



## Marrying Winterborne

*Lisa Kleypas*

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# **Marrying Winterborne**

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## **Marrying Winterborne Lisa Kleypas**

*A ruthless tycoon*

Savage ambition has brought common-born Rhys Winterborne vast wealth and success. In business and beyond, Rhys gets exactly what he wants. And from the moment he meets the shy, aristocratic Lady Helen Ravenel, he is determined to possess her. If he must take her virtue to ensure she marries him, so much the better . . .

*A sheltered beauty*

Helen has had little contact with the glittering, cynical world of London society. Yet Rhys's determined seduction awakens an intense mutual passion. Helen's gentle upbringing belies a stubborn conviction that only she can tame her unruly husband. As Rhys's enemies conspire against them, Helen must trust him with her darkest secret. The risks are unthinkable . . . the reward, a lifetime of incomparable bliss. And it all begins with...

*Marrying Mr. Winterborne*

## **Marrying Winterborne Details**

Date : Published May 31st 2016 by Avon

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Author : Lisa Kleypas

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction

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## From Reader Review Marrying Winterborne for online ebook

### Stacey is Sassy says

#### I knew Rhys Winterborne was a good man.

\*\*\*This review is a wee bit spoilerish, so proceed with caution.\*\*\*

I'll start off by saying that I really enjoyed *Marrying Winterborne*. I'm a huge fan of Lisa Kleypas's historical romances and this one definitely did not disappoint. I think my enjoyment had more to do with Mr Winterborne than Lady Helen, to be honest. I liked that Rhys is a straight shooter. What you see is what you get. He's an ambitious man who is not afraid of hard work. Yes, he's a bit bossy and demanding, but a lot of successful people have to be to get what they want. Rhys is also extremely fair and doesn't narrow-mindedly write someone off for a job because of their sex or their background. If you are willing to do the hard work and prove your value, Rhys will back you 100%. Rhys Winterborne has worked himself up from son of a grocer to a very wealthy department store owner. He does not like to be looked down upon because of his common-born upbringing and is extremely displeased if you attack his Welsh heritage. BUT...all the money in the world has not given him the deportment or education of a gentleman. To me, this is where his great appeal comes through. We see a slight vulnerability. I love a strong, heroic and virile hero who has that touch of vulnerability that makes you want to give him a cuddle. If he's also confident enough to admits when he's wrong? I'm a goner.

We start *Marrying Winterborne* with Rhys having a very unlikely visitor. In *Cold Hearted Rake*, the first book in the series, we meet and see a budding relationship start between Rhys and Lady Helen Ravenel. Things do not end well, and the end of *Cold Hearted Rake* sees the ending of the two-week engagement between the couple. So, this visitor being Lady Helen is definitely a surprise to Rhys. What's even more surprising, is when he find out that Helen wants their engagement back on. What follows is some heartfelt truths disclosed, a wee bit of negotiating and one heck of a ruining...deflowering...compromising...unvirgining?!?!

Oh boy, oh boy, oh boy...this is one extremely H-O-T book. Lisa Kleypas certainly gives us a very steamy historical romance and it didn't take long to get there either. We do not have to wait for them to get to know each other, go a-courting, and then suddenly realise they probably should get married before she is ruined, their names are in the trash or someone is called out. We get all those pesky details dealt with in the first 25%...then it's all fun and games...sort of...not really... Yep, bring in the *secret that must be kept or all will be ruined...* plotline.

*Marrying Winterborne* was not a boring book. It held my attention from start to finish. There was a bit of unnecessary drama when Helen kept a secret from Rhys, but I suppose if there was not angst in the storyline, some people might be unhappy or unsatisfied. For me, though, I dropped a star because of it. (view spoiler) Again, Rhys proved his worth in accepting he made a mistake and apologised when he was in the wrong. Ahhh...my hearts aflutter.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Marrying Winterborne* and cannot wait for *Devil In Spring*. That teaser at the end...I've really missed those *Wallflowers*. Makes me want to read that series again.

