



The Suspect's Daughter

Donna Hatch

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Determined to help her father with his political career, Jocelyn sets aside dreams of love. When she meets the handsome and mysterious Grant Amesbury, her dreams of true love reawaken. But his secrets put her family in peril.

Grant goes undercover to capture conspirators avowed to murder the prime minister, but his only suspect is the father of a courageous lady who is growing increasingly hard to ignore. He can't allow Jocelyn to distract him from the case, nor will he taint her with his war-darkened soul. She seems to see past the barriers surrounding his heart, which makes her all the more dangerous to his vow of remaining forever alone.

Jocelyn will do anything to clear her father's name, even if that means working with Grant. Time is running out. The future of England hangs in the balance...and so does their love.

The Suspect's Daughter Details

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Author : Donna Hatch

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From Reader Review *The Suspect's Daughter* for online ebook

Carrie Schmidt (Reading is My SuperPower) says

Oh what a delicious book! *The Suspect's Daughter* is a clean romance but that in no way means it lacks heat. I am officially adding Donna Hatch to my unofficial list of KissingBook authors to keep on retainer. Whew! It's a wonder I am coherent enough to write this review.

Anyway... ahem ... back to the review in question.

The Suspect's Daughter, though the fourth book in Hatch's *Rogue Hearts* series, can easily be read as a standalone. I had no problems at all following the characters even though I haven't yet the preceding three books. (I can assure you that I nevertheless will be correcting this oversight at the first available opportunity! Especially if all the Rogues kiss like Grant...)

Speaking of Grant, he is one of those Mr. Darcy/Beast type heroes that for some reason we all love in fiction but would loathe in reality lol. But seeing as how we're talking about fiction... he makes quite the dreamy gruff and reticent hero. Who fights crime. And saves lives. And has a tender heart under his grumpy exterior. I mean... SWOON!

And Jocelyn – I adored her too. She's spunky, determined, not stick-thin (can I get an amen?) and truly cares about the people around her. Her humor and her heart were the perfect counterpart to Grant's "Darcyishness" and created the ideal setup for some sizzling chemistry between them!

The Suspect's Daughter has it all – romance, suspense, great characters, skilled writing, and some quite spectacular kisses. I thoroughly enjoyed each aspect of this novel and wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to fans of historical fiction, particularly the Regency era. If you like Julianne Donaldson, Julie Klassen, or Sarah E. Ladd, then you will want to read Donna Hatch's *Rogue* series for sure!

(I received a copy of this book in exchange for only my honest review.)

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

"4.5 stars" Since I tend to prefer a little steam in my romances, I don't usually read a lot of sweet, PG-rated ones. However, I can definitely enjoy a romance sans love scenes as long as the writer is talented enough to make me feel something. The most important thing for me when reading any romance is the desire to sense an emotional connection between the characters within the story as well as having them connect with me as the reader. I know I'm always going to get that when I read one of Donna Hatch's stories, which is why she's become my current favorite go-to author for sweet mainstream romance. *The Suspect's Daughter*, her latest release and the newest book in her *Rogue Hearts* series fits the bill perfectly. I didn't end up liking it quite as well as the previous two books in the series, but it was still a really good read.

Oddly enough, my main reason for marking this book down a half star is probably the exact same reason most other readers are giving it the highest rating of any book in the series thus far. And that's its hero, Grant. Grant is a very cold, cynical man, a little too much so for my taste. However, this didn't really surprise me

based on his appearances in the previous books of the series. He's essentially an honorary Bow Street Runner. As the son of an earl, he doesn't really have to work, but he's not the type of man to sit around indolently the way he feels many aristocratic men do. He's good friends with the magistrate who saved his life during the Napoleonic War and feels he owes the man a debt of gratitude. In part, to pay him back, Grant works with Bow Street on a number of cases as a sort of independent consultant. His latest case investigating a possible assassination plot against the Prime Minister places him in close proximity with the two types of people he dislikes the most, aristocrats and women. He has little use for either one and isn't particularly fond of going undercover among them.

