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May 1812

by M. M. Bennetts

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In the war against Napoleon, there are no easy victories.

1812. Europe has been at war for twenty years. Britain stands alone against the greatest threat to peace the world has ever known, at daily risk of a French invasion and revolution. In London, a handful of men struggle to protect their country and maintain the war effort. Among them, the Earl of Myddelton, code-breaker to the Foreign Office, strives to crack the most difficult French code yet—the Grand Chiffre—before still more men die on the battlefields of Europe.

Then, on 11 May 1812, the unthinkable happens—the Prime Minister is assassinated. Amid widespread panic and fear of a French conspiracy, the government falls.

From the ballrooms of London, to the backstreets of power, to the death-in-waiting coast of enemy France, Myddelton is drawn inexorably into the deepening crisis—his private life unravelling all the while, as misunderstandings, gossip and spite mar his marriage and threaten to destroy his career.

*The last of the evening's
bottles lay empty on the
floor beside his chair as
he sat in the pristine
silence that was night
melting into early
morning...*

The author, who is married and lives in England, has been a long-standing book critic for *The Christian Science Monitor*. M.M. Bennetts is a keen cross-country and dressage rider; and regularly performs the music of the period as a pianist and accompanist.

Based on twenty years' research, **May 1812** draws on the eyewitness accounts of the assassination of Prime Minister Perceval, and on a bibliography of over an hundred and fifty works.

By the same author

Of Honest Fame

(to be published by diiarts in 2010)

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