**I'm an Aussie chick who loves to read and review romance, drink coffee, be a *Style Setter* and stalk David Gandy. To see more of my reviews, fashion, food and pervathons -**

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### **Haelhaelhael says**

This book is ❤ Just amazing.

### **Lady Helen**

### **Mr. Winterborne**

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### **UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says**

Marrying Winterborne is exactly the kind of storytelling Lisa Kleypas fans can count on - it's funny, romantic, thoughtful, and burn up the pages sexy! I'm so glad she's writing historicals again!

*"...A man is not entitled to be called a father merely because he once had a well-timed spasm of the loins."*

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### **Mary - Buried Under Romance says**

Edit: My goodness...the cover that wasn't there before! >.<

I'm rating this book ahead of time, because I already fell in love with this almost-couple in Cold-Hearted Fake, and can't wait to read their full story come May. Good bye exams, hellllo Lisa Kleypas! ^\_^ I will perish for wait of this book...it's my favorite set-up of a compassionate, sheltered lady discovering life and passion outside her small world for the first time, and the rough, self-made man (the Victorian equivalent of a billionaire) from a different social world. >.<

(Note: Please excuse any and all errors in the above sentences, for the writer is suffering extreme fangirling and will not return to a semblance of normal until the book's release date.)

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## [Aengell] says

*Rhys Winterborne challenging to take a place in the Lisa Kleypas Heroes Hall of Fame.*

These were my words after finishing Cold-hearted Rake last fall, and it turned out that Rhys Winterborne is the new fresh (or not so fresh?) face in the LK hall of fame. Right now I'm reading it again because I rushed through it last night in order to finish it (yeah, I know, I know).

Helen and Rhys are a match made in romance-heaven, and for me much of the chemistry and intimacy between them stems from their time together when Rhys was wounded and ill. The base was set there and it flows through their continued relationship in this book.

Helen is sweet tempered and shy, but she doesn't stay that way. As is the case with the likes of Evie Jenners or Zoe Hoffman, she has a quiet strength about her, a quiet confidence that betrays the cliched way the character is portrayed in the blurb. She fights for what she wants, as can be seen in the very beginning of the novel, and she continues to fight for everything she is passionate about.

Rhys is a perfect match for her, and I think it is not necessary to describe his character traits further if you just know some of the other classic alpha heroes Kleypas has created over the years. He's self made and head-strong and at the same has a very cute charm, I could melt every time he calls Helen by some endearment. **And** he's Welsh, which means a not-Scottish or American-foreigner-in-London is introduced, and we get a glimpse into the Welsh traditions and sayings thanks to the research of one good author.

But all characters are entertaining and are not just there as decoration, despite the fact that until the last quarter or so, the focus is pretty much on Helen and Rhys. And I'm not complaining! It is well balanced out, and although I would have been easily satisfied with a marriage-portraying novel, this one turns out to be so much more with some mystery, some dark secrets, and an ending to the drama that is quite Kleypas. (view spoiler)

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Very, very seldom I anticipate upcoming books so much, and even more seldom it turns out to be **this** good. I really can't wait for the next book in the series.

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## Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

### *Summary*

Rhys Winterborne, has built himself up from the ground all the way to a wealthy tycoon. Rhys has always been able to get what he wants, but when he met Lady Helen Ravenel his world was turned upside down and he is determined to keep her for good. Helen Ravenel, was always nervous around Rhys, he intimidated her and when they were engaged, she could feel herself slowly falling in love with him. But through some complications and family interference, their engagement was broken off. Now Helen is determined to fight to have Rhys back in her life, even if that means compromising herself to be his wife. But soon after Rhys and

Helen reconcile and begin anew again, their relationship is more vital and fresh and open than it ever was before. The passion they feel for each other is vibrant, but Helen is faced with a difficult decision. She learns some truths about who her father really is, a man that is a enemy of Rhys. Helen might have to face a future without a man she loves desperately to be taken from her---can Rhys and Helen find their happily ever after when there is a man that threatens to destroy the love they have built?

