

ONE NIGHT WITH A SPY
By Celeste Bradley
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Reviewed by :: Crystal Jordan
Historical Romance

The Royal Four—known only as the Lion, the Falcon, the Fox, and the Cobra—possess vast power to control the fate of countries. These lords are advisors, spies, and assassins—the true power behind the throne. Their influence is tampered only by their immense intelligence and fierce loyalty to the English Crown. Each member trains an apprentice to replace him in case his dangerous profession ends in his untimely demise.

The Fox has died seemingly without apprentice. But, Lady Julia, his lovely young wife declares that *she* has acted as the Fox for years in her ailing husband's place. Marcus, Lord Dryden, has waited patiently as apprentice to the Lion for his chance to take up a seat in the Royal Four. He is sent to thoroughly investigate Lady Julia, and he has but to disprove her claim and all he has worked for will be his. To do so, he must get close to her, earn her trust, and then destroy her. Unfortunately, the enigmatic Julia is much more than meets the eye—the lady possesses many secrets and Marcus isn't the only one interested in unmasking her as a fraud. In their deadly game, Marcus has one question he must answer for himself. Which is more important, ambition or love?

The Chimera, an illusive and deadly spy for Napoleon, has been the Royal Four's greatest opponent for years. Lady Julia believes she can capture the villain, but will she be allowed her chance or will the Royal Four end her tenure as the Fox before it has even begun?

Charming, intelligent, witty—Ms. Bradley has woven a fancifully lovely tale but don't expect historically accurate behavior from her characters. The author has created her own version of 19th century London—with highly entertaining results! Bradley also brings back beloved characters from her Liar's Club series and the other Royal Four novels. For those of you who are like this reviewer and have not read the previous books in either series, the author has a phenomenal website (<http://www.celestebradley.com>) that offers character sketches and fun information about the rest of the books. Go check it out.

4 ½ Kisses