



Thornbrook Park

Sherri Browning, Sherri Browning Erwin

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Fans of *Downton Abbey* will adore this brand-new Edwardian-period romance series set at the grand estate of Thornbrook Park, seat of the Earl of Averford.

In a world poised for epic change...

Disowned for marrying beneath her, Eve Kendal has returned to England destitute after her husband's death and the mysterious disappearance of their savings. She's looking for survival, not romance. But from London to the Yorkshire countryside to the elegant estate of Thornbrook Park, Eve's path seems destined to cross that of the dashing but violent Captain Marcus Thorne.

Anything can happen...

For Marcus, a return home means facing the demons that drove him to war in the first place. As he and Eve begin a steamy affair, tensions that had been simmering just beneath the surface threaten to explode and shake the very foundations of Thornbrook Park.

Thornbrook Park Details

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Author : Sherri Browning , Sherri Browning Erwin

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From Reader Review Thornbrook Park for online ebook

My Book Addiction and More MBA says

THORNBROOK PARK by Sherri Browning is an interesting Edwardian Historical Romance set in 1906 England. A Thornbrook Park Romance #1, and what a beginning!

You will be enlightened and fascinated by this era of technology, motor vehicles, and electricity during the 1900s. The world is on the verge of epic changes.

Follow, widowed and destitute, Eve Kendal, and Captain Marcus Thorne as they journey through an era of changes, danger, tension, lies, deceit, betrayal and a steamy affair.

Eve, is determined to be a woman of Independence, but her savings has mysteriously disappeared after her husband's death. She sails back to England from India to get answers. Enter.... Captain Marcus Thorne, who has demons of his own he is facing. Amongst them, violence. He fights to control his angry rages. Eve is looking for answers not romance, but who can resist a sexy, handsome, devil of a man, who has brawn and brains.

Together, Marcus and Eve, find passion, romance, and the power of love. But can they find their HEA? Downton Abby fans are sure to enjoy "Thornbrook Park" where anything is possible. I can't wait to see what in the Thornbrook Parks' future. Well written with engaging characters and an intriguing storyline. Received for an honest review.

RATING: 4.5

HEAT RATING: HOT

REVIEWED BY: AprilR, courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

Raquel says

Set in 1906, this book was a refreshing read full of romance and suspense. I liked that Eve and Marcus were not the usual H/h found in historical romances. As a widow, Eve had the freedom denied to young girls and spinsters. Marcus was a second son. As such, there were many opportunities for them to be alone in each other's company without raising too many eyebrows.

There was also an element of mystery to the story as Eve and Marcus began to investigate her husband's missing investments in an Indian diamond mine. People connected to the mine were going missing and Marcus was worried that Eve's life was in grave danger. There were so many possibilities for who was out to get Eve that it kept me guessing to the end.

I highly recommend this book and look forward to reading other books by Sherri Browning.

YankeeCountess says

There's no denying the *Downton Abbey* influence in this book. A reviewer even tags the show on the back cover. And you can't help but try to piece together which characters from the show (including their various relationships) helped influence the characters in Thornbrook Park? All that being said, I would say that Thornbrook Park strives to not be too obvious in the material where it draws its inspiration from, and judging from the basis that I know of the other two books in the series, I would dare say this particular book is the more original out of the three.

The title eludes to a vast Yorkshire estate. The hero, Captain Marcus Thorne is the second son and younger brother to the present Earl of Averford, with whom he does not get along. Mrs. Eve Kendall is a widow newly returned to England from India, and is best friends with the Countess of Averford, Marcus' sister-in-law. While in London, the two cross paths and sparks instantly seem to fly. They both encounter one another again at Thornbrook Park; Eve is there to visit her friend, Sophia, who has promised to help Eve until she can get her financial situation in order, and Marcus is there because it is Sophia's wish that he court and marry her younger sister, Lady Alice. As you can imagine, things don't go according to plan, as Marcus would much rather be spending his time flirting and courting Eve, and vice versa.

****SPOILERS AHEAD, ARGH!****

This is the first book I've ever read by Sherri Browning. It started well, I enjoyed the step up and introduction of both Eve and Marcus, as well as their first meeting (with him drunk on the floor of Averford house and she helping him into bed) and then later when they meet again at Thornbrook. I also enjoyed the introductions of the other characters, from Sophia to her husband, Gabriel, to Alice and her eccentric aunt. All was going well, or so it seemed. Then Browning caught a case of the "tell, but don't show".

