



A Lady's Honor

Laurie Alice Eakes

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Society is concerned about her honor, but Elizabeth must realize her worth doesn't lie in her inheritance. In order to avoid a forced marriage to a dangerous man, Elizabeth Trelawney flees London. An unexpected stranger arrives to help her, and as they elude her pursuers across Cornwall in the night, Elizabeth realizes her rescuer, Rouan Curnow, is familiar.

Their differences in social status kept Rouan from pursuing a courtship with the lady his heart wouldn't let him forget. Now because of dangerous smugglers and local murders, the two are plunged into a reckless alliance that rattles Rouan's fledgling faith in God.

The closer they get to Bastian Point---Elizabeth's true home---the more she realizes it is the only place she longs to be. Even the sight of its solid structure perched on the cliffs makes her feel safe. Elizabeth is the most likely to inherit Bastian Point if Grandfather never learns she spent the night, however innocently, with a near stranger.

As spring warms into summer, Elizabeth finds herself torn between wanting to be the perfect grandchild and her growing love for a man of whom no one will approve as a match for her, a man she knows she shouldn't entirely trust. Unsure whether she is being foolish or following the right path, she sets out with Rouan on a quest to find the true culprit behind the local violence.

Their quest leads them to danger, and she must choose whether to follow the man she loves or cling to the safety of her family home.

A Lady's Honor Details

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From Reader Review A Lady's Honor for online ebook

Christin says

Started well. Then it sort of dropped that plot and slowly progressed until the end where everything was wrapped up prettily within a few pages. I like a happy ending but it just seemed really quick. A nice read but not excellent.

By the end of the book, I was thoroughly sick of reading the phrase "the grandparents." Why not say "her grandparents" or "my grandparents?" WHY DID SHE ALWAYS REFER TO THEM THIS WAY?! Even in her thoughts? And why so often?! It was almost every other sentence by the end. Very distracting.

Lastly: the basis for faith should not be our own feeling. Why did the Bible figure so inconsequently in conversion? It was disappointing that one character's conversion was dependent upon their own love of someone. What?! You acknowledge Jesus is true because you realize how well you love someone? More like the opposite in real life! I did really enjoy the Whitefield excerpts--they were excellent and portrayed Christ well.

Carol says

Loved this book. The story had me guessing all the way through.

Amy Betancourt says

A bit disappointed with this book. Everything was going great until a kissing scene was graphically described with tongue. People choose Christian fiction because they don't want to read about this kind of stuff. I didn't finish the book. Just an FYI for Christians who are looking for a clean book, don't bother with this one.

Joelle says

I really don't like it when antagonists motive is that insanity. It usually feels like the author used that because she couldn't think up a more logical reason.

This authors style is somewhat hard for me to follow. It seems like instead of telling you what is going on she hopes you figure it out and then she makes a statement about it later and I'm left wondering when the event happened and how I missed reading it. I had to do some backtracking, which is annoying.

Passable story. Okay characters. The grandparents bother me. They have so much potential for being really epic. Grandpapa was a pirate, he and grandmama are really in love. You'd think they'd be more understanding. They're actually pretty hypocritical and they never listen to their grandchildren.

Sharon says

I liked the beginning, but very quickly grew tired of the heroine, Elizabeth. I found her cold, calculating, and impersonable and I just didn't connect with her. In fact, even her grandparents, who were supposed to be the spiritual guides in this story weren't much better. They were willing to marry her off to a dangerous land-grabber, just as her parents had attempted to do.

Also, the use of the term "the grandparents " instead of "her grandparents " at first was just annoying, but eventually became downright irritating and grating as it continued throughout the entire book. Maybe that's what grandparents are called in Cornwall, but it became a distraction for me.

Overall, the story line had potential, but I was disappointed. I will try the next in the series, but if it follows the same path as this, I won't finish it.

Anna Mcfarland says

While the plot had potential, the characters lacked a certain depth for me so that I found myself apathetic to what happened to them. I appreciated the clean Christian romance even though it had quite a bit of kissing going on for the 1800s. I enjoyed the quotes from George Whitfield; however, the theme of heavenly treasure verses earthly treasure was too heavy-handed for me.

