



A Necessary Deception

Laurie Alice Eakes

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When young widow Lady Lydia Gale helps a French prisoner obtain parole, she never dreamed he would turn up in her parlor. But just as the London Season is getting under way, there he is, along with a few other questionable personages. While she should be focused on helping her headstrong younger sister prepare for her entrance at her debutante ball.

Readers will enjoy being drawn into this world of elegance and intrigue, balls and masquerades. Author Laurie Alice Eakes whisks readers through the drawing rooms of London amid the sound of rustling gowns on this exciting quest to let the past stay in the past and let love guide the future.

A Necessary Deception Details

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Author : Laurie Alice Eakes

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From Reader Review A Necessary Deception for online ebook

Lynne Stringer says

I found this novel extremely frustrating. The resolution raised quite a few plot holes. Why did Lang introduce Christien into society at all? No idea, especially given how everything played out. I won't go into the others for fear of giving too much away for those who haven't read the book.

I also disliked how the author frequently ended a chapter with a cliffhanger (usually in the middle of a conversation) then started the next chapter weeks after the event and barely even alluded to what was said, except usually in a vague way by the end of the chapter ... maybe.

Also, the story seemed to jump about between the plot against the English, the story of the Bainbridge girls, and Lydia's own feelings, both for the men in her life and for God. The step between each of these plotlines was usually disjointed.

By the end, I was only reading it to see how it played out, and was disappointed with how dissatisfying the resolution was.

Angele says

3.5 Stars

This is a nice regency spy/double agent type of mystery. The romance and lead characters could have been developed a little more but all in all, it was a fun, relaxing read. The book was almost fluffy, nothing too heavy here, which makes for a nice, cozy read.

In my opinion, Lydia's two sisters outshone her. I was much more interested in Cassandra's and Honore's lives and romances than in Lydia's. They both seemed to have more spunk and backbone than Lydia and they weren't quite so goody-goody.

Cassandra and Honore were much more real to me than Lydia was. I couldn't wait to see what would happen next with Cassandra and Wittaker. Their relationship was so tumultuous! Perhaps they will get an entire book in the series too. Also, Honore's starry-eyed love for a forbidden gentleman was so unexpected and I didn't know what would happen next.

Christien did have some heart-stoppingly romantic moments. Who wouldn't like sweet nothings whispered in her ear in French?

The Christian message of the story was very relaxed, which I did like. I think it would appeal to those who don't normally read the genre but who like a cozy Regency mystery.

A cute Regency era spy mystery with fun supporting characters.

“Available October 2011 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.”

book sent by publisher in exchange for honest review

reviewed for <http://inthehammockblog.blogspot.com>

Katie says

First posted on my blog, *Legacy of a Writer*.

I've read several of the books Laurie Eakes has published over the past few years, and all were very good and beautifully written. When I first heard about this new series that begins with *A Necessary Deception*, I was eager to find out what new adventure Laurie would think up next! To my delight, this book did not disappoint my expectations in the slightest—in fact, I thought it was the best one she's written yet!

Lady Lydia Gale made a wonderful heroine. I love the mystery in everything: from Lydia's previous marriage to Christien current lifestyle! Both of Lydia's sisters (Cassandra and Honore) added a great mix into this cast of delightful characters—and ensured that Lydia was forever trying to undo some damage either Cassandra or Honore had done!

The Regency era isn't my usual reading genre, but I do enjoy diving into that oh-so intriguing time period. I am convinced I could never live in that day and age—what with all the high society do's and don't's, I would scandalize myself on the first day without even knowing it! But it is really interesting to read. Secrets and scandal seem to abound, and gossipers were in their element among those of high society. Taken into consideration that Laurie wrote a part intrigue, part mystery novel with *A Necessary Deception*, she couldn't have picked a more perfect time period!

I admit I was surprised when this book turned out to be just as much a suspense/mystery novel as a Regency romance. What a wonderful combination! From almost the first chapter, Laurie draws her readers in with the puzzling question of who the person is who is blackmailing Lydia. And from that point on, the suspense and romance (oh yeah!) continue to build.

The dangers that Lydia and Christien continually face as they try to find the blackmailer and the traitor in their midst make for several heart-pounding moments. Since everything in their society is oh-so proper, that first kiss between them is long awaited. But when it does come, boy was that a scene!! *A Necessary Deception* has a wonderful mixture woven into a strong plot—suspense, intrigue, romance, action, mystery...everything this bookworm loves!

Brittany says

This and many other reviews can be found on my blog at www.brittreadsfiction.wordpress.com

A Necessary Deception was a great ride back into the past. The author did a wonderful job of describing life in the ton and life in general back in the regency time period in England. This first book in the series follows widow Lydia Bainbridge as she tries to determine truth from lies and protect her family, while also staying true to England.

