



The Mistaken Wife

Rose Melikan

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It is the autumn of 1797. The war between the British and the French is being fought not just openly but also in secret by a network of spies. Reluctant heiress Mary Finch is no stranger to adventure, but even she hesitates before accepting this assignment: to travel secretly to Paris and disrupt vital Franco-American negotiations. She must rely wholly upon a stranger while deceiving her "dearest friend," Captain Robert Holland. Once in France, Mary's safety rests on a knife-edge, and her colleague has secrets of his own. Undaunted, she sets about her task with wit, stealth, and determination. But she is not the only spy in Paris, and there is more than one British life in jeopardy if she fails. As implacable enemies join forces against her, Mary may lose everything.

The Mistaken Wife Details

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Author : Rose Melikan

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From Reader Review The Mistaken Wife for online ebook

Marthe Bijman says

I have had a go at all three novels in this series by Rose Melikan, featuring Mary Finch, the 18th century version of a Desperate Housewife, her dour captain Holland and their coterie of heaving-bosomed aunts and assorted historical figures. At Mary's nth preachy, awkward speech about the history of France, the law or social customs (no doubt seen as useful and clever by the very academic author) I wanted to guillotine her. The latest escapade of Miss Finch is not so much an adventure as a very small storm in a tiny French teacup. I cannot say how it ends or who the Mistaken Wife was because frankly my dear, I didn't give a damn and gave up midway.

Tessa says

I had enjoyed her other books but half way through I gave up because I found it too boring I'm afraid.

Danielle says

This was a great read for when I was looking for an enjoyable historic fiction. Occasionally, the large smattering of characters left a little puzzled and some of the characters seemed a little flat, but definitely not bad. I enjoyed the main characters persistence and the way the author portrayed her trying to sleuth, but not always succeeding. It made the character likable and real.

Linda Humberstone says

I did not find this book as exciting as I thought I would, although it was well written. The setting in place of the characters and scenario took a long time and for me it only got interesting towards the very end.

Rachel Knowles says

This is the third book in Rose Melikan's series about Mary Finch and her continuing adventures as a spy. The Mistaken Wife takes her into France in 1797. The Reign of Terror is over, but it is still fresh in everyone's minds. She is forced to lie to her friends and play a part in order to carry out her instructions.

This is very much a spy story with a smattering of a romance whereas my preference is for romance with an element of adventure. It is an engaging story, but not very comfortable reading! I found it hard to accept Mary lying to Captain Holland and there was more violence than I really like.

I would recommend this book if you like a well-written spy story in an authentic historical setting.

Morgan says

I liked it, but it lacked some of the fun and wit of the other books. There was a much more sombre tone to this one.

da-wildchildz says

Another intriguing and enjoyable read in the Mary Finch series.

Avidreader says

Absolutely awful!!! Please do not waste your time. Just plain and simply a disaster. Can't remember the plot or the characters, eish:(

Barb says

I really enjoyed the other two Mary Finch novels by Rose Melkan. This one just didn't do a thing for me except put me to sleep...

Kate Forsyth says

A historical thriller set during the Napoleonic Wars, this is the third in a series that began with *The Blackstone Key* and continued with *The Counterfeit Guest*. I've enjoyed each of them, and found them amusing and engaging ... I'm not completely swept off my feet by them, though. The first was the cleverest, the second was the funniest, the third was action-packed ... I'm hoping the fourth will combine all these elements and be a real humdinger.

Connie says

Uggghhhh...Honestly, this is one of the worst books I've read in a long time, or at least one of the worst ones I've finished that is, and I really only finished it out of sheer stubbornness.

Two caveats. First,I'm a bit jaded: after reading 600 pages of *Game of Thrones* in three days, I realized I needed to take a little bit of a break (*Game of Thrones* dreams are really not pleasant), and my Mom had this lying around, so I gave it a shot. Second caveat, I haven't read the first two in the series, but I don't think they're that closely related.