Joanna says

I'd give this book a 3.5 rating. The reason it wasn't higher was because the heroine was so infuriating it made it difficult to connect with her, let alone root for her and the hero to come together and work things out. But the plot was interesting and definitely kept me guessing.

Valerie L says

This story had a great start. I love a fast paced heart pounding beginning. When a stranger rescues Elizabeth all seems well until her brother confides to her a shocking truth about this man she thought she was safe with. Mystery and danger speed through this story at an enjoyable pace.

Yet, as the main story develops I began to grow a little weary of Elizabeth. She is spoiled and annoyed at all men for wanting her dowry, constantly sneaking off, and supposedly she's so strong, but yet can't muster a truth to her grandparents. I felt her character was not consistent. She lacked a true backbone one that is unyielding to truth and honor. Then there is Rowan. If he was truly a gentleman and loved her as he proclaimed then why does he constantly coax her to meet with him unchaperoned? Do you really love someone if all you think is of their outward beauty before you care about their honor, their morals and the life they want?

I thought this story had real potential but the hero and heroine lacked too much to make me really enjoy this story and really root for them. I thought the real hero was Elizabeth's cousin.

This book was free in exchange for an honest review.

Patricia says

This was a great Regency romance set in England—Cornwall to be exact. Smugglers, danger, landed gentry, mystery. What more would a good story need? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. ?

Initially, I could not decide whether I was in the mood to read the story I thought this was but persuaded myself to just jump in and read a few pages. I was hooked from the first page and just blazed through it as fast as possible.

If you like historical romance, you should enjoy this. I cannot wait to start book 2!

Victor Gentile says

Laurie Alice Eakes in her new book, “A Lady’s Honor” Book One in the Cliffs Of Cornwall series published by Zondervan brings us into the life of Elizabeth Trelawny.

From the back cover: On the cliffs of 19th-century Cornwall, a spirited, impetuous young woman is torn between the honor of her family and the longing of her heart.

England, 1811

A tarnished reputation. A distant home. A forced engagement to a dangerous man. When Elizabeth Trelawny flees London, she has more than one reason to run. And when her carriage, pursued by her would-be fiancé, is caught in a storm, she quickly accepts the help of a dark stranger. Anything to get back to Cornwall.

But Rowan Curnow is not exactly a stranger. He’s not quite a gentleman either. Class disparity once kept him from courting Elizabeth . . . even if it didn’t keep him from kissing her.

The couple elude their pursuers and reach Bastion Point, Elizabeth’s future inheritance and the one place she calls home. But in the very act of spiriting her to safety, Rowan has jeopardized Elizabeth’s inheritance—if her grandfather ever learns she spent the night, however innocently, in the company of a man.

When smugglers unite the pair in a reckless, flirtatious alliance—an alliance that both challenges the social norms Elizabeth has been raised to revere and rattles Rowan’s fledgling faith in God. Elizabeth must choose between the obedience of a child and the desires of a woman: cling to the safety of her home or follow the man she loves.

What are you going to do when you are in London and being set up for an arranged marriage to a much older man? You take off and run for your family home in Cornwall. However when all does not go according to plan Elizabeth meets up with Rowan who helps her but also may have caused her to lose her inheritance. “A Lady’s Honor” is a wonderful romance filled with mystery, intrigue, and scandal. These pages are filled with wonderful characters that live and breathe. “A Lady’s Honor” is full of reputation, finding yourself, finding your place in the world and romance. This is an interesting story filled with lots of excitement and romance as well as history. I liked it a lot.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Zondervan. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

English says

Like Laurie Alice Eakes *Midwives Trilogy* which I read recently, my opinions of her latest novel were rather mixed. On the one hand it did have a sound Christian and important message about not putting one's trust in earthly treasures, and some wonderful descriptive passages, it was weak in places but improved towards the end.

