



Lessons for Suspicious Minds

Charlie Cochrane

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An invitation to stay at a friend of the Stewart family's stately home can only mean one thing for Jonty Stewart and Orlando Coppersmith—a new case for the amateur sleuths! With two apparently unrelated suicides, a double chase is on.

But things never run smoothly for the Cambridge fellows. In an era when their love dare not speak its name, the chance of discovery (and disgrace) is ever present—how do you explain yourself when a servant discovers you doing the midnight run along the corridor?

The chase stops being a game for Orlando when the case brings back memories of his father's suicide and the search for the identity of his grandfather. And the solution presents them with one of the most difficult moral decisions they've had to make...

Lessons for Suspicious Minds Details

Date : Published September 30th 2013 by Cheyenne Publishing (first published September 19th 2013)

ISBN : 9781937692278

Author : Charlie Cochrane

Format : Paperback 200 pages

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

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From Reader Review Lessons for Suspicious Minds for online ebook

Veronica of V's Reads says

This is the tenth book in an ongoing series, but can be read as a standalone.

Orlando Coppersmith and Jonty Stewart are Cambridge professors with a knack for solving crimes. In this case, they are entreated by Jonty's mother's godmother to investigate a peculiar suicide that occurred at her familial estate. With Jonty's parents in tow for an extended visit to Fyfield--all four seek to discover if foul play was involved.

Along the way they meet attractive footmen, obstructive relations and a plot of murder most convoluted. The sleuths are requested to consider another case of suspicious suicide, and find there might be a connection. Especially when they get testimony from outsiders to corroborate the mental states of the "murdered" men.

As it turned out, I was more than twisted regarding the outcome. Orlando needed to come to terms with his broken family tree, and how to handle investigating two suspected suicides, while suppressing his memories of his father's untimely and gory end. Jonty is by his side continually, though not in the sexual way he wishes--on account of Fyfield's servants being attentive and observant.

I enjoyed the story, but would have enjoyed a bit more loving. Lots of Lamentations of missed opportunities and wishing for affection, but when they had the chance to sate their desires it was all, sadly, fade-to-black. I received a review copy of this book via NetGalley.

Beebs says

Absolutely love this series, really hope there's more to come :)

Suze says

Another great investigation for Jonty and Orlando, with additional input from not only Mr Stewart but Mrs S also gets in on the action.

On the way to an acquaintance's house to investigate an apparent suicide, they also discover another unconnected apparent suicide where there are doubts in some minds.

I liked the development of the investigation and all the plot twists, leading us all gradually to the awful truth. I found it interesting that the nobility were the bad guys and the working class men, Hayes and Covington were acknowledged to have pertinent ideas and be listened too. All very of the age but enlightened probably for that time. Though the solution to the dilemma at the end was probably guided by those class rules (view spoiler)

They only problem I have with these time travel additions is knowing what comes after but it is good to see Mr and Mrs S anytime.

François Butko says

I could not close my window, this e-book had to be read.

Love: yes; suspense: yes; plot story: very good. With other words: "please read it".

Wart Hill says

Things I Find While Shelving

I received a free ARC via NetGalley

Charlie Cochrane is quickly becoming a favorite mystery writer for me. I discovered the Cambridge Fellows series thanks to an ARC of Lessons for Survivors, but previously I'd only read *The Best Corpse for the Job* (which is excellent). I'm now delving into the Cambridge Fellows books, steadily scooping up and reading them all, and I definitely enjoy them immensely.

In *Lessons for Suspicious Minds*, Jonty and Orlando are asked to look into two suicides that are, on the surface, completely explainable as just that. But the people asking Jonty and Orlando to look into them think there's something more. So Jonty and Orlando enlist the aid of Jonty's parents and go in search of the truth behind what's happened.

Over the course of the investigation, they uncover some questionable items in the past of the second suicide's life, and eventually that leads them down the right track to the exceedingly creepy truth about what happened to both these men.

