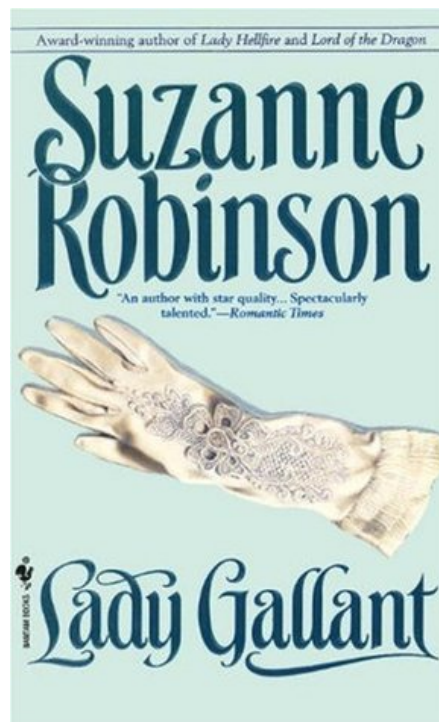




Lady Gallant

Suzanne Robinson

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AN INNOCENT TEMPTRESS

The ladies of the palace called Nora Becket "mouse." But beneath her shy, artless ways hid the heart of a lioness. A daring spy in Queen Mary's court, she risked her life to rescue the innocent from a terrible fate. Yet it was Nora who needed rescuing when cutthroats attacked her--and when Christian de Rivers, a lusty, sword-wielding rogue, swept her out of harm's way ... and into his arms.

A BOLD ADVENTURER

As magnificent and mesmerizing as a hawk, Christian both frightened and excited Nora, even as he pursued her with a single-minded passion that left her longing to be caught. Yet soon she would discover that she had reason to be frightened. For the dashing nobleman had his own secrets to keep, his own enemies to rout--and his own brand of vengeance for a wide-eyed beauty whom he loved only too well....

Lady Gallant Details

Date : Published December 1st 1991 by Fanfare
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From Reader Review Lady Gallant for online ebook

Joyce says

Plot:

Christian de Rivers is a hard man with a lot of hatred in him. He is a trusted spy for Lady Elizabeth, who will be succeeding the crown after Queen Mary's death. Christian meets one of Queen Mary's ladies in waiting, Lady Eleanora Becket, whom he is immediately attracted to.

Nora is shy and kind, she is insecure about her looks and thus, Christian's attraction towards her. She finds herself falling in love with Christian.

An incident occurs causing Christian to view Nora as a traitor. He uses cruel ways to hurt Nora while denying his own love for her.

Thoughts:

I love love love Nora. Even though her shyness may be a turnoff for a lot of readers, it never bothered me. Though I have to say that weak or shy heroines never bother me, so I could be bias. Nora becomes a stronger person when she goes through a huge transformation of character near the end. I found this change unbelievable, I think I like the shy Nora a little better than the strong one.

I like Christian's character, especially during the groveling at the end. How can I resist a man trying to lure a lady with a love potion? ;)

The beginning of the story before Nora and Christian get married is mediocre. Christian did some horrible things to Nora but I started forgiving him the moment the author showed us how much Christian was hurting from what he did to Nora. The groveling was cute and sweet, the get-back-together-lovemaking-scene is one that I will be revisiting, along with the two days afterwards where Christian keeps Nora in bed. **grins**

I would recommend this book to anyone who doesn't mind a hero that makes mistakes. If you are concerned about the sex scene between Christian and his "lover" let me tell you now that Christian never cheated on Nora, he just wanted it to seem that way.

Happy Reading!

Favourite quote: "Nora instantly cuddled the animal, and she brought its nose level with her own. As she nuzzled the puppy, Christian curled his hands into fists to keep from shoving his way between the two and taking the animal's place."