On the other hand it was blighted by the two things I dislike most in historical fiction. Judging the past by modern standards or imposing them upon it, and anachronistic or otherwise out-of place language. The British characters used a number of Americanisms in their speech on a fairly frequent basis like 'someplace' instead of 'somewhere'.

In the case of the former the novel seemed to be imbued with a prejudice against the aristocracy, their culture, attitudes, values and way of life. It may be that as a Brit I have a different outlook on these things, and I know the central theme of the story was looking for heavenly treasures instead of earthly- but I don't believe there is anything intrinsically wrong with being born to wealth and privilege, owning land or having servants in and of itself.

Then there was Elizabeth. I never really warmed to her, and she came across a selfish, spoiled madam. I think this was how the author intended for her to be portrayed, and she acknowledged this fault in the end- but not for the reasons I found it most annoying. Basically, she hated the lifestyle her class and upbringing expected her to live, and shunned social expectations because she couldn't do what she wanted, like go horse-riding on her own, or go swimming and was expected to do things she found boring or tedious instead such as sewing or attending parties.

Elizabeth the self-centred brat who had everything, was still not happy- and really just because she found her lifestyle 'stifling' it does not mean it wholly bad.

Most women in Elizabeth's position would have been happy with the provision her grandparents were willing to make for her, giving them financial security for life. Yet even this was not good enough for Elizabeth- I could understand why she did not want to marry a potential murderer, but of course she was determined not to enter into an arranged marriage for the sake of money, land and power... and it was assumed that all such arranged matches not based on modern notions of romantic love were unhappy. Yet history shows they were not always.

Then there was Rowan godly heroic, and handsome, yet perhaps something of a cliché- and apparently possessed of the notion that anything which did not line up with his proletarian ideology was unchristian and bad. He was probably the source of most of the prejudices about the upper classes- lazy because they did no manual work, uncaring because they were only about appearances and reputation ... and apparently regarding people in domestic service as little better than slaves. No- especially considering that Britain abolished slavery before America did.

What got to me was how he thought Elizabeth's grandparents worthy of his wrath for sending her brother

away because of his involvement in smuggling because this was 'unmerciful'. Seriously...what were they supposed to do knowing their grandson was mixed up with ruthless killers? As for his apparent admiration for Thomas Paine- well no mention that he was a deist who regarded Christianity as an 'invention' that held back the progress of humanity, and helped Napoleon to formulate plans to invade the land of his own birth- just that he influenced the American Revolution. Gosh- so that automatically made him a good guy?

Altogether, a fairly good story with a hint of mystery and decent as a one-time read, and maybe pass onto unbelieving friends or relatives. Just too much kissing, or thinking about kissing for me, and I personally prefer my historical fiction more accurate and less judgemental for no other reason than that it does not fit in with modern ideals.

I received a free copy of this book free from Booksneeze for review, I was not required to write a positive one and all opinions expressed herein are my own.

Kathleen E. says

Monday, April 20, 2015

A Lady's Honor by Laurie Alice Eakes, © 2014

A Cliffs of Cornwall Novel

On the cliffs of 19th-century Cornwall, a spirited, impetuous young woman is torn between the honor of her family and the longing of her heart.

My Review:

~* wayfarers ~ just passing through *~

The speed of the horses in the dark of night did not shelter them from the torrent of the blowing rain soaking in and splattering against them. There would be safety ahead, with a far distance from the hoofbeats and rumble of carriage wheels of the repulsive Romsford and his men. Elizabeth Trelawny, or "Elys," as her "brother Drake's voice" calmed her, rode alongside unhampered.

If only her family allowed her to do anything for herself, she might know how to make wiser choices.

--A Lady's Honor, 16

I really like Elizabeth already... I like adventure and fun! Quickly scrambling behind a stack of barrels, sending vermin scurrying, clinging spiderwebs, and odors of spirits; I am hoping she doesn't sneeze. In the darkness of the inn, with flour dust flying, an escape is made out the back door and she is moving swiftly on horseback through the night; not alone, but accompanied by a man who first set eyes upon her ~ are you ready for this! ~ at the LIBRARY. Now then, wouldn't you say he has undeterminable value!