Lydia finds herself in quite a predicament when she is blackmailed by spies and forced to help them gain entrance to society. She is further dismayed to realize that she is having trouble determining who is truly working for England and who is looking to undermine it. She finds herself drawn to a French man, Christien,

but is unsure of whether he is able to be trusted.

There is much to love about this book. The descriptions of the time period, the frustrations that Lydia faces in dealing with her sisters' activities and bad choices, the guilt that Lydia bears over what she deems her failure as a wife, and the danger that follows Lydia and those she cares about all add up to a most appealing novel.

I am rating this book at 4 stars because it took me a while to really get into the book and truly understand all of the players. I was a bit confused at first. But, I am so happy that I persevered. The second half of the book just flew for me and I definitely plan to read the next two books in the series. I want to see what happens with Lydia's two sisters and see them get their happy endings. I believe that lovers of Regency novels will truly enjoy this book.

<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Jerry says

This one was just okay for me.

Christine Lindsay says

A Necessary Deception, set in the era of Regency England, is a delightful inspirational story that romps with all the richness of a 'season' for the 'haut ton' and at the same time ricochets with espionage and romance, and laughter.

British heroine, Lady Lydia Gale, tries to pick up the pieces of her life after her soldier husband dies in Napoleonic France. But this strong-hearted and vivacious young woman is left to take charge of her younger sisters when their politician father and hypochondriac mother fail to. That's bad enough, until one night in a darkened garden an undisclosed traitor blackmails Lydia into aiding the entirely too attractive Frenchman, Christien de Meuse.

Lydia finds herself forced to trust Christien who may be a French agent set on overthrowing the English government. At the same time her two younger sisters add peril and hilarity to the story as some of their suitors appear entirely unsuitable and others in their deluge of acquaintances just might have something to do with the traitor in their midst.

The situation grows desperate as Lydia finds herself growing more attracted to the soft-spoken and eloquent and ever-so-French—Christien.

Can Lydia believe him when he assures her he wants to expose the English traitor as much as she does?

I was thoroughly entertained—laughing and inspired—as I read this story. Like a well-played chess match with twists and turns, run-away sisters, treasonous whispers are spoken over fluttering fans at fancy balls and soirées. Against all the societal foolishness of Regency fashion and snobbery, I was entranced by a mystery that kept me guessing until the end, and a tender romance that satisfied my heart.

I give this book 5 stars and 2 thumbs way up.

Kristyn says

I literally had to force myself to skim to the end of this book. I only kept reading because I liked the French male lead character and wanted to see him get a happy ending.

The first day I read it, I thought it was just hard to read because I was tired, but even after a good night's rest, it never got better.

The writing was choppy. Dialogue was purposely cut off in places where it needed to finish because you needed to know what they were talking about. Every scene, every play, every ball, they were there like 5 minutes and then gone! I didn't like any of the female characters and don't see what anyone saw in them at all. Even the mystery didn't end well. The change of heart to and from the father in the end made NO sense at all. And what was up with all of the upper lip curling? Are they a bunch of Elvis impersonators? Seriously, it was in there like 8 times!

There are many similar books that are much more interesting and better written. Read *Friends and Foes* by Sarah M. Eden if you want a good spy book. I should have quit reading this one sooner. Sorry fans and author, but I will not be reading any sequels.

Rita says

This is the first book I've read by Laurie Alice Eakes and it was a good (but not great) read. I didn't care for some parts of the writing style - how scenes would abruptly end and then not continue on in the next paragraph/chapter - and that affected my enjoyment of the story. The characters were nice (Christian being my favorite) and I liked the mystery aspect to *A Necessary Deception*. Overall, even though it wasn't a favorite, I would still recommend it.

Lorraine says

SUMMARY: When young widow Lady Lydia Gale helps a French prisoner obtain parole, she never dreamed he would turn up in her parlor. But just as the London Season is getting under way, there he is, along with a few other questionable personages. While she should be focused on helping her headstrong younger sister prepare for her entrance at her debutante ball.

Readers will enjoy being drawn into this world of elegance and intrigue, balls and masquerades. Author Laurie Alice Eakes whisks readers through the drawing rooms of London amid the sound of rustling gowns on this exciting quest to let the past stay in the past and let love guide the future.

REVIEW: This was a new-to-me author, and I guarantee it won't be the last book I read by Laurie Alice Eakes. Her historical fiction is packed with detail, intrigue, mystery, romance and surprises. Definitely a fast-paced read for regency fiction.

The two main characters were so strong yet very realistic. Both Lydia and Christien were fighting the same battles of spirit - letting go and letting God rather than controlling people and situations themselves. I did at times get frustrated with Lydia in that she kept repeating the same mistakes over and over. But, in the end, she did learn from them. Lydia's sisters added a delightful counterpoint with their actions and problems. Overall a well developed plot from start to finish.

