



## **Ransomed Jewels**

*Laura Landon*

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With her husband's dying words, "My marchioness has it," the Marchioness of Huntingdon is thrown into a nightmare of intrigue and danger. But even those who are holding her brother ransom can't force her to do the impossible—hand over a necklace she doesn't have.

Major Samuel Bennett believes the newly widowed Lady Claire Huntingdon is a traitor. He intends to get the necklace he's convinced she has, before sending her to the gallows. But when he meets the captivating widow, he discovers that nothing is as it seems.

Claire knows she can't trust anyone, but she isn't given a choice when Major Bennett arrives, demanding she give him the necklace. And it isn't until she's forced to put her life in his hands that she realizes it isn't only her life she's in danger of losing—but her heart as well.

## Ransomed Jewels Details

Date : Published May 3rd 2016 by Montlake Romance

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Author : Laura Landon

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# From Reader Review **Ransomed Jewels** for online ebook

## **Vikki Vaught** says

3.5 Stars

### My Musings

I have read quite a few books by Laura Landon and enjoyed them immensely. When I received an invitation from the publisher to read via Net-Galley in exchange for an honest review, I eagerly accepted. *Ransomed Jewels* is another emotionally-charged story with loads of tension and angst. Since the book description is enticing and sets up the story well, I am not going to do a brief synopsis.

The story is interesting, but it did not grab me as Ms. Landon's books normally do. As always, the romance is very well-written and the style is smooth. For some reason, I had a difficult time truly liking Claire and Samuel. They were at such odds for 95% of the book, I grew a bit irritated at the amount of angst. Just when I thought they were reaching an understanding, then it would go off in another direction.

Claire's character has many things I admire in a heroine. She is determined to protect her loved one at great personal cost. Unfortunately, she holds her cards so tightly to her chest, it annoyed me. If Claire had opened up to the hero and told him what had her paralyzed with fear, it would have helped me like her better.

Samuel tended to jump to conclusions without questioning Claire to make sure he fully understood her actions. This made it hard for me to like his character. Now, he is honorable, and loyal—almost to his detriment—and feels protective of Claire, even though he suspects that she is willing to betray her country. Those are normally traits I love in a hero, but no matter how much I wanted to like him, I could not.

I did enjoy the historical history sprinkled expertly in regarding the Crimean War. That is a period of English history I did not know as much about and enjoyed the machinations that must have been going on between England and Russia.

If you are looking for a highly emotional story with an anguished heroine, then you will enjoy *Ransomed Jewels*. I'm glad I had the opportunity to read this book. Happy reading!

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## **Pam** says

*Ransomed Jewels* is by Laura Landon. It is the first in a four-book series by the same name. I read the fourth book before realizing it was a series and came back to this one to start over. I realized that the details of this book make things that happened in the fourth book make sense. Therefore, I recommend the books be read in sequence. The book is well written and is very realistic as to the era.

Major Samuel Bennett watches as his friend and fellow agent entered the *Armor's Inn* pub. He looked like he fit in well with those men who were in the pub. Hunt did not look like a Marquess. Sam followed Hunt to his room where they talked. Hunt had stolen a ruby necklace belonging to the government of Russia when they had robbed *Roseneau* of the jewels he had stolen which were intended for sale. *Roseneau* had stolen the ruby necklace from Russia and wanted to keep them for himself. Now Russia knew who had stolen them and

Roseaneau now wanted them for his own protection. Hunt had taken the rubies and given them to his wife. While they were leaving the Inn, the men were attacked and Hunt was killed. He died after telling Sam to help keep his wife safe.

Sam went to London and got there just in time to save Claire Huntington from death. Someone had sneaked in to get the rubies and the papers with them; but Claire has been looking for them since she got their first warning. Claire has no idea where the rubies are which Sam has a hard time believing. Sam intends to stay with her until she gives in and lets him have them. The longer he stays with her, the more he wonders about the view he has of her. Was she the uncaring, party hopping, cold wife he thought she was? Where are the rubies?

