



The Handmaiden's Necklace

Kat Martin

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Return to this captivating and adventure-filled world in the conclusion of The Necklace Trilogy, a classic Regency romance by *New York Times* bestselling author Kat Martin

Five years ago, Rafael, Duke of Sheffield, believed he was betrayed by the woman he loved and the pain haunts him still. When Rafe discovers that he was cruelly tricked and that Danielle Duval was never unfaithful, he's desperate to win her back. But Dani is already on a steamer bound for America to marry another man. Impulsively, Rafe follows her and, trapping her in a compromising situation, quickly makes her his wife.

Promising her that with time he can prove his love and win her trust, Rafe presents her with a stunning necklace rumored to hold great power. As much as Dani wants to believe it can right the wrongs of the past, she fears there is one truth it cannot conceal, a truth that could cost her this second chance with Rafe, the only man she has ever loved...

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Author : Kat Martin

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From Reader Review The Handmaiden's Necklace for online ebook

Elis Madison says

The necklace now passes to Rafe, Duke of Sheffield, the jaded friend of the gents in the previous books in the series. We learn that he's jaded because, years ago, he loved a woman and planned to marry her, but then one night he found her in bed with a friend of his. Now he's going to marry a nice, biddable, beddable girl he can't possibly care too deeply for.

And wouldn't you know it? That's when Danielle, his former fiance, who was pretty much exorcised from society after The Scandal, decides to show her face again. And she's still claiming she didn't do his friend.

Dani is in fact just doing a farewell tour of England, with all the *tonnish* hypocrites and fair-weather friends, people who wanted to be her best friends when they thought she was gonna be a duchess, then treated her like a turd in a punchbowl when Rafe dumped her. She's off to America, where she's going to marry a wealthy businessman she met when he recently visited England.

Rafe learns after she's left that, in fact, the woman he supposedly loved was telling the truth. The whole thing was a setup. After a duel with the cruel "friend" who staged the thing, Rafe decides to chase after Dani. He owes her an apology, if nothing else.

She's all

So he decides to make her happy by coercing her into marrying him—but of course he plans for the relationship to be loveless, cuz, y'know, love sucks. And men say that women are illogical.

Meanwhile, while in America, he's pulling double duty—he's been asked to find out about those newfangled American ships—the ones that are really nimble on the water and could be a b*tch to deal with if, say, Napoleon got hold of a fleet of them. Between his work for the Crown and various personal squabbles, he's accumulating enemies by the minute. A series of attempted murders, along with efforts to clear a friend of a crime he didn't commit keep the latter part of the story hopping, while secrets Dani's kept from him keep the relationship on the rocks. I liked this one, but I'm going to keep it at 3.5 stars—Kat Martin's written some others that really grabbed me, emotionally. This one had plenty of elements that resonated for me, and I did empathize with the characters, but I wasn't as fully engaged as I've been with some others.

Dianna says

Good

The first two were better than this one but I really like Kat Martin. She's a great author and I'll try a different series from her

Destiny says

I greatly enjoyed this book. I had been wanting to read it for awhile, so I bought it one day on the Harlequin site along with a slew of other ebooks. It was few months before I actually read it though.

The premise is an interesting one. Rafe believes that his betrothed betrayed and he leaves her for five long years. When they meet again it's a function and they still have that undeniable attraction between them.

Unfortunately Dani has become engaged to an American business and she travels with her lady maid and her aunt to the country to marry him and of course Rafe follows her.

What I liked the most about this book was how realistic the characters seemed. Rafe and Dani shared a passion, but both were hesitant to fall in love with each other.

There were a few mysteries going on the book, if you can call them that. Maybe the correct word would be intrigues? There's a subplot with Dani's maid, Caro Loon and a man she originally meet in the Americas. I thought it was well done as well.

I wasn't aware that there were two previous books to this series. I usually try to start with the first book. I thoroughly enjoyed and I will be buying the other two books in the series. Look out for review of those.

