



A Case of Possession

K.J. Charles

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Magic in the blood. Danger in the streets.

Lord Crane has never had a lover quite as elusive as Stephen Day. He knows Stephen's job as justiciar requires secrecy, but the magician is doing his disappearing act more than seems reasonable—especially since Crane will soon return to his home in China. When a blackmailer threatens to expose their illicit relationship, there's only one thing stopping Crane from leaving the country he loathes: Stephen.

Stephen has problems of his own. As he investigates a plague of giant rats sweeping London, his sudden increase in power, boosted by his blood-and-sex bond with Crane, is rousing suspicion that he's turned warlock. With all eyes on him, the threat of exposure grows. Stephen could lose his friends, his job and his liberty over his relationship with Crane. He's not sure if he can take that risk much longer. Crane isn't sure if he can ask him to.

The rats are closing in, and something has to give...

Book 2 of the Charm of Magpies series. Previously published by Samhain.

A Case of Possession Details

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From Reader Review A Case of Possession for online ebook

Ingie says

Written January 29, 2014

4.4 Stars - hot, mysterious and well done in an historic London - another winner with Magpie power

At last - the second part is here... and it was just as good as the first one, *The Magpie Lord* (4.5 stars), was.

These gentlemen are street-smart, English noble and a bit hefty and two very shameless, but adorable, sexy men. They always do a lot of interesting stuff (both indoor and outdoor...). In a tantalizing mini shorty *Interlude with Tattoos* (4.2 stars) we got a taste of their present life and relationship. A very tempting "teaser" with the lord's dirty talk. And here we are again. Hurray! ...and it was a lot of rats this time.

Lucien Vaudrey, the new Lord Crane and his lover Stephen Day is a couple to love and remember. ~ May it just be more books about them.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

As the book blurb says: ~ *"Lord Crane has never had a lover quite as elusive as Stephen Day."* ~ So right, and so tempting sweet to see.

'Stephen gulped. "You do love to put me on my knees, don't you?"

"I like to make you know your master," Crane said. "It's only fair. The rest of the time, you've got me so thoroughly enslaved, I might as well be wearing a collar with your name on it."

It all starts with that an old acquainted from Lord Crane's China years is trying to threaten and blackmail him. If Crane doesn't give Rackham £ 5,000 should the man reveal that Crane has a illicit relationship with another man, the younger magician Stephen Day. Our favorite lord gets first both angry and scared. But a former smuggler and maverick, as Crane, will not allow himself to be threatened. Behind the beautiful and fancy facade, is still all the old beats and tricks from his Shanghai years left.

Of course is also Crane's **faithful servant Merrick** there to help. Useful as always...

Stephen (an *Justiciar* in daytime) and his colleagues (who deals with magical malpractice..) are busy with some mysterious gigantic, very aggressive, rats and several nasty deaths in London.

The adventure, the deep attraction and all kind of thrilling troubles kicks off at full speed again... In a vibrant, charming historic London. A metropol with poor Chinese neighborhoods, narrow alleys, mysterious magic, disgusting rats but also "Darlings", upper-class, butlers, fancy rich people, clubs, "Dear Chap's", witty Ladies, magpies and... horse carts.

There is something special about these men and their relationship. The tall, blond, well-dressed and so

beautiful Lord Crane and the somewhat insecure, short, skinny, nearly ten years younger magician Mr. Stephen Day. They both got my heart and I want to see much more of them together.

‘Thinking of his lover's irresistible foxy grin led Crane to a moment's consideration of more interesting uses his desk could be put to.’

When I read these books I feel almost ridiculously good. There is something in the feel and tone, the narrative style and the wonderful way to use the words and the older language here. These books are simply so delicious, sexy, fun and simply fantastic.

I don't want to reveal too much, neither about the plot or how the love and their relationship develops here.

To sum; *A Case of Possession* is a second suspense packed, rat-scary, funny and very well done new installment to the *A Charm of Magpies* series. The book is also filled with a lot of great banter, an interesting cast of secondary characters AND some very, very romantic and tender moments. ~ Another winner by K.J. Charles.

