



A Covert Affair

Susan Mann

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910.4 TRAVEL, adventurous

306.7 ROMANCE, secret

341.5 HOSTAGES, saving

A CIA librarian and her handsome spy boyfriend find themselves in the middle of an international incident when the Indian ambassador is kidnapped from a Library of Congress event.

Agent-in-training Quinn Ellington and James Bond Anderson travel to India, where the key to saving the ambassador is tangled up with a long-lost sacred library, a desecrated temple, and some very modern machinations. At least their cover as blissful newlyweds isn't too hard to pull off . . .

1. Spies sexy. 2. India intrigue. 3. Terrorism foiling. 4. Best friends weddings of. 5. Series The Librarian and the Spy.

I. Ellington, Quinn."

A Covert Affair Details

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Author : Susan Mann

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Genre : Romance, Mystery, Fiction, Contemporary

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From Reader Review A Covert Affair for online ebook

Linda Quick says

LOVED this book! The unlikely partnership of Quinn, the reference librarian, and James, the very real spy, is delightful! In this book, Quinn is in training to become a spy herself, when she is called into action to partner with James on an investigation that has them traveling to India. I love the interactions between Quinn and James and especially love how passionate Quinn is about books. Additionally, the author has woven so much about India and its' history that, in addition to being fascinating, that it almost felt like a character itself.

Fans of the genre will love this book. While it is part of a series, this is a stand alone novel, however its so good that you really owe it to yourself to read them all.

Nikki Brooks says

My favourite Spy loving Librarian is back! Quinn Ellington may be a librarian but she is also in training with the CIA to undertake covert operations. This will let her take missions under the tutelage of her boyfriend, and very own "James Bond", CIA Agent James Anderson. She may have fallen into the spy game accidentally but she comes from a strong spy background, care of her doting Grandfather.

When Quinn and James take an invitation to a new exhibit of rare manuscripts, they end up in the middle of a heist and a kidnapping! They are right in the thick of things and end up embroiled in an international rescue attempt involving an Ambassador, rare manuscripts and a deep and divisive history between the Sikh and Hindi faiths.

What follows is a really well researched and well constructed delve into Sikh/Hindi relations all contained within a spy story with a heavy dollop of romance. James is as compelling as ever and Quinn...well what she lacks in experience she makes up for in pluck and Librarian know how! She truly is a Ninja Librarian!

I loved how James and Quinn dealt with the struggles in their relationship and how they overcome forced separations due to missions, etc. I can't wait to see what happens next!

Deborah says

Quinn is now working for the CIA doing research and training as an agent. She is loving the work, especially when she works with her spy boyfriend, James. Since Quinn has relocated to the east coast, we see the progression of their relationship. Which I loved. They are so into one another!

While they are attending an Indian ancient manuscript exhibition, the Indian Ambassador Sharma is kidnapped along with many of the manuscripts. Soon Quinn and James are off to India to track down the kidnappers and figure out why the manuscripts were taken. The amount of Indian history learned in this book is astounding!!

The author has weaved a story around a true historical event and it works wonderfully! Susan Mann took the time to explain about the thoughts and feelings of all the religions of India and how they intertwine. James

and Quinn are tasked with finding the ambassador and solving the mystery of the missing books of the Sikh Reference Library. How they find each piece of information and slowly put it all together, I was on the edge of my seat wanting to know what comes up next!!

A Covert Affair is book two in the Librarian and the Spy series but it is easily read as a standalone novel. Quinn and James actually meet in book one but the secondary characters are unique to this book! I really like the mix of romantic humor, adventure, and history. Quinn and James are great together and I can't wait for book three, An Uncommon Honeymoon! I'm sure it's going to be just as intriguing as books one and two!

5 Stars/2.5 Flames

This book was gifted to me by the Jeep Diva for an voluntary review. The review and ratings are solely my opinions.

Jeanne Adamek says

I am really loving this series that start with the book Librarian and the Spy. The second book A Covert Affair book started a bit slow and I was worried at the beginning that this would be a case of the second book not matching up to the first STRONG book.

I can happily say that I now do not find this to be the case. I love the two main characters, of which I honestly think are as strong characters as Amelia Peabody and her husband Emerson in Elizabeth Peters wonderful series.

I also loved the history that was spread throughout A Covert Affair. One could argue that one does not like the ways that the author used this history, but for me it made the story wonderfully readable.

I have to admit that I do not really feel that the covers do not really fit with the story, but it will not stop me from ordering the next book An Uncommon Honeymoon--which is coming out soon!

