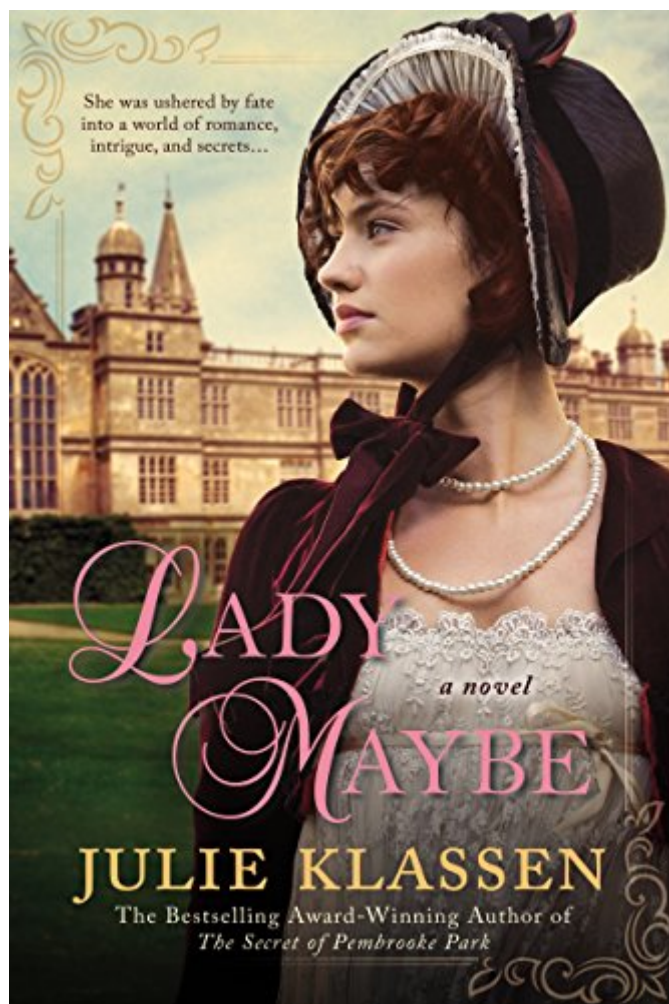


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# Lady Maybe



## Synopsis

In the new novel by the three-time Christy Award-winning author of *The Maid of Fairbourne Hall*, a woman's startling secrets lead her into unexpected danger and romance in Regency England. One final cry "God almighty, help us!" and suddenly her world shifted violently, until a blinding collision scattered her mind and shook her bones. Then, the pain. The freezing water. And as all sensation drifted away, a hand reached for hers, before all faded into darkness. Now she has awakened as though from some strange, suffocating dream in a warm and welcoming room she has never seen before, and tended to by kind, unfamiliar faces. But not all has been swept away. She recalls fragments of the accident. She remembers a baby. And a ring on her finger reminds her of a lie. But most of all, there is a secret. And in this house of strangers she can trust no one but herself to keep it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Julie Klassen is one of my favorite authors, among the best in the Regency genre, a trusted name on my "automatic buy" list. I knew when I requested this novel that it was published by Berkley Trade, but was hoping Klassen was simply doing as many before her have done: broadening her

reach into mainstream romance. I know there has been some backlash in the past for those who have done so, but I personally don't feel as if the author is abandoning her faith or core audience simply because they publish with a secular printer. What, if anything, changes with the storyline, characters or situations? I expected a toned-down spiritual component but was pleasantly surprised to find that wasn't the case. At first, most of the references were similar to the one in the back cover blurb, prayers uttered quickly, references to God, but little depth or content. But about 70 percent of the way through, we get a Gospel presentation and Jesus is how we obtain forgiveness for the sin we commit. Wow. Didn't see that coming, even from a secondary character. There is also a scene towards the end of incredible grace and forgiveness, completely undeserved, that was the best part of the novel in my opinion. It's never called grace, not necessarily lauded, but it is there as a strong witness to those who may question why she would do such a thing. I credit the publisher and author for not feeling as if God must be stricken from her writing. I love Klassen's writing and that remains the case in this book, at least as far as the writing itself goes. The prose is always well done and the dialogue sounds natural, but I found that I struggled to like the characters in this particular novel.

Hannah Rogers has earned her living as a companion to the flirtatious Lady Mayfield. When Lady Mayfield's husband swiftly ushers them out of Bath in order to try to reclaim his marriage, a carriage accident washes Lady Mayfield's body out to sea and severely injures Hannah and Sir John. By the time Hannah regains her senses several days later, everyone has assumed she is Lady Mayfield, and she thinks it may be best to keep that presumption alive until she has the chance to decide what to do, especially since Sir John lies unconscious with recovery uncertain. There is only one thing that Hannah must do: find a way to redeem her young son from the corrupt maternity home matron who is holding him hostage for monies owed. Hannah had managed to keep her pregnancy a secret, but her heart is with her son and no matter what the future holds she wants to be reunited with him. It is easy to tell strangers that Lady Mayfield has a son, and though Hannah intends to quit the ruse and start life over as soon as she has Danny back in her arms, it may not be that simple. Especially when Sir John's new solicitor arrives with a hostile attitude towards her, believing her to be the unfaithful wife. And when Sir John himself awakens, Hannah is completely unprepared for his response to her deception. In this novel Julie Klassen has branched out from her original publisher, and I have mixed but strong feelings about this. On the positive side, it allowed the author to break out of her usual cloudy mystery format, which was a vast improvement in my opinion. I enjoyed the more straightforward telling of this novel, which is not at all to say that there were no

twists and surprising turns, because there certainly were.

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