Shari Kay says

Could never grovel enough for the shite he pulled

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

KatieV says

Honestly, I read this because I heard it was the best "grovel" ever by a hero. Yes, it does go on longer than most, but I still don't see that he deserved to be forgiven yet (if ever). What he did to make her forgive him was "cute" but not the depth of emotion I wished to see. I also did not like the language. It was probably accurate to the time, but it didn't work for me. I feel the same way about Regency's. I just can't stand the way they speak. It's just a personal preference, I suppose.

Lemon says

I give this book a low rating not because of the terrible things our hero perpetrated on our heroine, but because it was simply a badly told story. I take it this story was supposed to feel as though it is a tale told by a court jester, what with all the random bits of poetry song spewed by our hero Christian at the most random times. And I really did feel like it was a silly tale told by a court jester for this book has the dubious honor of presenting the most breathtakingly stupid fictional characters I have ever seen. Ever. The heroine is described as a "mouse." That's false advertisement. She was actually daft. Literally. As in Lenny from Of Mice and Men daft, including the fascination with furry little animals. The story was also disjointed and all over the place, with the last third of the book coming out of nowhere. Throughout the whole book, we are presented with how breathtakingly stupid and cowardly our heroine is but suddenly we are told at the end of the book that she has a brilliant mind. I never actually saw the development of how her brilliance and courage developed. We are simply told at the very end that this is so without actually being provided evidence of this. And then we are told all of a sudden that these two supposed idiot savants are madly in love. You never actually see this happen in the book. When you are simply told that things are so without being given evidence to that effect, the whole book is simply not worth reading. You want to see the characters and the romance develop, but it never happens here.

There is also a whole "dark" element to this story that is simply there and never really developed or resolved.

Perhaps the right approach in reading this book is to pretend you are sitting at court listening to a jester's tale instead of expecting to read a romance novel. That might color your experience and expectations of this book in a more positive light.

Emotional Reads says

*****spoilers*****8

This so called hero tried to destroy this sweet heroine for crimes he thought she committed, without any proof that she did, then they tried to tell us he was sorry and suffered for his wrong against her, sorry, I didn't see it.

We were there in her mind when he was hurting her, when he ripped out her heart and ground it to dust, then tried to destroy her soul, were with her every second and minute of her pain, heard and felt it through her thoughts as it happened, not so with him.

We never got to see in his mind, hear his thoughts of how he suffered for what he did to her, we were told through others as they spoke to him about it.

Some say it was pretense, it might have been, but he and Mad were naked, as she stretched on that bed with her thighs apart, it was he laying between them, suckling her, rubbing his chest on hers, that was not fake, they were that way when the heroine saw them, no one can make me believe he was not really having sex with her, Mag was moaning, the bed was creaking from their movements.

I know he did that because of what he thought she did, but he had no proof and wouldn't trust her, knowing she had a good, kind heart, she saved he and his fathers life,helping and protecting the unwanted and the weak in a way she never did for her self.

After he did that to her, I didn't want to hear about all he suffered by the hand of Jack Midnight,because I frankly didn't care. I don't understand how she forgave him, because I can certainly see that down the line if he suspects she did anything again he will destroy her, whether she was guilty or not. Him believing that she sent that letter after she forgave him is proof of that.

I was pissed to hear the heroine felt guilt and regret for causing the jerks pain. Why should she? He caused his own by the disgusting acts he committed against her. He needed to suffer to sink and drown in the hell he created for himself. I swear every time I hear some say how the jerk loved the heroine or he say he loved her, I wanted to throw up and didn't believe it one bit.

You know, he never showed regret for what he did with Mag in front of her, the heroine was never even allowed to bring it up but once briefly, then it was swept under the rug. He committed adultery in front of his wife and the only thing he seem to show a small amount of regret for was what happened on the wedding night, so how could he really be sorry for anything he did. you can't bring on an adultery situation and not deal with it, because that was one of the most painful things done to the heroine, watching the man she had loved with another woman.

As far as I'm concerned his so called grovel was a little bit too late, he condemned her without proof, it wasn't enough for the cruelty he did against the heroine, not even close. I don't see how anyone could look on this pig as a hero, but I guess we all have our own ideas of a hero, he definitely wasn't mine.

