookish

Charlotte Featherington is an eager debutante whose beauty and family situation gives her access to any of the season's eligible bachelors her heart desires. William Hartwell is a man of faith who has been sorely tested in the marriage department.

This story is full to the brim with conflict and trials but also the peace of faith in those storms. While this second installment in the series flowed seamlessly from the first, the author provides adequate backstory for those who wish to enjoy this story on its own.

## **Leona says**

I'm surprised at all the 4 and 5 star reviews. The story was intriguing and well written, but it lacked in character development. Outside of Lavinia and her husband (book 1) everyone else was unlikable from start to finish.

The heroine was a twit easily manipulated by every dandy in London. She fell in/out of love as many times as most people change socks. The hero was not much better. I found him to be a pompous, self righteous, vindictive, and judgmental man. I thought it interesting that one moment they would quote scripture and pray for the lord's help, yet the very next moment their actions would be mean spirited and selfish. The ending was also rushed and not very credible.

Definitely not one of my favorites. Redeeming Love and Love Unexpected continue to remain favorites of mine.

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## **Diane Estrella says**

Why do I say this is a must-read for teenage girls?

Because the heroine was young, looking to her future, trying to make decisions that will impact her life, and deciding which way to go. She is being pulled in many directions by many people, including her family and friends, those that may want the best for her or not... and ultimately her own heart. She will have to weigh the immediate gratifications and longings to the long-term ramifications of her choices. She must decide what true love looks and feels like as compared to momentary lust or infatuations...

I appreciated the chance the author took in making the male main character not the 6 foot 5 inch, Adonis that every other story typically uses.

He is shorter, and not physical perfection to look upon. But, upon closer inspection, he is everything that is needed for long-term happiness and success in marriage.

I think the author made this book very realistic to the time period involved with the high's and low's that truly would have occurred. There was no sugar coating in this book, and honestly I thought there may not be a happily ever after for everyone involved. A "sure thing" in most books of this genre. The author took a big chance on this one and I think it was a total success. Congrats!

I received this book from the publisher but was not required to leave a review. All opinions expressed here are my own.

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