My only real problem with Cochrane's works is sometimes the blind alleys can get...frustrating and feel kind of like they drag the story. But I can't actually complain too much about that because it's realistic for there to be a lot of blind alleys, especially in a case like this. PLUS even when the case is feeling like it's dragging along, the character moments are brilliant.

So. I guess it's not really a complaint?

ItsAboutTheBook says

Review can be read at It's About The Book

4.5 stars

I seem to be on a mystery and detective kick lately and I'm actually delighted. Getting back to my reading "roots" is fun and I'm finding some new authors to put on my reading lists—and Charlie Cochrane is definitely one of them. Her detective couple, Orlando and Jonty, come with their own issues as well—which

bring an unusual perspective to the investigations and enhance the setting and delivery of the conclusion in a way I've never experienced before. Exceptional writing skills make these period-piece mysteries delectable to read and immerse me into a culture I adore—even if at times the sentiment grows maudlin. Life isn't perfect, and detective mysteries often underline the sour with the sweet in a way romances can't—or at least in a very different way.

Jonty and Orlando travel to Fyfield in July 1909 along with Jonty's parents, the Stewarts. They've been "invited" for a visit, but are really undercover, called to investigate a suspicious suicide by Jonty's mother's godmother, Alexandra Temple. Apparently it's catching in the area, because while they're on the way, they stop at the infamous Monkey Island for a meal and pick up another case—from Young Covington, the gardener there. He entreats them to look into the mysterious February suicide of Charles Livingstone, who'd drowned himself there. How unlikely to have two such suspicious suicides in the same area within the last year?

As the Cambridge Fellows delve into solving the puzzle, coincidences turn into suspicions and links between the two cases become unmistakable. Having two additional hands to aide in the interrogations of suspects helps speed the time involved but doesn't help the negative turn the investigation is taking. For as astute as the investigators are, sometimes clues don't come in neat packages labeled as such, and the secrets in a man's mind are hard to get out into the light of day. Until you can get someone to crack, it's only supposition.

With the case turning in an unfortunate direction, the Stewarts and Orlando become most uncomfortable. At the same time, Orlando's memories of his father's suicide are coloring his mood, bringing not only the tone of the investigation to a somber one but making everyone involved want to finish the case quickly.

But what if what you think happened is unconscionable? Who is the final judge? Not every case is as clear-cut, black and white, and sometimes, it's better to hide in the grey.

Wonderful setting with a tantalizing, psychological puzzle inside. For those who enjoy Sayers and Christie, behold another to stand in their stead. I enjoyed it immensely and look forward to both reading her backlist and enjoying the new! Thanks CC!

Sophia says

I have praised this series to the heavens with each new installment and I have said so much about each intricate bit because I love the depth and quality to these stories. I held my breath after *All Lessons Learned* just hoping that it wouldn't be the end and thankfully the author has seen fit to give me more. This particular story ended up being poignant for the simple fact that it dips back in time before the events of the last few books to happier, simpler times. I loved that Orlando and Jonty are out sleuthing in the company of the incomparable Stewarts.

I suppose in theory some of these books can be read out of order, but seriously, if you have the choice, don't. Some suspense series have mild series story arcs that run through them. In my opinion, this one isn't one of those. These tell a romance story and develop the characters along the way. Even some of the cases have connections and there are references to previous cases laced throughout. It would be like spending time with a group of people with you being the only one who is new. Haha, yes, my fan-dom is showing. Sorry- okay, I'm not.

The story opens when Jonty and Orlando finish the term with their students at university and are invited to join Jonty's parents to spend time at the country estate of Helena Steward's godmother. Jonty and Orlando figure out quickly that this is no innocent country house party and that they have been hooked in to solve what might be a murder. Both enjoy amateur detecting so willingly go along, but then another suspicious death lands in their laps and the host family are reluctant to have the tidy suicide of a friend teased at. Detective fever is high, but that doesn't stop Orlando from getting jealous of the handsome footman, Jonty from 'fessing up to a little project he started on Orlando's behalf, or the very real fun of the two spending time with Jonty's eccentric parents.

