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**“I did try to warn you the other evening.”**

“A little late, wouldn’t you say, when The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) I’ve obviously already purchased the Old Vicarage?” he drawled.

“Just a little,” she conceded ruefully. “But don’t worry. If you intend on staying, you’ll soon get used to it.”

“Oh, I intend on staying,” he told her flatly. “But I also intend on living here in quiet seclusion, and have no intention of doing anything that will give the villagers cause The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) to gossip about me,” he added grimly.

Perhaps now wasn’t the time to tell him that The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) he wouldn’t actually need to do anything to be the subject of gossip; just his being here at all, a well-known television star, already had the inhabitants of Aberton agog with speculation as to why he had bought a house here. The last Jaz had heard—from the mailman this morning as

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he'd handed her her letters—Beau Garrett had come to the village to escape an unhappy love affair, when the woman in his life had left him following the car accident that had left his face scarred....

**CAROLE MORTIMER** was born in England and is the youngest of three children. She began writing in 1978, and has now written over ninety books for Harlequin Presents®. Carole has four sons—Matthew, Joshua, Timothy and Peter—and a bearded collie called The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) Merlyn. She says, “I’m happily married to Peter The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) senior; we’re best friends as well as lovers, which is probably the best recipe for a successful relationship. We live on the Isle of Man.”

***Carole Mortimer***

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# THE VENGEANCE AFFAIR

## CONTENTS

[CHAPTER ONE](#)

[CHAPTER TWO](#)

---

[CHAPTER THREE](#)

[CHAPTER FOUR](#)

[CHAPTER FIVE](#)

---

[CHAPTER SIX](#)

[CHAPTER SEVEN](#)

[CHAPTER EIGHT](#)

---

[CHAPTER NINE](#)

[CHAPTER TEN](#)

---

[CHAPTER ELEVEN](#)

[CHAPTER TWELVE](#)

[CHAPTER THIRTEEN](#)

---

[CHAPTER FOURTEEN](#)

[CHAPTER FIFTEEN](#)

[CHAPTER SIXTEEN](#)



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## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

### CHAPTER ONE

**'OH! SHE** came to an abrupt halt halfway across the moonlit terrace The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) as a shadow moved out of the darkness only feet away from her, the pounding of her heart only lessening slightly as she recognized the man who stood there looking at her with the glittering eyes of a cat. She drew in a deep The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) breath. 'Shouldn't The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) the guest of honour be inside the house enjoying the party, rather than outside on the terrace—?'

'Enjoying the peace and quiet?' Beau Garrett finished harshly.

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She had come outside herself in order to do just that. In fact, she had hoped that, once outside, she may just be able to slip quietly away without her hostess, Madelaine Wilder, being any the wiser. Bumping into the elusive guest of honour had not been part of The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) her plan!

The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions)

'They're looking for you inside,' she told him pointedly.

'Are they?' he returned uninterestedly, his overlong hair a dark sheen in the moonlight, his features shadowed. 'I'm hardly dressed for the role The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) of guest of honour, am I?' he rasped impatiently, the casual sweater he wore looking black in the darkness, as did his trousers. "'Do pop in, I'm having a few friends over for drinks".' He mimicked a pretty fair imitation of Madelaine's gushing voice. 'There must be half the village in there.' He nodded disgustedly in the direction of the audibly noisy house as people talked and laughed The Vengeance Affair (Secret Passions) too loudly, their glasses chinking.

## **The Vengeance Affair Secret Passions**

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