



The Stalking-Horse

Miriam Grace Monfredo

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It's the eve of the Civil War, and Glynis Tryon's niece, Bronwen, has joined Pinkerton's Detective Agency. While on her first assignment in the South, two agents are murdered. When word reaches Seneca Falls that Bronwen is in trouble, Glynis heads south -- and finds her niece caught in the midst of a diabolical plot designed to strike at the very heart of the United States government.

The Stalking-Horse Details

Date : Published January 1st 1999 by Berkley (first published 1998)

ISBN : 9780425166956

Author : Miriam Grace Monfredo

Format : Paperback 340 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery

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Dana says

The Seneca Falls mysteries are ones I started reading back in high school, but then lost track of. I happened to see this one at the library, so I picked it up to reintroduce myself to the series, and it was worth it. I love all the historical detail and, of course, the early-feminist-in-America storylines.

This one appears to be the beginning of a big turn in the series. The first several books focus more on Glynis Tryon, a librarian in Seneca Falls who always seems to get caught in a mystery. This one focuses more on her niece, Bronwyn, a newly minted Pinkerton detective given an undercover assignment in the South at the very earliest days of the Civil War. I'll be interested to see if the series' whole focus turns to Bronwyn in the subsequent Civil War time books or if Glynis gets to take a more active role again.

Carolyn says

This focuses more on Glynis Tryon's niece, a Pinkerton agent, and an attempt on President-elect Lincoln's life. Knowing what is to come, there is a heartbreaking look into Mary Lincoln's life.

Lynn Demsky says

“The acclaimed mysteries of Miriam Grace Monfredo have fascinated readers by bringing to life one of the most exciting eras of our nation's history, and the adventures of a small-town librarian named Glynis Tryon... It's the eve of the Civil War, and Glynis Tryon's niece, Bronwen, has joined Pinkerton's Detective Agency. While on her first assignment in the South, two agents are murdered. When word reaches Seneca Falls that Bronwen is in trouble, Glynis heads south--and finds her niece caught in the midst of a diabolical plot designed to strike at the very heart of the United States government.”

This one was well written, had a lot of history in it (and the author noted more about it in the back of the book. I didn't care for it as much, Glynis was hardly in it --- the story was scattered all over and characters not as developed as they usually are.

Eunira says

So far, this is the book I least liked in the series.

Judy says

#5 in this series with Glynis Tryon, librarian and feminist in Seneca Falls, NY, in about 1861, time of

Lincoln's inauguration. This is a great mystery and historical story. The characters are quite a variety, including different races and the relationships between them. They are each unique. This story features Glynis's young niece who is quite an independent woman and has begun working for Pinkertons with an assignment in the south as the south begins secession and different groups work against each other; one of which is the plan to assassinate Lincoln as he arrives in Baltimore. Lots of action included. Highly recommend it. I plan on finishing the series with the next story.

Roberta says

Fifth in a series of light murder mysteries, that were so far set in New York State before the Civil War. The main character is a small-town librarian, Glynis Tryon. I enjoyed the earlier books in the series more than I did this one in which Glynis Tryon rides to her niece's rescue. Maybe I just didn't find the niece, Bronwen, or the Alabama setting as engaging as some of the characters and New York setting in the previous books.

Diane Wachter says

HB-B @ 1998, 1/99. Seneca Falls Historical Mystery, Book 5. An historical mystery involving an assassination attempt upon President-Elect Abraham Lincoln by the secessionists while he traveled by train to Washington for his inauguration in 2-3/1861, and the female operatives of the Pinkerton agency. Very good.

Sue says

This was the first in the Glynis Tryon series I'd read. A bit trite at times, but it was well plotted, and exciting to read a historically accurate book about the times, with a fun heroine. I plan to read more in this series to see how well I like them. They are fast reads.

Anastasia says

For people who are fresh to the series, this is probably a great book, but for those who have been reading from the beginning and admire the protagonist Glynis Tryon, it was utterly disappointing. Glynis hardly features in the book at all and the reader must suffer through boring and pointless chapters told from the perspective of Mary Lincoln. Although the parts that focused on Bronwen were action-packed and fun, the actual details of the conspiracy were so vague that the plot was uninteresting to me.

Una Tiers says

A sad reminder of women's rights. It was great to see first lady Mary Lincoln in a new light. I thought the author edited history, but on second thought maybe she simply opened the possibility for another truth.

Barbara says

Much more interesting plot than "Through the Golden Eagle". The climax of the story was another twisted surprise.

Nell says

Glynis's niece Bronwen chafes at the same restrictions as her aunt but feels more free to ignore some of them. Enjoyable but miss the presence of Glynis.

Mary Newcomb says

Abraham Lincoln has just been elected President, the South is full of secession talk and business interests are concerned. This tale explores the Pinkertons, women's issues and deceit in this very difficult time.

Elaine Tama says

I loved this historical novel, which was set in the years 1860-1861, when Lincoln has just been elected president and avid secessionists in Maryland seek to assassinate him as he travels through Baltimore to Washington. The main character, a young woman from Seneca Falls, NY, manages to get hired as a Pinkerton agent, and travels south in her disguise as the daughter of a railroad owner. The railroad owner has hired the Pinkerton agency to learn what southerners are planning vis-à-vis the railroads. She is almost killed several times, and she ends up escaping back to the north in an adventure that sounds a little implausible (sailing up the Chesapeake Bay in February) but really held my interest.

Maureen says

A series which I have enjoyed very much. I have read all of them. I am not sure if she is still writing. I haven't been able to find any more, other than the books in the series I have already read.
