

Tales from the Albright
Episode 96: Book Discussion: The Secret Service of Tea and Treason by India Holton

Alyssa: Hello, everyone. Welcome to Tales from the Albright. Today we are here with Briana.

Briana: Hello.

A: It's our second video podcast. So that's very exciting. And today we have a book discussion for you of the Secret Service of Tea and Treason

B: by India Holton

A: Okay, so first things do you want to introduce yourself since we are now on the YouTube.

B: Oh yes on the YouTube. Hello, I'm Briana Cimino. I am the circulation manager here at the Albright Memorial Library. I am a big book nerd. I love mystery. I've been delving into fantasy. Alyssa and I both love all things British, so that informs a lot of our book choices, but I'm excited to be able to do a lot of our book discussions with Alyssa.

A: Yes, and we have book recommendations here that Brianna kindly brought up from circulation.

B: I'll get to chat about those at some point.

A: Yes. So First things first, how did you like the book?

B: I thought it was really fun, like there was a lot of, like, interesting whimsy in addition to the like, fantasy adventure plot and the romance. So it felt like a true genre blend where we got a little bit of everything. And I thought it made it really fun.

A: Yeah. It felt very light. Yeah. Yeah, I wish I had a bit more depth to do it,

B: Yes That's fair

A: but it felt very like light and whimsical and kind of like something you would pick up if you needed a cozier read

B: Yes, like it was a nice, entertaining read. That wasn't too like they hinted at some heaviness, but there wasn't a lot of heavy in there.

A: This book is the third in the series,

B: which we did not know going into this,

A: yeah.

B: well you figured it out

A: Yeah I knew a bit more

B: but I had no idea. I just saw this come in in one of our new bins of items and I was like, Oh my gosh, this looks like such a good read. So I picked it up and nowhere on the book does it say book three. In my defense, you have to like really search to find that it says book three. It just says other titles by her. So. I didn't know that, but it was also still really good to read as a standalone. It still worked,

A: Yes. And the other titles in the series are The Wisteria Society of Lady Scoundrels. The League of Gentlemen Witches. And then this one. And then she also has a new title coming out this year. Yes, I did see that. And I just put it on order this morning.

A: So we will have all of those. Yes, indeed.

B: And if you ever need the earlier books of these as well or also on Libby. So you can read them on Libby as.

A: Yes. And I feel like it's something where people are so scared to start series part way through, but we did it and it was fine.

B: Yeah, it worked out. It's nice because they do that thing because it's such a light read where they introduce you to the characters like new fold. So it's one of those things that funnily as a series reader, I always found irritating. Where you're on book four and they have to remind you of things or be like this character with this thing that happened in their past. And so here it was helpful because it meant that we really didn't feel like we were missing anything.

A: Yes. I think the book that I vividly remember doing that as a kid is the Harry Potter series because I feel like the first chapter of error Harry Potter book just explains all the rest of them

B: It's like, let's catch you up in case you weren't paying attention. Yeah, like the series recaps when you watch shows that are, like television dramas.

A: Yeah. In the very beginning. Where? Like previously on? Yeah. And then just go through everything and you get the main gist, but you don't know the whole thing.

B: Yes. So I think I'm guessing. Guessing that in the earlier books we do get to meet Alice and Daniel, who are our main characters here, and we get to see sort of their back stories. But the cool part is that this is really the beginning of their story together. So while the other two books I think set them up individually, this one is like they're coming together in this adventure and then the romance comes into play.

A: Yeah, I know I saw a review saying that they're like kind of mentioned background characters in the other books, so they're there, like you kind of know. And you're kind of curious about them, but then you get the actual book about them. And I feel like that's something a lot of the romance genre does.

B: Yes, that's true. And I will say that's one of the things that I found in a lot of these other books, too, is like, it's it's a cool strategy, in my opinion, to introduce characters that you, like, get that interest in. And then you get to meet them more later because then it gives each set of characters their own opportunity to shine and be the protagonist for their own book which I like.

A: I think that's why a lot of romance authors go with families. Yeah, so they'll make a family with like. Five brothers. And then it goes through the stories of all the brothers.

B: Yes. And that sort of set up. So you get that and it's a continuing thing.

B: Yeah, definitely.

A: OK so. What did you? Feel about the overall sense of whimsy throughout the. Book.