Heather says

i'm not a huge fan of martin's but since ive read the other 2 books in the series, i wanted to continue on. i didn't like the preview to this book in the devil's necklace. and i pictured Danielle as a conniving harlot. so it was weird to have her actually be so different. i love when someone thinks they've been betrayed and they really haven't, though. so i was interested in reading this.

i really didn't like how they portrayed Rafael's fiancé in the preview. They're making shy people out to be stupid. about her trembling hand, about how Raphael completely dwarfed her.

He walks away without responding to her.

This book is a cross between Again the Magic by lisa kleypas, and Almost Heaven by Judith mcnaught.

I didn't like their first meeting, and that after 5 years, and their first meeting, he would question if she was telling the truth. I thought that would happen way later in the book.

You're *engaged* and you went to a whore house? WTH! &im sick of hearing of cord and ethan's past. We get it, they were hound dogs, now lets drop it.

Him and his friends all go to whore houses, and yet he talks of artie with disdain because he goes too, drinks, and gambles. You do all of the above, also.

This is happening wayyyy too soon! Why would the author write it this way? im thoroughly disappointed.

You're a grown man. Of an impressive height and build. You confront a man who lied to you. And you slap his face with your *gloves*? punch his lights out!

Just like that, oliver tells rafe why he did it.

I understand the duel, but I cant believe he shot him and he wont be able to walk again. &"he felt no remorse."

Im just not getting that sense of tragedy and lost time between the characters like I did in Almost Heaven.

So, no, I don't think the duel was right at all.

&he thinks his father would agree. Idk if he was trying to make himself feel good, but crippling someone is

extreme.

"business always came first. At times it seemed to consume him."

"Richard seemed so concerned w/her background."

"Duke, meet Richard Clemmons."

"my daughter is completely intimidated by you, and particularly frightened of sharing a bed with you."

Eww! You're talking about your daughter. Did you guys discuss that together?

Great. His children are hellions. Of course it would work out this way. suddenly, Richard is actually a bad man. Which just sets things up perfectly.

Calling a gun a "piece" is so modern.

Even more convenient-richard has a mistress and plans to cheat on Danielle.

&stupid rafe would have cheated on mary rose. And admits it like there's nothing in the world wrong with it.

"I was afraid you might not come." She wouldn't have, if he had really given her a choice.' You could have simply not gone.

We don't care about caroline. Why does she have her narrative in here?! I get they're friends and that's great, but shes a servant and they make her sound just like a lady.

Im surprised she gave in so easily. I get breaking your engagement to Richard off, but you don't have to marry rafe.

And if you know he needs children-and you do. Every noble guy does-then you need to tell him you cant have them.

He hasn't come to terms with the fact that she's innocent in a good way. it happened suddenly. He hated her. Then suddenly felt bad. And is back to teasing her like nothing was wrong.

I HATE "at least being married to you will not be dull." That's so overdone.

You've called him Rafael from the start, even though you hated him. and yet on your wedding day, you call him Your Grace.

Caro was going to steal the necklace! Oh geez. You freakin gave her the necklace? Wth is wrong with you?

When an author writes this crap, do they seriously think we agree?

'before he'd met Danielle, he had slept with very few women. On his 18th bday, his best friend, cord Easton, had gifted him with a night at madame fontaneau's house of pleasure. A few months l8r, he had taken a mistress, then later kept company with a countess whose husband suffered a failing memory.'

'he had slept with countless women. From opera singers to the most sought-after courtesans, rafe knew the power of seduction.'

WE DON'T CARE.

'undressed her with expert skill. She wondered how many times he had accomplished the task.'

I don't understand in books where the guy betrayed the girls trust or hurt her deeply, he, instead of being humble and apologetic, decides to be demanding and persistent. You betrayed her. You didn't believe her.

