



All About Love

Stephanie Laurens

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Lucifer Cynster has sworn never to pledge his heart -- but fate has other plans...

The last unwed Cynster, Alasdair -- known as Lucifer -- has escaped to Devon one step ahead of London's matchmaking mamas. Yet, despite his dedication to avoiding the parson's mousetrap, the irresistible Phyllida Tallent -- a willful, independent beauty -- brings all his masterful Cynster instincts rioting to the fore. Initially Lucifer tries to suppress the desire Phyllida evokes, but fate intervenes, leaving him facing the ultimate challenge for a Cynster -- wooing a reluctant bride.

Her wit, charm, and beauty have garnered Phyllida a bevy of suitors, but not one has tempted her the way Lucifer does. His offer to teach her all about love is almost too tantalizing to refuse. And although she has not yet surrendered completely, Phyllida knows only a fool resists a determined Cynster.

And Phyllida is certainly no one's fool.

All About Love Details

Date : Published October 13th 2009 by HarperCollins e-books (first published 2001)

ISBN :

Author : Stephanie Laurens

Format : Kindle Edition 416 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Regency, Regency Romance, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review All About Love for online ebook

Annette says

Stephanie Laurens is a very talented author. This book is # 6 in the Cynster series. And for me, some of this book seemed like an instant replay of some of the other Cynster books.

This is a darn good book on its own merit. And if a reader has not read any other books in the series, they will be able to easily follow what is happening.

“Lucifer” (Alasdair is his actual name)has just seen his brother marry and to him that wedding has made him realize that he has no interest in marriage. He has decided to visit a fellow collector and old friend, Horace. Horace has found a treasure of some sort and has asked Lucifer to come look at and help evaluate it.

It is a shock when Lucifer walks into Horace's house and finds him murdered. The solution to the murder is a mystery which involves many local people. Horace was a well liked man and no one in the village is comfortable with the thought that a murderer might be in the area. Lucifer is a former military man and he vows that he will not allow anyone to get away with murdering his good friend.

Phyllida is a young woman who lives next to Horatio's home and she is involved in another mystery. She came into the home shortly after the murder, because she is trying to recover some letters for a close friend. Because of a promise, she has determined that she must keep certain information from Lucifer. That seems to go on much too long for someone who wants to help solve the murder.

Phyllida is a competent woman who manages her father's home, and many of the lives of people in the village. She is involved in all aspects of country life and plays an important part in helping many of the people who are her friends.

Slowly but surely Phyllida and Lucifer come to build a relationship based on their shared search for the murderer and also a growing physical and emotional attraction.

The plot is interesting but at times I felt there were too many repetitious scenes. And I hate to admit it, but early on I knew who the villain was and I was right. There are several secondary plot lines which add texture to the story.

The characters of both Phyllida and Lucifer are interesting and well developed. I like the fact that neither one of them started out feeling that there was any advantage to marriage. I believe it was because they did not know what was truly important in their lives. As they re-evaluate, their ideas on marriage and one another change a great deal.

The secondary characters were assets to the story and each of them provided a little more interest for the reader.

This is a well written book. For me, at times, it seemed to be derivative of other books in the series but it is still a good romance with a mystery attached.

shirley fisher says

The last Cynster trying to avoid the "curse" of the family. Lucifer runs away right after brothers wedding and right into a murder mystery. Of course he runs right into his destiny. Mystery, intrigue, smugglers, and some real characters-characters make this a really fun read. Phyllida is the right woman and he know it right from the start, even though she knocks him out with a wack on the head, no matter how hard he tries to ignore. He's found what he is to have and to hold along with a place of his own to share with her. Yes plots pretty much basic but each journey a really fun read, by themselves or as a series,enjoy.

Thenia says

Another Cynster finds his match and yet again, I can't say I was all that invested in his story, from the mystery to the romance, to everything in between.

Not liking the heroines the author writes is becoming a pattern and one Phyllida fit too, as she seemed to confuse independence with stupidity, going to a mysterious secret meeting by herself when it's a known fact that someone is trying to kill her.

I have read six books in the series so far and, while the stories are okay, they just don't seem to draw me in as much as I would have liked.

It might be in part because of Simon Preble, the audiobook narrator, who, despite bringing the characters to life, might be the reason why I find many of them irritating, especially if they're female...

I will try listening to the next book in the series, All About Passion, and Chillington, the "honorary Cynster's" story, but if my feelings remain lukewarm I'll either switch to reading the rest of the books or put the series on the "on hold" pile.

