



The Earl's Masquerade

Amy Corwin

Download now

Read Online →

The Earl's Masquerade

Amy Corwin

The Earl's Masquerade Amy Corwin

A frog in a teapot, a lost necklace, and a sabotaged boat: incongruencies that lead an unlikely hero to investigate a chilling murder in Regency England.

Discarded by his betrothed with a parting sally that “being an earl does not excuse being a bore,” Hugh Castle, the Earl of Monnow, joins his brother on a relaxing cruise, hoping to forget. But a storm capsizes their boat, and despite Hugh’s desperate efforts, he can’t save his brother’s life. Then he finds evidence amongst the wreckage of sabotage and realizes he was never meant to return to dock. Someone intending to murder the earl killed his younger brother, instead. Angered beyond endurance, Hugh travels to London to enlist the aid of the Second Sons Inquiry Agency in finding his brother’s murderer.

Helen Archer attended the Earl of Monnow’s ball in expectation of celebrating his betrothal, but the event seems destined for disaster. She arrives late, the earl makes no announcement, and Helen manages to lose the fabled Peckham necklace her sister reluctantly loaned to her. Unwilling to admit her carelessness to her sister, Helen rashly decides to return to the earl’s estate and retrieve it in secret.

When his aunt threatens to send him to his cruel uncle, the Earl of Monnow, Edward Leigh-Brown decides he’s had enough. He’s going to join the navy and follow in Lord Nelson’s footsteps to become a military hero. But finding his way to London is a lot harder for a young boy than it seems, and he’s soon lost. When he bumps into Miss Helen Archer at an inn, he’s more than happy to accept a ride in her carriage, even if she seems determined to escort him to an inquiry agency to hire someone to locate the family he doesn’t want located.

When the three meet in London at Second Sons, Helen impulsively decide to accompany Hugh to the earl’s home, disguised as servants, to pursue their secret goals. Hugh hopes to uncover a killer, Helen hopes to find her necklace, and Edward just hopes he can find the opportunity to escape again.

But they are soon engulfed in an adventure none of them anticipated, and Hugh must hurry to identify who wants him dead before their deception ends in the death of another innocent.

The Earl's Masquerade Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2013 by CreateSpace (first published March 17th 2012)

ISBN : 9781492884118

Author : Amy Corwin

Format : Paperback 336 pages

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

 [Download The Earl's Masquerade ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Earl's Masquerade ...pdf](#)



Download and Read Free Online The Earl's Masquerade Amy Corwin

From Reader Review The Earl's Masquerade for online ebook

Nanci says

Inquiry Investigation and Introspective Hero

Good mystery. Interesting set of circumstances. Characters to love. A sense of introspection fueled by tragedy. An awakening to the difference between appearances and what goes on inside people.

"The Earl's Masquerade" has everything we want in historical romance with the addition of inquiry agents investigating and moving the story forward.

Enjoyable.

Barbara Staffo says

Good book

I really enjoyed this book. Great author. Out of all the characters in here I really liked Ned and the Aunt.

MaryD says

Three people, all with different problems, meet... and act as servants together. Mystery, sorrow, death... all bind them together.

Roxanne Miller says

Excellent book

Loved the characters could not put it down. Romance, intrigue, and suspense abound. Loved it all the way through it.

Leigh UK says

Edward is the real jewel of this piece!

Sadly the Archers don't make an appearance but the winner of this show was Edward! A brilliant and funny lad who adds much to the enjoyment of this story. The lead characters are nice enough, not half as sharp as

Sarah & William from the previous book, but they are likeable enough and the storyline is decent. Not every couple can have great amounya od chutzpah. Still, Edward takes the cake!

Tweety says

I guess I don't read regencies often enough because this one wasn't bad, in fact the author is really good at building suspense. But I found some little things bothered me.

I know, I know! Ignore the little things and enjoy the story. But it's hard when you get tired of characters saying, "I... em, ah, oh um." Okay, so together they weren't said 50 times, but after seeing each about 8 times, I got a little sick of them. I could see if one character had that habit but all of them? If you don't want people to know you're hiding something you'd better learn to be a better actor because interrupting yourself with "ah, um" is a dead giveaway.

Anyways, so they characters are bad actors. Well, they only have their lives/reputations at stake. What got me though, was the hero going incognito in his own house, and nobody knew it. Not even his aunt. But, disbelief and slight irritations aside, this was a good book.

The characters are likable, even those who don't seem it at first. The heroine is a bit feather headed, but nonetheless enjoyable and in a tough spot, she doesn't loose her head. The hero is kindly, if slightly blind. And the best character was Ned Brown, a little orphan boy who "can't remember who he belongs to" he is humorous, lovable and a real boy.

The Best thing about this book: NO BIG MISSUNDERSTANDING! None! Zip!

Loved that. I was so afraid that when everyone revealed their secrets, that people would misunderstand and get offended. But they didn't, they just took it all in stride. Which was about the most realistic thing that happened in the whole book. I'd read another by this author next time I feel in the mood for something of this nature.

G-PG talk of out of wedlock kids, a few swears, namely Ds and British Bs.

Laura says

I was a little skeptical about this book after reading all the reviews about it. This isn't any more far fetched than the other Archer Family stories.

The Earl is shipwrecked and finds that his boat was sabotaged. He returns home in disguise to try to find who is behind the damage.

