



An Affair with a Spare

Shana Galen

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He's turned seduction into an art form...

Rafe Beaumont, fifth son of an earl, uses his irresistible charm with the ladies to glean dangerous war secrets. Now he's putting those skills to the ultimate test: capturing an elusive assassin by seducing his daughter. The problem? She's entirely immune to Rafe's flattery.

Never before has Collette Fortier met a man as attractive as Rafe. But her father's life is at stake, and succumbing to Rafe would be disastrous. But when Rafe turns the tables on her, offering support and friendship instead of a fleeting affair, Collette finds herself tempted in ways she never could have imagined...

An Affair with a Spare Details

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From Reader Review *An Affair with a Spare* for online ebook

Barbara Rogers says

Series: The Survivors #3

Publication Date: 7/3/18

This book is filled with spies, assassins, danger, trickery, betrayal, and yes, love and lust. The writing is excellent, the plots well thought-out and executed and the characters are very relatable and likable. The series focuses on the few survivors of a suicide team from the Napoleonic wars – they were spare heirs whose lives were expendable and they took on the most dangerous secret missions of the war. Most didn't make it back, but these are the stories of the few who did survive. Rafe Beaumont is one of those survivors and you just always knew there had to be more to him than was apparent and that there was a story buried deep within him. I certainly loved learning what that story was.

Rafe Beaumont, the fifth son of an earl, is seen by everyone as a fribble, a seducer, someone with no real substance. The truth is, he isn't a seducer – those women chase him with one purpose – being seduced. He's drop-dead gorgeous, a skilled lover and the most charming man anyone would want to meet. Everybody loves him. Rafe is one of the survivors and he's always been a little resentful that he was never given the dangerous, exciting missions. His missions were always about seducing information from the wife or lover of someone who held knowledge of French war strategies, etc. Those were easy tasks for Rafe because he never got attached to anyone – he never had a problem walking away. As a matter of fact, he always did the walking away. He'd never give anybody the chance to make him care and then walk away from him.

Imagine Rafe's total shock when, after being given an assignment, the lady in question seems totally immune to his charms. She's just not interested. That is just not possible. Is he losing his touch? He's never actually had to pursue anyone, so he's not sure how to proceed. Can he figure it out and complete his mission?

Collette Fortier is the daughter of Napoleon's most successful assassin. The wars are over, but the English would love to get their hands on him. Actually, the English aren't the only ones. The French royalists have already taken him prisoner and are forcing Collette to spy for them. Her mission – to obtain the codes England uses in its communications. If she doesn't succeed, her father doesn't survive. It is just that simple. So, Collette absolutely cannot allow her attraction to Rafe Beaumont to show or to act upon it in any way.

Collette's 'cousin' in England, Lady Ravensgate, is actually no relation at all. Collette had never met the woman before. However, this 'cousin' now holds the future of both Collette and her father in her hands. She sees that Collette gets to all of the important social functions that would allow Collette to collect information and meet the people who can lead her to the codes she needs. Collette is focused on Lieutenant Colonel Draven, but she cannot get her to engage with her – and then, suddenly, Rafe Beaumont is paying her attention. When he can't seduce her, he offers to be her friend. Can she be friends with him and not let her attraction show? Is he really offering friendship or does he have ulterior motives? Can she use him to get the information she needs?

There is always an element of humor involved in these books – and this one is no exception. Collette used a natural history volume on hedgehogs in order to learn English. So, when she is nervous – quotes from the manual escape her mouth. It is totally entertaining and smile-worthy to see where and when these quotes pop out of her mouth.

"During courting rituals the hedgehog sow continually rejects the boar, turning to give him her

blank."

"The majority of snorting during hedgehog courtship originates from the sow."

Epilogues are one of my favorite things in a book, and this one had a lovely one. However, I would have liked the epilogue to either be longer – or for the epilogue to have an epilogue – something. I wanted to know more about the trip, what happened at the end, how they survived with no money, etc. I just wanted more. Since the end seemed rushed, I really did want more substantive answers to my questions.

