



DESPERATELY SEEKING A DUKE

Celeste Bradley, St. Martin's Press 2008

- 1.** A primary theme of *DESPERATELY SEEKING A DUKE* is breaking free of others expectations. Phoebe must defy her father's wishes and Rafe must redefine himself in his brother's eyes. Can a person really ever leave their family's expectations behind? In what way do you impose your own expectations on your family members?
- 2.** Phoebe became sexually active at the age of fifteen. Do you think this is a modern phenomenon or have teenagers always been going at it behind the barn?
- 3.** What would you do, faced with a decision between a financially secure man and a man whom you found to be very exciting? Do you think this situation could occur in our own time?
- 4.** Have you ever found yourself "in love at first sight" with a body part (page 1)?
- 5.** What in Rafe's past experience makes running an estate very appealing to him? Is it something innate to his character?
- 6.** What was the nature of English to Irish prejudices in the early 1800s? Was the viewpoint any different between the English and the Scots? How can you see these differences played out in this story?
- 7.** What the heck are peccadilloes (page 146)?
- 8.** On page 297, Phoebe says "Can love ever be wasted? Isn't the act of loving worth something all on its own?" What do you think?