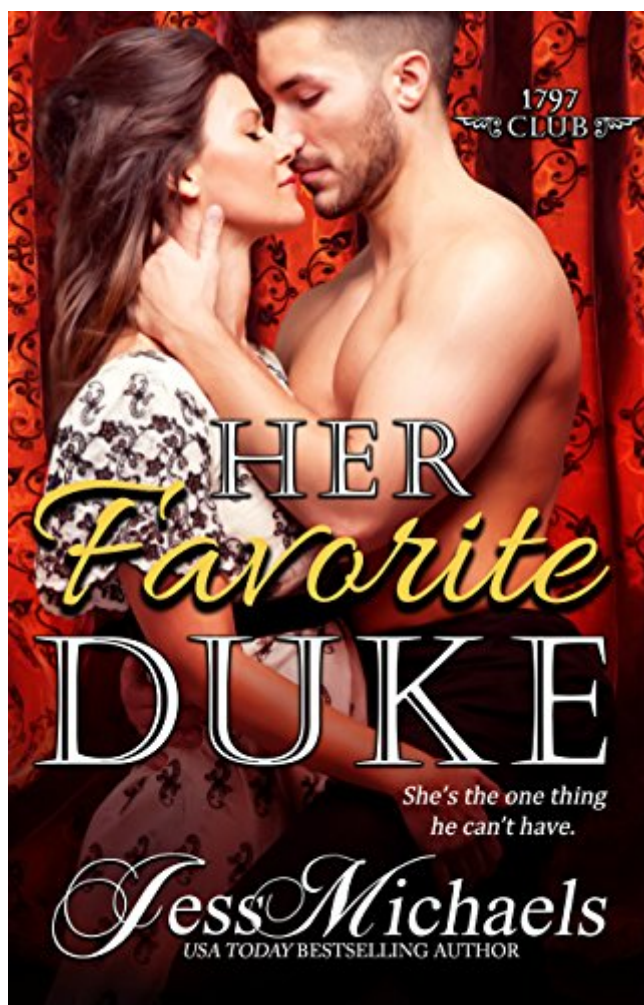


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Her Favorite Duke (The 1797 Club Book 2)



Synopsis

The second exciting book in the bestselling 1797 Club series by USA TODAY Bestselling Author Jess Michaels. Simon Greene, Duke of Crestwood has been obsessed with Margaret Rylon for years. There is only one thing standing between them: her fiancé, who also happens to be his best friend. He is desperate not to destroy everything in his life by giving in to his desires, but when Meg and Simon are trapped alone together overnight during a storm, the resulting scandal not only breaks Meg's existing engagement, but forces Simon to offer for her instead. Margaret is sorry to have hurt her family and her fiancé, but all she's ever wanted was Simon. Her determination to make a happy life with him is only heightened when they submit to passions that have long dwelled beneath the surface. But while Simon may give her his body, he withholds his heart out of guilt and fear of what a connection to her may expose. And if he doesn't learn to fight for her soon, they both may lose a chance at happiness. Length: Full length book Heat Level: Yep. So much. This is the second book in the 1797 Club series, but can be read as a standalone.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was interested and swept up with the characters. I got caught up with the dynamics of Northfield

and Cresswood. Why so much anger that was so palatable between childhood friends early in the story. I hope it's resolved in the next book.

Meg's brother, James, betrothed her to his friend Graham. Meg has always had feelings for Simon, another of her brother's friends, and vice versa. Seven year pass, during which Graham is politely distant and Meg increasingly despondent. Everyone knew of Meg and Simon's emotional connection, including James's wife and fiancé Graham. Despite their very close relationships none ever raise question about the match. Not even Meg or Simon. I found premise too unbelievable. I couldn't pull my attention away from this shortcoming so never was fully involved in the story after. But I did try. However the following self-castigation of the lovers didn't help. Usually love Jess Michaels. This is the first of her books that I didn't finish. For me, this story didn't measure up to her usual work.

Her Favorite Duke was lukewarm for me. The heroine and hero both fell short for me, and at times I really liked both of them. I wanted so much more. Simon and Meg were too alike for their own good. Simon beat himself up way too much, to the point it was frustrating to read. Meg was okay, but she was more arm candy than anything. She had no pursuits really, other than tagging around her brother and his friends. As for Graham, it is hard to fathom a Duke staying engaged for seven years before setting a wedding date. (Although, the teaser at the end for the next book made him more intriguing.) I really like Jess Michaels and the way she writes. I have read several of her books previously, but this one was just okay.

Her Favorite Duke by Jess Michaels is a sizzling but sweet Regency Romance. While, this is #2 in the series, "The 1797 Club" it can be read as a stand alone. See, "Her Daring Duke", #1. This is the story of Simon Greene, Duke of Crestwood, Margaret Rylon (Meg) who has been friends since childhood, James, Duke of Abernathie, Meg's brother and Graham, the Duke of Northfield, a other friend. Graham, James, and Simon are all part of the 1797 Club, however, Simon and Graham are the best of friends. Simon, has always been considered the peacemaker of the group, but in reality he appears a bit of a spineless coward, toward his feelings for Meg. Meg becomes betrothed to Graham, by her brother, James, none knowing her true feelings for Simon, oh, they suspect but go forward with there plans, anyway. To be honest James, suspects she just has a childhood infatuation for Simon. Fast forward seven years later..... Meg and Graham finally set their wedding date. BTW Graham is not in love with Meg either. Simon guards his feelings for Meg until they're