20012206 says

Me gusto como termino esta partes de los Cynster, me parece chevere que como la escritora mezcla suspenso y romance

Lucifer huyendo de su destino llegó a él como la mayoría de sus primos, que en el lugar menos esperado encontraron a sus esposas. Phyllida (que nombre más raro) me gusto, por su independencia y como le ayudaba a esclarecer la muerte de Horatio

Susan (susayq ~) says

I absolutely loved the epilogue to this! I'm guessing the author had only planned to write the first six books in this series cause of the the way the epilogue read. Thankfully, she wrote more ;) I am anxious to get to

Chillingsworth's book :)

Whitney says

4 stars

Just another lovely Stephanie Lauren's romance book. Nothing ground breaking but still lovely to read.

Shivi says

If you've read any of the other Cynster novels, you know the story already. Here's a gist of all Cynster novels:

1. Hero is a gentleman and rake and one of the Cynster's (which means they have strong family bonds and are destined to marry incredibly stubborn annoying and somewhat stupid wives (IMO)). They each have no desire to fall in love or marry at the start of the book.
2. Hero meets heroine. There is instant undeniable physical attraction between them. There's also some type of mystery that they need to solve together which means they are in each others company often. Hero decides he needs to have sex with heroine and needs to marry her. They have sex. Hero asks heroine to marry him.
3. Heroine is "strong" - by which the author seems to mean she will refuse the hero about 10 times before she accepts. Hero will continue to ask anyway until you start to dislike the hero as well as the heroine. Oh, and the heroine also does incredibly stupid things like put herself in danger even though there's already been multiple attempts on her life - this is because she's "independent" of course and doesn't need anyone telling her what to do like asking her to be careful and take an escort wherever she goes.
4. They solve the mystery, heroine agrees to marry hero. They marry and have babies.

The reason I kept at this series was because there was one book that was somewhat good (The Secret Love) that I unfortunately heard second (after Devil's Bride) and I kept hoping there would be another as good. Also this entire series comes with the Audible romance package which I have.

Avid says

This was a re-read for me. Aside from Laurens' rigid adherence to the traditional RN format and the annoying cliches that follow, this novel isn't half bad. Lucifer takes off before his brother's wedding breakfast is even finished, rushing away from any eligible female, and heads to his mentor's place in Devon. He finds his mentor dead, the body still warm, and is nearly immediately coshed over the head with a medieval weapon. He's initially thought to be the killer, but soon acquitted. His investigation into the murder

brings him in direct contact with - surprise, surprise- the only eligible female in the town. She's hiding something and demands to be part of the investigation. Her life is threatened multiple times, and she does a whole host of stupid things, from which Lucifer has to rescue her. [insert multiple eye rolls here].

As far as the plot goes, the murder mystery is right in line with Laurens' other Cynster novels, simple enough to be a sub-plot to the overall romance plot, but with an interesting twist/ reveal at the end. I much prefer the romance to be the subplot, but that is not Laurens' style.

The characters are mostly likeable. Lucifer's character varies a bit from his cousins in terms of his inner thoughts about women. He seems to be more enlightened, a bit less of a caveman, but that's not really saying much. Phyllida is less a martyr than other Cynster ladies, and more content with her singlehood. At one point she states that she doesn't feel the need to marry because no one has offered her something she doesn't already have. Phyllida's father seems quite a liberal oddity, even letting Phyllida return to the Manor in the end without her having any legitimate socially proper reason for doing so.

As is typical of Laurens' novels, the pace is dragged to a screeching halt with the graphic sex scenes. The reader misses nothing by skipping them entirely. There's no plot progressing dialogue or action; it's merely gratuitous.

The novel is edited well, which one can generally rely upon with this publishing house.

Overall, this novel provided a nice break from other genres, but after the fifth novel in this series, they've lost their newness and originality, instead devolving into a cookie-cutter RN.

Linsy says

This is definitely the best one since *The Rake's Vow*. The mystery was a decent one, and the interplay between Lucifer and Phyllida is great. Plus, there was still the steamy scenes. Definitely a good one!!

I'm tempted to go back and read the three I skipped, but I doubt it.

M. Perry says

So, I'm writing this review on the several books of this series related to the "Bar Cynster". I am enjoying them, definitely some books more than others; the secondary or to me the premiere parts of the stories, the mysteries, are much more entertaining than the heroine/hero relationships. Don't get me wrong, the sex scenes are HOT HOT HOT but there is never really anything else there. Some authors you can feel the love between the main character but to me not in Stephanie Laurens books.