At the end of the book I still saw him as a jerk, you know I won't call him a pig, because a pig is better than ass. It would have been better to have allowed her to leave, allow her to keep a measure of self respect and pride. Since Mag and the rest were friends of his for years, so I can see mag and the others coming by from time to time, rubbing salt in her wounds, having to put up with the ones who helped destroy her soul and spirit.

I am so amazed how anyone can think of him as a good man and perfect hero. I am really stumped here. I wonder how everyone would react if the heroine was in the hero's shoes and did what he did.

Joan says

Outstanding and accurate period piece. I usually detest plotline with the trope "misunderstanding" that drive a wedge between the couple and I spent fifty percent of the book wanting to drop-kick Kit/Christian for his awful treatment of the sweet, trusting Nora. But the "little mouse" shut him down hard when he tried desperately to atone for his dastardly behavior. Also Christian's reverence for his father was humbling and revealed that he had a sliver of humanity.

All told, this author really did her research of the time period and that is what made this book such a fabulous read. Lady Gallant was no sloppy faux-historical fiction wherein contemporary colloquialisms and characters

merely dressed up in period costumes which throws the reader out of the story. I really felt like I had been transported to 16th century England and set down amidst the dangerous, deadly political struggle between Henry the 8th's two daughters, Mary, a staunch Catholic and Elizabeth I, a protestant. I actually felt like I was shuffled between the two rival courts and though we know the tragic (or triumphant) outcome of which of the sister's deadly struggle for the English throne, the story was so well-written and suspenseful the reader feels thrust in a world of spies, depraved highwaymen, a suffering proletariat class, and scheming royals.

I am looking forward to picking up the story with Blade and Orien in Lady Defiant. Ten shining stars for a wonderfully researched and well-written historical.

Crista says

I was so excited to read this book! It is set in the Tudor era and if you are reading this book PLEASE read Robinson's introduction. It gives a nice "back drop" to the story and describes what was going on in England during that time. It was very interesting.

Then the book started.

This is a case of "too little too late". Christian de Rivers is not a nice man. He has been through a lot in his life, but he is a mean and nasty man. Not my kind of hero material. The heroes I love don't have to be saints.....I love "bad boys", but they CAN'T be jerks, and this hero is. He is so mean to Nora...hating her for how he feels about her ect. Always believing the worst in her. Verbally assaulting her in various ways. Cheating on her with other women and the throwing it in her face! Aghhh! The list goes on and on.

I will agree that when Christian finally comes to his senses, his groveling is some of the best in the genre, but it is not enough to make me love him (or even like him)! Sorry, this one was not for me.

Kathleen says

Content: Sex, swearing, profanity, violence

4.25 stars. I am re-reading an old favorite, now on kindle. This historical has it all -- history, action and suspense, chemistry and sex, tenderness, heartbreak, heapings of angst (!!), and a good deal of humor. I truly did laugh and cry. Again. Wow!!

Set in Tudor England in 1558, after the death of King Henry the VIII, who had ousted Catholicism and established the Protestant Church of England, so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon. Now Henry is dead and Catherine's daughter Mary is queen. Mary is trying to abolish Protestantism and force everyone to become Catholic again, killing hundreds of "heretics" -- including commoners who couldn't read the documents. Everyone is a potential heretic and/or a political enemy, siding with the competition, her half-sister Princess Elizabeth. Elizabeth is younger than Mary, and far too savvy to try to force religious dogma on the people.

Into this combustible setting comes Christian (Kit), a noble rogue, a swordsman, beloved by the court, and yet a traitor to Queen Mary, for he secretly serves Elizabeth. Christian meets Nora (Eleanora) a lady-in-waiting for Mary. She is awkward and unsophisticated. Her father sneers at her, right along with half the court. (appalling) But there is more to Nora than it seems, for like Christian, she also secretly spies for

Elizabeth, sickened by Mary's paranoia, fanaticism and religious persecution.

