

BOOK BREAK

'A Lady's Deception' is fresh, informative



ESTHER LITTMANN

A young woman who masquerades as a man and then falls in love with her male companion is a familiar storyline, especially to those who have seen Barbra Streisand in "Yentl" and Julie Andrews in "Victor/Victoria." But in the capable hands of West Bloomfield author

Jeanne Savery, this plot makes a fresh and informative reappearance.

"A Lady's Deception" (Zebra Books, 1995, \$5.50) is Savery's 10th publication set among the upper crust in early 19th century England.

It's the summer of 1815, and Tayce Adlington is determined to find a suitable husband for Damaris, her beautiful younger sister. "A finished piece of perfection" come have called the young lady, certainly worth more than the attentions of local farm boys and the two boorish sons of a destitute baron.

Tayce's plan is to take Damaris to Bath, the popular English summer resort, frequented by high society in search of merrymaking and marriage partners. To protect her sister from

would-be seducers, Tayce will play the part of Tobias, a fictitious half-brother conceived, as they say, "on the wrong side of the blanket."

Twenty-five years old, independent and resourceful, Tayce is certainly up to the challenge. Hasn't she donned trousers since childhood, when scaling cliffs and riding horseback with her now-deceased twin brother Terence? A tall, lanky figure and newly bobbed hair will surely complete the image. Even Aunt Fanny, the girls' sole guardian but blind since her husband's fatal accident, acknowledges the need for a male escort.

Tayce and her charges have no sooner set up residence in Bath, when three eligible gentlemen make their appearance. Longtime friend and secret admirer Lord Seward woos the still young and desirable Aunt Fanny. Damaris is immediately singled out by the wealthy Earl of Cahill. And Tayce? Well, Tayce becomes racing rival and drinking buddy to the dashing Marquess of Worth, recently home from the Napoleonic Wars.

As summer advances, Tayce's dilemma intensifies. Guarding her innocent and trusting sister from philanderers and fortune hunters is far more compli-

cated than she had imagined. Equally frustrating is losing her heart to a man who doesn't even know she's a woman.

Or does he? Worth wonders about that little half-smile that keeps playing on his young companion's lips. And the unusual way Tobias handles a horse reminds the marquess of his former comrade-in-arms Terence Adington, who fought and died so bravely at San Marcial. Could the plucky, soft-spoken Tobias, Worth ponders, be Terence's twin sister in disguise? That possibility — scandalous though it may be to fashionable society — makes his heart beat just a bit faster.

"A Lady's Deception" is Savery's seventh Regency novel.

"I'll never get rich writing in this genre," the author says, "but I love it and have shelves of reference books for the Regency (period), from 1811 to 1820 to prove it."

This era is called Regency, Savery said, because the future George IV was declared "regent" or acting sovereign during his father's disability.

Following strict guidelines set by Regency founder Georgette Hoyer, each novel, though fictitious in character and plot, is carefully researched from old

letters, biographies and historical records that range in content from the Industrial Revolution to the nature of London pubs.

Romance novels are sometimes called an escape, a naive attempt to hide from the realities of life. Maybe so. But love, marriage and fidelity, though ephemeral to some, are still the warp and woof of human society. A novel that celebrates those values simply affirms what is and must endure. Jeanne Savery, a Romance Writers of America finalist and Romantic Times Reviewer's Choice Award nominee, is an entertaining part of that celebration.

Savery will appear at the Media Play bookstores on the following dates: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29, in Utica; 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, in Southfield; and noon Sunday, Oct. 1, in Pontiac.

Esther Littmann, a Bloomfield Township resident, is a lecturer in English and German at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. As an only child, Littmann grew up regarding books as substitutes for siblings. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1893. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Now you can shop for windows and doors without wandering around warehouses or inviting strangers into your living room. At Midwest Door & Window, you can browse through our quiet, comfortable showroom until you find what's right for your home. With no hassle.

Of course, you may find it hard to choose from our extensive selection of quality products. Take Weather Shield Windows, for example.



We make window shopping easy.
(Door shopping, too.)



Whether you prefer wood or vinyl, they combine style, performance and quality. Midwest's friendly, experienced remodeling professionals can show you these and much more. And put you in touch with qualified installers, if you need one.

Midwest Door & Window is conveniently located off I-96 in Livonia (see map), and our showroom is open for you from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. **See you soon!**

See us in Booth 3015
at the Fall Remodeling Show,
Novi Expo Center,
Sept. 28 - Oct. 1.

Midwest
MDW
Door & Window

35539 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150
(313) 462-3500