It was strange how this happened. I would read several pages involving inner thoughts and descriptions of the world around the characters, and then be treated to several pages of non-stop dialogue between Eve and Marcus. No suggestion to their tone, or how they were feeling, or anything else, just...dialogue.

And then there were moments when I felt the story was dragging (I honestly think it could have been at the very least, 50 pages shorter) and yet despite this drag, there were moments when I felt the author was rushing things. Eve seeks Sophia's forgiveness and it's finally given to her, without warning, which is odd as Sophia was giving Eve the cold shoulder for several days, but without warning, NOW decides to forgive Eve? Same with Marcus and Gabriel, they were fighting one moment (fists flying at each other, kind of fighting) and then suddenly everything's ok. So pacing and editing could have been better as well.

And I just need to go on a rant about the character of Sophia, who will become the lead heroine in book 3.

Sophia is a *horrible* "best friend". The only "friendly" thing I could credit Sophia for, was the offer of giving Eve the Dower House until she was back on her feet. But then Eve arrives, and Sophia is like "surprise! My sister and aunt are moving into that house, because I want them to be closer to me!" Well, you can't get much closer with being under THE SAME ROOF, but no, Alice gets the house, and Eve is given a room of her own at Thornbrook. Gosh, thanks Sophia! But then Sophia gets a big bee up her bonnet at Eve for "carrying on with Marcus", and gives her the cold shoulder for several days, even going so far as to tell Eve to get out and go away, which Eve does, only to have a change of heart later, which comes out of nowhere and we're not given the reason *why* Sophia changed her mind, just left to guess. Anyway, I really thought Sophia was a *lousy* friend and couldn't understand why or how Eve liked her and saw her as such,

especially when we're given the impression that this isn't the first time Sophia has been "less than friendly/supportive" to Eve when she needed it.

But despite those annoyances, I would still give Thornbrook Park **3 stars**, because I did think it had a very good beginning, and when it wasn't just pages upon pages of dialogue, I did enjoy it.

Ki says

I got to say this book was not what I was expecting. Not set during my usual Regency readings, this romance story is set in the throws of technology, motor vehicles, and electricity; the 1900s. The Edwardian era!!! I see Downton Abbey all over this!

I really enjoyed this book. Both Eve and Marcus were great characters and were very adored by me because I absolutely love their chemistry. Even though they barely met in the beginning they bonded very well at an instant and made their surrounding environment quite peaceful. They also became a sort of friends and helped complement each other in their flaws; like in conversations where they felt uncomfortable, the other would secretly change the subject by throwing in a question to veer off the uneasiness of where the topic were heading towards. It was a win win situation of sorts. A partnership work.

They also understood each other in a way that many might not have. Both have lost something in their lives so they knew how to act and treat one another on a different level compared to how they treated others. They saw each others' pain and helped cure it as their friendship grew into something more in a short time. I really love how they interacted with each other and how they conversed with lines from books and literature. I found that really fun and witty to read because they just made such a cute couple.

But there's a back story to this romance. Yes their attraction is quick but subdued because of each of their own personal circumstances, there's also the fact that Eve's only friend, Sophia has plans to marry Marcus off to her sister. Even if Marcus is Sophia's brother-in-law therefore making Sophia's sister also an in-law, Sophia just wants her sister to be close to her. And to Eve's dismay, she just can't help being attracted to Marcus. But then Eve's also back to find the whereabouts on her husband's missing investments and who's to help her but Marcus.

Marcus on the other hands has demons he's holding and Eve seems to be the only angel able to cure him. Carrying to deaths of war of which he didn't intend to have when he bought his commission he also carries the lives of a dear friend's family on his back. He had made a promise to care for their welfare and so has took it as his responsibility to look after the young children and give them a good and manageable working life. But then of course he couldn't leave a widow in distress after returning home from a long stay in India, so he took it upon himself to help Eve find the culprit in her husband's missing investments. But then his brother, whom he can't seem to like and his brother's wife gets in the way of their growing attraction and things just gets complicated at times.

Gosh I just adored this story! I loved how the mystery were woven into the story and helped paced the romance and their relationship. I may have figured who was behind the mystery and all but I still really enjoyed the adventure.

