



## Love Letters From a Duke

*Elizabeth Boyle*

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## **Love Letters From a Duke** Elizabeth Boyle

Though she can't afford the coal to heat her drafty Mayfair mansion, Felicity Langley still clings to her dream of marrying a duke—one she's had since her very first curtsy. After all, she's been all but promised to the very proper and very lofty Duke of Hollindrake for the last four years. Now all she has to do is meet him. But what Felicity doesn't realize is that she has already met her duke—he's the rather unfashionable yet altogether too-handsome man who has just turned up at her doorstep. And Felicity has just mistaken him...for her new footman!

By rights, Thatcher should immediately set this presumptuous chit straight and tell her he has no intention of following through with a betrothal his grandfather—the previous duke—arranged. But he's quickly smitten by Felicity's delightful determination, her irrepressible charm...and her breathtaking beauty. Yes, she'd wed him in an instant were his true identity revealed—but Thatcher's vowed to marry only for love. So begins his deception and his conquest of this uncommon woman who doesn't believe in romance, but is about to find her heart and passions set aflame by the unlikely servant she's sworn to resist.

## **Love Letters From a Duke Details**

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## Miss Rail says

**Thatcher**, a rake turned into an hero during the war, finds himself a duke even if, originally, 3rd in line for the title.

### **He does not want to be the Duke of Hollindrake.**

He'd rather be Captain Thatcher, a name he used to buy a commission and escape his grandfather's control.

He learns that **his grandfather** wasn't the despot he thought he was and, in the end, he **only wanted the best for him**.

When a cheeky young girl sends him a letter asking for his rascal nephew's hand in marriage, he sees a possibility to give him the happiness he never had.

"This Miss Langley is proposing that Lord Stan-don consider her hand in marriage." Gibbens then closed his eyes and braced himself for the pending explosion.

None came. And after an indecent amount of silence, he peeked out through his lashes and discovered the old duke engrossed in reading the letter for himself. Then the second noteworthy event occurred that day.

The duke laughed.

"Some cheek!" he said, once he gathered his wits about him. "She has the audacity to inquire about the state of my health. Probably be demmed disappointed to find me fit and hardy, I wager." He set the letter down on his desk and laughed again.

"Yes, Your Grace," his secretary agreed. "Quite presumptuous."

"Exactly!" the duke declared. "Which is why we are going to answer it."

"Answer it, Your Grace?" A sense of foreboding ran down the secretary's spine.

"Of course! Why, I suspect any chit with this much brass would make a most excellent duchess. And further, I'd wager she'd bring that rascalion grandson of mine to heel."

20 years old **Miss Felicity Langley aka "Duchess"** has a very clear plan for her future and she's determined to make it a reality.

"But a duke? Why wouldn't a nicely landed marquess or a long-lined earl do?"

She shook her head. "You don't understand—a duke is so much more than any of them. A duke is heroic, and noble, a knight errant, if you will. The kind of man who is handsome and carries himself with a self-assurance that commands the respect of one and all. And above all, he is a proper English gentleman who expects a proper English lady for his bride." She shook the snow off her cloak. "Really, what else is there left for me to do but become a duchess?"

"I haven't the faintest idea," he mused, for really all he'd done to become the duke was be the next available Sterling, and he certainly possessed none of the characteristics she'd listed.

She huffed a sigh and glanced over at the passing throng of visitors on the ice. "I think what I will like the most is the respect that comes with being a duchess. I won't have to endure Sarah

Browne's slights ever again. She won't dare."

**She's focused, she's confident, she's smart** and she's been gathering all the knowledge necessary to reach her goal in the "Bachelors Chronicles".

**The diary is Duchess' personal masterpiece** that will help her **find her perfect Duke** while helping friends and family looking for their own perfect match.

Problem is her Duke of choice has vanished and a handsome new footman is in town...

I met "Duchess", Tally and Pippin, in "This Rake of Mine" where they were 3 very young girls trying their hands at matchmaking for the first time. They are quite the trio! ?

