



## Wizard Undercover

*K.E. Mills*

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There may be trouble ahead ...

Wedding bells are ringing for the constantly battling nations of Splotze and Borovnik, and the upcoming royal nuptials could at last put an end to their dangerous hostilities. But in a development that hardly bodes well, one of Gerald's fellow janitors goes missing - after delivering a dire warning of danger surrounding the marriage treaty. So Gerald must embark on a dangerous mission to uncover the troublemakers, before wedded bliss becomes international war.

But going undercover isn't as easy as it looks, even with Melissande and Emmerabiblia for camouflage. Soon Gerald finds himself fighting for his life as well as world peace.

## **Wizard Undercover Details**

Date : Published May 3rd 2012 by Orbit (first published October 6th 2011)

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Author : K.E. Mills

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## From Reader Review Wizard Undercover for online ebook

### Elaine says

I enjoyed the previous books in the series which have got darker and darker but this one didn't seem to progress the story any further and it had neither the humour of the first novel nor the darkness of the third. It was a non-story - did they really have to send their strongest magician to deal with a couple troublemakers who were using bought off the shelves spells.

I also didn't like the fact we are let into the secret of who the real trouble maker is right at the start - it makes the whole story seem rather pointless. I still read it cover to cover and I still enjoyed it in places hence the 3 stars but parts of it did frustrate and irritate me - hence again only 3 stars.

I also don't like the fact they are dragging out the storyline with the black market magician (this should have been the book to put that one to bed) or Reg's back story which I think needs more exploring.

I do like the fact that Ms Miller explores the issue of paternal sexism (ie. subjugating women in a mistaken belief that we need protecting - we don't need it thanks) But I think she missed a trick by making all the female characters rather flaky - even the strong ones make irrational decisions all through the book. Come on Ms Miller we are not emotional maelstorms who can't be trusted to make logical decisions. I will read the next one in the series but unless it actually rectifies some of the mistakes in this one it could be the last one I read.

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### Kathy says

The Rogue Agent series has interesting characters plus exciting plots and I've enjoyed reading them. This 4th book is still good but the plot is a little weak. The true conflict is inside of main character Gerald's head as he must control the evil magic he consumed else he ends up like his alter ego in a parallel universe, evil and dead.

The two lady leads, Bibbie and Melissande, are supposed to be firm friends but they don't talk to each other like friends. Several Amazon reviewers noted this problem with books 2 and 3 in the series, and book 4 has somewhat less bickering, but it is still too much. It makes it harder to care about the characters when they act like little kids arguing about whose turn it is to set the table.

I enjoyed this novel despite the small problems and recommend it and the series to those who enjoy well-written fantasy with magic and real people.

Please see my full review here: <http://www.morebooksthantime.com/wiza...>

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### K. says

Plot summary: When Sir Alec receives a panicky call from his undercover agent in Splotze that delivers a message of possible danger to an upcoming royal wedding before cutting out abruptly, he puts Gerald

Dunwoody on the case. How else is Gerald to gain access to a royal wedding but through his friend and sort-of-coworker Princess Melissande? Along with powerful witch and love of Gerald's life, Bibbie, they set off for Splotze, where all is not as it seems.

Thoughts: I enjoyed this far more than I did book 3. I'm not sure if it was the lack of parallel world confusion, or if it was simply that there is FINALLY - after four books - some "we love each other, let's face nom" stuff. Either way, it was nice to get back to the main characters doing what they do best. It was also fun to hear about the other countries that make up the world Mills has created, and to see Melissande back to her princessing best.

While the ending felt a little rushed, it was still an enjoyable read, and I'll definitely be keeping an eye out for the next book in the series.

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### **Chris says**

As everyone else says, it's the fourth instalment in what is, in my opinion, a stale series of books.

The book kicks off without any recap, which in some books is good as some authors patronise the readers memory but I read the last one 2 years ago and had no idea what had happened.

It took 50 pages for me to grow bored with the book. The language is annoying and the characters get repetitive after a while. The mystery of the book never gets intriguing and the ultimate antagonists are characters we never even know anything about?! Did NOT invoke my interest.

Gerard's new and darker magic is moaned about and never truly explained. There is a string of royal dignitaries described throughout the book that is hard to care about.

