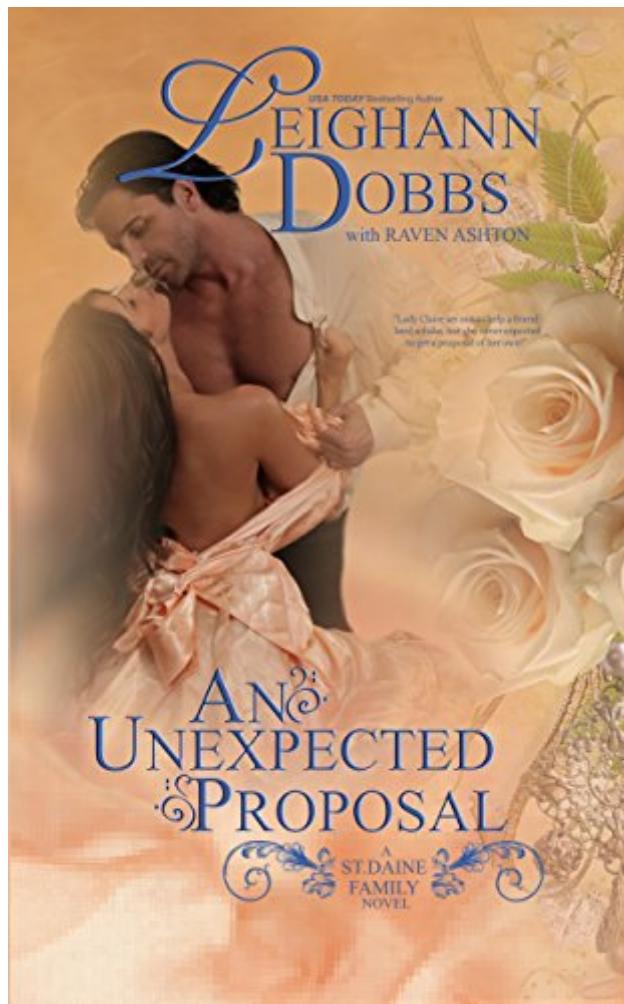


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# An Unexpected Proposal (Unexpected Series Book 1)



## **Synopsis**

Lady Claire Leighton is not interested in marriage. After years of watching her mother pine while her father spent his time with his mistress, Claire's only goal for her third Season is to help Mel win her duke. But when her friend decides to use trickery and deceit to further her quest, Claire is uncertain just how far the bonds of friendship and loyalty will stretch ... especially when the duke in question makes her feel none of the things she should and everything she shouldn't. Lucien St. Daine, the Duke of Rothwyn, doesn't have time for a wife. With his brother missing and his sister accusing him of doing nothing to hasten the prodigal son's return, the last thing he needs is a woman in his life. Yet, something about Lady Claire draws him to her again and again until he cannot imagine life without her by his side. But loyalty to family and friends often requires the ultimate sacrifice and love must be pushed aside. With a brother in trouble and a friend pushing for an unreasonable proposal, will Claire and Lucien let friendship and family responsibilities stand in the way of their happiness? Or will one of them finally let go of pride and promises gone awry to let their heart decide?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

What a great romance! The language is real to the era. It is a bit far fetched with 3 eligible dukes at

once. But the multiple romances happening were entertaining. I look forward to more! There is more than kissing. The mystery is vague and a side plot.

The blurb pretty well sums up everything that happens. Claire and Melissandra talk ad nauseum about their plan to get one of "the graces" (3 single dukes) to marry Mel, or how they both need to marry this season. They also dance, go to the theater, house parties, gardens, and libraries... where they talk some more. There's also some talk about Duke Rothwell's missing brother. While there were a few kisses (5 total?), there was a major shortage of action of any variety. And no explanation is given for the betrothed's presence in the Rothwell house at all. (I kept hoping to hear what happens when the duke goes to Newgate, or when Phoebe tries to rescue her brother, or Claire & Mel go to the docks to check out Tony the pirate captain,... but nothing as exciting as that ever happens...) The point of view jumps around without warning and the writer has problems with possessives - if something belongs to the duchess, it's the duchess', not the duchesses which is plural. Otherwise, the writing mechanics are fairly clean. Perhaps, this tale was simply not to my taste. I'm not into angst, and I like a lot more action. I finished it only because it was short and easy to skim through. The proposal was hardly unexpected, and I expect to skip other stories by this author. - 2.5

This was a really good story ruined by poor editing. And I'm not trying to be mean here, because I really liked the plot but this award-winning author just seemed to have a shaky grasp of the finer nuances of language. Plot: Good story, with several subplots. Lady Phoebe's meltdown at her house party is an especially good scene. Unfortunately, I gave up halfway through because the editing was so awful. Character Development/Continuity: Main characters and secondary characters too, are interesting, and you'll care what happens to them. Dobbs is deft at showing the development of the siblings' relationship. Even before you meet Tristan, you want to know him because you've learned quite a lot about him.. Editing: Words like averse/adverse and compliment/complement were used interchangeably. There were a lot of duplicate words and random words that should have been deleted. Duchesses or marquesses was used when the singular possessive duchess's or marquess's was meant. Which brings me to family names. The plural of Leighton is Leightons, not Leighton's. Therefore, you're going to the Leightons', not the Leighton's, unless only one Leighton lives there. Setting: Regency England. Language is appropriate to the period but not intrusive. It's normal for authors not to 'see' their words - and their errors - after dozens of rewrites. If you don't want to hire an editor, get some beta readers. Heck, I'd be happy to do it. Bottom line: If you're

unbothered by editing, you might love this. I'd give it 4 stars at least on the story alone.

This story is fun although there's some tragic portions. Claire agrees to help her friend Mel find a Duke to marry. Any Duke will do. Unfortunately the Duke she decided on actually falls for Claire instead. We have Phoebe, the Dukes sister causing trouble trying to find their brother Tristan who is in Newgate jail for piracy. The only way to get him free is for a personal sacrifice of Phoebe. It's fun watching the development of relationships...no one actually talks to each other so confusing situations occur. I don't like the concept of tricking a man into marriage that was planned. Especially since there's no divorce....an unhappy marriage would chain two people together until death. But, it's practiced even now with women trying to trap men with pregnancy. At least in the Regency period any untoward incident could result in a forced marriage....Fun read and looking forward to seeing what happens next for this group.

This will be hard to capture. The story line was light weight. The characters on the other hand were fairly developed. However, it was just endless churning. Talk talk talk - and it really made little sense. Background stories of other characters made no sense, or were not explained. The premise between the heroine and her friend (helping her friend to snag a duke) was flimsy. The romance did not "develop". It wasn't, then it was. Had potential but needed help. Grammar issues and typos. I wanted to like it but I just ended up skimming it.

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