**I truly enjoyed the book from beginning to HFN ending** but I wished the 4 years of correspondence and the grandson/grandfather relationship were handled a bit differently.

I also wished that all the things Jack Tremont tells Thatcher about **his grandfather's true intentions** were explored a bit more.

Even at the end, the "revelation" (to the hero) that the heroine was talking 4 years to the hero's grandfather is kind of glossed over.

That's why this book wasn't a perfect 5 stars for me but it's close enough?

**This is a light, humorous and engaging read.**

I enjoyed the **implausible misunderstanding** between Felicity and Thatcher when he visits her to end the engagement...

Aunt Geneva sighed. "Still, I suppose she was quite undone by her loss."

Thatcher glanced up from the laden plate that had just been put before him. "Hardly. When I left her, I do believe she was quite elated. She offered me a fine salary for my troubles."

She paused, her teacup halfway to her lips. "A salary? To be her husband?"

"No. To be her new footman." He paused and waited and then it came.

Geneva coughed and sputtered, nearly dropping the Wedgwood piece. "Her what?"

"You heard me perfectly," he replied. "I am Miss Lang-ley's new footman."

...and how **Felicity respects him for the man he is instead of the footman position she believes he occupies.**

"Hollindrake once wrote to me that the men who fight for a cause, a noble one, have more honor than any mere gentleman. That you have seen things, done things, that can rend apart even the stoutest of hearts. And since you are here, and appear to be whole, I must conclude you are a brave and honorable man, and therefore hardly my lesser, even if you are our footman."

**Felicity's train of thoughts and out loud reasoning is always hilarious...**

“And this house? However could you afford such an address—even if it is empty?”

She winced. “Do you really want to know?”

“Yes, of course,” he said. In for a penny, out for a pound. But in truth he was more focused on getting this last nail to pop free, and even as he pressed all his weight against the bar, she made her confession.

**“We aren’t really renting it, more like borrowing it without permission.”**

The nail gave way with a great pop and the lid came flipping off. The bar flew next, and Thatcher went pitching head first onto the floor.

“You should be more careful,” Felicity told him, pointing at the floor. “I don’t want that marble chipped. Looks Italian.”

Thatcher propped himself up. How the devil did one borrow a house without the owner’s consent, unless they were . . . **“You’re squatting in someone else’s house and you are worried about the floors?”**

**“Squatting? What an ugly word. Borrowing sounds somuch more . . .”**

**“Proper?” he teased.**

She brightened considerably. “Exactly.”

... Yep, **she's always everything figured out in her mind...**

Sussex, I will have you know, is a veritable desert.”

“But whatever possessed you to think you could attempt all this? Did you ever once consider what would happen if you were caught?”

Felicity glanced up at him as if he had just questioned the color of the sky or the King’s paternity. **“When in doubt, a lady always appears to be completely in the right,”** she said with her usual air of supreme confidence.

“What?”

“When in doubt—”

He shook his head. “No, I know what you said, but whenever did you hear such nonsense?”

“Nanny Tasha.”

He was starting to wonder if an ounce of morality could be found amongst all these nannies of theirs. “I doubt she meant for you to steal a house.”

**“Stealing? I prefer to think of our residency as maintaining the house’s character. Why, it would be going to damp if we weren’t here keeping it warm.”**

The **secondary characters** are all fun and great additions to the story, awesome to see a bit of “Mad Jack” from “this Rake of mine” and other characters from previous book.

**The romance and plot are completely implausible but totally charming.**

I LOVED EVERY SECOND^\_^

“Whatever am I to do with you now?”

She shook a finger at him. "You'll marry me. Right now. Here. Tonight. I'll not be ruined anymore. I want to be a proper wife."

He laughed. "Felicity, you will never be a proper wife."

"But I'll be your wife. Dear Thad-her, I want to be your wife. I love you. I really do. I realized it today. When I told Tally and Pippin that I loved you, I knew it must be true. And **I wouldn't trade you for all the ducal coronets in the world. Not a single one.**"

"You love me?" he asked. He couldn't quite believe it. Yet here she was. And she'd come to him of her own free will. By following her passion.