### ***The Hero***

Rhys Winterborne, has not had a easy life, he has perservered through some tough situations. First off he is Welch, and for many he is looked down upon especially when he was younger. But Rhys even though he had parents that taught him right, weren't the most affectionate or loving of people but they taught him about hard work. Rhys built his father's small shop into an empire and he is one of the wealthiest men in England. Rhys seems cold and harsh on the surface, but on the inner part's he is craving companionship and love just like anyone else. He has made mistakes in the past but when Helen enters his life again, he refuses to let her go. Boy, can I just say that Rhys is one sexy hero!! One of the best Kleypas has written. Man he was mouthwatering, and I felt a bit weak in the knees just reading his character. I love how loyal and devoted he is to Helen. When he becomes committed...man does he do it so well but boy is he arrogant about it all.

***Lady Helen is so far above all men that none of us deserve her. Therefore, it might as well be me***

I love how he stands by her and shows her how special she is to him and he doesn't care what others think of him. Love that!!

### ***The Heroine***

Helen, out of all the siblings, she is the most gracious and well learned of them all. She can pass for any society miss. She gives the appearance of being the perfect debutante even if that is the exact opposite of what she truly wants in life. Helen, has been the dutiful daughter and sister. She has always said the right thing's, and did the right things. But when she loses Rhys after some miscommunications,,,she has to fix it because she loves him and doesn't want to let him go.

***" I wouldn't count on much adventure if I were you. I'm going to look after you and keep you safe."***

***She glanced at him over the rim of the cup, her yes smiling "What I meant was, You are the adventure."***

Helen is a fighter when it comes to the people she loves. She is true to her word and to her family. Helen can be shy and reserved but is solid in every way that matters. She has learned to protect herself at a very young age. We see how she fights for the first time for what she truly wants and NOT what other expect from her even if it will cause a great scandal. I loved her from the beginning and loved seeing her get what she deserved.

### ***Plot and Story Line***

Marrying Winterborne is finally HERE!!! And honestly ladies...and Gents of course (men are always welcome in the Kleypas fan club) I couldn't put this one down!! I bought it, read it and loved every single page. I will admit, after reading the first book Cold Hearted Rake, I was a bit nerve wracked over this book. I liked Cold Hearted Rake, but it wasn't like the other historical's that Lisa Kleypas has written in the past. However Marrying Winterborne was simply fantastic and I knew from within the first chapter, that she got her groove back and so thrilled.

Now this book, I would recommend reading Cold Hearted Rake first. You don't HAVE to, it can be read as a

stand alone, there is some background information given that will keep you from being lost however having said all that, I do recommend reading the first book since it has the background information and the beginnings of their relationship. This book sets off pretty quickly after the last book ended. Helen goes into Rhy's office, to get him back. No matter what it takes. Our heroine, is pretty determined to fight for her man (\*sigh\* love this moment honestly, this scene is brilliant) Some beautiful moments and enough sensuality to curl your toes and they become reconciled and engagement is back on. But life is never simple especially for these two. Some complications, secrets and truths will need to be revealed before these two can find their HEA. What I truly admired the most about the way this story was spun is how each factor fit into the story. I honestly had a hard time containing my excitement from this book and not skipping because I wanted to find out what was going to happen. The story really builds when we learn who Helen's true father is (truly not a good guy at all) and is Rhy's mortal enemy, so there is quite a dilemma that Helen goes through.

