



Fallen Angel

Charlotte Louise Dolan

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Man of Mystery

It was simple for Miss Verity Jolliffe to find out a great deal about Gabriel Rainsford, Lord Sherington. His good looks and wealth were evident His arrogance and ruthlessness were legendary.

Still, a question remained. What could Sherington see in a modest young lady like her, when he had the voluptuous Eleanor Lowndes as his mistress, and the most beautiful belles of the town eager to be his bride? Did he want her as a plaything for his jaded desires? Or as a wife in a mockery of a marriage? Or as a means of revenge on all womankind? But whatever he wanted, Verity feared that one thing was certain. Caught in his spell, she would find it heartbreakingly hard to say no....

Fallen Angel Details

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From Reader Review *Fallen Angel* for online ebook

Ridley says

Fleeing London after an argument with a spiteful aunt, Gabriel, the Earl of Sherrington, runs across a woman stranded at a burned out coaching inn. Despite his inclination to ignore her and keep moving, something about Miss Verity Jolliffe's straightfoward request and lack of feminine wiles compels him to drive her the short distance to her family's home. After a lengthy discussion of sheep, they arrive at her family's modest home, where Gabriel discovers an ill-tempered family to rival his own.

Upon picking her up for their return trip, he asks her why she should go to the trouble of caring for such a bunch of ungracious louts, as they'll certainly never mend their ways. When she explains that love is not given with the expectation of getting something in return, or with the aim of changing a loved one's ways, Gabriel has an idea. Marrying Verity would net him the perfect wife. She doesn't natter on about fashions or gossip and by her own admission she'd never try to manipulate him with her love. He resolves to court her when they reach London. He'll turn up the charm, make her love him and get both the perfect wife and revenge on his distasteful heir apparent in one fell swoop

While I guess it was just another jaded rake seeks biddable miss regency, I really liked the characters. Gabriel was an arrogant alpha, which I normally despise, but I found him completely likeable. Something about his brusque, brutal honesty endeared him to me. Sure he was domineering and demanding, but he was pretty clear about it. He says to himself that he's deceiving Verity, but I'd hardly rate "being a bit nicer than usual while courting a girl I fully intend to marry" as a grand deception. He's pretty much himself - a forceful personality who plays to win - from the start. All he leaves out is why he's courting Verity. So while he may not have initially been motivated by love, he's still not planning a bait and switch. He can tell himself he's a callous businessman just trying to close a deal, but only a man totally smitten gifts a heirloom cookbook to a woman who's said she loves managing a household.

For her part, Verity rather likes the big jerk just the way he is. I should have thought her a Pollyanna doormat for how she just took her family's ill treatment of her in stride. Somehow, she managed to look strong doing it. I'd guess it's because she didn't excuse their behavior or let it alter how she looked at herself. They were boorish, but they were her family, and 26 year old spinsters don't get a lot of options in the housing department. It made sense that she'd be attracted to the demanding but forthright Gabriel. After years of being manipulated by her family's false smiles and hollow praise as though she were some half-wit, she finds his open demands quite refreshing. When he also treats her like an actualized person by grumpily urging her to stand up to her family and stop being so damn meek, she's a goner.

They make a fine pair - he the hard-nosed power broker and she the quietly determined peace maker. I couldn't help but enjoy the book, well-worn premise or not.

Cristina says

I love Signet Regency romance novels, but this is the only one on my list of all time favorite books. Verity, the heroine of the book is such a real person! She is an old maid, a homebody, and quite plain. Lord Sherrington is a rich, ruthless bachelor and when he decides that Verity would be the perfect wife for him (she won't try and change him at all!) he sets out to make her fall in love with him. The best part of the book

is watching Lord Sherington's feelings for and opinions of Verity slowly change and feeling his frustration when he thinks she still doesn't love him.

Lisa Kay says

★★★★★ Whoa. I'd heard this book was very good, but it surpassed even my expectations. There is so much more here than meets the eye. The characters are nothing out of the ordinary – **at first**. But as I turned the pages they developed a depth and uniqueness that is not often found in this type of publication. Yes, I've heard the set-up before; nevertheless, Ms. Dolan managed to make these characters have their own distinct personalities and experience individual growth after spending time with one another. Truly a story of the power of unconditional love. I cried in two places and gobbled the book down whole last night in one sitting.

Definitely a book for my keeper shelf. I'll be looking for more by this "new-2-me" author.