"With all my heart," she told him, her lips forming a lop-sided smile.

"And this isn't the wine talking, but you?" he asked, kneeling down before her.

"No. I was quite definite on that fact before I drank too much." She paused and blinked, looking around the room as if seeing it for the first time. "Am I drunk?"

### ? 4.5 Stars rounded up?

~ My Ratings ~

**Writing:** 4 /5

**Plot:** 4 /5

**Hero:** 4.5 /5

**Heroine:** 4.5 /5

**Secondary Characters:** 5 /5

**MC's chemistry:** 4 /5

**Steam:** 3 /5

**Triggers:** Hero doesn't clear up a misunderstanding letting the heroine believe he's someone else. No major triggers, explicit sex.

**Recommended to:** Historical Romance Readers!

**Are you looking for a specific mix of ingredients for your next read?**

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### Sophie ♥ says

This was a cute little regency romance about a poor heroine who mistakes the Duke of Hollindrake for the new footman she is planning to hire. I found I liked this light, frivolous read - Elizabeth Boyle uses humour well and crafts a fairly original (albeit slightly comical) plot.

If you like Julia Quinn, Elizabeth Hoyt or Laura Lee Guhrke (I'm thinking And Then He Kissed Her) then it is quite likely you will enjoy this one. I wouldn't rush to read this though - maybe leave it for a slow reading period.

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## Netha says

cerita yg sangat menyegarkan.....

bercerita ttg Miss Felicity Langley, putri sulung late Earl of Langley, yg sejak bbrp tahun yg lalu bersurat2an dengan Duke of Hollingsworth. masalahnya felicity mengira dia bersurat2an dengan Aubrey, cucu sang duke, tp ternyata malah si kakek sedang si cucu masih di medan perang.

bertahun2 berlalu si kakek sudah meninggal, aubrey sudah kembali untuk mengambil alih tugasnya sbg seorang duke & tau ttg scheme yg dibuat sang kakek.

duke muda tidak setuju dengan perjodohan tersebut & ingin membatalkannya. tanpa buang waktu sang duke menemui felicity. tp waktu menemui dandannnya masih acak2an & tidak mencerminkan seorang duke. kebetulan felicity & adik serta sepupunya lady pippa sedang menunggu footman baru mereka yg dikirim agency. ketika duke datang eh felicity ngira itu footman baru mereka.

semua ucapan duke tidak digubris felicity.

yaahhhh pasrah sang duke jadi thatcher, footman baru dikediaman langley.

ngomong2 itu bukan kediaman langley tp hasil "pinjam" felicity. wakakakakakaka nekat bener rumah orang ditempati tanpa ijin.

yah apa boleh buat habis pengacara sang ayah yg mengurus warisan mereka pelitnya ga kira2. dia menekan banget pengeluaran felicity hingga membuat felicity harus mencari cara sendiri untuk hidup.

tp felicity juga udah bagus2 hidup di sussex, dirumah pippa dia ngotot ke london karna dengar kabar duke of hollingsworth muda sudah kembali ke london.

thatcher sudah berulang kali diingatkan bahkan oleh jack & temple (2 orang sahabat felicity yg sangat mengenal & menyayangi felicity juga sahabat thatcher) jangan mempermainkan felicity jika felicity sampai tau thatcher akan jadi korban tembakan felicity secara felicity jago tembak.

thatcher tadinya mengira felicity spt gadis2 lainnya yg mengejar harta & title.

tp lama2 bergaul dengan keluarga langley membuat thatcher lebih mengenal pribadi felicity.

tadinya thatcher curiga kenapa semua memanggil felicity "duchess" tp ternyata itu adl panggilan yg diberikan Lord Templeton sejak dulu.

sekali2nya thatcher memutuskan felicity akan menjadi duchess nya eh dia merayu felicity di orangery kediaman keluarga temple. weleh ini cowoq2 kenapa selalu gerak cepat amat ya???

