



An Affair with Mr. Kennedy

Jillian Stone

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London, 1887. Part stoic gentleman, part fearless Scotland Yard man, Zeno "Zak" Kennedy is an enigma of the first order. For years, the memory of a deadly bombing at King's Cross has haunted the brilliant Scotland Yard detective. His investigation has zeroed in on a ring of aristocratic rebels whose bloody campaign for Irish revolution is terrorizing the city. When he discovers one of the treacherous lords is acquainted with his free-spirited new tenant, Cassandra St. Cloud, his inquiry pulled him unexpectedly close to the heart of the conspiracy -- and into the arms of a most intriguing lady.

Cassie is no Victorian prude. An impressionist painter with very modern ideas about life *and* love, she is eager for a romantic escapade that is daring and discreet. She sets her sights on her dour but handsome landlord, but after she learns their meeting was not purely accidental, she hardly has a chance to forgive her lover before their passionate affair catapults them both into a perilous adventure.

An Affair with Mr. Kennedy Details

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From Reader Review *An Affair with Mr. Kennedy* for online ebook

Sobia says

So I wanted to write a review for this, but I'll be honest and say I'm not entirely sure how I managed to finish it, or why i never put it down...It's not that it was bad, it's just the writing style was hard to get used to. If you're considering giving this a shot, can i strongly suggest reading an excerpt or two?

The characters were numerous. At one point I think i confused two characters, one a not so bad guy and a bad guy, it made for some irritating reading!

The main H and h, were okay, but thinking back we don't learn a lot about either one...or rather what we learn about them is all very vague. And too many secondary characters, kept having to remind myself who each one was!

The more I think about it though, i think it was the setting, more of industrial England (my guess would be the late 1800's, early 1900's), the introduction of horseless carriges, and the women's suffrage movement... that really kept me reading...I didn't read the plot summary going in, so I wasn't expecting it, but the time period and all the descriptions pretty much stole my attention..but the story itself...meh. I sorta feel bad ending this review there, but for me, anyway, there's not a whole lot to add.

3 stars.

Lisa says

Wow, this book is so unique and fascinating! First, our hero is not a duke, earl, etc...he is the son of one but he is not going to inherit and it is always nice to read a change of pace from that scenario. Same for our heroine, Cassie St. Cloud. She gained the Lady title by marriage but her husband is deceased and she prefers to be called Cassie. She is the daughter of two prominent doctors in society and her mother is a strong advocate for women's suffrage which brings up another key factor in this story to set it apart--it is set in 1887 which allows for such things as the London Underground (laying electric work), women riding bicycles and bloomers. Jillian Stone brings all this to life with a fresh breath of air that I enjoyed.

Cassie was such a bold female--she smokes cigars, rides bikes, and rents a flat next to a handsome man...that just happens to have a connecting door between the premisses. Locked of course...but for how long? She is a painter and she is accepted for all her uniqueness by not just her parents and friends, but also by Zak. Zeno Augustus Kennedy, nickname Zak, works for Scotland Yard (does anyone else love saying that in their faux British accent? I do, lol) and helped defuse a large bomb plot that has arisen again and Cassies former brother-in-law seems to be a part of the murderous group so Zak is determined to find out what Cassie knows. However, the pair find themselves in a hot flirtation that soon leads to a hot affair and matters of the heart become involved all while trying to uncover the dangerous group know as the Bloody Four.

Overall, this is a fascinating piece of work! I really hope we see more and more books set during this time period as it adds so much richness to the story. I adored Cassie and Zak together and I appreciated that even though Cassie is strong and independent, she is also a female who wants the love of a good man to be known

to her and will not accept anything else. Nothing to major to complain about with the book other than it is long. It is almost 400 pages so you will need to carve out some time to sink into this one and enjoy it. The mystery aspect will keep you flipping the pages and I know my heart was racing in the final chapters! Jillian Stone has delivered a strong story set within a unique setting with characters that are smart, sexy and perfect for each other mixed together with an intriguing mystery and wonderful supporting characters that will leave you anxiously awaiting the next story! 4 stars

Thanks to Pocket and Jillian Stone for providing me with this ARC!

