



The Earl's Complete Surrender

Sophie Barnes

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An unexpected passion ignites as secrets are exposed in Sophie Barnes's captivating Regency-set romance...

Despite the diversions offered at Thorncliff Manor, former spy James, the Earl of Woodford, has one purpose in staying there. He must find an encoded book that exposes a conspiracy within the British aristocracy. And he must do so without revealing his purpose to the clever, tempting Chloe Heartly. The lady has a knack for appearing wherever it is least convenient. In the library. In the salon. And, especially, in his arms...

Somewhere within Thorncliff's labyrinth of rooms lies the journal Chloe desperately seeks. When she realizes the brooding, handsome earl is hunting the same quarry, Chloe enters into an uneasy partnership. But in the face of public danger and enemies hiding in plain sight, both must decide how much they're willing to risk to solve the mysteries of the heart.

The Earl's Complete Surrender Details

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Author : Sophie Barnes

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Download and Read Free Online The Earl's Complete Surrender Sophie Barnes

From Reader Review The Earl's Complete Surrender for online ebook

(Nat) Reading Romances says

The Earl's Complete Surrender is a sweet story with a big mystery!

Sophie takes her time to unravel this plot and create an atmosphere of adventure , as both are searching for the same book, for different reasons. I missed seeing more romance and for that I had trouble to feel invested in the story. I wanted more stolen moments, more kisses! Supporting characters are her strongest feature, I loved them! Lady Sarah has a little cameo and you'll enjoy that if you've read the previous book, Lady Sarah's Sinful Desires. I have read most of Sophie's books and you can read this one as a stand alone.

Amanda says

[I mean, Chloe dueling with her late husband's mistress? Was that really necessary? (hide spoiler)]

Bethany says

So this book started off strong but took a couple of turns near the end I didn't really like. Our Hero and Heroine are both book nerds, which is excellent, and Thorncliff has a ton of secret passages, which I also like! The book was going swimmingly until the Hero decided to blame the Heroine for being kissed by another man. "Allowing him to kiss her"..... and now I'm all riled up. Because, don't you know, if you are accosted in a dark hallway it's your own fault! I read fiction for escape and THIS IS ACTUAL REALITY thanks I hate it. This bit left a bad taste in my mouth. Anyways the rest of the story was a fairly enjoyable spy romp. Buttttt... Hero continually acted like women were dainty little birds who needed to be kept in cages. Despite constantly showing him over and over otherwise..... I just don't have any patience for that kind of story telling. I have another of her books on my shelf to try, hopefully it goes better than this one.

Bambi Unbridled says

This was a sweet historical romance, good for fans who like a bit of historical mystery/espionage without a lot of steam. This story takes place parallel to Lady Sarah's Sinful Desires, which I have not read. As the stories are taking place at the same time, I don't think it will matter which order you read them in.

The heroine of this second installment of the Thorncliff Manor books is Chloe, Lady Newbury. (Chloe's brother, Spencer, is the subject of the first book.) Chloe is recently widowed (about a year past) and suffered 6 years of marriage to a degenerate, violent and self-important bastard. After he was killed in a duel, his cousin came to take residence of her estate as heir and she is forced to go live with her parents. At her debut, Chloe was apparently a diamond of the first water... but after being duped in her marriage, she is wary of the

institution and men altogether. She has traveled with her family to Thorncliffe Manor for the season. And while Thornecliffe is the place to make matches, Chloe is there for a cover purpose - to find the *Political Journal* and uncover the identities of The Electors. I liked Chloe quite a bit, and hated that she had such a horrid marriage. There was some animosity between Chloe and a couple of females with questionable morals, and I totally understood her jealousy and insecurity after the way her late husband behaved. I was really glad that she stood up to the catty witches and didn't let them run roughshod over her.

At Thornecliffe, Chloe keeps running (literally) into James, Earl of Woodruff. James is a spy with an eidetic memory, who has been ordered by the king to find the *Political Journal*. It has been James' mission to unmask The Electors for some time, as they were responsible for the murder of his parents when he was a young child. James is not the typical charming historical romance hero. He is bookish and intelligent, and not popular with his peers. He doesn't have many friends as they don't like his memory abilities, and saw him as damaged by his parents' death. I really liked James' character as well.

