



## The Mayfair Affair

*Tracy Grant*

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**The Mayfair Affair** Tracy Grant

**March 1818**

In the elegant environs of Mayfair, Malcolm and Suzanne Rannoch live a seemingly charmed life. Malcolm, a former diplomatic attaché and intelligence agent, is a rising Member of Parliament. Suzanne is fast becoming one of London's most sought hostesses. But even their closest friends don't know that the Rannoch's marriage is still reeling from the revelation that Suzanne was a French spy when she met British agent Malcolm and that she married him to gather information on British plans.

Malcolm and Suzanne are hoping for private time to repair their marriage. But their peace is shattered by a late night visit from a Bow Street runner. The powerful Duke of Trenchard has been found murdered in the study of his St. James's Square house. And Laura Dudley, governess to the Rannoch children, was standing over the dying duke.

Malcolm and Suzanne are convinced the woman they trusted with their children is not a killer. To prove Laura's innocence, they are drawn into an investigation that will test their wits and the fragile truce between them. But whether or not she murdered the Duke of Trenchard, Laura Dudley is certainly not what she seemed. Revelations about her identity cut dangerously close to Suzanne's own past. Malcolm and Suzanne realize more is at stake than Laura's life and liberty. The investigation into the Duke of Trenchard's murder will either prove the resilience of their bond—or snap it in two.

## The Mayfair Affair Details

Date : Published May 15th 2015 by NYLA (first published April 1st 2015)

ISBN :

Author : Tracy Grant

Format : Kindle Edition 503 pages

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Mayfair Affair for online ebook

### **aem says**

A little long winded. But a decent read

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### **Jane Irish Nelson says**

Malcolm and Suzanne Rannoch are startled when they are informed that their children's governess, Laura Dudley, has been found at the scene of a murder, with a gun (but not the murder weapon), in the middle of the night. And since Laura won't explain just why she was there, they undertake an investigation. Lord Carfax, the spymaster Malcolm formerly worked for, always requests their assistance, since the murdered man's widow is his daughter. Very complex plot, full of fascinating characters, and details of life during the Regency period in England. While it is not necessary to have read the previous books in this series to enjoy this one, it definitely helps. Highly recommended.

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### **Betty Strohecker says**

This was another wonderful historical mystery by Tracy Grant. Set in London in 1818, Malcolm and Suzanne have their work cut out for them when their governess is arrested for the murder of a prominent aristocrat - a Duke no less. But as usual there is much going on behind the scenes, leaving our fearless investigators to unravel many pieces of the puzzle. It doesn't help that Governess Laura Dudley appears to have been spying on Malcolm and Suzanne, and won't give them any information to help prove her innocence. Still, Suzanne can't believe she made a mistake in trusting Laura with her children, and is determined to get to the truth.

Tracy Grant keeps the reader guessing as clues point to many different people who could have a good reason for killing this despicable man. A letter found at the murder scene also indicates that Suzanne's life may be in danger. This is a real page turner that involves many of the characters that have become a mainstay in this excellent series. Grant sets the stage for her next novel which won't appear until May, 2016. Her fans will be anxiously waiting!

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### **Danielle Gonzalez says**

I think this might be one of my favorite books in this series. The governess to Suzanne and Malcom's children makes a late night visit to a duke, who has been murdered. Since she finds the body, she is arrested and held for the murder. Suzanne and Malcolm realize they know very little about her. But, they believe in their instincts, and their instincts tell them she is innocent and trustworthy. As they hunt for the real killer, they find the deceased really wasn't a nice person. A lot of family secrets are uncovered. As with the other books in this series, I enjoyed the characters, and the story was very interesting. Now that Suzanne's secrets are out, I enjoyed watching Suzanne and Malcolm picking up their relationship where they left off at the previous book. The usual characters are present, though I thought the Davenports had a very small role. I

enjoy their relationship and the friendship they have with the Rannochs. A very enjoyable book, and I look forward to the next adventure.