Dabney says

I realized I wasn't enjoying this Victorian romance when, for the tenth night in a row, I avoided the book. I turned on my Kindle and, instead of opening the aptly named "Review These Books Now!" collection in which this book was stored; I yet again clicked on my "Ballin' Bodice Rippers" list and happily re-read bits and pieces of other historicals I love. I found **An Affair with Mr. Kennedy** a chore to read.

The novel takes place in London in 1887, the year of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Our hero, the thoroughly modern Zeno "Zak" Kennedy is a detective for Scotland Yard. The brilliant, clever, dedicated, athletic Zeno has a skill set so prodigious that, by the time he turned out to be a hell of a tenor with a facility for Italian opera, I abandoned any idea of seeing him as a plausible character. Zeno is a man with a mission; three years ago, a deadly bombing at King's Cross left him missing a lover and unwaveringly determined to rid London of explosive-oriented anarchists. Currently, he's got his eagle eye on a group of secretly seditious lords — he calls them the Bloody Four - who, Zeno believes, plan to explode a series of bombs in order to spark a violent Irish revolt which would then cause the House of Lords to vote against Irish Home Rule and thus create a possible path towards ultimate Irish independence.

One of these aristocrats, Gerald St. Clair, happens to be the brother-in-law of an impossibly gorgeous young widow, Cassandra St. Clare. The Yard wonders if Cassandra, who is also connected to another of the possible Bloody Four, the odious Lord Delamere, could be a part of the Fenian plot. Cassandra, conveniently, just moved into a townhouse in Belgravia owned by Zak which is (sigh) adjacent to his. Super sexy Cassandra, after a brief and constraining marriage, is living a rather outré life. She is an (extraordinarily talented) artist (her uber-progressive parents sent her to Paris to study when she was just seventeen where she drank, painted, and got a tattoo), rides a bicycle, lives on her own, and once she sees her fine-looking landlord, takes a lover with ease.

Zak and Cassie begin a passionate affair despite Zak's lack of transparency about his initial interest in her. The two can't get enough of each other, which was inopportune; I'd had enough of them as a couple by the hundredth page. Ms. Stone's sexual prose is clunky; her descriptions of the bawdy shenanigans between Cassie and Zak veer from awkward to icky. Zak has "a brute of a penis." Cassie, the morning after the two have first made love, as her maid Cecile serves the naked lovers breakfast in bed describes him (in French) to as "frightfully large and as hard as a Bengal tiger." In one of many overwrought love scenes, Zak makes love to Cassie with his "throbbing shaft" as she murmurs "musical and mysterious female whispers and growls."

This is just a partial review. To read the complete review, please go to All About Romance:

<http://www.likesbooks.com/cgi-bin/boo...>

E. says

“An Affair with Mr. Kennedy” by Jillian Stone is the sensual debut novel in her series ‘The Gentlemen of Scotland Yard’. This offering is from a talented author who presents an engaging story about a Scotland Yard inspector, Zeno Augustus Kennedy (Zak), who is doggedly following leads to discover the perpetrators of a plot to use dynamite and other explosives to achieve an attack upon the government. A serendipitous leasing of his property to an attractive widow named Cassandra St. Cloud (Cassie) leads to a conflict between professional and personal concerns as she seems to have ties to one of the ringleaders. Cassandra is unconventional, particularly due to the fact that both parents are physicians and her mother has inculcated her fervor for women’s rights in her receptive offspring. A strong artistic talent, a secret vice for cigars and a mother who advocates safe sex all combine to add to Cassie’s allure for the dedicated detective. Zak is torn between acknowledging his tenant’s ability to be an independent woman and his desire to keep her safe from harm during the course of his dangerous investigation. Cassie is not sure she wants to allow somebody new into her heart but feels an undeniably carnal attraction to her intense landlord although they may not both survive to explore the depths of their mutual desires.

An intriguing story that melds many historical details in an enjoyable tale of suspense and passion. There are interesting asides (such as the disturbing fact that some dreary painting of his mother allows the artist James Whistler to supplant Cassie’s position in a gallery), a different look at the machinations of politics and the ease with which one can be coerced to support an opposing view, and glimpses of British society of the late 1800s. The secondary characters are also engaging and one certainly hopes to see more of Zak’s able helpers as well as Cassie’s eccentric and brilliant brother. A great start to an inventive series from a fresh new voice.