I could live with Grant's internal commentary on the *ton*, but his thoughts about women did tend to grate on occasion. Early on, he's pretty difficult to like and I couldn't quite understand what Jocelyn saw in him. Luckily, though, the author does hint at some vulnerability in his past and perhaps a woman who did him wrong. I suppose everyone deals with things in their own way, and I'll admit that some pretty terrible things happened to Grant, but there were times when his methods of dealing seemed a little extreme. He doesn't want to have anything to do with women *at all*, ever again, and thinks they're all manipulative, conniving witches who always have an ulterior motive. Given that he had a mother he seemed to adore and two sisters, as well as three sisters-in-law whom he likes well enough, it was a little hard to grasp his extreme views. Thankfully, this begins to improve about halfway into the story. We see some selfless actions on his part, become privy to compassion that he's shown others, and his past starts to be revealed in bits and pieces. Because of these things I can honestly say that I gradually started liking him much better, but when he was still questioning Jocelyn's motives over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way into the book, when she'd been nothing but sweet and kind to him, I wanted to slap him silly. Grant did grow on me and I did sympathize with him after all that he'd been through, but he was just a little too distrustful and jaded for me to wholeheartedly fall in love with him like I did with his brothers, Christian and Jared. I guess I simply like my heroes to be a little softer and more personable.

Jocelyn was the perfect foil for Grant's hard-edged, misanthropic personality. She's a sweet girl who's given up her season to act as her father's hostess to further his political career. She's upbeat and always has a genuine sunny smile for everyone. Jocelyn adores her father and when she finds out that he's the prime suspect in Grant's investigation, she knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that he wouldn't do something like that. She's no delicate shrinking violet like Grant expects her to be. In fact, she insists on helping with his investigation so that she can prove her point. She also does a lot of things, such as acting as a healer and midwife, that are completely unexpected to Grant and that don't fit his preconceived notions of what a woman of her station is like. Jocelyn is a deeply caring and compassionate person, always willing to lend a helping hand. I love how she genuinely wanted to do something when faced with the extreme poverty of her maid's sister and her children. Best of all, she exhibits the patience of Job and is extremely bold and determined in her dealings with Grant. I don't think I could have dealt with a man like him the way she did, but I admire her for it. Without her genuine sweetness and dauntless pursuit of him, he would have easily written her off as just another spoiled society miss.

Other than wishing Grant would have softened up a bit more and a bit sooner, the only other thing that bothered me were the typos. If there are only a few, I try to overlook them, but in this case there were enough to be a bit distracting. Otherwise, I very much enjoyed reading *The Suspect's Daughter*. The mystery was well-done, and according to the author's note at the end, it's based on factual historical events. I also enjoyed visiting with Grant's three brothers and their wives from the previous books, and his two sisters put in an appearance too. I think that Ms. Hatch has plans to write their stories as well. I really like Rachel's geekiness, and it appears that Margaret is trapped in a horrible marriage and needs an HEA of her own. I'll certainly be on the look-out for their books and hope that Ms. Hatch will be writing and releasing them soon.

Note: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I just loved this book. I had to start out with that and I'll probably end with that too. This series (Rogue Heart) is one of my favorites. These Amesbury brothers are a little thick headed to begin with but their transformations are awesome and when those boys let go and love, boy are they a force to be reckoned with!

Finally Grant has his story told. I've been waiting for Grant's story- I just knew it would be good. And it was. Grant is one closed up guy. And I mean closed up. Sealed up tight. Poor Grant. He doesn't even know how shriveled up his soul has become denying himself love and comfort from family and friends. But Grant has a good heart. He tries to protect people from bad guys and he offers help to people where he can.

Jocelyn is so easy to like. Even Grant has trouble disliking her and that's something. The characters in this book are developed and I really felt like I knew them well by the end of the book. I craved interactions between Grant and Jocelyn because they always made me smile.

This book was romantic and had a bit of intrigue. I was happy to see glimpses of the Amesbury brothers throughout, still happy and well. Now Grant's story has been told and I can't wait to see where we go next with Donna Hatch. Wherever it is, I will be there. I loved this book. It took me to my happy place!

Melissa says

This was a good book that finished out the Amesbury brothers. I am hoping there will be the sisters story in this collection one day. This was about the most broken of the brothers Grant. I liked how his character never changed he was gruff and off putting throughout the book. Someone who has been threw so much doesn't change easily and Grant holds true. I love how the author even has the leading lady understand that the proposal she might one day get from him will be unconventional just like he is. I liked both characters and liked the story line. It was made more interesting when you find out it is based on true events. I really like almost anything Donna writes: }

Laura says

Once again, another one of Donna's books sucked me in! I really enjoyed reading Grant's story and grew to love each of these characters. Donna has a way of writing romance that just makes you want to read more!

