

LADY OF LOVE

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What's more ravishing and heart-pounding than a good love story? A great love story that shouldn't even be happening.

Think of *Romeo and Juliet*, making heart-shaped eyes at each other despite their family rivalry. It's wrong yet deliciously sinister! Yet the most forbidden of all forbidden love stories is the one between Lady Constance Chatterley, the lady of the manor and her rugged gamekeeper Mellors.

Taking a blowtorch to the rigid social barriers of the 1920s, Constance betrays not only her husband but her class.

This is more than a story of adultery - the affair represents a challenge to all the conventions and expectations women and

relationships of the time, and if you add to that the rustic, tree-filled settings of their encounters, it's no wonder this is the stuff of forbidden fantasies (Quite literally having sexual encounters in the woodland); escaping her house for the woods '**was her one refuge, her sanctuary**'.

The sexual advances appear opaque through Lawrence's writing especially for a censored writing society. During the first sex scene between Mellors and Connie, physical descriptions show off the passionate love, 'the peace on earth of her soft quiescent body'. However, a 1960 court case over the alleged obscenity of Lawrence's original novel prompted the Chatterley trial, which helped pave the way for the sexual revolution in the UK.

If you swoon too much and sigh too much, it can start to feel gushy (and that is not sexy).

This reimagined version of Lady Chatterley's Lover sets its central love story in a world that's gritty and so real that you can feel it.

Lady Chatterley follows Mellors, a hard-working man in a world he can't compete with. Mellors isn't just some sexy bit of rough around the edges guy - the sort of from a cheesy romantic fantasy, he fulfils all the expectations of his character.

However, in this version the husband Clifford Chatterley is not a cartoon image of a snobby, posh, and clueless cuckold. Instead, it's a complicated portrait of a war hero still recovering from the traumas of the trenches and overcoming tremendous obstacles. He is handsome and gallant, therefore making the love triangle of Clifford, Constance, and Mellors all the more intense and moving, because of the sympathy we feel for him.

