



The Soul of a Lady

Wanda Luce

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Soul of a Lady

Wanda Luce

The Soul of a Lady Wanda Luce

At twenty-six, Lydia Hathaway has endured years of heartbreak, longing for a love that's never come. Her deceased father's foolhardiness has left her family bankrupt, and she is eventually left no alternative but to take a position as a companion to Susan Ashcroft of Danbury Park in Surrey. Anxious for peace, Lydia rambles early one morning across the muddy wilds of the Ashcroft estate, where she has a most unimaginable encounter with Connor Parkhurst, the notorious viscount of Denton.

As their paths continue to cross, Lydia falls ever deeper in love with the charming rogue while battling against his growing assault on her heart. In spite of his forward attentions, she considers his behavior toward her nothing less than idle flirtation. Tormented in a relentless battle to suppress a love she cannot overcome, Lydia resolves to leave the Ashcrofts and Danbury Park forever. After all, she is nothing to Lord Denton—isn't she?

The Soul of a Lady Details

Date : Published January 26th 2016 (first published June 16th 2011)

ISBN : 9781599929

Author : Wanda Luce

Format : Paperback

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Historical Romance, Clean Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Regency

 [Download The Soul of a Lady ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Soul of a Lady ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Soul of a Lady Wanda Luce

From Reader Review The Soul of a Lady for online ebook

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

I was really looking forward to reading Lydia. I'd seen it pop up here and there and I always love a good Regency story. Overall, Lydia was a pleasant read, although a little slow at times. I appreciated that it was clean and would probably read more by this author.

However, I didn't quite like it as much as I wanted to. Very early on I got bored with Lydia's obsession with Lord Denton. It really felt like an obsession, he was literally all she would think about. It got a bit repetitive and I would have liked a little more substance to their relationship. About halfway in we start to hear from Lord Denton's POV, and of course he is equally in love with Lydia. There is a lot of inner dialog about their feelings, but I would have loved to have more conversations between the two. I was left without feeling much chemistry. Lord Denton is a reformed rake, I wouldn't have minded seeing a little more of his rakish personality and had some flirting between the two. Any time he attempted to flirt Lydia would quickly hide within her very proper shell. I was also a little turned off by how everyone just loved Lydia. In their eyes she was perfection. I thought she was a little boring and a tad long-winded. I was also confused with what exactly her "job" was. She is supposed to be Susan's governess, but she was treated more like a member of the family than as a servant (maybe because she was too perfect to be treated otherwise). Not only do her employers treat her as an equal, but so does everyone she meets. During this time period status and rank had a big sway on how you were treated and I guess I would have liked to see a little more of that.

Another element that rubbed me the wrong way was with the brief side story with Susan. In the story she makes a mistake and the whole thing was not only brushed under the rug, but was presented that as long as no one knew about it, it was not a big deal. Personally, I have to disagree. Even if Susan was the only one to ever know, it would still be wrong. It bothered me that it was downplayed so easily. While, I don't think she is a bad person, everyone makes mistakes, it was still a bad mistake and I would have like to see more growth or remorse on Susan's part.

The story wrapped up a little too quickly. The entire book is filled with drama (Lydia pining away for Lord Denton), and all of the sudden they are declaring their undying love for one another. I guess the way it all came about seemed anticlimactic. Their relationship and courtship moved at such a slow pace, I was surprised things were resolved so quickly and openly. They've tippy toed around each other and now all of the sudden they are not shy or nervous about sharing their feelings?

Overall, it was a pleasant read. I would probably enjoy it more the second time around when I know what to expect.

Wanda Luce says

Just have to give it five stars for all the love and heart I put into my first Regency.