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### **Misfit says**

*"Blood glistened in the lamplight against the red and gold of the Turkey rug. It had pooled on the floor besides a drinks trolley."*

This is going to a very short review, since to do otherwise would give away too much of the story. As the book opens, a powerful (and quite nasty) duke is found dead, and the Rannoch's governess is suspect #1, so Malcolm and Suzanne are in the thick of things, despite his 'retirement' from the spy business. Needless to say, just about everyone has a good motive for wanting to see the duke dead, even our hero and heroine. The plot twists and turns and twists and turns and there's plenty of unexpected surprises along the way.

I loved this, only a couple of very minor quibbles. I think the word 'quite' is used a wee bit too frequently (YMMV), and I'll wait for a ruling from the Peerage Purists, but I think a duchess is addressed as *your grace* and not *duchess*? I also got a giggle over a small typo towards the end. When Grant first began this series with another publisher the pair were called Charles and Melanie Fraser. Lol, but there was only Malcolm and David in the room and all of a sudden there was a mention of Charles. Oops. Still a great read and a clever mystery. I'm ready for the next book, and I hope we get more of Laura and O'Roarke.

If you've read all the way through the series up to The Berkeley Square Affair, you know there's been a hitch in the Rannoch's supposedly happy marriage, but for those who have not read at least through Imperial Scandal and plan to read these soon, I would recommend staying away from the book blurbs for this recent book - there be spoilers. Same with some of these novellas the author is putting out filling in some back history. Don't go there until **after** Imperial Scandal.

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### **Argum says**

I really enjoy these characters and it is always nice to visit them. There could have been better editing as plot points are referred to before they happen - an indiscretion is referred to before Malcolm and Suzanne actually discover it. However, while distracting doesn't ruin the spirit of the book. The governess is found over the body of a member of the Elsinore League, but no one really believes she did it. She wants no help though as her way of protecting the Rannochs. Wouldn't recommend for anyone not already a fan of the series. Too many motives and actions are driven by the history of this series

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### **Barbara Leterski says**

#### **Close to home**

This was a really good book to read!! Another case where Malcolm and Suzanne were asked to investigate the murder of the Duke of Trenchard. Their governess has been arrested because she was in the study and called for help. This is a great book to read and trying to figure out who did it!!!

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### **Jack Vasen says**

Like the preceding books in this series, this book is heavily based on what goes before, but it contains a stand alone story.

We were introduced to Laura Dudley in the Berkeley Square Affair. In this book she becomes a major player since she is arrested for murder and the Rannoch's set out to free her.

Like previous books in the series, there is a lot to take in and remember, but somehow that didn't seem to be as bad in this book. Also, while there are double meanings and similarities of the Rannoch's situation to other characters, that also didn't seem to me to be as strong in this book.

There is definitely a murder mystery which leads us via the Rannoch's back and forth from one suspect to another. But the truth surprised me and I don't think I was the only reader to be surprised.

Even so, much of the latter half of this book is about the secrets and relationships of a character other than Malcolm and Suzanne. It is compelling and it develops into a heartwarming sub-plot which merits a few tears.

Suzanne and Malcolm are much more average in this book than in some of the earliest books of the series. Their relationship grows and revives from the near death of it that was reached in the previous book.

As in most of the series, there are no mature themes other than what you would expect in a murder mystery.

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### **Tiff says**

Superb! Stunning! Wonderful!! Teresa Grant never fails to impress me with her impeccable research, plotting, and characterization. Always a joy to read the next book in this series. My only negative has nothing to do with the story or Ms. Grant, but my goodness! The printing errors! There were misspelled words, words left out of sentences, extra words that made no sense. Teresa Grant is such a talented author and does not deserve the shoddy workmanship that this publishing house gave her. Shame on you editors!!! Again, let me reiterate how delightful this book was. I savored every detail and didn't want it to end. Now I have to wait an entire year for the next one...boo.