As for The Electors and their leader, I had a good idea of who he was before it was ever revealed. However it was not a clear-cut mystery by any means, and I was constantly doubting my suspicion. I enjoyed this part of the book and it kept the pace going fairly well. It seemed to me that the focus of this story was more on the espionage/mystery than building the romance. While we got a lot of detail in the interactions and conversations between James and Chloe, there was not any heat to the relationship. I would have liked to see more spark and passion to draw me in emotionally. The steamy potential was there, but it fell short of a complete surrender.

I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.
3.5 stars / 1 flame.

Kimia Safavi says

The Earl Complete Surrender is the second book in the Secrets at Thorncliff Manor series, it can be read by itself but it is good to have read the first one in the series and be familiar with all the characters and Thorncliff manor.

Sophie Barnes created another beautifully written romance with suspense, mystery and two characters who don't want anything to do with love or marriage.

Chloe Newbury is a beautiful widow who is recovering from her miserable marriage while she wants to enjoy the beauty of Thorncliff manor, she needs to find a specific book.

James, the Earl of Woodford, has one purpose in staying in the Thorncliff manor to find the encoded book that exposes the names of the traitors who responsible for his parents death.

I like the thrill of anticipation and the slow building romance between Chloe and James, although from the first encounter they could feel the chemistry and attraction they didn't want to accept their feelings.

Can Chloe trust another handsome man with her heart or can James overcome his fear of losing a love one with his profession.

This is a great suspense romance with fun encounters, bumping into each other, interesting secondary characters, jealousy, danger, villain and mystery.

I love Sophie's books and can't wait for the next one in this fabulous series.

Thank you Sophie Barnes

Linda Cargill says

The Earl's Complete Surrender: Secrets at Thorncliff Manor Review:

The two main characters in the historical Romance by Sophie Barnes are intriguing: James, the Earl of Woodford, the hero, and Chloe Heartly, the heroine. It is fascinating to watch how they overcome their vows never to love again and fall head over heels in love step by step. But there is a third main character in this Regency era romance, too — Thornchiff Manor itself. A map of the estate is presented to the reader after the title page and before chapter one for a very good reason. It is to be the place of enchantment, the place of romance, it establishes both the mood and the setting, and it will be with you for one more than one novel to come in the series.

In a way the Thornchiff Manor of the novel reminds the reader of a Turner painting. Who was Turner but a romantic painter of landscapes of the nineteenth century? And who would be a more fitting comparison for this novel of the early nineteenth century? The painting "Harewood House from the North-East" by Turner is a case in point. You see a palatial estate in the distance that looks like Pandora's box in its mystery and allure, a place too tempting not to visit and full of clues if you do. Thorncliff Manor is such a place too where the main characters spend lots of time in the library looking for . . . well, maybe I shouldn't tell you and spoil the story.

But The Earl's Complete Surrender is a romance pregnant with allure and not to be missed. One only wishes that she could tour the real Thorncliff Manor for herself.

Michelle Stanley says

Reviewed by Michelle Stanley for Readers' Favorite

The Earl's Complete Surrender: Secrets at Thorncliff Manor is a historical romance by Sophie Barnes. James, the Earl of Woodford, is a spy whose latest mission is to find a missing journal containing names of The Electors, a group of dominating political conspirators. His search takes him to Thorncliff Manor where he meets Lady Newbury. She constantly bumps into James whenever he looks for the journal, and the two soon realize they are attracted to each other.

However, one of James' rules is to never mix business with pleasure. Lady Chloe Newbury admits she is also looking for the journal so the two agree to work together. Now someone else desperately wants the book and will commit murder to keep the identities of The Electors safe.

Sophie Barnes' The Earl's Complete Surrender: Secrets at Thorncliff Manor is more than a historical romance. It has a good, suspenseful mystery and a vibrant group of characters who display the typical habits and wit of the specified period. I like the author's descriptive writing and how she develops her characters. The events are entertaining with sufficient action, and the romantic scenes were mild and tasteful.

Chloe experienced problems that are very realistic and these were expressed very well. It's an interesting read since James is a spy and Chloe is a novice. I think the cover illustration is eye-catching and complements the story. The Earl's Complete Surrender: Secrets at Thorncliff Manor by Sophie Barnes is a quick, light-hearted mystery-romance read.

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

This is book two in the "Secrets at Thorncliff Manor" series. I have read the previous book 'Lady Sarah's Sinful Desires' but feel this is a standalone book.