lha lucunya nih baru asik2nya bercumbu rayu tiba2 diruang dansa ada keramaian lady pippa disandera captain dashwell, the handsome pirate.

tanpa buang waktu felicity ngabur ke ruang dansa tanpa mikir dia kelupaan aksesoris2 gaunnya & nembak dashwell.

thatcher bengong buset nih ceweq bener2 jago tembak.

saat yg lainnya takut nembak dashwell bakal kena pippa eh felicity nembak tepat tanpa mencederai pippa gitu aja felicity ngomel bilang tembakannya tidak tepat... hah????!!!!!!

ngikik2 deh waktu lord temple mengembalikan wig, wings & stocking felicity ke kediaman duke hellingworth, wakakakakakaka.....

untung jack ga beneran mengajak thatcher duel, yahhh daripada felicity belum2 udah jadi janda??

ngomong2 soal felicity jd janda si thatcher dengan wujudnya sbg seorang footman melamar felicity (dia kebingungan kudu buka samarannya bagaimana jadi dia berinisiatif menikahi felicity dulu baru membuka

samarannya).

oh ya mereka menikah. felicity rela melepas impiannya mjd duchess & menikahi orang biasa demi cinta (menikah dalam keadaan mabuk tuh si felicity :p).

merasa harus bertanggung jwb pada duke hellworth felicity berniat menemui & meminta maaf eh ternyata yg ditemui adl suami yg baru saja dinikahnya. ups.....

ngambeklah felicity & lari ke pelukan sahabat2nya tersayang meninggalkan thatcher yg udah jatuh tertimpa tangga pula gara2 dimarahi ibundanya.

mana si ibunda udah tau anaknya kebingungan nyari sang istri diam2 aja kalo sebenarnya si ibu tau dimana felicity bersembunyi.....

tau darimana lady charles??? siapa lagi kalo bukan 2 adik2 felicity yg gemar ikut campur & mak comblang. yahhh gabeda dengan felicity sih yg mak comblang kelas berat.

berkat felicity & ke 2 adiknya mereka mempersatukan templeton & jack dengan istri2 tercinta mereka.

yahhh sekarang giliran felicity yg dibantuin khan^^

novel ini sangat menyegarkan & menarik.

ada2 aja tingkah felicity dengan akal2nya juga thatcher yg katanya footman tp berani amat menggoda mistress nya.

belum lagi si bibi yg ternyata "bertangan cepat"

suasana belum lengkap dengan nanny jemima yg mantan duchess juga mantan princess.

suasana yg benar2 meriah

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## **nurmawati says**

kali ini ripiu nya pendek ya hehehe...

inti cerita nya ttg felicity langley yang sering di panggil "duchess"...felicity dari kecil memang sering berlatih supaya kelak jadi duchess beneran...\*hmpfh\*

felicity ini ngirim surat perkenalan ke duke of hollindrake..isinya ngasih tau kelebihan2 dia kalo dia sangat cocok menempati posisi sebagai duchess of hollindrake walau dia miskin dan gak punya dowry..

duke hollindrake tertarik baca surat felicity..dan bisa liat kalo felicity ini gadis yang cerdas...akhirnya mereka beberapa tahun surat2 an dan felicity di janjiin sebagai tunangan si duke..

tapi sayangnyaaaa....selama ini yang surat2 an ama felicity itu old duke of hollindrake yang udah tuwir...si duke bermaksud menjodohkan felicity ke cucu nya yang kelak dapetin gelar nya dan lagi pergi berperang...kapten tatcher...

sooooo pas old duke meninggal, tatcher di suruh pulang....kaget deh dia dibilangin dia udah tunangan ama felicity....

so tatcher saat itu juga dengan pakaian yang dekil karena baru pulang itu ke rumah felicity buat menjelaskan dan membatalkan pertunangan...

tapi felicity salah kitra kalo tatcher itu new footman yang dia mau sewa....

