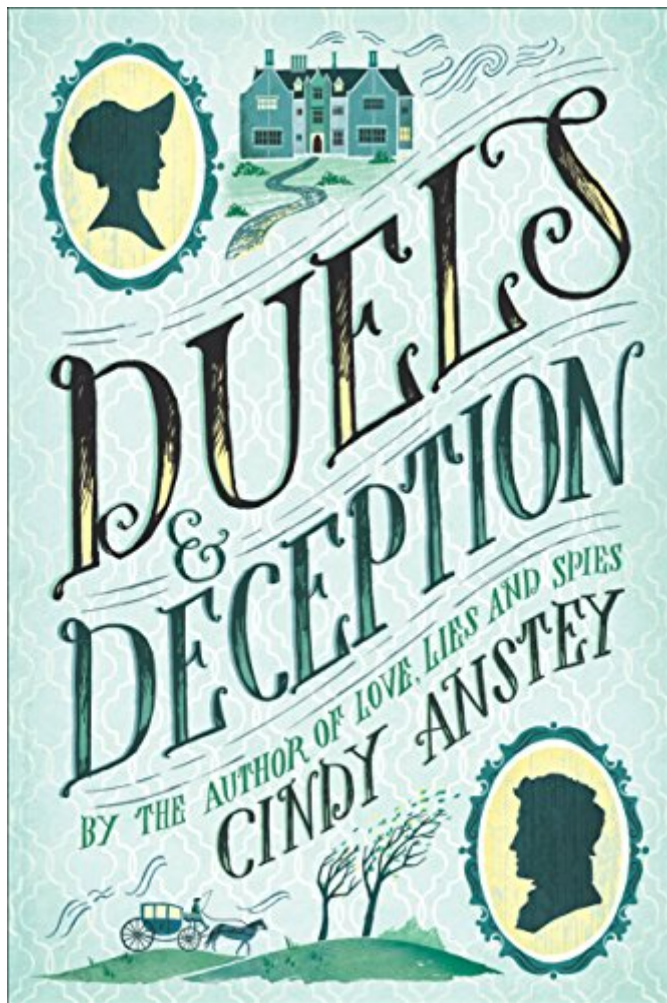


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# Duels & Deception



## Synopsis

One of Entertainment Weekly's 35 Most Anticipated YA Novels of 2017, this compelling and witty Regency romance is perfect for readers who like their historical fiction with a side of intrigue. Lydia Whitfield has her future entirely planned out. She will run the family estate until she marries the man of her late father's choosing, and then she will spend the rest of her days as a devoted wife. Confident in those arrangements, Lydia has tasked her young law clerk, Robert Newton, to begin drawing up the marriage contracts. Everything is going according to plan. Until the day Lydia is kidnapped—and Robert along with her. Someone is after her fortune and won't hesitate to destroy her reputation to get it. With Robert's help, Lydia strives to keep her family's name unsullied and expose the one behind this devious plot. But as their investigation delves deeper and their affections for each other grow, Lydia starts to wonder whether her carefully planned future is in fact what she wants...Fans of historical romance will delight in *Duels and Deception*, a young adult novel from Cindy Anstey, author of *Love, Lies and Spies*. Praise for *Duels & Deception*: " [Duels & Deception] is Jane Austen spiced with action, suspense, and humor. The question is never about their love but how they will overcome society's demands in order to realize it. Young girls who enjoyed Anstey's *Love, Lies and Spies* will snap up this adventure. • "Voya, Starred Review" A great introduction to historical romance novels for younger YA readers. . . . Anstey's novel is a wonderful coming-of-age journey filled with entertaining characters and wild adventures." "School Library Journal" Jane Austen fans in need of a good new book, look no further. Cindy Anstey's new YA novel, *Duels & Deception*, is your next regency romance treat." "Entertainment Weekly" Praise for *Love, Lies and Spies*: "It's Jane Austen meets Jane Foster in Anstey's debut novel, which serves up a delightful combination of Regency romance, scientific curiosity, and spy intrigue for a tale that will have readers rooting for love and science." "Entertainment Weekly" A great recommendation for teens who are not quite ready to tackle the complex language of Austen's classics. . . . A cute premise and cover make this a solid purchase for budding historical romance readers." "School Library Journal" I never want it to end. I cannot tell you how much I love this book. Juliana, Spencer, Bobbington, ALL of them are just so utterly wonderful. This is BETTER than Georgette Heyer. YEP, I SAID IT. It even reminds me of my absolute favorite—the regency romances by Jude Morgan. . . . Just wonderful!" "Kelly Zekas, co-author of *These Vicious Masks*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