Joyce says

"Lydia", by Wanda Luce, is a delightful new entry to the Regency world of romance. Ms Luce's prose is

flowing and poetic, capturing the voice of the Regency age in a way I have seen others attempt but fail to achieve quite so fully. The romance between the two main characters, Lydia and Lord Denton, evolves in a charming way. Each encounter between them left me touched and smiling and rooting for their eventual union. The author's research is meticulous, but never boring. Whether visiting the ruins of an old castle, showing us the inner-workings of Parliament, bantering in a bookshop over such Regency titles as "The Fascinating Lives of England's Rodents", or the older generation teasing the younger generation over the popularity of a contemporary love song ("William and Mary"), the historical details are never presented as lecture, but woven intricately into the story through the eyes of the characters. But Ms Luce does not neglect that essential element for a romance: strong emotion, both the internal turmoil of the characters and the physical touches of passion, though never crossing a line that would make a reader of sweet romances uncomfortable.

As much as I loved this story and the writing style, I did stumble a bit in two places. Although the story started off with a very strong scene of the hero and heroine's first meeting, I felt it regressed a bit too much after that into "telling" over "showing" for the majority of the first three chapters. My love for the prose style kept me reading, however, and round about Chapter 4, things began to pick up considerably as Lydia and Denton's encounters took on new life through more dialogue and action. I regret to say I also stumbled a bit with the ending. Things wound up just a bit too quickly and neatly for me, leaving me thinking that perhaps they might have resolved their issues just a little bit sooner. There were a few strong touches in the conclusion, especially in the epilogue, but I personally would like to have seen the characters have to fight just a little harder before they ultimately wound up together.

That being said, I was sufficiently entranced with Ms Luce's writing style and ability to present appealing characters that I will definitely be reading more from this author, just as soon as she has more books to read!

Here's a link where you can read the words to and listen to the melody of the song "William and Mary", if you'd like: <http://www.contemplator.com/england/w...> (Yes, I Googled it, because I'm weird that way.)

Melody says

Cons: It was a bit frustrating. I mean, how much do you have to hear, "I don't want to love him, but I can't help it!" before it gets slightly annoying to you? That, and there seemed, to me, a lot of era inconsistencies with behaviors of people. I mean, I could be wrong, but I've read a lot of regency books... I'm no expert, but I was confused sometimes.

Pros: clean regency romance. *sigh* I really think that's my favorite genre. I love the rules and the gallantry and the clothes and British stuff. Haha! It really was a pretty good book, even if I complained a bit.

4 stars.

Vicki Burtcher says

I love Jane Austen's storylines and things from that time period, but reading Jane Austen is not something I'm good at. I was not an avid reader growing up, so the language can be hard for me to grasp. But the romance and beauty of stories from that time just thrill me. So, Lydia by Wanda Luce was just right. :) It's set during the Regency Era, and the language was reminiscent of Jane Austen, but easier for my mind to

grasp. I loved it! It's a wonderfully romantic story. Usually I want some sort of adventure to accompany the romance, but this is purely a story of falling in love. A little adventure of some sort would have been nice, but really isn't necessary. What I did feel was missing was some descriptions of Lydia's every day duties. She's hired on as a governess, but there is never any description of her time working. It almost seems like she's just getting room and board and free time to fall in love, without having to do any work. I was curious to know what exactly she was supposed to be doing with her charge. But aside from that, a really excellent book. I think if you're a Jane Austen fan, you will really enjoy this one.

Katie W says

Wow! This regency romance was quite a flashback. The language/prose was so....regency. A very enjoyable story with a great cover.

Lydia's family is in ruins after her father passes away and she is forced to enter into service, since she has no dowry. She becomes a companion for a young girl, just ready to enter society. Fortunately, this position allows her to attend all the functions as well, which leads to her falling for the most sought after bachelor-- Lord Denton. Known as a flirt who strings the women along and won't commit to any one, Lord Denton captures Lydia's heart and soul immediately.

At times, I found myself wishing Lydia would just grow up--she spent a lot of time dwelling on the fact that Lord Denton is someone she could never have. She was jealous of any attention he gave others; any rumors she heard about him; and was constantly trying to convince herself she didn't want him. But...I think this behavior is relatable. Most young women lack the confidence earlier on in a crush and she was no different.

All in all, cute, clean, and very regency.