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### **Amanda Bright says**

The basic plot for this novel had the potential to be extremely interesting so from that perspective it was good. But I thought it was poorly executed. Much of the language was melodramatic particularly in the beginning and perhaps the words were simply there for word count. Phrases like "she said in a voice that sounded like worn silver plate over brass" were just completely out of place and made no sense -- in fact they ended up detracting from the story because you spent your time wondering about what the words were supposed to mean instead of focusing on the developing story. I can't believe a good editor even let that

particular phrase stay! As the novel progressed, it improved a bit and the detective aspect of it did manage to catch my attention -- if it hadn't, the initial writing was so bad I would have dumped this book and not finished reading it. The book is part of a series and I hadn't read the earlier books but even so I found the constant references to what happened 3 months ago completely overdone (and perhaps not particularly relevant to the story line). We are told what happened 3 months ago and what the consequences were -- enough, readers tend to be intelligent and to get what you are trying to say the first time. Again, perhaps the constant references were an attempt to meet some word quota because that is what it felt like. It would have been better to flesh out more of the spy/investigation aspects than to use the techniques mentioned above to meet the word count. It feels like the first draft of a novel written in National Novel Writing month and never revised or edited. Would I read another book in the series ? Probably not -- too many other good books out there. All in all, a book that had potential but was poorly executed and probably not even worth the time I spent on this review.

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### **Foggygirl says**

A wonderful series, although my favourite book is still Secrets of a Lady with "Melanie" and "Charles". After finishing reading the entire series in less than a few weeks my brain is somewhat boggled with all the romantic and political machinations that occurred within the pages along with the mysterious adventures that Suzanne/Melanie and Malcolm/Charles found themselves investigating. I am assuming the character name switch occurred because the books had different publishers? Once I got used to the whole switch back and forth between characters names and other background details I found it somewhat reminiscent of my favourite sci-fi shows when there are alternate realities or alternate universe's and the details of the characters lives are somewhat the same but different. On the whole a very entertaining series and I look forward to reading more.

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### **Paul Burnette says**

“The pretty parts of the puzzle” are what finally get put together in all of Grant’s Malcolm and Suzanne Rannoch novels, and this one exceeds expectations. Our feckless heroes are at their inimitable best here, solving several linked mysteries, rescuing others from fates worse than death, and sweetly navigating among all the explosive aspects of their own marriage, minimizing the ugly pieces and choosing the pretty parts to fit into their picture. It’s not whether or not Malcolm will be successful nor whether Suzanne will be dazzling, in this story as in others, it’s HOW they achieve their success. Watch what they are doing with their hands, all the character, and you’ll find Ms. Grant has put all the clues there for you to find. Oh, and in this one, Raoul and Laura each become more than just props she’s placed on the stage. And Carfax finally learns the truth that “Sometimes people are called difficult when they don’t do what’s expected of them and think for themselves. That can be a good thing.” Only though the spymaster is not surprised at the results, he is far from pleased.

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### **Linda Smatzny says**

This story is set in March, 1818 in London. The main characters are Malcolm Rannoch and his wife, Suzanne. The couple are still getting used to the fact that Malcolm now knows that Suzanne had been a French spy. Their life is settling but when someone threatens Suzanne the race is on to find out how many

people know her secret. Their, governess, Laura Dudley, is being questioned in the murder of the Duke of Trenchard and the Rannoch must figure out what is happening. The book was an easy read.

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### **Danielle says**

3.5 stars

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### **Kristin says**

3.5 stars

I welcome any new Suzanne (Melanie)/Malcolm (Charles) book and this was no exception. I love diving back into the world of these characters and am drawn into the tangled web of the Regency "Ton". There were several shifts in point of view that gives us insight into the minds of a few characters that normally have a more supporting role. (Although, there is one recurring character in particular who loses a sense of mystery that I always enjoyed with their beefed up role.)

I just couldn't help but feel a sense of repetition, in terms of plot, character arcs, and even writing style. (One could start a drinking game for the number of times characters say "A palpable hit" or "My Dear, David.") There were also several annoying typos and missing words scattered throughout the book.

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