I also loved that Eve was written like we were in the mind of a male. I'm not sure if that was intentional but that's how I saw her. How she thought about Marcus was just so much like how a male would see and think

of a woman when deprived of love for a long time. Well, she was windowed for a year so it was quite understandable but I just thought it was funny. Eve was also very modern. It wasn't a bad thing because the times were changing during this era and women reforms were forming so it was very refreshing to see that. Eve also still retained some of the very proper etiquettes of a woman of the olden days at certain times in the book, which I was very grateful for because it just shows how time were slowly changing and not just all forgotten about

Marcus I loved. He was so in tune to Eve's feeling that I was just hooked on him. Not just that but he was very aware of people's feeling and cared a lot for them personally. He treated people fairly but can still have that over bearing presence when he needs too and can be very intimidating even though he's just a soft and sweet spoken beta hero! Plus he's bookish and I love that even more about him!

So, all in all this was a super great and fun read and for being my first of Sherri Browning book I absolutely loved it! She has a really great way of telling their story and even more on showing their vulnerable sides which is really sweet.

I highly recommend this and can't wait for more from Sherri!!!

Rating: 4 out 5

Janine Ballard says

3.5 stars

I gave this 4 stars when I first read it in 2015; however, I barely remember it three years later, so I'm nicking half a star. Here's my original review:

Thornbrook Park begins in September of 1906, with Eve Kendal's arrival in England. Six years earlier Eve, an heiress, eloped to India with her husband, army captain Ben Kendal, against her parents' wishes. Eve's mother greatly wanted Eve to marry an earl, so her family's response to Eve's elopement was to disown her.

Despite his humbler background, Ben was determined to provide for Eve and he invested all their savings, but now that Ben has passed away, Eve has been unable to get her hands on the money. She has a small widow's pension but has returned to England partly in order to find out what happened to the money Ben set aside for their future.

Luckily for Eve, a childhood friend, Sophia, now Lady Averford, has invited Eve to stay with her and her husband at their West Yorkshire estate, Thornbrook Park. Before departing for Thornbrook Park, Eve plans to spend her first night in London in Averford House, Sophia and her husband Gabriel's London house.

At Averford House, Eve learns that Gabriel's brother, Captain Marcus Thorne, is also in residence. Marcus is a veteran of the Second Boer War and an amateur boxer. Marcus lost his closest friend, Cooper, in the war, and now he tries to look out for Cooper's widow and children, including his teenage son, Brandon.

After coming home drunk late that night from a bout of boxing he lost, Marcus passes out. Although she knows it's inappropriate, Eve assists the butler in putting Marcus to bed, and Marcus gets a brief glimpse of her unforgettable blue eyes. But the next day, Eve is gone, the butler denies all, and Marcus wonders if he

imagined the unknown woman's presence.

At Thornbrook Park, all is not well with Eve's friend Sophia. There is tension in Sophia's marriage to Gabriel, and Sophia also has her heart set on a match between Marcus, her brother-in-law, and her sister Alice. But Marcus is on the outs with Gabriel and stays away from the country estate. Eve, who has some talent for writing, agrees to pen a letter that may lure Marcus to Thornbrook Park.

Eve's written description of Cook's apple tarts accomplishes that. Marcus comes to the country house, with a goal of finding young Brandon a position on a tenant's farm to keep him out of trouble, and eventually moving Cooper's entire family to West Yorkshire.

Eve begins to fall for Marcus, and he is equally drawn to her. Since his wartime experiences, Marcus has been plagued by occasional spurts of rage and without boxing for an outlet, he fears he will explode, but Eve helps defuse his anger at his brother.

But when Eve discovers it won't be as easy to get her hands on Ben's and her savings as she supposed, she knows she can't afford to alienate Sophia, whose friendship has been so important to her and whose kindness now keeps a roof over her head.

Meanwhile, Gabriel and Marcus strike a deal—if Marcus courts Alice with an eye toward marriage, Gabriel will make it possible for Brandon to work on the farm, and perhaps eventually Cooper's widow and children can all move there.

So Eve and Marcus each have a goal that makes their falling in love almost painful. Eve recognizes her feelings before Marcus does his own, but both agree on one day—just one day—to allow those feelings expression.

What will happen when Marcus realizes he has fallen for Eve? How will Sophia and Gabriel react if they learn the truth? And what is going on with Eve's money? Is a mysterious man in a bowler hat out to harm Eve?

