



## Noble Intentions

*Andrew Grey*

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Robert Ashton is in for the surprise of a lifetime. His mother, a bit of a rebel, raised him away from the rest of the family, and it's not until he's contacted by his lawyer about an inheritance that he learns who he truly is: the new Earl of Hantford. His legacy includes ownership of the historic Ashton Park Estate—which needs repairs Robert cannot afford. He'll simply do what the nobility has done for centuries when in need of money. He'll marry it.

Tech wizard Daniel Fabian is wealthy and successful. In fact, he has almost everything—except a title to make him worthy in the eyes of the old-money snobs he went to prep school with. His high school reunion is looming, and he's determined to attend it as a member of the aristocracy.

That's where Robert comes in.

Daniel has the money, Robert has the name, and both of them know they can help each other out. But their marriage of convenience has the potential to become a real love match—unless a threat to Daniel's business ruins everything.

## Noble Intentions Details

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Author : Andrew Grey

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## From Reader Review Noble Intentions for online ebook

### Serena Yates says

“Nobility marries money” is a well-tried trope, and one that always attracts my attention. In this case it turns out even better than the “standard” storyline because of two twists in the setup. First, the nobility part of the equation, Robert, is not even aware he is an earl until an uncle he never met dies and he suddenly inherits the title. Second, the money part of the deal, Daniel, is a self-made man and owns a large, successful business, but he has to work hard for it and by no means does he have money coming out of his ears. This makes both main characters very real and modern. Also, what solutions these two men come up with are hard-earned, and that brings the age-old idea of combining aristocracy and business into the twenty-first century. And, as far as I am concerned, very successfully so.

Robert has built a life he is happy with: he is a barrister and helps people who can’t afford expensive lawyers, he lives in a small village far away from the hubbub of London, and he cares far more about seeing justice done than making a lot of money. I liked him from page one. But then Fate intervenes, and the uncle who disinherited Robert’s mother for marrying “the wrong man” dies and since Robert is the only male relative, he is now the new Earl of Hantford. The historic manor house, an apartment in London, and lots of headaches accompany the title since the buildings need repairs at a level of investment Robert can’t afford on his salary.

Daniel is an American from Texas and he has started an Internet business that has made him happy, successful, and very wealthy. He now lives in New York City, he is a team player, and I loved the way he runs his company. But there is one thing he is missing in the eyes of NYC high society: his money is not “old” enough compared to what they own. Since Daniel used to be teased, even harassed, mercilessly when he went to school and the fifteen-year reunion is coming up, he would dearly like to impress them with a title.

Robert and Daniel meet via an online-based dating site/matchmaker – Robert’s mother and Daniel’s assistant are the driving forces behind the original meeting. From there on out, the men are on their own, and while they get off to a good start, there are so many issues they have to deal with that their path is not a smooth one. A businesslike arrangement seems to make sense at first, but then emotions begin to emerge and things get more muddled. Meanwhile there are issues with the old manor house, then Robert is torn between doing what he loves and taking on a new role as earl, and Daniel’s competition tries some nasty things that had me yelling at the screen. The seemingly straightforward original “arrangement” turns into quite an adventure and I loved every moment!

If you like the idea of old blood meeting new money, if you want to watch two men from different backgrounds but with similar ideas about what’s right and what’s wrong meet and learn to work together, and if you’re looking for a read that is exciting, emotional, interesting, and very satisfying in the end, then you will probably like this novel.

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NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

## R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says

### 3 Hearts

This was a pleasant, contemporary romance where an average joe suddenly finds himself in the position of title and rank. Robert is a lot overwhelmed, seeing as how he's pretty much left with a money pit when he surprisingly inherits the title of Earl from his little known, and now deceased, uncle. He doesn't really want the pomp and circumstance, but should he sell off everything and call it a wash? Or does he take on all the obligation and responsibility, despite the fact that he had no idea he was from a noble lineage?

On a lark, Robert agrees to his mother's crazy idea to find a rich entrepreneur, where he would be upfront about his need for capital, and in exchange, offer to make him a Count through marriage. Enter Daniel. Born and raised in Texas, his humble beginnings have always set him apart from his wealthy, snooty peers. It doesn't matter that he has an amazingly successful and thus, very lucrative retail line; he still feels like he's less than. When Daniel's assistant signs him up for a dating service, he never would've guessed he'd find his much desired "respectability" in such a nice package.

