



The Last Illusion (Molly Murphy Mysteries)

By Rhys Bowen

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Irish immigrant and PI Molly Murphy is thrilled to have a ticket to the theater to see a trio of illusionists that are all the rage. Indeed, headlining is Harry Houdini, the most sensational of them all; he has just returned from entertaining European kings and queens for a brief run on Broadway.

But before Houdini can even take the stage, the opening act goes horribly wrong and to the crowd's shock the illusionist saws into his assistant. In the aftermath, the stunned performer accuses Houdini of tampering with the equipment he keeps under lock and key. And he's not the only one critical of "The King of Handcuffs." Risking his life every night, Houdini has raised the stakes to such a perilous level that he's putting lesser acts out of business.

With everyone on edge, Houdini's wife hires Molly to be part investigator/part bodyguard, but how can she protect a man who literally risks his life every night? And how is she going to uncover whether these masters of illusion are simply up to their tricks or if there truly is something much more treacherous going on.

With sparkling wit, charming characters, and historic detail, multiple award winner Rhys Bowen brings early-twentieth-century New York City and the fantastic performers of the time vividly to life in *The Last Illusion*.

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The Last Illusion (Molly Murphy Mysteries) By Rhys Bowen Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in New York City in 1903, Bowen's winning ninth Molly Murphy mystery (after 2009's *In a Gilded Cage*) opens with a magic show at Miner's Theatre on the Bowery, attended by Molly and her fiancé, police captain Daniel Sullivan, who wants her to give up her unconventional profession of private investigator. When the sawing-a-lady-in-half trick goes fatally wrong, this horrible accident brings the evening's entertainment to an early end, preventing Molly and Daniel from seeing the show's main attraction, Harry Houdini. After both Signor Scarpelli, the magician whose stage equipment was apparently sabotaged, and his female assistant's corpse disappear, Houdini's wife, Bess, who worries an enemy of her husband is out to get him, asks Molly for help. Later, an act the handcuff king attempts almost ends in another death, confirming Bess's fears. The gutsy Molly, who's no prim Edwardian miss, will appeal to fans of contemporary female detectives. (Mar.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Molly Murphy witnesses a terrible accident at a magical-illusion show and soon finds herself pulled into the dangerous and mysterious world of illusionists in early-twentieth-century New York City. Hired by Bess Houdini, Molly is tasked with preventing Houdini from being killed on stage, something that Bess desperately fears after a string of accidents at the theater. But the illusionists are a tight-lipped group who refuse to share their secrets. Fortunately, Molly has some inside help in the form of her fiancé, Daniel, a police captain. His help comes with strings, however, as Daniel disapproves of Molly working such a dangerous case, especially as he really wishes she was planning their wedding. Despite sparring with Daniel, Molly perseveres with the case. With plot elements including a counterfeiting scheme and German spies (in addition to Houdini), this historical mystery delivers a top-notch, detail-rich story full of intriguing characters. Fans of the 1920s private detective Maisie Dobbs should give this series a try. --Jessica Moyer

Review

Praise for Rhys Bowen

“This installment outshines the others.... Don't miss this great period puzzler reminiscent of Dame Agatha's mysteries and Gillian Linscott's Nell Bray series.”

---*Booklist* on *In a Gilded Cage*

“Delightful ... As ever, Bowen does a splendid job of capturing the flavor of early twentieth-century New York.”

---*Publishers Weekly* on *In a Gilded Cage*

“Molly is an indomitable creature.... The book bounces along in the hands of Ms. Bowen and her Molly, and there is no doubt that she will be back causing trouble.”

---*Washington Times* on *In Dublin's Fair City*

“Readers will surely testify that Murphy has become one of their favorite characters.... This book is a keeper.”

---*Tampa Tribune* on *In Dublin's Fair City*

“Its enjoyable charm and wit will appeal to a cross-section of mystery fans.”

---*Baltimore Sun* on *Oh Danny Boy*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Medellin:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to typically the Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries)? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have various other opinion?

Steven Parrish:

The book *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries) give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to be your best friend when you getting pressure or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries) to get your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. You can know everything if you like open up and read a publication *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

Gerald Rountree:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book particularly book entitled *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries) the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries) giving you an additional experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us demonstrate the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Rene Hudson:

You are able to spend your free time to learn this book this publication. This *The Last Illusion* (Molly Murphy Mysteries) is simple to deliver you can read it in the playground, in the beach, train and also soon. If you did not have much space to bring often the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you better to read it. You can save often the book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

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