Everything is not as it seems; friend or foe? Heart's deceit or longing?

If you are ready for adventure and wondering who is the culprit, you will love this story along the Cornish coast path and caves at tide time.

What a delightful story ~ here is a snippet of beautiful writings

"Treasures in life that are worth more than dowries and property and the amount of money deposited in The

Funds." He squeezed her hand. "Perhaps you should read those journals. In reading about their lives, perhaps you can work out what was missing. I think you already knew at one time in your life. But no time for reading now. Your grandmama wishes for you to join her in the garden parlor."

--Ibid., 144

May she realize The~Absolute~Treasure

She slipped through a side door and into the garden. The fog lay so thickly over the ground she doubted anyone could see her from the house. Water dripped from tree branches and trellises in a rhythmic plop, plop, plop. Her kid slippers made no sound on the gravel path. When she opened the garden door to the cliff, even the sea sounded distant, its roar muted beneath the blanket of water. But she tasted salt spray on her lips and the tang of the water in her nostrils. The cold dampness awakened something deep inside her, a stirring need to run and shout and dive into the flattened waves.

--Ibid., 155-156

I am eager to read the following book, *A Stranger's Secret*, as *A Cliffs of Cornwall* Novel continues...

Thank you to author Laurie Alice Eakes for sending me a copy of her Cliffs of Cornwall novel, *A Lady's Honor*, to read and review. This review was written in my own words. No other compensation was received.

Iola says

Elizabeth Trelawney has fled to her family home in Cornwall to escape an engagement she doesn't want to a man as old as her grandfather. She is kidnapped by one Rowan Curnow, who is pretending to be a friend of her brothers. Can she trust him? Does she have a choice?

When Elizabeth eventually arrives, she finds her childhood friend is dead, her smuggler brother has run away to hide from the excise men, her cousin has been banished for getting herself into a 'delicate situation', and the best friend she hasn't seen for ten years is homeless after the American heir to the estate just happens to be visiting. And it seems danger still lurks ...

It's a fast-paced story of mystery and intrigue as Elizabeth is challenged by her grandparents to find the family treasure. This is the first novel in the new Cliffs of Cornwall series, and it's unusual in that it doesn't have the usual portrayal of smugglers as jolly good fellows who wouldn't harm anyone, popular in gothic romances in years gone by. Eakes's portrayal was uncomfortable in that regard, even if it is more accurate.

I did get hung up on a few glitches, including misquoting Shakespeare, misused words, inaccurate coinage, and the imaginary location of Bastion Point – there really is a Bastion Point in Auckland, New Zealand, and it's famous for Maori land protests. Incidentally, while the book blurb calls it "Bastian Point", it's "Bastion Point" inside. Oops.

I'm also not convinced by the references to Conan Lord Penvenen (which made me think of Conan the Barbarian. Sorry). Shouldn't that be Conan, Lord Penvenen? Or simply Conan, as they are talking about a close family friend?

My other issue was with the character of Rowan. We find out more about him as the story progresses, with

some major revelations towards the end. While these did explain some of the questions I'd had about Rowan's character, they also left me feeling as if I'd been deceived. Rowan was a viewpoint character, and while he was romantic and reliable as the hero, he was an unreliable narrator, and I felt as if all the conflict around his background was manufactured for the sake of introducing conflict, rather than being an intrinsic part of the story.

Despite these faults I did enjoy *A Lady's Honor*. It was a good combination of suspense, mystery and romance with a strong underlying Christian message about treasure and unconditional love. However, I didn't enjoy it enough to read it again, and I'm not convinced I enjoyed it enough to bother reading the sequel when it comes out.

Thanks to BookLookBloggers for providing a free ebook for review.

Hannah says

Ah, yet another enjoyable book I missed taking the time to rate! I can't even pinpoint when I read it beyond the rough estimate of which week in the month. This is the classic type of suspense I love—the book opens with the fair heroine running away from Town in the middle of the night in a wild desperation to escape an unwanted suitor, and the action never lets up. A delight from cover to cover.

Carolyn Tye says

Totally engrossing. I love this author's writing.