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### **Evelyn B. says**

I left this book for last in the group of 5 I downloaded last week thinking I would like it least. I normally don't love spy romances as they get misguided sometimes or droll. That said this one was excellent! Just the right blending of intrigue, suspense and a twist you don't see coming!

I love that this book takes the time to show elements to both the hero and the heroine that are both endearing and negative. No character is shown as "perfect". The characters are brilliantly written and complex enough to keep you wanting more.

Also a big plus for me was the writing style itself. I often notice authors using the same phrases, slang etc for different characters and it makes them sound cookie cutter. This was well written and a fun read! I will be sure to post a review on Amazon during this book's launch week.

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review. These opinions are my own, given freely, in no way influenced by others.

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### **Laura says**

\*\*\*ARC provided by the Publisher, Montlake/Amazon and NetGalley\*\*\*

I liked this. It was enjoyable and there were a lot of elements of Sam's life as a spy. I liked that Claire was capable, that she was strong, and that most importantly, the men in her life treated her like she was intelligent enough to know what was going on around her...well, except for her late husband, but as we never see them interact in the story, that really doesn't matter.

The story revolves around spies, traitors, jewels and stolen paperwork. I liked the twists and turns in this one, and I was actually surprised as to who the traitor turned out to be, I was convinced it was another character entirely. This was nice, as this is usually something I find obvious.

The romance was mostly clean, there was sex, but the description of it was essentially as much of a fade to black as possible without actually doing so, which worked in the story.

The characters were well developed, the plot was tight and the pace was good. I enjoyed the author's writing style. This was my first Laura Landon, and I am looking forward to others by her.

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### **Sarah says**

I don't know what made me nab this galley, but I didn't get very far. It's so ridiculously over-dramatic! It feels like every action, every emotion is at the farthest possible extreme. It seems like every trope or cliché-- the pet verbs, the thinly-drawn typical characters-- are all present and accounted for.

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### **Melanie says**

This is the first book in Ransomed Jewels series, yet it was the last in order that I've read. I started this series from its third book and worked my way to the first. It so happens that I loved, LOVED Dark Ruby so much that I had to track down all the other books in this series. And while I'm new to this authors writing, she is probably familiar to most of you and I aim to make her familiar to me as well.

Even though this is definitely a romance, I found in it a bit of mystery and suspense with plenty of drama and passion. But what made this story awesome were the compelling characters of Claire and Samuel. They were likable and relatable and their journey to the happily ever after was powerful and entertaining.

I have a feeling that I've just stumbled onto an author that will be on my keeper shelf for a long time.

Melanie for b2b

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### **Trish R. says**

An OK spy/mystery/romance..

I've read a couple of books with this theme and I can honestly say I didn't like them. Sam tells Claire that the necklace he thinks she has could save thousands of lives but all she cares about is her brother, who has been kidnapped by the owner of the necklace, and he wants it back. That makes her look selfish when it comes to all the soldiers she could save BUT it's still understandable that she wants to save her brother. At 17% I was wondering if the author was going to make us read 300 pages of them arguing over this stupid necklace and if that's the way it was going to be I wasn't going to read the remainder of the book.

As I went along it was rather silly how Claire kept telling herself she should tell Sam about Alex being kidnapped, and then she'd talk herself out of it. Again and again this went on. I hate repetitiveness that just makes up the page count in a book.

Overall, this was a decent read and a pretty good mystery but it was nearly ruined by Sam being so freaking

dense. Talk about someone being TSTL! Good grief, that man got so many things wrong it was unbelievable. Sooo many misunderstandings and angst. As much as I liked the spies, the mystery, the search for the traitor this author is way to angsty for me.

It was made much better by keeping you guessing as to who the traitor was until the end and I was really shocked.

There was a good amount of desire in this, which made it even better, and a beautiful bedroom scene. Of course, there was no swearing.

As to the narration: I know a lot of you are fans of Rosalyn Landor, and think she can do no wrong, BUT her male voices are just terrible. The men sound like they're constipated or something and trying to grunt through it. This could have been a fantastic book with a different narrator. Even with all her emotions she reads with she really needs to work on her male voices.