I'm so glad that this did not devolve into some crazy cringeworthy miscommunication, where intentions were kept secret or they each think the other is only in it for the money and/or title. These two communicated, and though they try to play it cool initially, try to keep it business only, they quickly realize they do have something special as attraction and admiration grow. I also sincerely appreciate it when stories don't utilize the obligatory descension into melodrama at the 80% mark, often depicting self sacrifice or hiding vital facts that could easily be rectified with a simple conversation. There are challenges and conflicts no doubt, but Robert and Daniel work through them together.

As a side note, when I rate a book, I rarely take the audio into consideration. For me, it's really the story that counts and the audio is just hopefully extra goodness. However, this time around the narration by Robert Nieman was just not that good. It's not that he has a horrible voice, but when one of the characters is British, one would expect that person to sound... well, British! In addition to not distinguishing a main character with an obvious characteristic, he also pretty much failed in varying his voices for the majority of the cast. I was often confused as to who was who since there was very little difference between the two MC's, which is an important thing to have when listening to a story. Oh, I got the gist that they were either negotiating terms or having some nice smexy times, but apparently, who cares about the details of who said what, right?? Well, after awhile, I just got tired of rewinding and inferred my way through the rest.

So, this could've been a strong 3.5 Hearts, but with the audio being the way it was, the rating was lowered to a 3. If you're a fan of Grey, you won't be disappointed. Overall, this was good old fashioned romance with a nice dash of smexy, but stymied by a half hearted narration.

*Thank you to the author/publisher for the audio in exchange for an honest review*

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## Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Note: This **audiobook** was provided to me through Hearts on Fire Reviews in exchange for an impartial review.

\*3.5 stars for audio\*

This was a sweet love story based on the trope of two young men who enroll in matchmaking services—one because he inherited a title but needs money to fix up the estate and the other because he'd like to go to his class reunion and show his classmates he's been successful. I should mention here that he's somewhat of a boy genius and has founded a mega-successful business empire, however, he's apparently still feeling "less than" the snobby rich kids he went to private school with.

The two men meet and there's an immediate attraction—not only physically, but emotionally as well. The story plays out as we might expect with each man having something to contribute to the well-being of the other.

I like Andrew Grey's writing and this story interested me, despite the trope (or maybe because of it) and the story developing along the lines I expected. However, I wouldn't recommend it in audiobook format. The narrator did not add anything to the story with his vocalizations. If anything, the similarities made it more difficult. For example, one character was English, the other, American, and there was no difference in their voices. There was an old caretaker on site at the manor house in England, and if we hadn't been given that information, I would have thought he was a young American. But even with all that, if the two MCs had enough of a difference in their voices, it still may have been okay. But I was lost during many of the conversations between the two men because I couldn't detect any difference in their voices.

So, overall, yes, I'd recommend this story to MM romance lovers, but in e-book format, not audiobook. And I probably would have given it 4 stars for the story alone.

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### **Amneris Di Cesare says**

No, definitely Mr. Grey's books are not my thing. I find difficult to trust his characters, don't get the click that makes me involved in their supposed love affair - in this particular one, I found difficult to believe they fall in love so quickly after having set a business-to-marriage agreement - and the whole story, even though intriguing is just a flop for me. Sorry about that.

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### **Lelyana says**

This book reminds me of Saving Crofton Hall. A lot.

No strong chemistry between the two main characters, it was all business.

Okay, they're probably hold it and can't communicate about it. And who's fault was it?

Every time one of them close to talk about it, the business came between them, and then, back to business. Again.

This is not I expected from the blurb, I need some more romantic moments between them, instead of the history, and business (yeah).

I loved history, especially British one. But this one was making me a little bit bored.

I know it was just me. Or not.

*\* I was given the ARC by the publisher for an honest and unbiased review.\**

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## **Darlene says**

Another great book from Andrew Grey!

