



## In a Gilded Cage

*Rhys Bowen*

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Irish immigrant Molly Murphy and her New York City P.I. business are in the midst of a sweeping influenza epidemic and a fight for women's suffrage that lands her in jail. Her betrothed, Police Captain Daniel Sullivan, finds her, but he hardly has time to bail her out, what with Chinese gangs battling for control of a thriving opium trade. The only consolation Molly can take from her vexing afternoon in the clink is that it made her some new friends among the Vassar suffragists---and brought her a pair of new cases.

For the first, Emily Boswell is convinced her miserly uncle stole her inheritance and wants Molly to uncover the truth behind her parents' lives and deaths. Second, Emily's college roommate Fanny Poindexter wants Molly to find proof of her husband's philandering so that she can leave him without one red cent. But when Fanny dies and her husband claims she's a victim of the epidemic, it's more than Molly's conscience can take.

Rhys Bowen's Agatha and Anthony Award-winning historical series continues to breathe life into the past with its wit and charm and its complete sense of early-twentieth-century New York, which makes *In a Gilded Cage* her most accomplished mystery yet.

### In a Gilded Cage Details

Date : Published March 17th 2009 by Minotaur Books

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Author : Rhys Bowen

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## From Reader Review In a Gilded Cage for online ebook

### Charlie-Dee says

Still a great series

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### Kathy says

In a Gilded Cage is a return to normalcy for Molly Murphy's young man, Daniel Sullivan, as he is reinstated to his position as Captain in the New York City police force. Daniel is ready to get on with life now, which to him means settling down with Molly as his wife and moving to a home that is their own. Molly, is anything but settled, as she is introduced to more new aspects of the independent woman. Her friends, Sid and Gus bring Molly into the awareness of the women's suffragette movement, talking her into participating in a plea for the right-to-vote walk during the New York City famous Easter Parade. Of course, the women are arrested, and Molly finds herself once again explaining to Daniel her involvement in a "radical" cause. Molly also meets an interesting group of Vassar graduates, classmates of Sid's and Guss's, which leads to two cases for Molly's detective agency of one. Within the framework of an influenza epidemic in the city, certain of these Vassar women die, leading Molly to expand the scope of her original investigations to possible murder through poisonings. As Molly works to uncover an insidious scheme of revenge, she struggles with what the role of a wife should and would be, and she wonders if she can ever give up the independence she enjoys as a single working woman. As usual, Ms. Bown provides plenty of glimpses into the world of early twentieth century New York City, from the designated roles of women and men to the early days of the famous Dakota apartment building.

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### Jeff Dickison says

Another good Molly Murphy mystery as she resolves two cases and marches for the right for women to vote. I know these mysteries aren't great literature, but I enjoy Molly and her spunkiness. Recommended to mystery fans.

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### Christine says

I liked this one in the series because it deals with the beginnings of the woman's movement, missionaries, illegitimate births in two counts, the Chinese tongs, and poisoning in two cases.

Molly Murphy is really developing into quiet an observant detective whose inquisitive, proud, forthright personality keeps her going for justice until she finds the truth. As her now fiancé, reinstated Captain Daniel Sullivan says of her, and I agree, she is like a terrier who keeps tugging until she gets her way. In this one, it is really too sad that 4 women had to die before Molly solved a case she wasn't even hired for!

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### Erin Lee Arvin says

"You make it sound like a war,' I laughed. 'It is,' Sid said soberly..."

This line really resonated with me, as the suffragettes really were fighting a war of sorts. I cringed each time the men in this book condescended to their wives, sisters, and daughters, as if to say, "Silly women. You don't get to vote. Go home and have babies." The feminist undertone got lost in the mysterious death plots, but it was sobering nonetheless.

Another great tale for the Molly Murphy saga.

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## **Regina says**

Try as I might, I never figure out who did it in one of Rhys Bowen's books, and I think I've read all of them now. I love this series and really enjoyed this particular book. Molly Murphy is such a great character and doesn't take any guff from her young man Daniel Sullivan. In a Gilded Cage, Molly joins up with women's rights activists from Vassar, solves a series of influenza look-alike murders, and helps a young woman to reclaim her birthright. I enjoy the historical setting and the swiftly moving plotline.

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## **Laurie says**

Molly Murphy, Irish émigré to New York City, has her own detective agency, and definitely doesn't want to be any man's servant. Given that this is 1903, this may be a problem. But she gets enough jobs to survive, and her 'young man', Daniel Sullivan, who is a NYPD detective, is mostly understanding of this.

When her neighbors- the lesbian couple Sid and Gus- introduce her to some fellow Vassar alums, she gets a couple of new cases. One woman, an orphan, wants to find the truth about her birth; another wants to know if her husband is cheating on her. Molly soon finds herself in a tangle of sudden deaths and assaults on her own life. Are the deaths murder or natural? Is the murderer trying to kill Molly to keep her from the truth? Who stands to gain the most from these deaths?