When an Englishman says “*He's a pleasant enough chap.*” I know I will enjoy it all.

I LIKE - Jolly Good!

~~~~~

# BR with my dear BR-Ladies, Bev & Andrea. <https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

# And we cannot forget the rats...(view spoiler)

# YAY! ~ Will it be more books in this series? I checked and on K.J. Charles' website has she written: “*I have a third book about those guys to finish...*”

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**Em Lost In Books says**

better than it's predecessor. better plot, and more magic.

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**SheReadsALot says**

**Magpie Gate: Season 2 Commencing in...**

**The Magpie Lord was most certainly one of the best buzz books of 2013. Could the latest addition in the *A Charm of Magpies* series, "A Case of Possession" continue the charm and repeat the buzz?**

**Hmm let me think about it...**

*"You look like the cat that swallowed the cream," Stephen said softly.*

*"That comes later."*

Hell yes!

Round two was just as good as book #1. Don't skip book #1. You really should read the series in order.

This series makes me want to shout from the rooftops with how good the writing is, with how well faceted the characters are, with how rich the story telling is. I'm not the biggest fan of reading about the same couple in a series, K.J. Charles has proved how it can be a good thing.

Months have passed since we last saw Mr. Day and Lord Crane. There are now in London and searching through a reputable part of town searching for a murderer and \*gulps\* giant rats. (Erm, I'm not even going to post pictures of the vermin because they make my skin crawl.) During the fast paced case, we learn more about both main characters, Lucien and his past from the Far East plays a major role and Stephen's role as a justicar does as well. And with all of that into play, there's a mystery to be solved, bonds that are formed and solidified. Add doses of magic, charm and macabre essence to make "A Case of Possession".

The story was entertaining. The added cast of characters (and what a set of secondary characters!) made the story even better. Merrick is back in full force, with more page time. We get to meet Stephen's team of justicars and friends. I know Mrs. Gold will be popular but I love Saint.

Crane, darling Lucien.

He hasn't lost that silver tongue of his. He continues to put it to excellent use.

*"Charm's a very dangerous thing. Lucien, tell me," Stephen said thoughtfully. "This respect for shamans, this inviolability..."*

*"Mmm?"*

*"Well, I don't know if you remember, but some three weeks ago, you tied me to your bedposts and spent two hours subjecting me to acts of unimaginable depravity. And considering you call me a shaman--"*

*"I take issue with 'unimaginable'," Crane interrupted, sudden heat and light rushing through him. "I imagine those acts in detail every night you're not there. In fact, I've*

*imagined quite a few more that I have every intention of subjecting you to when I get a chance."*

\*grunts\* Lucien still has it. He showed a different side that I quite enjoyed. I loved reading about him learning about this new side of him as well.

Can I blame Stephen for want to climb Lucien like a pole? If I didn't love those two together, I'd be pushing Stephen aside to get at him.

*"Dear me, Mr. Day. You really do love to get fucked on desks, don't you? Put you on a desk, and you're begging for it. What is so particularly exciting about desks?"*

And Stephen...he's more frisky. I love it.

The words? I loved them too. This book is word porn for the mind.

I'm so happy where the couple are. I have zillions of quotes but some of my favorite are most telling. You have to read this book to see them for yourself. Even with those giant rats (view spoiler) this story kicked ass. "A Case of Possession" was romantic, creepy, funny, sexy and action filled. Highly recommended.

And of course, I was upset once I reached the end. I almost shook my Kindle to see if more words would magically appear. (It didn't.)

Oh, K.J. Charles, I implore to you:

These characters are fabulous.

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## **K.J. Charles says**

After I finished writing *The Magpie Lord*, I wanted to find out what Stephen and Crane would do next. All very well for these two guys to strike up a romance in an isolated decaying mansion full of magic, magpies and maniacs, but what happens when they take it back to the oppressive environment of Victorian London - where Crane has a business to run, and Stephen has to enforce the law on other magicians, while dodging it for himself?