tatcher nya mau jelasin tapi kepotong mulu sama felicity yang bawel hihhi...akhirnya jadilah si tatcher

footman nya keluarga langley yang terdiri dari felicity, ade kembarnya felicity, si tally (yang dulu udah gw rioiu di bukunya 'confession of a little black dress' ), philippa aka pippin (sepupunya) dan seorang nenek2



mantan pencuri yang udah ditolong dan dianggap keluarga sama felicity and sisters...  
tatcher juga mau liat seperti apa si felicity yang di janjiin bakal dinikahin sama dia..kok bisa kakeknya yang keras kepala bisa ngasih dia tunangan yang gak punya dowry dan bukan dari bangsawan terkenal...

lama2 tatcher dan felicity langsung tertarik walo mereka sering berantem juga....  
akhirnya tatcher beneran suka felicity tapi dia mau menikahi felicity kalo felicity juga cinta sama dia dan bukan karena gelar duke of hollindrake nya...

felicity awalnya keras kepala, dia menolak lamaran tatcher walo dia sebenarnya cinta sama tatcher....  
felicity gak mau menghinatai dule hollindrake yang dianggap tunangannya....  
lalu felicity juga harus menikahi seorang duke karena dia bertanggung jawab hidup saudara nya dan sepupunya..

tatcher pun mau ngaku kalo dia hollindrake gak berani...kalo felicity tau dia berbohong selama ini as  
footman nya pasti felicity ngamuk...  
felicity ini jago pake pistol...ada yang memperingati tatcher kalo berani boong ama felicity bakal di tembak  
'itu' nya hahahaha....

akhirnya....felicity dengan di bantu tally dan pippin menyadari perasaannya ke tatcher dan dia udah memilih  
tatcher...rela menikah dengan kapten yang di kira miskin dan hidup susah...

pas mau ketemu di tempat yang di janjiin tatcher....tatcher kira felicity gak mau nerima dia, tatcher balik buat  
mencari felicity dan bilang kalo dia duke (tatcher tetep mau ama felicity karena dia udah cinta mati)),tatcher  
pikir biarin deh felicity merit sama dia demi gwlar duchess....  
sedangkan felicity ternyata pergi ke penginapan mencari tatcher...  
ditunggu2 tatcher gak datang, felicity minum2 sampe mabuk...  
tatcher yang menyusul felicity nemuin felicity yang mabuk dan mo muntah2....  
tatcher ngerawat felicity...abis gitu felicity nya di boboin di ranjang, di seluputi (di buka dulu baju nya :p)  
trus tatcher nya bobo di kursi....

pas felicity setengah sadar dia liat tatcher dan maksa agar mereka nikah saat itu juga..akhirnya tatcher  
manggil pendeta entah apa biar nikahin mereka....  
abis gitu mereka uhuk2 dengan seru nya hihhih....

besoknya felicity bilang ke tatcher kalo dia sendiri yang harus membatalkan pertunangan ke duke  
hollindrake....dan bilang kalo dia udah menikah...  
tatcher setuju...soalnya dia mau kasih tau felicity kalo tatcher lah sebetulnya duke hollindrake...

sooo...bagaimana reaksi felicity pas tau tatcher membohongi nya ? tentu nya felicity kabuuuur :p  
tatcher bingung nyari nya gak nemu2...stress deh...  
sampe akhirnya ibu tatcher turun tangan.....  
dia bekerja sama dengan tally, pippin , temen keluarga mereka diana dan siapa tuh satu lagi bikin supaya  
felicity mau maafin tatcher....

ending nya tentu happy...felicity yang di bilangin ibu mertua nya kalo tatcher mau pergi meninggalkan  
inggris karena patah hati akhirnya lari nyari tatcher....  
dia ngeliat di depan kediaman hollindrake banyak kereta kuda yang angkut barang2 tatcher dan dia....  
felicity gak tau kalo tatcher nyiapin barang2 itu buat keperluan bulan madu mereka...ibunya bilang kalo  
dalam setengah jam felicity bakal nyari tatcher dan mereka bisa pergi honey moon...