Now, to begin my impatient wait for the next book which will feature Jasper.

Please check out my reviews at:

Blog: <https://flippinpages.blog/>

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BarbBookReview>

"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

Maggie Whitworth says

♥?♥?♥?♥?♥?

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Nobody does it like Shana Galen.

If i want a Witty, amusing and intriguing plot Shana is my go to every time , and this is no exception .

Absolutely loved this book , from the Hedgehogs to the Ton Ballrooms, this is one for all fans.

With Spies , traitors, tension, assassins, runaway vehicles , and men who can't commit it's one to keep you hooked from the first to the last .

Get ready for some serious love and laughter , relax and enjoy.

I received an advanced copy of this book and chose to submit a review

Tracy Emro says

Collette Fortier is in England under an assumed name staying with Lady Ravensgate trying to get information that will free her father from prison in France. Collette's father was Napoleon's assassin during the war and was arrested when the Bourbon's reclaimed the throne. Collette's only chance to free him is to get close to someone in the foreign office and steal codes that the Royalists want. Finally she makes the acquaintance of Col Draven, but in her nervousness, begins babbling about hedgehogs. Collette learned English by reading nature texts and tends to ramble about the mating practices of hedgehogs when she is nervous.

Rafe Beaumont works for Draven, he is one of the survivors, known as the Seducer. Women fall over themselves to get to Rafe - he is handsome, charming and an exceptional lover. He is only ever given missions involving women, because he never fails where women are concerned. That is until he meets Collette. Collette seems immune to his charms and he has no idea what to do. Advice from his fellow

survivors is amusing and actually helpful. Instead of seducing her, he sets out to be her friend.

Here is the rub, he really likes Collette and the more he gets to know her, the less he wants to have to turn her over to Draven. He wheedles the truth out of her and promises to help her. They become lovers and he knows that he has never felt this way about a woman before, but an event that happened to him as a child has marked him and he never lets a woman get close enough to hurt him. That is until Collette.

Collette is devastated when she learns that Rafe used her for information, but he promises to help her find and free her father, but she must trust him.

Is it possible for a French spy and an English war hero to have a happy ever after? Can Rafe overcome his past and find a future with the only woman he has ever really loved without being a traitor to his country? Will Collette be able to save her father?

This is a well written, fast paced story with secrets, lies, steamy love scenes, amusing dialogue, some action, some intrigue and lots of advice from the other survivors. It is the third book in the series, but can easily be read as a stand alone title. I enjoyed this story and would be happy to recommend the entire series and am anxiously awaiting Japer's story!

I am voluntarily leaving a review for an eARC that was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher

Blodeuedd Finland says

Rafe is and both is not a total playboy. I mean yes he loves women, but women really love him. And he can not say no! So it has come to that point where he is all, omg can't they just find someone else to hunt! Seriously man, learn to say no! ;) But he is also the kind of hero you just have to love, he really is the most charming man in London.

While Colette took some getting used to, because she is a spy for the French. It is a bit hard to like her then. But she is a really good person. She loves her dad and would do anything for him. She is also a really crappy spy. Not to mention she is shy. It was all very amusing.

And it was interesting to see how the well known bachelor would fall and fight against it. Not to mention how they would deal with this whole mess! She is still a spy. Her dad is still an assassin. But, without saying too much, I enjoyed how it was dealt with.

It was also great seeing the men from book 1 and 2. I really like this group of survivors. And I can not wait

to get their books (omg the blurb for the next one is not up and I am all eeeeeek!).

A fun book with some suspense, passion and friendship.

Narration

I enjoy Victoria Aston's voice and she fits historical romance so well! All her voices work,

Nadia says

If this book was a rollercoaster, the climb would be really, really, really slow, like you can easily look around the at scenery, chat with the person next to you, take out your phone and take selfies for a while, tuck your phone safely back in, maybe chat some more before it finally climbs and drops. But when it drops, it's insane.