Thornbrook Park is clearly an homage to Downton Abbey, but at the same time, it is a historical romance, with a focus on one central couple's romantic relationship and a happy ending. The novel is written in a lovely, elegant voice that is perhaps its best feature, along with the attraction between the appealing main characters.

Eve and Marcus are both class acts – caring, thoughtful and intelligent characters. The imperative to keep their feelings under wraps creates a beautiful romantic tension between them. Here is a sample that captures that tension:

“Please.”

One word, and she was lost. All fight and sense went out of her. She wasn't sure if he had kissed her or she had kissed him, but their mouths were together, meeting hungrily. He slipped his tongue between her lips, and she drew on it, pulling him deeper. Somewhere, a service bell rang, an angry tinkling, but she was breathless in his arms, pressed up against the banister, his hands on her backside. What if Mr. Sutton came along? Or Brandon?

She pushed him away. “I must go. I must. I’m sorry.”

Before she could be persuaded to stay, she ran up the stairs and left Marcus standing there alone.

This is a partial review. The complete review can be found at Dear Auhor, here:

<http://dearauthor.com/book-reviews/ov...>

Gaele says

I rarely choose titles by the “fans of ____” recommendations; in fact I usually find those to be distracting and often do not allow for the quality of the author’s work. That being said, my main reason for choosing this title, aside from my obsession with historic romance was to read a story that is set in the Edwardian era, a fairly uncommon setting.

Sherri Browning creates a compelling story that manages to combine emotion, visual imagery and a sense of the excitement of the times in this first installment of her Thornbrook Park series. The story also veers from the norm in that we are predominantly set in Yorkshire: a uniquely rugged farming area away from the bustle of London.

Eve is a cleverly drawn character of obvious strong will and determination. Her marriage caused a rift in her family, and she was disowned and disgraced in their eyes: never to return. When her husband’s death and her reduced circumstances required her return to England to find what is left of their money, she discovers that the substantial investment was made with a crooked man, she has no choice but to find work, or a charitable friend to shelter her.

Marcus is a second son with several wounds of his own. He promised to care for a friend’s family during the height of combat, and he returned to England angry and argumentative, without plans to marry or create burdens for another to share.

Sophia has a plan: as Eve’s last friend, she is offering her shelter and a place to conduct her investigations to find who stole their money. Sophia has a younger sister that she is hoping to dangle in front of her brother-in-law, Marcus, and she is busily managing the situations and events at Thornbrook Park so that love will bloom.

Eve and Marcus are both very broken and jaded: as a widow, Eve has more freedom to speak, move and do as she likes without bringing scandal, and part of her very unique voicing and actions are proceeding with her life as much as possible. Eve’s perspective on events is strongly masculine approach in her estimation of people: she is keenly aware of her limited options as a woman, but is determined to not let that stop her.. Marcus is constantly sniping with his brother, and is not interested in the machinations toward romance from his sister in law. He keenly feels the responsibility laid on him from his friend’s death during the war, but talking with Eve and seeing her determination to ferret out the man who stole her future with a faked investment strikes his chivalrous side, even though he isn’t interested in her as a woman. Not one bit. So he repeatedly tells himself.

The romance is a delicate dance – as both have fairly strong reservations about commitment and trust, not to mention the fact of Eve coming between the romance that Sophia had envisioned for her sister and Marcus. Alone, the romance in such a situation would have provided enough interest and compelled readers to keep on, but adding in the search for the one who absconded with Eve's money adds a touch of danger and mystery that winds through the story and shows us different sides of the characters of both Eve and Marcus.

I really did enjoy this story, redolent with the feel of the Edwardian era and the stirrings of Suffrage and the belching automobiles. Browning weaves historic details, scenes, strength and vulnerability into the story to give a solid visual image to readers, even as their hearts are being charmed.

I received an eArc copy of the title from the publisher via NetGale for purpose of honest review. I was not compensated for this review: all conclusions are my own responsibility.

Nightwitch says

I really want historical romance novels not set in Regency England, and the Edwardian era seemed like a great fit. Unfortunately, this one didn't come through for me. I think the word I would probably use is "adequate." It's an adequate romance novel that doesn't make devastatingly good use of the setting; I didn't really get a feel for the era and it felt kind of like the book could have been set during any time period from about 1800-1930 without any substantial changes. The plot is a perfectly nice standard romance novel plot (view spoiler) with perhaps a few too many frissons thrown in (view spoiler) and a mystery that is not very mysterious but, again, adequate. It did feel like the author was reluctant to place the heroine in real peril for most of the book; (view spoiler). All in all, like I said, adequate, but it just didn't click for me.

