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# A Fine Passion



## Synopsis

The last of his line, Jack, Baton Warnefleet, has fled London after nearly being compromised into marrying a dreadful female. He flees to the family estate where he rescues a beautiful lady from an unmanagable horse. Lady Clarice is the opposite to what Jack had turned his back on, and she quickly steals his heart. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Notice I said Liking it, not Loving it, hence the four stars instead of five. But don't let that deter you. It was still a good book. I really did start out almost detesting this book. I almost threw it down in disgust during the first several chapters, but ordered myself to persevere. I was very glad I did. About half-way through the book, I realized that somewhere along the way, unbeknownst to myself, I had started to like it. I laughed then, too, thinking that the author was pretty sneaky. Laurens made me almost hate both the hero and heroine at first, she being too much the uppity ice queen for my tastes, and he being seemingly much too interested in just sex. Then, somewhere along the way, they changed for the better. By she and he I mean the heroine and hero. Clarice Altwood comes from a very powerful family of the Ton. Despite this influence, she is disgraced by a past misdemeanor in which she refuses the marriage request of a certain unscrupulous man. Cast out, she believes, by her whole family, she retires from tonnish life to the country to live with her older cousin, James, who happens to be the only other black sheep in the family. She meets the hero, Jack, Baron Warnefleet, through distressing circumstances when he helps her rescue a familiar man from a

phaeton accident on the side of the road. Though she treats Jack with icy disdain, he is instantly intrigued by her calm composure and confidence (her obvious charms don't hurt her here either) and is determined to find out more about her, and yes, to have her. It just so happens that he knows her cousin James very well, which is fortunate when James comes under suspicions of treason by a fellow colleague in the Bishop's palace.

I've had mixed luck with Stephanie Laurens: the first book I read of hers I disliked but then someone lent me *The Lady Chosen*, which I enjoyed. This book, *A Fine Passion*, seemed to be ok for a while but then went drastically downhill. Unlike some other reviewers, I actually like strong female characters but like some other reviewers, I could have lived with about half the number of sex scenes in this book, title or no. and the explanation that the heroine had read racy books and wanted to try out what she'd read was so out of period as to be laughable. However, what really annoyed me about this book were gaping plot holes (WARNING: Spoilers):\* The heroine's stepmother is established as a harpy who could be an obstacle to the heroine's returning to the ton after a long-ago scandal and to the heroine's brothers finding wives because the stepmother has some blackmail over them. They find sneaky ways around her maneuvering, and then near the end of the book, you find out that the heroine knew something really scandalous about the stepmother that she could have used as leverage right away but was holding in reserve in case her stepmother didn't relent after all. This explanation made no sense at all: if you're dealing with a blackmailing bitch and you have blackmail in return, why wouldn't you use it right away?\* The heroine is carried away by scroungy men (possibly hired by her stepmother) at a masked ball and the hero rescues her but the abductors get away. While he's comforting her, other attendees at the ball arrive to see them in a passionate embrace. Later, there's a long scene where the hero tells her that despite assurances by the matrons at the ball that they can nip any scandal in the bud, there will still be scandal and she has to marry him.

At first I did not think the men of the Bastion Club would equal the Cynsters with passion and depth - but Jack certainly did. What a strong, powerful man he appeared to be. And certainly no ton debutant would ever corner him into marriage. I loved the tale of how he avoided the mother and daughter early on and escaped to his country estate. So he comes head on into facing off with a powerful woman Clarice - equal to himself. One might think this was too much for most men to handle. However, it takes a special kind of man to recognize strength in a woman as a good and positive thing and Jack is just that kind of man. At first she think he is one of the arrogant worthless

men of the aristocracy that she wanted to escape from - boy is she wrong. Jack has been working for his country for 13 years in a highly worthy capacity and has estates all over. He not only is a worthy advisory he is the only man she finds herself remotely attracted to in years. This is a very intriguing tale - it reminds me of a long chess match with moves and counter moves taken by Jack and Clarice. Needless to say, their passion for one another jumps right off the page - you will need to sit in a cool room just to read their endless bedroom scenes. Another thing I liked about this couple is they did not pretend to play the courting game. When in London they boldly broke from tradition and Clarice stays at a hotel where discretion is key and Jack is able to slip in and out to keep their passion alive. In fact when the ton would expect a marriage proposal to come after they are seen in a passionate kiss at a ballroom garden - they both discuss it and decline to marry for the ton. Even though a few days later they are again discussing marriage because of their love for one another.

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