Heidi says

I loved this book. It was a mix between Jane Eyre and Pride and Prejudice.(The author dropped a lot of similar names in there which was fun. :) Two of my all time favorite books. I just thought it was a fun read and thoroughly enjoyed it!! I loved that the author changed it up a bit and allowed the story to be told from not only Lydia's point of view but Lord Denton's as well. I wish that I could read a bit of Pride and Prejudice and Jane Eyre from Darcy's and Mr Rochester's point of view! How fun would that be?

Marie Higgins says

Look out Jane Austen! You now have competition! "Lydia" is written so perfectly that I really thought I was reading one of Jane Austen's stories. I kept looking at the front cover just to make sure. And now after reading this story, I don't know who I like better, Mr. Darcy or Lord Denton. They are both dream-come-true heroes! BRAVA to Wanda Luce!!

Sheila says

Nice, predictable read. Received through Goodreads.

Cindy says

I really enjoyed this book, I always love a good regency romance. Lydia was written with a Jane Austin flare using the old-english, with delightful prose. It made me feel like I was back in the 1800's, dancing and socializing with Lydia and her friends.

Lydia is born of social status, but unfortunate events leave her family in need of funds, they are not destitute, but struggle. Lydia is older and unmarried with no prospect of marrying do to age and financial status. She decides to take a governess position with the Ashcroft's of Danbury Park in Surrey to help alleviate the financial strain on her family. Lydia is quite pretty, smart, and has a fondness for the great out doors which leads her to many encounters with the rogue Lord Connor Denton. Lord Denton is friends with the Ashcroft's, so their paths did often cross. This gave them plenty of opportunities to learn about and get to know one another.

Lydia was such a dear friend and full of adventure and life. However I found I was a little annoyed with her, she would get so down about her inability to marry do to circumstances beyond her control. There were just a few to many of those moments. I was also frustrated that they both misunderstood each others intentions often or couldn't talk about things openly do to propriety. Thus the four stars. I know it was the way of it back then. This did not take away from the story. She always buoyed herself back up, she was a rather endearing character.

There were so many wonderful encounters that I did so love one of them was the excursion to the library that was so fun and sweet. Wonderful story, I look forward to reading more books by Mrs Luce.

clean language
clean romance

Heather says

I make no attempt to hide that I am a huge Jane Austen fan so when I got this one in the mail I had to read it right away. Lydia feels like a cross between *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility* and is written in the language and style of the Regency Era. The landscape includes sweeping vistas of English countryside, old historic broken down castles, a bookstore with leather bound tomes and docks harboring slave ships. Everything about Lydia immerses you in the period it is written. It feels authentic and weaves historical fact and figures into the storyline without being dry. The language is flowery, at times slow paced, but with Lord Denton around to stir things up you'll want to keep reading. He's the perfect mix of gorgeous gentleman and fiery politician with a romantic side and witty sense of humor. He's also way out of reach for Lydia as he's in the highest social circles and she has been reduced to a governess after her father's death. The two literally run into each other in the countryside as Lydia is returning from one of her adventurous jaunts in the woods. From then on you'll be pining for them to run into each other even more. It also helps that Lydia has Charles around a resident at the Ashcroft's. Brotherly kindness, absolute loyalty and endearing compliments make him a strong male character as well.

I easily lost myself in this one. It took me less than 24 hours to finish and I would recommend it to adults as a clean Regency romance. My only hesitation with it was that the ending seemed rushed and too neatly tied up. At times the main heroine's self deprecating yet longing thoughts also seemed to drone on a little bit. I personally would have liked the book better without the Epilogue because I feel it tipped it out of something

I would let my teen read into better suited for an adult. But overall, if you are a sucker for anything Jane Austen you will be a huge fan of Lydia. It would make a great movie and I'm hoping to see the author Wanda Luce release more books along the same vein. She makes history and social progress interesting as she mixes it with just the right sprinkle of romance. Thanks so much to Walnut Springs for another great release!

Miriam Reeves says

I enjoyed this! Its a great clean Regency Romance without too much angst. I would recommend to anyone who loves a good story.