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## **Karen says**

***Matchmaker, matchmaker, make me a match, find me a find, catch me a catch...***

When Robert Ashton's uncles dies. Robert is in for a surprise when the will is read and he learns that he's the Earl of Hantford and that title comes with a couple of money pits. The family estate Ashton Park and a place in London which he quickly decides he'll probably sell but Ashton Park has been in his family for generations and it would break his mother's heart to see it sold and Robert's not sure selling Ashton Park is something that it's in his heart to do. But the problem is he doesn't have the money for the much needed repairs. However, Robert's thinks she has the perfect solution...she's sure that Robert just needs to marry someone with the much needed money.

Putting her plan for her son to marry someone with money into action. Robert's mom signs him up for a matchmaker service and before Robert knows it he's meeting Tech Wizard Daniel Fabian for dinner while on a business trip to New York. Daniel has his own reasons for using a matchmaker and what he's looking for someone with a title so that when he goes to his high school reunion filled with old money snobs he can show up as a member of the aristocracy.

While Robert and Daniel ultimately ended up enjoying their first date in spite of it's awkward start and it did lead to arrangements for a second date. Thankfully it wasn't a case of insta-love.

Overall I enjoyed the story and I liked that while it wasn't long before Daniel and Robert found themselves falling for each other it wasn't insta-love and they did take time to get to know each other. While neither of them confessed to their reasons for using the matchmaker service it was shared fairly early in the relationship so there wasn't any unnecessary miscommunication issues.

While there was the occasional bit of over the top sweetness it wasn't in excessive amounts and overall it didn't detract from the story for me.

Robert Nieman was the narrator for this audiobook and while I really loved his narration for the previous audiobook that I listened to by him. This one wasn't working as well for me but I can't really say that has as much to do with the narrator as it does with the fact that while I liked this story I didn't fall over the moon in love with it. The only thing that bothered me that is directly related to the narration was the fact that while Robert was suppose to be British he really didn't have a British accent nor did his mother or any of the other secondary characters who were suppose to be British. The voices were distinct just not British.

'Noble Intentions' was a sweet standalone story about two men looking for solutions to the problems in their lives and what they find is that sometimes the answers to our problems come wrapped in love even when we aren't looking for it.

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An audiobook of 'Noble Intentions' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Annie says**

I'll admit that reading the blurb alone may not have tempted me into reading Noble Intentions. While I generally enjoy Mr. Grey's books and characters, and find the writing to flow smoothly, I have to be in the right mood for a lower angst, sweet romance. However, when I saw this book happened to be narrated by one of my very favorite voices, I went ahead and dove right in.

In many ways, I wasn't completely expecting the story within Noble Intentions. I simply haven't encountered many arranged marriages or partnerships in the m/m genre, so even though the blurb mentions it, it still caught me a bit off guard when it came up in the book. Honestly the whole idea put me off the story a little bit. However, it ended up working out better than I anticipated. I appreciated how the match came about and, as far as arranged relationships go, this one had a fairly natural feel that was plausible.

I liked the characters of Noble Intentions as well. Mr. Grey often creates characters who have an easy and likeable demeanor to them, not overly intense and with good hearts. That's precisely how I viewed Daniel and Robert. There are no other-the-top dramatics or intense scenes, just a sweet romance between two nice and charming characters. The relationship conflicts that arose made sense but weren't drawn out unnecessarily or overly angst. Rather, it presented some hurdles for the couple to navigate as they try to make their arrangement work, ultimately it added some balance between the men and provided opportunity for character growth as well.

As always, I really enjoyed Mr. Nieman's narration style. His relaxed, steady rhythm suited the story perfectly. I thought the two voices he used to delineate between Robert and Daniel worked well for the characters, they weren't caricatures, but different enough to distinguish who was talking during longer dialogue exchanges. In many ways, I think the Mr. Nieman's narration made this book that much more appealing to me. If the story of Noble Intentions intrigues you, or if you are looking for a sweeter romance, this would certainly fit the bill and I most definitely recommend the audiobook version.

Reviewed by Annie from Alpha Book Club

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### **Morgan Skye says**

I'd had this book on my TBR list but hadn't gotten to it by the time the audiobook came out, so I was psyched to listen to it, as I usually read a book before I listen and I consider it a treat to listen to a book for my first exposure to a story.

