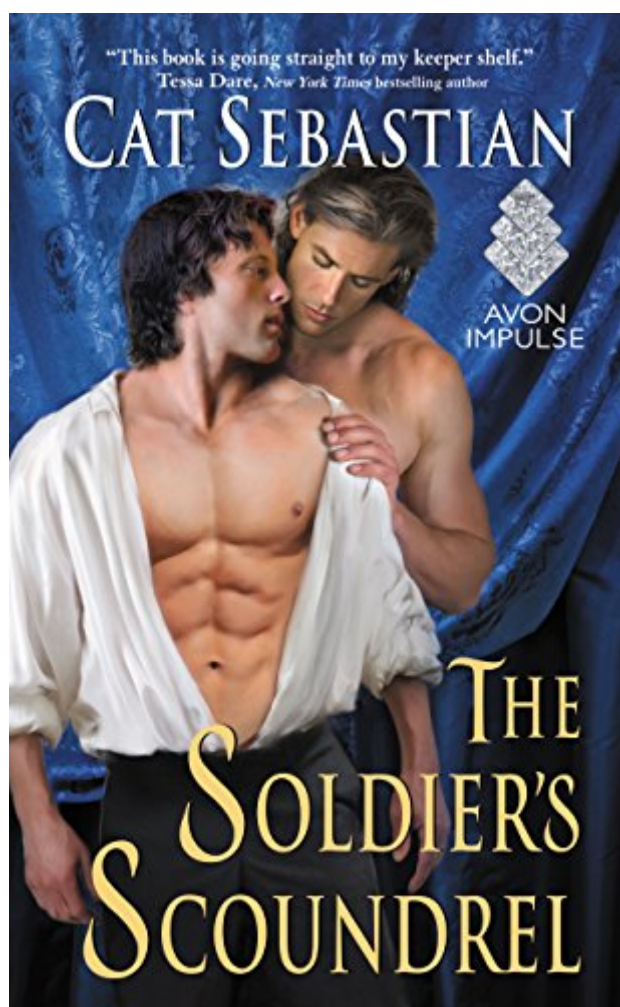


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The Soldier's Scoundrel



Synopsis

A scoundrel who lives in the shadows— Jack Turner grew up in the darkness of London's slums, born into a life of crime and willing to do anything to keep his belly full and his siblings safe. Now he uses the tricks and schemes of the underworld to help those who need the kind of assistance only a scoundrel can provide. His distrust of the nobility runs deep and his services do not extend to the gorgeous high-born soldier who personifies everything Jack will never be. — A soldier untarnished by vice — After the chaos of war, Oliver Rivington craves the safe predictability of a gentleman's life—one that doesn't include sparring with a ne'er-do-well who flouts the law at every turn. But Jack tempts Oliver like no other man has before. Soon his yearning for the unapologetic criminal is only matched by Jack's pleasure in watching his genteel polish crumble every time they're together. — Two men only meant for each other

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Customer Reviews

I don't pick up historical romances as often as I should even though I enjoy reading them a great deal. I've read contemporary M/M romances before but *The Soldier's Scoundrel* is the first M/M Regency and this is a debut novel by the author. Jack Turner has a knack of making his own

fortune. A good attribute because his abusive upbringing taught him to seize any opportunity at any time. He's like a chameleon, blending into any situation to 'help' solve problems for his discerning clients. When a distinguished young gentleman seeks him out at his office, he says, he's making inquiries for his sister. Whilst that may be true, it is obvious to Jack that Captain 'Oliver' Rivington isn't the gentleman he pretends to be. Oliver Rivington is back in England after selling the military commission his father paid for when he was only seventeen years old. Now in London, he's trying to find a purpose in his life and looking into the affairs of his sister is a start. When he visits an office to query an account, he comes face to face with a man who is far more complex than the services he offers. I didn't know what to expect when I dived in, but my inability to put this book down became quickly apparent; a hugely positive sign. I love the fact the protagonists' attraction is taboo with the obstacles they have to overcome to be together. A welcome surprise was the mystery element to the plot as Jack, with Oliver's assistance turn detectives. The whole plot is fun and aided with an entertaining cast of secondary characters. When I read the ending I felt that the author's expectations didn't match the feelings of the time (Regency) with regards to homosexuality...

Loved it! Just the right blend of relationship push/pull...then relationship sweetness and angst...paired with the couple of mysteries that Jack was trying to resolve (at times reluctantly) with Oliver's help--perfect! Cat Sebastian's writing too was a whole lot of fun--whether the dialogue was external or internal, there were many, many snippets that I ended up needing to highlight so I could go back later and smile at all over again. Such fun! Jack and Oliver were a great couple. Of course making your protagonists from different classes in a historical romance gives you built in conflict, but add to that the fact that their very relationship breaks the law? Yeah, that's a whole new element. But oh goodness, with these two they had to be together, they just had to. I was all for Oliver with his sunny optimism on the prospect of their future, but realistically afraid that Jack was going to end up right all along... (Spoiler alert: he's not--because, hello, it's a romance. Fortunately, Ms. Sebastian manages to pull it off in a fairly believable way--I'm not totally convinced it would work, but I want it to, so I'm perfectly willing to go with it.) I also enjoyed the two puzzles that Jack had to resolve in the course of the book. Neither one of the solutions were obvious, yet the answers came together nicely and made sense. Jack's ability to read people was believable given his past and also highly entertaining--I loved watching him at work! Oliver was better at helping him out than either of us thought he would be; together they gave off an almost Sherlock-and-Watson-in-the-Regency-era vibe. The secondary characters here were fun too--Jack's brother Georgie was a hoot, and it looks like he's due to star in book #2 (yay!). Jack and Oliver also

both have sisters, so...

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