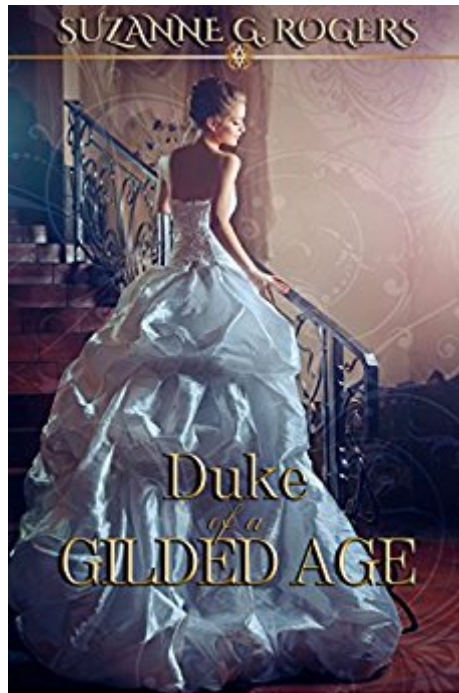




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# Duke Of A Gilded Age



## Synopsis

When American-born Wesley Parker inherits a dukedom in 1890, he must learn to be an aristocrat. Assigned to the task is his attorney's daughter, prim Belle Oakhurst. As they travel to England together on a luxurious ocean liner, their tempestuous relationship encounters more than rough seas. Although Wesley is increasingly attracted to Belle, she is already engaged. While Belle begins to regret her hasty promise to marry, she is bound by honor and duty to keep her pledge. Furthermore, a thoughtless fabrication on her part threatens to expose her as a liar. Neither Wesley nor Belle can foresee that their voyage across the Atlantic will be fraught with peril, and will cost more than one man his life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A very enjoyable read! A true page turner and keeper. Both the H and the h were fab characters and the Rogers did a wonderful job with the secondary characters as well, (especially with the young Duke's new valet, Cavendish). Rogers description of Europe, crossing the Atlantic and New York were very well done. A reader couldn't help but receive a mental picture of everything, right down to

the outfits worn and the opulent steamship they traveled on. I would highly recommend this lovely book.

Duke of a Gilded Age - PG  
Violence: some brawling, fisticuffs  
Language: 1 swear word  
Sex: no sex, a couple of kisses  
I like this writer; this is the second book I've read by her. It's an interesting story and goes at a nice, easy pace. I think it's appropriate for someone new to romance novels as it is definitely romantic and not sleazy in the least.

Mr. Oakhurst, the solicitor to the 10th Duke of Mansbury, Septimus Parker, has taken his daughter with him across the Atlantic to let the 11th Duke of Mansbury, Frederic Parker, know that his brother has died and he has inherited everything. When he and his daughter, Annabelle, find the new duke's residence, they learn that he died several years ago and that the new duke is, in fact, his 20-year-old son Wesley. They are further surprised to find that 20-year-old Wesley has been raised in poverty and does not want a title - or to leave America. But he sees how much it means to his mother for him to be the duke, and so he agrees to it. This story takes place in three parts: New York, the boat to England, and England. When Annabelle first meets Wesley, she is not impressed. She finds him to be a disgusting delinquent, but to help her father she agrees to teach Wesley the rules of gentlemanly behavior -- and to teach him to dance. Wesley thinks Annabelle is stuck up and feels bad for her fiance back in England, Errol. While they are waiting for the boat to leave from New York, they spend time together and become good friends. On the boat, they meet Louise, Stephen, Stacy, Eva, Carl and Horatio. They form a dancing club. Belle finds herself thinking a lot less about Errol and a lot more about Wesley. A lot happens on the boat and she is able to see how wrong her first impressions of Wesley were. Wesley was not what she expected, but now she finds that he has "far surpassed anything she could have imagined." When they get back to England, she hopes to break off her engagement to Errol, who she had barely known before she left for America. Where Errol was attentive and tender before she left for America, she now finds him to be demanding and almost cruel to her. He demands that she honor their wedding contract and threatens to ruin her father if she doesn't. There is definitely a mystery in Errol's behavior, and Wesley isn't willing to give Annabelle up so easily. He is determined to discover what Errol is covering up so he can free Belle from Errol's blackmailing grasp. This was a great story with great secondary characters. I think my favorite character in the whole book is Wesley's valet, Cavendish. Wesley hires him because he got dismissed from his last job for drinking, and so Wesley figures that once they get on the boat Cavendish will ignore him -- and the very American Wesley doesn't want a valet! But with

Cavendish he got a lot more than he bargained for... Bartholomew Xavier Cavendish is a lot more than he appears! It was fun to see him get his happy ending, too! Very clean romance.

This is a well-researched book, full of the over-the-top decor, traditional mores, honor-based personal relationships, and the increasing technology of the era. The story is about a young man, raised in New York, who discovers he is the almost-lost heir to an English dukedom (rather like Little Lord Fauntleroy, only he's older. But his character is also very virtuous.) The difficulties he faces are less about his fitness for the position he has no training for and no way to refuse, and more about the growing love he has for the daughter of the solicitor sent to retrieve him, who grows to love him, too, although she's already engaged. There's a lot of sightseeing, clothes-shopping, and shipboard life as they all (including his mother) travel to England. The segments where the solicitor's daughter lies about her ancestry to look better to the society people on board were hard for me to read, because I don't like to live through characters' embarrassment; and the twist with the fiancé toward the end was a bit of luck for the hero. But it was all very readable, and the sinking of the other ship was pretty exciting. What I most appreciated was the everyday details of life in that time, and the character of the valet. He was a hoot!

This book was well written and is different than many Brit romances as about a third of it takes place in America. I had a little trouble connecting with the main characters and the love story was not very passionate. The book starts to drag a little in the middle, but it is overall a quick read. The side characters were definitely amusing! It does not have any explicit sexual content so it is definitely appropriate for younger readers.

Something a little different for a Regency Romance. Very refreshing story line which begins in New York City and continues on a shipboard crossing, then on to England. Excellent background details! Rogers did a great job developing the characters, too. It was obvious she knew her history, or did in-depth historical research. I read mostly historical fiction, and really appreciate an author giving me an education about things I didn't know. I admit to sometimes reading a book with a map by my side, and will often check out geography or historical information to see where facts begin and fiction ends. Great story, with a bit of everything, including romance, adventure, intrigue, suspense. I can't get enough of this author's work.

I was hoping for a quick, easy read. It was filled with twists and turns, and even a few places where

you weren't sure how it would work out. It was a clean romance. I found myself skimming through some of the descriptive parts though because it made the story drag.

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