Because of these factors, I went into the book with pretty low expectations, and still thought the thing was awful. Someone on the back cover wrote, "If Jane Austen had set out to write a whodunit, it would have been as smart, action-packed, and well-crafted, and filled with unique characters..." as this book. Well, let's see:

This book was not smart, nor well crafted, and the characters were utterly flat. (In all fairness, there was action.) The heroine was a total ding-bat, the dialogue was truly painful, and lots of random shit happened, just *because*. There were probably 150 pages of story in this 400 page book (and it wasn't even good story), with an additional 250 pages of completely random and insultingly pointless filler. There was never any payoff, and none of the filler had any relevance to anything: it neither served to advance the story, nor to flesh out the characters, create mood, or flesh out the scene.

For example: The heroine (who's name I've forgotten in the 15 mins since I finished the book) is an English spy in France in 1797. She doesn't have anything to report, but she decides to see her handler, *just because*. After waiting outside his boarded up shop for a half hour, she realizes that this might be suspicious, since she had no plausible reason to be at the shop at all, much less waiting outside it. So, she sees a crowd of unsavory people, so with a stroke of genius she pushes her way to the front, *just because*. Realizing an execution is about to happen, she tries to leave, but can't because she's hemmed in by the angry crowd. She watches the execution (but closes her eyes just in time, thank goodness), then gets sick and is about to faint. However, fortunately for heroine, hero (a British naval officer who also *happens* to be in France for his own spy mission, regardless of the fact that he **doesn't speak French**) *just happens* to be at the execution, even though he had no reason to be there and lives on the other side of Paris. Fortunately, he sees heroine, "rescues" her, and takes her to her home, at which point she promises to (no joke) stay home and *read* for the afternoon.

This is just one of many abysmal and insulting scenes in an utterly pointless book.

I was going to write more, but I've already wasted too much of my time reading it, and don't need to spend more time cataloging how much I didn't like it. Summary: don't read it. There's just nothing good to say about the book, and even if you could find something good to say, there thousands of other books that are much more worthy of your time. I promise.

Jane says

Got to page 144 before I gave up. I thought I was going to like this so I persevered thinking at some point it would grab me - but it didn't. I've not read one by this author before. I don't usually give up on books but something more interesting from an author I always enjoy kept winking at me from the bedside table so I finally gave in.

Zoe says

3.5

Mandy Yang says

I love the writing style and diction in this book. It is definitely more literary fiction than commercial fiction. But the plot is cleverly laid out. And the Jane Austen-esque writing style makes the historical fiction extremely believable, like a story written by a writer of the time period. On the other hand, I don't particularly find any of the characters relatable. The emotional journey falls a bit flat since both Mary Finch and Captain Holland are extremely capable individuals, so I rarely feel that they are in much danger. Melikan

does, however, portray the antagonist in an intelligent light, so it is interesting to see them play their moves and those incredibly devilish moves from the antagonist make me cringe for the protagonists. But the plight of the antagonist seems a bit short and unsatisfying. I would've wanted a longer scene to the redemption. Also, when I picked up the book, I didn't realize that it was the third of a series and bits of the book allude to other books without much explaining, which also makes it unsatisfying. There are a few dialogues written entirely in French. Melikan should've translated them, instead of having us guess their meaning. Finally, overall, it is a good book for historical fiction fans and heavy readers. I know that if I hadn't read this book in order to improve on my style, use of diction and the techniques of writing, I would not have enjoyed it as much. I would give it a 3.5 out of 5, except my phone doesn't allow me to give half-stars.

Sx says

Mary Finch is a spy, but throughout the whole novel, I was left wondering about what she was actually trying to achieve. The plot went round and round in circles and only picked up towards the end, as if Melikan suddenly remembered she had a conclusion to write. Entertaining enough for an airplane ride, wouldn't have picked it up otherwise.