Chelsea says

One of the things I liked most about Thornbrook Park is that the heroine is a widow, and she's got more freedom to pursue an affair because of that. This was such a novelty for me. She's not painted as being promiscuous - I've seen a variety of 'mistress/courtesan' type historical romances recently released - but she's also not forced to be the demure, virginal debutante as is so common in historical romance.

Thornbrook Park was sweet and emphasized responsibility to family and friends. I love that Eve and Marcus can understand and sympathize with the needs and desires of the people in their lives, even to the detriment of their own growing attraction. That conflict (as opposed to the business around Eve's finances, which for some reason didn't feel quite as threatening as I think it should have) felt genuine. Trying to be respectful and supportive of our family and friends is something that I think we can all understand.

I loved the use of railroads - that sense that travel is easier in this early twentieth century time period, and that it was common really appealed to my inner historian.

I'm not sure I'm on board for the rest of the series - I'm curious about Marcus' detective friend finding love, but less interested in learning more about his brother and sister-in-law.

I would happily recommend this - and to people who like their historical fiction pre-1900, because that's

usually me too, and I found a lot to love in *Thornbrook Park*!!

See this and other reviews on my blog: ToEachTheirOwnReviews.com

Received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Amber Read says

I don't know what it is but I really prefer historical romance over contemporary romance. *Thornbrook Park* is a delightful installment in the historical romance genre. I read this book in just under a day and it was such a quick, great read. Set back in the early 1900's, this is the first Sherri Browning book I've read and I'll be coming back for more.

Eve Kendal is a woman of the times and she is intent on making her own way in the world. After the untimely passing of her army husband, she decides to leave her home in India to return to the country of her birth, England. Although she was disowned by her family for marrying "beneath" her, she still has friends in London and with her payments from investments that her husband set up she will be able to live comfortably.

However once in England, things start unraveling pretty quickly. While Eve has dreams of living her own life, it turns out that something suspicious has happened to her funds. Luckily her friend Sophia, now a countess, is willing to be hospitable to Eve until she can figure out what to do. But Eve didn't figure Sophia's brother in law, Marcus into the equation. A war hero in his own right and a prize boxer, Marcus is a mans man. He's also pretty charming and seems sweet. When he takes up with Eve to help her solve her financial issues, things bloom between the two.

I really loved this book. I was less than thrilled with Sophia and her husband's involvement in Eve and Marcus' relationship. But Eve was such a breath of fresh air. Although times are starting to change for women during this time frame, most of them are still embracing the old ways. Eve is really independent and ready to do things on her own and I can really appreciate that about her.

I think that if you enjoy historical romance or even just romance you will need to read this book. It's super sweet and we get that happily ever after but only after a few false starts. So we get a lot of that suspense too. Plus with some of the other things that happen, things aren't always clear. It's a great mix and a well contained story. Check it out!

Caz says

I've given this a C- at AAR, so that's 2.5 stars.

The blurb for *Thornbrook Park* proudly trumpets: *Fans of Downton Abbey will adore this brand-new Edwardian-period romance series.* I detest such blatant marketing ploys.

And the rest of the blurb is misleading, because I was promised ... *tensions ... simmering just beneath the surface which threaten to explode and shake the very foundations of Thornbrook Park.*

Explosion? Damp squib, more like :(

To be perfectly honest, by the time I'd read the first few chapters of the book, I realised that the time and setting of the story were practically irrelevant, because what we have here is a generic historical romance. There are a few things which differentiate it from a Regency or Victorian story; the inclusion of rides in a motor car; the idea of women getting the vote is mentioned, as are shorter hemlines and hairstyles, for example, but otherwise, it's pretty standard fare.

The heroine, Mrs Eve Kendal, has lived in India for the past six years and has returned to England following the death of her soldier husband, whom she loved deeply. Because he had been of a lower social standing, Eve's family disowned her, so she cannot return to her family home and has instead been invited to stay with her oldest friend, Sophia, the Countess of Averford, at their Yorkshire estate, Thornbrook Park.

