


## Romancing a Mystery

*Evelyn Cullet*

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## **Romancing a Mystery** Evelyn Cullet

All Charlotte Ross wanted was a get-away vacation. She wasn't counting on solving a centuries-old mystery or falling for a handsome aristocrat. A young woman in her prime, Charlotte has become bored living in the small Illinois town where she grew up--and is tired of her controlling mother trying to marry her off to the oldest and wealthiest men in town. So when her mystery-loving friend Jane Marshall suggests a driving trip across England, Charlotte eagerly packs her bags. But Charlotte gets more than she bargained for. Just two days in, their car breaks down in a thunderstorm, and the women take refuge inside Blake Hall, an ancient aristocrat's lair with a long and rumored past. As guests of the British aristocracy, these out-of-place Americans stumble their way through a fox hunt, encounter imagined ghosts and discover a mysterious clue to a centuries-old murder that has remained unsolved--until now at least. Influenced by the novels of Jane Austen, Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Romancing a Mystery* is smart, savvy and at times, warmly romantic.

## **Romancing a Mystery Details**

Date : Published November 29th 2009 by CreateSpace (first published November 27th 2009)

ISBN : 9781507834381

Author : Evelyn Cullet

Format : Paperback 228 pages

Genre : Mystery, Romance, Contemporary

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## **From Reader Review Romancing a Mystery for online ebook**

### **Patricia Gligor says**

"Romancing a Mystery" by Evelyn Cullet is a delightful combination of mystery and romance, just as the title suggests. Charlotte Ross is bored with life in her Illinois hometown and longs for an adventure. So, when her best friend, Jane Marshall, suggests they take a trip to England, Charlotte eagerly agrees. But neither of them expected to solve an old mystery and to become romantically involved with members of the aristocracy.

I highly recommend this book.

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### **Dawn Toon says**

#### **Excellent**

Very interesting, I didn't want to stop reading it, I highly recommend reading this, can't wait for the next book

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### **Jeanne Adamek says**

This was definitely different! For me, the mystery was a sort of tie between Nancy Drew and Agatha Christie with shades of Jane Austen thrown in. I spent hours giggling (yes, giggling--it was THAT type of book) at the absurd situations that Charlotte and Jane got into...

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### **Diana Febry says**

5 stars. Recommend to readers who like a mix of mystery, sweet romance and humour. My full review on the revised edition of this book.

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### **A.F. says**

Romancing a Mystery by Evelyn Cullet is a slightly wacky, screwball romance wrapped in the flavour of a mystery novel. It's charming, light and a breezy read.

The novel tells the misadventures of Charlotte, Jane and Erin as the three embark on a vacation in the English countryside. A few wrong turns land them at an Earl's manor house, where they become unexpected houseguests when Erin becomes ill. Sparks fly between Charlotte and the somewhat older Earl of Bredon, while Jane pursues the Earl's son, Peter. Add in a backdrop of an unsolved murder mystery with some minor mayhem, and romantic amusement ensues.

Romancing a Mystery is a solid, entertaining book, giving you just what you would want from a romantic novel. You get handsome men, plucky (if somewhat nutty) heroines and an appealing setting. The plot is fluffy, but straightforward, delivering the right notes where needed, pulling you into the story.

The characters are nicely rendered, generally coming across as real people, although there are one or two places where common sense -and manners- are stretched a tad. You do feel as if you might know these people and I have to say I loved the characters. However, considering some of the antics they indulge in the novel, I don't think I would invite them to be my houseguests.

Now, the ending might not suit some, but I thought it matched the novel. The book doesn't wrap things with a happily ever after, tied in a pink bow, but instead leaves the romance open with a promise of more to come.

I can cheerfully recommend Romancing a Mystery; it is a nice, fun book, suitable for that day at the beach or a rainy afternoon.

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### **Kay (Brigidsmomma) Compton says**

This was a really weird read. While I liked the premise and most of the story, the final couple of chapters seemed hackneyed and added on. The ending was not in keeping with the rest of the story and left a bad taste in my mouth. There were several unanswered questions about parts of the mystery that left me feeling incomplete. Not one I would recommend. I'm being generous with 3 stars because I did finish it.

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### **Frances L. Ehrig says**

#### **The Earl and the Tourist**

I absolutely despise clumsy heroines, and Charlotte takes her place as one of the best at this activity. She can't seem to put one foot in front of another without tripping. But other than that, it was a fairly entertaining, imaginative read. Interesting cast of characters and a foreign locale make an amusing, enjoyable novel.

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### **Rose says**

Very disjointed and just plain odd. The characters were unappealing and seemed to always do the opposite of what would make sense. I'm still not sure why these 3 women would be traveling together as they all seem to dislike each other and then never really see each other again.

Then the "mystery" is not very mysterious, is resolved with too much ease, and when the heroine is lamenting that the bad guy isn't being punished enough, the hero tells her to just put it behind her so as not to ruin the night. Really? Sorry about your near death experience, but don't let it ruin the party?!?

Then the romance is disappointing. The heroine hates that her mother is always setting her up with older men, and who does she fall for? The guy old enough to be her father, who is kind of rude, is also resisting her for some unknown reason and has the romantic maturity of a twelve-year-old. Then when the heroine gets home she starts liking her new boss, but wait, is still in love with the "hero" from England.

Then there was the epilogue, which did what epilogues should never do. It undid whatever was done with the novel, made me hate the hero, heroine and wonder why I wasted my time.

