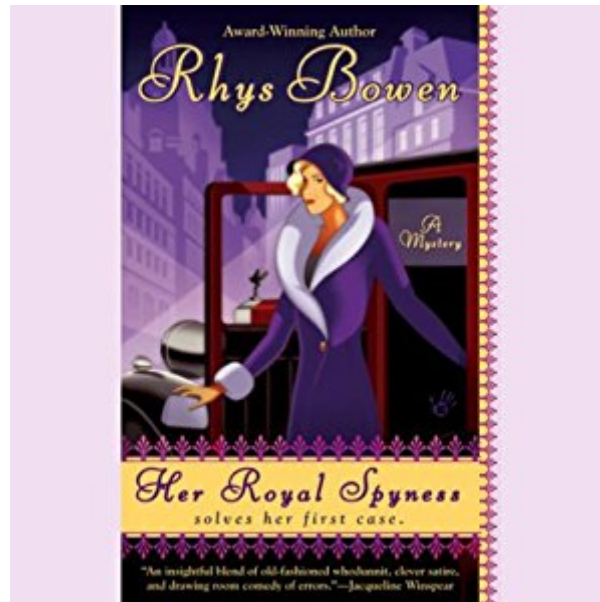




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Her Royal Spyness



Synopsis

Georgie, aka Lady Victoria Georgiana Charlotte Eugenie, cousin of King George V of England, is penniless and trying to survive on her own as an ordinary person in London in 1932. So far she has managed to light a fire and boil an egg... She's gate-crashed a wedding... She's making money by secretly cleaning houses... And she's been asked to spy for Her Majesty the Queen. Everything seems to be going swimmingly until she finds a body in her bathtub... and someone is definitely trying to kill her.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like most of this series of books, I wonder why no one realizes that Georgie has no visible means of support, even though she is 34th in line in the Royal family. She certainly has tried some unsuitable jobs to make ends meet. This particular book takes place in the 1930's where the Prince of Wales is in love with Mrs. Simpson. They do make her out as a handsome woman but rather coarse and certainly unsuitable in other ways than the fact that she is still married. Lots of characters - a devil may care Latin, interested in anything that spells danger (speedy cars, boats) serving as the boyfriend of Belinda, Georgie's friend. Then there is the aviatrix that is the female counterpart of Belinda's boyfriend. Georgie's brother has been injured by stepping on a animal trap (no accident) and the sister-in-law (for once) seems to treat Georgie as an equal since she needs her help in corralling all these weird people in the family Manor. Darcy, Georgie's love interest, pops up now and again. Still have not found out what he does other than be a gentleman, with no visible means of support.

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.

This book is great , the whole series is just wonderful. If you want to just escape the present time, get comfy, and get into the story. In no time you will be transported back in time for a funny ,tense , adventure that will keep you entertained for a longer period of time than you realize. So pick up this book and enjoy. You will not regret.

What sold me on this series as an audiobook was not the writing, which was entertaining in itself, but the performance of the "reader" Katherine Kellgren. She is, hands down, the best audiobook reader/performer I have ever heard, giving each character a distinctive (and authentic) voice. She really makes the book come alive. I was sorry to have the book end, because it was such a delight to listen to.

This is the first of many books by Rhys Bowen, books which I won't be reading. This one is total fluff, like cotton candy. It's fairly silly and the whole bit about spying is scumbled under all kinds of seriously overdone British expressions. The heroine, a practically penniless young woman is 35th in line for the crown. Living in an unpleasant castle which her sister-in-law keeps unheated and grim, our young lady bolts for London to live on her own, meaning no servants to dress her cook for her, start the boiler in the basement, etc. She meets a pair of handsome young men, one a dashing Irishman (also penniless) and the other under the patronage of an elderly duke. Dead body discovered in her bathtub. Repeated life-threatening "accidents", leading her to cleverly suspect someone is trying to kill her. Oh, and her "spying" assignment is from the queen mum who wants her to evaluate Wallace Simpson's character since her son is clearly besotted by her. It ends with a tidy tying up of all mysteries. Meh.

This is the third book in a new cozy mystery series by the author, and it is a winner. This is a charming, funny look at life among the upper crust in 1930s England, as seen through the eyes of Lady Victoria Georgiana Charlotte Eugenie, known as Georgie to those near and dear. Her grandmother was one of Queen Victoria's daughters, making Georgie thirty-fourth in line to the

throne. Georgie is definitely a thoroughly modern Millie, who is currently living alone in her family's New Hyde Park London townhouse, where she fends for herself as best she can. While there, she meets old acquaintances, makes new friends, and feels romantic stirrings for an irresistible and handsome Irish peer. Unfortunately, she is flat broke, as her brother, Binky, cut off her allowance due to a reversal of fortune. So, what is a girl to do, especially a royal who is not supposed to work? Well, having already tried a stint as a cleaning lady, Georgie decides to do something else. What Georgie comes up with is sure to set tongues wagging were members of her set to find out, and it would certainly get the Queen in a tizzy were she to discover Georgie's new occupation and means of support. Apparently, Georgie has decided to advertise herself as an escort, and what she thinks the duties of an escort are is at odds with what her clients think they are. Of course, all this is great fun, and it leads to Georgie being set up on a secret assignment involving the Royal Family by Scotland Yard. So, mystery abounds. There is also a certain amount of hilarity when Georgie is on her family's estate in Scotland, and her brother and sister-in-law are entertaining a group of Americans that includes Ernest and Wallis Simpson. Coincidentally, the Prince of Wales is close by at Balmoral. This leads to a lot of delicious and humorous encounters. As with all cozy mysteries, it is the lives of the characters that propel the story forward. While the mystery is intriguing, it is merely the framework around which the characters evolve. The combination of some history with mystery, as well as a touch of romance, is irresistible. Set within the social mores of the time, all the characters, both downstairs and upstairs, manage to add to the ambience of the book. Those who enjoy cozy British mysteries will find this one to be an entertaining and humorous romp.

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