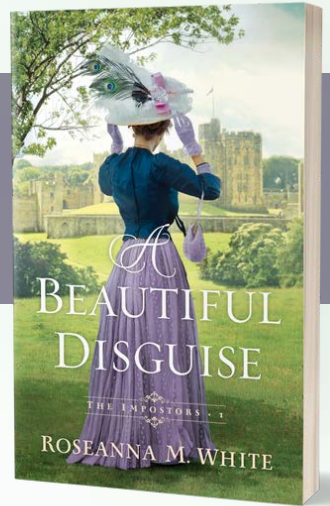


BOOK CLUB GUIDE



FROM THE AUTHOR



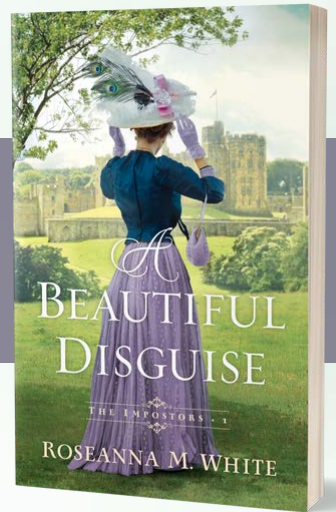
Hello, Book Lovers!

For the first time in dozens of books, I can say that one came to me in a dream. Or rather, that a concept for a whole series did. I woke up one morning a couple years ago with this vague idea about an Edwardian-era private investigation firm called The Imposters, who spied on society's elite . . . which they could do well because they were the elite. Naturally, I got up and hurried to my computer and jotted down those few bare facts. I knew it would involve a fashionista heroine who hides her true self behind her styles, and I knew that there were some fun hijinks. I just hadn't figured out how or why yet.

As the story fleshed out in my mind over the next months and years, I decided that my team of Imposters received some unlikely training—from a circus troupe that once traveled through their area and stayed at their father's estate. Cue all the confetti and balloons and some Big Top music in my head! Edwardian circus + high-society spies/investigators = ALL THE FUN!

I have had a blast getting to know this fictional team, coming up with some derring-do for them to perform, exploring the history of the circus and theater, and researching things like architectural secrets that they can put to use. And, of course, deciding who can enter these siblings' world to make their hearts spark with new life.





In *A Beautiful Disguise*, I loved getting to use this fun setting as a way to explore something we all deal with today in the world of social media and television: learning how to differentiate between the mask we wear for the world and who we really are inside. We're always more than we appear . . . but there's also a reason we choose the masks we do. I hope you enjoy discovering why Lady Marigold has chosen the ones she has.

Cheers,

Roseanna

Roseanna M. White

roseannamwhite.com

P. S. I've built a page on my a site dedicated to all the FUN this series contains, like the history of the circus, Lady M's Fabulous & Frugal Fashion tips, games, character photos, and more. You can check it out at roseannamwhite.com/imposters



TOP SECRET

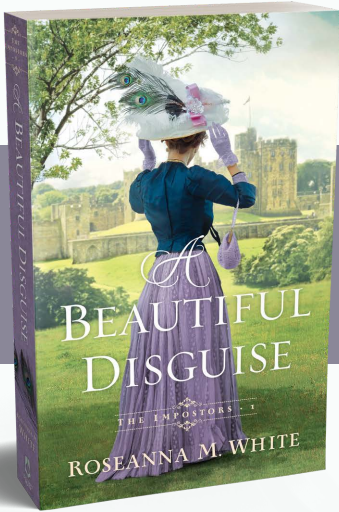
TRAIN YOUR BRAIN LIKE A SPY!

Every intelligence agent is trained to notice details and remember them. This is crucial for the Imposters but also true of agents in MI5, MI6, the CIA, KGB, and pretty much every other intelligence agency in history.

So, let's play a game to help you start your training!