Joy Smith says

This is a sequel to The Librarian and the Spy, the first book in the series, which I haven't read, but Quinn Ellington is a librarian, and apparently she met her boyfriend, CIA agent James "Bond" Anderson, in that book; she's now an agent-in-training. Her grandfather is a CIA spy she recently learned, and the agency has been watching and waiting to recruit her, so now she's being trained and tested. And then her connections get her an invitation to an exhibition of rare Indian manuscripts at the Library of Congress, where she meets the ambassador of India to the United States.

Quinn actually does love books and manuscripts and is an expert on the subject; she appreciates the opportunities she's had to study and save them. But while enjoying the exhibition, Ambassador Sharma is kidnapped by the Falcon and the manuscripts stolen, so soon she and James are off to India to track them down and solve an old mystery of other missing manuscripts. The author has done her research on Indian history; I had never heard of Operation Blue Star, but I have always wondered why Mrs. Gandhi's Sikh bodyguards assassinated her. Now I know about that bloody piece of Indian history...

A Covert Affair has wit, romance, and adventure, and the reader will learn a lot about Indian culture and history along the way. Quinn has a lot to learn--and she frets about her relationship with James; I often thought she needed to focus more on the job and the potential danger.

Note: Some adult content. And there's a look at the next book in the series, *An Uncommon Honeymoon*, which intrigued me.

Jennifer says

Fun. I'd like to be a librarian in the CIA with a super-hot spy for a boyfriend. I mean, what's not to like about that?!

Lonny Johnson says

The second book in Susan Mann's trilogy (and perhaps to be more I hope), "A Covert Affair" takes our spy couple to The Punjab, a Sikh region of northern India. The glimpse into Indian and in particular Sikh culture elevates this book a cut above Ms. Mann's debut "The Librarian and the Spy" which was quite good in it's own right. Though I have rated both 4 stars this is 4.5 in truth. I will start the third book shortly to see if she can reach 5 stars. I look forward to it. Here she weaves an action/adventure tale around the cultural/religious differences between the Sikh and Hindu populations including excellent historical references to ground the book in the reality of tensions between the two. There is, of course, plenty of romance for our heroes James and Quinn. I spotted a couple of funny references to "Chuck" the TV series and to Ms. Mann's fan fiction. I am still a bit put off by this book being categorized as Romance or Women's Fiction. It is so much more than that and I worry there are some readers who would be put off by those labels. This is a really good book with healthy doses of humor, romance, action, and history. I think everyone would enjoy it. Highly recommended.

Melanie says

4.5 Stars!

A Covert Affair was a fantastic continuation of the *Librarian and the Spy Escapades* series with an intriguing mission and wonderful development in the characters' relationship.

Agent-in-training Quinn Ellington is currently working in the CIA library while she completes the rest of her training to become a covert operative. First and foremost a librarian, it's no hardship for Quinn to work in the secret library. While attending an event at the Library of Congress with her handsome spy boyfriend James Anderson, the Indian ambassador is kidnapped and some sacred Hindu manuscripts are stolen. With a long lost sacred library at the heart of the kidnapping, Quinn is tasked with assisting James in locating the library and the ambassador. The pair travel to India to begin their investigation and soon discover their mission may be more complicated than they originally thought.

Quinn is an absolute delight and my bookish heart connects with her in a wonderful way. Quinn loves books in a way most people never will and embraces the librarian side of herself. She's fantastic at viewing problems in a different way than most and puts her librarian skills to use to discover information quickly. Quinn still worries about how good of a job she can do on her missions considering she has not completed all

of her training. She's slowly learning to embrace her natural instincts and is turning into a fantastic spy.

Building upon their success from the mission in *The Librarian and the Spy*, Quinn and James continue to work well together. James has complete faith in Quinn's abilities and encourages her to trust her instincts. I enjoy their pairing both professionally and personally. There's a lot of fun and banter in their relationship and the two help each other stay centered. They both worry about the other's well being, but for the most part trust each other to get the job done. There are a few hiccups in their working together but they actually communicate their problems and work through them easily enough.

The plot surrounding the missing library was completely fascinating. After finishing the book, I looked into the library and the history surrounding it was quite interesting. It seems the author stuck very close to the truth and I appreciated the level of research she clearly did. As most of the book takes place in India, I got to experience a new place I hadn't read a book set in before. The author goes into great detail about the culture and while I don't know if everything is 100% accurate seeing as it isn't my culture, it was fun experiencing something completely new to me. The book has made me want to find books written by people who live in India and read first hand accounts of life there.

A Covert Affair was such a fun read and I'm excited to see what Quinn and James get up to in future installments. I would highly recommend this series to anyone looking for a fun romance series that follows the same couple in each book.