You should be winning back her trust and feelings, not demanding things of her and acting like a jackass.

Im confused about the whole Robert accused of murder thing, but I skim and scan when they talk about him, so that's most likely why. But I find it highly convenient that he's become an earl.

You all of a sudden throw out an "a'tall" over 200 pgs in the book.

Omg. Im sick of caro moaning about Robert.

"I wish I could be a fly on the wall." How modern!

You wish she had confided in you and trusted you about the necklace. But you didn't trust her 5years ago.

He really is stupid.

"into high gear."

I cant believe his mother is that nosy and desperate for grandchildren that she would bring it up to Danielle. She completely skipped over the stargazing thing.

Omg. Even more like Almost Heaven-they turn the ballroom into a conservatory/garden.

I hate when characters keep on saying the same thing-I should tell him about being barren, but never does.

We had to wait til he found out if she was innocent 5 yrs ago. And now we had to wait about the necklace.

She should have been honest there, too.

Things are so familiar, I feel like I've read this book before, because the author has ripped off other books. He makes her promise not to lie to him, but of course, she won't tell him about being barren.

Very convenient that Caro is actually a gently bred woman. So she can end up with an earl.

I get Rafael is supposedly a caring person (which was surprising) but calling Caro sweetie is taking it too far. You call your wife that. And you've never really bonded with Caro before.

How can you keep repeating, chapter after chapter, how worried you are about Rafe finding out you're barren. FREAKIN SPIT IT OUT ALREADY. Wouldn't you have rather told him before you started caring for him, rather than when you did? If he rejected you then, it wouldn't hurt so much.

Everyone in this book is handsome. Rafe is handsome. Cord is handsome. Ethan is handsome. Artie is handsome. Robert is handsome. Even the doctor is handsome!

"helluva." Really?

"he had promised himself he would take his ease with another woman, that it no longer mattered that he cleave only to her, since there would be no children from their union." You *****! You said you'd never cheat on her. And now you find out you can't have kids, so you plan to get with someone else.

"I am no longer ill, Rafael...except with wanting you." How corny and stupid.

How can a woman that's supposed to be full of fire and fight, be so timid and stupid? Get a backbone! She's worrying why Rafe is mad. And why he keeps staying away. & thinks he's mad about how she acted in bed. She skips things we want to hear, like the stargazing. And yet goes into agonizing detail every time Danielle gets dressed. She gets a message to meet Rafe in the state room or w/e, and has to show the note to Caro and go change. Find the right dress, put the necklace on. FAST FORWARD, I BEG YOU.

Of course Rafe suddenly decides it doesn't matter that they can't have kids.

And of course the carriage accident was on purpose.

I can't believe she actually thought Rafe or his mom would try to kill her just because she can't have kids. Do I laugh? Do I throw the book across the room?

"iron this out."

"I have no will where you are concerned, when the sight of your sweet body so heats my blood." Gag.

"zeroed in." wow, that doesn't sound modern.

I hated how the ending was so rushed. This book was more about Robert and Caro than the main characters. I wanted to hear more about their first meeting, and how exactly Rafe was affected after he thought she betrayed him. They didn't really talk about the past like they should have. & I got so sick of Caro & Robert I wanted to scream. I'm sure it was supposed to be romantic when he's professing his undying love and getting down on bended knee, but it was syrupy and corny to me. I wasn't feeling it at all. And I was sick of Caro & Danielle's little chats. I heaved a sigh every time Caro entered the room and rolled my eyes when they always talked of Robert. BORING. And highly repetitive.

Of course she gets taken when she goes to the carriage. And her waking up after being shot was highly miraculous. & totally stupid. That happened way too close to the end, too.

I KNEW she would end up adopting those kids and then being able to have a baby. How freakin unrealistic. I don't know why authors put problems in the way, then they're going to be solved so easily. and so unrealistically.

The ending could have been a lot better. Kat Martin is an okay writer, but she's not funny.