In London, Eve stays overnight at Averford House before continuing on to Yorkshire, and while there runs into the earl's brother, Captain Marcus Thorne, who is bruised, bloodied, and much the worse for drink. Eve sits with him for a few hours to make sure he's okay, and leaves in the morning.

Marcus has recently returned from the Boer War and suffers from "black rages" which he can only quell by punching things – so his hobby is prizefighting, which he does with some degree of success. Apart from on the night that Eve is staying overnight, when Marcus lets his guard slip and takes a beating from an opponent twice his size. The next day, he has a vague recollection of a woman by his bedside with "gas-flame blue eyes" – but dismisses his recollection as no more than a drink-induced hallucination.

Seeing as he doesn't get along with his brother Gabriel at all, Marcus lives mostly in London, but is persuaded to travel to Yorkshire for a short period by an eloquent letter from his sister-in-law. Eve is nervous about meeting Marcus again – not knowing if he will remember her or not – which of course he does, but being a gentleman, doesn't blurt out anything about her having spent several hours in his room alone with him.

The pair are instantly attracted to each other – which puts a spoke in the wheel of Sophia's plans to marry Marcus to her sister, Alice – but neither is able to resist the strong pull between them. They embark upon an affair, which must of necessity be brief, because Marcus has agreed to court Alice, in exchange for which Gabriel will provide a home and employment for the widow and children of one of Marcus' closest army friends.

While Eve is happy to accept her friend's hospitality, she is keen to make her own way and live independently on the income from the investments made by her husband. Her enquiries, however, prove less than satisfactory – her late husband's solicitor disappears shortly after her meeting with him, his wife is suspiciously cagey, and then Eve suspects that someone is watching her. When the solicitor's body is found a few days later, it's clear that there is something nefarious afoot, and that Eve could well be in mortal danger.

Unfortunately, I found both the suspense plot and the romance in the book to be singularly un-engaging. The mystery wasn't particularly suspenseful, and I didn't feel much in the way of romantic tension between the leads. The attraction between them is obvious (even to the servants, who feel it incumbent upon them to point it out at various times!) and, probably because Eve is a widow and thus allowed greater freedoms than an unmarried woman, the two are able to spend time alone together without the need for a chaperone; but there was little chemistry between them and little that led me to believe they were in love rather than in lust.

The writing is competent for the most part, although the characterisation is lacklustre (apart from batty Aunt

Agatha who can see dead people), and some of the dialogue is very creaky, especially towards the end when the mystery plot is in the driver's seat, and it is necessary for one character to give the "story so far" speech to another. Marcus' PTSD miraculously disappears once he has found Twu Wuv, and there is no real basis for the animosity between Gabriel and Marcus, other than that Gabriel was their father's favourite because he enjoyed "manly pursuits" as a lad, whereas Marcus was bookish, and the hints of a reconciliation to come fall flat.

Because this is a romance in which there is no real reason for the two protagonists not to be able to be together, (they are a widow and an army officer, not a couple of teenagers incapable of standing up for themselves!) the author has to find rocks to throw into the middle of the path towards Twu Wuv for Marcus and Eve. The roadblocks-for-the-sake-of-it get irritating very quickly, and the too-ing and fro-ing on Eve's part reminded me of watching a game of ping-pong; so quickly does she change her mind about Marcus and change it back again that I was tempted to introduce my paperback to the wallpaper – but by that point, there were only a few pages to go so I decided to persevere.

On a tangential note, I was surprised at the speed at which the main characters journeyed between London and Yorkshire. I haven't checked a train timetable, but back in my student days, I used to travel from London to Yorkshire fairly often by train, and the fastest journey I can remember was around three and a quarter hours, (the InterCity service) with the slower, "stopping" service taking up to five hours. Unless the trains in 1906 were faster than they were in the 1980s, I am at a loss to account for the fact that characters could take an early morning train from Thornbrook and arrive in London in time for breakfast, or for Marcus at one point to make three trips (one return and one single) in one day and still have some of the day left.

I finished reading the book with one word in my mind. Dull. There was too much telling rather than showing, too much emphasis on a non-suspenseful mystery and on the reasons Marcus and Eve couldn't be together, which wasted time which should have been spent on exploring and developing the romantic and fraternal relationships.

Downton Abbey may be a soap opera that features posh people, but it has some memorable characters and a sense of humour, neither of which were on display at **Thornbrook Park**.