The novel is an interesting historical mystery that doesn't bend the mind set of the day too much. The Vassarettes are marching for the vote, so it's not inconceivable that they would hire a female detective. Molly's boyfriend still expects (or at least hopes) that she'll cook dinner for him and obey him when her own safety is involved- things that even today's men do. I enjoyed the details of the food, clothing, the medicine (one of Molly's clients works at a pharmacy), the cosmetics and rooms- Bowen has done her research well and obviously loves this era. A fun, intriguing read.

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## **Thenia says**

Molly is becoming quite good as a detective and in this part of her story she solves two more cases.

She is very forward-thinking for her time and she faces quite a few issues due to that, her role in a future marriage with her young man, Captain Daniel Sullivan being one of them.

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The book ends in a hopeful note and I'm looking forward to her next adventure in *The Last Illusion*.

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### **Rachelle says**

*In a Gilded Cage* is the 8th book in a series but the only one I have read. Molly is a New York City Private Investigator. The time is during a flu epidemic and the fight for women's suffrage. Molly meets a group of suffragists from Vassar and they give her a copy of cases to solve. Emily Boswells believes her Uncle may have stolen her inheritance and wants to find out more about her parents' lives and death. Fanny Poindexter believes her husband is philandering and could leave him without any funds if he is.

In her search for clues about Emily's heritage, Molly takes the train to Massachusetts. Thus I will be using this for a cozy where there is travel.

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### **Camilla says**

This one was nearly perfect. Several confusing mysteries intertwined and the reveal was just as thrilling as the gradual discovery of all the truths. I loved the length--it was a bit shorter than some of the earlier works but absolutely perfect for the type of story it was. I loved Daniel's and Molly's relationship advancing and Molly's foray into the women's suffragist movement. It stirred my own blood to read about conditions for women at the turn of the century. The murderer in this story was completely cold-blooded, too, which added an extra element of terror to the plot. What a great story!

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### **Nancy Haddock says**

Another fabulous book in this series!

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### **Carol says**

Another good entry in the Molly Murphy mysteries. Molly solves her cases and also gets slightly involved in the Women's Suffrage movement. Good story with several plot twists. Nothing too deep...light easy reading.

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### **Faythe Shattuck says**

Molly Murphy and her New York City P.I. business are in the midst of a sweeping influenza epidemic and a fight for women's suffrage that lands her and her friends in jail. Her fiance, Police Captain Daniel Sullivan, finds them, but he hardly has time to bail them out, what with Chinese gangs battling for control of a thriving opium trade. The only consolation Molly can take from her vexing afternoon in jail is that it made her some new friends among the Vassar suffragists and brought her two new cases. For the first, Emily Boswell is convinced her uncle stole her inheritance and wants Molly to uncover the truth behind her parents' lives and deaths. Second, Emily's college roommate Fanny Poindexter wants Molly to find proof of her husband's cheating so that she can leave him without any of her money. When Fanny dies and her husband claims she's

a victim of the epidemic, it's more than Molly's conscience can take.

The book is well written and filled with characters and plot lines that are intriguing and will keep the reader engaged. Both mysteries are both filled with twists and turns. One mystery has a nice conclusion while the other mystery has a very surprising conclusion but if you look at the clues you may get to the conclusion before Molly does. The author does a nice job of researching the materials for her books so she can give the readers a nice little history lesson while they read the book.

I have enjoyed seeing how Molly has grown and developed since book one when we were introduced to a scared girl running away from home after defending herself. I wish that Daniel would just let Molly have her career and let her work on her cases with telling her to stop being an investigator and telling her how to live her life. I also wish that Daniel would stop telling Molly who her friends should be and to stop hanging out with the friends that she has made. I'm glad that Molly has Gus and Sid in her life since they encourage her to try new things and help her with any problems that she has in her private and professional life and are even willing to help her investigate some of her cases.

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### **Beachreader says**

Molly Murphy is slowly establishing herself as a private investigator in spite of her boyfriend Daniel's objections and nonpayment by some clients. There are two mysteries for Molly to solve in this story and I thought both were interesting and well done.

The setting is early twentieth century New York City, and Bowen describes it well. The characters are always well drawn, and many of the minor figures are old friends who add dimension to the stories, especially Molly's neighbors Gus and Syd.

The pace of the book is steady and I don't recall anything that seemed contrived or unlikely. There are puzzling illnesses and deaths that have an obvious cause and an obvious perpetrator, but the process of watching Molly reach the right conclusion is written in a suspenseful way.

I rated this five stars because it is well written, had a good plot, and showed the professional and emotional growth of the character. Molly Murphy is like an old friend who gives the reader a change of pace. For me, it is a welcome respite from thrillers and darker mysteries.

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### **Betty says**

Daniel refused to take Molly to walk in the Easter Parade so Molly joins Sid and Gus march for women's rights. There Molly meets Emily who hires her to find information about her birth parents. A friend of Emily wants Molly to find evidence that her husband is cheating on her. Daniel has been reinstated and working on arsenic poisoning in lower New York and Chinese gangs are at war over opium trades. There is violent strain of flu hitting all parts of the city. These events are skillfully gathered together to form a story. The ending will surprise you.

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