B: I enjoyed it. I think it made it. Because it plays to a lot of tropes and they did it so or she did it so artfully, I feel like it helped because then the whimsy sort of made it more fun and interesting. Like it wasn't just to a formula. This is how these sort of adventure stories go. It's always a good person that turns bad or whatever it may be like. You got a lot of that really fun silliness. And a lot of the tropes of the genre they like, poke fun at which I found really entertaining.

A: Yeah, it had a humor to it.

B: Yes,

A: I think I would have liked it to be a bit more grounded, but I'm also just me. I don't read a ton of fantasy. I don't read a ton of like, silly, whimsical type stories, so I like things a bit more grounded. But again, that's just a personality thing with me.

B: Well, and I think it depends on what you're in the mood to read. So this is something that's very good. For someone who likes those lighter reads, where you don't feel like you have to be like really in depth and serious about it. Whereas I know some of them where you're more involved with those characters. Others like even our one of our earlier reads Thursday Murder Club, has similar feel to this like,

A: yeah,

B: but that was a little more serious as the story went on. The way we got to know the characters because we stuck with the same characters and I liked the way that felt grounded in a way. This is more of a whimsy for the sake of fun and whimsy. And I. They like that. That's a different, like sort of. It's like having a snack versus a meal.

A: Yeah. I feel like I couldn't in my brain, kind of grounded in what era it was supposed to be, so that confused me often.

B: yeah its supposed to

A: It feels like Regency Victorian, like somewhere

B: Yeah

A: in that 1800s realm. But I could never, like, get a grasp on it.

B: Yeah, because then some of the technology and references they made felt more like early to mid 1900s almost to me. So yeah, I couldn't get a total sense, but I feel like that's often the case with these sort of books is that they do that on purpose

A: Yeah

B: like they obscure. But that's also why I will argue that for all this is a genre blend where it's we've got some adventure and fantasy and romance. And technically, I believe one of the subjects is historical fiction, but to me this isn't technically historical fiction because you don't actually get any clear place and time. We get much broader senses of them, but like I know, one of the things they teach you in librarian school is that historical fiction has very clear senses. Of like history and place and setting and time. And we don't get that here. So it's more of like a secondary device to sort of add some. Flavor. I feel like,

A: yeah,

B: yeah.

A: So I know you wanted to point out the chapter titles and chapter headings in the book. Yes. So the Secret Service of Tea and Treason does do the historical book thing where it lists off kind of the major topics of the chapter at the very beginning. This was a common trope in early books. In the 1800s. I know you tend to see it in, I don't know, I read it. Out of. Like biographies of the Marquis de Lafayette, when for funzies.

B: Yes,

A: that were written in like the 1830 no and more like 1890s. And they all do the same thing where it's like crossing the river. Going to Indianapolis- Like just it lists out what things are and India Holton and does that in this book.

B: Yes. And I feel like they're they're really fun the way that she does them. So for instance, Chapter 18 has how not to open a door, a literary encounter? Daniel's patience goes up in flames. A bucket of cold water, not strictly ballroom, and an immovable object. So it's one of those interesting things to me, where she hints at a lot of the plot in each chapter, but she doesn't tell you what happens like. It reminded me I hope I'm not lying. I should have checked, but I think the one that I'm thinking of is like Lady Audley's Secret. It was something that was like a mid 1800s piece that I read where the last chapter quite literal. Said she's vindicated and freed.

A: Yes:

B: Or like something like that was like, Oh my gosh, you told me what was going to happen before it happened.

A: Yeah.

B: And that was just the way they did it. But I like that this sort of plays on that strategy doesn't quite spoil it, like, more like teasers. It.

A: Yeah. I feel like it has a bit more like word play.

B: Yes, definitely. Word play is one of, I would say, my key descriptors for this novel. Definitely.

A: And Speaking of that, there's a lot of quotes from other literary works in here, like Shakespeare and Frankenstein.

B: I. Love that. It was just so fun. Just the way that she, like, works all of those in. It's so much fun.

A: Yeah, I think. I saw the Frankenstein one and I think I just wrote a note on because I read the e-book so I just typed in a note about how much I. Hate victor.

B: Victor Frankenstein.

A: Yeah,

B: like the character?

A: Yes

B: Thats too Funny, yes,

A: I like hate him so much.

B: You have. We should read Frankenstein now.

