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The Princess Spy (Fairy Tale Romance Series)



Synopsis

Margaretha has always been a romantic, and hopes her newest suitor, Lord Claybrook, is destined to be her one true love. But then an injured man is brought to Hagenheim Castle, claiming to be an English lord who was attacked by Claybrook and left for dead. And only Margaretha "one of the few who speaks his language" understands the wild story. Margaretha finds herself unable to pass Colin's message along to her father, the duke, and convinces herself "Lord Colin" is just an addled stranger. Then Colin retrieves an heirloom she lost in a well, and asks her to spy on Claybrook as repayment. Margaretha knows she could never be a spy "not only is she unable to keep anything secret, she's sure Colin is completely wrong about her potential betrothed. Though when Margaretha overhears Claybrook one day, she discovers her romantic notions may have been clouding her judgment about not only Colin but Claybrook as well. It is up to her to save her father and Hagenheim itself from Claybrook's wicked plot.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With a title like *The Princess Spy*, this book seemed like the epic fairy tale retelling that I'd been waiting for. Of all the retellings I've read, there have been very few Frog Prince stories, and most of them have been less than satisfactory. This one... well, I'm having trouble putting it in good or bad. But maybe that's just me. One of the biggest annoyances was the romance -- which I address later on. Okay, well, let's start off with something good -- Margaretha is definitely a step up from the heroines we're used to seeing. She's spunky, but still in a very feminine fashion. I really liked her.

Colin was a hero tormented with doubts and fears from the past, yet he did slowly improve during the course of the novel. The references to the frog were rather humorous. I wondered how one would make a frog fairy tale work without any magic, yet I think Melanie Dickerson really nailed that aspect. Two thumbs there, in my opinion. Something bad -- for someone who was familiar with Melanie Dickerson's previous stories, I found this book highly predictable. It tasted very cliché. A heroine in danger, someone got kidnapped/taken away, romantic musings, the two lovers travel together, a big climax, and then your happily ever after. I appreciated that the author messed up the recipe slightly by sticking a small boy in on the adventure -- a smart, little, German chap known as Toby. He was a welcome bit of humor and change from your usual Dickerson fairy tale. More of Toby would have been nice. The novel is called *The Princess Spy*, and while there was a lot of talk about the whole princess deal, I wish there could have been more of the spy aspect. Margaretha was not the ideal spy, and if she had spent less time mooning over Colin and more time actually acting the spy, I probably would have enjoyed this book more. Wow... I feel like I'm really bashing Melanie Dickerson right now. I did not mean to make this review a total bash. I did actually enjoy this book. And I'm sure there are lots of people who read this and loved it to pieces. I would say that this is my favorite or one of my favorites from this author, yet it wasn't that much more spectacular than any of her other novels. Advisory: Fantasy danger and fighting, but portrayed exactly as we're used to for Melanie Dickerson. Also, romance. What new things can I say here? In my personal opinion, each new book from Melanie Dickerson adds just one more reference to kissing, and it really annoys me. Colin hadn't known Margaretha for very long before he thought about kissing her, and for her, it was the same. Seriously? I'm sorry, romantics, but -- in the words of Kuzco -- "me no likey." Too much emotional attraction, and it got on my nerves.

I am always eager to get my hands on a new Melanie Dickerson fairy tale retelling and *The Princess Spy* did not disappoint. I thought it was a very fun adventure and not quite as predictable as *The Captive Maiden* (which I still loved, it's just the being captured over and over in the same book felt a bit monotonous). One of the things I love most in Melanie Dickerson's books is how much I actually like her heroines. That's quite a feat. It's always hard for me to find girl characters I really like. That's why I usually read books for the guys. ;) Speaking of guys, her heroes are also awesome. I've loved all of them. Wilhelm will always be my favorite, but Colin was right up near the top. I really enjoyed his character, and he and Margaretha were so cute together. Also, the way this book tied in with *The Merchant's Daughter* was fabulous. It was just an extra little detail that made me love the book even more. Plus the cover is just gorgeous. How could it not make you want to read it? I highly

recommend *The Princess Spy* as a well-told continuation of Melanie's fairy tale retellings, and I can't wait to see what she does next. I received this book free from BookLook Bloggers in exchange for my honest review.

Margaretha likes to talk. A lot. She talks when she's happy, when she's nervous, when she's afraid, and when she's awake. Her brothers tease her about it. She's convinced she's driven away some of her suitors with her incessant prattling so when Lord Claybrook expresses interest despite her constant chatter, she begins to consider a possible union. Then an injured man is brought to Castle Hagenheim. An extremely handsome man who seems to have gone mad. When Margaretha realizes he is speaking English instead of raving, she draws on her lessons to communicate with the man. Colin confides he is searching for Lord Claybrook to bring him to justice. He asks Margaretha to spy on him. When she finally agrees, Margaretha discovers the horrid truth--Colin was telling the truth. Lord Claybrook is a murderer who now plans to ambush her family. Her discovery leads her and Colin through danger and adventure through the German countryside. As they travel, running for their lives, they face danger and adventure--and possibly love. A story both mothers and teenage daughters will enjoy, *The Princess Spy* is exciting from the first pages. Margaretha wants so badly to please her family but also wants to be loved (what girl doesn't). Her talking is humorous at times but also endearing. The brave, headstrong, and caring princess is loved by the people of Hagenheim and readers will fall in love with her as well. A great role model for young girls, Melanie Dickerson's character is enchanting but real. ****BookLook Bloggers provided me with a copy of this book for an honest and fair review. I was not compensated in any way for either a negative or a positive review.

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