akhirnya salah paham reda...felicity dan tatcher kissu2 di depan para pelayan dan footman mereka...mereka lega akhirnya duchess nya kembali ^^

nb : banyak adegan2 lucu terkait tatcher dan felicity..dialog2 mereka enak diikuti....  
walau adegan uhuk2 nya gak banyak tapi tetep sweet ceritanya.....gw jadi tertarik buat koleksi semua bukunya boyle ^^)

mereka akhirnya uhuk2 juga.....lumayan sih adegan nya ( mesti sensor juga ya hihihhi)  
trus felicity  
so pas tau tatcher bohong sama dia...

eh ternyata panjang juga ripiu nya hehehehehe.....:P

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### **Nadia says**

[I really loved how she mistook the duke she was to marry for a footman and that he didn't correct her, because it was a setup for a really cute romance. And I was feeling it up until maybe 70%, when this whole thing stopped feeling like a cute misunderstanding, and the hero started intentionally deceiving the heroine and keeping the truth from her.

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### **Ivy H says**

This was so funny at times. The heroine was the best ! She can be annoying at times with her bossiness but she was so much fun to read. I just kept on reading and waiting to see what the hell she would come up with next. She was an original type of heroine. I loved how she knew what she wanted and set out to get it without being turned into a boring bluestocking type of caricature. She was perfect for the hero. The poor guy didn't know what hit him when he met the heroine. The hero's mistaken identity caused great humour in the novel and I loved the way he protected the heroine from her bitchy former school friend.

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### **kris says**

Felicity Langley has been planning on marrying the Duke of Hollindrake for at least 4 years. She has letters and everything! The Duke of Hollindrake AKA Thatcher, meanwhile, has just gotten back from some time on the Continent doing war and is uninterested in his alleged bride. But when he goes to break things off, Felicity mistakes him for a footman and because this is a ROMANCE DEMMIT, he plays along until his ~feelings get in the way.

1. There's something extraordinarily empty about the characters vs. setting in this book. Thatcher kisses Felicity like a billion times in public. He attempts to seduce her on a window seat in a house also occupied by her sister, cousin, former nanny and adopted Aunt. There didn't seem to be any weight to anything because none of the rules of the real world dared impinge upon the text.

2. I haven't been so unmoved by feelings and boners in quite a few books.

3. Felicity was boring. Thatcher was equally as boring. I didn't understand them; nothing made them unique or special or memorable.

4. My review for *Love Letters From a Duke* would probably be nice if I hadn't finished *The Taming of the Duke* between now and then.

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## ies says

Awalnya baca series ini karena gw pengen baca ini, tp karena mo urut baca nomor 1 nya dulu.. dan ceritanya bagus, tp pas buku 2 gw kaga mood buahaha.. jd gw skip deh ke buku 3 nya.

Ini cerita Felicity Langley, Felicity-Thally sama Phipin ini yg jodo2in di buku 2, baru keluar dibuku 2, gw baca buku 2 awal dikit sih dan b3 ude keluar.. cumin gak lanjut, tp cukup ngerti si.. masalah Phipin sama Dash jg (buku 5 yg sepertinya akan gw skip jg ahahahahaa)

Sebenarnya gw penasaran jg sama Temple, tp keknya die ada di bagian buku ke 2 deh.. gak ada buku sendiri, jd mari lupakan.. yg penting die jg ude HEA sama lady Diana di buku 1 yg si Temple suka lirik2 gitu.. nah yg kasih sebutan "little Duchess" ke Felicity itu si Temple..

\*\*membingungkan ya? Tp kl baca langsung enggak kok.. tetep ngerti meski skip buku 2 LOL Nah Felicity yg dari kecil dipanggil "little Duchess" ini selalu memimpikan buat dapetin Duke, pokoknya musti Duke titik.. sampai die bikin literature Duke di Inggris, yg sayangnya gak banyak.. dan merambat ke Marquesss, Earl bahkan Gentlemen sekalipun, karena siapa tau yg tadinya bukan siapa2 akan jadi heir pada akhirnya. Nah, si Jack bilang (dibuku 2) kalau temennya Aubrey Marquess gt yg ntar mewarisi Duke of Hollindrake dan kirim surat deh Felicity, bilang kl die cocok jd Duchess nya dan kasih tau kelebihan2 die gitu..