There is never any doubt the heroine/hero will end up together. When the heroes find the heroines, almost right away they know they want the women for marriage. This is really annoying because the heroes spend the end of the last novel/novels insisting it will never happen to them, they will never marry let alone fall in love like one of the other Bar who have tied the knot. And then you get to their particular Cynster story and they usually have capitulated in the first fourth of the book, 2 heroes within the first chapter. So, I don't see why SL spends so much time on her heroes insisting (before their own stories) that they will avoid that particular noose only to have it go away almost in the first breath of the story before the story really even

starts.

What I find even more annoying is, since the "not wanting to marry" roadblock crumbles under the first test of a particular lovely face, the only thing SL seems to be able to come up with to add some tension to the relationship is the heroes not wanting to say I love you. No, the heroes insist in internal monologues that they do love the heroines but they will be damned if they ever will say it out loud (which a few of them do not ever say it). Every heroine does say I love you to the heroes. Some of the heroes lame excuses are that the heroine should obviously know that the hero loves her, so why should he ever have to admit it?

And these are the only two roadblocks to romance that seem to appear in SL stories of the Bar Cynster; even the dangers that some of them come under never seem that dangerous. Both roadblocks are in every novel; one that could be quite good if kept up long enough but isn't so why even bother to write it and the other is just plain dumb to me. Why would any hero have such a problem telling the women he loves the he loves her?

To sum up my conclusions on these first several books of the Cynster Series, the mysteries are good and well worth the read and the sex in all the books is very hot. But don't read these if you are looking for good tension ridden , lovely lust filled, feel the longing and loving romances, you will not find it in these stories. If you want that look to Lisa Kleypas, Elizabeth Hoyt, Julia Quinn, Kathleen Woodiwiss, or Judith McNaught, just to name some authors who are very good in that arena. If the same unoriginal roadblocks (I say unoriginal meaning unoriginal in SL after the first book; I've very rarely seen other romance authors use this roadblock) keep appearing in subsequent novels then I will not be continuing the rest of the series. When I read a romance series, particularly a long series, I want each relationship, the roadblocks and the loving, to be different for each couple. The Maiden Lane Series by Elizabeth Hoyt (<https://www.goodreads.com/series/4821...>) or The Bridgerton Series by Julia Quinn (<https://www.goodreads.com/series/4039...>) are prime examples of excellent romances series, as are both of those authors other series, Maiden Lane and The Bridgertons just happen to be the longest by those authors. SL so far can't seem to write any relationship different from the previous ones; only her mysteries are vastly different from one to the next.

I do have to say one thing about The Promise in a Kiss. When I first read this one about Sebastian and Helena I really really liked it, the mistletoe thing was particularly endearing. Then reading the next book, technically the first book though not chronologically, and then finding out that Sebastian cheated for a mercy fuck (pardon my French but I was pissed when I read that)!!! Their love story was so sweet. I don't remember what reviewer wrote it but I totally agree, that SL took the easy way out on explaining how Helena was okay with the affair because it was a mercy fuck and Sebastian found such a "clever" way to provide them with another child... ARE YOU KIDDING ME!!! The Helena I read would not have been okay with it. I mean come on Sebastian was only away for 4 weeks, he couldn't keep his pants buttoned even that long. And mercy fucks are always pathetic especially to read about.

So, this book went all the way from a 4 star to a 2 star, because in the casual doing and acceptance of both Sebastian for the act and Helena in THANKING HIM FOR CHEATING, and SL in not addressing the issue when it came up in the next two books, she lost me in continuing to like The Promise in a Kiss. The only reason it didn't go down to a 1 star is that taking it by itself I liked it and I read it first. If I had not read this series chronologically but rather by publication date, I would have skipped this story because nothing could compel me to read a story where I knew it ended up with the hero a mercy fuck cheat and the heroine thanking him for it and their illegitimate child (not that a child should ever be blamed for their parents choices, which is why I didn't have a problem reading Richard's story). These choices SL made in addressing the issue of cheating also totally blew up the supposedly sacrosanct Cynster motto "To have and to hold". Apparently, that doesn't apply consistently; though SL makes a point to state it and emphasize it every book so far, how once a Cynster male finds his mate he NEVER strays.

