



With His Lady's Assistance

Cheryl Bolen

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(Book 1 in The Regent Mysteries Series)

Humorous Regency Romance Mystery

Sensuality Level: Sweet

Approximate word count: 82,000

To help him mingle in the highest echelons of English society to investigate threats on the Prince Regent's life, super spy Captain Jack Dryden must feign an engagement to the exceedingly plain spinster, Lady Daphne Chalmers. Together they embark on an investigation which brings them into grave peril – and makes the captain reevaluate the skinny maiden who has a most amorous effect upon him.

With His Lady's Assistance Details

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From Reader Review With His Lady's Assistance for online ebook

Teresa Williams says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! I loved how Lady Daphne and Captain Jack Dryden both had moral values above the norm of the day, and fell in love with each other's intelligence, honor, and moral fiber over their looks. And then she became beautiful to him, and he "worthy" of her.

Jo (Mixed Book Bag) says

This was on my wish list and on my last Amazon order I decided to give it a try. I am glad I did as it is very entertaining. There is great dialog, a good mystery and some romance. It is listed as a Humorous Regency Romance Mystery and it is. This is the first of a new series and I am waiting for A Most Discreet Inquiry, book 2 due out in August.

Sharyn says

An enjoyable read, a free bookbub read on my phone. Liked the historical bits , the very intelligent heroine, and the adorably straight laced hero. Will look for the other books in the series. Keeping track of the adulterous relationships was quite fun, especially after reading some of the biographies of the time, like "Duchess of Devonshire". Very fascinating, yet quite sad in a way. Anyway, Regency, mystery, love story very neatly wrapped up with quite a bit of humor. Lady Dafne presents her "fiance" by saying he is a South African diamond mine owner who can speak Bantu and Hottentot, so of course people keep asking him to speak the languages. Just a cute little story line.

Elaine says

A very well written story. I admit I was gripped by the plot, as I love anything to do with Prinny. Lovely characters and a very nice balanced book. Very enjoyable read.

Diana Aden says

A Charming 3 1/2 Star Read.

Captain Jack Dryden, a master spy for England, is called back home by the Prince Regent to find out who has been making attempts on the Regent's life. Jack must assume an alias and has to rely on the Regent's suggestion of Lady Daphne Chalmers to aide him in his entry into society so he can covertly investigate them. Their subterfuge must remain a secret. He enters into a "faux" betrothal with Lady Daphne. The betrothal overjoys her parents as they didn't expect her to marry. Lady Daphne is a spinster, wears spectacles, is tall and very thin. Jack and Daphne working together is like "oil and water."

The storyline is believable, there are two engaging characters, witty dialogue, historical figures, mystery, adventure, and some laugh out loud moments which are all woven together in this charming regency romance. Good job Ms.Bolen.

Regan Walker says

A Fun Regency Romp!

Set in 1813, this tells the story of Captain Jack Dryden of the 14th Light Dragoons, who is drafted by the Prince Regent to find the person trying to kill him. Jack, it seems, has some experience as a spy.

To enable Jack mingle among the aristocrats so he can identify the Prince's enemies, the Prince solicits the aid of Lady Daphne Chalmers, the oldest of Lord Sidworth's daughters. Daphne is well connected and intelligent, but no beauty. Jack finds her very clever.

Together they embark on an investigation that leads them down some rabbit trails and in the process, Jack decides there is more to Lady Daphne than her mind, which ain't so bad either. And, there is one person who wants Jack dead, which makes for some exciting scenes toward the end.

I loved their banter and the look at Regency Society Bolen so accurately paints. There are lots of historic figures populating the story and a candid look at the infidelity that was rife in the Regency among the higher classes.

It's a well-researched, thoroughly enjoyable, sweet read.

The Regent Mysteries Series:

With His Lady's Assistance

A Most Discreet Inquiry

The Theft Before Christmas

An Egyptian Affair

Kat says

I knew that, starting this book, I needed a few free hours so I had the chance to finish it in one sitting. It didn't quite work out like that but every free minute, let me tell you!

I wanted to get into lady spies novels for some time now - actually, I was fine with regency spy novels, this one being a lady was just a bonus.

So, I had certain expectations. Some were met. Some were disappointed.

I loved the trust Jack placed in Daphne, definitely. In some ways unexpected. I really had expected him to lead the investigation and her answering all his questions. It seemed more like the other way round. She was the leader of the entire thing and he had to do her bidding, so, unlike the title suggests, it is all happening With Her Captain's Assistance.

Big. Thumb. Up.

The romance didn't come short, lucky me. I didn't quite like how she lost confidence at some point, but it all worked out - I'm not spoiling anyone by saying that, am I?

Dancer says

To help him mingle in the highest echelons of English society to investigate threats on the Prince Regent's life, super spy Captain Jack Dryden must feign an engagement to the exceedingly plain spinster, Lady Daphne Chalmers. Together they embark on an investigation which brings them into grave peril – and makes the captain reevaluate the skinny maiden who has a most amorous effect upon him.

The plot line has some basis in history, but is VERY LOOSELY incorporated, especially the parts that deal with the personal aspects of Prinny's life. The thing that saves this story line is the humor and how Lady Daphne totally befuddles Captain Jack.

Sara Reads (mostly) LOTS of Romance says

First time I read a book that was mostly mystery and the romance was probably equal to the level of mystery. Also, this was sweet and filled with sexual tension, but no sex. Lol I'm trash so naturally, I was quite disappointed there. But, it was well written, fun and I honestly had no idea who the who0dunnit was and was pleasantly surprised. I found myself interested in the plot as well as the progression of their romance.

