



## TO WED A SCANDALOUS SPY

Celeste Bradley, St. Martin's Press 2005

1. In *TO WED A SCANDALOUS SPY*, Willa is a force of nature. Once she sets her sights on Nathaniel, he doesn't stand a chance. Like most of my characters, Willa contains certain aspects of my own personality. This is not one of them. If you were to write a character who was your complete opposite, what would be her outstanding characteristic?
2. Nathaniel took the blame for something he did not do, in order to keep a much more dangerous secret for the government. Can you imagine being universally hated for something you didn't do? What if all the other parents in town thought that you burned down the elementary school and you couldn't deny it? What if your entire company thought you caused the problem that resulted in numerous layoffs? What if your own family blamed you for a serious loss?
3. Think of someone who is reviled in today's media. Imagine they are actually keeping a secret for the greater good. What hated celebrity/criminal do you think you could imagine in this position?
4. Willa's breezy confidence is explained late in the story. She is of royal blood, since her mother is an acknowledged royal bastard. She lives in a tiny village because she chooses to. How much of her jinx problem do you think was related to the fact that she didn't truly want any of her other suitors?
5. Nathaniel can't resist Willa, even though she drives him insane. Willa is comfortable with that. I love Willa because she forms the world around her will, not the other way around. How does Nathaniel form Willa around his will?
6. Shame and scandal aren't enough to stop Willa. Would it be enough to stop you? Would you marry a man the world considered to be a criminal and traitor?
7. Willa's village loves her, but they can't handle the high body count that comes from fostering her. They push her into marriage for the safety of young men everywhere. What did your family push you into? Are you glad they did? Would you have gone in that direction on your own?
8. Nathaniel has some sibling issues with Simon Raines, although they aren't brothers. Have you ever had a rival? How is Nathaniel's reaction to his father's illness part of that issue?