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A Spy's Devotion (The Regency Spies Of London Book 1)



Synopsis

In England's Regency era, manners and elegance reign in public life—but behind closed doors treason and deception thrive. Nicholas Langdon is no stranger to reserved civility or bloody barbarity. After suffering a battlefield injury, the wealthy, well-connected British officer returns home to heal—and to fulfill a dying soldier's last wish by delivering his coded diary. At the home of the Wilherns, one of England's most powerful families, Langdon attends a lavish ball where he meets their beautiful and intelligent ward, Julia Grey. Determined to maintain propriety, he keeps his distance—until the diary is stolen and all clues lead to Julia's guardian. As Langdon traces an evil plot that could be the nation's undoing, he grows ever more intrigued by the lovely young woman. And when Julia realizes that England—and the man she is falling in love with—need her help, she finds herself caught in the fray. Will the two succumb to their attraction while fighting to save their country?

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Customer Reviews

Lovers of inspirational historical novels won't want to miss Melanie Dickerson's latest offering—her first entry in the Regency genre. My middle and high school students love her

previous books, clever retellings of fairy tales, but I worried that they would find a Regency novel inaccessible. Let me explain. The Regency Era's most famous author "Jane Austen" set the standard for a subgenre that readers either love or don't care for. The humor and pathos of Austen's books rely on the fact that the manners of society play the part of a silent antagonist and provide the context for the humor and angst the characters experience. Most people don't just pick up one of Austen's novels (and books by Georgette Heyer "another acclaimed Regency novelist) and get the subtle humor in the same way that watching an I Love Lucy rerun would only be half as funny to someone who had never lived in the 50s and 60s. Dickerson flawlessly combines her master storytelling skills with the manners and sensibilities of the time period to make the Regency Era accessible and understandable to newcomers to the genre. At the same time, she entertains lovers of all things Jane Austen with a fresh storyline and well-rounded characters. The elements of intrigue and danger keep the reader turning pages as the heroine struggles to come to terms with where her devotion should lie "with the relatives who raised her or with the God who promised to sustain her. Dickerson's well-rounded characters operate within the strictures of the Regency era "when women had few legal rights and opportunities.

Melanie Dickerson's sweeping new Regency novel encompasses a delectable Jane Austen aura and an exquisite charismatic romance. And with the combination of the additional heart-pounding suspense and thrilling pace, you'll be left utterly breathless and completely spellbound! In an era gone by where society was divided by classes and propriety was of the utmost import, Julia, the niece of Robert Wilhern of England's high society, constantly strives to excel in gentility. She hopes it will help her to be accepted and loved without the condescension that accompanies being an unequal to her cousin, Phoebe Wilhern. When the self-absorbed Phoebe sets her heart upon marrying Nicholas Langdon who has temporarily returned from the war due to an injury, she enlists Julia to help garner Nicholas's attention. What is Julia to do except assist her cousin, even while battling against her own intensifying affections for the handsome army officer. It is the way of things, for she has neither title nor worthwhile inheritance. Before Nicholas Langdon returns to the war, he determines to fulfil a dying soldier's wish for Nicholas to deliver a coded diary to a relative. Little did Nicholas realize the significance of the diary concerning England's future or to the danger it held for him and others. When suspicions point towards Julia's uncle, Nicholas must lean on her for help. Together they must stand against the evil intended for their country at enormous risk to themselves. Will they also have the fortitude to protect their hearts as well? It's hard to believe this is author Melanie Dickerson's first Regency novel

for it is a pure masterpiece! I flew through this novel in record time and while I wanted to linger, it was impossible to do so.

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