

Marion Chesney

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Sick of Shadows - Marion Chesney 2007

Lady Rose Summer may be a beauty, but she's still a disappointment to her parents. So when she becomes engaged to Captain Harry Cathcart, it's a relief of sorts. Rose befriends Dolly Tremaine, an exquisite country girl, but when Dolly is found floating in the river, Harry must step up and solve the mystery of her death.

Death of a Green-Eyed Monster - M. C. Beaton 2022-02-15

Sergeant Hamish Macbeth—Scotland's most quick-witted but unambitious policeman—is back and may have finally met the woman of his dreams in this new mystery in M.C. Beaton's beloved, New York Times bestselling series.

Hamish's new constable, Dorothy Mclver, may be the most beautiful woman he's ever seen.

Completely bewitched by her sparkling blue eyes, Hamish spends the summer traveling with her up and down Sutherland until finally, he can take it no longer. He gets down on one knee beside the Land Rover and begs her to marry him—and to his amazement and delight, she says yes. But just as the town of Lochdubh gets ready to celebrate, Hamish finds himself with a new murder on his hands. If he doesn't find the killer fast, Hamish's dream wedding could become a nightmare.

Lady Anne's Deception - Marion Chesney 1991

Determined to marry before her beautiful, spoiled sister, Lady Anne Sinclair sets out to win the Marquess of Torrance, but when her new husband discovers the reasons for the marriage, their relationship is threatened by pride.

The Dukes and Desires Series - M. C. Beaton 2020-05-27

Seven novels by the New York Times–bestselling

author, “a romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure” (Booklist). From a bride whose scandalous secret is revealed on her wedding day by a talking mynah bird, to a duke seduced by love letters secretly written by someone else, to an ingénue and a vicar’s wife drawn unexpectedly into the whirlwind of the London season, these seven novels are set in a world of high society scheming and passions hidden behind nineteenth-century propriety. The Dukes and Desires Series includes: *The Desirable Duchess*; *Her Grace’s Passion*; *Pretty Polly*; *The Sins of Lady Dacey*; *My Dear Duchess*; *Lady Lucy’s Lover*; and *The Scandalous Marriage*. “The best of the Regency writers.” —Kirkus Reviews *The Waverly Women Series* - M. C. Beaton 2020-10-16

Three delightful historical romances from the New York Times bestselling author known as “the best of the Regency writers” (Kirkus Reviews). Experience the passion of the Waverly Women, sisters who have been raised to stand up against the iniquities of the male sex. Fanny, Frederica, and Felicity meet their matches in this three-volume Regency romance collection that includes *The First Rebellion*, *Silken Bonds*, and *The Love Match*. *The First Rebellion* (Book 1): Though she tends to think of all men as cruel and lustful beasts, the beautiful and shy Miss Fanny soon finds herself longing to kiss the Earl of Tredair, one of the most hated of his kind! *Silken Bonds* (Book 2): Frederica, Mrs. Waverly’s adopted daughter, knows that until men stop preferring lispings dimwits over intellectual equals, she’ll be better off without them. Until Lord Harry Dangers rescues her from a pack of drunken thugs . . . *The Love Match* (Book 3): Felicity, a champion of

women's rights, is the secret author of a scandalous new novel about a lady "rake" and her passionate exploits. But she can't hide her attraction to the titled gentleman intrigued by her headstrong ways . . . Praise for M. C. Beaton and her novels "A delightful tale . . . romance fans are in for a treat." —Booklist "Nicely atmospheric, most notable for its gentle humor and adventurous spirit." —Publishers Weekly
Beatrice Goes to Brighton - M. C. Beaton
2010-04-15

A lady finds new love by the seaside in this romance by "the best of the Regency writers" (Kirkus Reviews). Lady Beatrice Marsham has finally been widowed from her husband—and now her family is trying to saddle her with another, equally awful one. She has no choice but to flee by stagecoach to the Brighton seaside—where she meets Miss Hannah Pym, who is determined to find her a proper match. The traveling matchmaker has a candidate in mind: Lord Alistair Munro. But he has heard the gossip about Lady Beatrice. According to the ton, she is nothing but a heartless flirt. Miss Pym and the Brighton air are working their charms on the lady, however—and she will soon be working her charms on him . . . Originally written under the name Marion Chesney, this is a witty adventure of a romance by M. C. Beaton, the New York Times–bestselling author of the Agatha Raisin and Hamish Macbeth series.

