



The Lie and the Lady

Kate Noble

Download now

Read Online ➞

The Lie and the Lady

Kate Noble

The Lie and the Lady Kate Noble

John Turner was thinking only of winning a bet when he swapped identities with his friend, the Earl of Ashby. He didn't wager on winning the fiery Countess of Churzy's heart with his lies, or on falling for her in return.

Leticia, impoverished Countess of Churzy, was publicly humiliated when it came out that she had fallen for the man, not the master. She fled when she learned of his betrayal. But fate throws them together again, and some things are too intoxicating to be denied.

John is determined to regain her trust—and her love—this time as himself. Letty knows what choice she must make to survive, but if she turns her back on her dashing rogue – again – will she lose her chance at love forever?

The Lie and the Lady Details

Date : Published December 29th 2015 by Pocket Books

ISBN : 9781476749396

Author : Kate Noble

Format : Mass Market Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Regency, Fiction

 [Download The Lie and the Lady ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lie and the Lady ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Lie and the Lady Kate Noble

From Reader Review *The Lie and the Lady* for online ebook

Christina (A Reader of Fictions) says

3.5 stars

Once again, Kate Noble shows off her skills in plotting, writing, historical detail, and character development. And once again, I fail to ship it strongly, but I really enjoy the book anyway.

To be fair, *The Lie and the Lady* was not the sort of ship that typically sets my soul aflame anyway. We join up with Letty about a year after the events of *The Game and the Governess* as she finally succeeds in catching a wealthy husband who hasn't heard about her scandals. She travels to Sir Barty's home in Leicester and discovers to her distress that her step-daughter-to-be doesn't like her and that John Turner's mill is in the same town. Somehow, Leticia has to survive the six weeks until she and Sir Barty wed and she's once again safe.

For all that I'm not a fan of this basic trope (where one of them is engaged to someone else), Noble does a really nice job with it. Sir Barty's actually super sweet and lovable. I mean, a bit gross to think about being married to what with his gout and all, but he's a genuinely good guy. Letty doesn't love him, but she does like him. I also really like what a mess of attempted matchmaking this book is, as everyone tries to set Margaret up with someone and keep her from someone else. (Also, I'm super excited about Margaret and Rhys and their nerdiness.)

John and Leticia do end up a pretty good couple. They do seem to fit each other, as is shown in how they weather the events of the book together. I wasn't sure about Letty as a miller's wife tbh, but she's got awesome ideas and I was totally convinced by the end that they'd be fine. It's also pretty cool that Letty's actually older than him. And how often does the heroine give up her title for love in historical romance? Basically never. As with *The Game and the Governess*, there's not much sex (or even kissing) and the ship gets together right in the last couple of pages. Though these books are fairly long, they could do with a bit more.

I really like these books so far, but it's a bit unfortunate that the weak spot has been the lack of shippy feels which is what this genre is all about.

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted on Got Fiction?

This book has what I thought would be a fantastic premise. Letty needs to marry. Her late husband left her impoverished and when she meets the Earl of Ashby, it's love at first sight. But he's not really the earl. He's traded places with his buddy for a bet and has to pretend to be the earl. But when he and Letty fall in love, he realizes he has to tell her, even if it means losing the bet. The book opens with him telling her. She thinks he's proposing, and he's telling her he's a secretary, not an earl.

Betrayal plots are my catnip. I love them so much! But this is not a story about that first paragraph. We literally only see the part where she's expecting marriage, and he tells her he's not who he says he is. I thought this would be a book about their meeting, their falling for each other, his telling her he's lying. She'd be mad, he'd go after her, they'd live happily ever after. But...that's not what this is.

Letty can no longer show her face amongst civilized company, because they all have given her the cut direct for being taken in by a mere secretary. The countess who was tricked and left hanging. Her own sister won't allow her back in until it all blows over.

She's in Paris as a last ditch effort to secure a husband to allow her to go back to being respectable. And she meets an older gentleman who she likes. More importantly he likes her. He proposes. She accepts. She goes to his estate to meet everyone, and he surprises her with a nineteen year old daughter Margaret, who is still mourning her mother. And who happens to have a crush on the local owner of the grain factory...

