



The Taste of Innocence (Cynster Novels)

By Stephanie Laurens

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The Taste of Innocence (Cynster Novels) By Stephanie Laurens

For no gentleman is this more true than Charles Morwellan, the eighth Earl of Meredith. Although he's seen the many successful unions of his Cynster connections, he has also watched his father's obsessions nearly destroy their family and fortune, a mistake Charles will not repeat. But as Lord Meredith he must marry, so he offers for Sarah, the daughter of his neighbors Lord and Lady Conningham. She's intelligent enough to run his social life, beautiful enough to grace his arm, and old enough to know the value of his offer.

For most young ladies of the *ton*, the right marriage is the culmination of years of training, perfect deportment, and intricate plans that would impress a general. But as a lady of independent means with a life of her own, Sarah is unwilling to wed unless it is for unbounded love.

But Charles always gets what he wants. He convinces Sarah to give him two weeks to win her; if he succeeds, they will marry immediately. And so begins an intense courtship. By day, Charles and Sarah are models of decorum indulging in innocuous walks, polite conversation, sedate waltzes. Each night they steal away to the lush, moonlit gardens, where sensual embraces turn to searing kisses, and much, much more. Both are swept away on a tide of passion and feeling neither can resist.

And yet, after the wedding, despite nights of insatiable passion, Charles remains aloof, as if the near-sinful sweetness of their nights exists only in a dream. Sarah battles to prove that true love is a force that can't be contained, a gift worth fighting for, but it's only when she's engulfed in a web of increasingly dangerous incidents that Charles discovers how much he's willing to surrender to protect . . . the taste of innocence.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The 14th novel in Laurens's bestselling Cynster series, set amid the glittering *ton* of early 19th-century England, does little more than preserve the family line. Charlie Morwellan, eighth earl of Meredith, admits it is time, with the "matchmakers perennially salivating," to shackle himself to a suitable, docile countess. But he swears he will never (as his father did, bringing the family to the brink of ruin) allow love to control him. He sets his sights on quiet Sarah Conningham, a childhood acquaintance, who has made up her mind, despite her family's protests, to settle only for a genuine love match. Charlie stubbornly tries to remain aloof—even as Sarah tries to compel him to admit his love for her. Meanwhile, a nefarious (and anonymous) land speculator has his sights on Sarah's land (where she operates a village orphanage) and manages to interpose himself between the couple. The plot moves briskly but with little tension, and the author introduces a variety of intriguing side characters (many of whom, like Devil Cynster, will be familiar to fans), only to whisk them quickly offstage. While the love scenes sizzle, Charlie and Sarah dispatch their conflict with little fanfare, and the villain's motives and actions are unconvincing. (Feb.)

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From *Booklist*

The Earl of Meredith has decided it is finally time to marry. Charlie has even found the perfect candidate for his future wife: Sarah Conningham. Now he has to find some way to convince her to go along with his plan. Although she has secretly been infatuated with Charlie for years, Sarah refuses to marry for anything less than love. So, she gives Charlie two weeks to prove that they belong together. Charlie intends to simply seduce Sarah, but much to his surprise, he finds himself falling in love with her instead! Laurens expertly spices up the passion-rich plot with danger and intrigue, making the fourteenth in her best-selling Cynster series sinfully sexy and deliciously irresistible. *John Charles*

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About the Author

#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Stephanie Laurens began writing as an escape from the dry world of professional science, a hobby that quickly became a career. Her novels set in Regency England have captivated readers around the globe, making her one of the romance world's most beloved and popular authors.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Wayne Ross:

This book untitled The Taste of Innocence (Cynster Novels) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, here is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

Sheila Powell:

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George Bash:

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Jessie Davis:

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