


A man with dark curly hair and a beard, wearing a white shirt and a dark vest, is embracing a woman with blonde hair in a bun, wearing a blue dress. They are in a close, intimate pose, looking at each other. The background is dark and out of focus.

The
LOST
HEIRESS

*A HISTORICAL DRAMA
BY ANNIKA LEE*



LOGLINE.

*In Victorian England, power and patriarchy rule
—but one ambitious woman will turn it all
upside down to chase the man she loves... by
conning her way into the highest of high society.*

*Will her lies bring her everything she wanted—
or ruin her chances at happiness?*

SYNOPSIS.

Janie O'Farrell comes from the humblest of beginnings, but her wit and charm have brought her far... Far enough to have a chance meeting with a man she thought would never spare her a second glance. The Duke Huntingdon not only steps in when an old enemy threatens her—he spares his time and attention and listens to her story. He's kind, noble, and most importantly, single. Now Jane wants nothing more than to see him again. But she's a woman, and poor, so all society is set against her advancement. What's a girl to do but fake it till she makes it?

Jane assumes a new identity, traveling to London as the long-lost heiress of the Fortune merchant family, all lost at sea—or so everyone thought. As Felicity Fortune, Janie lies, cons, and flirts her way through high society. Along the way, she makes allies, friends, and a plethora of enemies who yearn to tear her down. But how long can her facade last? And will the Duke still want her when her tower of lies comes crumbling down?



CHARACTERS.

Janie O'Farrell (24)

Janie is fierce, smart, and not above lying to get what she wants. She's done it all, from washerwoman to maid to brothel employee. And frankly, it's all terrible. What she wants—what she deserves—is the life of leisure that less witty, less charming women have simply by virtue of birth. So when the opportunity arises to chase Duke Huntingdon to London, posing as Felicity Fortune, long-lost heiress of the Fortune family, er, family fortune, Janie doesn't miss a beat. She can lie her way through anything: what's a little fraud on top of that?

For all her conniving, Janie is a champion of the underdog and a best friend to those truly in need. She will steal for her friends, lie for a sister, and poison a creepy man who was asking for it. But she will have to use every weapon in her arsenal to stay on top of high society's schemes, which are even more wicked than a mind like hers could've anticipated. Along the way, she may discover that Huntingdon is not the prize she's truly after—and that freedom, her north star, is slipping away from her grasp...

A man in a blue suit is sitting in a dark wooden chair, looking thoughtful. He is holding a small object in his hand. The background is a blurred interior setting.

CHARACTERS.

Nicholas, Duke of Huntingdon (30)

Nicholas is a bachelor, one of the most eligible in all England, and a bit vain about it to boot. But for all his money (and there's a lot of it), Nicholas is unhappy in London society. He frequently flees North just to get away from it all, and dresses up as a peasant just to try and understand the common man. But understanding eludes him. Perhaps his wealth is the problem, and his birth has condemned him to misery.

Meeting a sweet washerwoman named Janie in the North changes his life. For the first time, Nicholas feels heard, understood—wanted for who he *is* more than what he can give. He leaves the encounter convinced he has what he needs to be a better man.

Imagine his surprise when Janie reappears in London as the lost heiress of the Fortune family. Nicholas's feelings for her persist—but they're at odds with his newfound need to not be defined by his wealth. Felicity Fortune is a striver and a player of the game. Will Nicholas's love for her keep him embroiled in society's darkneses for the rest of his life, or will he find another way to his true self?

A woman with dark hair is lying on a light-colored sofa in a dimly lit room. She is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved top and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To her left, a lamp with a warm glow is visible. The background is dark, suggesting a night scene or a room with low lighting.

CHARACTERS.

Clara (28)

Janie's best friend up North, Clara has seen it all like Janie, but is a little more cynical about Janie's ambitions. When did a working-class girl ever get ahead in life, anyway? Survival is what Clara prioritizes. But when Janie starts to succeed, Clara starts to be swayed. In fact, Clara wants in. She heads up Janie's spy recruitment and moves to London to serve as Janie's top informant. But they might not always see eye-to-eye. Will old friendship or new ambitious rule the day?

Frederick "Fred" Marion (34)

A hardscrabble journalist who started out poor, Fred is the first—perhaps the only—to really follow Janie's story to the source. And what he finds out could blow her cover forever. But Fred's also charmed by Janie and finds himself rooting for her success. He blackmails her into giving her access to London's elites, while getting closer to Janie for the sake of his own feelings. He knows that Janie's going to get engaged to Duke Nicholas, and warns her against it: it'll only hasten her downfall if her ascent is too rapid. But Janie's not listening. Fred's influence over her only goes so far.

PILOT.