LuvGirl says

What a great book! I absolutely loved it! This author is an amazing writer. If every author wrote this good, I would be giving every book 4 and 5 stars. I didn't even like the description of the hero. He was described as not being actually handsome (which is one of my biggest pet peeves) but the hero was written so intriguingly that I couldn't turn away. He was ruthless, and he didn't take crap from anyone or mince words when putting someone down. Here is a conversation between him and his mistress: "Have your taste become so perverted that you can prefer her to me? "My dear do you have any idea how boring you have become?" LOL! I also loved the story-line of the hero trying to make the heroine fall in love with him, while all the while she already loved him from the first time she saw him.

The heroine feelings for him was so adorable. She was absolutely gaga over him, and I could relate to the way she yearned for him. It was like a teenager falling in love for the first time, (been there, done that, lol). What I loved best about this book though, was watching the hero fall in love with her gradually even though he didn't seem at all attracted to her in the beginning. Every thought and action he did made the reader know that he was falling in love with the heroine. He didn't say I love you until the last sentence in the book but the reader knew without a doubt that he loved the heroine. He didn't have to utter a word. Now that's what I call great writing! ! LCD can teach some of these authors today... Showing and not only telling.

Ira says

3.25 stars.

I like the story and the grumpy hero.

But I couldn't stand the heroine, while I understand why the author pair the hero with the heroine like this. Her attitude and inner dialogue toward love and her family made me grit my teeth often. Also why she thought is ok for Gabriel to have mistresses as long as she still can have him?

Oh dear oh dear....

The girl need lots of courage injections into her backbone to make her appreciate herself more, she did that, at 84% of the story, sigh.

But, Gabriel save the book for me!:))

And no, no cheating eventhought at the first, the heroine think it was ok.

Chi says

Re-read 14/11/2018

This time around, I managed to find the error that eluded me the first time: there was a spot where Miss Jennings hadn't been corrected for Miss Jolliffe.

I have to admit that the first few chapters really annoyed me. Here was perfect Miss Verity Jolliffe, happy to let her family walk all over her and her concerns, effectively treating her as an unpaid servant instead of a valued member of her family. I did however appreciate how easily she could read Gabriel Sherrington and could tell when he was being disingenuous, since she was so accustomed to her family's manipulations.

Then I slowly fell for her, and how Gabriel imagined her. Despite initially wooing Verity with a high degree of calculation, I loved that over the time that they spent together, he slowly came to see her beauty, her true and constant heart, as well as her uncomplicated and honest nature. She really was someone who strove to see the good in people, and it took a great deal before she questioned it. If she was naive, she was still the sweeter for being able to see the kindness and wanting to soothe the hurt in those she cared the most.

I guess that it was hard for me to understand why Verity fell so quickly for Gabriel (and on reflection, I think that it was because she had been a spinster for so long, any positive attention would've been enough to turn her feelings into love). But I still maintain that it was a beautifully written story, and there were some excellent touches through it all. Maybe her relations might've been painted in too broad a brush (as were some of Gabriel's), but I loved how Gabriel treated his household staff, and reduced them to happy tears (honestly, that was the cutest scene!).

In the end, it was still a solid read, and I enjoyed it as much this time as I had the first time I read it.

SQUEEEEEAAAAAL That was the best!!! I have never read such a beautifully written clean romance - and if I have, I may have to re-read it!

"Fallen Angel" features two of the most interesting characters I've ever read.

On the one hand, we have the alpha male, Gabriel. You know? The one who has been given such looks, money and honoured title, he should be in want for nothing... except that he actually isn't the true son of the late Lord Sherrington, which has therefore earned disdain from the Rainsford side of the family. Also, beneath his quick-fire temper and stern expectations, there was actually a pretty decent heart beating there (in particular the scene where he met his motley crew of household staff for the first time. I laughed myself silly to the point where I think my husband thought me perhaps gone in the head).

Then, we have Verity. Presented to readers as a mouse of a woman to begin with, her intelligence, honesty and warmth towards those most deserving was a delight to behold. I was glad for her when she finally found her voice!

I LOVED that this book focused on their courtship - as unconventional as it was! - rather than just solely their physical attraction. Instead of the usual flowers, jewellery, etc, there's a lot of shared confidences, meaningful gifts, and the lovely idea of just wanting to share your thoughts and moments with the person that you loved the most.

I honestly could not think of a single negative thing about this book whatsoever, and if I could, I probably would've overlooked them for the sheer wonderful feelings I took away from this book.

Linda says

FALLEN ANGEL refers to Gabriel Rainsford, Lord Sherington, a very rich man who does not realize how unhappy he is until he meets Verity Joliffe. His childhood was one continual hardship that molded him into the hard egotistic nobleman he eventually becomes. When he reached the age of twenty-one and inherited the title of Earl, he learned to trust no one. 'Love' is a game and he will not be suckered into considering marriage. Until he meets Verity.

