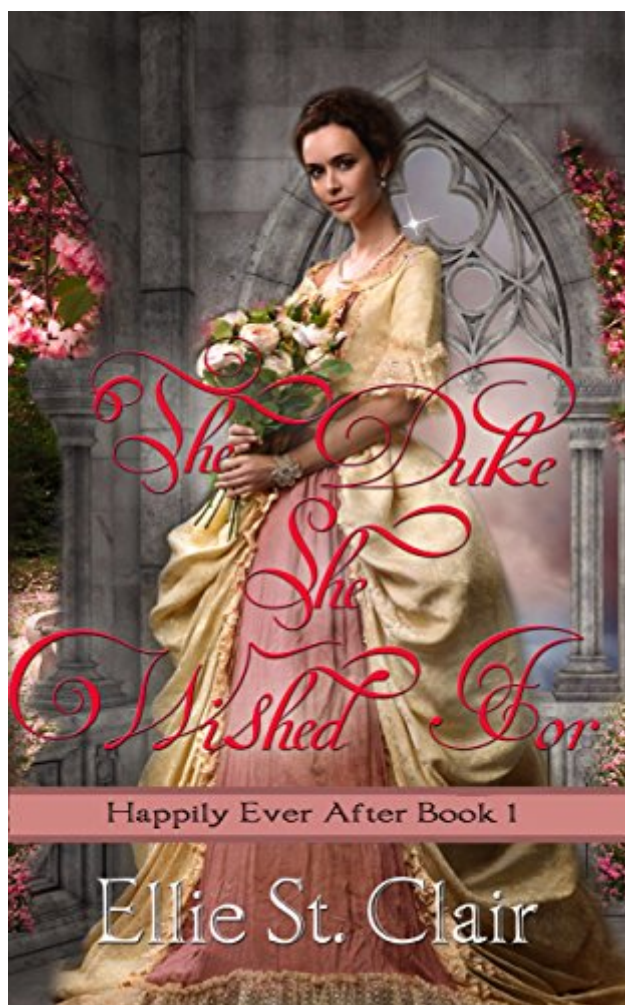


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The Duke She Wished For (Happily Ever After Book 1)



Synopsis

Tabitha Blackmore is a woman who knows what she wants. A life of her own, one free from her hostile stepmother and gold-digging stepsister, and the ability to profit from her own talent. Working out of the shop her father began, Tabitha creates some of the most noteworthy hats and accessories in London, and looks forward to the day she can attend millinery school in Paris and break free of her current life. An opportunity arises to outfit and protect the Duchess of Stowe, leading to a chance meeting with her son, the Duke. Nicholas Fairchild is a duke in name but not at heart. As his mother returns to society following her mourning period for his father, Nicholas dreads his responsibility to entertain vapid, fortune-seeking socialites and, eventually, find a wife. He happens upon Tabitha, who is everything he would have hoped for but nothing that he would have ever expected. He's a duke who holds honesty above all; she's a commoner hiding her true identity. Can they find their happily ever after at the masquerade, or will what separates them be too much to overcome when the final chime sounds at midnight? The Duke She Wished For is a 30,000-word romance with no cliffhangers, no cheating, and a guaranteed happily ever after!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Duke She Wished For, nicely written by Ellie St. Clair, is my first time reading one of her books. She didn't disappoint me! I really enjoyed Tabitha and Nicholas's romantic story! Tabitha, a smart and independent young woman, whose father died, is living with her stepmother and stepsister, who make her life miserable. Meanwhile, she loves creating hats and accessories for women in her father's shop, but her real dream is to study in a millinery school in Paris. Suddenly an opportunity enters in her life. She is offered the possibility of attending to the Duchess of Stowe, who has a handsome son named Nicholas. But Nicholas is a duke....can he fall in love with a commoner? Only time will tell!*Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book from the author. I was not required to write a positive review, and have not been compensated for this. This is my honest opinion.* Since it was free, I just bought a copy!

Ellie St. ClairThe Duke She Wished ForThis is my first read by Ellie St. Clair and I'm definitely adding her to my preferred authors list. "The Duke She Wished For" is a fun and witty short story with the classic Cinderella storyline between a Baronet's daughter who is a Milner and a Duke! The story is well written with charismatic characters you stick with and cheer on up to the "Happily Ever After!", and it was a very "HAPPILY EVER AFTER, indeed. Yes, Im Jealous!