Teya Peck says

WOW, way to pull emotion out of my TOES! An experience within these pages had to be extracted from real life. You sit next to her and feel the raw emotional power from Jocelyn. The relief I felt at the end, palpable.

I bite my nails there for a moment (not really, figuratively). I really liked Jocelyn character. Of course she

had to have a strong personality to chip away at Grant's shell. Beautifully written. LOVE IT DONNA!

Annette says

This was my second favorite of this series. The guise of a gentleman was my favorite, but I really enjoy the entire series. I was very anxious to see what kind of heroine would be able to take on Grant and his brooding darkness. I really enjoyed the chance to see him acting like a gentleman, especially since he only did it as a sort of undercover assignment. I liked the heroine, her back story, her different skills and traits that made her a strong presence. I always enjoy seeing the characters from the other books and catching up on their lives. I'm excited to read one of the sisters' stories and hope that one of them is next.

Content: clean

Tiny thing that bugged me: the cover. Violet is so not a color I would associate with Grant. It seems very much like a misfit.

Katie W says

I received a copy from the tour host in exchange for an honest review

I loved this book and I've loved this series. It's been awhile since I've read the others, but I had no trouble following along and loved seeing glimpses of the other brothers, as this one can stand alone.

Jocelyn is a very competent woman. Although she's endured a couple of London seasons, she has yet to make a match and this season, she's focusing her efforts on her father's political career, with no thought for herself. She's very good at planning out social events and is the perfect hostess. She's easy to like and even hardened Grant discovers that.

I love a great "first meet" between two characters and this one was the best! Although it is a terrifying situation, Jocelyn isn't rattled and proves her strength, which surprises Grant. He is undercover and works for the Bow Street Runners, investigating claims that Jocelyn's father is plotting to murder the prime minister. Grant is very mysterious, handsome, and intriguing and I love watching him undergo a conversion, of sorts, to some previous ways of thinking. He really does have a heart of gold, as much as he tries to cover it.

I love a good, clean romance, but when there's depth--more "meat" to the story--, I'm in heaven and this book delivers. The reader not only gets a really great, believable romance, but a fantastic story line, full of conspiracy, mystery, and suspense. Working together, Jocelyn and Grant strive to figure things out before it's too late. Walls are broken, secrets uncovered, and surprises await. The pacing is well done and the characters are developed in a way that allows me to fully visualize them. I can't wait to see what Donna Hatch writes next!

Content: mild romance (kissing, very vague talk of prostitution); mild violence (non-graphic); no language. Clean!

Kathy says

Historical romance that I enjoyed reading. Will definitely look for more books by this author.

This is the fourth book in a series that reads just fine as a standalone.

Content: Clean

Source: Kindle Unlimited Download

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

The characters in the Rogue Hearts series really come to life and Grant is no exception. As the dark and surly brother, he has physical and emotional scars that have him keeping everyone at a distance as he works to bring criminals to justice, even though the work is below his station. His point of view was fascinating as he struggles to stay indifferent to Jocelyn, a strong and poised daughter helping her father seek political election. She sees the good man he is behind his barriers of sarcasm and isolation, and humors him with wit and patience, and draws him out of his emotional isolation. I appreciated that the romance between them took time and grew slowly, they learned to like each other before they loved each other. The mystery of discovering who is behind the sinister plot to assassinate the prime minister keeps the plot moving forward swiftly and balances the emotional drama with action and excitement. There is also some subtle humor as Grant feels completely out of his element acting polite in society. My favorite of the series... so far! Can't wait for the next two books which will feature each of the Amesbury sisters!

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions expressed in this review are my own)

Heidi says

Swoon....sigh

A beautiful ending to the Amesbury brothers stories. I was quickly drawn in and enjoyed every minute. I've been wanting to know what Grant's story was from the very beginning and I ended up absolutely adoring it. I love how the author has the ability to completely transport you to another time....another world. Beautifully written. Cherished characters. I'm just sad it's over. I would LOVE to see Jackson get his story!