caught in a compromising position, the wedding is off, Meg and Simon must marry. Yay!! Simon guards his feelings toward Meg, for fear of getting hurt. But his friendship is ended between him and Graham. An unusual story to me, how many men or ladies, in fact, wait seven years before setting a wedding date? The reader is given the impression Graham had no amorous affairs, what, for seven years? Unbelievable, to me, but I suppose it could happen. Then there's Meg, who does not reveal her true feeling, she's waiting for Simon to step forward, and announce his feelings toward her. Simon is sweet, but an utter coward when it comes to his feelings toward Meg. So, they'd all rather be miserable for the rest of their lives, then tell the truth. Oh, Graham, is marrying Meg to yes, you got it, to please his friend James. They are all rather young, in their teens, Meg's sixteen, you understand their feelings run hot and cold, right? While, this was not my favorite of Jess Michaels' story, it was rather a sweet story, once you get past all the other stuff. It's a sizzling love story, with many complicated triangles. A true love story with all the complications of a love triangle, while only two of them is truly in love. So, I guess, you wouldn't call it a love triangle. The reader does learn why Simon is so guarded with his feelings. No cliffhanger, however, I was left with a few unanswered questions. Such as what happens to Graham, and Simon's hateful mother, the old Duchess of Crestwood. The reader is given the impression, from the back of the book that, Graham's story is next, which, I anticipate reading. Please don't get me wrong, I adore Ms. Michaels' stories, "Her Favorite Duke" was a bit hard connect to the characters and grip the plot, to me, however I'd still recommend reading it, especially those who enjoy romance, there is a bit of mystery to why Simon guards his feelings. A good read! I received a complimentary copy. All opinions are my own. Rating: 4 Heat rating: Steamy/Sizzling Reviewed by: April R

I am voluntarily leaving a review for and eARC provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher 4.5 stars If you read the previous book, The Daring Duke, you know that there was something between James, the Duke of Abernathie's sister, Lady Margret aka Meg and Simon, the Duke of Crestwood. These two shared a very close friendship and the longing between them that was tangible. But Meg was betrothed to Graham, Duke of Northfield when she was only 16 and her brother Stop correcting "inherited". While her heart longed for Simon, she accepted the betrothal to make her brother happy and hoped that she would learn to love Graham. Simon was devastated when Meg was betrothed to Graham. He loved Meg and wanted to marry her, but he said nothing because he didn't want to cause problems with James and Graham. Next to Meg, the two men were his closest friends and like brothers to him. Seven years have passed since the betrothal and time is running out for Meg, James has married and has been hinting that it is time for her to marry Graham and despite the time

that has passed, she is still in love with Simon and feels nothing more than friendship for Graham. While at a house party, James and Emma are hosting, Graham asks her if she would like to marry in three months, she feels she has no choice. Their wedding date is announced and she is heartbroken, she secretly hoped that Simon would object and declare himself, but he said nothing. Simon can't believe that Meg and Graham are finally going to marry - it feels like his life is over. When the Duke of Roseford finds Simon alone and suggests that Simon might want to take a holiday to get over his pain, Simon agrees, because there is no way he wants to watch his love marry another man. The next day he plans to say good-bye to Meg and then leave. But when he sees her and sees her pain, he wants nothing more than to comfort her. When Meg slips away from the party to clear her head, Simon follows. She wanders for almost an hour before Simon calls out to her. The weather has taken a turn and they are caught in a downpour. Too far from the house to make it back, they take shelter in the abandoned caretakers cottage. Soaked and chilled to the bone, they start a fire and strip out of their wet clothes, when they agree to share the bed to keep warm and share a passionate kiss, Simon is disgusted with himself and leaves the room. The next morning he is awoken by voices outside and realizes that James and Graham have found them. Unfortunately, they are not alone, and when the group enters the cottage and find a naked Simon alone with an equally naked Meg - everything changes. Graham is very angry with Simon and says some very hateful things, but he is gracious and agrees to stay long enough to see Simon and Meg's engagement announced and appear to support the marriage. Simon cannot seem to forgive himself, he doesn't believe that he should get his heart's desire and hates himself for causing so much pain and scandal. As much as he loves Meg, he seems intent on punishing himself and in the process, hurts her as well. Simon feels incredibly guilty and mourns the loss of his friendship with Graham, he refuses to let himself be happy with Meg and begins to shut her out. For her part, Meg tries to make their marriage work and tries to get Simon to put the past behind them, she is willing to fight for their happiness, until an unexpected visit and confession from Roseford, makes her realize that Simon will never forgive himself and she leaves him. Simon is confronted by James the next day and when he learns that Meg has left him for good, he finally seems to snap out of the pity party he has been having since they were caught together. For the first time ever, Simon is ready to fight for what he wants and he wants Meg. This story is so well done, it flows perfectly, has some very HOT love scenes, it is emotional and I never doubted for a moment that these two loved each other, but I confess, I was ready to smack Simon more than once. These two had a very painful journey to their HEA, but once they find it, the ending was worth all the agony this reader suffered! This is the second book in the 1797 Club series, but there is enough backstory given that you could read this

as a stand alone title with no problems. I highly recommend this series and am looking forward to reading Graham's story!!

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