You can split this book into two parts. The first part I'd describe as incredibly boring and infuriating at the same time. Collette insists on being called a spy, and even argues that she's an excellent spy, where in fact, she's as much of a spy as the hedgehogs she mentions every time she's feeling nervous (btw what's up with that?! I think it was meant to be endearing, but it just came off as strange). While acquiring information she's making some pretty obvious and dumb mistakes, that any rational thinking person, spy or no spy, wouldn't make. And of course, she immediately draws negative attention to herself and has a spy following her in return. Which happens to be our lovely hero.

Rafe, on the other hand, is a spy and knows what he's doing. The contrast between them is so stark, Collette's incompetence just shines through even stronger. Things started to get weird too, because at first he barely notices her physical appearance, and then all of a sudden all he can think about is her body and her skin and her face. The change from disinterested to can't keep my eyes off of you was too sudden for my liking, and seemed kinda forced onto to the reader. Just didn't feel genuine.

Whereas Collette's infatuation was so over the top, that from this aspect the first part of the book might as well be called An Ode to Rafe's Beauty or maybe A 100 Page Dissertation on His Magnificent Violet Eyes and Tousled Hair.

The second half is pretty much pure action and it was so much more fun to read than the endless tea parties and balls in the beginning. Things pick up and I actually ended up enjoying myself. Collette kinda grew on me, because she stopped behaving as a nitwit. Rafe's behavior though, left a lot to be desired. For some reason he turned pretty aggressive (because he was jealous, I think?!) towards people who are his friends, allies and even his butler. Attacking his butler was the last straw, that's not jealousy, that's just douchebaggery. He does pull through in the end, with a grand gesture of course, and I ended up feeling glad for both of them.

We were introduced to the character of Thomas Gaines, whom I really liked and we got to know Jasper a bit more, that leads me to believe he actually might be getting his own book, in which case I will be a really happy reader.

The cover is really pretty too. At first glance it seems like a generic HR cover, but the girl and the dress are gorgeous, and the colors are really pleasing. It's definitely something I wouldn't be embarrassed to read in public. (I'm looking at you covers with a half naked dude spooning a partially undressed woman!)

Thinking back on this whole reading experience, I don't find myself wanting to reread this book soon. While the second part was fun and entertaining, it took a pretty while to get there and that's just something I don't want to through again. So far, Ewan's book remains my favorite in the series, but I'm really excited about Jasper's story, I'd love to see what the author has in store for him.

A big thank you to Sourcebooks Casablanca for providing me with an ARC through NetGalley.

Michelle Cunliffe says

This is book 3 in the Survivors series, I didn't realise this book was part of a series, but don't let that put you off I found you can read this book without reading the others first....but I will definitely be buying books 1 and 2, to find out how it all started.

Rafe is asked by Colonel Draven to gather intelligence on Collette Fortier, because she is under suspicion by the Foreign Office and to do this Rafe has to seduce. Well he does try and at times not so successful.

Unaware what Rafe is trying to do, Collette thinks Rafe is the most handsome man that she met, and when Collette is nervous she talks about hedgehogs, which for me had me laughing out loud. Collette is in London trying to clear her father's name and for this to happen she has to get a letter.

For me the chemistry between Collette and Rafe was wonderful especially the humour, and at times it made me cry as well. I must also say that the secondary character's brought humour into the book. Mainly when Rafe was with his friends, Ewan, Neil and Jasper, you could tell they had been through a lot and had a very close bond. The other character was Rafe's stepmother, who married his father when he was eight, and for reasons that are explained he felt he couldn't get close to her.

As a whole this was a good book, and not one to be missed. I will give 5/5 stars.

I received this complementary copy in return for a honest review.

This book is on pre-order at Amazon UK and is released on 3rd July.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

This was a delightful Regency intrigue with characters involved in a relationship all the while spying on each other.

Rafe Beaumont has been a spy for the English government for some time, using his charms to persuade

women to give up their secrets. But he isn't sure of his ethics when he is told to spy on the daughter of one of the most notorious French assassins that plagued England during the war with France. For her part, Collette Fortier is being forced to spy for the French regime that holds her father hostage. She is seeking the code needed to translate a letter that may exonerate her father and realizes that Rafe may be just the person she needs to find the code.