John Turner never thought Letty would leave him. He thought she'd understand that he had to fool her for the bet's sake. But when she actually left, his heart broke. And to have her show up at church in his town, why he thought she'd come back to him! Until he heard the banns read.

Meanwhile, Letty realizes that Margaret is in love with John. How on earth can she deal with the fact that her step-daughter-to-be is crushing on her ex-lover?

This is where I stopped. about page 100, and I just don't want this. I didn't get to see John and Letty fall in love, so I don't care about them. I find Letty to be obnoxious. I don't mind that she's only marrying Sir Barty to secure her life, I get that, he knew it wasn't a love match. I feel like she's not necessarily a gold-digger since she's not trying to fool Sir Barty, and she seems to genuinely want to make it work between them. Plus, she's a countess, so it's what she's raised to do.

But I just didn't like the plot, not once I realized how different it was. I didn't like how the author skipped around quite a bit. It was hard to follow sometimes, and awkward. For example, We're told dinner doesn't go well. But the next sentence goes backwards and picks up before dinner. Then back to dinner, then back to earlier. It was unnecessary. It wasn't flashbacks. Although I'd love some flashbacks to where she and John were falling in love.

By 100 pages in we don't know John well enough to care about his side of the story, and I definitely didn't like Letty at all. By this point, I actually wanted her to end up with Sir Barty, win over the village, win over Margaret, and see Margaret get a debut in London.

Looking at the description of The Game and the Governess, book 1 in this series, it looks like the bet begins there. I really hate to think I need to read a different hero and heroine's book in order to see this hero and heroine fall in love.

So, with confusing writing, unlikeable characters, and a tangled plot, I think I'm done at page 100.

Sorry about the DNF, guys, but I just don't want to read it anymore.

***ARC courtesy of Pocket Star

The Lusty Literate says

5 Stars | Some Hot Steam

THE GAME AND THE GOVERNESS fans rejoice! The second installment of Kate Noble's superb Winner Takes All series, THE LIE AND THE LADY, has arrived, and it is glorious! Our collective longing, high anticipation and excitement for Letitia and John's momentous HEA has been heartily rewarded with an extraordinary romance so original, ingenious, enchanting, beautiful, spectacularly thrilling and utterly unforgettable that you'll be shouting its praise from every rooftop and street corner! Truly, Letitia and John's incomparable journey is absolute perfection. Surprising, stirring and spellbinding perfection. The singular kind of perfection that has you bargaining with higher spirits to never let it end. And, when it does, you find yourself clutching the epic wonder tightly to your chest as happy/sad tears run down your broadly smiling cheeks.

I began THE LIE AND THE LADY with weighing uncertainty. How was Kate Noble going to successfully transform flagrantly wealth-and-title-chasing Lady Letitia from THE GAME AND THE GOVERNESS into an admirable, sympathetic and redeeming heroine? Furthermore, I questioned sensible John Turner's swift and blinding love for a woman so seemingly superficial, scheming and inscrutable as Letitia. However, by the end of chapter one of TL&TL, any lingering doubts with her character were speedily replaced with understanding, appreciation, affection, sympathy, trust and an infallible faith that Letty was indeed worthy, deserving and in dire need of her own overdue happiness—and I simply couldn't wait for her to have it! Letty is a heroine for the ages—regal, seasoned, smart, strong, pragmatic, industrious, kind and positively resplendent! By the end of the novel, like John, she became my Letty too. I just adored her and sincerely missed her when I had to say goodbye.

John Turner. Leave it to Kate Noble to write a stellar hero so ideal, layered, hardworking, uncompromising, sensitive, sexy, loyal and infinitely lovable that he ruins you for all other men. (Ashby who?) Her fabulous heroes have always left a heated imprint in my naughtiest fantasies but, oh my goodness, John Turner is one of her very best! Sigh... That man is so very delectable!

