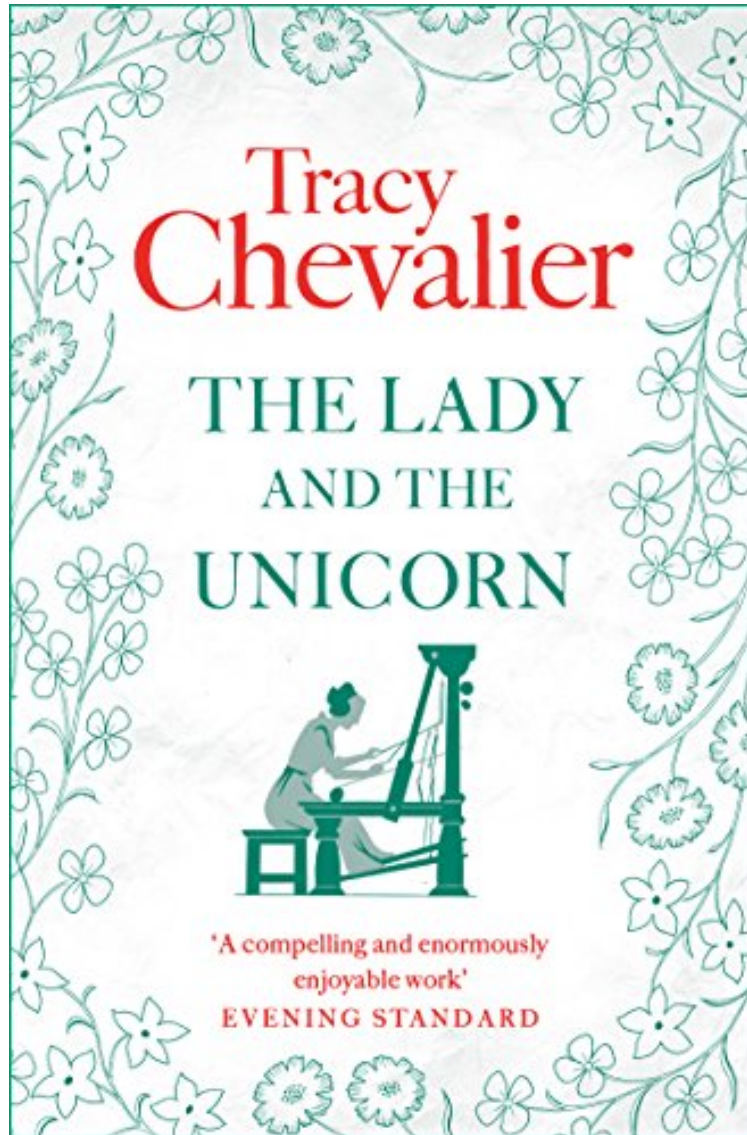


The Lady and the Unicorn

Von Tracy Chevalier

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Von Tracy Chevalier : The Lady and the Unicorn before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lady and the Unicorn:

Kurzbeschreibung From the bestselling author of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* comes a historical tale of love, sex and revenge. Keen to demonstrate his new-found favour with the King, rising nobleman Jean Le Viste commissions six tapestries to adorn the walls of his chateau. He expects soldiers and bloody battlefields. But artist Nicolas des Innocents instead designs a seductive world of women, unicorns and flowers, using as his muses Le Viste's wife Genevive and ripe young daughter Claude. In Belgium, as his designs spring to life under the weavers' fingers, Nicolas is inspired once more by the master weaver's daughter Alinor and her mother Christine. They too will be captured in his threads. . . . If you think you wouldn't raise your skirts for a rakish legend about the purifying powers of a unicorn's horn, then maybe you aren't a 15th-century serving girl under the sway of a velvet-tongued court painter of ill repute. In keeping with her bestselling *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, and its Edwardian-era follow-up, *Falling Angels*, Tracy Chevalier's tale of artistic creation and late-medieval amours, *The Lady and the Unicorn* is a subtle study in social power and the conflicts between love and duty. Nicolas des Innocents has been commissioned by the Parisian nobleman Jean Le Viste to design a series of large tapestries for his great hall (in real life, the famous *Lady and the Unicorn* cycle, now in Paris's Musee National du Moyen-Age Thermes de Cluny). While Nicolas is measuring the walls, he meets a beautiful girl who turns out to be Jean Le Viste's daughter. Their passion is impossible for their world--so forbidden, given their class differences, that its only avenue of expression turns out to be those magnificent tapestries. The historical evidence on which this story is based is slight enough to allow the full play of Chevalier's imagination in this cleverly woven tale. --Regina Marler, .com.co.uk

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