



The Diamond Key

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Wynn, Viscount Ingall, saved a young woman from a fire. Lady Victoria Keyes, in despair of her life, promised herself to marry any man who rescued her, whoever he might be. But Wynn was a social outcast and refused her hand. And the diamond key Torrie's father gave her at her come-out ball was a promise to give her heart and hand only to her true love... Regency Romance by Barbara Metzger; originally published by Signet

The Diamond Key Details

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From Reader Review The Diamond Key for online ebook

Anne Glover says

A fast read that is genre true with likeable characters and some funny bits.

For my full review: <http://www.regrom.com/2015/11/16/barb...>

Usiusiusi says

Kind of ancient book from from my shelf (reread for x time :P). Just fluffy and cute. Something to make you feeling giddy the entire time. Nothing serious.

QNPoohBear says

Lady Victoria Keyes is known as the Diamond of the ton. She's been out for three seasons and hasn't found a husband, despite her great beauty and wealth. Torrie's parents want her to marry for true and abiding love, just as they did, and Torrie wears a diamond key necklace around her neck as the key to her heart. She will not unlock her heart for just anyone. Then, she's caught in a terrible fire at the dressmakers and she makes a vow to marry the first man Papa brings home from White's - nay- she vows to marry her rescuer, so she knows he's an honorable man. Wynn, Viscount Ingall, and his dog Homer are the ones to rescue Torrie from the burning building. Torrie sets her sights firmly on Wynn. He has other ideas. Recently returned to England after 6 years in exile, he has amassed a fortune to rival Golden Ball and everyone wants a piece of him. He already has several plaguey females hanging on his sleeve: one former sister-in-law, living off his fortune with a poor relation cousin to marry off; one former mistress who is breeding and wants to give another man's child Wynn's name and one old friend, in need of money and a husband. Wynn does not want anything more to do with Torrie, but when her father promises to introduce Wynn back into Society where he can do a lot of good with his money, Wynn can't refuse. First he needs to find a valet who can make him presentable, and who isn't averse to dogs or foreigners. Then he begins to suspect that the fire was no accident and Torrie is in danger. He can't let the silly chit get herself into more trouble, but why he should care is beyond him. He's not the marrying kind.

This is a cute story, typical of Metzger's early works. Though it was written in the last decade, it's classified as a "sweet" or clean Regency. The passionate kisses are off page. There's the usual talk of mistresses and duels and several characters are breeding, but the story is sweet. I felt like clapping at the very end. I only rated the book 4 stars because the story moves a bit slowly. At certain points I was left wondering "now what?" It fails to reach the screwball level as some of her others do. High sticklers beware that there's several improbable inaccuracies in the story but it's fun so go with the flow. The villain is a little obvious and a lot bumbling. The mystery kind of gets lost halfway through but picks up again towards the end. It's not a breathtaking, can't put it down sort of mystery.

Torrie is a bit naive and silly for me. At first I didn't like her but she grew on me. She's feisty and stubborn and despite her ridiculous vow, she knows what she wants. I just don't see her as mature enough to be getting married yet. Wynn is also difficult to like at first. I wondered why he was such a misogynist and what made him that way. Once I got to know him, I saw that he's a sensitive, caring, noble man. He's a little too noble for me. I'm not so fond of the heroes who have to fix everyone's problems and fall on their swords to save the

world. Wynn isn't quite that noble as it turns out, and he grew on me. I loved his relationships with everyone around him, including Homer. They show what kind of man he really is. I especially liked how Homer, the ragged terrier, played a large role in the story. I bumped the book from 3 3/4 stars to 4 because of Homer. I also loved Torrie's Papa and how he and Mama are so deeply in love. They truly care about their daughter and wish her to be happy. It makes a nice change from the awful, pushing parents who want to marry the girl to the highest bidder. The other secondary characters are a bit annoying. I liked Beroggi because he adds a lot of comic relief. The series of valets were a riot.

Georgette Heyer fans and fans of Metzger's other books should enjoy this one. It's the perfect fluffy, fun read that will make you smile.

Kate Maxwell says

What a fun read. Perfect for fans of Georgette Heyer - great vocabulary, very amusing and a good yarn!

Mary says

Clean, despite the trashy looking cover.

Elise says

Good easy beach read!

Anneceleste says

3,5 because the last 30-40 pages were not up to the rest of the book.

Jane says

3.25 stars - heavy pg13/mild r-lite (see below)

Fun book. Some funny, sharp lines throughout, as well as some over-the-top stuff and a silly ending typical for Metzger. Barrogi, the Hero's rough, somewhat-seedy, Italian, man-of-all-jobs is absolutely hysterical!!! The "field hospital" at Mrs. Reese's ball is a complete hoot!