A: We Should not read Frankenstein.

B: Don't want to share your grudges about Frankenstein?

A: Fine. We can read Frankenstein if you really want. Maybe that might be something coming soon.

B: Let us know.

A: Yeah, I'm a more of a Dracula person, but we all own this.

B: We do know this about you. I've never read Dracula.

A: We should read Dracula

B: Uh Oh, I've done this to myself. Yes, but yeah, like I love I like any of this sort of, you know what I mean?

A: Yeah: I think it's fun. I like the. I like the illusion. I like the way that we worked in a lot of those pieces, especially because they're both readers. And that was one of my favorite of their, like, bonding moments is how much they love books and how. I think the breaking point at the end where they're like trying to break them up and the breaking. Point for for. For our lead, Alice, I think it's for Alice. Yeah, not Daniels for Alice, is that they get rid of her books and she's like, Nope.

A: Yeah,

B: I no longer work for you. You can't get rid of my books. Not happening. I'm done with you. And that was just really entertaining to me.

A: Yeah, I feel like the most relatable part of the book is anytime they were in a major social situation and they were like, I wish I was just. At home, reading my book and I'm like, that's relatable,

B: yes, yes. Yes, their characters were really fun that way. Yeah.

A: And Speaking of their characterizations. Alice had kind of in a way, reminded me of, like, Amelia Bedelia.

B: Yeah, that's fair.

A: With like The. Taking idioms very literally. Uh. What did you think about that?

B: I would agree. I think her character in that way, like it was sort of interesting in a way to sort of give her that. I don't know, like it made the whimsy stronger. I feel like because she was so Privy to the whimsy and then it sort of balanced out nicely for their characters

because we get Daniel as this very like. Serious like he's very. Direct and we get that side of him, but then she has that sort of light and it's like she thinks she's serious, but she's not because of that.

A: Yeah.

B: Like, it feels like it's a way to add humor without making it, like slapstick. Funny. You know what I mean? And I liked that about her. I thought it was fun. I thought it wasn't always totally believable. Obviously,

A: yeah,

B: but I feel like the lack of believability was part of the. Schtick you know.

A: Yeah, no, it definitely felt that way like some of them, I was like all. Right, let's get. Past this?

B: Yes, yes.

A: Just move on.

B: Yes,

A: but some of them were entertaining.

B: Yes. Do you have in there? While we're talking about characters, The Baby capitalized because that was one of my favorite little tidbits of it was the way that The Taby was like this character that was hysterical. And the way that everyone interacted with the baby. Like. It was so this was the. The Baby was Evangeline, right? Was that or was that different?

A: Yes, I think so

B: So that was one of the? I think pirates, kids. And it was just so funny the way that they did that. I just, I loved that that bit.

A: So what did you think about all of the kind of support staff and like servants being agents of the same organization and kind of just fangirling over Alice and Bixby the entire time?

B: I mean that was pretty funny. I mean, it was an interesting turn of events where. It at first you like. I don't know. It feels like they're fangirling. And then you find out that one of the agents is secretly like even better. And like, is this great? Like, kind of like, she's like a spy within the spies sort of.

A: Yeah.

B: Which I thought was an interesting turn because by that point they had come to accept that they were being fond over and it meant they didn't really suspect anything of her. I guess that she was like going back to AUNT and like telling on them or whatever. So I thought it was interesting if a little problematic, which was it made it funny, though I feel like.

A: I feel like I don't understand how they got anything done. Because everyone is so very obvious the entire time.

B: Oh Yeah

A: So like. I almost felt like the plot to actually, like stop the bomb, because the whole thing is that they're trying to stop somebody from killing Queen Victoria, and I felt like it. Just that was kind of like a secondary thing to this entire just romped through. This whole pirate party?

B: Yeah, it was pretty great at the end. When or not, not even at the end. Somewhere in there where they're like. Yeah, we didn't believe for a second that you guys were pirates like nothing about you makes sense as pirates. So I guess they just kind of in their pirate way. We're just playing along and making having fun with them.

A: Yeah.

B: So I think you're right. That it wasn't believable, but I feel often like things like this in books aren't like even when we read Thursday Murder Club, some of the ways that they, like, pretend to be certain people and do things I'm like, there's no way. There's no way. It's like the suspended disbelief.

A: Yeah,

B: fiction.