There were so many inconsistencies and too much irrelevant information. I was determined to finish it, but this could have benefited from some beta readers and good editing.

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### **Cheryl Morgan says**

Finally! A romance novel that is really a romance novel! Ms Cullet's first attempt is a wonderful romp through England by three co-workers that get a bit off track leading them into a wonderful world of British royalty. I loved all three of the main characters, so different and probably destined to not remain life long friends, but for this one adventure in their lives, it was the perfect combination. Evelyn writes the romance part of the novel the way romances used to be written, evolving slowly without unnecessary sex scenes. She allows the reader to use their imagination to progress the romance to its inevitable ending. The ending was a bit abrupt, which was a disappointment, and the mystery part of the book was weak, but I don't think the mystery was supposed to be the main focus of the book. It was just a sub story used to advance the romance. My understanding is there are at least 2 sequels to this love story and I'll be anxious to read both. Overall, a well written wonderful read. Take it to the pool with you this summer.

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### **Valerie Caraotta says**

#### **Ingenious mystery coupled with spellbound romance**

Romancing a Mystery is a novel that is filled with unpredictable happenings from start to finish. As co-workers Jane, Charlotte, and Erin venture on a tour to England and northern Ireland, their hopes and expectations would be altered by the rental car getting stuck in a ditch. Call it fate or coincidence but with the cell phone getting no signal and a hard rain storm in their midst, they would walk to a museum-like mansion soon to discover it belonged to the aristocratic Earl of Bredon.

What was to be a hospital overnight stay for them would turn into an unforgettable week each of the woman would remember in her own unique significant way. With Jane in a quest for a mystery crime she can solve, she will discover the younger son of Duke, Albert "Albie" Chastain sharing the rumor of unresolved crime centuries ago. In a dating dispute between the Duke of Demshire and the Earl of Bredon the mystery would remain as to who was killed and whether the body was hidden somewhere within the house.

Gain a vision of this elegant house and each of the rooms, along with the mysterious portraits in which the "eyes" would seem to follow Charlotte. "Footsteps sounded in the hall. Hollow murmurings echoed through the gallery". The portrait and riddles of Malcolm Blake will lead to a finding in a wine cellar behind a mural. Discover how one week can unravel and unsettle a mystery, yet answers still remain in the balance:

--what was the white mist that hung in the air above the corpse?

--where did the servant James run to that tried to lock them in the room permanently?

--was it James mother that returned the necklace... Or someone else?

Along with great mystery is great romance that each of the woman would envelope themselves in. Jane would become infatuated with Lord Peter who is engaged. "I'm sure he's my soulmate. He doesn't act like he's engaged, so I don't think he's really going to marry that woman... Peter's in love with me". And Charlotte: "He alone [earl of Bredon] possessed that unexplainable something that touched her in a place she never knew existed."

Erin's weeklong pneumonia was not even close to being in vain as you will discover the doctor did far more for her than cure her physical infirmity.

Their return to the United States would leave Jane and Charlotte dissatisfied with their job and meager life. Discover how the "past" would be creatively memorable for Jane, how Charlotte would find herself in the crossroad of her life, and how Erin would eccentrically live out a fairy tale ending.

I describe this as clever, witty, and full of twists that come full circle in an emotionally satisfying work. Author Evelyn Cullet's passion for writing began in high school where it has now flourished into four novels. A lover of mysteries, she vacillates between reading writing and hosting authors on her writer's blog. You've got to check this book out along with some of her other works as I promise you will not be dissatisfied. While I give this work five stars I am sure any reader will agree that Evelyn Cullet has in her many more great works yet to be surfaced.

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### **Diana Feby says**

I highly recommend this book to readers who enjoy a mix of cozy mystery and romance with moments of humour. On a personal note this American author has obviously visited England and has a sharp eye for details and I found it very entertaining to see my own country through a "foreigner's eyes."

Three American ladies fly into London intending to drive to Cornwall. In a thunderstorm their car becomes stuck in a ha-ha (a deep ditch) and they find themselves knocking on the door of a mansion belonging to an earl. I won't ruin the story by saying anything more than each finds a partner to pursue and an old mystery to resolve.

I probably would have liked more mystery but the story flowed so well the book held my interest throughout. Smooth writing, entertaining characters and natural dialogue kept me immersed in the story-line. I must admit I had some chuckles at the idiosyncrasies of the aristocratic country-set as seen through the eyes of Charlotte and Jane. There are some great touches of humour sprinkled here and there. The mystery element has a solid traditional feel enhanced by references to Agatha Christie and Sherlock Holmes.

Overall a great package and very enjoyable read.

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### **Marja McGraw says**

Romancing a Mystery was a delightful book. It had all of the elements including romance, humor and a little mystery.

American Charlotte Ross and her two friends, Jane and Erin, take a vacation to England, looking to get away from it all and searching for adventure. An unexpected storm takes its toll and the women end up with their rental car off the road in a boggy ditch. While looking for help, they find a spooky Manor house where they discover romance and a centuries-old murder. The reader will find a lot of adventure and humor behind those walls.

Romancing a Mystery was a fun read and very entertaining. This is Evelyn Cullet's first book, and trust me, I will be looking for her next one.

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**Terre Forsyth says****I loved the story.**

I loved the story, but was disappointed in the ending. I need a second book to tell me what happened. I would have given 5 stars, if the story was completed. This should be the first of a series.

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**Jeannette says**

A fun read with laugh out loud moments along with unbelievable parts.

In compliance with FTC guidelines, I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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