Helen lost the famed family necklace and is determined to retrieve it before anyone knows it is missing. When Helen finds that Hugh is heading to the same place she is, they team up to solve their respective mysteries.

An easy, cute yet somewhat predictable read.

ksstannard says

The Archer series gets better and better

Absolutely loved Hugh, Helen, and Edward's story. A lady becomes a maid, the earl becomes a steward, and Edward, the future earl, is working in the castle kitchen. Oh, the fun that ensues.

Tracey says

This was a LibraryThing Member Giveaway, thank you.

The story: After having been missing for years, the Peckham necklace has recently been found, and upon invitation to the Earl of Monnow's ball Helen Archer begged to wear it there. And has just discovered that she lost it there. Terrified of revealing her ineptitude to her sister, and fixing on the slightly mad idea that notifying the host of the ball would make her shame public, she decides on a hare-brained scheme to go and find it herself.

Meanwhile, eleven-year-old Edward (Ned) rebels against hateful guardians and the prospect of being sent to what he has been told is an equally hateful uncle (the Earl of Monnow) and acts on a hare-brained scheme to run away by himself to London to join the Navy.

Meanwhile, the Earl of Monnow, Hugh Castle, is jilted in the middle of the above ball and takes off to clear his mind with a sail in his boat the Twilight, dragging his brother along with him – and when a storm comes up and the Twilight goes down he loses boat and brother both. He wakes up on a beach and walks and hitches his way to London to talk to his lawyer, concocting a hare-brained scheme to find out who damaged the boat to cause it to sink.

The three main characters – earl and lady and boy – converge in London and with varied layers of mistaken and assumed identities join forces to find the necklace, find out who scuttled the Twilight and killed Hugh's brother, and keep the boy out of danger and trouble until a suitable guardian can be found for him. Hijinks ensue as Helen takes a position as lady's maid to Hugh's elderly spinster aunt, Hugh poses as her brother and steward for his own estate; Ned is presented as the third sibling, available for potato peeling and boot blacking. In the course of the investigation for necklace and murderer, the two grownup undercover operatives learn about themselves and – both being free, attractive, and of marriageable age – each other.

This was, I think, meant as an enjoyable, light read – but it's not as light as it should have been. The murder hanging over Hugh's head darkens things considerably: was he the target? Will someone try again? Was it someone he knows and trusts? His brother is dead, and while at times he mourns, at other times he seems to forget the very fresh grief completely. More, he tells no one but his lawyer and a professional investigator any of the details, leaving anyone else who might care about him or his brother to suffer anxiety waiting for news. While Helen's strand of the story is almost as frothy as could be wished, this is – sometimes – grim, as everyone comes under suspicion, and Hugh begins to learn what he's never been conscious of before: what everyone else in his house thinks of him.

The justifications for the three main characters' adventures felt a bit thin. There just never seemed to be a reason for Helen to be so terrified and foolish as to set off on her own with little forethought to infiltrate the

mansion; her sister does not seem to actually be an ogre, and for her uncle to encourage it as he does is very strange and very unlikely. Hugh's pigheadedness about revealing the boating "accident" and his brother's death is irritating. The boy's adventure takes the least stretching to accept; he's a boy who feels himself abused (later chapters make the psychological abuse stronger, but I didn't see it at the time; the aunts were upset because he kept a frog in a teapot, for heaven's sake – most women, especially of the time, would be a bit put out), and he fears being sent somewhere even worse, and runs away. The problem with him is that he is forgotten from the story for long stretches, until he is required to fling himself into danger and bring about a resolution. This lack of grounds for just about every action would be somewhat acceptable in an average fluffy regency romance; the overall tone certainly feels like same. But this strives to be a bit more, I think; the fact that it begins with a man failing to save his brother's life completely removes it from the start from the "madcap comedy" genre to which it otherwise seems to aspire, and actually makes the romance aspect a bit discordant. Also, the spinster aunt's abuse of Helen as her servant is a dark note that does not combine well with the silliness.

In short (!), the plot is half grim murder mystery, half madcap comedy, and half romance novel – oh, and half boys' adventure novel. There was a lot going on in this slender book; too much, really.

Tom Prejsner says

Romance novels

Thank you very much for sharing these wonderful romance novels series books. Please keep writing more of these wonderful books.

Kathleen Smith says

Very good book easy summer read

I like her books this is the third one I have read, they are a lite read very easy, good book for the beach!

Debby "Piene Raven" says

(Audiobook Review)

Third in the Archer Family Series. The story was about an Earl and heroine masquerading as servants and ensue complications while one is trying to find the killer of his brother and the other a family heirloom. The characters a very much likeable and the plot fairly predictable.

New author and enjoyable listen. It has it twists and air of mystery all around. Romance was clean with wittily in parts that kept you smiling at times. First listen also for the narrator which was okay but could have been better. A bit flat.

3-Stars

Kathy says

This well written novel is the perfect blend of mystery and romance. The author pulls you into the story from the first page. The characters are so diverse and clever. I will continue to read more books by Amy Corwin.

Christian Woods says

Apparently, this book has two titles. I read it under the title of "The Earl's Masquerade." When I read the synopsis , it has the same characters and plot.

Pat says

A very enjoyable read. Mystery and (clean) romance with some very humorous parts that kept a smile on my face. Lots of hidden identities ultimately lead to a perfect conclusion.