A: I feel like sometimes it works better than others though, because I do frequently read books where I'm like that would never happen. But it's fine because it makes sense within it where I felt like I just couldn't get a grasp on like what the actual like meaty part of the Secret Service of Tea and Treason. Was at certain points of the book.

B: Yeah. Like I totally forgot about the whole bomb plot. Like I had no idea. Honestly, for half of it, I. Was just like this is just a. On silly romance where they're they're like falling in love as they just pretend to be pirates. That was all I could really get out of. Half of it, which is why it was funny when it like the mystery itself, comes to a head. And I was like, you know, I don't know. It wasn't the focus for me. I feel like, yeah.

A: Speaking of the mystery, spoiler alert, this reveals the whole ending.

B: I like that.

A: How did you feel about Snodgrass being the villain?

B: I thought it made sense in the way that this often happens where, like the bumbling like intelligent but not socially aware person that nobody pays attention to or likes is ultimately the bad guy and like turns on them like I feel like that's a. Premise of a. Lot of stories.

A: Yes

B: Like this so I don't wanna say I saw it coming cause like I said, I stopped paying attention to that. Side of things and was just watching them pretend to be pirates and be like, Oh my God, he's so beautiful wait. I can't think about beautiful. He is like I wanted to. I wanted to. That think that I knew, but I don't know that I did, but I thought it was interesting. I thought it. Worked.

A: I felt kind of like I wanted it to be somebody completely else, because then I wanted him to have, like, the next book in the series that doesn't exist. And have like, a weird romance where he's like, I'm just undervalued all the time and no one respects me because I think that would have. Been fun.

B: That would have been a really Snodgrass's romance book.

A: Yeah, it would be it chaotic and I would have loved it.

B: Yeah that's funny

A: But yeah, that's that didn't happen.

B: What about him with the like, the the snitch. The girl who like. Tells on them. Just the two of them. Romance.

A: A romance, but like from the other side of like the villain side,

B: yes. yes That does actually sound fun.

A: That would be so fun, and that's what I was really hoping for but it didn't happen

B: You should have written this or you can write a fan fiction. That's this, the next book, fiction, the next book.

A: I'm not writing fanfiction. First of all, I can't write.

B: I believe in you. You can do it.

A: I I can write academic history and that's about it.

B: Maybe that's the way Snodgrass's love story is told. You don't know. You don't. Know but yeah. I think though I like your point, I think that's really good. I think there's always that struggle with the mystery where it's like it has to be a character, you know, it can't be no one you've ever met. Because then that ruins the fact that you're supposed to be able to solve with them. So like it had to be someone we met. But everybody else we met was basically a pirate.

A: Yeah,

B: so, like, that would have been too obvious. You know? Yeah, I don't know. I feel like it was so chaotic. It literally. Could have been anyone

B: it should. Have been The Baby.

A: Yeah

B: It would have been. So good if they were just. Like it was The Baby all along. Oh my gosh.

A: Yes, I agree. Okay, that's that's our new ending for the book.

B: That's our ending.

A: The other thing I have here is kind of the hints of the Super strict upbringing and like borderline abusive upbringing that just somehow comes out of nowhere.

B: Yes. Yeah, I wonder. That's what makes me wonder if they lead into that in the first two books. Like if we see more of that just the way that AUNT is sort of in a. Like, because we we learn that they're the bad guys by the end they send them on this mission, but obviously then they are kind of the bad guys and we're like, OK, well, the way that they treated, especially Alice when she was young is like really harsh and really terrible and but also kind of fits with Victorian orphan concepts,

A: Yeah

B: I guess.

A: But at the same time, I feel like it's you have whimsy, whimsy, whimsy. Here's this awful random thing for two lines. Whimsy, whimsy, whimsy. And I'm like I kind of would like to have explored that a bit more.

B: Yes, Yeah, I think that would have been interesting as sort of like a secondary plot line. That's why I keep referencing it right now, but that's why the Thursday Murder Club, their 4th book, is my favorite so far because they address the concept of dementia. In the middle of this silly book. But they do it so well because they sort of run it as an undercurrent to what's happening, where we still get to jump back and forth into that fun,

like adventurous, fun plot. But like, every so often, we step back into this more serious concept, and you get to have this really cool, in-depth exploration of that. So, it probably would have been a really cool. Way to sort of handle like Alice's back story here, though I don't know if because of the way that the story wanted to do it, I feel like it was more of a way just to be like, OK, well, these characters aren't just fun and light, but. That's not the tone. Of our book, I guess, yeah. But I agree with you.

