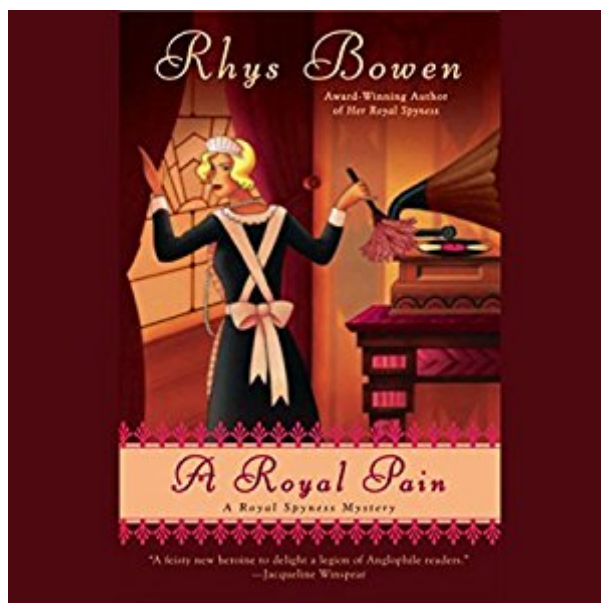


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A Royal Pain



Synopsis

The Queen of England has concocted a plan in which penniless aristocrat Lady Georgie is to entertain a Bavarian princess and conveniently place her in the playboy prince's path, in the hopes that he might finally marry. But queens never take money into account. Georgie has very little, which is why she moonlights as a maid-in-disguise. She must draw up plans: clean house to make it look like a palace; have Granddad and her neighbor pretend to be the domestic staff; un-teach Princess Hanni the English she's culled from American gangster movies; cure said princess of her embarrassing shoplifting habit; and keep an eye on her at parties. Then there's the worrying matter of the body in the bookshop and Hannis' unwitting involvement with the Communist Party. It's enough to drive a girl crazy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy the Royal Spyness mysteries but would enjoy them more if there weren't so many murders. What I like about them is the descriptions of the physical and social settings, the central characters, and the dialogue -- Rhys Bowen is great at those. I'd be happy if the mystery were just how to recover the Queen's snuffbox and skip the murders altogether.

When you are 34th from the royal crown and your family's estate in Scotland is relatively poor, you are a bit short on options. So Lady Georgianna Rannoch decides to find her way on her own. Unfortunately the economy of Britain is weak and many are looking for the few jobs. As a way of

earning a few bob, she goes into business, opening the London houses of her aristocratic friends; on the side, she does odd jobs for the queen. In this book she is asked to chaperone a Bavarian princess, but then a series of suspicious deaths occur, and Georgie is asked to find out what is going on. This is looking like a fine series. Georgie is a strong character who is trying to discover a life other than just getting married. The supporting cast is also engaging: her grandfather (on her plebeian side) is an ex-cop. While it would provide a bit more back story to read book 1 first, it would be fine to just dive in on this one.

I love the wit and wisdom in this series. Amidst all the laugh-inducing lines and scenes, Bowen gives her readers a real sense of England in the 1930s. I'm not just talking about the Queen trying to steer her son away from the horrifyingly unsuitable American divorcee either. The cars, the clothes, the attitudes, the lingering effects of World War I, Communism, the rise of the Nazi Party... it's all here, wrapped up in a romp of a book (and series) that Bowen has to love writing. Readers also get a glimpse into the life of the royals from meals to telephones to acquiring antiques. Georgie is such a fun main character. She's been brought up, not to be useful, but to be "thirty-fourth in line to the throne." Nevertheless she's twenty-two and wants her independence from the drafty ancestral castle in Scotland, so she's learning how to cope in London on very little money. She may have been raised to be ornamental, but she's got a good head on her shoulders and thinks on her feet-- which is a good thing because between her own proclivities and those of the Queen, she finds herself in some amazing situations. Georgie's not the only character who shines. Her glamorous actress mother who left that castle years ago for a procession of handsome and wealthy men slinks through her scenes oozing sex appeal and style. Her retired policeman grandfather is a treat as is his next-door neighbor Mrs. Hetty Huggins, a woman who never met an H she couldn't drop. And then there's that incredibly handsome (and penniless) Darcy O'Mara who makes Georgie's heart flutter and always seems to be around when he's needed most. Although I don't care much for romance in my mysteries, I have to admit that I like keeping an eye on this relationship. If you're in the mood to have fun, Rhys Bowen's Her Royal Spyness series is the one for you!

Georgiana has been asked by the Queen to have a Princess Hannelore from Bavaria as a house guest. She is 18; is just out of a convent and will be accompanied by a Baroness. Georgie has been living alone at Rannock House and has no money to hire staff or for food. Her maternal Grandfather comes to her aid. There are a number of accidents and a couple of bodies. The ending is a surprise. I thoroughly enjoy these stories so I have a lot of good reading ahead.

This is my 2nd in this series. Lady Georgiana, 34th in line for the English crown, once again embarks on a mission for Queen Mary. This time Lady Georgiana comes into contact with communists, a young princess from Bavaria, and more of her royal and noble friends. I must say that I'm enjoying the sleuthing and, even better, getting to familiarize myself with the English countryside, which I have always wanted to tour.

This book has won my heart and thus am very enthused about the entire series. This particular novel had suspense, humor, romance, Bavarian Princesses, gossip about the Royal family and more. In fact to tell you about some of the events would lead to my having to issue a spoiler alert. What did I think? I think that Lady Georgie is spiffy and adorable. She is a super sleuth, in that she acts as you would imagine a 'royal' would in her place. The setting is very interesting and gives you the flavor of what life was like in London, Essex, etc. in the early 1930's. I am trying to pace myself as Ms. Bowen must take a rest in-between novels, (although one wishes not,) and we do want her to continue this excellent literary adventure for us.

Like all the "Royal Spyness" books it is a cozy little English mystery. The author is a very good writer and Georgie is a lovable, endearing heroine. I like the author's sense of humor and laugh often when I read a "Royal Spyness" book. There is a lot of humor generated by making fun of the Germans, the Americans, the French, the Italians and of course the English nobility. However, there is a sameness to the books in this series, more so than most series, that will probably limit how many I eventually read.

The story continues!! Enjoyed book #1...enjoyed this one as well! I highly recommend that this series be read in order as events from book one surface in book two and the reader might not fully understand right away. Historical references are spot on. A pleasure to read.

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