Christian gradually comes to love Nora, despite their rough beginning. The wedding is set. But suddenly he thinks Nora has betrayed him. He also thinks she tried to murder his beloved father.

So...he treats his brand new wife badly. Very. Very. Badly. (angst city, my heart broke for Nora, especially when he lashed her with insults in front of others, and worse. (view spoiler)

Nora cannot explain what really happened, because the secret belongs to her liege, Elizabeth. She is trapped. So badly does Christian treat Nora that she becomes heartsick and ill. She hides from him, and successfully eludes him.

When Christian discovers that he misjudged her, he is beside himself, for he really does love her. (The good news is that even when he still thought she had betrayed him, he was softening. That goes a long way with me -- that even when the evidence seemed to suggest her treachery, he was starting to remember all the compassion she had shown to the poor.) But she will have nothing to do with him, which shocks this ladies' man, for women just fall at his feet. Nope! Nora attacks him when he comes too close. Kudos to her!

Major and multiple grovel scenes follow. Some are pretty funny. I loved the midnight scene in the woods, with the fire and the.....(spoiler). Haha! Slowly, Nora begins to trust in his love again.

Great secondary characters! Loved little Arthur, the urchin.

Flaws: The author threw us into the deep end of Tudor England and the rivalry between Mary and Elizabeth, with little context. Also, the final scene with Jack Midnight was just stupid. I also thought that Robinson went over the top a few times, with all the drama and especially the angst. Some anachronistic language, too. In addition, the hero sings a lot of stupid songs. Ugh. Finally, the suspense plot sorta gave way to many pages on fighting, then groveling, then making up.

Naksed says

A swashbuckler set under the reign of Bloody Mary, with both protagonists acting as spies for the future Queen Elizabeth, Suzanne Robinson's *Lady Gallant* is sure to please most fans of historical romance.

While I liked her humorous writing style, and the frantic pace of the outrageous adventures she concocted, I could not get over my feeling that overall, the heroine is a bit of a Mary Sue, and the hero too arrogant, even at the moment when he really needs to humble himself after unjustly accusing and abusing the heroine for alleged treason, in the face of all she has done for him. And when he finally admits to the truth of her innocence, not because he trusts her mind you, but because he accepts the word of a third party, he hunts her down to declare...

"Oh sweeting, if I made you want me once, I can do it again. And when I've delved between your thighs and taken my pleasure, you'll forget my trespass. I'll thrust it from your mind as I thrust my seed into your body."

Dude, seriously? That is not grovel to me, just more of his arrogance and selfishness. No evolution at all. Which is proven by the fact that further down the storyline, he allows yet another lying, thieving, immoral fiend to AGAIN make him doubt her sincerity and wondering if she has betrayed him. To me, I could not believe in their HE A where he simply cannot let go of niggling doubts about her in the face of a tsunami of

evidence that she is loving, lovable, and trustworthy. They will have a blissful marriage until the next Great, Big, Terrible Misunderstanding or venomous Iago puts ideas in his head again.

I was really sucked into the story initially because the author has such an engaging style and there are so many intrigues at play so that it never becomes boring, but the protags and their romance ultimately did not pay off for me, personally.

SmittenKitten says

This book is great. The beginning is so cute and romantic... and I was totally loving it, but then some heartbreaking stuff happens. The hero cheats in a pretty despicable way. Christian's treatment of Nora is like taking a puppy, shoving it into a bag, and throwing it over a bridge into the river. At least he feels guilty afterwards and does some major groveling. Nora is forever changed after the cheating incident, and reinvents herself from a mouse to a dragon.

Ana T. says

I had this book in the TBR pile for a very long time. I heard very good things about it but at the same time I was unsure about how I would feel as I'd also heard the hero behaves very badly towards the heroine. I'm happy to say this was an A read!.