James, the Earl of Woodford is a former spy and he is looking to find his parents killer. His parents were killed when he was young. A lead has sent him to Thorncliff Manor where there is said to be a book with the names of men in a group thought to have killed his parents. While there he meets Chloe Heartly who in her own right has had a tough time of it. Growing up she had no issue and was loved greatly. But when she married a man she thought she loved and that he loved her she quickly found that he was not what he seemed. He physically abused her and also she found that he was involved in some shady things. After his passing she goes with her family to Thorncliff Manor to stay for a while. There she set to find the book that might help her with bringing her former husband deeds to light. But she find alone the way that James is looking for the book too. They decided to put their hunt together and this also brings them forward in their feelings.

Angela says

Up until 70% this was a four-star book. I really loved how Chloe and Woodford were reluctant to be social with other people (due to past sadness and whatnot) and were especially leery of one another. Then, after several conversations where they realize how much they have in common, they start to build a friendship. Outside the few jealousy-induced misunderstandings, which were a little juvenile, I really liked their relationship.

Since I was on an airplane and thus in a very public place when reading this, I also liked that the romantic scenes weren't at all steamy. A little kissing here and there, and a couple sex scenes that don't go into great (or any, really) detail. Not only did this keep me from constantly looking over my shoulder to make sure nobody was reading along with me, but it was a realistic progression of Chloe and Woodford's relationship.

This book really focuses on the mystery surrounding The Electors identities, and discovering the Political Journal. So it's a little different than most HR where it's all undeniable attractions and masculine scents and rock-hard rods.

spoilers below

Now for why I knocked a star off:

1. So much emphasis was placed on Scarsdale being a bad guy, then suddenly he was killed off and exonerated and completely forgotten. His entire purpose in the story was clearly to throw us off and consider him a member of the Electors, but it really fell flat. His character had potential, but was poorly written.
2. After it's discovered Hainsworth is the main villain, Woodford isn't nearly as devastated as he should be. He just found out that the man he considered a father figure not only killed his parents, but is also the head of a treasonous club. Somehow his love for Chloe overcomes all of this.
3. Outside of making Chloe jealous and adding to the mayhem of her insecurities, Lady Dewfield was an unnecessary character. To end the story with a duel between the two women was unfortunate.

Alyssa says

Review posted on The Eater of Books! blog

The Earl's Complete Surrender by Sophie Barnes
Book Two of the Secrets at Thorncliff Manor series
Publisher: Avon
Publication Date: December 29, 2015
Rating: 3 stars
Source: eARC from Edelweiss

Warning: this is an adult book, and for the eyes of mature readers

Summary (from Goodreads):

Despite the diversions offered at Thorncliff Manor, former spy James, the Earl of Woodford, has one purpose in staying there. He must find an encoded book that exposes a conspiracy within the British aristocracy. And he must do so without revealing his purpose to the clever, tempting Chloe Heartly. The lady has a knack for appearing wherever it is least convenient. In the library. In the salon. And, especially, in his arms . . .

Somewhere within Thorncliff's labyrinth of rooms lies the journal Chloe desperately seeks. When she realizes the brooding, handsome earl is hunting the same quarry, Chloe enters into an uneasy partnership. But in the face of public danger and enemies hiding in plain sight, both must decide how much they're willing to risk to solve the mysteries of the heart.

What I Liked:

So many three-star reads recently... unfortunately, this is yet another for me. With this book, I liked it, so it's definitely on the more positive side of three stars. But my biggest thing with this book was the disappointing lack of sexual chemistry James and Chloe - I prefer my historical romance reads to be fairly steamy and chemistry-filled. The potential was there, in this book, but the scenes were not.

Lady Newbury (Chloe) has been a widow for a year, and coming to Thorncliff Manor is difficult for her still. She isn't ready to come back into society, especially after the humiliation that her late husband put her through. But she is searching for a journal. As it would turn out, the Earl of Woodford (James) is looking for that same journal. On a mission for the King, James needs to have the journal in order to discover some important information. James and Chloe keep running into each other in Thorncliff as they both search for the journal. When they find out that they're looking for the same thing, they decide to work together. But someone might beat them to it - or prevent them from finding it in the first place.

I thought the previous book, Lady Sarah's Sinful Desires, was excellent. This book is set parallel to that story, still at Thorncliff, at the exact same time that book one is occurring (if that makes sense). The premise of this series is really cool, in that manner.