Plain Jane - M. C. Beaton 2011-10-31

A house in London's fashionable West End is the setting for romance, mystery, and danger in this Regency-set tale by a New York Times–bestselling author . . . Number 67 Clarges Street—a good address in London's elegant Mayfair with a dubious past and a lovably eccentric staff—is where the Hart sisters are taking up residence for the season. Beautiful and socially ambitious Euphemia and her younger sister, Jane, enter a world of balls, coming-out parties, and courtship with the hope of finding suitable husbands. But Number 67 has been deemed unlucky due to a long history of tragedy, including the mysterious death of a young and desirable past tenant named Clara. "Little Jane," constantly overshadowed by her gorgeous sister, soon turns away from the London social scene and concentrates on solving the mystery behind Clara's death. Her search leads to a discovery of

danger, deceit, and romance as she works alongside the eligible and dashing Lord Tregarthan to unravel the baffling case . . . Originally published under the name Marion Chesney, Plain Jane is a delightful story of romance and suspense by the much-loved author of the Hamish Macbeth and Agatha Raisin series.
The Endearing Young Charms Series - M. C. Beaton 2020-07-08

New York Times–Bestselling Author: Seven lighthearted love stories in one volume from "the best of the Regency writers" (Kirkus Reviews). Taking us from the English countryside to the social circles of London, the novels in this sparkling collection feature a botched marriage, a drugged bride, a witty governess, an unexpected inheritance, and many other delightful surprises from "a romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure" (Booklist). The Endearing Young Charms Series includes: Duke's Diamonds, The French Affair, Those Endearing Young Charms, To Dream of Love, A Marriage of Inconvenience, A Governess of Distinction and The Glitter and the Gold.

The Scandalous Lady Wright - M. C. Beaton
2011-11-22

A beautiful widow is accused of her late husband's murder in this Regency-set story of romantic suspense by a New York Times–bestselling author. The upper class regarded Sir Benjamin Wright with utmost honor and respect. Yet Lady Emma knew her husband was, in fact, a drunken, jealous brute who delighted in humiliating her both in and out of the bedroom. His murder had been a blessing, she thought—that is until the constable's accusing finger pointed to her. But it soon becomes apparent that her late husband hid many secrets and had many enemies. When the practical Comte Saint-Juste arrives on the scene offering his services, Lady Emma is about to discover what the French dedication to l'amour really means . . . Originally published under the name Marion Chesney, this is a suspenseful love story from an author who "delivers top-notch Regency fare" (RT Reviews).

Minerva - M.C. Beaton 2012-02-16

Delightful Regency romance from the author of the Agatha Raisin series Raven-haired Minerva, eldest daughter of an impecunious vicar, When the Reverend Charles Armitage, an impecunious

country vicar in Regency England, announces that raven-haired Minerva, the eldest of his six daughters, is to have her coming-out in London, the news is not well received by the rest of the family. Mrs. Armitage has one of her Spasms and has to be brought round by burning a quantity of feathers under her nose. Annabelle, the nearest in age to Minerva, is clearly jealous, the boys are all surly, and the other girls just start off crying. Minerva is despatched to Town under the wing of the disreputable old Lady Godolphin. Her task - to find a rich husband and thereby restore the ailing family fortunes. But the other five daughters will all get their chance, because Minerva is but the first volume in The Six Sisters series by Marion Chesney.

Death of an Addict - M. C. Beaton 2009

Constable Hamish MacBeth goes undercover to investigate the mysterious death of a recovered heroin addict, whose church has been suspected of being in the drug trade.

Belinda Goes to Bath - M. C. Beaton 2010-04-15
New York Times--bestselling author: If anyone can persuade an independent-minded heiress and a marriage-averse marquis to give in to love, it's Miss Pym . . . No sooner does traveling matchmaker Miss Pym board her next stagecoach than she finds herself embroiled in the plight of Miss Belinda Earle, a spirited heiress banished to Bath after swearing off the marriage market. When the coach founders near Baddell Castle, and the dashing Marquess of Frenton comes to the rescue, Miss Pym decides to give Fate a hand. Although the austere bachelor disdains romance, his furtive glances towards Belinda prove to Miss Pym that her expert matchmaking will soon turn this star-crossed couple into a heavenly match . . . Originally written under the name Marion Chesney, this is a witty Regency love story by M. C. Beaton, the beloved author of the Agatha Raisin and Hamish Macbeth series. "A romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure." —Booklist

Death of a Dustman - M. C. Beaton 2004

Hamish Macbeth investigates the murder of Freda Macleod while coping with the lazy constable, Freda Fleming and the increasing labor problems at a new hotel.