Deb Diem says

With His Lady's Assistance is a phenomenal historical romance by Cheryl Bolen. Ms. Bolen has delivered a well-written book. The characters are outstanding, I love them. Jack has been called by from the war to find the person trying to kill the prince. Daphne is a spinster that knows everyone and she is secretly helping Jack. Their story is loaded with drama, action, humor, suspense and of course, spice. This book held me captive from the first page to the last and I look forward to my next book by Cheryl Bolen. With His Lady's Assistance is book 1 of The Regent Mysteries Series but can be read as a standalone. This is a complete book, not a cliff-hanger.

M.A. Nichols says

I'm calling it. I can't do it anymore. I'm about halfway through, and I can't finish it. I don't think there's anything I like about this book.

First, this isn't a clean romance. I don't care what it is being shelved as. It ain't clean. Granted, there's no sex scenes in the book, but I have a hard time categorizing a book as "clean" or "sweet" when almost the entire story revolves around sex. It's not just that everyone (and I mean everyone!) is having affairs and are sleeping around. It's that they're constantly talking about sexuality and sexual allure. I finally gave up after the hero went into graphic detail about what he wanted to do to the heroine. It may not be as hot and heavy

as the steamy romances, but I've read steamy romances that have far less fixation on the sexual tension between the main characters. At no point, do I think that a book can be categorized as clean while it also has multiple references to the hero's erection.

Second, the story is ridiculous. In the interest of full disclosure, I'm not a fan of the silly spy romances. However, I have enjoyed them from time to time if done right. This one was not done right. So much of the plotline feels like a cheesy Lifetime movie.

Third, the spinster. I am a sucker for a clean spinster romance, which is why I overlooked the spy storyline and picked the book up in the first place. However, I am getting real sick and tired of authors who know nothing of Regency culture claiming a girl is a spinster at the age of 24. Please! It's one thing for characters to worry about becoming a spinster, but if you do a little research, you'll see that the average age for marriage in that era was right around 24. So, it grates on my nerves when authors try to paint these young girls as hopeless spinsters when society wouldn't have viewed them as that back then. From what I've found, a woman isn't generally considered that until 30.

But that could have been forgiven if this hadn't been one of those ridiculous "transformation" spinsters. She's plain and ugly, and then she puts on the right gown and brushes her hair for once, and suddenly she's considered the most gorgeous woman in the room. Ugh.

Both of these issues are my biggest pet peeves for the spinster heroine.

Fourth and finally, the writing itself. It's a Regency that struggles to maintain its Regency language. It has enough to know that the author is trying, but not consistently enough to be enjoyable. It's like listening to an actor try a foreign accent and hitting it only half the time. The language isn't as bad as Keanu Reeves doing a British accent, but it's enough that I found it distracting. There's a lot of things that are spoken about and words that are used that are completely anachronistic to the era, yet at other times the author uses very era-specific words that tells me she's trying, but not enough to be consistent. For example, sometimes she uses euphemisms for all the sexy talk she throws in there and other times she uses very modern language to describe the exact same things. Very distracting.

In summary, there wasn't anything I liked in this. I've decided I needed to cut myself off before this started becoming a rant. Honestly, I don't know how people have rated this one so well. The content is racy enough not to appeal to those who like clean books (including at least a couple uses of the f-word). The historical and cultural accuracy isn't consistent enough to appeal of fans of the Regency era. The plot isn't unique enough to make it an engaging or mysterious read.

Taylor says

Despite other slightly blasé reviews, I genuinely liked this novel from start to finish. I found the characters endearing, and the mystery intriguing enough. I will most certainly be looking forward to reading the following books in this series. :)

Hafiza says

More Regency Romance than a true mystery.
Both hero and heroine were cute.
She is a plain, spectacle wearing spinster.
He is a dashing spy.
No graphic details- clean romance.

Joan Osborne says

Clean Recency romance with a touch of mystery

Captain Jack Dryden and Lady Daphne Chalmers are thrown together by the Prince Regent to solve the mystery of who has been making attempts on his life. As they research the possible suspects, The two fall deeply in love but how can a mere Captain in his majorities service hope to marry the daughter of an Earl? This was a wonderful story that kept me riveted throughout and I didn't miss the graphic love scenes that most romance books have at all. Jack was a wonderful and honorable hero and it was nice to have the heroine not be a beautiful paragon but an average looking intelligent woman. I had to admire Jack for seeing past her outwards appearance to the beautiful woman within. If you like clean romance with a touch of mystery, then this book will definitely fit the bill.

Allison says

This was an ok historical romance with a mystery surrounding assassination attempts on the Prince Regent, a dashing captain disguised as a nobleman, and a bluestocking wallflower as his partner. As I said, it was ok - worth the 99 cents, I suppose.

The romance was predictable, and the mystery just went around in circles for most of the book, with a lot depending on feminine intuition and coincidence. When they finally figured it out, the solution came out of the blue. I prefer mysteries that give me enough clues to chew on that I feel like I'm getting somewhere. But, this wasn't really about the mystery, was it?

A couple other things irritated me as well. 'Regency Era' language was overused to the point of ridiculousness. Let's just say I grew exceedingly tired of excessively overdone superlatives that became so numerous as to distract me from the narrative.

Another quibble is that this series is described as being a 'sweet' romance. Although there is no sex, I wouldn't go so far as to call it sweet. There are references to sex and body parts that were definitely beyond sweet. Just a caution for anyone out there who checks for heat ratings like this.