It was obvious that this story needed to centre around one of Stephen's cases of magical malpractice, and while I was thinking of Victorian mysteries, one of the greatest teasers of all time came to mind.

"Matilda Briggs was not the name of a young woman, Watson," said Holmes in a reminiscent voice. "It was a ship which is associated with the giant rat of Sumatra, a story for which the

world is not yet prepared."

That's all we ever heard from Conan Doyle about the giant rat of Sumatra, so I used my imagination freely on this. I don't suppose my giant rats bear any resemblance to Holmes's, and I'm sure he and Watson would be shocked by what Crane and Stephen get up to (unless you believe the rumours, of course). But I enjoyed borrowing the idea, and I hope you enjoy what I did with it.

(There is a free short Charm of Magpies story available now!)

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## Susan says

### 4.5 stars

Hey The Magpie Lord fans...this is book 2. But...it feels...different. And I mean that in a way that screams...**it's even better!**

A Case of Possession, in my opinion, could even possibly be read as a standalone. Very little of book 1 sets anything up for book 2 other than the introduction of our fantastic characters of Crane, Stephen, and Merrick. And those characters are SO GREAT in book 2...along with some more fun and freaky and fantastic side characters added to the mix. *(Although, let's get real...you don't want to miss out on The Magpie Lord...so you should just go ahead and read it first. AND...it DOES help if you've read Interlude with Tattoos (the short story 1.5 of the series) as some of that actually is referenced in book 2.)*

The story itself is a tiny bit convoluted and though I'm equal parts obsessed and disgusted with the ROUS's (random Princess Bride reference...sorry), engrossed with the story of possession, and enamored and have a bit of a crush on Leo and her story...I did find myself confused at times. I wasn't quite sure what happened or what was happening...and that may have to do with the fact I wasn't sure who was who at points (there are a lot of characters with bit parts). And like in book 1, the solving of the mystery kinda came out of nowhere. BUT...the scene where it *was* solved? GAHHHHD DAMN...that was some creepy disgusting stuff!

That being said, the STAR of the book TOOK OVER and THREW DOWN and insisted that he was going to be WITTIER and MORE CHARMING and SEXIER and MORE VULNERABLE than could have been imagined even after book 1 and all the shorts that followed. **Lucien Crane...YOU DA MAN!**

Crane made me laugh with his snarkiness, he made me cry with his tenderness, he made me SQUIRM with his dominance. I love the progression of his and Stephen's relationship. It was sweet and lovely and fiercely loyal and even Merrick stepped in and was rooting for them. This couple, actually, surprisingly, is becoming one of my favorites! I will read and reread and memorize their conversation at about the 73% mark. The raw honesty there was...gah!...I don't know...my HEART...it was so full.

Author KJ Charles has a sick and brilliant mind. Ha! I mean, the stuff she writes about...her stories have these twisted mystery foundations, and then she layers it with some gross or shocking or blech-y details, and she throws in some hot lovin' and sweet romance, and it all mixes together for something magical. I'm such a fan.

I won't demand book 3 right away...not if you keep giving us some great shorts in between while we wait! ?  
As you do...

Loved it.

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### **Sh3lly (grumpybookgrrrl.com) says**

The Magpie Lord: ★★★★★

Buddy read with the MacHalo group.

I didn't like this one as much as the first, but it was enjoyable. Another mystery to solve involving giant magicked rats! I could have done without the relationship drama between Stephen and Crane. Meh. I guess it's better to get it out of the way early on, though.

Crane is magnificent and hilarious. I don't like Stephen as much. The mystery was underwhelming, but it's not a bad book at all. I'll get around to the next one soon.

Buddy read with the MacHalo group.

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### **Vivian says**

And you thought the countryside was bad.

London manages to bring forth a plague of disturbing proportions--Rats. Let your imagination enlarge that unconscious fear and enjoy the story. Aside from the aforementioned icky bits there's Stephen's team to meet. Yay. Sassy group. Also, Crane and Stephen manage to move forward spectacularly well--much to my surprise. I guess I'm use to being tortured relentlessly with stupidity on MCs' parts in other series, but no, not here. Hip, hip HOORAY!