*Helen couldn't deny that Mr. Winterborne's personal attraction were high on her list of considerations. A man in his prime, radiating that remarkable energy, a kind of animal vitality that she found both frightening and irresistible. But there was something else about him...a lure more potent than any other. It happened during his rare moments of tenderness with her, when it seemed as if the deep, tightly locked cache of sadness in her heart was about to break open. He was the only person who had ever approached that trapped place, who might someday be able to shatter the loneliness that had always held fast inside her.*

My heart really reached out to her, because she wants to be honest with him even though others are warning her away from being honest. I wanted to smack these people, because REALLY!! But Helen she holds true to what she knows is right even if she is risking losing Rhys. And the way the story spirals downward is so right for these two and Rhys is a hero you fall in love with even MORE than before.

***No, You're all mine. Every hair on your head. Every part of you was made to be loved by me***

I don't want to reveal too much and I hope there isn't any spoilers here for you guys but seriously READ THIS NOW!! You won't regret it.

#### ***The Cover***

So pretty...I really love the purple with the white gown....so classy.

#### ***Overall View***

**Marrying Winterborne** is a truly end of your seat romantic tale that is guaranteed to make you fall heads over heels in love!! ROMANCE AT THE CORE!!

#### ***Books N Tunes***

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**Christine Wallflower & Dark Romance Junkie says**

**4.5 STARS**

***"Cariad...there's nothing gentle about how I want you." He was startled by the endearment that had slipped out, one he had never used with anyone.***

Oh man I took too long to read this book because I feel like it was a five star read but it felt like it dragged in some areas (or maybe that was just me because I always want everything to happen at a breakneck speed). But quite frankly, Mr Rhys Winterborne has joined the ranks of my favourite Lisa Kleypas heroes. So I'm sure like the rest of the world I was enthralled and besotted the minute we were introduced to Winterborne in Cold-Hearted Rake, I mean he literally stole the story and from that point onward I was panting for the next scene with Helen and Rhys. And trust me this book far exceeded my expectations. Rhys, is the epitome of my kind of HR hero, actually whatever genre of romance I'm reading. His character exuded confidence, strength, dominance but also Rhys was a really sensitive guy although he might not have dealt with his emotions in the same manner as gentleman of the peer would. Let's not forget the fact that he is absolutely smitten with Helen. I like my heroes smitten or besotted... or both.

Now about Helen, I was pretty sure her character would be overwhelmed by Rhys' character, yes her she had strength but it was understated in the first book. But in this book she really blossomed, I have to say I was very happy to note that her character was driven and she could be independent too. Hers and Rhys interaction constantly kept me on my toes and yes in a state of arousal because lets be honest, Rhys is incapable of keeping his cool around Helen. These two made fireworks together, they were passionate and just plain frenzied around each other but they did have moments of quiet when they would just bask in their mutual love.

***Closing his eyes, he pressed his jaw gently against her small ear. A half-minute passed before he could find his voice. "You've read the fairy tales. You know what happens to little girls who visit wolves."***

About the supporting characters:

Pandora and Cassandra brought some comedic relief to the story but I will admit that Pandora is probably my favourite and I am literally foaming at the mouth for her book and lets not forget about who the hero is!!! I just know their book is going to be epic. A special mention is needed for Dr Gibson, my God please tell me she's going to have her own book because seriously there's so much potential there!

Once again I wonder why it is that I took so long to join in the Lisa Kleypas fandom because she is everything.

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### **Shawna says**

4.5 stars – Historical Romance

I really enjoyed this, but I think my expectations might've been too high to give it a full 5-stars. I adored Rhys and Helen and loved them together, but I wanted even more of their romance. All the excessive descriptions of everything (characters, details, events, customs, rooms, clothes, etc.) was somewhat distracting and hindered the pace of the story at times. I felt like the big secret and potential obstacle to their HEA was a bit contrived and went on for too long, and then the resolution and ending seemed rushed.

This wasn't my favorite LK historical, but I liked it more than Cold-Hearted Rake. Rhys was such a

swoonworthy romantic hero and so wonderfully besotted and doting of Helen. The secondary characters were all great, and I really hope she writes stories for Dr. Gibson, West, and Severin, in addition to the upcoming book for Lady Pandora Ravenel. I'm so excited that she's being paired with Gabriel, Lord St. Vincent in Devil in Spring! I can't wait!