That being said, there were certain bits that were entertaining but I can't decide if it's just because I enjoy reading.

I would not recommend reading, there are a great number of better books in the Fantasy genre. I found this lacking.

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### **Jessica says**

bummer of an ending...all the romantic lead up and no ending :(

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### **Mark Webb says**

This review forms part of my contribution to the Australian Women Writers 2013 Reading Challenge. All my 2013 AWWC reviews can be found [here](#).

Wizard Undercover is the fourth book in the Rogue Agent series by K.E. Mills. You can read my review of

the first book in the series, *The Accidental Sorcerer*, here, my review of the second book, *Witches Incorporated*, here, and my review of the third book, *Wizard Squared*, here. Those reviews cover a lot of my general thoughts on the world building and general background, so I'll keep this review shorter and focused on the plot of this book.

In *Wizard Undercover*, Gerald and his friends are sent in undercover to a royal wedding in another country to uncover a plot to sabotage the event and cause international strife.

This book brought together a lot of the strengths of the first few books. The plot is fun and engaging, with enough twists and turns to keep the reader interested. It is more of a straight out spy story, and is better for it.

While there is still an element of Gerald's powers saving the day in an entirely unpredictable and convenient way, this is significantly de-emphasised compared to the previous books and indeed the smaller instances serve to advance other plot points.

In this book, Gerald's inexperience as an agent is his biggest handicap. It is all very well bringing the biggest gun to the party, but if you don't know who to shoot you are still rendered somewhat ineffective. *Wizard Undercover* treads that line much more adeptly than the last two books.

The character interactions felt more natural and polished as well, which adds to a richer reading experience.

Thoroughly enjoyed this book, and on the strength of it am eagerly awaiting any further instalments in the series.

Highly recommended.

I also reviewed this book on on my website.

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## **S.B. Wright says**

*Wizard Undercover* is the fourth book in the Rouge Agent series by K.E. Mills, the Canadian born, Australian author, also writing as Karen Miller - her real name.

Having not read Mills before, *Wizard Undercover* was a pleasant jaunt despite the expected turbulence that comes from jumping into a series four books in.

Experienced readers will have no issue settling in to the story as it's largely self contained. Or you could just start at *The Accidental Sorcerer* i.e. Book 1.

### **The Setting**

If you can imagine European politics in the late Victorian era, magic, dry English wit and a fantasy setting you'll be right. I am not sure whether I would call it Steampunk, but it will certainly appeal to those that frequent the genre.

### **The Tale**

Gerald Dunwoody, a rogue wizard "janitor" (think MI6) infected with tainted magics is sent along with the Crown Princess Melissande and Emmerabiblia Markham, partners in the unconventional and somewhat

feminist Witches Inc., to unravel a plot to disrupt the marriage of the heirs of Splotze and Borovnik.

The (Janitorial) Department's man in Splotze has gone silent after leaving an incoherent message suggestive of his own demise and heinous plans being orchestrated by players unknown.

### **Report from Field Agent “Bookonaut”**

Wizard Undercover reminded me of a cross between Jane Austen's work and Black Adder, the manners, formality and focus on personal conversation of the first and the dry wit of the second. Despite the lightness in tone and the bumbling along of its protagonists, Wizard Undercover is suspenseful.

There is a dark undercurrent running through the story, with Gerald always at risk of going to the “dark side” and being changed by the grimoire magic he's had embedded in him. The conclusion also featured a surprisingly abrupt and clinically violent scene in what is largely a “violence off screen” novel.

All things considered it's a delightful romp with a little mystery, humour, and romance.

If I had one criticism it was that there was no map or appendices to help get my head around the state of affairs.

This book was provided by the publisher at no extra cost to myself.

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### **Anne says**

4.5 Stars - What can I say - I love this book series: If you don't know Imagine a spy story set in the wizarding world with a little bit of very typical british humour mixed in (I have heard blackadder as one example of this and I would agree with that statement although I'm not sure if it's the best example of the type of humour) - especially for all the sequel books in the series. I really enjoyed the pacing of this book - and the division between character POV's made the story feel more wholesome.