Oleta Blaylock says

I don't remember this story at all of course it has been 12 years since I last read it. I do love how fate just slaps these men up side the head with the woman that will be their love. I have loved all these guys and Alaisdair "Lucifer" is no different. They are all kind and considerate when they are around children and old ladies. They are honorable and loyal to a fault. They are also passionate, possessive, and overly protective. I did like that Lucifer was willing to let Phyllida help with the investigation of Horatio's murder. The villain in this story was a different surprise as well as the motive for all the killings. I was glad that Ms. Laurens didn't shy away from not keeping Phyllida all safe and happy and secure in the knowledge that no one would hurt her just because she was a woman and rule her world. That is a mistake so many writers make. If a man wants to hurt or kill a woman chances are very good it will happen I don't care who the woman is.

I also like the setting of this story. The reader get to see what like is like in a small village not far from the coast. Ms Laurens writes about smugglers and the attraction it had for the men that lived in these villages. She also brings to life the differences between life in London and life in the county. I was glad that Lucifer finally found a place to settle and someone that would keep him happy. I also enjoyed the last chapter with all the cousins together with their wives and children. It was nice to get an update on what has happen and how everyone is doing. This story is a wonderful addition to the series and readers will be very pleased.

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

I read this for the "Headless" Woman square for Romance Bingo and my Series Headway selection.

This was pretty slow moving, its mostly a cozy mystery until 60% and out of nowhere we get something like this,

Then the story becomes a mystery with some pretty steamy sex scenes, quite the wake up call those scenes were, lol. Its well written but I found myself a bit bored, story just wasn't to my taste. The epilogue was sweet as we get reminiscing and looking to the future generation scenes from Honoria's (heroine from first in the series) point of view. It was a nice way to close out the Bar Cynsters and usher in the new, who look to be an honorary member and the girls of the Cynster pack to carry on the series.

Carol Kerry-green says

Reread Aug 2011

Cruth says

[There's been a murder. Lucifer wants to find the killer. You w

Estefanía Cantoral says

3.5

De todos los Cynster, Lucifer es el que más me gustó, tiene encanto puro.

La historia es sencilla, a tramos lenta, pero me entretuvo bastante.

Kit★ says

Could've *sworn* I had this one, I specifically remember my friend in high school buying me a copy for Christmas 'round 2000-01 but a mad search through all of my many boxes of books in the basement turned up absolutely 0 copies of this book. Sad :(Must've sold it back in '03-'04 when I (stupidly) put a bunch of my books on half.com in an attempt to make some money. Never again! I've a sinking feeling some of my other books I'm thinking I own are missing due to the same cause too. Double sad. And no longer a sinking feeling but a proven fact... I've got a lot of books to re-acquire :(

Finally got a copy! Read it for the monthly buddy read in RLftCI. Looks like Lucifer is just Devil/Vane/Richard/Demon/Gabriel with a different name, but I was so hoping he'd do something to really impress me... Ok, I take that back a little, because I did like Demon quite well, at least I think I did. Well, I've kinda liked all of them, but they're just all so similar, and none of them have really blown me away, like made me lust after them, y'know? They're all good guys, and they've got all the right traits; the protectiveness (to the point of overdoing it of course), the smouldering sexiness and the legendary skills in that arena, the strength, the dedication. Yea, they're all good, but they all were just so similar. But I liked this one well enough by the end. I especially enjoyed the mystery in this one, it kept me guessing to the end. Even when it seemed they had a clear suspect, I still wasn't sure myself, until he was caught red-handed. It was very well done. I thought Phyllida, however, was super-similar to Alatheia in the previous book. But she was alright. I liked how she never got a ninny-headed, or weak and frail. She stayed strong, and it was a good thing. I liked Lucifer well enough by the end too, and it was very, very good that he wasn't all stoic and stuff, and let her know that he loved her. They went well together. The middle of the story slumped a little when no progress was being made on the investigation, and not much other than them slowly falling for each other was going on, but the last 5 chapters or so made up for it. That was when I really got into the story. It was also nice to see Demon and Flick show up, 'specially as they've been my favorite couple so far. The epilogue was nice too, the whole big family coming together, the new little babies for the couples I've come to know. It was neat.