The mystery is an interesting one that kept me guessing a little though I figured out some of it. It was one that left a bad taste in my mouth as it did the two fellows. Interesting shades of gray solution. I enjoy that side of the plot of course, but what is always my favorite is just spending time with the two lovers. The witty dialogue and heartwarming passion that is consistent with the historical times and setting are the heart of the story. The tie to suicide is particularly hard on Orlando because of his own father's death in that manner and Jonty is as sensitive to this as Orlando himself. They also mull around the possibility of solving the remaining mystery of Orlando's roots though Jonty is fearful that opening that can of worms might send Orlando off the deep end again.

All in all, it was a pleasure to return to a favorite series and spend time on the detecting trail with two engaging guys in this Edwardian era romantic suspense. Any one who enjoys the idea of m/m, historical fiction and romantic suspense all blended together into something good should try the series.

My thanks to Riptide Publishing for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for my honest review.

Jeannie Zelos says

Lessons for Suspicious Minds, Charlie Cochrane

Genre: LGBTQIA, Romance, Mystery

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Saw this and it reminded me a bit of a non paranormal Magpie Lord series read. Same gentile, subtle humour. Not in your face, overt stuff, but the more subtle humour, where a nuance of tone or facial expression can make all the difference. Anyway I was astonished to see this was book ten in a series I've somehow completely missed – so many books so little time!! Still, book one is still free on amazon, and gave me a great insight into the two characters and the writing style used, and I soon fell in love with the duo. So opposite and yet so perfect together. What a terrible time it must have been when homosexuality carried a prison term...I read that Queen Victoria refused to sign the first Bill her minsters brought before her, not because she was a liberal minded person but because she simply could not believe that ladies would enter same sex relationships. Whether that's simply an urban myth I don't know..it does seem that focus of the time was on male homosexuality. Sadly there are days when I feel although the law has progressed I'm not sure mental attitudes have...One of the saddest things I read in recent years was the petition for a pardon for Alan Turing, regarded as the Father for Computing Science, and a pivotal member of the code breaking team in WW2, who was convicted in 1952 of homosexual acts and subjected to chemical castration! He died two years later just 41 years old. He finally got his pardon in 2013, and has been widely recognized for his work

since, but how odd, how ignorant, to lay a mans sexuality ahead of all the great things he did. Look it up - it's heart breaking...

Anyway, back on track...The book. Loved it, love Jonty's puppy like ebullience, his way of turning the most innocent of looks or words into something salacious, against Orlando's more phlegmatic, pragmatic, logical, approach. They counter each other wonderfully, and make a superb team. We see more of Jonty's parents here – and they are perfect. When homosexuality is such a crime they have a difficult line – they want their son to be happy, and know that for him its Orlando. They genuinely love Orlando too and have taken steps to make him their ward, so that the two can have a public friendship that won't be looked at as unnatural!! Sad that even then, with so many problems around people focussed on that. Somehow the duo and Jonty's parents have found a somewhat precarious way through the maze.

The pair have gained a reputation over past years (and books) as being good at solving odd cases, and now get requests for their detective services. This time is a family affair with Jonty's parents being roped in, once the duo discover there are not one but two possible murders. I love the way they set about questioning, Jonty and Orlando having their own ways of obtaining evidence and asking questions, while the parents – well, his mother is so perfect. She just kind of very politely bulldozes her way past all the gentile objections and reservations of what isn't seemly....Between the four they somehow find the answers, though its a convoluted tale, and took me along all sorts of false trails! I didn't see the end, and thoroughly enjoyed this read. Its not heart stopping danger, and overt, in your face, graphic sex, but lots of double entendres, alliterations, and subtle touches that make the men's relationship so tender and romantic, and the dangers are there, but in a more subdued way, not edge of seat gripping theatrics, but as things that have to be considered and the relevant precautions taken.

Stars: Five, a fabulous read transporting me to times past.

ARC provided by Netgalley and publishers

Theodora IK says

I like this series, and reading about Orlando and Jonty is always like soaking in a hot tub. Relaxing and comfortable.

This story takes place before the war, so if you prefer to read chronologically, read this before All Lessons Learned and Lessons for Survivors.