This is the fourth book in the series and I enjoyed it very much, it kind of feels more like all the things I liked from the first book that I kind of thought were missing from the 2nd and 3rd. I wish more people would read this series because it is great on so many levels. I NEED A BOOK 5, but I'm worried I will never get it :/ (just throwing this out there - would love to see more of Reg and Gerald)

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### **Rozalynn Carlin says**

I think I enjoyed this book a lot mostly because I love the characters and reading about their exploits. It seemed to be paced better than the previous books, but I can't be sure without rereading them all. Read it if you like the other books.

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### **Lisa Tobleman says**

**Good fourth book but...**

This is a good fourth book in my favorite steam-punk romp with magical misfit rogue wizard and his very young “gel”. Return to the fabulous world of rogue wizard Gerald, his feathered friend Reg, Monk the mad scientist, Princess Mel, and Bibbie Monk’ younger sister. I have loved this series since I first stumbled upon it several years ago. I didn’t realize until last week that there was a book four in the series. So I bought it digital after not finding a paper copy anywhere (I prefer paper copies of books I like a lot). Now a few issues, don’t try reading this series out of order. This is one that builds on itself. Miss book 1-3 and lots of the story will be confusing or not as interesting. Gerald is becoming a bit of a Mary Sue, and Bibbie is...well. I Love Melissand’ character. I love Reg. I’m not super fond of Bibbie. She is too reckless, too sure of her own brilliance I often want to shake her (like her brother). However, it’s understandable because she’s 17. I didn’t realize how young Bibbie was until this book. And it has made me a little uncomfortable. Gerald is an adult, with a dangerous job that involves cleaning up other people’ messes. It also means he’s a governmental assassin. Why the Heck is he falling for a 17 year old girl? So. That realization put a damper on everything and made Gerald’ fondness for her a little creepy. If a book 5 comes out, I’ll read it. I’m invested, and the creep factor is fine as this is adult fiction, and Gerald isn’t actually that Good a guy. But still. Ick.

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### **Snarktastic Sonja says**

I had to step back from this one before I could write a review. It had ups and downs - places where I could not put it down and others where I felt, "get on with it already!"

I really, REALLY appreciate the fact that the story comes to a conclusion, and does not leave one hanging on anxiously wondering what will happen next to our intrepid hero and his merry band of misfit magic workers. It does keep me in love with the quintet, so I will happily devour the next tale of their adventures.

At this point in the story, the characters are well fleshed out, and the actions that each takes are not really surprising. That being said, I do believe you could pick this book up without reading the preceding ones, but you will miss out on said fleshing.

Again, this story isn't so much a fantasy as a spy novel that takes place in a magical kingdom. I really enjoy the combination - it is quite different from your typical high fantasy.

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### **Mary Thompson says**

I want many more books in this series! I feel like all the characters are my friends and I miss them!

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### **Luke says**

I'd been eagerly waiting a new adventure with Gerald and Co and as soon as my book turned up in the mail I started reading.

Wizard Undercover is probably my favourite in the series thus far. It follows on from the events of Wizard Squared. Gerald is still recovering from the events in that book, which have also driven a wedge between him and his closest friends. There's also the difficulty of Reg fitting into the group, which I though was

handled beautifully. I absolutely love the character of Reg, she's so sarcastic and witty, and I found myself laughing out loud on quite a few occasions.

I liked Gerald's new abilities and especially liked his reluctance to use them for fear of turning out like alternate Gerald. I'm liking him more and more as a character as the series goes on

The thing I liked most about this book was the scenes between Monk and Reg. It was great to see them together for long periods, they're just so funny together.

Overall, this a great addition to a fantastic series. I can't wait for another instalment

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### **Christine says**

[(no, we still don't know what the dark wizard behind the scenes wants, but his work is in evidence) (hide spoiler)]

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### **James says**

This series has finally gotten back on track, with the last book loosing its way somehow and the sexism of the second book angering me. While it won't be a world beater any time soon, for pure fun it can't be faulted.

**Four Stars**

#### **Plot** : Four Stars

Shoved into Splotze for a wedding alliance upon which the peace of the world hangs, this adventure is fast paced good fun. Gerald, Mellisande and Bibbie are thrust into this world undercover (kind of - Mellisande goes as herself and is the 'cover'). They there come up against a who-will-do-it conspiracy as they simultaneously hunt down a missing janitor (new readers, it's not what you think) and try and prevent various black magic sabotages.