Patti says

For those who enjoy Regency romance stories "The Soul of a Lady" is really good! I liked "Wilds of Devon", but this one was even better!

It is the story of 26 yr. old Lydia Hathaway accepting the position as companion to Susan Ashcroft. Lydia's life has been turned upside down because of her father's foolish handling of the family fortune. Lydia's temporary life with the Ashcrofts is very good and very welcome. She has reconciled herself a spinster having no fortune to tempt any man. On one of her early morning adventures out on the Ashcroft's estate, she has a surprise meeting with handsome Lord Denton during a very unique encounter.

I liked both Lydia and Lord Denton from the very beginning. One of my favorite things was their willingness to be frank in their conversations, questions, and answers. So often characters keep stuff hidden. They didn't and it was refreshing! Ordinary adventures brought tantalizing tension and heart-melting moments. It all just richly simmered for nearly 300 pages and that made me read on...and on...

Wanda Luce has a beautiful writing tone for Regency stories. Understandably, many of the plots have somewhat familiar threads, but the trick is to come up with clever angles, twists, or writing that can carry us readers along as captive invisible participants. It was just that and I loved it! Luce's descriptive set-ups were beautifully done whether it was bathing in the lake, a stroll through a perfumed garden, a captivating waltz, or just an ordinary diary entry. I loved this one on pg. 144: She clutched the book tightly to her chest and slipped into the chair by the French doors After opening to the empty page marked by his white ribbon, she filled line after line with the day's events and let the farthest reaches of her soul spill their secrets onto the pages. She wondered how long it would be before these now-cherished memories would need to be locked away until the years had mellowed the keen sadness they would engender." So pretty!

Another favorite moment for me was when they visited Parliament. I have also had that opportunity to observe Parliament in session (for free, btw - incase you are visiting London this year...) and I absolutely agree with Lydia's description on pg.102: "Lydia found herself deeply enthralled with the experience." Ditto!

And one last memorable statement by Lord Denton - how could you not want to root for this hero regarding his wealth on pg. 111: "I must correct you, madam. I am a common man born to privilege and good fortune. I must live to deserve it."

Wanda Luce, you now join the select group of my fav Regency authors. Well done!

Amy says

Wanda Luce has done it again! Another beautiful Regency Romance that will transport you to the lush gardens of Surrey, England and the forbidden arms of Connor Parkhurst, the much talked about Viscount Denton.

Lydia Hathaway, born in the upper echelons of English society, is now forced, by her deceased father's failings, to take the position of companion to the young Susan Ashcroft of Danbury Park. Her loss of rank, though, cannot squelch her "she-tiger" spirit and fondness of forest ramblings, which puts her, literally, in the path of Lord Denton. Despite an awkward first encounter, their mutual attraction blossoms, yet as a six and twenty female companion, the best Lydia can hope to elicit from the opposite sex are "matronly-like comments." Are Lord Denton's attentions genuine or just more fodder for his established reputation as a lady's man? Can Lydia win the ever-present inner battle against her love for the handsome Viscount? To find the answers to these questions is a journey of lush prose and well-plotted storytelling you won't want to end. The characters are believable, the dialogue real and the emotional struggle will have your heart aching to the last page. Thank you, Wanda, for another wonderful experience!

Lisa (Bookworm Lisa) says

3.5 stars

This was a good book. I didn't connect with the stories or characters, so I am giving it 3.5 stars. It was well written and had a good story line.

The book is set during the Regency period. Lydia is a young women whose circumstances have been reduced. Without a fortune she has been employed as a companion to a spoiled young woman. She is a woman of grace and wisdom.

Lord Denton is a man who has a fortune, but is tired of treasure seeking young women vying for his attention. Lydia is a breath of fresh air for him. She seems to not be effected by his wealth, but he can't fully give his heart until he knows her true character.

I believe that this is a book that can be enjoyed by lovers of the Regency genre. It is clean with conversation of people's indiscretions, but only contains a little kissing.