© Night Owl Reviews

Kristen Koster says

I was fortunate enough to read an ARC of this book. I WILL be reading it again after its release on Jan 31! I loved it that much!

The main characters are rich and wonderfully drawn and combine with the external plot for a compelling read. The secondary characters also come alive on the page and are expertly woven into the plot. The historical details are handled with a deft hand to provide a rich tapestry of world building without making you feel like you're sitting through a history lesson. I dare anyone to argue that the vibrator scene is dry and lecturing!

I will also be putting Jillian Stone on my auto-buy list -- she also has another book coming out in February, the first in her steampunk PHATEON BLACK series.

Sydney Sterling says

I loved it! I don't generally read historicals, but I'm glad I took the time for this book. My mother and my

niece fought over who got to read it next.

? Irena ? says

I had this book for quite some time, but the blurb ' had put me off. I am not a fan of what I thought was going to be a trope of an undercover-like secrecy between two characters. I simply don't like that in a romance. Fortunately, that's not the case here. If there is a bit of that, it doesn't last long and it is resolved in the first third of the book. She knows and he doesn't hide too many things from her. And it's not a romance only either. Politics and conspiracies play an important role in this story too. Not a bad holiday read. Quite enjoyable.

Monty Cupcake ? Queen of Bloodshed ? says

Good, but dragged at times and everyone knew the villain from page one. I like a bit more mystery.

Elizabeth (Liz) says

3 stars

- My Thoughts -

First, what I wasn't so pleased with. In my opinion, there was too much focus on the suspense, and not nearly enough on the relationship and the characters as people rather than a means to move the plot forward.

However, while the storytelling was somewhat lacking and a bit incomplete, and I felt the characters were not truly fully fleshed out, the writing itself was very good. There is a difference. I adored the time period-- 1887 London--and some of the references made. For once I found myself more intrigued by the heroine than the hero. She seemed to be a bit more fully rounded than our hero did. I do enjoy the idea that the heroes of this series seem to all be lining up to be Scotland Yard detectives, rather than nobility (or, rather than *simply* nobility).

All in all, based on this debut book, this is a series that has real potential. I will be watching for, and reading, the next book!

Mimi Smith says

4.5 stars

Ten Things I Love About This Book

1.Cassie

Cassandra St. Claire is such a refreshing heroine! She's intriguing and...different. Cassie's a painter(of, ahem, erotic pictures), and a staunch supporter of the suffrage movement. In other words she's highly unconventional and progressive. She smokes, has a tattoo, rides a bicycle,... She's also very passionate and open in a relationship, after her first, not so happy marriage. As I said, refreshing! A smidgen difficult to believe, but hey, this is fiction!

2.Zak

Zak is refreshing as well! Not a lord, or a wastrel or a rake(as 90% of heroes in this genre are), he's a Scotland Yard man. And a Scotsman. A serious man who usually follows the rules, he's nonetheless very drawn to Cassie, who's kind of involved in an investigation, and pretty soon decides to get close to her. I loved to watch him at work!

3.Zak&Cassie

Wow, those two are hot together! Hot and they fit very well in other ways, too. I loved watching them bicker, flirt and fall in love...*sigh* This was wonderful. And the heat level was hiiiiigh.

4.Cassie's family

They're all nuts, but so entertaining and sweet! Her mom's embarrassingly progressive and prying, her dad's all right, and her brother builds rockets, and, uhm, launches them. He also has a car of some sorts? In any case, fun!

5.Other inspectors

I loved those two. I think we'll definitely get their books and i can't wait. Oh, and Archie, the geek who likes to blow things up...*sigh*

6.The Suspense

this isn't a classic mystery. We know who's responsible for the explosions almost right away. But seeing the process of proving it and catching them was interesting, all the same. Very engrossing.