4.5 stars. The book was a lot better than Love, Lies and Spies; it felt like Anstey took all the criticism of the previous novel and did a good job applying it to this one. As a result the story was less silly and way more engaging. I really liked the balance between the mystery and the romance. Both had the same measure of importance to the plot and certain part of lightness. The only problem I have to mention, I felt the book needed some trimming. At parts the story was dragging and it took me way too long to read it for a story of this sort. On the other hand I really liked the characters. I liked that Lydia, while still a proper Regency heroine, was portrayed as capable, smart and independent person. I liked that Anstey tried to talk about the restrictions women had to deal with at the period. And it felt very satisfying how the marriage proposition was dealt at the conclusion of the story. I liked Robert, I liked how funny, ready-witted and nice in core he is. I appreciate the respect he has for Lydia, that he sees her more than just a pretty flower. He wasn't just a love interest, this is his story as much as it is Lydia's. Their romance was very natural and believable, mostly because they always treated each other as friends on equal terms. So 50-60 pages less and it could be 5 star review. I think I will eagerly read Cindy Anstey next book.

Duels & Deception is a delightful, fantastic, romantic romp in the past, with a heroine who isn't quite willing to force herself to fit into the expectations of her day. I enjoyed Lydia's attempts at controlling and shaping her future, and the build of her relationship with Robert. Her kidnapping results in a mystery to be solved that helps complicate the story line and add a flavor of suspense and urgency. This story does have an interesting little twist, which I won't spoil by revealing. However, I did enjoy the fact that it wasn't completely predictable, while still delivering a happy ending for the heroine. While written as a YA novel, this adult enjoyed Duels & Deceptions very much and hopes Cindy Anstey will continue on with the series.

Duels & Deception is a YA novel written by Cindy Anstey. I thoroughly enjoyed reading her first book- Love, Lies and Spies- so I was looking forward to returning to the Regency era and reading this book. Miss Lydia Whitfield is an heiress. She does not harbor very many romantic sentiments, and plans to marry the baron whose estate borders her own. This is far from a love match, but aligning her fortune with his ancient name seems to be the best possible outcome. So when Lydia's solicitor sends his clerk to Roseberry, she does not notice a handsome young man- she sees an opportunity to draw up a marriage contract and solidify her future. It does not matter that her intended balks and begins dragging his feet about actually becoming her intended; this is the way things are supposed to be. But then Lydia- and Robert!- are kidnapped. Who would do such a dastardly thing to such a nice young lady? And then of course, there are the titular duels- those come into play as well. It appears that Lydia and Robert have two mysteries on their hands! Duels & Deception is an absolute delight. I certainly did not guess the mystery portion, and found myself somewhat surprised by the big reveal. Overall, despite the serious threats to Lydia's reputation by villainous kidnappers, this is a very light book and there is a great deal of comic relief. It's clear that Lydia and Robert care for each other, but they spend much of the book ignoring their feelings for the sake of propriety. I would absolutely recommend Duels & Deception. This is categorized as a YA book, but I think it will appeal to fans of Regency books. Historical romance novels are known for their steamy scenes, and concerned readers should know that Lydia and Robert maintain a sense of propriety throughout the book and that nothing untoward happens. Anstey is a talented writer with a gift for wordplay and characterization. All characters- both the major players and the more minor roles- bring something to the narrative, and it is such fun to see the interactions unfold. I am already eagerly waiting for Anstey's next book! I received a digital copy of this book from Netgalley/the publisher in

exchange for an honest review, and then purchased my own copy of the book as well.

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