Marion Chesney Mystery - Marion Chesney

Death of a Valentine - M. C. Beaton 2010

Announcing his engagement to associate Josie McSween, police sergeant and once-confirmed bachelor Hamish Macbeth struggles with prenuptial jitters while investigating the murder of a woman whose increasingly complicated case introduced him to his fiancée. (Mystery & detective). Simultaneous.

Death of a Gentle Lady - M. C. Beaton

2008-02-11

Travel to the Scotland Highlands with this classic Hamish Macbeth cozy mystery from the author of the Agatha Raisin series. Death of a Gentle Lady: A Hamish Macbeth Mystery Gentle by name, gentle by nature. Everyone in the sleepy Scottish town of Lochdubh adores elderly Mrs. Gentle - everyone but Hamish Macbeth, that is. Hamish thinks the gentle lady is quite sly and vicious, and the citizens of Lochdubh think he is overly cranky. Perhaps it's time for him to get married, they say. But who has time for marriage when there's a murder to be solved? When Mrs. Gentle dies under mysterious circumstances, the town is shocked and outraged. Chief Detective Inspector Blair suspects members of her family, but Hamish Macbeth thinks there's more to the story, and begins investigating the truth behind this lady's gentle exterior.

The Intrigue - Marion Chesney 1997

NOTHING COULD STOP HER QUEST--EXCEPT, PERHAPS, LOVE. . . . Mannerling, the splendid family estate gambled away by Sir Beverly, remained the passionate desire of his daughters. Beverly himself had died; the eldest daughter, Isabella--having failed in her bid to reclaim their home--was blissfully wed. The mantle of savior then fell to the next eldest daughter, Jessica. How fortunate that the new owner of Mannerling had a marriageable son. In truth, Harry was a brutal lecher, a drunkard, and a wastrel, but Jessica, blinded by determination, vowed to secure a betrothal. She was barely aware of the attentions of handsome, charming Professor Robert Sommerville, whose affection for Jessica was equaled only by the fear that her obsession to secure Mannerling would lead to disaster for all concerned. As scandal and intrigue swirl around her, Jessica must discover where the heart finds true happiness. . . .

The Deception - Marion Chesney 1997

IT WAS AN UNFAIR DECISION--TO BE FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN HER HOME AND HER HEART. .

. . . When one of her sisters is attacked by Harry Devers, the lecherous son of Mannerling's present owner, Abigail Beverley puts her obsession with reclaiming the mansion on hold. And then Abigail meets the dashing and extremely eligible Lord Burfield, fresh back from the army and in full-time pursuit of a bride. Yet unexpected circumstances force the insufferable Harry Devers to recuperate from a riding accident in the Beverley home, where Abigail's twin sister Rachel nurses him back to health--and into betrothal. Stirred from its brief slumber, Abigail's fury returns, alive and kicking. So when Rachel begins to have doubts about marrying Harry, Abigail devises a daring plan to win back Mannerling once and for all. But perhaps Abigail would be better off concentrating on Lord Burfield, lest he be snapped up by Prudence Makepeace!

The Chocolate Debutante - M. C. Beaton
2011-10-20

A spinster. A rake. A most unexpected passion—the New York Times—bestselling author of the *Traveling Matchmaker* series whips up a Regency confection. A woman of independent means with a healthy dose of cynicism about the male persuasion, Harriet Tremayne is content with her circle of spinster friends and their devotion to literature, women's rights, and intellectual interests. However, when she determines to take on a London Season for her beautiful but featherbrained niece, she concedes she must appear less a bluestocking and more fashionable to successfully sponsor this impossible young lady whose only real desire, it seems, is to consume chocolate. Certainly her modish new appearance has nothing to do with the attentions of Lord Dangerfield, a wicked man of the world who has designs on the fair niece, yet spends an inordinate amount of time trying to sell Harriet on the virtues of his all-too-obvious attributes. "The best of the Regency writers."
—Kirkus Reviews