Joyce says

I was privileged to be a beta reader for this story, an invitation I was eager to accept. Grant Amesbury has always been the most intriguing of the Amesbury brothers to me. Dark, cynical, mysterious, dangerous, bitter towards his brothers, but in a pinch, always there for them. Is he a hero or a villain? We finally get to find out in Donna Hatch's fourth Rogue Hearts romance, "The Prime Suspect's Daughter." Readers (including me!) who have waited long for this story will not be disappointed. The plot is filled with mystery and danger (appropriate for a mysterious, dangerous character like Grant Amesbury, of course), with twists and turns

that will keep readers hooked page after wonderful page.

The beautiful Jocelyn is everything that Grant is not: joyful, optimistic, and filled with light. Can she fill the dark recesses of Grant's nature with her light, or will his darkness overwhelm her? To her credit, the author does not take the easy road out to this answer, but makes both characters fight for every shred of happiness they achieve in the end. Which, of course, only makes that ending all the more satisfying. Wonderful in every way!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

Awesomeness with a side of swoon!

I love the Rogue Heart series, it's probably one of my all time favorite series. I love the characters, setting and writing. I love that each book can stand on its own, but characters are referenced in each others books, which helps to connect everything together. I actually started this series with book two and then went back and read the first book. I think Ms. Hatch does an excellent job having each book focus on a certain couple, but still have previous characters play a role without taking over the story. Which I think would be hard to do. Anyway, on to my review...

I have been so curious about Grant since the beginning, he's so untouchable, grumpy and mysterious. He is loyal to his family, even if at times he doesn't seem to like them much. I loved that we finally got to see things from his POV and learn his story and what makes him tick. He definitely has reasons for his many walls and my heart broke for him at times. I have also been very curious about what kind of woman could get through to him, and Jocelyn Fairly was a perfect match. I liked Jocelyn quite a bit, I loved that she was a happy person, quick to smile. Yet, she had a lot of depth and strength. She was smart and determined. It was easy to see how someone as rough and cautious as Grant would fall for someone like Jocelyn.

We know Grant helps out with Bow Street Runners, so it was fun to see him in his element trying to solve a mystery. I also liked to see that he had high standards and always tried to do the right thing and help others. Jocelyn and Grant were great together, their relationship built at a believable pace and had plenty of swoony moments.

I am still anxious to read about the Amesbury sisters and look forward to reading their books and reuniting with the whole Amesbury clan. Which is another thing I love about this series, how loyal they are to each other and always there to help in times of need. I love the scenes when they're all together.

Overall, a great regency!

Content

Romance: Clean

Language: None

Violence: Mild

Religious: None

Source: Part of Prism blog tour, review copy. Will be buying a hardcopy for my collection, definitely a keeper!

Canda says

I've enjoyed all the books in this series and this is no exception. I've been dying to hear Grant's story after all the hints about him in the first three books. The love story is a great cross of "opposites attract" and love heals". This will go on my to-reread shelf.

Alisa says

This is Book 4 in the Rogue Hearts series. I was planning to re-read the first three books before reading this book, but I didn't want to wait any longer to read Grant's story so I went straight to Book 4! This book could be a standalone, but I would recommend reading the other books.

Grant has always been the black sheep of the family, but he has always come and helped his family when they have needed him. In this book we learn why he keeps family and women at a distance.

His latest assignment has him investigating Lord Fairly so he has to go back to his "gentleman" roots to blend in and get closer to Lord Fairly. Which inadvertently gets him closer to Lord Fairly's daughter, Jocelyn... Grant walks a fine line between getting close enough to the family to covertly investigate the father without giving them any reason to believe he would be a desirable match for the daughter.

I loved Jocelyn! She is caring, perceptive, forgiving, and brave with a perpetually sunny disposition. She knows that Grant would make a terrible husband, but she can't help feeling attracted to him. She is always trying to get him to smile without stepping into his darkness. The more she gets to know Grant, the more clearly she sees how good his heart really is and the more determined she is to help him see it, too.

Grant has never met a woman like Jocelyn. At first he isn't sure if he's annoyed or charmed by her continual happiness. He had sworn to never place himself under the power of a woman, yet he finds himself constantly protecting Jocelyn and even confiding in her. Even as he realizes he is starting to really like her, he avoids her because he refuses to let his darkness extinguish her light.

Content: Clean

Source: Amazon.com
