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Crowned And Dangerous (A Royal Spyness Mystery)



Synopsis

Nothing is simple when youâ™re thirty-fifth in line for the British crown, least of all marriage. But with love on their side, and plans to elope, Lady Georgiana Rannoch and her beau Darcy Oâ™Mara hope to bypass a few royal rules...With Darcy driving me out of London in a borrowed motor car, I soon discover that he isnâ™t planning to introduce me to the pleasures of sinning in secretâ”as I had hopedâ”but to make me his wife!Â Of course, there are some quibbles to be dealt with, such as my needing special permission from the King to marry a Roman Catholic and the question of where we might live after the honeymoon. Though he will inherit a title, Darcy is as broke as I am. Even his familyâ™s Irish castle has been sold to a rich American who now employs Darcyâ™s father as a hired hand.Â Throwing these cares to the wind, nothing could deter us from our missionâ”except perhaps the news that my future father-in-law has just been arrested. It seems the rich American was murdered and Darcyâ™s father had more than enough motive to do the deed. With the elopement postponed, we head for Ireland where he insists heâ™s innocent, and itâ™s up to us to prove itâ”for better or worse.

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of Rhys Bowen's books for a couple of years, and I always look forward to new releases. All of her books are lovely, but I must admit that her Royal Spyness series is my favorite. If you're not familiar with this series, here's a brief explanation: the books take place in 1930s England, and Georgiana Rannoch is 35th in line for the throne. She is an astute young woman, and she often receives royal requests for help. Of course, one cannot refuse the Queen of England. Georgie has all sorts of adventures, and solves mysteries. *Crowned and Dangerous* is the 10th book in the Royal Spyness series. When we last encountered our heroine Georgie, she was attending the wedding of her cousin Prince George to Princess Marina. As the story begins, she has been swept away by her enigmatic beau Darcy O'Mara, who after several years of casual dating, intends to take her to Gretna Green and marry her. Alas, fate intervenes and Darcy sees a newspaper bearing grim tidings: his father, Lord Kilhenny has been arrested for the murder of the wealthy American man who bought the Kilhenny estate several years ago. Darcy rushes off to his father's side, and informs Georgie that she is to remain in England, and her involvement in the case would be too scandalous. Those familiar with the series will know that our Georgie is not easily deterred, and so she ventures over to Ireland, determined to stand by her beloved and to prove his father's innocence. The mystery portion of the book is rather interesting because Georgie and Darcy do not really have access to the crime scene. They have to rely on the facts of the case, and the prognosis seems rather grim since the accused claims he was drunk and does not really remember anything.

This 10th series installment picks up right where book #9 left off, with Darcy and Lady Georgiana on their way to Gretna Green for a spur-of-the-moment elopement. Alas, it's not meant to be – their nuptials are placed on hold when Darcy must return to Ireland when his father is arrested and charged with murder. If Georgie ever wants to be Mrs. Darcy O'Mara she's going to have to put her sleuthing skills to good use by clearing Lord Kilhenny of the crime and finding out who the real murderer is – assuming Lord Kilhenny isn't actually guilty, that is. I enjoyed Lady Georgiana's latest escapade, which takes place in Ireland and introduces us to Darcy's irascible father. Georgie is beginning to show some promise as an amateur sleuth, no longer just bumbling along but actually showing some investigative skills. The mystery itself is engaging and takes a few unexpected turns (though keep in mind that this falls firmly in the cozy category – you've got to be willing to suspend disbelief). We're introduced to some new characters, including a glamorous Russian Princess and Darcy's endearingly eccentric relatives.

Georgie's charming first person narrative is witty and humorous and gives us a peek at the often antiquated social mores of the upper classes. If you're not familiar with this series, it chronicles the trials and tribulations of a minor British Royal in the days leading up to WWII. Lady Georgiana may be 35th in line to the throne, but she's flat broke and trying to make a way for herself in a world where even the most minor royals are not expected to work – what's a Lady to do? Solve mysteries, of course! No strong language or sexual content. This is the 10th book in the series and really isn't the place to start.

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