Back in Society - M.C. Beaton 2013-09-19
The Poor Relation hotel is the toast of London and its owners are preparing to sell up and retire - but one last romantic adventure awaits them! Driven into hiding at the hotel by a tyrannous father and a rich but wizened suitor, Lady Jane Fremney attempts to end her life. The poor relations save the young lady and determine to

improve her lot in life by bringing her out for the Season. All the young bucks call on Jane, among them the handsome but racy Comte de Mornay, an exile from Napoleon's France who has broken many a heart and so far eluded matrimony. Jane is quite adamant he is unsuitable for her - but when his life is threatened by an assassin's pistol, it is up to her to help him escape from danger... and into l'amour!

A Highland Christmas - M.C. Beaton 2009-11-05
In dark, wintry Lochdubh, Christmas Cheer is about as welcome as a flat tyre on a deserted road. The Calvinist element in town has always resisted what they view as secular frivolity, so for most of the townsfolk there'll be no carols, feasting, gifts - or even whisky on Christmas Day! And for PC Hamish Macbeth there's no holiday from crime - he finds himself hunting for a missing cat belonging to a lonely spinster. Curt and unfriendly, the woman is convinced her pet has been stolen but once behind her heavily-bolted door, Hamish can spot her true problem - she lives in fear, though of who or what he cannot guess. Then someone steals a Christmas tree and lights from the nearby village of Cnothan. So it is up to Hamish to sort all these problems out - and he had better do it quickly, for the church bells will soon peal on the eve of Christmas. This one-off standalone story is a special Christmas treat for all fans of Hamish Macbeth and can be read at any point in the ongoing series. Also features the first UK publication of a Hamish Macbeth short story, Knock, Knock, You're Dead! Praise for the Hamish Macbeth series: 'First rate ... deft social comedy and wonderfully realized atmosphere.' Booklist 'It's always a treat to return to Lochdubh.' New York Times 'Readers will enjoy the quirks and unique qualities of the cast ... Beaton catches the beauty of the area's natural geography and succinctly describes its distinct flavour.' Library Journal 'Befuddled, earnest and utterly endearing, Hamish makes his triumphs sweetly satisfying.' Publishers Weekly

Our Lady of Pain - M. C. Beaton 2013-01-29
Lady Rose Summer, the wayward Edwardian debutante who keeps getting mixed up in disreputable adventures, would swear she is not a jealous woman. After all, she knows her engagement to private detective Captain Harry Cathcart is only a ploy to keep her parents from

shipping her off to India to find a husband. But then Harry's latest client, Dolores Duval---a vision of curves with a seductive French accent---starts appearing everywhere at his side. And that changes everything. In a fit of rage, Rose threatens Dolores, only to be found the very next day, standing over her dead body. The newspapers rush to convict her, but can Harry and Superintendent Kerridge of Scotland Yard clear Rose's name and put the real murderer behind bars? Filled with drawing-room scandal and murderous intrigue, *Our Lady of Pain* by M.C. Beaton is a delightful addition to her beloved Edwardian Murder Mystery series.

[A Marriage of Inconvenience](#) - Marion Chesney 1997

From the author of more than 25 Regencies, a scintillating story of a deranged arranged marriage. Much to Isabella's relief, Lord Harry stated quite bluntly that theirs would be a marriage in name only. Adding adventure to the marital mayhem are a search for buried treasure and a thwarted suitor out for revenge. Original Regency Romance.

Dancing on the Wind - M. C. Beaton 2011-10-21
A Regency-era tale of romance and suspense, from the New York Times–bestselling author of the Agatha Raisin series. Beautiful young Polly grew up with Meg, the woman she knew as her aunt. But upon Meg's death, Polly discovers she was a foundling . . . and learns she is about to be cast out of her humble cottage. There's nothing to do but leave the village and set out for London—for Meg harbors deep suspicions about the elderly woman's demise. Only a day before she died, Meg had journeyed to Meresly Manor, and came back from the earl's estate with ugly bruises. Before she can untangle the dark secrets at the heart of this mystery, Polly will stand accused of murder and sentenced to hang—until a dashing nobleman offers to help her find the real killer . . . Previously published under the name Marion Chesney

Death of a Gossip - M. C. Beaton 1998
An omnibus edition of the first two Hamish Macbeth novels - *Death of a Cad* and *Death of a Gossip*.