James is a spy, working for the King. He is a bit odd, and doesn't fit in with the rest of the eligible bachelors,

because he has excellent memory. None of the gentlemen usually want to play cards with him or such, but it doesn't really bother James, because he is very bookish and is often in the library (even when he isn't looking for the journal). James is such a different historical romance hero, with his book-loving tendencies, and the fact that he isn't popular and charismatic like most HR heroes. Yet he has his own appeal and charm, and he also likes to box and fence. Hello, great physique.

Chloe is a widow and now eligible dowager. She was totally infatuated with her late husband, but he hurt her emotionally, and then he died, and Chloe isn't ready to be out on the prowl. She's also a lover of books, and that is how she runs into James (literally) in the library. Chloe is fascinated by James, but refuses to believe that she is falling for him, especially in a matter of days.

The romance takes place over a few weeks (this book takes place over a few weeks?), but it definitely feels longer than that. James and Chloe have plenty of time to get to know each other. Little sparks fly, but I found the chemistry lacking (see below). Still, I loved the pair together, they balance and complement each other.

The whole journal and spy plot was very intriguing! It almost seemed more important than the romance (which is probably why there weren't sexy times, if you catch my meaning). There are betrayals and secrets and craziness, action that you don't usually find in historical romance novels. The ending was pretty much expected but absolutely lovely and satisfying!

What I Did Not Like:

My biggest issue was with the chemistry between the protagonists. It just wasn't there. Sorry if I spoil anything - but there was only ONE sex scene. And it was *barely* a sex scene, because there was so little foreplay and during action laid out. Not to say the scene was rushed, but it just wasn't all there. An adolescent could have read this book. Like, I have my warning above stating that this is an adult book, but you could probably give this to a tween, and there would be nothing shocking in this book. Nothing is explicit, and there is only one sex scene that should have been explicit in content, but wasn't at all!

But seriously - one sex scene? Come on. There are so few kisses and sneaky encounters and breathless scenes leaving someone wanting more... it definitely hindered the romance in this book. We can't connect as well with the couple without the chemistry, the action before things get super intensely heated (which they never did, in this book). I expected so much more!

Would I Recommend It:

I'd recommend book one for sure! This one, I'm not so sure about. It was good, but not romance-filled, so maybe not? If you're not an adult romance type but like historical fiction, then this might actually be something you might enjoy, because the romance is very non-explicit and mild. If you're like me and like steamy romances in historical romance novels... skip this one.

Rating:

3.5 stars -> rounded down to 3 stars. I like Sophie Barnes' stories, but I think the romances in her books just aren't steamy enough for me. Still, she is an excellent storyteller, so I could see myself reading more books by her! And three stars isn't bad, in any case.

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

I will first say that with this being the second book in the series. I began at a slight disadvantage, but in no way did it detract from the main characters interactions. The first book would have been a key to unraveling the occupants and significance of Thorncliff. This would lend to the details of Thorncliff itself.

Chole Heartly and James, the Earl of Woodford are both in search of something. They both end up in the most inconvenient of places for the other. Then it strikes upon them both that maybe they should work together. Each has there own agenda. An agenda that does not include getting entangled with the other or another period.

More:

<http://mileythebookjunkie.blogspot.co...>

Donna says

I love this series! The stories intertwine and all the characters make appearances. This is the second book and I couldn't put it down. Complicated characters, good plot, nice romance. It can be read on it's own, though I think you'll enjoy the previous one.

James, the Earl of Woodford, is a spy trying to expose a conspiracy and find the person who murdered his parents when he was ten. He is searching for a book he believes identifies the members of the conspiracy. Chloe, now widowed, married the wrong man at a young age. She is also searching for the book to discover who killed her grandfather. They continually run into each other and decide to work together.

The plot is more complex but I won't ruin it as I dislike plot spoilers. I can say this book is well written with a good story and I can recommend it.

Tash says

Reviewed @ Confessions From Romaholics

Review copy kindly provided by publisher in exchange for a honest review

I think this is my first Barnes book as far my memory serves but it definitely won't be the last. As this historical had plenty to offer. Handsome brooding hero, unscrupulous men of the realm , an heroine who has a nose for mysteries and a bit of intrigue and more in this delightful offering from Barnes.

Lady Chloe Newbury has been a widow for a year and is about to come out of her mourning period. However finding a new husband is the least of her worries. Guided by a family friend and retired spy, her summer is not going to be a summer soiree. She is on a mission to find a journal unaware she isn't the only one.