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### **Anne says**

OH. MY. GOD. <--this has nothing to do with *this* book

**BUT.**

Did anyone else start making humming noises when Evie and Sebastian (from Devil in Winter) made an appearance in the teaser for the next book?!

Devil in Spring is going to be about their son Gabriel, and my favorite twin from this book, Pandora! I can *feel* the awesomeness of this story unfolding, and I just...

Ok, ok, ok.

So, how was **Marrying Winterborne**?

Hmmm. Well, the first book in Kleypas' new historical romance series has had some pretty mixed reviews. I mean, I wasn't all that impressed with it, but at the same time it, *didn't* exactly suck. And after finishing Cold-Hearted Rake, I really was looking forward to reading about Rhys & Helen. Probably because I *love* reading about mismatched couples.

Now, I thought that this would be one of those stories where they get hitched in the beginning, and then have to sort out their feelings *after* they're already married. I had no real basis for this, but...

Anyway, that's not how it happens.

The entire book is basically one long courtship, and they are *both* crazy about each other the entire time.

Now events from their pasts (that neither had any control over) conspire to create drama, secrets, and misunderstandings that could potentially keep them apart.

But this is a romance, so you know it'll all work itself out.

Overall, I thought it was a pretty good story, and far more enjoyable than the first book in the Ravenel series. Something about Helen and Rhys struck more of a chord with me, and I ended up rooting for both of them to make it work. Plus, they were both decent people. Rhys wasn't a saint, but he was nuts about Helen, and would do anything to make her happy. And Helen was just a generous, kind woman who did whatever she could for others. So. Yeah.

Cute couple...

*sigh*

Still, the best thing about the book was the bonus chapter for the next one.

I mean, if Gabriel is *anything* like his father? \*squeaks\*

I'm prepared to have my panties melted off...

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### **Viri says**

**Ya está la reseña en el blog, como no me alcanzó para expresarme aquí... tuve que hacerlo allá también jajaja...**

<http://www.virivillarreal.com/2016/12...>

A ver... este libro es un Lisa Kleypas registrado. ¡Y se nota!

Desde el principio sientes ese estilo tan particular de Lisa, la vivacidad, los diálogos ágiles, las situaciones cómicas, el enganche inmediato, la excelente narración. TODO estaba ahí.

El problema fue que no hubo sentimientos. Ya desde el principio los protagonistas se veían enamorados y yo me quedé esperando saber cuándo y cómo pasó, y no es que esta sea una segunda parte de su historia (aunque si debes leer primero el libro anterior) como para que ya... a la primera de cambios se amen locamente con locura. ¡Si desde el principio se la pasaban diciéndose lo mucho que se deseaban y se querían!... por eso cuando al fin se dijeron TE AMO, yo ni enterada de cuando había pasado TAN dichoso acontecimiento.

Mi problema fue que no sentí NADA. La novela me pareció plana, era como que la iba leyendo y me daba más bien igual.

Muy a mí pesar debo decir que no me enamoré de Rhys... sí, hubo chispazos de emoción y que dejaban ver una personalidad muy trabajada. Aún así le pongo 2 estrellas en GR porque en las últimas 20 páginas pude vislumbrar al Rhys oscuro y tosco del que me había hecho una idea. Y de hecho ese Rhys ME ENCANTÓ, pero ese precisamente es el problema. SOLO FUERON 20 páginas y la verdad sigo sintiendo que la historia daba para mucho más. Me faltó ver a ese protagonista huraño y desconfiado que se avecinaba en el primer libro, me faltó conocer su pasado, me faltó ver cómo y porque es como es y sobre todo me faltó desarrollo en un personaje que tenía mucho potencial.

**Helen me pareció más bien normalita y demasiado tímida y sin chiste, incoherente en algunas partes también.** Creo que el punto fuerte de esta serie siguen siendo sin duda alguna las gemelas y West.

