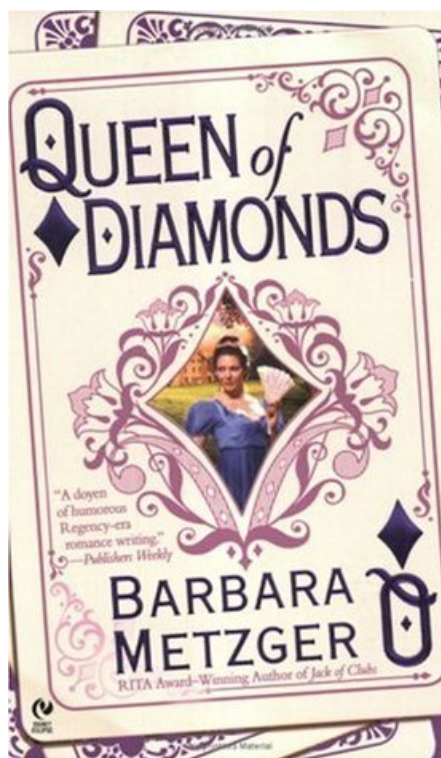




Queen of Diamonds

Barbara Metzger

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All of London knows the story of the vanished Lady Charlotte Endicott and the handsome reward that will accompany her safe return. Scores of blond-haired, blue-eyed impostors have tried their luck at Jack Endicott's casino claiming to be the girl, only to be turned away-but Queenie Dennis just might be the one. Fate takes a turn when she returns to London posing as a dressmaker fresh from France. Queenie quickly becomes the talk of the town, catching the eye of the handsome Lord Harkness. As her love for him grows, Queenie's lies begin to catch up with her. Will Harkness call her bluff, or does love hold the winning hand?

Queen of Diamonds Details

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Romance

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From Reader Review Queen of Diamonds for online ebook

drey says

drey's thoughts:

Queenie Dennis is a woman in hiding—from the truth of her origins, from the Endicotts, and from the authorities. Her mother's lies set Queenie on the path towards redemption, and she hopes that she can make it up to the Endicotts, at least. After Paris, of course.

Returning to London with a quick needle and quicker eye for fashion and designs, Queenie sets up shop. She figures the quicker she can make money, the faster she can repay her mother's stolen money. But before she knows it she's hanging out with Lord Harkness (aye, even in her shop!), and attracting more attention than she'd like...

This third House of Cards book is very different from the first two. Those were about the men, and even rakish Jack was a gentleman who had his brother's name and money to fall back on if needed. Queenie has nothing and nobody, except an air-headed friend who stands by her. So by its very nature, Queen of Diamonds has a darker and grittier background and feel to it.

But I loved the characters. Queenie is strong and determined, even if she doesn't know that she's wrong. And Lord Harkness is a perfect foil for her personality, even if he doesn't mean to be. I loved the scenes where he's helping out in her shop. Him, a fancy lord and all... *grin*

Fans of regency romance will love Queen of Diamonds, and the entire House of Cards trilogy.

drey's rating: Excellent!

Frances says

Queen....

This whole series was lame and this third book and thankfully the last, is the worst. Even worse, I paid for them.

Sandy M says

Queenie Dennis comes to London after her mother's death to let the Endicott family know what happened to their half sister Charlotte years ago when she was abducted after a carriage accident in which her mother died. But when an accomplice to the crime tells her in no uncertain terms she would be tossed into prison for her part in the crime, she heads to France where she studies fashion design. Years later she's back in England, determined to make a success of her fashions as Madame Denise Lescartes and to once again give what little information she has to a family who has suffered too long.

It's on a fateful night that Lord Harry Harkness is searching for his no-good brother-in-law who has absconded with his family's diamonds that he meets Madame Lescartes and they help each other out across London, Denise/Queenie to broadcast her fashions to the ladies of Town and Harry to get his hands on the

family thief. The more they're together, of course, the more they become attracted to each other, even though they both know London society would frown on any relationship because of Queenie's rank.

I was rather disappointed in this book compared to the others. I was expecting the same humor I got in the previous two, but this book is a little darker. I found myself skipping sections after a while just to find some of that humor. While I didn't find it in abundance, I did find some cute scenes, one where Harry ends up keeping order in Queenie's shop when it becomes overrun by women wanting her dresses. It was rather fun to see him charm courtesans and the high-born in the same breath. But other than this scene, there are only a few more that qualify as cute or humorous. I'm sorry to say I was bored more than I laughed with this story.

Also, after three books, I wanted more time with this family when they finally come together and are getting to know one another. Instead, it was only the last several pages of the book when the truth eventually comes out and Ace and Jack have their sister back. Not what I was hoping for at all. It was just an overall let-down after the fun I had with the first two books.