Snobbery with Violence - M. C. Beaton 2010-04-01
When a marriage proposal appears imminent for the beautiful -- if rebellious -- Lady Rose Summer,

her father wants to know if her suitor's intentions are honorable. He calls on Captain Harry Cathcart, the impoverished younger son of a baron, to do some intelligence work on the would-be fiancée, Sir Geoffrey Blandon. After his success in uncovering Geoffrey's dishonorable motives, Harry fashions a career out of "fixing" things for wealthy aristocrats. So when the Marquess of Hedley finds one of his guests dead at a lavish house party, he knows just the man to call. But when Harry is caught between his client's desire for discretion and his suspicion that murder may indeed have been committed, he enlists the help of Superintendent Kerridge of the Scotland Yard and Lady Rose, also a guest at Lord Hedley's. Set in Britain and the Edwardian world of parties, servants, and scandal, M. C. Beaton's *Snobbery with Violence* is a delightful combination of murderous intrigue and high society.

[Romance](#) - M. C. Beaton 2016-04

As one of the two remaining unmarried Beverley sisters, Belinda considers herself the last hope for Mannerling. Each of her four elder sisters had hoped and schemed to marry one of Mannerling's successive owners. But all have chosen true love over their ancestral home. Practical Belinda will woo and wed Lord St Clair, current holder of the estate. True, he is a silly fop, hardly what she desires in a husband, but she vows to make the man love her. However, dashing Lord Gyre decides that it is up to him to save Belinda from the dandy St Clair and to whisk her away with him!

Death of a Traitor - M. C. Beaton 2023-02-14
In this addition to a New York Times bestselling mystery series, Sergeant Hamish Macbeth—Scotland's most quick-witted but unambitious policeman—investigates the disappearance of a local woman who is more than she seems. Kate Hibbert is all too eager to lend a hand to her neighbors. Although she has been a resident of the sleepy village of Lochdubh for only a year, in that time Kate has alienated one too many of its residents with her interfering—and not entirely well-intentioned—ways. When Kate's neighbor sees her lugging a heavy suitcase to the bus stop, he hopes that the prying woman is leaving for good. But two weeks later, Kate's cousin arrives in town with the news that Kate has gone missing—and

she demands that the local police step in. Sergeant Hamish Macbeth is called in to investigate the disappearance, and soon he is befuddled by a storm of lies, intrigue, and scandal . . . and the sneaking suspicion that Kate was someone much more sinister than she claimed. Torn between loyalty to Lochdubh and his job, Hamish begins threading his way through a maze of deceit, quickly finding himself on the trail of a ruthless, treacherous murderer. If he catches the killer, peace can return to the village. If he fails, he will lose everything: his job, his home, and the life he so loves in Lochdubh.

The Romance - Marion Chesney 1998

Belinda Beverly woos the foppish Lord Luke St. Clair in order to reclaim the family estate of Mannerling.

The Constant Companion - Marion Chesney 1980

The Ladies In Love Series - M. C. Beaton 2020-06-17

Eight historical romances from the New York Times–bestselling author that celebrate the strength and determination of women fighting against the odds . . . From a penniless pauper to a stenographer, a governess, and an accused murderess, the heroines of this outstanding collection overcome incredible odds with grit and sophistication—to conquer their challenges and to find true love. The Ladies in Love Series includes: Polly, Ginny, Tilly, Susie, Daisy, Maggie, Poppy, and Amaryliss. “A romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure.” —Booklist

Lady Margery's Intrigue - M. C. Beaton 2011-02-11

To save her home, a woman must risk her heart in this fun Regency romance from the New York Times–bestselling author of the Traveling Matchmaker series. At age twenty-three, the petite Lady Margery has already graced the rows of wallflowers for many a season. With the one exception of Charles, the Marquess of Edgcombe, the only man who ever dances with her, Lady Margery will have nothing to do with men. What’s more, she does not even particularly like Charles. Bored beyond words, she returns to the comfort of her only love: her home at Chelmswood. But even there, she still cannot find the respite she seeks. It seems her middle-aged father has taken for himself a dim-

witted brat of nineteen to be his bride. Forced into bankruptcy by his child-bride’s lust for luxury, Margery’s father determines to sell Chelmswood. But Margery will not hear of it and launches an all-out, military-like campaign to ensnare a wealthy husband and save her ancestral family home. Everything seems to be going according to plan until the unforeseen intervention of Charles sabotages Margery’s plan, giving them both a run for their money.