Rafe is unexpectedly charmed by the unprepossessing Collette, who tends to quote from a book on the love life of hedgehogs when she gets nervous. This adds the lift of humor to the drama about two spies who find themselves attracted to each other at a time when such attraction can be incredibly dangerous. Can they find a way to avoid the gallows and still have a relationship?

The plot twists and turns keep the story captivating and the characters are both likable and believable. The setting feels authentic for the time period and it was refreshing to find a heroine who is not a ravishing beauty, but who's attraction grows on her hero.

Susan says

I loved reading Rafe's story! He is too funny when he wonders what the heck is happening to him! I admire Collette for doing what has to be done to survive. I always enjoy reading about a strong heroine. I can always count on a good read from Shana Galen and I look forward to the next in this series. I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Kristy K says

3.5 Stars

The Survivors series is definitely one of my favorite historical fiction romance series. I loved the first two books in the series, and while this one was entertaining, I'd agree with others that it wasn't quite on par with the other two.

I loved Rafe and his backstory. His role as a seducer was well written and sometimes humorous. I struggled a little with Collette's character though. My favorite scenes were always the ones with The Survivors together.

The epilogue is told from Jasper's POV which makes me eager for the next book as I hope it means it's his.

Sara Reads (mostly) LOTS of Romance says

3 Mixed Feelings stars for this one

FIRST OFF! SHANA GALEN IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE AUTHORS EVER SHE WRITES EXACTLY THE TYPES OF BOOKS I NEED, LIGHTEARTED AND FILLED WITH HUMOR AND PERFECT ROMANCES!! I love her spy ones, especially.

This book was a bit of a puzzle, however, because the heroine Collette had somewhat of a split personality. At the beginning she was very shy and sweet and her interior monologue was very funny. I absolutely loved her reaction when she met Rafe face to face for the first time, I was laughing so hard. The whole hedgehog thing, like damn that was creative and super funny! I would have given this book five stars if it had been consistently written though. Between the first half and the second half of the book, something was revealed and it was like she became a completely new person, with no semblance of who she was at the first half. I couldn't believe the shyness was faked because several times she said that she had always been shy but let me tell you, the new Collette was ANYTHING BUT. Damn that change was DRASTIC lol. I won't go into that much detail because it would spoil it but I have to say it was a bit baffling. Basically, I felt like I was reading a whole new book halfway through and I didn't like the abrupt change because everything was kind of at odds with what I read in the first half.

Rafe was fiiinnnnneee I loved how funny he could be, and love his relationship with the other survivors! It was so funny when he was rejected and was like

That meme is perfectly put to use there lmao. I loved him a lot and he was the typical, I'm never gonna fall in love rake.

The plot was good but ended up being very predictable which I disliked a lot. I definitely loved the first two books better. Oh well, I'm not too disappointed. I just won't be re-reading this book as I have the first two.

I wasn't a fan of how the book ended up progressing, but of course I respect Shana Galen's decisions because she is a QUEEN. Also, even my favorite authors will have books I dislike

Juliana Philippa says

Finally DNF'd

I couldn't get far in this book. Not far at all. I found the premise absolutely ridiculous and was quickly tired of the heroine's waxing on and on about the hero's beauty. From the beginning, it was just a whole bunch of WTF-ery.

Collette is (practically) randomly going up to men and trying to ferret out if they have the secret British codes she needs to free her father ... wow, would I not hire her, that's for sure! The plan has got to be the dumbest one I've ever heard of—prancing around a ballroom, inquiring into your male partners' war experiences, hoping you *might* chance onto the codes you need? Because, yeah. That's going to happen.

The relationship between Collette and Rafe seemed to be purely lust-based, especially given the fact that they're both deceiving each other so much. I was annoyed by Collette's endless marveling over Rafe's good looks; we get it, he's a hot stud, calm yourself down girlie.

I've read the two previous books in this series and unfortunately they seem to be getting worse ... not very promising for Book 4 ... Book 1, *Third Son's a Charm*, was a nice read and I would recommend reading that and stopping there, frankly.