7.The 1880s bits

There were so many little things mentioned. Inventions(like batteries, condoms, bicycles, motor vehicles, rockets, flashlights of some kind...), political movements and aspiring goals(women's rights and the advocates for them), and artists and scientists of the time. I loved reading all about it. I was so interested, actually, that I googled to see when and how those things were invented/happened. I found out, Ms. Stone was a bit off(a few years) on some things, but it didn't bug me. Well, other than Tesla's public experiments. But, I'm a Serb and a geek, so I know his bio by heart *grin*.

8.The Cover

'Nuff said.

9.The End

Cute! If a bit sudden.

10. Basically the whole damn thing

The author's writing style is wonderful and this is a great story. I was really pleasantly surprised!

Wollstonecraft homegirl says

This made me angry & I'm about to rant a little (a lot), please forgive me. I think, perhaps, before I read this book that I'd have said I'd rather be inspired to some emotion than have a mediocre, bland, forgettable reading experience. I know now that's not correct. Apathy is far superior to anger in this context. Maybe it's just me, but when I spend 90% of my day job riled up, I really don't want to get a 20 minute train journey to myself, get out my beloved Kindle and immediately feel pissed off. I read contemporary novels. If you want to write one: write one. Do not write an historical romance and suck all the history out of it. What is the bloody point?! I have a lot of gripes here. Cassie, our heroine, is a widowed, free-thinking, tattooed (! Yes, on her hip !), artist, dowager countess. With free-thinking, contraceptive discussing (and providing) doctor parents. She's beautiful. And clever. And there's nothing at all wrong with her, except that she doesn't exist in 1887. I'm sorry, but no. No. No. There is a way to write progressive historical romance with a progressive heroine which perhaps stretches the boundaries of historical believability but doesn't, like, set fire to them. How do I know? Because I've read Courtney Milan. I've read Sherry Thomas. Zeno, the hero, is a detective but somehow owns lots of property and is totally able to romance a dowager countess. He's handsome and educated and he can waltz. There is a scene in this book when Cassie has Zeno over for dinner with her parents (I mean, straight away, there's something wrong with this picture, right?) and it's a scene straight out of 2015. Nothing at all calls back to the time or place the novel is actually supposed to be set. What is the point of that?! Half the joy of setting your novel in the past is creating obstacles and journeys and sexual tension born out of the fact that the past is a foreign country and they do things differently there. If you strip all of that away what are you left with? This big mess. I know the whole 'contemporaries in long dresses' thing is very common and I'm not adverse to them. I've read and enjoyed Tessa Dare and Sarah Maclean. But these authors maintain some of the fundamentals of the period in which they're writing, be it, the class or the gender or the social politics at work. There's a point to having the book set not in the 21st century. Not so here, this was everything that's problematic about long dress contemporaries turned up to top volume. There were anachronisms galore but intermingled with strangely formal passages of speech. Lots and lots of Americanisms. Ribbed condoms, for heavens sake. Maybe they had ribbed condoms in 1887, but I doubt it, and what does it even add to your novel to talk about it?! The mystery plot didn't hold up and everyone talked like they were in a weirdly anglicized, sometimes old fashion episode of Law and Order. There was one scene when Zeno dresses Cassie up to take her on a raid which reminded me of the New Adventures of Superman when Lois was allowed to tag along for the investigation (which, I'll admit is a peculiar reference for my brain to latch on to). Probably fairly obvious by now this book didn't work for me. Aside from the sex, which was rather good. It's not that Stone can't write, because she can. If she writes a contemporary, I'll probably read it, but this smacks of setting a book in the past just so you can have big dresses and corsets and nicely turned out men and a scene with a waltz, which is missing the point entirely, not to mention, extremely irritating. It gets two stars because I did finish albeit with some liberal skimming of the last 30%.

Jill says

Cassandra St Cloud, Lady Rosslyn, widow of two years, artist and teacher, is now ready to come out from mourning and establish her independence. Letting a town house in Belgravia, her landlord and neighbour is Detective Inspector Zeno (Zak) Augustus Kennedy. Zak is one of Scotland Yard's finest. His particular division, the Special Irish Branch, deals with anarchists especially the Fenians whose use of violence to bring about an independent Irish Republic has caught the attention of the British Government. Zak's investigations have led him to believe that the *Bloody Four*, a group comprised of peers of the realm, may be planning a

series of explosions to incite sedition.