Considered to be a timid mouse, Verity's relatives use her. When the two finally meet Gabriel contemplates life with this woman. At this point I need to mention that Ms. Dolan did not glamorize her looks; he sees her as a plain-looking woman. Gabriel feels he can mold her into what he wants and still be the same man he is. He gives himself a timetable to get her to fall in love with him. Notice when I say fall in love with him and not the other way around. Because he has no wish to change.

This 'gentleman' is not the most likeable person. And unknown to Gabriel, Verity falls in love with him at first sight but she does not say anything. Gabriel, wondering what has happened to his magic touch, can't understand why she hasn't said she loves him as so many other women have done before.

I enjoyed the fact that not everything was perfect with their relationship. Verity caused Gabriel to have his doubts. This was a man who rarely had things not go his way since reaching adulthood and now there was an conflict in his life.

The romance starts out slow but wait until this unusual couple finally meet. Then watch the confusion on Gabriel's part and Verity learning to become bolder. Their personalities rub off on each other. And only for the better. This is a couple you would still see happily married after 50 years.

Mary - Buried Under Romance says

At this point I have re-read this book often enough that I can almost remember every scene in succession, and I must say that it will remain one of my favorite historical romance. This one being the traditional regency that it falls under has little "steam," so everything is characterization and plot. Oh, what wonderful characterizations we have here.

This heroine is arguably the most unique I've ever read - a spinster who uncomplainingly helps her ungrateful family, but isn't exactly a pushover, who is logical, kind, yet loves with an undying loyalty and always willing to defend her love's best interests. And the hero is incredibly kind but honestly believes that he is ruthless (in a way, it is just his armor) while his actions speak to a far greater kindness than most others of his class. Yet, he is just so frustrated that the heroine isn't falling in with his plans of making her fall in love with him when she has already fallen for him at first sight!

This is simply a delightful read. :)

Miranda Davis says

At eight years old, Gabriel Rainsford was sent to sea to die by his father-in-name-only, an evil-tempered earl cuckolded by his unloved wife. That Gabriel survived the brutal conditions of the merchant marines and eventually succeeded in life was thanks to his willingness to win at all cost and to a provident inheritance from an unknown relative. He returns to England years later as the new earl, and faces family resentments and insubordinate servants. During a solitary trip at Christmastime, he meets a calm, unprepossessing spinster who changes the course of his life when he decides to change hers.

When they meet, Verity Joliffe is nothing like the women he knows in Society; she's forthright, intelligent and without guile. She doesn't prattle or try to manipulate him. She loves her family though they treat her like a drudge; and her explanation for her feelings demonstrates her character and dignity. He decides, impetuously, that she would make him a fine countess. So he undertakes a campaign to make her love him. It doesn't go as planned. Along the way, however, he and Verity becomes loyal friends, who help one another heal old wounds.

Verity, the object of Gabriel's impatient, irascible affection, comes into her own under his rough care. She falls for him quickly, but then she's led a sheltered, diminished life. She sees his sterling qualities through the bluster and never suspects his serious intentions. When he turns to her for help with domestic matters, or escorts her in society, she grows more confident of herself and her worth and loves him more deeply. But she anticipates losing his interest at any time. When she finally realizes her family loyalty is unreciprocated, she loses patience with them and strikes out on her own.

Gabriel is consistently and often hilariously bad-tempered as his efforts to "make her" love him fizzle. He's also dictatorial and plainspoken; yet, he's sweetly vulnerable. After sacking his entire treacherous staff, and with Verity's help, he hires a motley bunch turned off unfairly by others. On day one, he brings his new housekeeper, butler and valet to tears - of joy - with his generosity and gets thoroughly annoyed (a very funny scene that says everything about his true character). Gabriel would be today's ideal alpha: he is very rich, utterly managing, sexy, capable of transforming the heroine's life, fiercely protective and he is a wounded soul deserving love. He's a big, blustery grouch to Verity, but dear when it matters most. He also makes the best, worst non-proposal I've read. While hauling her unceremoniously to St. George's with a special license in hand, he tells her, "Do not even think about trying to dissuade me, because I have completely lost patience with you, and I am not prepared to be at all reasonable in this matter."

If I gave plot specifics, you'd understand why the romance worked so nicely, but I'd be spoiling the fun of reading about all the ways she confounds him without meaning to till he's driven to take decisive action. It's OOP so keep an eye out at thrift stores or online.

4.5 stars, she's a bit passive for my taste, though it's true to her character. And there's sloppy editing, with the main characters given different names in places.