I am charmed by the magpies. Frankly, they pretty much steal the show when they appear. Ready for more.

Overall, wonderful diversion with a taste for phantasmagoria.

Favorite comment and rebuttal:

“Oh, thank God. I thought you'd killed him.”

“I realise that. Thank you for your good opinion.”

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## Ms. Smartarse says

Exciting stuff over, daily life has now re-taken its course. Sure, the sex is still smokin' hawt, and our two heroes are very much enamored of one another... secretly. So they're holding a truckload of secrets from each other, and they pine. Ooooh is *there* pining to be had! Which is not to say, that I wasn't breathlessly following each and every long-suffering sigh of said pining.

When it comes to reading M/M romance, for all my indulgence of guilty-pleasure, I vastly prefer contemporary settings to Victorian ones. With M/F couples I find it perfectly acceptable for 'intrepid' heroines to conveniently time their dramatic swooning into the dashing heroes' arms. Even if you'll never catch me condoning such behavior in real life.

When the two protagonists are both male, the dynamic changes. They need to hide, there's a constant threat of prison hanging over their heads, so they need to watch their every step *very* carefully. So much so, that the long awaited (view spoiler) provides equal amounts of (view spoiler) as well as (view spoiler). You can tell I wasn't a fan of Romeo and Juliet, even *before* the double suicide, can you?

In short, this book was all about **#relationshipgoals**.

In general, I was not keen on the way secondary characters were introduced. It felt like a conversation between your friend and his long-time acquaintances, strangers to you: chock full of inner jokes, that were constantly being cut off by raucous laughter. I can certainly make a case for doing things this way, but my personal impression was still that of utter confusion and boredom.

Another thing I'm ambivalent on, is the whole (view spoiler). I'd have much preferred seeing (view spoiler).

### Score: 4.4/5 stars

Once again, we have an awesome murder mystery, boasting exciting Eastern-Asian flavors, ghosts... and lots of creepy rats. Despite all that, I couldn't bear to part with the book until I finished it.

=====  
Review of book 0.5: The Smuggler and the Warlord  
Review of book 1: The Magpie Lord  
Review of book 1.5: Interlude with Tattoos  
Review of book 2.5: A Case of Spirits  
Review of book 3: Flight of Magpies  
Review of book 3.5: Feast of Stephen

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## Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

**AWESOME SAUCE, this series is.**

I spent quite a lot of my time reading this book thinking about Crane and Stephen's relationship and how to describe it. But all I kept thinking about was that Police song...

*I'll be wrapped around your finger*

*Devil and the deep blue sea behind me  
Vanish in the air, you'll never find me  
I will turn your face to alabaster  
Then you'll find your servant is your master*

*You'll be wrapped around my finger*

And I was trying to figure out how to translate those lyrics into, like, real words when I read this...

"I like to make you know your master," Crane said. "It's only fair. The rest of the time, you've got me so thoroughly enslaved, I might as well be wearing a collar with your name on it."

Crane took the words right out of my mouth! Thanks Crane!

I love their dynamic so much. I love the witty, sometimes scathingly so, dialogue. I love that Crane doesn't throw his title around and, seemingly, no one is intimidated by it either.

The secondary characters are so rich and vibrant that I felt bewitched by the world Charles has created almost as though I were in the room with them. I found myself cringing and jumping whenever the heinous rats showed up and chortling at so many exchanges. Were it possible for a book to magically transport me to that world this would be in the top 5. If for no other reason than to give me a fighting chance at spiriting away Merrick when Crane's busy weaving his magic sex web made of iron chains around Stephen. With any luck Merrick and I will be long gone by the time they come up for air.

Merrick,

\*eyebrow waggle\*

I might not have as much ready cash as Crane, but I haz needs. Namely you looking imposing at my 6 24/7.

I've got my gimlet eye on you.

Sincerely,  
CC

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**? Jaela ? Killer ? QUEEN says**

It couldn't be better! The funny thing is that I had decided I would never again read Historical Romance. Well, this isn't exactly HR, it is Historical Fiction, and entwined with MM notes, all of this makes this book a wonder thing to read.