I'm dying to get to Chillingworth's story though. We're gonna do him on December 3rd, but I couldn't resist reading the first couple of chapters this morning, I was too excited. I put it back on the shelf though. I'll have the anticipation of coming back home to read his book to get me through the next week of visiting in-laws :)

Lauren says

All About Love

4 Stars

Lucifer Cynster, the last unmarried member of the Bar Cynster, believes he can escape his fate by leaving London. Little does he know that his destiny awaits in the small village of Colyton in the countryside of

Devon where he literally stumbles over a body. Soon Lucifer finds himself embroiled in a murder investigation while wooing the willful and independent, Phyllida Talent, a woman even more averse to marriage than Lucifer.

One of the best in the series thus far.

Phyllida's spirit and Lucifer's protectiveness make for highly entertaining reading as these two unlikely lovers push each other's buttons at every opportunity. Phyllida is cool, calm and collected and her aversion to marriage is quite understandable given the poor choice of suitors in her vicinity.

Lucifer is a totally swoonworthy hero and his attempts at wooing the reluctant Phyllida lead to some very amusing scenes.

The Agatha Christie type mystery is an added bonus as Lucifer and Phyllida question the various villagers and uncover the secrets of a small town. The climax and resolution are exciting and all the loose ends are tied up neatly.

The final epilogue is wonderful and gives the reader a sense of coming full circle :0)

Maggie Hesseling says

My least favorite of the 'Bar Sinster' novels. However, it's still a wonderful ending to a great group of rakes. What makes this novel less interesting, is mostly the fact that it is a lot slower than the other novels. Nothing really happens until the very end when Harry and Flick show up (that really drew a smile on my face).

What Laurens does very well in this novel, though is leave clues for the characters to try and figure out. Unfortunately they're few and far between and the mystery is actually eventually solved by a combination of Devil's sleuthing (which happened outside of the novel) and dumb luck.

I remember this being my original thoughts on the novel when I first read it over 10 years ago. It's good to know that that hasn't changed in the years. I'll be curious to see what happens with the next novel.

Netha says

the last unwed bar cynster.....

alasdair cynster or biasa dipanggil lucifer setelah pernikahan gabriel langsung ngacir ke colyton, desa tempat temannya (yg aq lupa namanya) sekarang tinggal sepeninggal sang istri.

pikirnya lucifer sih dengan dia pergi ke desa terpencil dia akan terbebas dari keluarga2 wanitanya yg mak comblang berat serta dari sorotan ton yg sekarang terarah padanya sbg bujangan cynster terakhir yg belum menikah.

pdhl oleh yg lain lucifer udah dibilangi, percuma dia melarikan diri ke desa terpencil sekalipun tp lucifer cuek aja.....

kedatangan lucifer di colyton (moga2 benar nama desanya)disambut kehebohan.
sahabat baiknya ditemukan tewas & lucifer terkapar kena pukulan dikepalanya.
ups.....

phyllida tallent, tetangga disitu, yg ternyata penyebab lucifer terkapar (xixixixixi lucifer dikalahkan wanita)
membawa lucifer kerumahnya & mengobati lucifer.

all about love ceritanya lumayan cepat dibandingkan scandal's bride & lebih penuh intrik.
lucifer, pewaris properti & koleksi sahabatnya itu, merasa harus mencari tau misteri kematian sahabatnya.
jadilah lucifer dibantu phyllida mencari pembunuhnya.
sementara itu lucifer juga harus melindungi phyllida dari para pengagumnya jg dari seseorang yg mengincar
nyawa phyllida.

phyllida sendiri ampun2 keras kepalanya.
aq ngakak berat si lucifer nyuruh phyllida "stay here" sampe 4x tp ga digubris sama sekali oleh phyllida.
ngelus dada bener deh lucifer ketemu wanita paling keras kepala.

untuk ukuran seorang rake lucifer tenang sekali mengakui perasaannya.
9 hari kenal phyllida, lucifer dengan suksesnya berhasil mendapatkan hati & juga phyllida dalam
dekapannya.
ga ada acara main tarik ulur disini.
lucifer & phyllida dari awal dah terobsesi satu sama lain.
yahhhh secara didesa bgt lucifer ga punya saingan yg berarti.
ada 3 saingan para pengagum phyllida eh ke 3-3nya antik2 semua ya jelas kalah total oleh lucifer

hidup lucifer
hidup cynster

June says

Lucifer's story. Lucifer runs from London, thinking to escape his fate (next to marry), but arrives at his
friend's to find him murdered. Determined to find the murderer he finds himself dealing with a woman who
is even more determined to remain unwed than he is and who the murderer seems to have marked next to die.