Caz says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's OOP and very hard to find in the UK, but the libraries came up trumps and found me a copy from the wilds of t' North!

It tells the story of Verity Jollife, rather plain, twenty-six and unmarried, and Gabriel, Earl of Sherington. She is almost a generation younger than her older siblings and is regarded by them as a source of unpaid labour and generally treated as the poor relation.

Gabriel has a reputation for being a cold-hearted, calculating bastard. He's incredibly rich, having made his fortune in trade, but knows, having inherited his title, that society will nonetheless flock to his door. He doesn't get on well with his family either - although in fact, it turns out that those he had thought his relatives are not; at the beginning of the book, his aunt maliciously reveals that he may not be his father's son at all.

He is mistrustful of pretty much everybody, especially women, all of whom he believes are crafty and deceptive and only want him for his money and his title. He knows he will have to marry at some point, but is reluctant to select a bride from the *ton*, believing she will eventually reveal herself to be a manipulative harpy who seeks to change him and his lifestyle.

So when he meets Miss Verity Jollife and reluctantly agrees to take her up in his carriage, he is constantly surprised by her reactions to him, which are never what he expects them to be.

Having spent a little more time in her company, he decides she is exactly the sort of woman he could marry - she is quiet, sensible and her definition of love indicates to him that she would be content to leave him to his own devices after marriage.

Thereafter, he sets out to win her affections - little suspecting that she has already fallen hard for him.

To be honest though, I have to wonder why, because throughout almost the whole of their early acquaintance, he is rather cold and off-putting! He is actually angry when she doesn't declare her love for him after a week, which makes him seem rather like a petulant schoolboy who isn't getting his own way.

But when his history is unfolded, it becomes clearer why he might act that way; he was sent away from home and into the Navy at the age of 8 and spent much of his early years separated from his mother, so he has never been shown love or affection.

As the story progresses, Gabriel is shown to be a good man at heart - even though he denies this and insists on reminding people how ruthless he can be, it's clear by his actions that he is fair and straightforward, treating his servants as people rather than objects.

It also seems to me that, although his aim is to have Verity fall in love with him so that he can marry her, he is hardly indifferent, even though he doesn't admit it. He misses her on the days he doesn't see her; where he had at first thought her plain, he finds more to admire in her ever time he sees her; and he understands her well enough to know that she will enjoy the gift of a book on housekeeping (which is also a generations-old

family heirloom) more than one of valuable jewellery.

He gets angry with Verity for letting her relatives treat her as a dogsbody - and even though that is true, she is not diminished by it. Somehow, Dolan has written her character in such a way as to make her tolerance of their behaviour towards her into a strength rather than a weakness. But I was glad when she finally realises that although she might love her family - she doesn't necessarily like them, and when she finally stands up to her overbearing sister; something Verity admits her acquaintance with Gabriel has given her the fortitude to do.

I rattled through the book in a few hours, eager to discover more about the protagonists and to watch their relationship develop.

It's a lovely read and the ending is just perfect.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I really enjoyed this one. It had a few things I would have liked tweaked, but overall I just loved our characters, especially Gabriel. He definitely has the whole tortured-hero thing going on. While he was pretty rough and considered ruthless, he really has a good heart. It's just buried deep down. I loved how he handled people, especially those that were trying to hurt him or Verity. I especially loved a scene where Gabriel is interviewing his new staff, it was so funny and sweet at the same time. I think it was then that you see his true self, and I admit it made me like him all the more.

I loved the relationship between Gabriel and Verity. I think he fell in love with her right from the beginning; it just took him awhile to figure things out. I loved that the longer he got to know her, the more beautiful he found her. I loved how he was protective of her and would do anything for her. Even endure her obnoxious family. They are a good influence on each other. Gabriel helps give her strength and see that she deserves to be treated better by her family. Verity is a great calming influence on Gabriel, and teaches him subtly about love. I kept wondering why he insisted on winning her love before proposing. It didn't seem like him, considering his feelings on love. The only thing I can come up with is that like I said earlier, he loved her from the beginning and wanted to do things right with her.

The few things I would tweak. First, the story opens and Gabriel has a mistress, one he is quickly getting tired of. I just hate those storylines, but whatever. Second, while this is a clean read, there are a few innuendos, but I will say, it always felt more like Gabriel loved Verity not just lusted after her. Anyway, the last thing that really bugged me was Verity saying she would do anything to be with Gabriel, including being his mistress. She claims she would be happy if he even offered her that much, so long as she could be near him. DUH! I could literally go on for pages of why that is such a bad idea, but I won't. I will say, she kept her thoughts to herself and I liked that while she had a lot of inner turmoil going on, she always presented a strong face to Gabriel. And, luckily, Gabriel always had honorable intentions towards Verity.