A: And. How did you find the romance in the book?

B: Honestly, it was mostly just funny to me, because from the beginning, when they're just like, oh my God, you're the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. But like, can't say anything. But it's like instantaneous. Like it. It's such that trope of like, yeah, at first sight. And I don't know how I felt about it. I will say it grew on me like by the end I was like, this is really sweet, and I actually really like them together, especially when they sort of delve into, like, their similarities in the way they both love books.

A: Yeah.

B: And love to sort of have their own time and, like, respect each other's intelligence and capabilities. Like, they develop the romance. Pretty well throughout, so it went from at the beginning where I was like, Oh my goodness, this is just ridiculous to. OK, I could kind of see this. I can ship this.

A: Yeah. It I feel like. It just there was something where I was like, OK, this is fine. But like, wasn't great.

B: Yeah, they were both super socially awkward, though.

A: Yeah.

B: So the problem is, is it them both just being awkward human beings as a pairing, or is it the way that their romance is created? Sort of.

A: Like I think it might just be like a combination of the two.

B: Yeah. And it's part of why I would argue that this is more like I already discounted historical fiction is not the main genre, but I would say for all that, romance is a big part of it. I still think that the comedy side is probably the most dominant genre where it's sort of.

A: Yes 100%

B: Like comedy is the focal point in the form of whimsy, and then from there we have romances next and then the adventure plot, and then the historical side like in order of priority. So I feel like that's why the romance isn't like perfectly developed, because we're

still prioritizing the comedy where some of the other books I have to share a lot of it is, it's more focused on the romance. Or the adventure plot premise, you know,

A: No, I agree with that.

B: Yeah, yeah.

A: Do you wish your house could fly?

B: I don't think I do based on the things that happened at these houses when they fly, they're just like pieces flying off and like I can, I'm terrified my shutters won't stay on as it's just from us making sure we properly nailed them into the side of the house, let alone flying. Though it is a cool concept and it reminds me of a lot of like, I don't know, the fun sort of. Like child, like again with the whimsy. So like the fun child. Like stories like Up. Yeah, I don't know, maybe that's the only thing I can think of up off the top. Of my head. But you know, maybe like the fun. Adventure sort of thing.

A: Yeah, I think. I'm confused if they have like a house that stays on the ground and then the flying house. Or is the flying House just it

B: is it like a a vacation home or is it? Is it their primary residence, and if so, what is the address of the primary residence?

A: Because They're pirates. Does that take the place of ships in like how we think of pirates in? The world

B: But isn't isn't the premise that Daniel's on an actual ship. At one point?

A: I think so. That's how I took it. But

B: OK. But you never know. You never know.

A: It could have been a house.

B: That's true. It could have been a House ship. Yeah. Yeah. I thought it was a fun little element that just sort of added to that. Say the mythologies or well, I should say, mythologies. The choices of magic interested me. So like we've talked about this before with fantasy where. You've got there's werewolf magic which is different from vampires, which is different from fairies and like different from angels and demons like those are all different types of mythologies that normally have their own books. So like, for instance, when when I read the Shadowhunter books, which is the YA Cassandra Clare series, I struggled at first cause they put a bunch of them in about

A: Oh 100% every single mythological. Every single like legendary or mythical character are in those books.

B: Yes. Literally like demons, vampires, werewolves, goblins

A: Angels

B: they have everything.

A: Yeah.

B: Yeah. So like this felt somewhat like that to me because it was we have witches and we have pirates and we have this society that interacts with the witches and the pirates that has their own, like, they're not magic. Or anything necessary but they like, participate in that. So like, there were a lot of tiers of different types, and it was a fun way. I feel like of trying to do something different, like, OK, we're not just going to do vampires and werewolves romance. We're going to do pirates and witches and, like, do that sort of thing. So that made it fun. But I feel like that's part of why it has to stay whimsical and. Light because they can't ground it in anything very concrete. Right here, they're just like going going for it.

A: Yeah, that's that's very true. Yeah, it had that, like feel,

B: yes, yeah.