Not only was I completely captivated by Letty and John's rocky path to forever, I was equally taken by the amusing town full of remarkable secondary characters whose own motivations—some good, others nefarious—prod and pull the story in unexpected, delightful and endlessly entertaining directions. I especially savored Rhys's bookish and hilariously bumbling presence. His endearingly awkward and sweetly kindred friendship with young Margaret simply melted my heart.

With the release of THE LIE AND THE LADY, Kate Noble has delivered a crowning achievement in romance as well as a career-defining novel, propelling her Winner Takes All series from great to legendary and solidifying her name on countless new readers' shortlists of auto-buy authors.

Bottom line: Letty and John's story is a must-read gem that will take center stage on your prized keeper shelf—just as soon as you can bear to part from it. :)

Complimentary copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

sraxe says

I'm not sure how I feel about this book because I went into it not really liking either character, so I didn't have any grand expectations or anything that were shattered. However, I can't really dislike it, either, because the author gave the readers a hero and heroine who aren't generic HR tropes.

I really didn't like Letty in the last book because of how awful she was. She used other women to prop herself up, and I can't really get behind that. And while I didn't like either Turner or Letty in the last book, I came to understand her a little better in this one. I viewed her as a gold-digger or a title-hunter in the first, but after reading this? I can't say I blame her when really thinking about it.

Letty is cunning, and there's really no other way to describe her. She's a female fortune/title hunter, and while I'm generally not too fond of those, I don't mind the female variety. I don't see that as a double standard because women, unlike men, had so few options and avenues available to them as it was, that you can't really blame a woman for finding security however she can. Letty owns up to this, saying she will "make no apologies for trying to secure [her] future." And you know? More power to her. You can't really fault a girl her hustle in a time when women were little more than property.

Leticia could be considered mercenary for how she goes from one place to the next, trying to secure a future husband. She said she went to many different places, but The Lie followed her wherever she went, until she just had to pack up and go to France. There, she tried even harder to find a husband. Some might think she's moving too fast, but I saw her reasoning behind that too.

She states at one point that "to reflect on the past wondering what could have been was an utter waste of time--and women in general did not have as much time as men to begin with." And those words are so true! Even today, men can get married well into middle age and past, but women? Well, they can get married...but do we ever present women past a certain age as being desirable? Even in films they pair 50+ year old actors with actresses in their 20s as their leads (and supposedly playing older women??). So what about two hundred years ago? I can't say I blame her for rushing from one place to another, trying to secure herself a future.

The other thing I loved that the author did was give the readers the exact opposite of a typical HR heroine. Letty isn't a virgin, she isn't super young, and she is definitely not all things innocent. Letty has been married and widowed, and she isn't one of those surprise!virgin widows, and, as I've mentioned, she's cunning. And one thing that caught me off guard? She's older than the hero.

“As you might know, my father, the late Lewis Turner, built this mill almost twenty years ago. I was a lad of nine when it opened—”

Leticia's eyebrow perked up. Considering her own passage into her thirties a few years ago, the math would indicate that she was older than Turner.

Bravo, author, for doing something different.

The other thing I liked about Leticia was how she was with her late husband. She said Konrad married her but wasn't interested in her ((view spoiler)). What I liked about this was that she remained loyal to him. (view spoiler) Even years after his death, Leticia isn't disgusted by him, which is what I've seen in some books with characters (view spoiler). If that character is long dead, then their memory is treated terribly. I didn't feel that the author did this here, and I was glad for it.

Now, Turner...I don't know what to say about him. I started off disliking him, but I don't really feel anything towards him now. If he were switched out and someone else put in his place, I wouldn't be sad about it tbh. The thing I'm grateful for here is that the author recounted none of Turner's sexual history. There's no mention of any lovers or experience when it comes to him. At one point, it even mentions that he keeps an eye out on the mill, day or night, because "it's not like he had anything else to do at night."

Anyway, after he kissed Leticia publically in the last book, he spends half a year chasing after her from one place to another. When Turner finally catches her, she rejects him. I didn't blame her for doing so because he lied to her through their entire acquaintance. How *can* she trust him now? He says he can't trust her either, and I can understand that, too.