And a note to Ms. Metzger: please have your webmaster add excerpts for your books to your website. Books that are only a few years old should have something to tell readers about them. There's not one excerpt on your site, Ms. Metzger, even for your newest book just released. Very, very frustrating!

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>

Cruth says

Author: Barbara Metzger

First published: 2006

Length: ~4700 locations

Setting: 1816, London, England.

Sex: Heavy petting. Closed door. Somewhat explicit.

Heroine: Believes herself an orphan. Dressmaker.

A nice story but oh, so slow.

Nothing ever seems to happen.

It completes the trilogy satisfactorily but the road we take is long and drawn out with too many unstated conversations and misunderstandings.

There were some really interesting characters. Some teasing glimpses of clever situations.

But nothing ever happened.

sigh

I really wish it had been better.

House of Cards:

Book 1 Ace of Hearts - Alexander "Ace" Endicott and Nell

Book 2 Jack of Clubs - Captain Jack Endicott and Allie Silver

Book 3 Queen Of Diamonds - Lady Charlotte Endicott (Queenie) and Lord Harkness

(Read as part of The House of Cards Trilogy).

References:

Author's websites: <http://www.barbarametzger.com/>

-CR-

Katy Jo Franklin says

Enjoy a well written clean story with “Happy Ever After Ending”

The last of the “House of Cards Trilogy” it was a pleasure to read with all the ends tied up. Clean without grammar errors or unnecessary sex, a great read in all respects.

Nancy says

Unfortunately, I can't give the last book in this trilogy the 4 or 5 star rating that I would have. The book was well-written & had a great plot...but sadly, the "too graphic for me" romance (which did nothing to add to the story) showed up in the last couple of chapters.

Rebecca (everyday reader) says

Queenie doesn't know about her past, her parents identities, or even if her name is really even Queenie. Her mother, Molly, has died, an evil man tells her that she was never Molly's daughter, and flees for her life and to start anew in France. A year later she returns to set up shop as a dressmaker when she catches the eye of Harry, a viscount who can't seem to stay away. Becoming a success in business is exhausting but she feels she owes something to the Endicott boys whom she has discovered paid for her education. A bunch of lies told to her finally reveal the truth and her family rejoices, the evil man's wrong doings are found out and he pays, Queenie/Charlotte and Harry fall in love and family's expand. Good read!!

Holley says

A very nice conclusion to the trilogy story arc, but I actually liked the hero and heroine and their side characters more.

Christa Schönmann Abbühl says

A wonderful conclusion to this lovely trilogy. It is even possible I liked this one best. It was very female centered, and the heroine is an amazing self-made women. Her male counterpart is the best kind of hero, a warm and caring man with values and (very likable) flaws, and steady as a rock. There were three or four

times in the book when a phrase struck me as so well put and funny, I wanted to share it with the world. Sadly the Kindle I was reading on is not good at sharing. Sorry, your loss.

SM says

3.5.

Suspense was dragged too much.

Good closure to the series. Story and execution was a little different from usual Metzger style.

Of all three, 2nd one was best.

Though heroine's self determination in this one was awesome.

Ernie says

The story of Lady Charlotte Endicott who was kidnapped as a child and has not memory of who she really is. This is the third and final book in this series. I found the first two books much more humorous than this one. The story of the kidnapping etc. threw me initially so the story did not become intriguing until the mid point for me. I really enjoyed the first two books this one not quite so much, but it is readable.

Marguerite Butler says

My least favorite book in the trilogy. The heroine created her own problems throughout the story and I was annoyed with Jack and Ace's behavior. I only finished this one because I liked the first two books. Not a witty end to such a promising start.

Mary Fabian says

The bad guy lost, the daughter restored, all is right in the world. I was somewhat annoyed by Jack at the end of the book as he didn't follow his character very well. It would have been nice to have had the ending go just a bit further. A woman returned to society after 18 years is bound to have some issues.

Linda C says

Queenie Dennis, believes herself to be an orphan used in a blackmail scheme years ago. She intended to go to London and tell the brothers, Alex and Jack, searching for their sister about the plot after she discovers what she believes to be the facts when her supposed mother dies. But one surviving member of the plot threatens her and the brothers if she says anything. So Queenie changes her name and goes to France to pursue a career in fashion design. Three years later she returns to London, sets up shop and plans to earn money to repay the brothers and tell her story. Lord Harry Harkness is in London hunting his disreputable

brother-in-law who has stolen the family diamonds. They meet at Jack's gambling hall which is closed and being turned into a school. The mention of the Cyprian's Ball leads both of them to agree to attend; Harry to search for his brother-in-law and Queenie and her friend to show off her designed gowns. So begins their relationship. Lots of humor and terrific side characters help the story along. Great ending to the trilogy.

Meg says

referred to women as "females" way too often. It got annoying. But the story was okay. The 2nd in the trilogy was my favorite, with Harriet and her "shennanigans".
