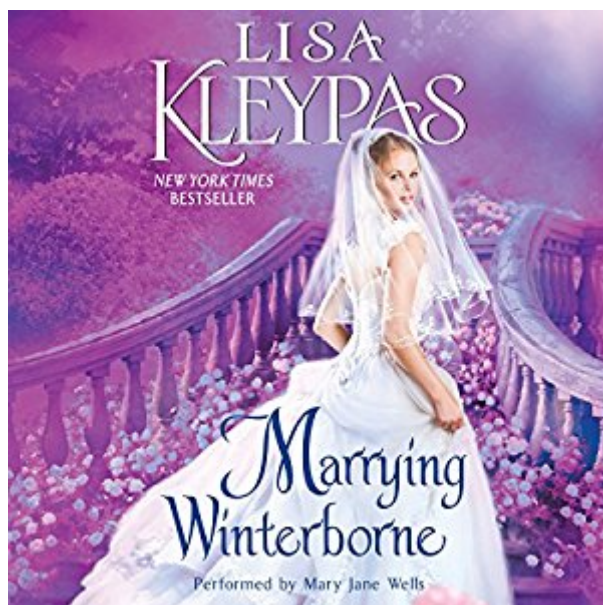


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# Marrying Winterborne



## Synopsis

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' 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' enemies conspire against them, Helen must trust him with her darkest secret. The risks are unthinkable...the reward a lifetime of incomparable bliss.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lots of reviews have been written which pretty much say it all. When I first returned to reading historical romances after a 20 year absence, Lisa Kleypas was one of the first authors I discovered. Since that time, I've read all her HR's and she's one of my top 5 favorite authors in this genre. My all time favorite of her books is *The Devil in Winter* (The Wallflowers, Book 3), but in truth The entire Wallflower Series along with The Hathways are books I will read over and over again. At least one reviewer likened Rhys' and Helen's story to Poppy Hathaway's *Tempt Me at Twilight* (Hathaways Book 3). In fact I do agree that Harry and Rhys had a lot in common relative to their cut-throat business practices which bled over into their personal lives. Both had attitudes of "I will get what I want come hell or high water" and then proceeded to use their business expertise in

matters that were highly personal which doesn't work out well for them at the end of the day. The fact that Rhys was head over heels for Helen from the beginning, whether or not he quite realized it, made me like him a lot. From there, Helen was simply in charge of this big, strong-minded, powerful man in all the ways that matter. Quite possibly, the best part of this book was when the storyline rolled back in time enough to reveal exactly what Helen had to endure during her growing up years. Unappreciated by her parents and older brother and horribly neglected for reasons that become clear to her over the course of this book, Helen's quiet strength was absolutely amazing. Much later in the storyline when Helen learns a truth that could shatter her burgeoning romance and love with Rhys, Helen's strength comes shining through. Not only does this part add tremendous value to the storyline by introducing a new character, we're also made privy to more of Rhys' true character as he rises to the challenge of dealing with this twist in his and Helen's relationship. Helen's a little woman of steel and I loved her for that. I'm normally not a fan of such a quiet, lovely lady, but Helen not only stole Winterborne's heart - she also stole mine.

This is the second book in the Ravenel Series, and I'd highly suggest reading 'Cold Hearted Rake' first since the events in that book have a direct impact on this one. You'll also miss out on Rhys and Helen's initial meeting, and vital information in regards to their emotional attachment and engagement if you just jump right into 'Marrying Winterborne' without reading the other. With that being said, this was a truly lovely and romantic read. Though I'm not usually a fan of shy and retiring misses, Helen had an inner strength and sense of honor and loyalty that was humbling. She wasn't perfect though, which ultimately only made her more endearing to me. Then there was Rhys, the rough and tumble Welsh business magnate who is the total opposite of Helen's grace and gentility. Nobody writes a common-born hero better than Kleypas in my opinion, and Rhys is up there with Derek Craven as one of the most unforgettable. His need and desire for the heroine was profound, and I utterly adored this man who had no weaknesses except his love for Helen. I really wanted to give this book five stars, but ultimately I didn't think it was perfect. There was a wonderful cast of characters however, some of whom I found truly fascinating and hope to see again in the future. The story was beautifully written, flowed well and at 80% in literally moved me to tears. My only complaints would be that I didn't feel like I got to know Rhys as well as Helen. Also, the couple was kept apart much of the time with only brief occasions where they're alone, most the time which was spent having sex. While I loved the passion these two had for each other, I'd like to have witnessed more tender and quiet moments with them simply getting to know each other better. Lastly, I just felt something was missing at times, though I'm not sure what exactly. Still, this was an emotionally

engaging read and some of the things Rhys says to Helen left me in awe. Overall I thought it was an incredible romance and I can hardly wait for Pandora's story next which merges with my favorite book from the 'Wallflower' series, so I'm super excited =)

I enjoyed this book so much! Heroes like Rhys Winterborne are my favorite. Rhys is a man who has worked hard for everything he has and he has become accustomed to getting what he wants. And what he wants now is Lady Helen. At the end of the last book Kathleen interfered and told Rhys that Helen did not want to marry him. He did not take that very well and ended up making an improper and insulting proposition to Kathleen. Devon walks in and things go from bad to worse. It seems that marriage between Helen and Rhys is hopeless. This book opens with Helen going to Rhys. And Rhys is determined to send her away and move on with his life. But Helen is just as determined to marry him. Helen appears weak and fragile - but she is not as meek as she appears. She not only renegotiates their betrothal - but gets Rhys to give her a different engagement ring. Rhys is shocked that Helen has agreed to his terms and has a new respect for her. Nothing will stop him from claiming her and keeping her forever. With things settled so quickly between them at the beginning of the book, I couldn't read the rest of the book fast enough to find out what was going to happen! Ms. Kleypas did not disappoint! Rhys and Helen have a wild ride to their HEA. It is filled with secrets, blackmail, steamy love scenes, moments of incredible sweetness and touches of utter despair. The book is well written, flows perfectly, has hot love scenes, shocking revelations and a nasty villain. Not to mention a soulmate type love story. I would highly recommend this book - it would be best to read the first book before you read this one - but you could read this as a stand alone title with no problem.

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