I can't wait to read Book 2 which will again focus on the three sisters.

FAVORITE QUOTES:

"Novels are called fiction for a reason child.....Life isn't like that at all."

"He (God) forgave human shortcomings, so one should forgive oneself for them too."

"Sometimes we have to put the good of many over--over the good of one person or a few."

"Their (children) futures are in God's hands and the hands of God's caretakers on earth -- your parents."

"..God loves you whether or not you are what others think is a good wife or daughter or sister,"

Kellyn Roth says

This was actually a pretty good book, and I was impressed by it because I saw so many bad reviews just before I got it.

The characters were well-developed, and I found myself emotionally attached to most of them. The plot was a little fast-paced at times, but it seemed pretty even to me most of the way through. I enjoyed the author's writing style. I didn't find it confusing and I thought it made perfect sense. I enjoyed it thoroughly, and I honestly don't know what everyone is talking about.

Read my full review [here](#).

~Kellyn Roth, Reveries Reviews

Faye says

A Necessary Deception is so much more than the cover would imply. It is a Regency novel full of lush characters and suspense. A read that I thoroughly enjoyed, down to the very last page. I will admit that I was a bit lost in the first chapter, but after I got my bearings all was well. Laurie Alice Eakes brings the world and society of centuries past, to life in a beautifully entertaining and page turning manner. Having read other

books by the same author I expected no less :)

The whole time I was reading this book, I could see the characters and the scenes in my head clearly as if on a television screen. I was swept into the plot and the characters, very easily, I really didn't want to put this one down :)

Regency is one of my favorite genres due to my love for Jane Austen books and the general enchantment of the era, probably because I watch so many BBC classics... And yet, another reason why I enjoyed this book.

The historical details were woven into the story, in a way that assumed you knew what the author was talking about, yet at the same time the historical facts were not being flung at you.

Laurie Alice Eakes is a gifted writer and I eagerly await her next novel, whatever it may be about. Overall, *A Necessary Deception* was all around, my type of book. Rich in romance, mystery, the Regency era, spies, etc. A very engaging novel, that I would not hesitate to highly recommend!

Final Rating: 4.5 out of 5

ISBN: 978-0-8007-3466-4

Carrie says

When I read the blurb for this book I thought, looks interesting I'll check it out. Much much better than I thought it was going to be. The story sucked me in from the start, and then as it moved along it just kept on getting better making me more and more interested.

We have blackmail, mystery, murder, spies, a wedding and a coming out ball to plan, what's not to like about this book.

So why not a full 5 stars then?

Well as it got near to the end, somewhere in the 80 to 90% range things started to drag slightly and I just wanted to get back to the action of it all.

This was my second book by Laurie Alice Eakes, and for me I thought this story was the better of the two.

Will I read more from her?

Yes, I'm looking forward to reading book two.

Over all I would give this **4.5 Stars**.

Abigail says

[--namely, why was *she* the target for the blackmail? In fact, why did she, or anyone, even *need* to be blackmailed in order for Lang to get his people into society? Surely they could have come up with some clever cover story that would give Lydia ample reason to give an introduction for them and simultaneously avoid causing her to become suspicious--don't spies want to be unnoticed?. A

Christy says

The last time I read a Regency novel, I was less than thrilled. The lifestyle and culture of that time was so slow and methodical--far different from our current society. There was hidden meaning in almost every action, and one had to be so careful to be seen or not to be seen with just the right people. So, I won't lie...I was a little nervous about picking up another Regency. I was so afraid I would be disappointed.

Thankfully, Laurie Eakes exceeded my expectations with *A Necessary Deception*. There was mystery and intrigue mixed with a plentiful dose of romance. Oh, the romance... I tell ya, I couldn't get enough of it. I could picture Christien as one of the most handsome heroes I've read in a long time, and his love, Lydia, a lovely and beautiful member of London Society. Together, they were thrust into danger more than once, and each time, I couldn't help but hold my breath until I knew they were safe.

However, the mystery portions of the book left me unsatisfied. I don't know a lot about the history of England and France in the 19th century, so I didn't fully understand the disdain that the English felt toward the French. I thought that the final reveal would revolve more around uncovering someone up to no good within one of the governments. Instead, the ending was anticlimactic and left me unfulfilled.

All in all, I think Laurie Eakes has greatly improved since her last full-length novel. This was only my second opportunity to read one of her books, and overall, I'm glad that I gave her books another chance. She clearly conveyed the atmosphere of the Regency Era in a believable manner, and I'm anxious to return for another visit.

Hannah says

4.5 stars.

I have such a weakness for a good spy story. This hit all the right spots in that respect and kept me guessing. In several aspects it reminded me of Ruth Axtell's "*Midnight Masquerade*," another story I really enjoyed.

The ending was a perfect combination of joy and closure that left me feeling properly satisfied. :)