In general I'm a fan of Andrew Grey and I find his books to be a reliable source of low angst, feel-good romance that you can trust for a solidly enjoyable experience. Some of his stories really touch me and some

are just pleasant, but rarely am I disappointed.

I was disappointed with this.

Part of the reason why – I think – is because the narrator choice was just wrong. I'm actually a fan of Robert Nieman and I find his narrations to be enjoyable most of the time. But he has a specific style and tenor to his voice that really didn't match up with this story and his lack of appropriate accents was glaring.

I don't know how much "artistic license" an author has when choosing a narrator, but I do think someone else would have been a better choice. Nieman used a vague British accent inconsistently for the British characters and gave no Texan accent to Daniel despite the fact that his accent is referenced in the story. He also gave no New York accent to anyone though the story is set in the city for some of the time.

I could have looked that over except that Nieman also has a style that is more rambling and chaotic with speed changes and pauses that aren't always what I'd predict and that can really work in some cases (ie Amy Lane's Clear Water) but didn't work here. He also mispronounced a few words and that always bugs me.

Nieman is easy enough to listen to and the sound quality was fine but I don't think he added to the story.

Now, about the story. I love the premise and I thought Grey did a fair job of making me "believe" these two guys could form a partnership in this day and age based on the idea that they each offered something the other needed. However, Daniel's "need" was weak at best and didn't seem to fit given that he was already leery of "gold-diggers" before he and Robert met. I wanted him to spend more time explaining why Robert's version of gold-digging was okay before he accepted the proposal.

Beyond a very superficial amount of concern regarding distance and the particulars of the partnership there is almost no tension in this story. As a result there is very little chemistry or drive for the relationship on an emotional level either. When our MCs get their HEA it didn't feel "hard won" or even that difficult and I wasn't that invested in the outcome.

I stuck with the story easily enough and wasn't ever tempted to stop, but it wasn't something I'd recommend to a friend either.

All in all it was like bland tea and dry toast – it filled some empty spaces but that's about it.

2.75 rounded to 3 of 5 stars

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### **BTW (Belen) says**

I love a good "arranged marriage" or "matchmaker" romance and this was cute, and delivered in the romance department.

It lagged a little, for me, in the middle, but picked up again towards the end.

What I liked most was that it really didn't require a whole lot of suspension of disbelief from me. It really did seem like it could have gone the way it worked out.

Just a sweet business arrangement turns into true love romance.

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## Veronica of V's Reads says

This review was written for Joyfully Jay Reviews and can be accessed here:

<http://joyfullyjay.com/2017/01/review...>

4.5 Stars.

Robert Ashton is a West Country solicitor with a comfortable law practice helping poor people settle their disputes. He's completely astounded by an inheritance of a London home and country estate from his estranged uncle, the ninth Earl of Hantford. Unfortunately, both properties are in disrepair, and the inheritance taxes are far more than Robert could ever afford to pay. His first instinct is sell the whole bit, but his mother is sentimental over her childhood home; she'd been cut off from the inheritance when her brother objected to her love-match marriage to Robert's father. Instead of selling, she argues, Robert—an out, gay, mid-thirties man—should find a wealthy husband who'd marry him for the courtesy title of "Count Hantford."

Robert thinks it's ludicrous, but his mother signs him up for a matchmaker, and, while in NYC on business, he agrees to meet Daniel.

Daniel Fabian is a self-made wealthy man. He'd attended elite prep schools as a scholarship case, because his mother was widowed and wanted better for her two kids. Daniel never did get on with his snobbish classmates and has felt socially inferior most of his life as a result. He graduated from Columbia, where his homosexuality was accepted, but his pedigree not. Driven by a need to outshine his peers, Daniel's created two fashion-type Internet businesses and both are very lucrative. He's got lots of money, and his 15-year reunion looms on the horizon. He doesn't want to attend, but he doesn't want to be left out again, either. His secretary/confidante convinces him to try a matchmaking service, to find a "catch" of a date to show off. And, Daniel's willing to try. He hasn't had a boyfriend in years, and dating doesn't go so well when you're concerned that people only want you for your money.