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### **Sissy's Romance Book Review says**

I received an eARC, from NetGalley and the publisher, in exchange for an honest review.

Lady Claire Huntingdon has found herself in a lot of trouble and there seems no way out. Her husbands last words were set to point the finger at her it would seem to an issue of a stolen necklace and possible a traitor. So everyone is looking for her to hand over the jewels but she does not have them. They have even taken her brother as ransom. Major Samuel Bennett is set to find Claire and get the jewels and then send her off to jail. But things seem to change when he meets her and starts to see what is going on. Claire has no one to trust and its looking like Major Samuel might be her only hope when her life is on the line.

I really enjoyed having this book and hope that you will too!

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### **Krystal says**

I really wanted to like this book. The synopsis seemed to have everything I was looking for - romance, mystery, intrigue. But unfortunately it never really seems to reach the level I was hoping for.

To begin with, I really couldn't like either of the main characters. Samuel is quick to accuse Claire of all manner of things (from being a traitor, to an adulterer, and later - a manipulator) - and he never takes the time to consider another option or hear her out. He just opens up and lets the accusations fly which of course put Claire's back up until they end up in a fight. Then Claire - I understand she has had to put a facade on for years with other people, but it irritated me to no end the way she simply wouldn't put her foot down and

demand that Samuel listen to her. It seems the only time she shows any sort of backbone is when it comes to her brother.

The mystery part of this story is ok. It has its moments when things take a turn you wouldn't expect. However I found the main twist to be so improbable and yes downright impossible that it almost ruined the entire story for me. Unfortunately I can't go into a lot of detail because it IS a major spoiler, but suffice to say something happened that I cannot fathom actually happening, but even if the author kept that part in the book, she could have taken it in an entirely different direction that would have made a bit more sense. In fact, the majority of this novel would have been completely different if people had just been honest with each other from the beginning.

Overall, I am sure that this story will appeal to a variety of people, and the things that I did not enjoy about it will be someone else's cup of tea. I would give this author a second chance, however if there had been more to this series, I would not have continued on.

DISCLAIMER #1: This novel does include scenes of a sexual nature that occur before marriage. I mention this only because I know it is a complete turn off for some readers, and feel that they should be informed.

DISCLAIMER #2: I received a complimentary copy of this novel in exchange for my honest review. This has not affected my review in any way. All thoughts and opinions expressed in this review are 100% my own.

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## **Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says**

I don't give 1 star reviews often unless it is a book that I stopped reading. I finished this book because I was reading it as part of a reading challenge. I have read the fourth book in this series so I thought I would go back to the first book and start there. I really wanted to like these characters but it just didn't happen for me. I was just annoyed from start to finish.

I like historical romance fiction. It is my go to genre when I find myself in a reading slump or when I just need something different than what I normally read. I wanted to read this book because the synopsis sounded interesting and it has great reviews. Why did I not like this book then? Yeah, I am asking myself the same question. I kept reading the book because I believed that I would find something redeeming about it eventually. I did not.

What bothered me about Samuel Bennett is supposed to be a smart spy. I think he was a complete prick who was more like a three year old. He kept going at Lady Claire trying to get answers from her, berating her, accusing her, and refusing to give her a moments peace. Is not a big part of being a spy to collect information? Covertly have the subject under surveillance and gather information before engaging the suspect? No, he came at Lady Claire like a boyfriend who has been wronged by a lover. All emotional and not listening to reason. His inner monologue was just painful. He was just plain rotten but wait, somehow he's drawn to her too???

I was not convinced---at.all. Lady Claire, all this character should have been doing is saying "oh dear, oh dear, oh dear." That is about all she was good for. She was so weak and pathetic. She should have stood up to

Samuel from the start. Told him how things were and then told him to back off. It was her house, tell him to get the "f" out. OR consider the fact that you are a chick with no skills in espionage or covert anything and maybe come to an agreement with someone who has those skills. I mean for the love if she (view spoiler)then why doesn't she use all the resources available to her? So he berates her, forces her to endure his house arrest measures, she has to do desperate things to work around his finding out what she is trying to do, and he is constantly telling her "how things are" instead of asking her her side of things. Oh, but wait.....she couldn't help being attracted to him as well???