Gerald has to come to face with a darker aspect of his powers, having to fight himself as much as the rest of the world. I really enjoyed this aspect as it gives Gerald something against which he can push. Proclaiming him the most powerful wizard in the world in the last book kind of left adversaries of any real threat out. However, having said that, the over-arching threat of an evil-hexing wizard/witch out there who can give Gerald some trouble is brilliantly done and hangs like the sword of Damocles all the way through the series. Many authors may have struggled once conceding so much power to one character, but here K.E Mills/Miller etc has done perfectly.

And the Mellisande/Bibbie parts have now settled down to entertaining quality as well. Gone is the latent sexism, now they are a part of a team, equal in importance to Gerald. They even save him again - this time in such a way it feels real, not pushing an ideology.

We also see an advancement in the romance for Gerald and Bibbie, for once. This was a nice touch as I was wondering how long people would be willing to wait - now we have some issues to help flavour the next

book; so watch out.

The constant "other Reg" idea was also nicely done. It was quite a big issue, and the careful handling was a joy to watch. Dealing with someone who is a clone of someone you know, acts like them, talks like them, effectively is them bar three years memory must be difficult and Mills got that across perfectly. I really enjoyed it.

Oh, and I found the expounded exploits of Sir Alec to be a particular favourite of mine. His extended face time in the books brought another aspect to it all, and really developed him and his job.

Anyway, as I've said this is all fast paced fun. It really is. From beginning to end, it sweeps you off your feet and doesn't let go. And somehow, despite having some really dark aspects to it, it comes across as light and easy going. Sure, there are evil parts in it, grittier parts, but it's in a world you can't help but enjoy.

As usual for books I enjoy/love, I haven't actually talked much about the plot. If you read my reviews regularly, you will know that this is because I don't like giving anything away. This is an absolute gem of a book - I'd hate to spoil it for you.

#### **Characters** : Four Stars

There's not much to say here really. The characters are firmly crafted now that we're four books in, and their depth and quality reflects the character building four books can do.

Of particular note though was the developing psyche of Gerald. Having to contend with the dark magic forced upon by the alt-Gerald really adds some depth to him, as he battles with a new darker aspect of himself. I can see this becoming one of the focal points of the series, and not for a bad reason - I love it.

I was also pleased to note development in Sir Alec's character. Spending more time with him evolved him from this - not cardboard cut out, but... well, we only ever saw one side of him before - into a well rounded, sympathetic character. I particularly liked the scene where Monk noticed the wear and tear on Sir Alec, and that in conjunction with the scenes of worry was a perfect mix.

Anyway, overall these characters are never going to win awards. But they bring fun, excitement to the world K.E. Mills/Miller has created, and are believable, loveable characters. I can't wait to see more of them.

#### **Writing** : Four Stars

Easy.

That's how I would describe the writing in this book; easy. Not as in it was amateur, or easily replicated. But that it just flowed into your brain, became a scene in your head with such ease that it wasn't as much reading as feeding a film reel in front of your eyes.

Again, books in this genre seem to lack that gravitas that comes with the hard-hitters in other genres. I don't think it's the fault of the authors - and in fact I think they can stand toe-to-toe with the award winners of other genres - but I just don't think this genre lends itself to the heavier, more award-winning narrative.

So, with that in mind, I'd have to say that this is some of the best writing in the genre. Not *THE* best, but certainly up there; Ms. Miller - sorry, K.E. Mills - certainly knows how to write.

Yep, her narrative flows perfectly, the dialogue is faultless and the pacing is great. Just lacks that gravitas. But again, not her fault.

**Overview**: Four Stars

As I said at the very beginning; this has brought the series back to where it belongs. Reminiscent of the first book - though still not *as* good - this book skips the latent sexism of the second book, regains clarity after that confuddling third and comes out trumps with an entertaining story. I've heard some people call it a stale series, but I'd have to disagree. Strongly. Sure the last book lost it's way a bit, but this is vibrant and alive, with a lot of potential; it clearly shows what the series is capable of.

Have Fun Reading.

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