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Love, Lies And Spies



Synopsis

In this hilarious homage to Jane Austen, a lady with a penchant for trouble finds a handsome spy much more than merely tolerable. "It's Jane Austen meets Jane Foster in Anstey's debut novel, which serves up a delightful combination of Regency romance, scientific curiosity, and spy intrigue for a tale that will have readers rooting for love and science." -Entertainment Weekly

Juliana Telford is not your average nineteenth-century young lady. She's much more interested in researching ladybugs than marriage, fashionable dresses, or dances. So when her father sends her to London for a season, she's determined not to form any attachments. Instead, she plans to secretly publish her research. Spencer Northam is not the average young gentleman of leisure he appears. He is actually a spy for the War Office, and is more focused on acing his first mission than meeting eligible ladies. Fortunately, Juliana feels the same, and they agree to pretend to fall for each other. Spencer can finally focus, until he is tasked with observing Juliana's traveling companions . . . and Juliana herself. Full of humor and English Regency Period charm, and starring a whip-smart strong female heroine, *Love, Lies and Spies* by Cindy Anstey is a young adult novel with the perfect mix of romance, action, and adventure. "A tongue-in-cheek nod to Regency romances, Anstey's lighthearted novel is perfect for readers looking for an Austen-inspired tale of intrigue and romance. The story gets an additional boost from Juliana's many humorous scrapes, which are unbefitting of a nineteenth-century lady. This would make a nice companion for Garth Nix's farcical *Newt's Emerald*."

-Booklist "Give to young teens in need of a fluffier Patrice Kindl's *Keeping the Castle*. . . . A cute premise and cover make this a solid purchase for budding historical romance readers." -School Library Journal "I cannot tell you how much I love this book. Juliana, Spencer, Bobbington, ALL of them are just so utterly wonderful. This is BETTER than Georgette Heyer. YEP, I SAID IT." -Kelly Zekas, author of *These Vicious Masks*

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Customer Reviews

Positive thoughts: This book is the BEST combination of Jane Austen's prose and Rick Riordan's hilarity. It is silly, political, romantic, and swoon-worthy. We had a smart & quirky main character, and a dashing, mysterious love interest. The dual POV (alternating between Juliana and Spencer) works to the advantage of this book, in a way that it doesn't for many. The side characters were all well-developed, and were woven into the plots seamlessly. I also loved the history of the Napoleonic War threaded through this story.

Negative thoughts: So, the villains were not my favorite part of this book. SPOILER ALERT, but I saw the twist where the Pyebalds were concerned from a mile away. But, to be honest, I didn't see any of them as very threatening, except for Maxwell. Maxwell was quite fearful, simply because he is a character whose sexual obsession is something we see WAY too often in real life. Also, I didn't quite believe that the War Office and the Home Office would get their wires crossed THAT extremely, but I know that it could have happened, at least to a lesser effect.

Final thoughts: Good book, especially for lovers of Jane Austen and other Regency authors. I love the author's writing, and I've already pre-ordered the next Regency novel written by this author (Duels And Deception, Swoon Reads, April 2017).

I liked the book; it was quite a pleasant read: sufficiently light-minded, a bit silly, playful story with plenty of funny scenes. There was one moment that I actually laughed like crazy person. This means I can count it as success, because at this specific instance the book actually managed to

surprise me, and that rarely happens. I am a big fan of Regency novels, especially if they accomplish to detach themselves from Jane Austen archetypes and format. In addition the book felt authentic, without becoming alien to 21 century reader. I liked the characters. I actually enjoyed follow the romantic developments between two nice people, who liked each other from the beginning. And in spite of romance being without excess of tension, it still managed to be eventful enough to be intriguing. The only two things I had tiny complaints are: I wish Juliana were more involved in mystery and I wish there was some closure about second couple possible romance. I wish those things, despite the fact that I'm perfectly aware of heroine being Regency-accurate female and the author's desire to leave something to reader's imagination. I don't think I will ever re-read the book, but I will definitely read the next thing Cindy Anstey will write.

This book was delightful from beginning to end. It reminded me of my favorite regency authors including: Austen, Heyer, and Julianne Donaldson. I loved the different subplots, especially the spy subplot involving traitors to England. This story was so well developed and each character was believable and lovely to get to know. I especially loved the swoon worthy romance. Romances are so much more believable when they develop slowly and allow the couple to fall in love. And Anstey knows how to do romance perfectly. I loved it and can't wait to finish *Duel and Deceptions*. Nicely done, Ms. Anstey!

I was very much looking forward to this book and sadly it didn't live up to the hype. The author tries and I have to give her credit for sticking close to the time period with language, rules, etc. She has done her historical research and it is well reflected. My quibble is with the romance aspect of the story, once again it hits into the trap I dislike, the characters fall in love much too quickly and then they are thrown into situations together, just seemed so forced. The main girl character is well written as is the hero, but the side characters were a bit annoying and the outcome of the entire book was completely predictable. I'm an adult who likes young adult books, some of my recent favorites are the Selection series, the Wrath and the Dawn, I was hoping this book would be in that same vein but alas it is not. Recommend this book for middle schoolers or early teens, clean romance and good introduction to this genre, but for adults, we need more meat.

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