Overall, I really loved the story and plot. I have probably used the word "love" way too many times in this review, but I don't care. This is one of those books where the characters really came alive for me, they felt real. I was sad when it ended, I wanted more. I wanted to see behind the HEA, what would married life be like for them? I wish there were a sequel.

Content: Clean. Mild talk of mistresses and mild innuendos.

Leona says

This was very well done. It has been a long time since I have read a historical romance. For some reason, I have found it difficult to get back into that genre, much preferring contemporary romance and chick lit. However, this book was the exception that drew me back.

I really enjoyed the hero and heroine. They were both beautifully portrayed. Their interactions were downright funny and it was a joy to watch the hero find himself.

An engaging read and one I highly recommend to all lovers of historical romances.

Nefise says

Finally, I could read the book.

I haven't so good time in a HR for a long time. Last night, I counted the HR books that I haven't finished, and I haven't marked DNF yet. There were 5...

Maybe because of that I have been reading all kinds of CR books recently and this book made the day for me. I couldn't drop it and it was so sweet and engaging.

Even though, it has not a unique plot, with characterization and its narrative it's absolutely a new experience for me for a HR book. Especially, I liked hero very much. I can say that as if the book was about him more than a couple's story. He was very original hero. :)

I'll definitely try another books of the author. Thanks for my GRs friends that helped me to notice the book.

Ririn says

3.5 stars

I think, the more suited title should be 'The Courting of Miss Jolliffe'.

Rane says

Charlotte Louise Dolan like a shooting star blaze through leaving behind only a handful of books to her name. Fallen Angel is one of those books, that relies heavily on character driven story of Verity Jolliffe & Gabriel- Lord Sherington. Both characters had their strengths and weakness that made the book and the story so engrossing.

Gabriel is hard as nails and "ruthless" to the point of just being down right cold. At the start of the story, his Aunt throws in his face that his father wasn't his real father. This doesn't bother Gabriel in the least, as he

has no love lost for his father whom at the age of eight sent Gabriel to the sea, where he faced many of hardships. These hardships shaped the man you see, but Gabriel is a true diamond in the rough, and it takes the steady and gentle hand of Verity to bring out the diamond in Gabriel. In Verity, he sees the perfect dutiful wife, one whom once interfered with his life and sets out to make her fall in love with him and taking out his spoiled cousin out of the way to the title. What he doesn't quite see is the hidden spark in Verity this spark that not even her overbearing family who uses her to their own needs, but she still ends up loving can destroy.

Verity and Gabriel are two kindred spirits with Gabriel's so-called family making him a hard man and Verity shy and almost weak-willed but very matter-of-fact and knows when she's being played. Verity sees early on that Gabriel wants something from her, she doesn't can't place her finger on and Gabriel hates to see how Verity lets herself be taken advantage of time and again. In Gabriel, you see the true kindness, but his actions and his protective thoughts, he still shows his cold side by forcing Verity to see the peers whom only cater to those with true power, and even her own family pamper Gabriel because of what he could do for their family. It takes a few gentle pushes to have Gabriel break down his cold wall, with his discovery of his mother's past and his own grandmother. These events tear at your heart, but this doesn't change how pushy Gabriel is, but has his heart in the right place and full of love he didn't know he could feel or be gifted with. Verity has her spark baked-down due to her family, and it took sometime for him to warm up to her. She had a huge heart, but she was pushed around so much even by Gabriel I wanted to shake her, and make her grow a back-bone. This was a weakness and her strength. If she used a heavy hand on Gabriel I don't think he would have changed as he did.

It warms the reader's heart the way both change and fall in love with one another. The change is gradual and not over a few pages, and both characters make you feel joy and anger, but they make you "feel" instead of the reader just being a passive passenger. You feel many emotions that Charlotte Louise Dolan brings to this book from both leads and all the secondary characters.

There is some parts that brought tears to my eyes but two scenes I loved that "made" this book so lovable for me....

Gabriel : *"Tell me what kind of a husband you want and I will be that man."*

As Verity wakes after her wedding night to find Gabriel beside her and "her eyes widened and filled with joy, like a child who has received a most wondrous present"

Overall: While Charlotte Louise Dolan only wrote a few books, I can understand why many readers say their true hidden gems, and after reading *Fallen Angel* I couldn't agree more. The characters were truly the backbone of this story instead of the other way around. While not perfect, still truly memorable like a shooting star in the sky.