I was ok at the start because I was waiting for the formula to kick in. Attraction-->at odds-->come together-->sexy times--HEA. No, the whole he's a prick and she is a simpering nincompoop goes on for better than half the book. Samuel couldn't figure out anything and when a reveal happened I could imagine him hitting himself of the forehead saying that he should have thought of that? It was entirely predictable and being in their heads was just painful to me.

Ok, I will say that after 3/4ths of the book things did snap into place and there was a sweet little happily ever after. It was just a little too late for me. I am not sworn off from this Author forever but I am from this book.

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## **Brenda says**

### Description

With her husband's dying words, "My marchioness has it," the Marchioness of Huntingdon is thrown into a nightmare of intrigue and danger. But even those who are holding her brother ransom can't force her to do the impossible—hand over a necklace she doesn't have.

Major Samuel Bennett believes the newly widowed Lady Claire Huntingdon is a traitor. He intends to get the necklace he's convinced she has, before sending her to the gallows. But when he meets the captivating widow, he discovers that nothing is as it seems.

Claire knows she can't trust anyone, but she isn't given a choice when Major Bennett arrives, demanding she give him the necklace. And it isn't until she's forced to put her life in his hands that she realizes it isn't only her life she's in danger of losing—but her heart as well.

### My Thoughts:

This one perplexed this reader. It started out very slowly opening the story with immediate violence. I was almost sure at that point I would not even be able to finish reading the book, but as the story progressed I found the story more and more likable. In the end I found it to be a very well written book overall. I would have preferred less violence but I guess with this particular story it was necessary. I did however guess what would ultimately happen in the book.

This is the first book I had read by this author but will probably check to see if I can find others.

I gave this book a 3.5 star rating. I received this book as a digital ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## April says

"Ransomed Jewels" by Laura Landon is a fast paced Historical Romance. I thoroughly enjoyed this story from the first page to the last and beyond. Yes, I thought of this story, long after the last page.

From spies to love, you wouldn't want to miss a page of "Ransomed Jewels".

A passionate story, that is compelling, powerful, and addictive. The characters are engaging, but flawed, passionate and energetic.

Fans of Spy Romance, Historical Romance, mystery, suspense, passion and romance will enjoy this brilliantly written tale. I can't wait to read more of Ms. Landon's stories. An awesome read, that is enjoyable and delightfully satisfying!

Received for an honest review from Net Galley.

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR

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## Michele says

Some men just seem to always take another man's word without a second thought-especially if it is his dying words! To get them to realize their mistake----well----that is what this novel is all about! Samuel Bennett was positive that Lady Claire Huntingdon is a traitor. He heard what her late husband said when he lay dying--she had the necklace and some notes that would put an end to the war. Big problem--she didn't! She however had been trying to find them ever since she was threatened-twice.

There are twists and turns in this novel that will have your head spinning! The ending--well--you will not see it coming at all! I do have to tell you that there is a happy ending eventually. One other thought--Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars. Their priorities are definitely different as this author points out.

Ransomed Jewels

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## Caz says

**I've given this an A+ for narration and a B- for content at AudioGals, so I'll round up to 4 stars.**

I have listened to a couple of books by this author in the past, and I confess to having been somewhat underwhelmed by the stories. In both those cases, however, Ms Landon was fortunate in having excellent narrators – Rosalyn Landor in Silent Revenge and James Langton in A Risk Worth Taking, both of whose performances were more than good enough to paper over some of the cracks in the storytelling, so I thought I'd give this latest offering a try.

**Ransomed Jewels** sees Rosalyn Landor at the helm once again, and a very fine job she does of bringing to life a story which, while enjoyable for the most part, was at times so frustrating as to have made me want to bang my head against the wall.

You can read the rest of this review at AudioGals.