(This would be considered a typical "clean" secular traditional regency, but I would call it a more "tarnished" clean. Possible use of: innuendo, mild cursing &/or crudeness, God's name in vain, mild violence. Reference to mistresses/"whores", very vague reference to homosexuality. And in my opinion lines like this just aren't necessary: *"soft creamy mounds rose above the lace trim, like twin pillows a man could dream on, could climb, like white-capped waves"* My rating would be higher, if it were a bit more clean.)

Wealththeow says

Lady Victoria Keyes is beautiful, well-mannered, and an heiress. She's been beset by suitors since her come-out, but has yet to meet someone she actually wants to marry. When a fire breaks out at her dressmaker's, she swears to marry whoever rescues her...and it's a rich titled hottie named Ingram. But between his disreputable dog, even more disreputable manservant, a scandalous duel in his past, and a long list of ladies he feels the need to help, Torrie and Ingram might never be able to get together.

As is usual to Regency romances, all the plot (the kidnappings, the arson, the murder, etc) wraps up a bit too conveniently. But the writing is just fine, I bought the characters' affection for each other, and there's a nice dose of humor to this.

Heather says

Really having trouble getting through this one. There is just way too much wording that I don't understand from that time period used in this book. And there is not much dialogue, and when there is, it doesn't seem very believable. I'm wanting something that really grabs me! I find myself loving the idea and plot, but every time I try to read it, I get annoyed by how it's executed or something. I have to move on to something else for now.

Louise Allen says

With the willing suspension of disbelief about historical accuracy this is a great read - very amusing, great characters and another original plot by Metzger with a heroine who, trapped by a fire, swears to marry the man who rescues her. The trouble is, he's not so keen...

Desi says

Average overall. Less funny than her other work. Sort of a worn out version of the same recycled plot without the level of humour required to distract from this. Nothing much to offend either so it's very readable. Also, was Metzger pregnant when she wrote this, because honest to goodness every second character was.

Donna Hatch says

I loved this book. It was well written, had a great story with likeable characters. The heroine's vow to marry the man who would save her from the burning building created an instantly likeable character. It also promised the reader that there would be lots of fun twists in this story, and the author lives up to that. I highly recommend this book and can't wait to read others by this author.

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I ended up really enjoying this one. I was a little surprised that most of the story takes place from Wynn's perspective, luckily I liked him and it was fun to see the awkward situations he would find himself in. He is a very likable character, I loved that he was so eager to help those around him. I also liked that he ended up having good morals. Lady Torrie was also very likable; I wouldn't have minded a bit more interaction between the two. While the story does contain a lot of slang from that time period, I didn't find it too distracting. It reminded me of a Heyer novel in that respect. I loved that it was lighthearted and fun. And of course I fell for little Homer. Great read, I look forward to reading more by this author.

Content: Clean romance, PG. Contains some swearing (mostly the D word), and a little innuendo, mostly Wynn enjoying Torrie's...shape.

inbetween says

Half the length of RR, and eight times faster a read. Metzger's later books might actually be slightly "better" since for her, discarding all attempts at copying Heyer and just going with the simplest "plot" actually makes that much more legible. The adventure bits do have adequate space, and the pushme-pullme of the couple is seen as amusingly infuriating.

It is basically the same plot as always - I actually forgot the beginning now that I finished - incl. her trademark dog and sending the not-dead mother off to the country, the couple semi-agreeing to marriage at the first meeting and then just randomly tithing. The comedy in the hero's impossible search for a valet didn't wow me, but I was glad that what seemed an awful lot of the usual injustice - these rakes are from the start better than gold and unfairly deprived and maligned (and all younger sons and sudden heirs, see Beverly, Carlyle, Duane/Gaston for this and most other stuff) - didn't drag on so much because the pov was mostly his, and he kept trying to find husbands for the various women that were all not his mistresses. He did have some character therefore, so that was ok.

Nanette says

it was very light, cute. not her best

Englishrose says

I thoroughly enjoy this one. I love Torrie's impetuosity and the way she thinks. It reminds me of myself once upon a time. Situation after situation arise in almost a comedic farce or series of unfortunate events that make you laugh at the situations they find themselves in. Wynn is a strong character with a good moral code and a good sense of humor. I enjoy the word usage and they word play that the author uses. Definitely a good read.

<http://cleanromancereviews.blogspot.com>

Nanette says

it was sweet and light. not as good as some of her others

Fluttershy says

A fun, farcical romance.

Susannah Carleton says

Delightful! With many romances and a plethora of happy endings, this story is fun to read.
