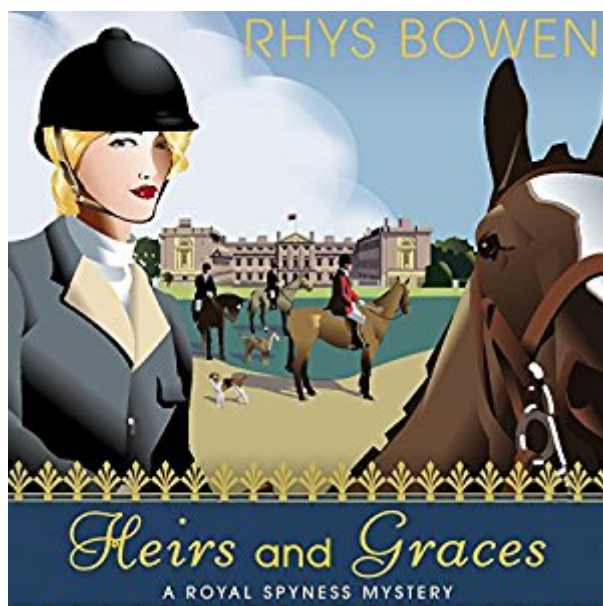


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Heirs And Graces: A Royal Spyness Mystery



Synopsis

Audie Award Finalist, Mystery, 2014 As 35th in line for the throne, Lady Georgiana Rannoch may not be the most sophisticated young woman, but she knows her table manners. It's forks on the left, knives on the right - not in His Majesty's back.... "Here I am thinking the education I received at my posh Swiss finishing school would never come in handy. And while it hasn't landed me a job, or a husband, it has convinced Her Majesty the Queen and the Dowager Duchess to enlist my help. I have been entrusted with grooming Jack Altringham - the Duke's newly discovered heir fresh from the Outback of Australia - for high society. The upside is I am to live in luxury at one of England's most gorgeous stately homes. But upon arrival at Kingsdowne Place, my dearest Darcy has been sent to fetch Jack, leaving me stuck in a manor full of miscreants...none of whom are too pleased with the discovery of my new ward. And no sooner has the lad been retrieved than the Duke announces he wants to choose his own heir. With the house in a hubbub over the news, Jack's hunting knife somehow finds its way into the Duke's back. Eyes fall, backs turn, and fingers point to the young heir. As if the rascal wasn't enough of a handful, now he's suspected of murder. Jack may be wild, but I'd bet the crown jewels it wasn't he who killed the Duke...."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Rhys Bowen's historical mysteries, Her Royal Spyness Mysteries, are some of my very favorite historical mysteries. They are sweet and sassy, smart and thrilling. The latest in the series, Heirs and Graces, tops off the series with amateur sleuth, Lady Georgiana Rannoch, yet again in the middle of a murder scene! Lady Georgiana is bored in the city and unable to bear the thought of

visiting her brother at his Scottish castle (which is far too drafty with an unbearable sister-in-law included). The perfect opportunity to leave the city comes when Her Majesty the Queen asks Georgiana to help the dowager duchess groom a new heir - a heir that has been discovered in Outback Australia. As Georgiana tries to show Jack Altringham proper table manners, the dowager duchess's son looks on in disgust. When her son, Cedric, shows up with a knife in his back, everyone points their finger at Jack as the murderer. It is going to take a lot of help from Georgiana and her dearest Darcy to keep Jack out of the gallows! I am a diehard Agatha Christie fan. I love my English cozies and I'm also Australian by birth. *Heirs and Graces* comes very close to being the most absolutely perfect cozy mystery that I've ever read. In fact page after page I almost felt like it was written just for me. It had a thrilling mystery and a fantastic returning cast. In the previous books I've always enjoyed reading about Georgiana's best friend, Belinda's exploits, as she does all she can to snag a rich man, without actually marrying him. Belinda and Queenie, Georgiana's maid, are back with lots of laughs and giggles. However it was Jack Altringham who completely stole the show. From his lack of table manners to his inability to fit into the royal ways (and not wanting to fit in) he was a perfect addition to this great cast. His Aussie slang was spot on and he made an already fantastic mystery series even better! With a few stolen romantic moments between Georgiana and Darcy (isn't that the most perfect male name ever?), a compelling mystery and an English country setting, *Heirs and Graces* was a dynamite read and one that I strongly recommend be on your summer reading list.

This book began with good promise of a nice, juicy manor house mystery. Then it just sort of petered out as if the author ran out of ideas in fleshing out the plot. Lady Georgiana, the main character, was invited to spend time at a lovely manor house teaching the newly discovered heir to the manor the ins and outs of etiquette and behavior expected of a Duke. She spends barely any time with Jack, the future Duke. She soon discovers the murdered body of the current-and-now-ex-Duke and spends the rest of the story gathering clues and passing them off to the police inspector in charge of the investigation. The supporting characters who usually appear in the *Royal Spyness Mysteries* make their short and uneventful appearances, as if they were an afterthought. And the ending really didn't seem to suit the plot at all. Even with these detractions, I would have found this a good, fluffy mystery if the relationship between Jack and Georgiana had included more substance and a bit of light hearted comedy. Perhaps even a bit of rivalry for Georgiana's affections between Jack and her current beau, Darcy. Unexplained results of a *sally* are just left behind as if they were never mentioned. Even the discovery of a secret passage goes by the

wayside. As it is, this installment to the series seemed to me to be an interesting beginning to a knitting project left unraveled and unfinished. Ah, well.... In the dedication, the author mentions falling and breaking her hip. Perhaps Ms Bowen was just not feeling well. I will look for the next installment and am really hoping for a return to the pleasant twists and turns of a well plotted and fleshed out mystery with the gentle humor and intelligence I have come to expect from a Rhys Bowen mystery.

Fans of Rhys Bowen's Lady Georgiana Rannock will delight in devouring this latest in the series. All your favorites are on scene as Lady Georgie reasons her way through the latest bizarre murder, this time set at a lovely English country estate. And to Georgie's delight, there is plenty of delicious food and even better, her even more delicious beau, Darcy. New characters are well developed and believable. Descriptions of the palatial home and grounds take you there. Ms. Bowen is at her best and her gift for a humorous turn of phrase provides a welcome laugh at unexpected times. My only complaint is it will be SUCH a long wait until the next installment. Bravo, Ms. Bowen!

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