However, what I wasn't behind was Turner being angry and accusatory six months after that (so this book picks up a year after the last one). If Turner had just been honest about his origins before the PDA, then I could understand his anger towards Leticia. Right now, though, he's just an idiot. Instead of being contrite for his deception and behaviour, he's angry. It's only when she calls him out on this that he realizes he's being kind of stupid. It made no sense to me that he wouldn't realize this on his own and had to have Leticia point his idiocy out to him.

And then, even though he's the one in the wrong, he still tries to turn it on her. He says that, had she known he wasn't an earl, she wouldn't have chosen him. But the thing is, that's up to her now, isn't it? If she doesn't want to marry the son of mill owner, she doesn't have to. It's up to her to decide that, not him. Turner and Letty both have their moments of unlikeability, but Turner was the worse of the two, imo.

Turner and Leticia had a lot more chemistry than Phoebe and Edward did, but I didn't like it so much because Leticia spends (view spoiler) of the novel engaged to another man. (Which, tbh, lasted far long than it should've. It felt unnecessarily dragged out with her *still* engaged to the OM until (view spoiler)) And while I wanted something to happen between the two MCs, I also didn't at the same time because she's engaged to another man. I don't care that the other man is not a protagonist/love interest, cheating is still cheating. There are two times in the book that Letty and Turner kiss while she's still engaged to Sir Barty. The only thing I'm happy about here is that they didn't actually do anything past that. So while it's still cheating, I'm glad they didn't go all the way.

Oh, and for those wondering about Sir Barty and Letty: nothing happens between them. He kisses her on the cheek once, that's it.

And I'm not sure how it works, but is it really normal for Leticia to be living in Sir Barty's house for the month while the banns are being read? Sure she's a widow, but I just found it a little odd that she's living with him and it's all perfectly fine. She seems to be all for propriety, especially with how she kept trying to mold Margaret, so I found it rather odd that The Lie was such a BFD but it's fine for her to be living at Sir Barty's alone.

There were also parts of this novel that reminded me of the first. Like the first, the character introductions don't happen until later. Leticia's meeting with and engagement to Sir Barty takes place in the beginning, with Turner not even making an appearance until the fifth chapter of the novel. And also like the first, the conflict came to a head too late and then things were resolved too quickly. This book also laid the groundwork for what I think may be the romance for the next novel, which is what happened in the first with Letty and Turner. (view spoiler)

Billie says

I loved John and his mother, Helen. I loved Sir Barty and his daughter Margaret. I loved Dr. Rhys Grey. Unfortunately, I didn't much like Leticia. She wasn't awful, she was just kind of vain and entitled and, at the same time, boring. I mean, I understood *why* she was these things, but that didn't make me like her.

And, please, Ms. Noble, let the next book be about Margaret and Rhys because I *adore* them. Two smart, socially-awkward, science-minded people finding each other by sheer chance? Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! Nowpleasethankyou.

Gretchen Alice says

This series seemed to be tied up in the drama of the situation more than the romance. It might make a good gateway series for someone wanting to get into romance—some good moments and some good kissing.

Kara says

First, highly recommend reading the first book in the series, otherwise you will not fully understand just how mad Letitia is at John for The Lie.

Second, a delightful continuation of the story, seeing just how big the Fallout from the Lie is, sucking in an entire town of characters, all of them as wonderful to read as only overly dramatic small town characters can be. When you shrink the world - ever little thing becomes quite big, from wedding dresses to flour mills.

Great mix of humor, romance and tension, Nobel's second in this series is as good as the first, and leaves a great set up for the next book.

Daniella says

Welcome to my **HR Purgatory shelf** !

In Roman Catholicism, the purgatory is where the souls of the dead wander in an indefinite state. They stay in such a state unless they "become fit for heaven" at some point. Similarly, this shelf is where books that I am warned about stay—untouched and unread—unless a very compelling reason forces me to read them.

Reason(s) for putting *The Lie and the Lady* in this shelf:

Gold-digger heroine with a conscience of a brick. Period.

