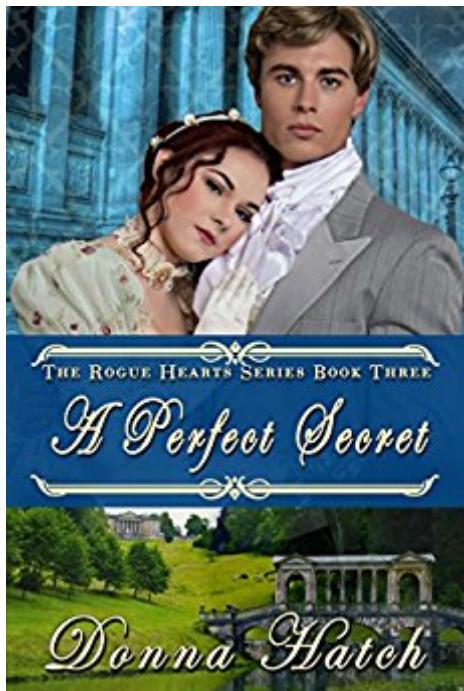


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A Perfect Secret: Regency Historical Romance (Rogue Hearts Series Book 3)



Synopsis

Desperate to protect her father from trial and death, Genevieve breaks off her engagement with Christian Amesbury and marries a blackmailer. After a year of marriage, she flees her husband's violent domination only to have fate bring her back to Christian. Just when she thinks she's started a new life of safety and solitude, her husband tracks her down, stalks her, and threatens everyone she loves. Still brokenhearted over Genevieve's betrayal a year ago, Christian can't believe she's come back into his life--and worse, that she's done it on the anniversary of his brother's death, a death that haunts him. Though tempted to throw her back into the river where he found her, he can't leave her at the mercy of the terrifying man she married. When her husband torments Genevieve and puts his family in danger, Christian will do anything to protect those he loves...anything except give Genevieve another chance to break his heart.

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this one even more the second time around. This was a little more serious than the other

two books, it deals with domestic abuse of the worst kind. Genevieve and Christian were engaged and blissfully happy, when she finds out her father is being blackmailed she is forced to marry another man. To say it is an unhappy marriage would be an understatement. He was more a cruel captor than an honorable husband. Theirs was not a true marriage. She has spent a year being physically, emotionally and mentally abused and when she loses her unborn baby she has had enough. Meanwhile, Christian who is the youngest son and having always felt left out and unloved had finally found the love of his life when she abruptly ends their engagement and marries another man. Christian is heartbroken and closes himself off more than ever. Their paths cross and he finds himself in the role of her protector, a place he does not want to be. I liked both Christian and Genevieve. When I read the book previously, I was a little turned off that she was still married when she started falling for Christian again. This time around it didn't really bother me. They were in love before (and probably during their separation) and I didn't really view her marriage as a real marriage anyway. They have both changed a lot in the year they've been apart and have to learn to trust one another again. I actually enjoyed their relationship and was rooting for them to find a way to be together. I think going in knowing what to expect I was able to enjoy it more. While Genevieve did suffer abuse, it is never detailed and pretty vague. I appreciated that we weren't given too many details and that the main focus was her time with Christian and escaping her captor.

I really enjoyed A PERFECT SECRET. Donna Hatch is a skillful storyteller and I feel justified in having paid what I did for the book. In Georgian England, mutiny is a hanging offense. Officers on a ship engaged in mutiny are often hanged for their part, however large or small. Genevieve's father hides the fact that at 17 he allows a mutiny to happen under his charge. The horribly slithery Lord Wickburgh has discovered the fact and uses it to force Genevieve to marry him, both to torment her in the safety of his home, and to deny Christian his one true love. What's a girl to do? Either she marries sadistic Wickburgh and denies herself any hope of happiness and saves her father from the noose, or she follows her heart and her father and thus the family go down in ignominy. She chooses to cut Christian off and sacrifice herself in aid of her father. But she never thought how horrible Wickburgh could be, not in her wildest dreams did she imagine she would be tortured, beaten, imprisoned, and forced to watch those she loved die under the fist of her despotic husband. She finally cannot stand another day and takes matters into her own hands. Christian rides to her rescue only to find that it's his faithless sweetheart, the one he'd given up as a jilt. I enjoyed the pace of this book, the twists, the love Christian shows the girl he never really stopped loving, and his loyalty to her. I liked that Donna allowed Wickburgh one saving grace--that he was a man of his

word. It rounded the monster out a bit. I would have liked to know Wickburgh's motive, however.

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