Solo espero que el libro de mi querido (porque ya lo amo nomas por ser hijo de quién es ¿y?) Gabriel sea mucho mejor.

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### **Beatriz says**

¡Me gustó muchísimo! La historia se centra en el noviazgo de Helen y Rhys que, después que rompieran al final del primer libro de la serie, en éste lo retoman de la forma menos convencional posible para la época, y se desarrolla durante toda la novela. Esto podría parecer soso y aburrido, pero Lisa Kleypas sabe como cautivar a sus lectores con las situaciones que crea.

Me encantaron las escenas íntimas, tan dulces, considerando que Helen es por lejos el personaje femenino más inocente del repertorio de la autora, aunque guarda un secreto de lo más inesperado. Esta situación me angustió tanto como a Helen, pero me gustó que nunca dudara en contárselo a Rhys, a pesar de todos los "consejos" que le dieran para no hacerlo o de demorarse más de lo necesario.

Ambos personajes principales son adorables, cada uno en su estilo y en su actuar. Los secundarios son maravillosos, las gemelas casi me hicieron llorar en la última parte por su incondicionalidad a toda prueba.

Excelente continuación de la serie.

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### **Christina ~ Brunette Reader says**

*2,5 Stars*

**A sweeping Victorian romance of potted orchids and self-made men, Welsh interpolations and baffling characterisations. And of spectacularly contrived plot twists.**

*London, 1875*

Queuing right after *Cold-Hearted Rake*'s epilogue, the book opens as Lady Helen Ravenel has just made up her mind about her broken engagement and her future. Shyness and class-conscious relatives notwithstanding, she wants Rhys Winterborne, a powerful Welsh businessman and former shop boy who grew up in the wrong side of London and who, through ambition and determination, now owns the world's largest department store. So she sets out to go to his office and take her chance at proposing.

Rhys, on his part, left sulking and pouting only days before, sulks and pouts a few minutes more, puts up some token recalcitrance and in the span of an instant suddenly turns into a magnificently besotted and horny hero to never look back. From there on it's mostly sex, orchids, sex, "he mustn't know this implausible thing about my past or he's going to leave me!" drama, sex, orchids, quick resolution. The End.

An odd, uneven book and, I'm sorry to say, with much wasted potential. The improbable bend the story took to compensate for an early concluded romance, really had me wishing all along that the author had played the introspection card instead and embarked the character-driven or the inner-conflict route.

Coming from the quite disappointing *Cold-Hearted Rake* experience, I had higher hopes for the sequel, especially because Helen and Rhys sounded very promising as a budding secondary romance in that first instalment. The writing, reminding me of the author's older golden standards, has improved compared to book 1 and was smoother and more engaging (if you can overlook some occasional purple bouts such as "*He looked down at her with eyes as bright as the reflection of stars in a midnight ocean. So brutally handsome, like one of the volatile gods of mythology, wreaking havoc on hapless mortal maidens at a whim*", or "*a large expanse of amorous naked male*" or "*soft, furry, shivery heat*" and forgive the fact that you're going to be told every other page how delicate Helen is and how silky her various body-parts are). But with the romance fairly resolved by chapter 6, to keep things going that's where the farfetched soap-operish big secret and the moustache-twirling villain kicked in, making me unfortunately lose interest before the halfway mark. Besides the aforementioned contrived twists and coincidences, sabotaging the final outcome two main issues: the best part of Rhys and Helen's relationship not belonging to their own book but to book 1 and Rhys undergoing through a radical personality transformation which doesn't ascribe to any sort of character's growth and is just in jarring contrast to how he was previously presented. Most of the discovering, the romancing and the courting between Rhys and Helen happened in *Cold-Hearted Rake*, there are some hints