Nah... (view spoiler)

Aneh banget bahasa gw ahahahahaha.. bodo lah XD

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## Janyn says

This book really made Felicity shine. She was simply an ambitious, conniving chit back in *This Rake of*

Mine. But here, she was a female really worth looking up to. Behind masks, she's actually a practical but caring sister and cousin who tamps down dreams for propriety and for their sakes.

And Thatcher, devil take the man, despite his pig-headedness and deception, I was in love with him even before I was halfway through the book. Definitely understand how this can be frustrating to Felicity. Really, falling in love with him was inevitable

Overall, I loved the turn of events. Sometimes Miss Boyle hits off the mark when it comes to endings though she makes good story-starters and middles (like *Something About Emmaline*. But this one was thoroughly engaging from start to finish (Is it any wonder I chose reading it over studying for my exam?))

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### **Shoshana G says**

Felicity is determined to marry a Duke, and luckily has been corresponding with the heir to one since she was in finishing school, and they're now all but engaged. Except she finally made it to London with her sister and cousin and is scraping together a season, and she hasn't heard from him! Thatcher, the Duke in question, didn't realize his grandfather had been corresponding on his behalf with a prospective wife, and goes to find Felicity and beg off. But when she mistakes him for the new footman, how can he resist getting to know her and her unconventional household?

This was really silly and I liked it a lot, but should definitely have read book 2 in this series before this one, as a lot of the background plot made no sense.

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### **Keri says**

EB can be a hit or miss read for me, but this one was one sweet hit. I laughed several times at the zany antics of Felicity and the lengths she was willing to go to in order to hold her little family together. Very good read.

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### **Nisha says**

Enjoying this book was mildly surprising. Not that Ms. Boyle is a bad writer, but I haven't really clicked with her and read this book in desperation for a HR. From the previous book, I wasn't exactly all in for the Langley sister either, so understandably, I was hesitant to enjoy this book.

Felicity Langley, is determined to marry a Duke. Not sure why it HAS to be a duke, but only a duke would do. She has set her sights on the 10th Duke of Hollindrake, who she's corresponded with for a few years. That is, until the 9th Duke's death, who also happens to be the person she had been writing to. Anyway, Thatcher, our hero and duke is surprised to find that his crumgeon of a grandfather has set him to marry Felicity Langley. In attempts to break of their "relationship" he visits her and is mistaken to be the new footman. And this begins the game of mistaken identity, leading Felicity to chose between the footman she's fallen in love with verses the duke who has still not come call and marry her, without knowing that they are one and the same.

Felicity, despite her lofty ambitions to marry a Duke, was very likeable. She's the responsible sort, but not in

the grating way. She was very good at managing scandalous situations. I am impressed with her ingenuity - which far surpasses any of our heroes'. Thatcher is also likeable, and the blame for the mistaken identity would normally be placed on him, but he did try to rectify the problem. Our heroine just didn't want to hear it and then the situation changed where it was hard for him to tell, and so on. I'm not in love with the man, but I liked him for being grounded and a generally good person.

Overall, I think this is Ms. Boyle's best book. I had a wonderful time with her characters. I will gladly continue reading her books, if she brings 'it' to all of her other books.

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### **L8blmr says**

I've done it again - started a series with something other than its first book. Another sale book written by an author I'd heard of but never read, so...

At any rate, I loved that there was no "big misunderstanding"; however, there was a "big secret", which drove the plot but for some reason this one did not grate on my nerves. I found this to be a sweet, romantic story where the man falls first and pursues his lady strenuously. Upon winning her, the secret, of course, has to be revealed in a dramatic way whereupon our heroine is hurt and angry. Formulaic? Yes, but when the formula is a good one and you've come to care about the characters, it's easy to forgive. There is some fairly graphic action, but euphemisms abound so language is not a problem.