Thank you, Emma and sraxe, for your reviews!

Emma's Review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

sraxe's Review: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

When I was re-reading my review of *The Game and The Governess*, the author's prior work to familiarize myself with it before reading this sequel, I was taken by the fact that I commented about how many characters there was to keep up with. I was so hoping that was not the case in this new book. I loved the story the author crafted, but trying to follow a lot of characters was difficult.

Thankfully, this book was a lot more manageable and had me following along at a brisk pace throughout. I really enjoyed the character development in this story. The main leads were likable and a bit of mystery in the plot added a lot to the story as a whole. Some twists and turns to keep the reader engaged and hopping was a great addition. Not to mention secret feelings and love that cannot be discussed or addressed in public....

What was also interesting is that you learn much about the class and nobility ranking in this book. Letty is going to be soon without funds and marrying into the right class seems to be her only option. Men and women didn't really marry for love back then, did they? As long as they kinda liked each other, it would be okay. Right? Changing perception, learning acceptance, and perhaps getting something you desire along the way is a lesson to be learned in this story.

The author has created a strong Regency story that offers insight into the history of the time along with good character development, some passion with plenty of innuendo, and an all together enjoyable read. I think I even have a clue about the next installment which will be a great match up!

This was a delightful read and one to grab for a taste of the Regency life.

Michelle (Undeniably Book Nerdy) says

****Originally posted on Undeniably Book Nerdy****

Initial Reaction

Kate Noble has been on my list of to-read authors. I love the cover of *The Lie and the Lady*! Also, a second chance love story? I'm sold!

Plot

I picked *The Lie and the Lady* up knowing it's the second book in the *Winner Takes All* series that started with *The Game and the Governess*, which I did not read. I don't think it's a requirement to read the first book because I was still able to enjoy Turner and Leticia's story but I feel I did lose a bit of the progression of their relationship and the full impact on why Leticia was so angry at Turner.

Okay, so the back story was that John Turner was Ned, the Earl of Ashby's secretary and friend. They had a wager and they switched places for two weeks while attending a house party. Turner played the earl and Ned the secretary. While in their roles, Ned ended up falling for a governess (*The Game and the Governess*) while Turner fell for Leticia, the beautiful widowed Countess of Churzy. When the wager was revealed, Leticia was humiliated and left Turner. Turner went after her and eventually caught up to her, but she's still very angry with him and rejected him. She eventually ended up in Paris and became engaged to Sir Barty, a rich older gentleman with a 19-year-old daughter. But when Sir Barty took her back to Lincolnshire Letty found herself face to face with Turner because it turned out his family owns the town's grain mill.

Main Characters

Neither Turner or Leticia were particularly likable, which was fine with me. I don't have to love the main characters to enjoy reading their story. I just have to understand their motivations behind their actions, which I did.

Letty made a bigger impression on me than Turner. I really enjoyed her character--she's different from other historical romance heroine in that she's very flawed, older than Turner, a widow, not a virgin, and she's unapologetically a fortune hunter. She wanted to find a rich husband to take care of her but after the humiliation with Turner, she had a hard time. She had to move from place to place all over England with not much success because the gossip always followed her until finally ended up in Paris where she redoubled her efforts in pursuing a husband. She eventually found her rich husband in Sir Barty and accepted his proposal.

Letty was basically a gold-digger and her personality will not endear her to some readers. But she really wasn't a bad person. She did mean well and cared for Sir Barty and his daughter Margaret--she wasn't planning to marry him and then turn around and spend all of his money and have affairs. She wanted to be a good, faithful wife to Barty. If it wasn't for Turner, I think she would've have and been content. I didn't even mind her mercenariness. In a way I kind of admired her, especially considering her history and thinking about women's position in society in those days.

As for Turner, I also enjoyed his character, but like I said, Letty made a bigger impression on me. He's a good guy--hardworking, smart, not a manwhore--but also had he was also flawed. He and Letty did have great chemistry, but don't expect much sexy times in this book--they had only one and it on the third to the last chapter. But like in *Pride and Prejudice*, the build up to that scene made it all the more special. I typically like my romance novels with a lot of steam, but I didn't mind the lack of smexy times in *The Lie and the Lady* because I was too busy enjoying everything else and the story simply didn't need the distraction of sex.