It was an exciting and tantalizing story. Alex and Tabitha made a superb couple. We really liked the HEA. Thank you for an engaging read, Danny and Debbie Scott.

This author shows great talent in capturing the thoughts of readers. I look forward to reading more works from this author.

This was the first book I read from author Ellie St Clair. But it will definitely not be my last! This was a delightful, enchanting novella. What girl would not wish for a Duke? Tabitha Blackmore only wished to save enough money to get away from her stepmother and stepsister who treated her like a servant after Tabitha's father passed away. She was left working in the millinery shop her and her father had built together. All her stepmother wanted was for her to make money so she could spent it on her daughter to get her married. Sound a little like a fairy tale? Well it is much better than that. Tabitha gets drawn into helping a duchess, who has not been in society for awhile, with her dressing at a house party she is having. On walks Lord Nicholas, her son who has been away. What follows is a wonderful story that will keep your attention and hoping all comes out in the end! All I can say is

hurry with the next story Ellie St Claire! I can hardly wait!

The Duke She Wished For This is a very short book and ends at the 58 per cent mark on the Kindle. Although the blurb doesn't mention it, It is followed by a time travel story. I didn't read the second story because the subject matter did not appeal. Tabitha, the h, is the daughter of a baronet who was involved in the millinery trade. After her mother died, he remarried a woman with a daughter from a previous marriage. The baronet has now died and Tabitha, a Cinderella character, does all the work in the millinery shop and her nasty stepmother and stepsister take all the profits. The h has a dream to attend millinery school in France and is secretly saving whatever she can keep hidden from her stepmother. The question for me was why she needed to attend millinery school in the first place, since according to the story she is a crack milliner with lots of business; not to mention the fact that she doesn't seem to have a plan for after millinery school. Where would she get the money to open her own shop, and if she's only coming back to her family shop, how would that benefit her? That was only the first of several stretched plot points here. The h has an order for hats from a widowed duchess, the mother of Nicholas, the current duke and also the H. A servant in the ducal household comes by to ask her to finish the order overnight, with the lure of extra payment. She manages, and the next day she goes to the duke's home with the hats. She is accompanied by an old friend, the daughter of an importer who is a creative dress designer. The friend makes supporting appearances throughout the book. They are greeted by the housekeeper and her husband, who recruit her for a mission to save the widowed duchess from some of her "friends" who tend to belittle her. They want the h to spend time with the duchess, select her clothing ensembles, and act as a buffer between the duchess and these harpies. Their reason for choosing her out of the blue is merely that the husband saw her interact with a difficult customer in her shop. That's it. Her cover story is supplied by Alexander, the close childhood friend of the H (and also the heir to another dukedom). Alexander will say that the h is his distant cousin here to visit and they cook up a new last name and some personal details for her. So, two long-time employees of the duke's household decide of their own volition that the duchess needs to be protected and they convince Alexander to help them. Without telling the duchess or the H. The h agrees, even though she has to hide this from her stepmother and stepsister by making up a story as to why she will not be in the shop. Hijinks ensue. This story isn't badly written at all. The dialogue was fine. I have never encountered this plot line before but I suppose it is no more far-fetched than a lot of romances. Pretty much all the changes on boy-meets-girl have already been rung by this time. I enjoyed this in spite of myself. It isn't long enough to get boring and there was nothing here that really annoyed me.

I first have to say how much I love the cover. The girl is mysterious and the flowers are beautiful. It instantly draws you into the story. As a crafter and a sewer, I thoroughly enjoyed Tabitha and Tillie. It was fun reading a book about two talented and interesting young ladies. This is a very enjoyable spin on Cinderella which includes handsome men and a mean spirited stepmother and stepsister. Tabitha is sweet and deserves every happiness. She only needs to meet her Prince Charming, which she does not dare to do. Luckily, fate steps in. Ms. St. Clair gives the reader interesting characters, including those with a secondary role. I very much enjoyed this. I look forward to reading Ms. St. Clair's next book and hope Tillie gets her happily ever after. I received an ARC of this book. The choice to read and review it was all mine.

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