A: I feel like I want to go back and read the first two books just to see if it gives a bit more sense of grounding that I was looking for in this one because it is the third book. I mean it's very much. You can read it on its own as a stand alone and I do recommend it because it is fun,

B: yeah.

A: But I feel like. It probably helps to read the first two first.

B: Yes, I would agree. And then if you're not sure if books are in the series always just look online or ask one of your helpful librarians and we'll be able to help you there.

B: We will do research for you, even if we didn't do it for ourselves, apparently. Don't let Alyssa ask what books do you want to read because I just go through the list of books. I thought looked cool and I don't do my research. I just go. I like this one and you said you liked it too.

A: Yeah.

B: So it's my fault.

A: I just assumed you read the first two.

B: No, I'm just. I see what comes in and I go I like that and I want to read it.

A: Yeah, that was how I was when I was working like at Library Express and I would just see all the books come in and just add to the holds and add to my to read list and then it just gets out of control and then it's having narrow it down. Then you feel bad. You're not reading as quick as you. Want

B: I know I have too many going on right now. And since we have access to Libby and Hoopla, I will like listen to an audio book on one of those platforms while reading a book, while also typically I'm reading 2 in physical form and one digitally. So it's like so many.

A: That's where I'm at right now.

B: Mm-hmm. That's me.

A: What books are you reading?

B: So just finished this one last week. I'm currently in the middle of reading the Throne of Glass series because one of our coworkers here, Sarah, shout out to Sarah, convinced me to read it and it's very good. So I'm on like book 4 or 5 of 7 or eight of those. And then I'm also reading a new non-fiction. I found that we just got in called. Slow Productivity, it seems really cool, just started that like it for our other book club that we're doing. And then I'm listening to Katie Roberts Neon God series, because I thought those would be fun.

A: Yeah.

B: So that's on Hoopla and I believe it's on Libby, that I am doing it on Hoopla.

A: Yeah, I am listening to Rachel Hawkins. The Villa.

B: Ohh. OK

A: and then I am reading. A Month in the Country by JR or JL Carr. I know the last name is Carr. It was one of those short novellas that appeared on my Instagram reels and I was like, oh, that. Sounds interesting. Yeah. And then. What else am I reading? Oh, Murder in Mesopotamia by Agatha Christie because and I am an Agatha Christie person

B: We have been rebuying and like getting copies of all of the most obscure Agatha Christies, by the way. So we're going to have plenty of them here. Plenty. I've been buying a lot. Of British mysteries.

A: Have you been getting Mary Westmacott ones?

B: I'll have to look and. See.

A: Those are the like the romance ones that she wrote on the side that are a bit more autobiographical in terms of like her inspiration for it, I think because I know I bought a lot

of just her more obscure titles of the random mysteries that nobody had but I'll have to take a look and see, because I did those and then we ordered a lot of so similar to this but without as much of the whimsy and romance we do have a lot of. It's called the British Crime Library, I think, or something like that.

A: OK

B: and it's a bunch of classics. Some of them are individual authors. So ER, Lorac was one that a patron really liked and recommended, but then some are like. Murders on trains? Yeah, just a bunch of British murder mysteries set on trains.

A: Yeah. That's fun though

B: Like like different from, you know, obviously the whimsy sense. Yeah, but yeah.

A: And would you like to talk about the books that you bought years.

B: OK, so I brought a couple of different sort of realms of recommendations based on the book we have here. So we have one that looked really interesting is called Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord. It is the first in a new mystery series and very similar to the. One that we read here, it's set in like the 1800s in London. There is a lady who's our main character. She loses her fiancé, she decides to like, enjoy society, but then she. Basically finds out about that she has melancholia, which is one of those.

A: Yeah.

B: Horrible illnesses for women in the day. That was just like, probably you were just like depressed.

A: Yeah, it's basically depression and anxiety,

B: yes. And so she vows to, like, use her condition to, like, dig deeper. And she, like, goes into, like the asylums. And finding out about the way that the society is, like, treating all these women that have this condition. So it's

A: Very Nellie Bly style.

