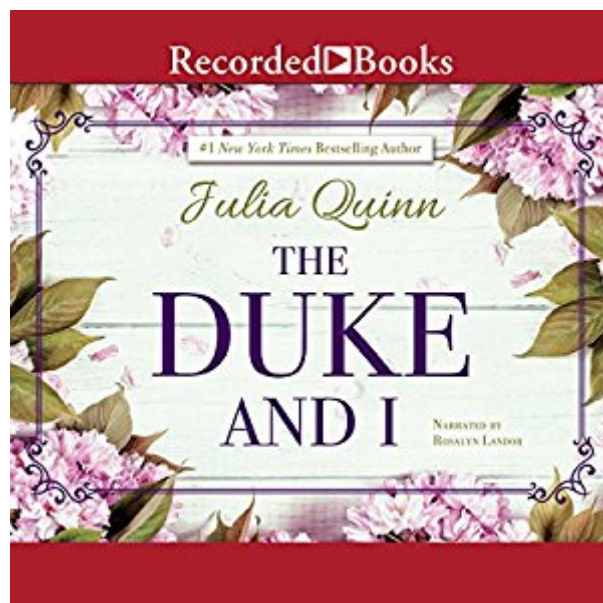


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# The Duke And I



## Synopsis

Simon Basset, the irresistible Duke of Hastings, has hatched a plan to keep himself free from the town's marriage-minded society mothers. He pretends to be engaged to the lovely Daphne Bridgerton. After all, it isn't as if the brooding rogue has any real plans to marry - though there is something about the alluring Miss Bridgerton that sets Simon's heart beating a bit faster. And as for Daphne, surely the clever debutante will attract some very worthy suitors now that it seems a duke has declared her desirable. But as Daphne waltzes across ballroom after ballroom with Simon, she soon forgets that their courtship is a complete sham. And now she has to do the impossible and keep herself from losing her heart and soul completely to the handsome hell-raiser who has sworn off marriage forever!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Simon, the new Duke of Hastings has returned to England and finds himself the target of every society matron with unwed daughters. Even newly married women proposition him! He is determined to bid London society good bye after making an obligatory stop to see an old friend. Soon Simon finds himself in a make-belief romance and engagement with Daphne, the younger sister of his friend Anthony Bridgerton. Easy to read, funny, the story proceeds to the unavoidable duel, marriage, love and children - thanks to the assistance of the Whistledown scandal sheet and a longtime housekeeper.

I've read this story several times and it still remains a favourite. I've never reviewed it so I'll just say that it was a wonderful love story with an imperfect H. There were misunderstandings, which I don't like but I think worked in this book because of the H is a tortured soul and his issues needed to be dealt with. There are hundreds of reviews so I'll just say that this book is well worth reading and I'm glad that the author didn't distract us with the secondary characters stories, even though this is the first in the Bridgerton series.

I really enjoyed the first half of this book, all the antics brought on by the family were perfect and Daphne's and her mother, Violet's quips about the male race were laugh out loud funny. There was a truthfulness in the development of the characters I quite liked. None of the supporting characters felt like stock characters, they all had their own agendas and personalities. The only thing I didn't like was after the h and H married. The scene where Daphne forces Simon to impregnate her was definitely premeditated, no matter her protests. Also it just seemed very rapey to me and all together creepy, poor Simon yet again not respected. If this had been a woman in Simon's shoes, a man forcing her to be pregnant everyone would be disturbed. Then they were separated for two months, which were completely underdeveloped by the author. Then it quickly closed forgive, forgive, I love you, protective brothers, true love in the ton, yada yada. It was an entertaining read in the beginning, I just wish it ended as strongly.

I LOVE this series. The whole thing. All the books are great on their own of course but I am in the process of re reading the series because I love the Bridgerton family so much. (Colin's story is my favorite). Daphne is the 4th Bridgerton child, hence the "D" name. Simon is a new Duke that doesn't want to continue his family name. to avoid matchmaking mammas the two decide to pretend to be enamored of each other so that Simon won't be hounded and more men will be interested in Daphne. It works, a little too well. Daphne starts to fall for Simon and Simon for her, but he can't (won't) give her the family she so desperately wants. With a big family and 3 older brothers there is plenty of fun to read, a duel, a fight, and the family interference in general.

Awww. I liked this one. A lot. Simon was a little closed off and a lot messed up by his past (although he might disagree with that statement) and I LIKED him. His sudden attraction to Daphne was made even sweeter by the way he tried to ignore it because she was his best friend's sister. Oh, and the way he delighted in tormenting Anthony just made me laugh. Because that is SO a guy thing to do. What can I say about Daphne? First off, I love her family. Mama Bridgerton is hilariously pushy

while also being a pretty awesome mom. Daphne's brothers are pretty spectacular in their desire to keep their sister and her tender heart safe. I totally appreciate the way Daphne could hold her own against them, too. As she kept pointing out, having three older brothers has made her pretty adept at standing up for herself and given her a good sense of how to score a hit (sometimes literally) that can drop a man in his tracks. Simon was charming while also managed to pull off the brooding, tormented hero thing. Daphne knew what she wanted, but she was able to adjust her plans on the fly when circumstances changed. I liked that about her. I wanted to cry a little for her at some parts, but I like that she took the curve ball Simon threw at her and made the decision to forge forward anyway. \*slow thumbs up to tortured heroes and strong heroines\*-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Love Julia Quinn. I read mostly Christian romances but she (JQ) never was really bad. Curse word here and there. Some sex but it's a great book. Always loved her characters, you always felt you were right there with them. Sitting on the park bench watching all the craziness that Daphne and Lord Simon get into. Simon the Duke has always swore he would never marry Nor would he have children. But I learned over the years never say never( lol). Daphne pretty much the quit one except around her family but she does seem to get in all kind of scraps. These two made a mighty good team if only Lord Simon realize it. But Daphne's problem was she has three older brothers. I can sympathize with her. Not a good thing to have when you want to date or in Daphne's case fall in love with a rascal Duke. Enjoy !

I really enjoyed the wit and tension in this book. Thank God I live in another era where women are not the property of their husbands. This is a great read for a historical novel and I enjoyed the strong female lead character. We might all but expect a strong female in a contemporary setting, but to capture the nuances of a 19th century heroine is more of a challenge. Well done!

It is really too bad that only five stars are allowed. I am on the second reading of my Julia Quinn books and I love them as much today as I did in the beginning. I am slowly adding ebooks to my collection and I am two thirds of the way finished.

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