Which is why it seems odd, at first, that Daniel will find Robert a viable partner. See, Daniel doesn't want a gold-digger, but he recognizes a kindred spirit in Robert. He admires how Robert uses his education to help those in need, and he respects that Robert's pretty-much upfront regarding the recent upheaval of his life. Plus, there's no denying the mutual attraction. Perhaps they can help each other out. The courtesy title for Daniel in exchange for some investments into Robert's estate—to bring it up-to-date and make it a thriving community-business. Daniel's not willing to throw money into a vanity project; he sees potential profit in getting the land fit to farm, and raising crops and animals—plus turning the house into an attraction for visitors. Robert's a little overwhelmed, but he admires Daniel's business acumen. And, his physical assets. Daniel's skittish about getting his heart mixed up in a business deal, which delays the sexytimes for a while. At least until Daniel visits Robert in England, to see the estate, and determine if they can make a real go of this venture.

This is a really sweet story. I loved the pacing and the careful revelation of character and motivation. Neither man is willing to take advantage of the other. They develop a professional rapport, and that leads to a physical relationship—because the attraction is really high. Daniel relishes his time in England, and it seems all is going well, until problems with his company intrude. Even as that means financial issues for the plans Daniel and Robert made, it doesn't mean the end of things between them. Robert's a rock, right when Daniel

needs him, and vice versa. Their relationship grows in tenderness, and that was lovely to watch. The book spans roughly two months, plenty of time for these two lonely guys to dazzle each other silly.

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### **Soccergypsy says**

I enjoyed this more than I originally anticipated. Where this could have ventured into a cheesy opportunity to just throw sex scenes together and write words around those actions, the author actually took the time to thoughtfully plot out a story and highlight it with the romance and sex. And it worked beautifully.

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### **T.M. Smith says**

"Noble indeed"

Where does Noble Intentions rank among all the audiobooks you've listened to so far?

It was okay. I didn't hate it, but I didn't love it either. At least, not as much as I enjoyed the book.

Which scene was your favorite?

The board room toward the end, very nice.

Was this a book you wanted to listen to all in one sitting?

Not at all and that pains me. I really loved the eBook but the narrator did not do the story justice. I was so confused, more often than not, because he didn't even attempt to use a different accent. My suggestion, skip the audio and read the book, you'll love it.

Robert Ashton's usually boring life is turned upside down and inside out when he learns that he is the new Earl of Hantford after his uncles passing. His mother cut off all contact with her family and Robert has never really met any of them. The title and estates he's inherited aren't exactly up to snuff though. It will take money Robert doesn't have to polish up Historic Ashton Park Estate.

Daniel Fabien is wealthy and successful, but has never garnered the respect he thinks is deserved. Enter the lovely matchmaker for people of Daniel and Robert's status and there just might be a solution to both of their problems. You know what they say... one problem solved, several more arise.

Their marriage of convenience slowly evolves into something more as both men grow quite attached to each other. But neither is certain the other feels the same way. In the middle of Daniel and Robert opening up to each other they learn that the estate will take a bit more time, effort and money than initially expected. And then the bottom falls out when someone tries to steal Daniel's business that he built from the ground up, out from under him.

Grey is getting back to his squishy, sweet, romantic type of story with this new release and I absolutely loved it! I thoroughly enjoyed traveling the journey of friendship, self awareness and, eventually love with these two men. They were very much alike, and yet, quite different. It wasn't all sunshine and roses from the start, they had to work together to figure everything out. But it was worth the wait and was sad when I came to the end, with a sigh and a smile. Definitely a must read. But then, it's Andrew Grey, everything he does is golden.

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## **Mirjam says**

### **Short Review**

MC's rating: 3.5\*

Story rating: 3\*

Heat level rating: 4\*

Romance rating: 3\*

Story wrap up rating: 3.5\*

Overall rating: 3\*

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## **Anke says**

I liked this book a lot. It took the storyline of a M/F historical and moved it into an engaging M/M contemporary, thankfully without too much drama. Yes, a few hurdles on the way to the happy ending, but that was to be expected. I only found that the nearer the ending came the more the story lost it's way. Somehow it fizzled out.

Therefore 4 stars.

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