Janie has a magical chance encounter with the Duke Nicholas—and her friends, the underdogs, thieves, and prostitutes of Manchester—are both thrilled and worried for her. When Janie learns that Nicholas is going to London, she concocts a plan to get everything she wanted in one fell swoop: a man, money, and a title. If she can pull it off, it'll be legendary. If she fails, they might kill her. Probably. Shouldn't the punishment be a little lesser for girls?

Janie dons the disguise of Felicity Fortune, who was thought dead at sea age 11, over ten years ago, with her entire wealthy family. To the who's who of London, Janie spins a tale so alluring, so wondrous, and so detailed that some people start to believe her, while others start to hate her. Opinions are published in every newspaper; gossips ring her doorbell. She becomes the talk of every town.

Her rocket-fuel rise to the top places her in the Duke's path again at a ball. He remembers her as Janie, but she has to convince him she's Felicity. Nicholas reluctantly accepts her story, and Felicity dances with him, the belle of the ball ensnaring her unknowing victim.

SEASON ONE.

Janie's rise to the top can't go on like this forever. Before too long, blackmail comes her way in the form of journalist Fred Marion. Fred wants access to everyone. Felicity wants what he knows to stay hush-hush. They strike a deal, but Nicholas grows suspicious. Just who is Janie—er, Felicity—spending time with? And why does she sometimes slip into a Manchurian accent?

Janie needs friends, and what she needs, she gets. She imports her Northern friends to London to act as her own personal spy empire. Some of her spies work at London's brothels, other as maids and manservants. Before long she's uncovering blackmail of her own to use against those who would threaten her. Unfortunately, her spying also uncovers secrets Nicholas would rather keep secret, such as him being a bastard. Janie might have just found an explosive that could blow up all London society, and Nicholas's hereditary line too, should the secret get out.

Nicholas wars with himself and decides to propose to Janie-Felicity. Felicity holds him off, starting to wonder if she could get a better offer. Fred Marion digs deeper, and Janie's spies grow restless as she becomes a petty dictator.

Someone is going to have to come out on top. But it might not be who Janie thinks it will be.

FUTURE SEASONS.

Janie discovers that she's not the only person whose life is built on lies. Previous enemies turn into reluctant allies as bigger enemies draw near. Her spy network—once used and abused for her own good—fractures, using her own childhood secrets against her. Rival ambitious women fight for the favor of Queen Victoria. Meanwhile, Janie and Nicholas learn that soulmates aren't a real thing, and that their engagement is built on lie after lie after lie. If they can't trust each other, who else will they turn to? Who is waiting in the wings to comfort them?

Queen Victoria is entranced by the tale of Felicity and invites her to the palace. The spy network Janie once operated turns to revolution. Nicholas's holdings in the Americas are threatened by slave uprisings; Nicholas realizes that his wealth is built on, well, human trafficking. Will he have a crisis of conscience, or continue life as it was like everyone else in his social circle? Perhaps revolution is inevitable... Perhaps other people have a stake in what he chooses to do next.

Janie's rapid rise precedes an even more rapid fall. Disgraced, will Nicholas still marry her? What will they lose to be together?



MEETS



WHY NOW / AUTHOR'S STATEMENT.


I am a self-admitted Jane Austen nut and a Bridgerton stan. But the genre is missing something: namely, messy, toxic women who bring everyone in their orbit down with them. The Anna Delvey of historical drama, if you will. With respect to the 12th Jane Austen adaptation I just saw, it's time we said "no" to the old and "hell yeah" to the less old. Here it is: we're blowing up Regency romance. There will be bombs, both literal and metaphorical.

We're in Victorian England, which means we can have fun with innovations in technology, plus some crazy ideas like feminism and slave abolition. We can talk about the Industrial Revolution, and all the changes it wrought in the daily lives of the lower and upper classes. Into its midst, we throw Janie and Nicholas, star-crossed lovers who are all wrong for each other. She's a bit of a bitch, he's a bit of a wuss. But they have such chemistry! The sex is too good to stop! And so it goes. Chaos and explosions. Drama for the ages.

Janie is both wish fulfillment and a cathartic, primal-scream downfall of a woman, all rolled into one. Born with less than nothing, she gains everything through lies, fraud, and subterfuge. But who wouldn't do it, with a little less of that thing we call conscience? Wouldn't we all take the Anna Delvey route if we weren't such damnable cowards? So we watch Janie plant the seeds of her own destruction even as she gallivants across England charming the masses, with a reluctant but in-love Nicholas in tow.

I believe there's a time for everything, and now is the time for Janie to blow her life up in our faces. I promise it'll be sexy, chaotic fun—the perfect antidote to snoozefest prestige TV and the stupid banality of modern life.

With love, and Janie-like enthusiastic chaos,
Annika Lee - 30 June 2026



THANK YOU.

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