Lover of Romance says

This review was originally posted on Addicted To Romance

Summary

Eve Kendal, is a recent widow and she has returned England so that she can reconnect with her best friend and find out where her late husbands investments are and how to gain access to their funds. Eve is still heartbroken over her husbands loss, but she was loved and she plans on making a solid life for herself. Her plans bring her to the Countess of Averford and her beautiful Yorkshire estate. Eve then meets Captain Marcus Thorne, a veteran and war hero. Marcus still suffers from a darkness clouding his mind and focuses his attention on prizefighting which he is quite good at. Marcus is determined to make his own life especially when his brother tries to interfere. His brother and his wife desire Marcus to marry Alice, but Marcus feels a connection to Eve. They begin a passionate affair that turns into something more, but have to keep it a secret

and they know its only for a short time. Because of the promises they made to Gabriel and Sophia. But Eve's life is in danger, and Eve and Marcus come together in finding the answers and finding the real culprit of a murder.

The Hero

Marcus Thorne, wanted to make something for himself, so he got himself a commission in the military and served his country side by side with his best friend Connor. But then Connor was killed in a bomb explosion, who had a wife and three children. Marcus put it upon himself to see after them and take care of their needs. Marcus is determined to give them the life they deserve. When he is compelled to return home, at a glimpse of having the Connors run a local farm, he returns back to his childhood home and his overbearing and controlling brother. Marcus has come for one thing, but when his brother puts his inheritance (not sure he could actually touch it) in exchange for his marriage to Alice. Marcus is furious but willing to go along with it for now. Marcus is a very unpredictable character, I never really knew what he would do next. I liked that quite a bit, not being able to have much predictable about his character and it really kept me interested.

The Heroine

Eve Kendal fell in love with her late husband and eloped, because her family was against the match. They wanted her to marry a lord but she wanted to marry for love. Her family disowned her and she has never heard anything from them since. She lived in India with her husband and had a good life with him. Until he dies in an earthquake, and she has to pick up the pieces and try to move on. She heads back to England, hoping to find the funds she needs to live out the rest of her life in peace and to see her best friend. But Eve unexpectedly falls for a handsome war hero even though it's forbidden. Eve was a charming heroine, and what I enjoyed about her was her openness and honesty, especially when she connects with Marcus. She had a sense of learning the truth. I liked her drive and her warm nature.

Plot and Story Line

Thornbrook Park is the first in the series and it is set in the early 1900's...which was a bit different. I will admit. It had its moments of strangeness because even though it seems like a Regency...it's not. They sometimes ride in carriages...but then ride in a car. It's a mixture of old and new mixed together. This was quite an enjoyable story I and really loved seeing the way these two connected with each other. At first they feel the desire and have a sexual relationship. But then it turns into something more. We have a murder mystery put into play which was different. Then we have the conflict of their relationship being forbidden. Which I didn't know why Sophia and Gabriel were so insistent on Marcus being with Sophia's sister. Especially when Alice had little interest in him as any kind of potential suitor. Toward the end however, I grew a dislike for Sophia. She just seemed so selfish and I really couldn't stand how she treated Eve...who is supposed to be her best friend. I mean, I would never treat my best friend as the enemy just because she fell in love. I just wanted to shake some sense into her. I could understand Gideon a bit more, because he is like that. He is stubborn and very alpha male like, and is insistent on having things go his own way. But Marcus and Eve really shine especially in the end and I loved how events play out. Quite a fun and enjoyable read.

The Cover

I really love the elegance and simplicity to it. I love the warm colors and it has a feeling of home to it. It's cozy and romantic.

Overall View

I found Thornbrook Park to be highly entertaining, even though a bit predictable at times, at many moments of twists and turns that kept me involved. Simply Delightful

Angela Holland says

I can't not say enough good things about this book. The first thing I want to say is a big thank you to the author for giving me the chance to read this book, I have found a new favorite author to add to my list. When you first look at this book you might think it is a romance book, but it is so much more than that. There is the romance which was fun to read but also there was a mystery in this story that I was not expecting and had me not wanting to put the book down. This book was so well written that I can't wait for the next book in the series. Eve and Marcus were such good characters and shall we say made for each other, but there were some supporting characters that I came to love as well - like Agatha, Brandon, Tom and Mrs. Dennehy. Now Sophia and Gabriel had me wanting to just slap them. To me Lady Alice seems like an interesting sort and I hope to read more about her in later books. This will be series that I will be waiting for each book to come out faster than it does.

