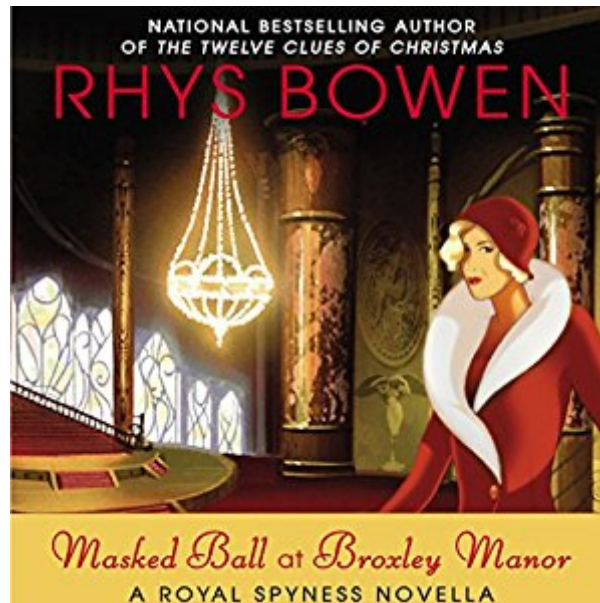




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# Masked Ball At Broxley Manor: A Royal Spyness Novella



## Synopsis

A delectable prequel to the national best-selling Royal Spyness mysteries featuring Lady Georgiana Rannoch - 34th in line to the throne, and England's poorest heiress. At the end of her first unsuccessful season out in society, Lady Georgiana has all but given up on attracting a suitable man - until she receives an invitation to a masked Halloween ball at Broxley Manor. Georgie is uncertain why she was invited, until she learns that the royal family intends to marry her off to a foreign prince, one reputed to be mad. When the prince, dressed as the devil, rescues her from an embarrassing situation at the ball, Georgie is surprised to find her unwanted suitor to be a dashing, charming man - especially when he pulls her aside and gives her the kiss of a lifetime. But as the time comes for the unmasking, Georgie's rescuer vanishes and the party is thrown into chaos, making it clear that everything at Broxley Manor is not as it appears...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When her first debutante season ends without any suitable marriage proposals, nineteen year old Lady Georgiana faces the glum prospect of spending her days stranded in gloomy Rannock House with her penny-pinching sister-in-law, Fig. A surprise invitation to a masked ball at a palatial English manor house presents an interesting (if puzzling) diversion. But when Georgie arrives at Broxley Manor...well, we'll just say that she's in for a devil of a time. I'll start with the obvious: this is a short (under 50 page) story that is a prequel to the first Lady Georgie mystery, Her Royal Spyness (A Royal Spyness Mystery). It's cute and I think that fans of this series will probably enjoy it. I would not recommend it to anyone new to the series. The very short format does not allow for much

character development and it wouldn't make a good introduction to the series (or characters). For those familiar with Lady Georgie you do get a first glimpse at someone who comes to play a big role in Georgie's life. There's also a preview of the latest installment in the series which is due out in November -The Twelve Clues of Christmas. For those not familiar with the "Royal Spyness Mysteries", it is a "cozy" series involving a minor British royal, Lady Georgiana Rannock. The setting is pre-WWII London and Georgie is perpetually broke and always scrambling to make ends meet. It's a nicely written, light mystery series that captures the glamour and absurdity of the period and the British aristocracy. Georgie is a delightful protagonist and her first person narrative is charming. There is no strong language or sexual content. Bottom Line: Cute, but consider the length before purchasing. Personally, I think the \$2.99 pre-order price was too steep, but I knew it was short when I ordered it, and I did enjoy it so I really can't complain.

I have not read any of the other books in this series, and after reading some of the other reviews I was afraid I was making a mistake to read this one first. However, I am a stickler for reading a series in order of the story if I have started it late...which, obviously, I have in this case. It did EXACTLY what I was hoping for. It left me wanting more. Now, I know that I want to invest my time and money in reading this series. Very well done, and ignore the other reviewers who suggest not starting with this novella. If you have any sense upstairs you have the ability to know that this is just a taste of what's to come.

This book is 44 pages long. Very disappointing, just when you think that the story is going some where you are dumped out in the Cold. Very crude way to end the story. I am not usually fooled like this. Makes me unhappy enough to boycott the author. This story ends so obliquely, you could almost say that it is an advertisement. The final line \*\*\*spoiler\*\*\*\* is some thing like "only years later did I realize that the letter was from Mr. X!!". This probably means something to readers who know who Mr. X is, but I do not like paying for a book that is set up for me to buy another book to solve that mystery. VERY FRUSTRATING AND A CHEAT TO READERS?

Georgie is a wonderfully human character and all the novels are fairytales for grownups. This short story gives a bit more of her backstory and leaves the reader with a smile if you've encountered these characters previously. If this is your intro, then I'm sure you'll want to know more about the 34th in line to the crown. I hate reviews that give away the plot, therefore will only say if you enjoy historical fiction, a bit of intrigue, comedy mysteries (cozy mysteries), England bwn the Wars, Pride

and Prejudice, great storytelling, etc this series and this story should be on your list.

If you've enjoyed the misadventures of impoverished royal (thirty fourth in-line to the throne) Lady Georgiana in the Her Royal Spyness series, you'll probably also enjoy this short story prequel. It provides background information that will be interesting to fans, including how Lady Georgiana met enigmatic love interest Darcy, but it's light on plot, characterization and suspense so if you haven't yet read anything else in the Her Royal Spyness series, this isn't the place to start. It's current price of almost three dollars is steep for not much more than twenty minutes of reading, but I needed something light and fun to distract me from Frankenstorm Sandy, and this was a perfect, if brief, solution. As the story opens it's the end of Lady Georgiana's "season". At great expense to her broke though affable brother Binky and his resentful wife Fig, Georgiana has been presented at court (she nearly crashed into Their Majesties because her heel caught in the train of her gown), and she's attended numerous balls and society events, but so far she hasn't had any proposals. That may be about to change when two invitations arrive in the mail to set things in motion. As with the rest of the series, actual and fictional characters mingle on the page, and this story includes a fictional first meeting of Wallis Simpson and Georgiana's cousin David, the future if short reigning King Edward VIII.

I was vastly interested in this period piece. The background on the British Aristocracy was entertaining and educational. I enjoyed the little amount given on the Wallace Simpson marriage and her interest in the duke. Now I have to find more on her life.

This is a fun series. I like Rhys Bowen as a writer. I've learned a lot about the 1920-30's from her books. The characters in this series are likable, most of them. Worth reading for light mysteries.

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