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The Noble Servant



Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Melanie Dickerson beautifully re-imagines “The Goose Girl” by the Brothers Grimm into a medieval tale of adventure, loss, and love. “When it comes to happily-ever-afters, Melanie Dickerson is the undisputed queen of fairy-tale romance, and all I can say is long live the queen!” JULIE LESSMAN, award-winning author of *The Daughters of Boston*, *Winds of Change*, and *Heart of San Francisco* series

She lost everything to the scheme of an evil servant. But she might just gain what she’s always wanted . . . if she makes it in time. The impossible was happening. She, Magdalen of Mallin, was to marry the Duke of Wolfberg. Magdalen had dreamed about receiving a proposal ever since she met the duke two years ago. Such a marriage was the only way she could save her people from starvation. But why would a handsome, wealthy duke want to marry her, a poor baron’s daughter? It seemed too good to be true. On the journey to Wolfberg Castle, Magdalen’s servant forces her to trade places and become her servant, threatening not only Magdalen’s life, but the lives of those she holds dear. Stripped of her identity and title in Wolfberg, where no one knows her, Magdalen is sentenced to tend geese while she watches her former handmaiden gain all Magdalen had ever dreamed of. When a handsome shepherd befriends her, Magdalen begins to suspect he carries secrets of his own. Together, Magdalen and the shepherd uncover a sinister plot against Wolfberg and the duke. But with no resources, will they be able to find the answers, the hiding places, and the forces they need in time to save both Mallin and Wolfberg?

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Customer Reviews

Fairy tales aren't just for girls. Melanie Dickerson does such a great job of creating her characters and re-telling a story that even my boys enjoy these books. And I love watching her stories come to life. We met Lady Magdalen and Steffan, the Duke of Wolfberg in book two of the Medieval Fairy Tale series. We've been waiting for something to happen since book two ended with them riding away together. And now, finally, the Duke has invited Magdalen to come to his castle, with the intentions of marrying her. It doesn't take long for things to start falling apart. As Magdalen and Steffan are reacquainted and start working together to right the wrongs, things start to make sense. Once again, Melanie Dickerson has written a great story that can be enjoyed by all ages and we are looking forward to her next story.

In true Melanie fashion this latest story "A Noble Servant" is A delightful fairytale woven with Christian values and a reminder that through every hardship God is with us, guiding our steps. With believable characters and a story line that will draw you in and keep the pages turning, I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys reading Christian fiction. This is a delightful spin on the German fairy-tale of the Goose Girl and one you will not want to miss!

This is the story of Lady Magdalen, a baron's daughter, who we first met in The Beautiful Pretender. She receives a letter from the Duke of Wolfberg, proposing marriage, so travels there with three of her servants. Two of them force her to switch identities with her maid. Their switched identities are not the only ones. There is much intrigue and deception going on at Wolfberg. The story has all the elements of a great fairy tale: the evil uncle, a young "damsel in distress" (though this one is quite capable), the handsome duke, a castle, and much adventure. The love story is rather sweet, seeming to catch them (especially the duke) by surprise, and the ending most satisfactory.

Dickerson's latest blends slight elements of "The Goose Girl" fairy tale with the idea of trading identities from Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*. Magdelyn, daughter of the late Baron of Mallin, is eager to accept the marriage invitation offered her by the young Duke of Wolfberg though she has not seen him in two years. Such an advantageous marriage would let her give new opportunities to her impoverished people. Her memory of the Duke from their brief meeting also gave her hope that perhaps they could come to love one another in time. But wicked people are plotting against both Magdelyn and the young Duke. Can their faith sustain, restore, and lead them to a happily ever after?

I think I'm a bit of a revenge kind of girl because I did Not want to forgive some of these characters. In fact, I wanted a couple of them to end up slopping the pigs for the rest of their lives! The hero and heroine learn to be less trusting of others and more trusting in God as they discover the importance of people regardless of status.

I really enjoyed this book. It's not really a surprise though, because I'm a huge fan of Melanie's books. Her books are always creative and fun. I didn't particularly like Magdalen's character at first, but as the story continued and she grew into her personality, I eventually came to appreciate her more. As for Steffan...wow. There just as many up and downs with him, but I still loved his character. I guess I just felt a closer connection with him than with "Maggie" because of some things he was going through and feeling at the time. Overall, the story was well written with just the right amount of history, romance, action, danger, and you know, the whole chivalrous thing that I love. I definitely recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good historical romance. I'd like to thank Netgalley for a free e-book in exchange for an honest review.

I love all the retellings of old fairytale stories. There's just something awesome about chivalry, good, bad, with good ultimately winning. The romance between two characters where one is determined not to fall in love and yet...

Another really good book by Melanie Dickerson. The characters were so well developed and true to what (good vs evil) they represented in the story. The Christian message was meaningful and wonderfully woven into the story. I already have her next book, *Dangerous Engagement*, on pre-order!

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