The ladies of the palace called Nora Becket "mouse". But beneath her shy, artless ways hid the heart of a lioness. A daring spy in Queen Mary's court, she risked her life to rescue the innocent from a terrible fate. Yet it was Nora who needed rescuing when cutthroats attacked her - and when Christian de Rivers, a lusty sword-wielding rogue, swept her out of harm's way...and into his arms. As magnificent and mesmerizing as a hawk, Christian both frightened and excited Nora, even as he pursued her with a single-minded passion that left her longing to be caught. Yet soon she would discover that she had reason to be frightened. For the dashing nobleman had his own secrets to keep, his own enemies to rout - and his own brand of vengeance for a wide-eyed beauty whom he loved only too well...

I think one of Robinson's strong points is how well she conveys the atmosphere of the period and bloody Mary's reign. I found myself nodding in agreement while I read her historical note in the beginning and how she understood the politics of that time. She manages to express that in the story's setting and background.

Kit and Nora could not have been more different but it's easy to see how she would be attracted to him and what attracts him to her. The story flows very nicely and Kit and Nora seem set for a happy ending when he believes he has found proof of her betrayal. Those were not easy times to be trusting when that might mean a horrible death. Till he can be sure of her actions he treats her as a traitor whose intentions are to spy on his family.

Those scenes are particularly intense. Kit's abuse is hard to read about as he plays with Nora's insecurities and uses them against her. Knowing from the beginning whose side she is on only makes it more painful for the reader.

He does eventually find out the truth and goes back to her to ask for forgiveness, But the strength that Nora

could not find on her own she finds when she feels she needs to protect her little page. Kit grovels for while but Nora is inflexible and while I enjoy a good grovel scene as much as anyone I'm glad that Robinson didn't use it to end the story. Kit and Nora needed to get to know each other better and eventually change which does happen in the course of the last chapters. Nora stops being the mouse she used to be and starts demanding (and getting) respect, and Kit learns to trust her.

One last word of praise for how she wrote the characters. They are interesting, complex and attractive. We can feel their pain and their sorrows. And in the end, their happiness.

Grade: A-

Fre06 Begum says

Read this years back and I still think one of the best grovelling by hero books!

Booklover says

This was a really difficult read for me,i only gave 2 stars is one star for the mystery-suspense part and second for the grovelling

The way hubby treated his wife was really hard for me to read,sleeping with OW woman in front of his wife and purposely doing it next to the room of her and making loads of noises so that she comes and sees he is doing it with them and also in one scene he says "Just don't stand there i have to finish what i started and ask her to close the door if she is getting disturbed"

the horrible way he humiliates her,hurts her is just he had to do grovelling but i still felt he was forgiven easily after the way he treated his wife like that

I had skipped loads of pages in between when he treats her badly specially after the scene when he does it purposely and makes noises so that wife comes and sees them doing it,skipped from there and started directly when he comes to know he was a jerk and misunderstood the whole thing,his wife is innocent

The list of his cruelty and awful behaviour towards his wife is endless and cause of one misunderstanding he treats her that way,most disappointing thing is he is said to be a soldier of high caliber and when he suspects a person does'nt even bothers to cross check the evidence or directly go and confront the suspect,just jumps to conclusions and rest we knoe how he proceeds,he realises he is wrong when his father clears the misunderstanding,he grovels but i just could'nt forgive him,nope i can never forgive the pig

Not recommended by me

Gerrie says

I don't often read books about the Tudor period, but I am so glad I relied on the rave reviews and picked this one up. Also, this is about the reign of Mary, which has received a lot less literary attention than Henry and

Elizabeth. The historical research was absolutely first class but it never felt like an information dump or history lesson. It was a seamless, but integral, part of the story.

I wasn't sure if I would like this book. The beginning is a little confusing, and it was unclear at first whether the hero was the leader of a band of thieves parading as a court noble or what exactly he was. Then, it was hard to get a handle on the hero as he was so mercurial, although his overwhelming emotion seemed to be rage. But, all this settled down fairly quickly, and from that point on I could not put the book down.

