



Hohenstein

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Anything but a typical aristocrat, young Baroness Marie-Louise is not afraid to roll up her sleeves and get to work, especially when it comes to saving her ancestral estate. Determined to shake loose the shackles of propriety and gain the warm family life her upbringing denied her, she has vowed to marry a man of lower rank. Blue-bloods need not apply.

But when she is forced to turn to a childhood friend for assistance, the handsome, debonair count may prove a temptation impossible to resist. Marie-Louise soon finds herself caught between the comfort of a middle-class doctor and the passion of a nobleman, with the future of her childhood home at stake.

Hohenstein Details

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Author : Didi Lawson

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From Reader Review Hohenstein for online ebook

Jen says

I didn't particularly care for this book. The story kept me turning pages. The story is well written with descriptive language and beautiful settings. I guess there were just some things in the story that didn't sit well with me. There wasn't anything particularly wrong with it, I just didn't care for it that much.
I received a free ebook to review.

H. says

HOHENSTEIN by Didi Lawson, filled the bill for me. This book takes me to a modern (? Not sure what year it's actually set in, though there are cars but also dresses) fairytale in which the edges are a little frayed and the gilt a bit tarnished. It is a clean, sweet romance with some gumption. No swearing or sex or excessive partying (although there is a German wedding...probably with an oompah band).

It's still a fairytale in an uncommon setting. We hear all the time about the English aristocracy, but rarely their German brothers and sisters. I found it refreshing to traipse around the German countryside in a horse-drawn coach, and to tour the unvisited corners of the castle that tourists don't get to see into.

This is a book about Marie-Louise, a baroness who has fallen on hard times and must scrape up the money to refurbish her castle. We always think of the romantic side of castles, while never really remembering that they are drafty and damp and sometimes moldy and decrepit.

Sometimes the love story can be just as drafty and damp. She falls for the wrong man, not the commoner she vowed to marry, and who wants to marry her. Not only that, but her knight in shining armor won't ride to her rescue. Marie-Louise has to rescue herself all the time. Well nearly all. She can't quite understand how the guy she's sweet on can kiss her one minute and stuffily refuse her aid in the next.

HOHENSTEIN captured the tattered magic for me as surely as my mother's myriad fairy stories. The plot is interesting, the setting outstanding, the characters honest and lovable. I would have liked a little more action in the first parts of the book to get into it faster, but it levelled out in the end.

Marie-Louise had to learn to work hard to preserve her heritage, not have it handed to her on a sterling silver platter. Along the way, she found she could do difficult things. She discovered a resourcefulness and a willingness to look beyond how much money a person made or didn't make, to the gentle kindness beneath.

My vote is a good four Schwarzwaldertorte out of five. I'm looking forward to reading more by Didi Lawson in the future.

CarolynB says

I loved this first novel by Didi Lawson. Set in Germany, it's the story of a young baroness and her struggle to keep Hohenstein castle, her home, when times get tough financially for her. I loved the relationships between

the baroness and her aunt, and the former servants, as well as the two men in her life. Though not a Christian read per-se, it's totally clean.

Tracy says

In the early 1900s Baroness Marie-Louise finds herself pulled away from school because of lack of funds. She returns to her Hohenstein castle to find her strict aunt living in poverty and the castle itself falling to pieces. Instead of falling apart herself, she rolls up her sleeves and begins the arduous task of restoring her legacy. Marie-Louise has to walk a fine line between representing her social status as a baroness and earning money and getting to work to repair her beloved home. In her time at school she decides that she no longer believes in social classes and that she would like to marry a commoner so she doesn't have to deal with the social mores that exist. I love that Marie-Louise is an intelligent, resourceful, hard-working character. She comes in contact with various people, including her very formal aunt, her fun-loving but very blue-blooded cousin, and her amiable "commoner" doctor. This is a very entertaining read with delightful characters and interesting twists. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

MzMonka says

This is my first experience with Lawson's writing and I can say I was pleasantly surprised. Romance stories are a little hard for me to follow especially when they are overly flowery and this is not one of those books. The characters and their interactions are well written and developed. There are no awkward instances where the conversation or interaction is awkward, unless it was intended to be an awkward interaction within the story. There is a nice flow to this book and there are high points and low points that the main character goes through and it just seems to work well. Not everything can be wine and roses and this book is written from a more realistic view of how life actually happens. Now what didn't work for me was being able to telegraph what character was responsible for what and also how the story was actually going to end. This might have been just me but with each incident in the book I knew what or who was responsible. I prefer a little more mystery but overall it was not badly done. If you are looking for a romance story that is not all flowers and rainbows this may be one to consider. I received a free copy of this book for review and evaluation purposes. All opinions expressed are my own.