The Earl of Woodford has come to spend the summer like many other men of the peerage unaware underneath the calm and cool manner. Is a calculated spy who is determined to find the journal that will offer him answers. Instead of finding his answers he comes to seek, he seems to end up in company with Chloe. A

determined woman who hindering his investigation unaware he is seeking the same object.

Leading to testing times for the both as they try to stay away from each other but somehow find themselves keeping company and slowly discovering the truth about each other away from eyes and ears. However will they last with each determined not form a romantic entanglement.

With a title like The Earl's Complete Surrender seemed it was going to be an spicy offering but it soon became obvious it wasn't to be thought these two did get entangled . Whilst I do like a bit spicy and this title did make think I would get just that thinking that it was literally in the sense. The author didn't disappoint though not giving the surrender I was hoping for.

As Woodford has controlled his life for so long as a spy and doing his duty that he need a woman like Chloe would guide and show him there was more to life then the one he knows. And whilst this was more the background at times, I was too engrossed with the story to question it a the time. The story isn't perfect but isn't lacking for my needs when I go reading a book like this . I was left satisfied with the ending with their story. It was more sweet then anything but the action sure made up for the lack of spiciness.

As Chloe nose for mystery lead down a path of action that wasn't too surprisingly and whilst the outcome was obvious, it did add excitement to the story.

I'm definitely tracking down and reading the previous book, as it features her older brother Kit and Sarah who were both minor characters in this novel whilst I wait for the next book in the series. As this book was a perfect read in terms in what I want when I seek out a historical novel. Engaging storyline, with characters that you can fall in love with . As who wouldn't a Woodford in their life.

4 couples

For more of my reviews, visit [Confessions From Romaholics](#). And drop by the blog's Facebook page

Gaele says

3.5 Stars – rounded

I think I first discovered Sophie Barnes through her Kingsborough Ball series, and after reading and enjoying the first in her Thorncliff Manor series, I knew I would read The Earl's Complete Surrender. This book combines mystery, romance and a bit of atmosphere to bring the story to fruition. James, an Earl, is a former spy, but at Thorncliff to find a particular book that contains evidence of a conspiracy within the aristos. Chloe is just a year into widowhood, not particularly comfortable in a return to society, but also desperate to find a particular journal.

Both of these characters are more unusual than common in historical romance: Both are bookish, logical and quieter people, although they come to those traits for different reasons. While it would be logical to find a

book in the library, as the two search that particular room and try to hide their own reasons, the moments for them to interact give a tentative and testing feel to their romance.

As with the first in this series, Barnes has built secondary characters and the setting nicely, giving the couple a 'star billing' while not necessarily diving headfirst into the romance. In fact, the romance in this story is often sent to the back burner in lieu of the mystery, as danger levels increase and the two combine forces, more than a bit reluctantly, to find the book.

Slowly we are given bits of both Chloe and James' backstories and history, all the better to help us understand their reluctant attitudes toward relationships. This is a story that allows the connection to build slowly, and while I found that the 'big OH' moment that solidified their connection with vivid and visceral chemistry never really rose to the levels I hoped for, the path and build of their connection was solid and well-defined. Not as sexy or exciting as some, but certainly a relationship that is built on solid foundations, if not explosively passionate.

Certainly a solid book in the series, with a touch of hesitation and restraint in the chemistry of the lead couple that kept the romance secondary to the threads of mystery and grand plots as we watch a spy unravel clues with a greenhorn accomplice.

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

This review was originally posted on I am, Indeed

Jaci says

Wonderful Book!! Sophie knows how to write a truly suspenseful, action packed novel with truly authentic characters and a heart wrenching love story. There are not many Historical Romance writers who can write an alluring and captivating story with such mystery and intrigue that blends so well with the love story of the two main characters.

James and Chloe are in two completely different places in their lives. Chloe is recovering from six years in a marriage where her husband cheated on her and beat her when he was drinking. He died in a duel over another man's wife. She doesn't want anything to do with getting married again. She is on holiday with her family and just wants to enjoy her stay at Thorncilff. James is there to do one thing only, find the book that will reveal the names of the traitors that killed his parents when he was 10 years old. He is spy for the crown, a loner and wants nothing to do with love, marriage or having a family. Then he meets Chloe and both their worlds are turned upside down.

This is truly a story of two people who find what they are least expecting and how it will change the way feel about each other and their futures.

I have read all of Sophie's books and have loved them all. She is exceptional and you should never miss any of her books.