I received a copy of this book from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Bea Charmed says

Librarians solving mysteries and having adventures seems to be a new trend lately.. In addition this series, there's also a new cozy mystery with a librarian heroine, Blue Ridge Library Mysteries by Victoria Gilbert. I hope we'll see more librarian heroines. It's pretty cool to see them using their knowledge of books, and their computer and reference skills outside a library setting. Quinn Ellington, a reference librarian, has joined the CIA as librarian and is in training to be an agent. While still in training she and her boyfriend James are sent on assignment to India.

I was pretty happy to see that they were heading to India as I've always been fascinated by that country and few genre novels are set there, that I know of anyway. As I read the story and the historical events, I became curious if they had actually happened or if Mann invented them for the story; turns out they were real with a little artistic license taken. While I've never been to India, the details felt real, and I enjoyed seeing India through Quinn's eyes. If I ever get to India, I want to go visit the Sikh Reference Library as it sounds amazing.

Quinn and James are cute together and really sweet. They're young, maybe mid 20s; in fact James seemed a little too young for his job and the missions he's supposedly been on. At times I felt like I was reading a slightly more grown up version of the Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew. If you are a serious suspense or action reader, this book probably won't meet your need. But if you like romance, humor, a little intrigue, and some action, you might like this book.

Some favorite quotes:

"It's part of the Kama Sutra written on palm leaves," he said and bent to get a closer look. "With illustrations, I see, although the pieces seem to be strategically placed so we can't see the, ah..." He stopped and tipped his head to one side. "Techniques."

"I could come here every day for weeks and not see everything. And that's not even counting if they let me in the book stacks." "They'd never be able to flush you out. I can hear the librarians now. 'We don't know where she hides exactly, but we put food out every night, and in the morning, it's gone.'"

Sarah says

(Review is for both this title and first in series, /The librarian and the spy/.)
Another disappointment; I will not be reading the third series installment.

There are two main problems: first, this isn't so much a story as the author's excuse to show off how much research she did. It's most blatant in the first book, when there are sentences and even whole paragraphs of Intro to Librarianship concepts. The average reader does not need to know how the character conducted a Boolean search. Exposition just slows down the plot. In the second book, it was a lot of history info-dumping, sometimes in the oft-loved format of one character lecturing another on a topic.

The second problem is, these are not romance novels. At all. Despite the covers-- and the titles-- these are light thriller/suspense. Working under the idea that in a romance story "the Relationship" is the major character, that the tension would come primarily from the two main (people) characters getting to know each other, or that (lets be honest) there would be steamy scenes, this book fails to meet any of those. This isn't a story about a couple falling in love; it's about a young woman who goes on adventures.

Although Quinn is a fun character, there's very little likeable about the books. In every scene, every tiny detail is there on the page-- each step in getting dressed, washing dishes, whatever mundane task is at hand. I notice this in romances-- maybe it's a suggested tool to try to make the reader feel "in the momen"? It always comes off as repetitive, with the author obviously reaching for the thesaurus in an effort to not say the same noun for the fifth time in as many sentences. The dishes got washed; does it really matter how?

The spy/boyfriend character is horrid. He jumps all over the place, doing the overly-dramatic giant alpha-male romance novel schtick when a run-of-the-mill creep hits on his girlfriend at a bar, but waltzes on with the mission when she's in actual danger from gun-toting terrorists. The "playful banter" is bland but is the only kind of non-work communication between the two characters so there's far too much of it. Do yourself a favor and give it a pass.

Vicki Sylvia says

3.5

Probably my #1 guilty pleasure series. A librarian and a CIA spy being in love and going on operations together, it's great.

The history and setting in this installment was really intriguing, can't wait to see what adventures Quinn and James are heading for next.

Andrea says

This is the second in the Librarian and the Spy series. It's a cute series, but it's somewhat marred by the clumsy delivery of information in the same way the Nancy Drew books are, as though the book is trying too hard to be educational. There's travel and suspense and the tracking down of terrorists. Nancy and Ned... no, sorry, Quinn and James... travel to India to locate a missing library and a kidnapped diplomat. After reading this second one, I think the dialogue doesn't really work for me. It tries for humor but I never agree that what the characters are saying to one another is amusing. I think I'm done with this series. Points for strong female protagonist and successful suspense.

***Avonna says**

Check out all of my reviews at: <http://www.avonnalovesgenres.com>

The second book in the Librarian and the Spy Escapade, A COVERT AFFAIR by Susan Mann is just as much fun as the first! Quinn and James are wonderful together once again on their new adventure through India.