Tiffany Miss.Fiction says

I was given this book in exchange of an honest review

This book tells the story of the Baroness Marie Louise and the struggles, as an independent woman, to keep her family estate, Castle Hohenstein. She has also vowed to marry to a lower rank man that can guarantee her comfort but soon, she needs to turn to an handsome childhood friend for assistance and she's soon caught into a romance trap that mines her

It's really well written and the story flows very well. I liked Marie-Louise, she's a strong female character and she's a resourceful woman, not afraid to roll up her sleeves and she's so determined to save what's left of her family.

However, i didn't really enjoy the story very much thou i love historical novels. This is way too romance for my taste and i've found myself turning pages without much interest on what was going on. Nothing really wrong, but i simply couldn't feel really attracted to the story.

Ali says

I thoroughly enjoyed this clean romance set in pre-WWI. Didi Lawson does a great job writing a heroine that isn't prissy, angst filled, or having her whole life revolve totally around a man.

Baroness Marie-Louise returns home to find that her ancestral home (a castle) happens to have fallen into disrepair. There are no funds for the upkeep, but Marie-Louise doesn't let that keep her down! She actively finds a way to bring her home back to the state it was before, and even makes some great improvements.

I also like that the book was set in Germany. Seeing how the pre-WWI aristocracy live from the German point of view was a new spin on things.

The romance is light and clean. It is a book that I would recommend to anyone.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for my review. All opinions are my own though and not swayed by receiving a free copy from the publishers.

Dionne says

I really enjoyed this book and it was a page turner. The romance was clean and the story was well written. I liked how resourceful and intelligent she was in resolving her problems. However, her blindness to the count's true feelings for her was a little unbelievable for how intelligent a woman her character was. There was also some historical fiction in it with reference to the climate in the country being cautious of a war, but I would prefer more historical references and connections in the story line. I'm looking forward to reading the sequel!

Emily says

I really enjoyed this book. Cleanly romantic, good historical fiction. Strong, feisty, female character. We should all have a Count in our lives!

Valerie Steimle says

There is nothing like settling down to a good story with interesting characters and intriguing plot. It's like eating an amazing cherry cheesecake dessert after a long fast from food. That's how I feel about Didi Lawson's new book Hohenstein. A dessert of a read and I had the chance to indulge myself last week and I was not disappointed.

I love the setting of the early 1900's in Europe and learning about the life of a Baroness. Nobility always fascinated me and with taking care of her family castle from generations ago, Baroness Marie-Louise Hohenstein had her hands full. There are marvelous historical descriptions of the quaint villages of the time,

wonderful characterizations of the villagers and those in the castle and an intriguing story of which guy the Baroness will choose in the end. A wonderful book to spend the day away from the hustle and bustle of life.

Alicia says

I have met this author (she is my friend's mother-in-law) and she is a skillful writer! This (her first published novel) is a fun story set in Germany (where we lived for 3 years) and readers who enjoy clean romance books will enjoy this. It was actually a little too "sensual" for me; I would rather not read so many details about people kissing, and I can't stand the arrogant male attitudes of "You think you don't want me to kiss you, but you're going to like it..." and "You should be perfectly honest with me, but I will hide some things from you." Aaargh. So I didn't like the Count. But the heroine is a wonderful, strong, resourceful character and this is definitely a fun read by a very promising author!

Sydney says

This is a fun, well-written novel, taking place in Germany. German characters and setting make this novel enjoyable and different. Filled with mishaps, adventure, relationships, and romance, Didi Lawson's first novel is a hit. Her characters are well developed and easy to relate to. The aristocratic point of view is both intriguing and entertaining, as Lawson shows how Marie-Louise attempts to act her part as baroness while adapting to the new and modern world. I would recommend this novel to any historical romance reader.

Penny says

As the publisher of this book, I will refrain from giving it a star rating in order to maintain the objectivity of the system. However, lovers of historical fiction will enjoy this novel set in the Bavarian district of pre-World War I Germany. Marie-Louise is a feisty, determined young woman with nothing but disdain for her mother's jet-setting lifestyle, and the drive to create the future and family that is best for herself. Sweet romance with a generous lacing of adventure and a side-order of intrigue.

As a German national, Didi Lawson does an excellent job of bringing her time and culture of choice to life.

Shauna says

WOW! I LOVED THIS BOOK!

I loved how Baroness Marie-Louise pulled me in and kept me reading! She is WONDERFUL!

And the things she does to keep Hohenstein--intriquing!

And the count will truly keep your emotions going--loving him one minute and being irked with him the

next--

AMAZING writing!

Historical fiction with a delightful touch of romance!

See how it all plays out in this MUST-READ book :)

Sarah says

If you are in the mood for a bit of romantic fluff...this is it! It didn't feel like all the other period novels out there. This is a refreshingly different story, set in pre-WWI Austria/Germany. It reads a bit like a fairy-tale with beautiful dresses, a castle set in a romantic mountain. A handsome hero who helps save the day. I really enjoyed that the heroine isn't all angst-filled like so many being written recently. It is a sweet, squeaky-clean, romance that is a pleasure to read.