- 1.) Someone should choose 25 random objects and put them in a box or suitcase. Sit the box or case at one end of a large room or long hallway. Have a master list of the items in the box written down.
- 2.) Line up your participants at the opposite end of the room or hallway. This area is "Headquarters."
- 3.) With a timer or stopwatch, give each person 30 seconds or 1 minute (depending on size of space) to get to the end with the box, look inside, and get back to Headquarters. As soon as they get back, send the next person down, and so on until everyone has taken a look. (You could also send 2 or 3 people down at a time, but no talking among them!)
- 4.) Once a person returns to Headquarters, give them a sheet of paper and have them write down all the objects they can remember.
- 5.) Compare everyone's list, having them help one another and fill in what others missed. Compare to the master list, or else bring the box down and hold up each object.
- 6.) [optional] Give out the "random objects" as prizes to the participants, letting the person who got the most right choose first.

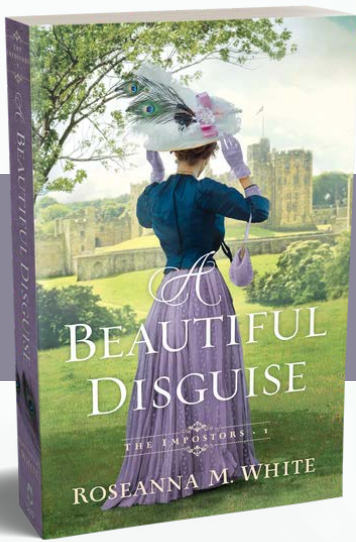




DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Lady Marigold Fairfax has created a persona that society sees and identifies as her, even though it hides much of her true self. How do you think we do the same thing today in the world of social media, or even in person?
2. Sir Merritt both knows the value of a team and hates to have to ask for help. Do you have trouble admitting when you need to call in backup? Or do you seek out a team as your first step?
3. Yates is still coming into his own in terms of responsibilities, given that he is now the earl but is also the little brother. How do you think his relationship with his sister has shaped him? What do you think he'd have chosen to do with his life if responsibility and duty weren't an issue?





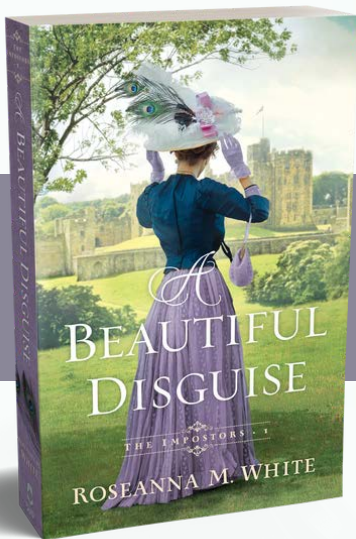
4. If you could learn any of the skills Marigold and Yates picked up from their circus friends, which one would it be? Would you make friends with big cats or other circus animals if you could?

5. Who was your favorite character and why? Your least favorite?

6. Lavinia observes that when her heart was weak, she was weak. Have you ever been in a position where your physical wellbeing (or lack thereof) shapes your whole life? How did you cope with those limitations? Have you come to believe anything about yourself that may not be true because of a chronic condition?

7. Sir Merritt's friend Jonathan observes that sometimes true friends recognize each other quickly, seeing that "kindred spirit," or perhaps the Holy Spirit, in another. Do you have any friends with whom you bonded quickly and whose friendship has remained strong for years? What is it, do you think, that knit you together?





8. Sir Merritt is one of the only people to ever truly see Marigold, and his clear vision of her helped her to better see herself. How do the people you love best help you to understand yourself better? What did you think of the progression of the characters' relationship?

9. Were you surprised by the revelation about the Hemmings? How do you think Lady Hemming kept her loyalties secret for so long? Have you heard of any true stories about such things?

10. What was your favorite scene in the book? Which relationships were your favorite?

11. Book two in the Imposters, *A Noble Scheme*, will be about Gemma and Graham. What do you think is the cause of their animosity?

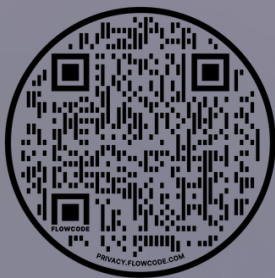


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