The Banishment - Marion Chesney 1996-03-02

"Charming . . . A delight." --Detroit Free Press
COULD SHE EVER LOVE A GENTLEMAN AS MUCH AS SHE LOVED HER MAGNIFICENT HOME?

Isabella Beverley is blessed with unparalleled beauty but, unfortunately, has been raised in the most snobbish and haughtiest of families. And when her father gambles away their fortune—including Mannerling, the exquisite family mansion—Isabella discovers there is very little sympathy for her plight. As the eldest, Isabella is chosen to court Mr. Judd, the roguish bachelor who won Mannerling. Surely no sacrifice is too great to regain Mannerling? But tempting her away from Mr. Judd is Lord Fitzpatrick, an Irish rake who fears Isabella can never love a man as she does her home—but is nonetheless determined to convince her to choose man over manse! "ANOTHER WINNER." --Rendezvous

The Love and Temptation Series - M. C. Beaton 2020-05-06

Seven novels by the New York Times–bestselling author about how the temptation to break society’s rules can overwhelm even the most prim and proper women . . . Beset by awkward situations, inconvenient feelings, and ambitious families, the women in this seven-book romance collection refuse to bend to society’s whim and still manage to capture true love in the process. The Love and Temptation Series includes: The Original Miss Honeyford; At the Sign of the Golden Pineapple; The Education of Miss Patterson; Quadrille; Sweet Masquerade; Miss Davenport's Christmas; and The Perfect Gentleman. “A romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure.” —Booklist “The best of the Regency writers.” —Kirkus Reviews

The Dreadful Debutante - Marion Chesney 1999

Mira's heart had belonged to lord Charles since she was a child, yet he only had eyes for her

ever-perfect sister. When her jealous antics nearly ruin her socially, the marquess of Grantley decides it is up to him to restore her respectability.

The Flirt - Marion Chesney 2002

The Skeleton in the Closet - M. C. Beaton
2001-03-21

The Adventuress - M. C. Beaton 2011-10-31

The downstairs staff at a Regency London townhouse prepares for another season in this delightful series by the New York Times–bestselling author . . . The house at 67 Clarges Street in Mayfair has a new pair of renters—pretty, young Emily Goodenough and the silent, mysterious man she calls her uncle. Emily is in London to find a husband—though her awkwardness in society could prove to be an obstacle. The servants, led by Rainbird the butler, suspect there is more to the story and soon uncover the true identities of the Goodenoughs. The question remains whether in spite of it all, Emily can capture the heart of the ton’s most eligible bachelor . . . Originally published under the name Marion Chesney, this is a delightful story of love and intrigue in a quirky London household, by “a romance writer who deftly blends humor and adventure” (Booklist).

Milady in Love - Marion Chesney 2002

Poor Lord Anselm, left with the care of his cheeky young ward, with only her calm and competent governess to aid him. But all was not as it seemed, or so he learned very nearly too late.

His Lordship's Pleasure - M. C. Beaton
2011-09-12

A widow in reduced circumstances makes a desperate offer—and discovers romance and danger—in a suspenseful tale by a New York Times–bestselling author. Annabelle Carruthers could only dream of being kissed by a man as dashing as Lord Darkwood. Instead, she remained locked in misery, married to a rakish drunk who gambled their lives into financial and social ruin. But his sudden death—and rumors of spies and treachery—only made matters worse. Burdened with gambling debts, Annabelle feared she was on her way to the poorhouse. The only solution she could see was to offer herself up as mistress to the mysterious Lord Darkwood. Darkwood, however, was too much of a gentleman to take advantage of a lady such as Annabelle. Still, he was quite interested in rumors of her husband’s espionage—a curiosity that would soon place them both in grave danger . . . This tale of love and intrigue in Regency England, originally published under the name Marion Chesney, comes from the beloved bestselling author of the Hamish Macbeth and Agatha Raisin mystery series.