Karen Darling says

Just did not like it.

Deborah Vespo says

The final book in the Bride's Necklace trilogy. In the first two books we become acquainted with the Duke of Sheffield, Rafael. We know he is determined to never love another woman again because we know that he was deeply hurt by a woman with whom he had fallen hard. This is his and Danielle Duval's story. Rafael quickly discovers in this book that Danielle was never unfaithful to him. That it was his conniving friend who was determined to ruin his happiness and tricked him into believing that his finance was having an affair with him. Danielle however, after much time and self condemnation has passed, is proposed to by a wealthy American who has given her an opportunity for a new life. So, Danielle leaves for America and any feelings she had for Rafael behind. Rafael has different plans for her. He follows her to America and traps her into becoming his wife. We learn in the previous book that the Bride's Necklace has been passed on to Rafael and he gives the necklace to Danielle as a wedding present. And Danielle wants to believe in the hope and power of the necklace but she hides a secret that can totally destroy any relationship that they have built. I have to say that this book has to be my favorite of the three because the other two really seemed to bring up Rafael's story constantly, as if they were both building up to this story. And the situation between Danielle and Rafael seems to be more on the edge where it could go either way, and there seems to be too much that is conspiring against them. This book has a lot more suspense and drama and I found myself wanting the two of them to get together more than the other couples. Loved it!

Nadia says

I'm enjoyed more of this book than the first two series. im so glad that the finale of trilogy had repaid the whole of trilogy.

Nikki says

[And this author clearly hated this heroine because she : is 'compromised' by a friend, shunned by soci

Lisa says

I loved it! Although... I find it nearly impossible that Danielle that is pregnant in the end... I mean, a riding accident, plus a carriage accident, PLUS a gunshot wound? Her reproductive organs should be pretty much destroyed by now!

R.L. Martinez says

Oh my god! I am so, so tired of being led into reading a book with a decent premise only to be abandoned by the author. Could these characters be any more stupid or contradictory? Could this plot have any bigger holes? Probably, but this was still an idiotic book.

H leaves h fives years ago because he thinks she cheated on him. Abandons her to be completely shunned by

society. Then, he miraculously thinks, "Hey, I think I'll find out what REALLY happened that night." And, with a minimum of effort, the truth is discovered. Surprise, h was completely innocent.

Fast forward and the H decides he's going to "save" the h from entering a bad marriage, and BLACKMAILS her into marrying him because, of course, he knows what's best for her. The h is adamantly against marrying this man, or so she says. But if she REALLY didn't want to marry him, why would she not have told him that she was barren right off? I mean, he's a duke so that should have put him off pretty quickly. But, inexplicably, she doesn't use this smoking gun. Instead, she keeps a secret and then agonizes over it.

And then there's the way everything just falls into place. H is engaged to another woman but then father of the bride steps in and says, "My daughter's terrified of you and I think it would be best to break the engagement." Uhh... no. I don't care how unrealistic a plot is, it still needs to make some sort of sense. And ain't no papa in early 1800s going to voluntarily break his daughter's engagement with a f*cking duke.

Oh, and h's intended? Turns out he's a cheating douche with two monster children. How convenient. That way, she has few, if any qualms about breaking her engagement to him. Funny how that all worked out, huh?

I won't say anything else in case you still want to read the book. Fare you well on your journey into Idiocracy.

Joanne says

Love Kat's books!! She always has a lot going on in her books, page turners.

There are 3 bks to this Necklace story, but I missed one, which I will buy very soon.

Rafael, Duke of Sheffield, felt he was betrayed 5 yrs ago by a woman he loved with all of his heart . But Rafe finds out he was tricked into believing that Daniell Duval was unfaithful to him, but is it too late for him. She's now sailing on a ship to America to marry a wealthy American. Rafe sets out to find her and pressures her into marrying him, hoping that she will win his trust.