and recaps here but not enough to recreate the same satisfying emotional tension and, given the ongoing denouement of the love story, *Marrying Winterborne* ends up not fully working as a standalone read. Another significant detraction, as I've said, is that all the expectations and intriguing complexities surrounding Rhys and building his personage in book 1 now meet the inglorious fate of a deflated soufflé and ergo, there are no opposites to be attracted anymore. He was set up like this rough-around-the-edges, brooding and mysterious hero but it's all gone, and we are left with an amorous dreamboat, endearing sure, though all too eager, robotic almost, in his adoration for the heroine and who doesn't contribute half an ounce of excitement to the mix, contrary to how he was initially drafted and introduced to us. Helen shows a more consistent progression and I appreciated that she sheds her quiet mouse armour to gain some strength and confidence, but I found her overemphasised sweetness and naïveté rather cloying.

If independently rated, this would have been a 2,5 stars rounded down to 2, but considering it within a series and considering that the leading couple didn't manage to annoy me as much as Kathleen and Devon did in *Cold-Hearted Rake* (and that the obnoxious, insufferable, childish debutant twins, Pandora and Cassandra, were slightly less irritating), I decided for a rounding up to differentiate.

Third book better be good, cause it's probably the last chance I'm giving this series.

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### **Alp says**

I don't want to tell you this, but frankly, *Marrying Winterborne* was a little disappointment.

Well, I'm not sure where to start with my review, let's just say, I had mixed feelings about this one. I excitedly started reading this book, expected it to be stellar. But in the end, it became apparent that my high hopes were shattered. In fact, this book could have been better, but unfortunately, it was mediocre at best. I'm not quite happy with the story, partly due to lack of tearjerking drama, heart-wrenching moments, and also the passion between the main couple.

I found myself enjoying Rhys and Helen in the previous book better than this one. It's a shame this couple had so much potential! Whereas in this book, I liked Rhys just fine even so he had taken a backseat to other characters almost the entire second half of the story, Helen's character didn't appeal to me at all. Actually, she looked like my kind of heroine during the first 20% of the book. I liked that she tried to fix their relationship by telling him the truth about her feelings and asking him to take her back. Moreover, I admired her even more when she decided to let him bed her in order to seal the deal. I think that proved how brave and strong-willed she was.

But sadly, things went great only in the first quarter of the book. From there on, I got bored of Helen's blandness. As the story went on, she became less and less likable. The fact that she chose to keep such a secret from Rhys made me want to scream in frustration. I hated that she didn't trust him and then assumed the worst. There weren't many interesting things going on, until near the end of the story when the big event happened; which could eventually draw my attention back to the book. But then again, the ending wasn't what I expected. It wasn't very impressive, but somehow acceptable.

In comparison with other LK's historical romance novels, this one was a bit too banal for my taste. However, I partially enjoyed it and there are some interesting characters that I want to know more about them. Here's hoping the next installment will not disappoint me.

Three stars is the most I can give this book.

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### **Christie«SHBBblogger» says**

**Title:** Marrying Winterborne

**Series:** The Ravenels #2

**Author:** Lisa Kleypas

**Release date:** May 31, 2016

**Cliffhanger:**No

Ahhh. Rhys Marrying Winterborne. You lived up to all of my hopes and dreams. With every new book I read from the incredibly talented Lisa Kleypas, I'm reminded why she was one of the original authors to get me excited about reading romance. She is nothing short of gifted when it comes to her ability to create memorable characters and resonating stories. Her attention to the smallest detail about living in the late 1800's in England makes reading her books feel like time travel. From the sights, the sounds, the clothing, to the culture...everything is crystal clear right there before you. And her beautifully poetic style of writing makes reading about her classic romances a pure pleasure and delight.