In the first book, Crane and Stephen are lusting after each other. They can't get enough of each other. Their relationship is more physical.

This book is more about their feelings. What they feel for each other. What they think about their fragile relationship.

Watching these two interact is the most beautiful thing I've ever read. They are so different, but they love gloriously. When Crane told Stephen about what he felt for him, when he put his heart on his hands, I was cheering so loudly. Damn, the feelings. Their "bonding" is so unique and full of finesse. They're like mates and their "dance" is magical.

*"...don't run away from me, please. Don't disappear."*

.....

*"...sweet boy. I love you. I think I need to say that quite a lot."*

.....

*"Oh God, I'm such a coward. Don't let me go."*

*"I don't intend to," Crane said."*

This doesn't mean that there wasn't HAWT sex. There was plenty and it was so steamy. I love the dirty talking between them.

*"I'll fuck my hand if you fuck my mouth."*

.....

*"You do love to put me on my knees, don't you?"*

*"I like to make you know your master," Crane said. "It's only fair. The rest of the time, you've got me so thoroughly enslaved, I might as well be wearing a collar with your name on it."*

.....

*"Christ, Stephen. I want you to fuck yourself on me. Pleasure yourself on my cock exactly how you want. Make yourself come."*

This are just a part of their hot interactions.

Apart from steamy and emotional, this book was so funny. British humour at its finest form.

*"No. It's like Earl Grey."*

*"The tea?"*

*"The lord."*

This book had a real plot and the twists were interesting. New secondary characters were introduced and I liked a couple of them. Some famous places of London were mentioned, and I was imagining how those modern places that I see every day would have been back then.

Happily to book 3 :)

## Ami says

When *The Magpie Lord* burst into my periphery back in September 2013, I immediately thought it was fresh and exciting. So of course the sequel became the case of high anticipation. Did it deliver? Hell, yeah! In some part it was even better although in other parts, I was a bit let down. It all depends on your expectations, I guess.

Okay, mystery wise – or the paranormal case that Stephen took and ended up involving Crane, that one ROCKED my socks! Seriously ... it was a much better plot, involving evil magic, revenge that had history rooted back to China, and really REALLY CREEPY GIANT RATS!!

K.J. Charles has a penchant for portraying horror vividly, and the part where the giant rats came from within walls, that one was worth cinematic treatment, complete with original score and special effects. It was one amazing (and horrific) scene! And unlike in book 1, where the villain seemed to come out of the blue, this one did not. It was a smart mystery, one that took readers to guess along – and this one reader, who grew up reading Agatha Christie, felt absolutely satisfied.

Characterization wise – it was definitely stronger too. I loved how the relationship progressed between Crane and Stephen, I loved Crane's protectiveness and his dominance and I loved how Stephen got under Crane's skin. They were really so yummy as a couple, so fantastically hot (hello, their sex scenes were fireworks!!! – when K.J. Charles was willing to write them on page, that is)

Then there was Merrick ... a BAMF!Merrick, who was as brave and loyal as King Arthur's Knights of the Round Table (sorry, I needed to make that reference, since Merrick is Crane's manservant, just like Merlin is Arthur's manservant in that BBC's *Merlin*, who was like my favorite manservant ever ... okay, sorry, slight detour there \*grin\*

Unfortunately, I also had slight protest – which made this one star less than the first book. I felt that in this book, Crane and Stephen spent more time apart. Basically due to Stephen's fear of what his colleagues would think of the nature of his external power, and the relationship he had with Crane, the Magpie Lord. So Stephen was being elusive, and often worked on the case for days leaving Crane alone, doing his own things. Unlike in book 1, where Stephen HAD to stay with Crane to get rid of the curse. This story was taken from Crane's perspective – so I felt kinda disappointed with the lack of their time together because I didn't really get to see what Stephen was doing when he was not with Crane.

Of course, that might be my problem alone, due to certain expectation that I had. I am pretty sure that if you love the first book, you will definitely feel the same for this one. Hands down, a solid and worthy sequel. Now what do you think I could do to bribe K.J. Charles to write faster??