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### **Sara ♥ says**

A solid 4.5 stars. I rounded up. I just loved the premise of the book. She's been corresponding to this Duke (of Hollindrake) for 4 years, and she's practically engaged to him. Except that he hasn't been writing to her-- it was his grandfather writing the letters. So he gets back to London and finds out what his gramps has been doing, and goes over to her house to break the whole thing off, but she mistakes him for a footman that "the agency" was supposed to send over. (The real footman never shows... intriguing...) She doesn't give him any opportunity to set the record straight.

So after a couple of days, it's too late to tell her the truth. And he starts to think, "Well, hey--she's cute. Maybe I could get her to ACTUALLY fall in love with me, and then it wouldn't be like she's just marrying me for my title/money/etc.!"

So he proceeds with his plan... trying to make her fall in love with him... kissing her... trying to seduce her... :) It's actually quite hilarious, because she's kissing the footman, but saying she's still going to marry the Duke, and the footman is jealous of the duke, but they're the same person, so he's jealous of himself. I love that. It's great.

Anyway, it was just very very enjoyable. Me gusta.

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### **Jane Stewart says**

2 ½ stars. Not recommended. It's missing fulfilling feelings. Some will like it because it's a formulaic

regency romance.

#### STORY BRIEF:

Felicity's parents are assumed dead. The solicitor who controls her inheritance won't give her any money for a season (to find a husband). She, her sister, and her cousin come to London anyway. Felicity finds a house that will be vacant for a while. She breaks in and has the locks changed.

Four years ago Felicity sent a letter to the Duke's heir (Thatcher) saying she wanted to marry a duke and thought he would be a good choice. Thatcher was in the army at the time. Thatcher's grandfather (the Duke) thought her letter was entertaining, so he began corresponding with her pretending to be Thatcher. This lasted four years until he died. Felicity thinks she is engaged to Thatcher due to the letters, but she has never seen him. When Thatcher returns from the military and learns about the letters, he immediately goes to Felicity to break the engagement. Because he is wearing his battered military clothing, she thinks he is the footman she hired through an agency and treats him as such. He is intrigued and amused and decides to continue the charade, pretending to be the footman.

#### REVIEWER'S OPINION:

This is a romance novel for someone who is not discriminating about their romance novels. The handsome, rich bachelor has no desire to marry. He meets the beautiful, clever, feisty virgin who has a charming effect on him from the moment he sees her. She has a special smile that makes him wilt (or should I say become aroused). He is entertained to see her living by her wits. He sees her good heart as she does good things for others. Within a couple of days he has fallen in love and wants to marry her. The main suspense is whether she will marry her footman for love or go after the rich Duke she has never met.

This is the type of book that turns some readers away from romance. It's fluff. It feels like a fairy tale. The main characters are formulaic. The plot could work if other things are done well, but they were not. The main reason I like romance is that good romance causes me to feel loved, desired, fulfilled, and other warm, fuzzy feelings. I didn't feel that here. I'm not sure why. Maybe because I had a hard time identifying with Felicity. Maybe because she had no vulnerabilities. A second important thing missing was watching a relationship develop. That didn't happen. He just enjoys what he sees and that's it. Apparently she realizes she is in love when he kisses her. What else was missing? Interesting, different or humorous dialogue, events, or ideas. I will say the author attempted humor by having a madcap group of characters: a pickpocket, a lock picker, a girl in love with a pirate, a drunk cook, and a promiscuous, beautiful, and very seductive former nanny. But things were not humorous to me. Not once did I smile.

Then the author used one of my pet peeves: vague communication and inaccurate assumptions to create conflict. (view spoiler)

In summary, I was not engaged. It barely kept my interest. Who should read this? Maybe teenage girls or the young-at-heart who want a fairytale romance and don't require anything else.

#### DATA:

Story length: 353 pages. Swearing language: mild. Sexual language: mild. Number of sex scenes: 3. Number of sex scene pages: 10. Setting 1814 London, England. Copyright: 2007. Genre: regency romance.

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