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Duke Of Midnight (Maiden Lane Book 6)



Synopsis

"Elizabeth Hoyt has outdone herself." --Jennifer Ashley, New York Times bestselling author

WHEN A MASKED MAN . . . Twenty years ago Maximus Batten witnessed the brutal murders of his parents. Now the autocratic Duke of Wakefield, he spends his days ruling Parliament. But by night, disguised as the Ghost of St. Giles, he prowls the grim alleys of St. Giles, ever on the hunt for the murderer. One night he finds a fiery woman who meets him toe-to-toe-and won't back down . . . **MEETS HIS MATCH . . .** Artemis Greaves toils as a lady's companion, but hiding beneath the plain brown serge of her dress is the heart of a huntress. When the Ghost of St. Giles rescues her from footpads, she recognizes a kindred spirit-and is intrigued. She's even more intrigued when she realizes who exactly the notorious Ghost is by day . . . **DESIRE IGNITES A DANGEROUS PASSION** Artemis makes a bold move: she demands that Maximus use his influence to free her imprisoned brother-or she will expose him as the Ghost. But blackmailing a powerful duke isn't without risks. Now that she has the tiger by the tail, can she withstand his ire-or the temptation of his embrace?

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Customer Reviews

I'll not go into the synopsis since you can read that above so instead I will talk about story and characters. Some spoilers. When we first meet Maximus, Duke of Wakefield, in *Notorious Pleasures*,

I really hated him. Read the story and you'll know why. But that said, in his own story you come to realize how broken he is as a man. The guilt he carries about the death of his parents is not some silly interpretation that he has of the event. Instead, it is something that all of us would feel and believe if we had been in the same situation at the young age of 14. The reader feels so horrible for the pain of his inner child that you just want to hold him and take away the pain. This pain, that he suppresses daily behind his cold and controlling manner, is destroying the man he should be. He wants to please his dead parents so badly that he is willing to overlook things that normally he would not have allowed, ie. his sister Heros's pending marriage to a man who struck her in the face in anger because he is high in rank and comes from an impeccable family. Control is EVERYTHING to Maximus since he views himself as a coward. Yes, a coward. But I won't go into that since you'll have to read the book to find out. Artemis is very different. She was a young woman who grew up in the country with her family. She loves walking the countryside barefooted and with no bonnet. An inner free spirit wanting to be released. Now don't get me wrong. Her childhood was far from perfect. Her father suffered from a mental illness and her mother was an invalid. She learned to suppress herself emotionally and just blend into the background. But unfortunately something horrible happened and her simple, somewhat emotionally repressed life was lost.

Artemis Greaves has a less-than-pleasant position as lady's companion to her cousin, Penelope. As befits her employment, Artemis fades into the background. No one ever takes note of her...until she steps out of the shadows in a bid to free her brother from his wrongful imprisonment in an insane asylum. Artemis will do anything to rescue her twin, even if that means she risks everything by attempting to blackmail Maximus Batten, Duke of Wakefield. Artemis knows the truth no one else would suspect: the cold, autocratic duke spends his nights disguised as the Ghost of St. Giles, haunting London's slums to rid the city of its ruinous gin trade and unmask the fiend who murdered his parents. But Artemis gets more than she bargained for when she sets out to blackmail the duke. Now that she has his attention, a dangerous attraction begins to build between the two. Surrendering to her passion for Maximus could take everything from Artemis; her position, her family, her reputation, and - if Maximus's enemy has his way - her life. Elizabeth Hoyt proves that still waters run can run very deep in Duke of Midnight. Maximus and Artemis are two people who are so much more than anyone perceives them to be, and only they can see the truth in one another. Artemis wears her companion's garb like a mask, covering her free spirit and fiery nature. Her growing feelings for Maximus bring her true character to the forefront in an explosion of emotion that's pretty reckless given the time period. As for Maximus, he's haunted by the murder of his

parents and has become a fairly Batman-like figure because of it.

Rating: B ... Heat: Sizzling Artemis Greaves is the beleaguered companion of her high maintenance cousin, Lady Penelope, and has perfected the art of blending in. Artemis is used to being unseen and unnoticed. Not that Artemis expects life to suddenly become any different. She's resigned herself to a life as a lady's companion after her brother, and twin, Apollo, was committed to Bedlam for murder. But change it suddenly does when a harebrained idea of Penelope's finds them set upon by a footpad in St. Giles. Which means that Maximus Batten, Duke of Wakefield and the last remaining Ghost of St. Giles, has to save the silly chits. During the scuffle, Artemis accidentally pulls Max's signet ring off his hand, which helps Artemis to quickly put two and two together. Now the icy Duke, who is trying to court Penelope, finds a fiery and feminine obstacle in his way. And with so much on his plate already--being a Duke, a vigilante, and a guardian to his younger sister Phoebe--Max will not let Artemis get in his way. Even if he can't seem to control himself in her presence. The more time spent with Wakefield, the more his chilliness got to me. He could be passionate and sweet one moment, then nearly totally devoid of feeling or compassion the next. And while I am a fan of the mixed social class trope--titled gentleman falls for his very own Cinderella--Artemis is a lady. Her dad was a Viscount. Wakefield simply didn't think her good enough. Good enough to kiss, and more, but not even a possibility for marriage. That... stung. And angered me. And annoyed me when that opinion didn't change for a long while. It just felt cruel and did not endear me to him. Because Artemis is caring and kind and, though fierce when need be, a gentle soul.

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