**This review is of an ARC provided by NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Some*

Joanna Loves Reading says

Another charming story by Galen with this third installment in the series. I really enjoyed it as I have the other two in the series, but I don't think it will appeal to as many readers as the previous two. The beginning and ending were fantastic, and the middle was solid though it had some slow parts.

Rafe is a rake. A true rake. And a sort of former spy, embarking on a new mission because his country needs him and his seductive ways. He is swoon-worthy, irresistibly gorgeous and has women scheming to get in his bed. The first scenes with Rafe were very funny, IMO. If you sample this book and don't find some amusing bits in the first chapter, you probably won't like this story very much. There is plenty of befuddlement on the part of the hero when Collette doesn't succumb to his seductive ways. Something along the lines of "no woman has ever rebuffed me before" is said or thought multiple times. Collette, an assassin's daughter, is Rafe's mission and he is having a tough go at it. She is in a precarious position trying to save her father and not being able to trust anyone.

On its surface and especially if Rafe's character is unappealing to you, the characters and story may seem ridiculous, but there's a subtlety and hidden depth that had me caring for both MCs early on. It had me tearing and chuckling early on. As noted before, I did get a bit bogged down in the middle. It lost some of its charm, but the ending made up for it in a grand "will he make it" sort of gesture. The anticipation and tension was great!

As an aside, I really think these two MCs' characters are difficult to convey in a convincing way that gets the reader to care. Rafe is a charismatic war hero, who stayed away from most of the danger due to his talents at seduction. He has some defining characteristics but they seem minor when compared to all the PTSD hero types that is common these days. Collette has no home or safe place so she can't be as carefree as other ladies. I thought Galen handled their characterization well.

I enjoyed the epilogue, and am looking forward to Jasper's story.

*I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

JoRead says

~ 3.5 stars~

This third installment in the Survivors series showcases the Seducer. Rafe Beaumont's role in Lt. Colonel Draven's regiment in the war was nothing like the other soldiers'. Just as dangerous, but not quite as heroic, at least not in his eyes. Now that the war is over and everyone is trying to live a more or less tranquil life, Rafe feels the chance to prove himself as a true hero is still yet to come. However when Draven pretty much orders him to reprise the role of the Seducer, he assumes he's never going to have that chance. Not quite so my dear Rafe.

Rafe was such an endearing, amusing character. His easygoing attitude and somewhat sad past was easy to understand. It was pretty obvious why all the women wanted a piece of the beefcake that was Rafe. Collette

on the other hand was not as well-defined. She was too innocent to be doing what she was set out to do and I honestly didn't understand why anyone would consider her for that kind of work. Although when it came to Rafe she was pretty set on what she wanted from him and that sort of redeemed her in my eyes.

The Survivors that we've met in past books make a reappearance here but don't quite play the important role I would have liked. I didn't get why Rafe didn't enlist the help of his friends in a more proactive way in order to achieve his goals. It just seems it would have made his life much easier. Another thing I didn't enjoy much was the fact that it felt the book was two stories in one. The way it started and the way it changed course in the middle didn't mesh well. In the end Rafe gets to prove his worth not only to his Lieutenant but also to the woman he loved (in a most romantic way) so I was happy by the time I finished.

Overall a good read but I think Ewan's story (first book, Third Son's a Charm) is still my favorite.

****I received this book at no cost to me and I volunteered to read it; this is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher****

Sammy Loves Books says

Finally!! Safe Beaumont finds love!!

I'm usually not a fan of spies and spy stories, but this was very enjoyable!

Nicole Normand says

I received a copy from NetGalley; this is my honest review.

- This is a story with lots of adventure and suspense up until the very end.
 - There are also many LOL moments and sadder parts too.
 - The chemistry between Rafe and Collette is palpable and reflects in the love/sex scenes.
 - It also shows, painfully, that what happens in our youth often marks how we behave later in life.
 - It was good to see The Survivors working together yet again.
 - Don't miss out, buy the book! This one was really hard to put down.
-