Okay, I do have to address the whole cheating thing. Letty was engaged to Sir Barty for almost the whole novel--*The Lie and the Lady* had 24 chapters and Letty and Sir Barty were engaged until the end of Chapter 21. Turner and Letty shared two passionate kisses while Letty was still engaged. I knew Letty and Turner were end game (obviously!) and there wasn't any strong feelings of love or anything sexual between Letty and Sir Barty, but it's still cheating. I am glad they didn't take it further than kissing, but I kinda felt bad for Sir Barty because he was so taken with Letty.

Pacing/Writing Style

Ms. Noble's style kind of reminds me a bit of Jane Austen and a bit of Meredith Duran. She penned an

atypical romance novel with uniquely flawed characters and an engaging plot that didn't need the distraction of sex. I found the writing clever, witty, smart and with great humor--there were times when I even laugh out loud which was unusual when I'm reading a historical romance. The pacing of the story was appropriate for Letty and Turner's situation.

Final Thoughts

The Lie and the Lady was a different kind of historical romance novel. We don't get the typical hero and heroine in Turner and Leticia and I really appreciated that. I also enjoyed Ms. Noble's writing style. The plot included some intriguing social situations (Letty vs. the town's queen bee--I loved how Letty stood up to her), some twists and turns in the secondary mystery plot to keep things interesting, unique characters and great chemistry between them, and wonderful humor. This was my first read by Ms. Noble, but it won't be my last.

Caz says

I've given this a B+ at AAR, so 4.5 stars.

I'm going to start this review by saying that while I enjoyed **The Lie and the Lady**, I can understand that certain aspects of it might not appeal to everybody. The heroine is, at first glance, a coldly calculating fortune hunter out to catch herself a rich husband, and she and the hero don't interact very much at all for the first part of the book - so if you're someone who likes the first kiss to happen in chapter three with the first bedroom scene not far behind, you may be disappointed.

But this is a story that needs time to develop because there is a lot more going on than at first meets the eye, and I very much appreciated that the protagonists are flawed, complex individuals whose actions and intentions are not perfect. The book is the sequel to last year's *The Game and the Governess* wherein two young men – Ned, the Earl of Ashby and his secretary, John Turner – switched places for a fortnight while attending a summer house-party, in order to fulfil the terms of a wager which saw Ned playing the part of the secretary and humble miller's son, and Turner acting as the earl. During that fortnight, "Turner" fell in love with the governess, and "Ashby" fell for Leticia, Countess Churzy, an attractive widow.

Even though John and Leticia's relationship developed mostly 'off-screen' in the previous book, it was made clear that while the countess was certainly attracted to Turner, she also had an eye to securing her future. At the end of **The Game and the Governess** the wager was revealed and Letty, although by now in love with John, ran off, leaving him devastated.

Some months later, Leticia is in Paris and has accepted a proposal of marriage from Sir Bartholemew (Barty) Babcock, a kindly older gentleman who wants only to protect and look after her. Following the deception practiced by Turner and Ashby, she found it impossible to hold her head up in society and has fled from town to town across England, able to settle for only a week or two before the gossip caught up with her. She sold practically everything of value she owned in order to finance a trip to Paris, as much in the hopes of meeting a suitable husband as to escape the scandal.

The daughter of a middle-class family, Leticia entered good society when her sister made a brilliant match. Her elevation brought her to the notice of the handsome, charming Count Churzy, who, she later discovered, married her in order to conceal his true sexual preferences. Left with very little at his death, Leticia has since determined to seek comfort and security, and believed she had found it with the "earl". But with those hopes

dashed, she has to find another way to eat and keep a roof over her head, and accepts Sir Barty, determined to be a good wife to him and a good mother to his young daughter, Margaret.