I really feel these books fill an interesting niche. They are action spy thrillers with romance, adventure and interesting, intelligent plots, but they are not as violent or strictly action driven as most in this genre. I like to call these books “cozy spy thrillers” and just what I am looking for to curl up with for an afternoon adventure.

Quinn Ellington has moved to D.C. and is now a reference librarian at the CIA. She will be training at The Farm to become an agent like her boyfriend, James Bond Anderson. Their relationship is progressing and it is because they are close and Quinn has a passionate love of books and knowledge that they are both sent on a mission as husband and wife to the Punjab district in India. To save a kidnapped ambassador's life, they have to find and return a stolen Sikh library of historic and religious books.

Ms. Mann had me completely engrossed in the descriptions of India and especially the Punjab district. Her information on the Sikh culture and history displayed extensive research and it was well paced throughout the story without feeling like an info dump. The Indian characters were believable and empathetic.

Quinn is an empowered female heroine, who uses her intelligence as well as her physical prowess. James is her perfect hunky, spy hero who is also learning to not be overly protective and let Quinn investigate avenues on her own. Their banter is fun and entertaining. The sexual relationship is hot, but not overly explicit. This book can be read as a standalone, but Quinn and James's relationship changes and grows in each book.

This is a series to follow!

Thanks very much to Kensington Books and Net Galley for allowing me to read this eARC in exchange for an honest review.

JoAn says

A Covert Affair by Susan Mann is the second book in her Librarian and the Spy Escapade series and was another fun and intriguing mystery.

Quinn is now at the CIA library but being trained as an agent, as well. She does love her work in the library but is over-the-moon about being trained as an operative. Her and James' relationship is growing and more of their characters is shown in this story. I also really enjoyed how much of the history of India and it's residents of all religions were described. I found this information to be vital to the overall plot as Quinn and James are assigned to hunt down a kidnapped ambassador and a lost treasure, the Sikh Reference Library. The facts regarding this part of Indian history was enlightening for me; and I appreciated the detail which Ms. Mann used to make this an integral part of the story.

A smoothly paced plot with facts, red herrings, and twists to keep me turning the pages to find out who was behind the kidnapping made an very enjoyable afternoon read.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book from Zebra Shout via NetGalley. All of the above opinions are my own.

Bec_BookMagicReviews says

Quinn Ellington is working her way to becoming a fully-fledged agent with the CIA. So far, she's learnt a lot of skills that come in handy for her latest assignment alongside her handsome boyfriend, James, when an Indian ambassador is kidnapped during a Library of Congress event. Will Quinn and James be able to save the ambassador or will their cover be exposed and put them at risk?

Having really enjoyed the first book of this series, I was really looking forward to reading this second book, and I've got to say that it's just as good as book one in the way that it offers plenty of action and intrigue, took me by surprise when it came to the person responsible for the kidnapping, and kept me captivated from start to finish due to the wonderful main and secondary characters, especially the heroine because of her obsession with everything to do with libraries Seriously, she's a total nerd that loves books and helping people find information they need. The way this story started had me hooked, as Quinn and James make such a great couple and I always enjoy the way they tease each other. However, it's from the moment the kidnapping happens where things gets very interesting and intriguing in this story. Will Quinn and James be able to locate the kidnapped ambassador? Will they be able to take down the person responsible for the kidnapping?

As for the dialogue, it was well-written, intense due to what the hero and heroine uncover in their investigation and full of intrigue and action due to the kidnapping and when Quinn and James go up against the bad guys. Moreover, the heroine is strong, brave and I liked how determined she was to prove she has what it takes to make a great CIA agent. I also liked that she wasn't afraid to do things on her own, even if James believes it may be too dangerous for her and is likely to worry. Yet, what I liked most about the heroine is how resourceful she is in uncovering information they need in their investigation. Will it lead her to the bad guys? While the hero, he's confident, protective and I love how he teases the heroine about being too much of a nerd and her occupation as a librarian. Luckily, Quinn takes the teasing as a compliment and not a criticism.

Overall, Ms. Mann has penned an exciting and thrilling read in this book where the chemistry between this couple is intense; the romance wonderfully passionate with James determined to show Quinn how much she means to him; and the ending had me on the edge-of-my-seat due to what this couple face. Will they win against the bad guys? However, it was right at the end of this book that I loved, as James realizes that their relationship can't continue like it is, especially since they work for the CIA. Meaning lots of undercover assignments to different places around the world, which would keep them apart. Will they commit to each

other or go their separate ways? I would recommend A Covert Affair by Susan Mann, if you enjoy romantic suspense or books by authors Katie Reus, Liliana Hart, Janie Crouch and Kat Martin.