Sarah Mac says

Yawn. The blurb makes this sound like something exciting & soapy & really *different!!* from the 21st-c historical romance standards...but, alas, the blurb lies. The setting could be anywhere, anytime, anyplace with very minor corrections to scenery & technology. The MCs show great potential in the opening chapters -- which is quickly squandered by their bland, uninteresting page presence & the requisite merry-go-round of rehashed convos with a poorly-defined supporting cast. Those rehashed convos are, natch, the same minutely spoonfed discussion of Feelz & Deep Hurting that strangle 99% of new-breed romance to the detriment of anything resembling plot pace. And then there are the flapping story threads -- Marcus' all-consuming PTSD is quickly dropped (apparently Eve's mere existence is enough to cure him? WTF happened to the black rages & drinking?), while Eve's missing money was barely an issue except to provide to'ing-and-fro'ing filler.

This sounded so good! ...And turned out so blah, like bargain-brand instant oatmeal. What a waste of a good premise. >:P

Maria says

It's 1906, the dawn of a new century, and modern conveniences are popping up in everyday life from high-speed trains that can transport one from Yorkshire to London in a day to the loudness and dirtiness of motor cars. New-to-me author Sherri Browning captures these pictures of a new era with a pleasant story and interesting characters.

Eve Kendal is a widow whose husband, a British army captain, died while they were stationed in India. Her marriage to Ben was an affectionate love match that alienated her from her family. She has returned to England because her widow's pension is not enough for her continued survival and she also needs to inquire into their finances with their solicitor.

For my full review on my historical romance and history blog: <http://bit.ly/1jzYbRP>

Hannah says

Thornbrook Park is the first of the new series by Sherri Browning and a wonderful start it is. RT Book Reviews has it right when they said it captured the atmosphere of the era. It combines the romance and suspense in a delightful way you don't want to put it down. The blurb on Goodreads says fans of Downton Abby will enjoy this book, I don't know if that true or not I don't watch much T.V. This Edwardian era story is based in the time where motor cars are dotting the roadways and woman are slowly getting more rights. I love this era it is the turn of the century (20th century) and is the start of big changes for everyone and this story plays with those changes and incorporates them seamlessly with the events going on in the book.

Eve Kendal is a widow who lost everything when she married for love and moved with her husband. Disowned by her family she now has only her best friend to rely on for charity on her return to England. Her return to England was her only choice her husband invested their money and his military pension isn't enough to live off of. Upon questioning the solicitor she finds herself destitute, all of the money was invested in scam. She is now facing another big change in her life, instead of living off the charity of her friends she decides she must work, while she writes her book. She wasn't looking for love she was just looking to survive but love found her none the less.

Marcus Thorne was just getting by the only thing that kept him going was the fact that his best friend made him promise to look after his family on his death-bed and making sure the Cooper Family was surviving and getting by was all he cared about. When the stress and flashbacks became too much for this soldier he would fight. As a prizefighter no one ever suspected much from him but he was great at it. Retired now from serving time in Africa Marcus is still at ends with his brother the Earl of Averford. As a child he was a bookworm much to his father's dismay and his older brother a bully. As soon as he got old enough he wanted to prove his father and brother wrong and joined the Army, well it didn't work it just caused more discourse between the brothers. Marcus had other things on him mind like getting the Cooper family settled and not falling in love, he never expected the lovely widow Eve and her electric blue eyes.

Eve's best friend has a dual purpose for inviting Eve to stay with her, she wants her help in matching her brother-in-law with her younger sister, Alice. It was obvious to me however that Alice's eyes lay elsewhere despite her very vocal spouting of never wanting to marry. Marcus isn't looking to be forced into marriage either but a not so subtle threat from his brother and a bargain struck he says he will at least try. But it all goes down the drain when Eve and Marcus start their affair. I love widows because they (sometimes) know what to expect and they aren't shy about knowing what they want and Eve is no exception she knows she loves Marcus but for the better of his plans she is willing to give him up, but Marcus despite it all is willing to give it all up for her.

The mystery of Eve's money is found out and she ends up helping the Scotland Yard trapping the con-artists. This was a great story and a quick read and I really look forward more from Sherri Browning.