Arrived back in England, Leticia is in for a number of surprises, not least of which is that Margaret is not the little girl she had imagined, but a young woman of nineteen who has been left to her own devices for most of her life and who is not well disposed towards the prospect of a new stepmother. But even worse, when Margaret shows signs of being in love, Leticia discovers that the object of her affection is the owner of the recently refurbished local mill and former business associate of her father's – Mr John Turner.

Needless to say both she and John are horrified to find themselves in the same small town and are immediately suspicious of each other's motives. On the one hand, Leticia's presence would seem to offer John a chance to rekindle their romance, something he wants very much indeed; but on the other, she could pose a threat to his livelihood, given that Sir Barty's estate is the region's largest producer of grain and John needs to secure his business for the mill. And Leticia fears that one wrong word from John will ruin her plans and her life – again.

I said at the beginning of this review that perhaps certain aspects of it wouldn't work for everyone, one of which is the fact that the romance is a very slow-starter. In fact, there is little interaction between John and Leticia for the first section of the book, given that they have few opportunities to meet or speak privately. But this is quite realistic; for them to have been able to spend time alone together would have aroused suspicion and would not have been at all the done thing. But the slow start also allows the author time to develop the secondary characters – Margaret is not the curl-tossing, stepmother-hating teenager she could have been in the hands of a lesser author, and Sir Barty is fleshed out into more than an old lecher wanting a pretty young wife. Leticia comes across as unsympathetic to start with, given her focus on ensuring her own comfort and security – but through her, Ms Noble makes a very valid observation. After all, what other course of action would have been open to her, an impoverished lady with very few resources or options? What were well-bred women brought up to do other than get married and have children? She's doing the only thing she knows how to do – and to be fair to her, intends to do the best she can for her future husband and family as recompense for his marrying her in the first place. We may find her to be mercenary, but her behaviour makes sense in context of the time frame and her situation.

John Turner doesn't immediately show to advantage, either, but he possesses a number of redeeming features which meant I was able to forgive him for his lack of apology or grovelling. For one thing, he sees Leticia for who she is and 'gets' her in a way nobody else does or ever did. And for another, he's remarkably clear sighted about who and what HE is, a middle-class businessman who knows what he wants and where he belongs, and is determined to be the best at what he does.

Ms Noble captures both the generosity and the pettiness of small-town life very well and I particularly enjoyed the part of the story which sees Leticia winning over the ladies of the town and then bringing them all on a tour of Turner's mill. The secondary characters – Sir Barty, Margaret, John's endearing but somewhat meddlesome mother and his friend Dr Rhys Gray – are all very well drawn and fleshed out, and I ended up liking them just as much as the central couple. And I did like John and Leticia, regardless of their imperfections. They're clearly shown to have an affinity so strong that they're perfect for each other, irrespective of their shaky start.

The Lie and the Lady is one of those books that pays dividends if you enjoy stories that take their time to unfold and which, in doing so, reveal a depth and richness that isn't commonly found in the genre. I enjoyed it very much and am looking forward to whatever Ms Noble comes up with next.

Keri says

I am sorry I never warmed up to Letty and couldn't understand why John loved her. Letty was insistent that she was going to marry Sir Barty up until the last 15 pages of the book. What??? Also Letty's sister, really??? You push your sister off because of rumors and something that wasn't even Letty's fault? I did feel for her, but I just couldn't like her.

Kate Noble says

well, I liked it, but I might be biased.

eyes.2c says

First up I didn't like Leticia, the widowed Countess of Churzy. She is after security and safety. Why should I object to this? Puzzling!

After all she's a woman of her time, cast upon the good wishes of others due to her lack of funds and husbands. And you know for someone of this era, where there are no social securities or safety nets, she is going about the business of making that secure place for herself. So, Well Done, I decided!

And John Turner, whilst he may have fallen for Letty when masquerading as the Earl of Ashby, actually played her falsely and raised Letty's expectations. Just not cricket, John.

So Letticia is thrown once more upon her own resources.

I ended the story thinking she was coming out the stronger and more clear headed person.

So, bravo Letty!

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW TO COME