*The ARC is provided by the author for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.*

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## Simone says

\*\*\*4.5 Stars\*\*\*

**I ♥? these guys so much!!!**

I'll make it short:

~ A gone-off-the-rails dead shaman - yep, no typo, he's *dead*, although his demented ghost doesn't want to accept it.

~ A man seeking for revenge at the weirdest of places or with the weirdest of co-conspirators, to be precise.

~ A confession of feelings that was long overdue.

~ And... \*eww\* *rats*. Lots of them. And I'm not talking about this kind of cute little bugger here:

~ Gawd, and the humor...

*"Since when did you talk to the law?" demanded Leonora in Shanghainese.*

*"Since his nobility's been fucking it," Merrick returned. "You want the shortarse on your side."*

Right on to the next!

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**Julio Genao says**

**More of a Sophomore Slouch, really.**

To me this felt a bit rushed and insubstantial; the plotting seemed a gauzy thing easily swept aside at the end.

Not enough conflict, or humor, or tension. Way too much conversation, as fun as that can be to read when penned by a master.

Still.

Charles is exceptional. Even her second-tier work is better than most people's first-.

Lesser, then—but still quite Good.

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**XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

**After reading book 1** in this series and rating it **3.75 stars bloody shrimping stars** (I promise I was neither high nor drunk at the time. I think. Maybe), I was expecting this instalment to make me feel more or less **like this**:

And also a little bit **like this**:

*Don't ask.*

**BUT.** As much as I positively lurve the idea of **evil, magical rats** (they'd make great a great addition to my murderous zoo, I reckon), relationship **drama** + too much **blah blah blah** + Stephen is **boring as fish** + disastrous lack of **creative cursing** courtesy of yummy Lord Crane + calamitous absence of [*excuse me while I go copy stuff from my book 1 review*] **chuckling** and giggling and **snickering** and cackling and **chortling** and guffawing and **snorting** scenes =

► And the moral of this **Supremely UnInspired This Thing Surely Is But All You Will Get It Shall Be Quite Welcome You Are Mighty Crappy Non Thingie** (SUITTSIBAYWGISBQWYAMCNT™) is: will I read **book 3** in this series, you wonder? I know not, my Little Flimsy Decapods, **I know not.**

🔪 **Book 1: The Magpie Lord ★★★★★**

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## **Macky says**

**A never published, old newspaper draught found recently in the secret drawer of an old victorian writing bureau:**

***GIANT RATS ATTACKING THE CITY? MYSTERIOUS MAGPIES FLOCKING AT THE SCENE? RUMOURS OF MAGIC... SUSPICIONS UNCONFIRMED AS OF YET BUT CONSTABULARY ON ALERT!***

This is Max 'Macky' McMackster reporting on recent animal attacks that as of late, have been ravaging London. Rumours that these attacks have been made by rats the size of dogs is rife and rat bites have been confirmed by the coroner but reports that the bodies have been savagely ripped apart seems to rule out that this could indeed have been the common sewer rat, *Rattus norvegicus*. The more logical reason being that this is more likely to have been perpetrated by a mad dog roaming the city, although this is yet again unconfirmed as of this time. However, there are witnesses (I refuse to name for fear of their safety) who are staunch in their claim that this attack was indeed a swarm of rats, swelling and growing to giant proportions in front of their very eyes, before viciously rampaging! The constabulary are claiming this hysteria to be a case of fever but this reporter is starting to wonder if there isn't some truth to the matter, as further investigations and other secret witness sightings and reports have been filtering through, and if what they're saying is true then this could indeed be the scoop of the century!

Something mysterious is afoot dear readers. A trusted source of information has told this Chronicle reporter that alongside the savage attacks there have also been odd sightings of flocks of Magpies or should we say charms, or indeed murders of magpies! Are these more fortuitous naming's? This alone is strange in itself, as generally we tend only to see these birds singly, or at the very least, in pairs, bringing to mind the child's nursery rhyme "One For Sorrow." My witness wasn't overly certain but spoke of seeing no less than seven, possibly many more, of the menacing black and white birds which in the rhyme would equate to "Seven for a secret never to be told" and there are definitely secrets