B: Yeah. It's like a very cool, like The lady that goes undercover and like is uncovering like mystery adventure. So not necessarily magic, but has a lot of those elements of that. And this is a mystery genre book. Then another one that I felt was very similar to this one is called a Ladies Guide to Mischief and Mayhem. I actually found it because the author, Manda Collins is recommended as a read-a-like author for India Holton and it says basically it's about a newspaper columnist who's also a lady. So everyone does not think she should be writing these newspaper. Columns. It's too scandalous and she gets

involved with this inspector and he's solving mysteries. And this is also set. This is in 1865. So he's solving all these mysteries and she's getting involved in his crime scenes and they start to be like, no, you can't be involved in my crime scene. And then Oh my gosh, but you're beautiful. So then they start to fall in love. But she like shows up when he's solving a murder. So it's like a. Fun. Sort of. Another one of those, like romance, murder mystery sort.

A: Is that a series?

B: So this is book one of a series. Yes.

A: Just so I'm sure

B: Yep. I'm pretty sure there are a bunch of them. This I did look this up to make. Sure, this was. Book one this time just in case

A: we've learned our lesson.

B: Yes, we learned our lesson. So that's book one. There are these handful that I found that are just sort of. Not quite as similar to what we. Said but more of the period romance that's been coming out. So like, we know a lot of these style of covers have been very popular where it's like the illustrated.

A: Yeah, I talked about those at the last book discussion or podcast recording.

B: So we've got a lot of those in our collection now because it's been a lot more popular. There are some that are in like the the Regency sort of time frame. So like this one is Too Woo and Too Wed by Martha Waters. So that one's like a sort of. Dating, not dating widow, romance, sort of.

A: Also series I believe, right.

B: think this one's brand new, so I'm not sure if there are any more of it yet. This one's also very new, which is Lady Charlotte Always Gets Her Man by Violet Marsh. Another of the fun, like mismatched romance sort of things. So these are more straightforward romance, but I thought they were fun because they fit that sort of period as, like a backdrop for it. And then just for something a little more off the wall, we also have The Little Old Lady Behaving Badly, which is I believe Swedish actually, but it fits more with like the Thursday Murder Club feel where it's just like eclectic solving mysteries, the way that we have these, like British spies solving them. This is like older women solving mysteries. Very fun for like if you like more of the adventure romp sort of feel of this

A: Oh Helen India Holton is quoted on the front of Lady Charlotte Always Gets Her Man and I just looked ohh and this Too Woo and To Wed too

B: I didn't even know that I literally just went through the new section for these two and

A: I just looked down and I saw the quotes on them,

B: so she's well known then. So and then last but not least, had to throw this out there. That obviously we have Bridgerton. So for those of you who just like that the romance and the Regency and those elements. And like we talked about at the beginning when we were talking about sort of family storytelling. So we have Bridgerton the first book, which is told about the sister Daphne. That one was made into a Netflix adaptation a couple of years ago, and since then they've been adapting the show. It's been almost every year.

A: yeah I think it's come out pretty much yearly,

B: yes,

A: Its been pretty consistent

B: in the spring. Yeah, because I think it was this time last year that the second season came out, which is based on the Viscount Who Loved Me. So this is told about one of the brothers. And then this month, no next month we have coming. Out Season 3 Romancing Mr. Bridgerton, which is about another one of the brothers, so that one it's going to be a two-part release to the show. So the first part is May 16th and then the second part is the middle of June. So they're doing like a double release, but we have all of the books of the series. We have pretty much everything Julia Quinn has written because. They are really popular, so if you really just like this because you like British settings and romance and a little bit of that history, Bridgerton is another great one too. So if you're curious. Or you already were a watcher of the show. We have the books. We have them available on Libby, I believe, and maybe even Hoopla. I'd have to check.

A: Yeah.

B: So if you're interested in any of those,

A: try all of our resources,

B: yes. And then if you ever have questions, just give us a call and we'll be happy to help you find some.

A: Yeah.

B: So these are just some fun reads that I found that I thought would be good for, if you liked the Secret Service of Tea and Treason or want to read something like it.

A: Well, thank you for joining me today. Do you have any final thoughts.

B: I my final thoughts are that I may not want a flying house, but I do love The Baby that can wield weapons. That's my thoughts, but this was fun. I enjoyed reading it with you.

A: Yeah, it is very fun. Well, thank you all for watching or listening, depending on which version of this you are interact. With, if you have any questions, always feel free to e-mail me at aloni@albright.org that is ALONEY@albright.org or feel free to call the library to put any of these books on hold at 570-348-3000. Thank you.