**She had never imagined that a man would kiss her as if he were trying to breathe her in, as if kisses were words meant for poems, or honey to be gathered with his tongue.**

Marrying Winterborne continues on with the characters who were introduced in Cold-Hearted Rake. Rhys is one of the "nouveau riche" in London. A self-made extremely wealthy man who came from the lower classes and now mingles with the titled and most respected families in the country. He may have earned entry, but will never earn respect. So the possibility that graceful lady Helen of the Ravenels would want someone so rough around the edges, so much beneath her is an impossibility. He has her up on a pedestal, and when their engagement is broken it comes as no surprise that she came to her senses. Little does he know, Helen is just extremely shy and untutored in men and things pertaining to the physical side of love. She marches right over to his home and sets the record straight about her desire to be with him.

**If she married Mr. Winterborne, she might come to regret it. But not nearly as much as she would regret it if she didn't take the chance.**

Rhys sets out to guarantee that she would *have* to become his. He wasn't risking her slipping through his fingers again. For better or worse, she would be his and there was no turning back. I love, loved, *LOVED* Rhys' constant and unconditional protectiveness and gentle manner he held with Helen. It was totally contradictory to his gruff and blunt natural personality. He's not the type of guy you would think of when you think hearts and flowers. I imagine he doesn't have a romantic bone in his body. But when it comes to Helen...*sigh* he's utterly charming and passionate and worshipful.

**He burned with desire, a constant fever beneath his skin. He wasn't sure if Helen was the illness or the cure.**

Helen was a great heroine. She was extremely shy and unworldly, yet she wasn't afraid to pursue Rhys and she had the intelligence to recognize his worth despite society labeling him as unworthy. More than anything else, she respected his overwhelming accomplishments and wanted to start a new life with him. Everything seems to be going smoothly after their engagement is reinstated. Until she learns a horrible truth about her past that may ruin their happiness forever. This was the main conflict of the book, and thankfully it didn't cause any unnecessary drama. It was just the right amount to keep the story flowing fast and easy.

I enjoyed book one of the series, but this one far surpassed everything I anticipated it would be. The h/H had some incredible chemistry, and it was oh-so-romantic. Pandora's story is up next, and the fact that she is going to be paired with Evie and Sebastian's son...

Can it just be here now? Or yesterday? That's not too much to ask. Right?

#### **FOLLOW SMOKIN HOT BOOK BLOG ON:**

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#### **Auntee says**

##### **I loved this book!**

Some reasons why...

- I loved Helen.
- I loved Rhys.
- Rhys...*

-I loved the supporting characters (Pandora, Cassandra, Rampage, West, Severin, Dr. Gibson...*I want books for all of them!*

- I loved Helen's new-found boldness, her courage, and her naivete.
- I cried when I realized her dilemma and I prayed she wouldn't heed the advice of Lady Berwick. I cried for what I thought she might lose but knew in my heart that she wouldn't.
- I adored *everything* about Rhys Winterborne. He was the perfect combination of the best of Lisa Kleypas's heroes--Zachary Bronson (*Where Dreams Begin*), Derek Craven (*Dreaming of You*, and Jack Devlin (*Suddenly You*)
- I loved that this book reminded me of two of my favorite LK series: The Wallflowers and The Hathaways.
- I loved the searing chemistry (oh, those sex scenes!) between Helen and Rhys. I loved their dialogue, the Welsh words of love, and especially the way Helen went after who and what she wanted. Did I mention that I loved Helen?
- I loved Rhys's devotion to Helen. The gift of the (view spoiler) had me tearing up. And the way he handled the truth about Helen? Big sigh...

-I loved all the details in the story. From the clothing (the bustles!) to the foods to the merchandise in Winterbournes, I couldn't get enough. I truly appreciate the research that LK must do to set the perfect tone for the era (1880ish London).

I could go on and on, but I don't want to spoil anything. If you're a fan of Lisa Kleypas's historicals (I am!)-- and especially her Wallflowers and Hathaway series but really, any of her historicals--then you **must read this book!**

I don't read many historicals, but I can't pass up Lisa Kleypas. This lady knows her stuff! I was so immersed in this story, I couldn't put it down (except to wipe my tears and look for some Kleenex.) How I wish I hadn't finished it so soon! 5 big stars

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