being kept here!

What this reporter has managed to dig out is that oddly whenever the magpies are sighted, so are two very particular men. One who is well known to the city and this paper; Lucien Vaudrey or The Earl Crane as he is known within the nobility. A man with a reputation and murky past, a trader, and it has been intimated, a smuggler with dubious ties to Shanghai. Now one of England's richest eligible bachelors it is a well known fact that he declines to grace society with his presence, instead devoting his time to his debatable business practices and the company of the second man who I shall be introducing in a moments time. As yet there is no sign of him picking out a duchess from the many society beauties vying for his attentions because there are rumblings and (unconfirmed) rumours that Lord Crane's romantic leanings tend towards a direction not looked kindly upon, which I shall leave you to make your own conclusions about as It would be libellous to make such a statement without proof, and most dangerous to his lordship. This leads me to the second man who we have been told has been seen to be very 'up close and personal' with Lord Crane and has indeed been much harder to investigate but after some intense digging I have found that this man is named Stephan Day, a most curious, perplexing character. It has been noted that there is a chemistry between these two gentlemen that goes beyond just friendship. It starts to get even more puzzling as my source has uncovered that Stephan Day has possible ties to some form of the occult, if that is the right description, as the word "Warlock" has been bandied about but something tells me that this is not actually the case with this secretive man, although there is definitely something of the arcane around him.

A few months ago this pair were involved in another scandal based mystery surrounding the death of Crane's father, a most despicable man who it seems had been central to the ruination of Stephan Days own father. At the time there were also reluctant witnesses who spoke of paranormal, magical practices which brings me to the conclusion that mystical forces could in fact be at play here, making the sightings of the magpies and the giant rats a more tenable conclusion. There have been too many coincidences for all these threads to not be connected. I have also uncovered plots to blackmail both Crane, Day *and* a close acquaintance of Lord Crane's, who once again I cannot reveal by name or sex. Plus, recent suspicious deaths, that on first glance would appear to be completely separate from the vicious rat attacks, now, upon closer inspection show coincidental ties to the above gentlemen and their cronies. Finally there is an even weirder connection to the Chinese community in Limehouse, where stirrings of something of a supernatural nature is causing panic amongst them...whisperings about some eerie Chinese legend known as "The Hungry Ghost" which I have yet to research.

For legal reasons the Chronicle will not be able to confirm any of the above, but where there's smoke there's usually fire and let me just say that I almost got burnt as I got close to certain truths that I know may sound unbelievable but are becoming more credible as my investigation progresses. At one point I was approached by a most enigmatic yet fearsome man named Merrick who threatened to remove my limbs from my torso if I didn't let this matter drop and I fear that if I submit this article for publication that is exactly what will happen and if the danger does not come from him, it will come from someone involved with other worldly forces, who I feel are watching my every move! So at this moment in time I am keeping this article on hold until the day when I can finally release it to you, the public because there are diabolical conspiracies at large and I will fight to bring them to the notice of...

Hush! Forgive me one second, I must just set my pen down for I hear a strange scratching noise coming from the vicinity of my front door, something is scrabbling at the base and it sounds like claws.. no, it cannot be... oh dear god...they're squeezing under the door now.... they're huge! .... help me...someone... please help me.....

Present day:

OMG! It looks like there was much more to THAT story than meets the eye! This would make an awesome book if only someone would look into it further and write about it. I know I would absolutely love it and if I had to rate it it would definitely be 5 rip roaring, adventurous, refreshingly different, magical stars! And throw in some hot,sexy M/M shenanigans. What more could a girl ( or guy) want!

SPOOKY!!!!  
[image error] >

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