The heroine is one of the most sympathetically drawn of all the historical romance books I have read. You fall in love with her, and can understand why the hero does, although the heroine is commonly thought to be a timid "mouse" of no consequence by the other ladies-in-waiting at court. Under that timid exterior she is valiant, and brave, and an intrepid defender of the weak. The hero calls her "my little dragon."

I thought I would be unable to read the scenes where the hero is so cruel to the heroine. They were not easy, but also were not as lengthy as I feared. However, they were necessary to show (not tell) why the heroine - who utterly adored the hero - would justifiably reject and despise him. This is what makes this book so powerful. Once the hero realizes how he totally misjudged the heroine, and that he's lost her love solely by his own actions, we can feel his anguish. Its physical impact reaches out of the page. And it makes his lengthy groveling believable. Another thing that almost salvaged the hero for me, even when he was at his cruel worst, was the deep love he felt for his father, which motivated his actions.

This was a terrific and satisfying book, and will definitely go on my keeper shelf.

Mou says

Booklover's Review

Highlighted point from Booklover's review-

"The way hubby treated his wife was really hard for me to read, sleeping with OW woman in front of his wife and purposely doing it next to the room of her and making loads of noises so that she comes and sees he is doing it with them and also in one scene he says "Just don't stand there I have to finish what I started and ask her to close the door if she is getting disturbed"

Zoe says

This book reminds me of a Shakespeare comedy that I saw at the Globe in London. The medieval setting was true to form. The actors conversed in old English with unfamiliar inflections and outrageous exaggeration. Questionable (by modern standard) double standards, typical of the period. The main plot is a romance, but presented with a comical air.

As a result the hero Christian is rather like a clown, with his anger and thirst for vengeance. The interactions between Christian and Eleanora the heroine are like a play put on stage. There is a huge distance between me and the characters. I know they were acting, and they were acting most enthusiastically for the comical effect.

I gave 3 stars for the medieval atmosphere. I had to constantly look up for words and match them to a picture. What is a barge? How does a doublet look like? The romance is non-existent. Robinson likes to have the characters "recount" their encounters and use these "recollections" to propel the story forward. Something like "A few weeks later Christian remembered blah blah blah. And at the time Nora said blah blah blah. Then Christian and Nora blah blah blah. Now Christian stood in the hall and remember how that incident did whatever." kind of thing. I cannot say that I am a fan of this way of storytelling. It created a huge gap between me and the main characters. They were living and remembering and I was just watching. It was extremely difficult to feel involved in the story as a reader.

I will give Robinson another try at some point again. I hope this is not her usual way of telling a story because I most certainly want to feel connected to the characters. I found it hard to do that with this theater-like reading experience. A lot of reviewers had problems with how Christian behaved when he thought Eleanora betrayed him. I couldn't really get serious with the story so it did not bother me at all.

Amber says

WOW. This book was repeatedly recommended for its great grovel scene. The title and cover put me off reading it for a long time, and I didn't even realize it was medieval, which I normally don't go for. But OMG, this book is AMAZING. So witty and intelligent, but I couldn't stand to slow down and savor it because I had to see what happened next. Both H and h were beautifully flawed. I adore this book.

Annette says

[funny scene with moonlight ritual (hide spoiler)]

sraxe says

H is a huge POS and makes the h, his wife, suffer over and over and over again (even cheating on her at one point and making sure that she sees).

There's not enough grovelling in the world.

bookjunkie says

Ahhhhh. There is no satisfaction quite like the satisfaction gained when a heroine is deeply, grossly, hideously wronged by the Hero, having the Hero realize he's made a colossal mistake, and then watching him reap every scrap of anguish he's sown. I feel a perverse anticipation every time I read an HP where the Hero treats the heroine in an unforgivably horrible manner, because I'm hoping for the exquisite justice of a perfect comeuppance to follow. Too often I'm let down, but *this* book did not disappoint! Gut-twisting angst, tortured suffering, and delicious remorse. Sometimes this kind of stuff just really hits the spot!

Also the setting was convincing, the characters often funny and charming, and I enjoyed the language with its *Faugh!*'s and *Mayhap*'s.

