



The Family Way

Rhys Bowen

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1905 New York. Molly Sullivan nee Murphy is a year wed, pregnant, irritable in the heat. An Irish serving maid is missing, and so are five babies in the last month. Daniel sends her away to his mother in quiet leafy suburbs. A journey through all levels of society puts Molly and her baby's life in danger.

The Family Way Details

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From Reader Review The Family Way for online ebook

Lisa says

If you're reading this, you've probably read the book or are at least familiar with the characters, so I'm not going to bore you with a synopsis. I've read all of the Molly Murphy novels and found this one, like most, to be a fun enough read; I think Bowen's weakest was "Bless the Bride." However, is every novel from now on going to be about Molly going behind Daniel's back to solve a case? And is he going to blow up at her because he hears a half-truth, without waiting for her side of the story? He needs to accept that she's not going to sit at home and knit; she needs to be honest with him so that he doesn't look like a jerk to his co-workers. I hope they work this out, and soon. And now that she's had her baby, I hope she grows up a little.

The mystery itself was moderately interesting, some of it predictable. I guess I'm just a sucker for books about this time and place; I love the descriptions of NYC, the buildings, and so on.

P.S. I found four typographical errors this time, which is not as many as some of her earlier books. But I wish the publishers would let me proofread! It's my job, and I'd do it for them for free. :)

Sharon Bengel says

Ms. Bowen has GOT to find a way to reconcile Molly's intelligence and modernity with her married and maternal state. So sick of the arguing!! Why did she marry him? And then when Molly puts her baby in danger - which was entirely predictable- I wondered why Daniel married her! The more I think about it the less I like this book. Bridie should be in Molly's household. Sid and Gus don't need to be everywhere. Molly has plenty of ways to stay occupied and get involved in mysteries without constantly lying to her jerk if a husband. Now for the next one I suppose both husband and baby will have to be moved out of the way so Molly can sleuth. Getting silly.

Eleon397 says

Much faster plot with more tension and adventure than bless the bride. Well told. Hard to understand why the author decided to have Molly get married as she has no real relationship with her husband. Perhaps they will eventually become a detective duo. Let's hope so. Having him be the disapproving after figure with Molly hiding her exploits from him is not entirely satisfactory.

Laura says

I knew the plot from the moment I met the pertinent characters. It was then just a question of forcing myself to read the book to basically see to the end what I already knew. There were a few tiny surprises, but overall it was vastly predictable. Things could have been worse for Molly. I suspected there would be more drama than actually happened, but her "foolish girl" personality is getting tired and annoying. I was hoping this book would end her series, as she is set to have a child, but instead it left the door open for many more

adventures. And I DON'T think I'll be reading them.

Betty says

A historical mystery featuring Molly Sullivan is full of suspense and surprises. Molly is expecting her first child. She finally agrees to spend the summer with her mother-in-law because she has decided to continue look for a missing Irish girl she knows about. I enjoyed this book although I find it rather predictable. I wonder why she manages to get herself in so many problems. The ending was a surprise.

Cheryl A says

Poor Molly Murphy. She's obtained her heart's desire and is now married to Daniel Sullivan, NYC police detective, and expecting their first child. The bad news is that she's bored and restless - her independent nature isn't quite suited for domestic bliss.

Despite her promise to Daniel to set her investigating aside, Molly looks into a missing young woman from Ireland. While beginning a search for a maid, Molly also witnesses a kidnapping in the Lower Eastside, the fifth kidnapping in the area in the last month. With Daniel working this case and one of a new group of anarchists, Molly is sent to the country to stay with Mother Sullivan and escape the heat. Of course, Molly makes discoveries while in the country that tie the missing woman to the kidnappings and to the anarchists as well.

This is probably one of the weaker titles in the series; the mystery and Molly's investigation are a little too pat. Overall, it was a quick, mindless read - predictable, but amusing. If Molly is to continue her investigations, the author will need to find a way to balance Molly's independence with marriage and motherhood.

And can someone please vet the covers?? This is the second in a row that has clothing from the wrong period - a pet peeve.

Sharon says

Another interesting mystery featuring Molly Murphy who is now married and has promised her husband that she is retiring from detective work now that she is expecting a baby soon. However, being who she is, she can't stay away when she receives a request for help from Ireland and then witnesses a baby being taken. These temptations added to the fact that her own brother is being sought by the police for activities involving the Irish Republican movement to declare Ireland independent of Great Britain, combine to tempt Molly back into her past work, even as she is supposed to be relaxing in Westchester, NY. A very good read!