Eric says

I had looked at the series before and decided to try this one when it was free on Amazon.

I thought it was one of the most tedious books I have read in a long time. Interminable conversations and no real detection, interspersed with the detectives carefully and repeatedly not showing too much affection for each other in case of scandal, did not add up to a diverting story. Despite some Edwardian trappings, it was also oddly lacking in historical feeling.

Orlando and Jonty are colourless and not very interesting. I admire the author's decision not to stereotype, but the very ordinariness of their relationship should not consign them to terminal dullness. The coy and cloying terms in which their physical relationship was cloaked, quickly palled.

Maybe 2.5 stars.

Aoife says

I struggle to find words to describe this story that aren't 'cute' or 'sweet'. Not in an exaggerated diabetes-inducing way that involved the main-couple telling each other how much they love the other every five pages, simply in the sense of 'this is a sweet story about good, nice and (mostly) happy people'. The case did require a bit of suspension of disbelief but not too much (especially as it is basically a cozy where I don't require as much adherence to reality as in 'serious' crime-novels) .

The characters and their relations with each other are where the book really shines. You can easily feel how much Jonty, Orlando and Jonty's family care about each other and everybody also seems like a really nice person you'd love to meet.

However, I would very much recommend to read this series in order. Having jumped right in the middle I have now been spoiled for several events that happened in the previous books. Not the solutions to any cases but events happening in the development of the personal relationship between the two. Not major things and no exact details but I'd definitely preferred to have learned about them a different way.

I did think the narration overused the phrase 'his lover' a bit (as in 'Jonty looked at his lover'/'Orlando went over to his lover'). I am a big fan of just calling people by their names or simply using pronouns (and yes, if just two men are in the room and it says 'Jonty looked at him' I am mentally capable of decoding that him refers to Orlando and not Jonty...) If it had been done just occasionally and to stress it for some reason I'd have been fine with it but here it threw me off.

I am also not sure about how much like sea-battles as metaphor for sex but it was at least a fascinating experience.

ARC provided by NetGalley

Line says

Freebie at the zon.com right now: <https://smile.amazon.com/Lessons-Susp...>

Jessica ????? ∞♥∞ ??v?r? says

Received free from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review (which is the only kind of review I know how to give)

Lessons for Suspicious Minds is the 10th book in the Cambridge Fellows Mysteries series by Charlie

Cochrane. While this isn't the first book I have read by this author (see my review of *Second Helpings*), this is the first book I have read in this series. I am always hesitant to read books from a series out of order because often you need those prior books to really understand what the heck is going on. I know a lot of other readers feel the same so I decided to give this book a try so I could let others know who haven't read the series, if this is a book they can enjoy. I can honestly say that you need not read the first 9 books to enjoy *Lessons for Suspicious Minds*.

It is clear while reading that you are in the middle of an established world but you are given enough details and explanations that you can enjoy the book on its own. I was left at the end, hungry for more of Jonty and Orlando and cannot wait to start the series from the beginning. If you enjoy this book, you will likely end up reading the whole series so it is really up to you where you start; I'm pretty sure you will end up in the same place either way.

This particular book follows Jonty and Orlando as they try to determine if two supposed suicides were truly suicides or if they were murders and if the two are connected. This could have been a very dark and morose tale but the author has a talent for treating these matters seriously while keeping the overall tone of the book on the lighter side of things. The rich characters and humour laced throughout keep you eager for more even if there were a few slow spots here and there. As far as the mystery goes, I didn't have things figured out until the very end and was kept guessing which is necessary for any good whodunit.

Like Ms. Cochrane's other novel that I read, this romanace is fully on the sweet side of things and perfect for those wanting a great story without explicit content.

All in all, I highly recommend *Lessons for Suspicious Minds*.

10-star rating: *****(7)

Lessons for Suspicious Minds is published by Riptide Publishing

Rickus Bookshelf says

Not a bad book but it never got me hooked. Full review over here: <https://rickusbookshelf.wordpress.com...>

Misty says

**** 4.5 Stars ****