Rafe gives her a beautiful necklace, rumors say to hold great power. It can destroy or bring good to those who own it. Each still inlove with each other and falling more deeply, Dani still has a secret that she keeps from her love Rafe.

Read to find out more!!!!!!! A Great read!

Linda Walters says

I really liked this book; great characters and a good story. Emotional, with some twists and turns. A story of two people so passionately in love and then had 5 years brutally stolen from them by a selfish person. Each hating each other, not willing to move an inch to trust each other until the startling truth of Dani's innocence comes out. But then they are struggling to open their hearts to each other again. But that

doesn't stop Rafe from forcing the marriage. The fight is on and so is the seduction.

There are several other mysteries going on that add to the story instead of bringing confusion. I liked Caro (Caroline) who was Dani's maid/best friend. She was such a loyal, loving, helpful woman. And when she has a possibly ill-fated romance developing, I just wanted to see it work out for them. Rafe had several close male friends who are a part of this story and help him several different times in the book. They even stop hating on Dani once they learn the truth of what happened years ago and their wives began to welcome Dani without prejudice. In fact they became worthy friends too. Oh and how could I forget Dani's aunt, Flora? The Dowager Countess of Wycombe. That woman had a spine of steel and she was solidly on her niece Dani's side.

There is an attack on both Dani and Rafe that ratchets up towards the end of the book. Is someone trying to kill Rafe or Dani or both? And why? There is a mystery as well that ends with quite the twist.

I really liked the Legend of the Necklace and it added some extra "magic" to the story.

Ann says

Our hero decided that he was going to keep a confidence with a sleazy guy he just met and instead threatened to break a *promise* he made to the heroine, revealing a painful past that's all his fault anyway, because he knows better what will make her happy even if he has to do it against her will. I in turn decided to fling the book at the wall.

Bambi Unbridled says

This is the third and final book in the Necklace Trilogy that revolves around an ancient necklace with its own folklore that it will do good things for those who have true hearts. I have not read the earlier books, which I regret because I felt like I didn't have the full story of the necklace. There were allusions to the necklace helping earlier couples in the series, so it made me curious about their stories. This is a second chance romance featuring current possessor of the necklace, Rafael - Duke of Sheffield. Rafael was given the necklace by his sister (I think?), who was a prior heroine in the series.

Five years ago, Rafael was in love with Danielle Duval, a red-haired beauty who loved him right back. But when a scandal tears them apart, Rafael becomes a bitter and angry duke and Dani retreats from society with a broken-heart. Fast forward five years and the two have an encounter that brings the scandal back to the front of everyone's minds, and drives Rafael to discover what actually happened. Our story bounces off from here.

I liked Rafael's character very much. I thought he acted carelessly five years ago and was the one in the wrong... however over the five years Rafael has matured and gotten a grip on his rage problems,. The only problem is that now he is bitter and jaded. But when Dani comes back to his life, Rafael seemed to redeem himself very easily. Danielle outright lied to Rafael, or omitted things she really should not have. Instead of coming clean, she waited until Rafael discovered the lie/omission and tried to do damage control. This was very annoying for me - I do not like deception in my romances, especially when they are very big deceptions.

There is a bit of suspense with the story as well, including some attempted murders and kidnapping. This aspect helped to advance the plot when I was annoyed at the romance. However my favorite aspect of the book did not involve the main characters. There is a side romance occurring between Dani's handmaid, Caro, and a handsome indentured servant, Robert. There was mystery and danger surrounding Robert's character as well, and I was more interested in the story of this couple than I was our main couple.

The performance by the narrator was okay, but it seemed to be more of a reading than a performance (if that makes sense). I enjoyed this story, but it wasn't a standout. I think if I had read the earlier books I may have been more invested in the characters and history of the necklace. So that's my fault.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this audiobook that I received from the publisher, Tantor Audio.

Chelsea Tahimic says

Made me cry..very heart warming :)