Corinne says

Another fantastic adventure with Molly. Rhys' books are always a relaxing read and I look forward to each

one. This book was nice in that we saw a little more Sid, Gus, and Daniel development. The only thing unnerving was that there was something eerily familiar with Maureen's case, but perhaps that is because this is the 30th Rhys Bowen book I have read! Very predictable. Since Molly is with child I often was frustrated with her riding horses, drinking wine, and plain old putting her life in the hands of murderers and creating stress (not good for baby!). Also, why was everyone ok with telling Molly all their secrets?

Still, thoroughly enjoyed myself and Molly's latest mystery! Unlike Georgie, she actively tries to solve cases and likes to keep busy.

Kathleen Schilling says

Had significant issues with the dangers Molly puts herself in while pregnant. There were not needed risks - felt that she was foolhardy. Truthfully, it soured her on me a bit.

Deshay says

I enjoyed this book but I didn't "love" it. My major problem was that I just could not believe that a pregnant Molly would be doing the things she was - not in that place and time. I'm worried that future books are going to be some variation of this theme. She will have a baby but will put herself and the baby in risk because she MUST still be a detective! Don't see how that is going to work.

Rita Marie says

I love the Molly Murphy series. Molly and her now husband are two strong characters with a lot of interest. The location and time period are a wonderful choice, taking advantage of all the social change and conflict in the transition from Victorian to modern times.

But this book brings the series to a difficult turning point. Molly is pregnant, so not such an agile detective, and she and hubby are having the same arguments over and over. Perhaps this is true to the era, but some more substantial progress in the relationship would be useful in a work of fiction.

The plotting is also more contrived than usual, as Molly gets herself into some ridiculous situations. The author has her work cut out to get this series back on track. I hope she succeeds.

PoligirlReads says

I think I might be done with the Molly Murphy series. This series has not aged well, and this book was only slightly better than Bowen's previous offering of "Hush Now Don't You Cry." The plot was good, the villain convincing, but the main characters were not enjoyable. Daniel has lost any charm he might have had. Her friends come off as jerks (when previously Sid and Gus were a great duo), and Molly...well, she was not nearly as endearing as she was at the start of the series. You know things are bad

when Mother Sullivan morphs into a likeable character.

Once again, Bowen needs a better (or more ruthless) editor. Very repetitious, sometimes within the same paragraph.

The historical bits were nice this time around. But overall, I'm glad I got the library copy. I do wonder if Molly has been written into the corner: she can't be a detective anymore due to Daniel, but she still wants to be. This back-and-forth gets boring after awhile. I wonder if it might be better to work in a way for her to participate on the police force in some capacity. I don't know. Something to liven up the series and move it forward.

And POTENTIAL SPOILER:

Will she ever tell Daniel about the previous miscarriage? I've been waiting to see how that would play out for a long time.

Dagny says

At the beginning of *The Family Way*, I feared it might not be one of the best in the Molly Murphy series. It started a bit slow and with Molly seven months pregnant, how much trouble could she manage to get into? Wrong! Usually when Molly is in physical danger, it is relatively swift, but this time the danger lasted quite a while and I couldn't stop reading. It was breathless.

Carrie says

I'm trying to figure out why the author wrote this book. I loved the previous books about Molly, the recent Irish immigrant who becomes a private detective. But now it is 1904 and Molly is married to Daniel and expecting their baby. Daniel wants her to stay home, even when she is asked to investigate a missing young woman. Interactions between the two of them for the rest of the book are Daniel telling her not to do stuff, and Molly doing it anyway.

What was the point of this? Is the author trying to say that women gave up everything in order to be married and have babies? Why would she imagine that that would be fun to read?

And Molly: Are you crazy? What were you thinking with some of the things you did in the name of finding this girl?

I used to like Molly and Daniel so much; why oh why did Rhys Bowen make them so unlikeable?

Sandy says

I do like Molly Murphy, but I do not recall a time where I wish a terrible misfortune to befall a beloved

character.

If something were to happen to Daniel, I would not shed a tear.

I find it hard to believe that even in 1904, a man would love a woman with such an independent spirit and want to absolutely control her after being married, particularly in such a boorish manner.

I enjoyed the mystery, although I pieced it together before Molly did. It's not a common occurrence for me to do that, which means it's fairly obvious.

All in all, I'm glad this was a library book and I think I may be putting Molly on notice...