There was a lot in this historical romance that admittedly I found implausible. Especially the heroine. Cassie is such a liberated and progressive woman with her cigar-smoking, tattoo, bicycle-riding and her ease at taking a lover. Individually any of these would be surprising (but possible) but altogether were a little over-the-top. Certainly Cassie's character is given some veracity, with her mother a suffragette and physician, her father tolerant of not only his wife but his daughter's beliefs.

And yet, I really enjoyed this novel. It was different to the usual historical romance, with the hero a Scotland Yard detective for starters. The setting for the most part was on the streets and away from tea parties and glittering balls. Perhaps I had to suspend belief to a degree, but I'm for anything that's written well, entertaining and distinctive. And this was.

Set in 1887, the mystery suspense was well thought out. The details of 19th century Scotland Yard, and the historical aspects were well-researched and convincing. (Although the Women's Franchise League mentioned by Cassie was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1889, two years after the time setting here in this novel. This may be writer's licence of course.)

If you're looking for something different in a historical romance *An Affair with Mr Kennedy* fits the bill. An entertaining and really enjoyable debut.

Steam: 3.5

Helen says

Well, I believe I have finally found a Romance novel I liked. Of course, the fact that it's half Mystery might have something to do with it.

I think author balanced both subplots very well. She also did her research. It's not just the facts; the language fits the setting as well. Never have I read a Historical Romance before that painted the actual atmosphere rather than just dressed characters in period costumes and placed them on the appropriate stage. At least, that's what I felt.

I have encountered few female characters I liked as much as Mrs. St. Cloud. She is strong without being an action girl or very sharp-tongued. Her independence, unusual for the time period, has well-thought-out reasons. And she is smart. Not only book-smart - she can think on her feet as well.

There is a number of sex scenes in this book, but they fit well with the rest of the plot. Of course, we can't have one of those without purple prose but here it wasn't nearly as bad as it can get.

Cynthia says

Reviewed at Bitten By Paranormal Romance

I love this story - plain and simple. Mischief, mayhem, explosions, sex!

I adore the cover. Who is this guy - he is gorgeous! And where can I get one?

deep breath That being said. I wasn't sure I was going to like this book: New author, a storyline I wasn't sure about, a hero that was more beta than alpha, and I don't really care for artsy/fartsy characters. Boy was I wrong - I was caught hook, line and sinker in no time.

I especially enjoy when an author uses common language from the era. It creates a more interesting and believable story, and it makes me learn new words. One of my favorite passages:

Zeno forced a grin. "Wha' me? Nah, just coppin' a taste. I'd get the nobbler if the abbess ever caught my wanker in this gorgeous tosser."

The book isn't written entirely this way, but I thought it gave a good example of the street language. Something else I also enjoyed is the manner in which Ms. Stone wrote her sex scenes. Not "in-your-face" explicit, but very sexual and heated.

I adored Zeno and Cassie. Cassie is a young widow. She wasn't married very long, actually still a newlywed when widowed, and she strikes out on her own. The chemistry between these two ignites the pages within the delightful tale of an Irish revolution. The secondary characters of Yard Men, Rafe and Finn, Cassie's parents and Zeno's housekeeper (just to name a few) add additional color to the story. Being set near the end of the 19th century, inventions make their proper appearance - What great beginnings for the Special Unit. My Bond Girl is purring.

The second book in the series, A Dangerous Liaison with Detective Lewis is already waiting for me on the coffee table.

Sonia says

Con unos protagonistas que se salen de lo que conozco (y me aburren) en histórica, esta novela me ha resultado divertida, ágil y muy simpática. Las conversaciones entre los protagonistas están llenas de humor e insinuaciones, principalmente porque ella es todo un personaje fuera de lo habitual, viuda sin problemas con el sexo, independiente y moderna, ni la shrinking violet in la lazada que confunde feminismo con encarar el peligro la primera sin tener en cuenta el más mínimo sentido común que pueblan muchas de estas novelas. Los detalles que adornan la novela como marco de la revolución industrial están muy bien utilizados y los ambientes, cotidianos y "normales" se agradecen, nada de Almack's para mí, muchas gracias.
