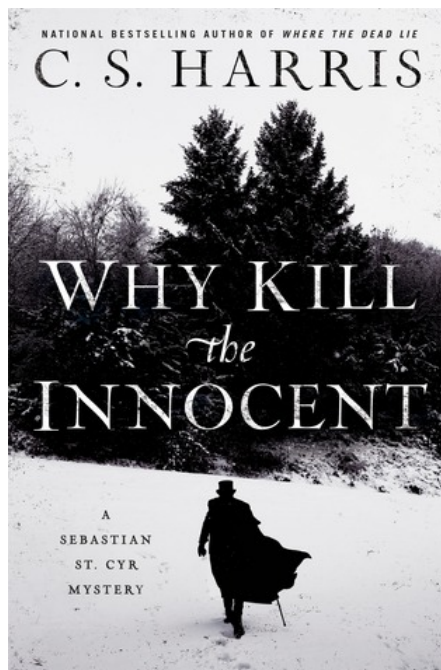




Why Kill the Innocent

C.S. Harris

Download now

Read Online ➔

Why Kill the Innocent

C.S. Harris

Why Kill the Innocent C.S. Harris

A brutal murder draws Sebastian St. Cyr into the web of the royal court, where intrigue abounds and betrayal awaits.

London, 1814.

As a cruel winter holds the city in its icy grip, the bloody body of a beautiful young musician is found half-buried in a snowdrift. Jane Ambrose's ties to Princess Charlotte, the only child of the Prince Regent and heir presumptive to the throne, panic the palace, which moves quickly to shut down any investigation into the death of the talented pianist. But Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin, and his wife Hero refuse to allow Jane's murderer to escape justice.

Untangling the secrets of Jane's world leads Sebastian into a maze of dangerous treachery where each player has his or her own unsavory agenda and no one can be trusted. As the Thames freezes over and the people of London pour onto the ice for a Frost Fair, Sebastian and Hero find their investigation circling back to the palace and building to a chilling crescendo of deceit and death...

Why Kill the Innocent Details

Date : Published April 3rd 2018 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : C.S. Harris

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Mystery, Historical, Historical Fiction, Historical Mystery, Fiction, Regency

 [Download Why Kill the Innocent ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Why Kill the Innocent ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Why Kill the Innocent C.S. Harris

From Reader Review Why Kill the Innocent for online ebook

Sophia says

Royal intrigue, a gifted female musician, the Frost Fair, Rothschild gold, and a cunning mystery draw Sebastian and Hero into a dangerous, wintry hunt.

The story opens with Hero stumbling over the nearly frozen body of Jane Ambrose, piano teacher to Princess Charlotte. The palace covers up the death, but Hero and Sebastian take up the investigation. They soon work out that any number of people, mostly powerful, are on the list of suspects.

Harris never ceases to amaze me how she is able to take the details of history, Regency era, in this case, and turn them into a cunning suspense. The main thread of this story is the tragic life and death of a talented woman set against social issues of the day- impressment of men into the Navy while their families are left destitute without them, the many minor crimes that were hanging offenses, the fate of wives who are married to abusive men, women with talent who must suppress this or let men take credit for their work, banking houses profiting from the war, royal house power struggles, suppression of the press' free speech, famine of hard winter, and more. I like how the social issues of the day are analyzed by Sebastian and Hero so that many aspects are revealed and thought through as they get to the heart of the matter.

Along with her gift to create fabulous historical settings and situations for her story, there is also her fantastic characters. I fell in love with Sebastian St. Cyr, Lord Devlin and his ongoing story from the first book. Sebastian is aristocracy, a former soldier, a child born of his mother's infidelity, a lost love in his past, and a new love in his present. Life's experiences give him a unique outlook and the skills to serve out justice for the dead. He's not infallible or untouchable. His errs have cost him deeply, but he grows and strengthens as the series progresses. He has learned so many secrets about his own past and another clue crops up, even now, when he least expects it about his mother's secret past.

I love how he sees his wife not only as the woman he loves and wants to protect, but Hero is his partner in all things. They solve the murders together, but, when not working a case, he does not interfere with Hero's important work among the poor classes. Hero investigates issues affecting the poor and writes up her finding calling for reform. Sebastian is not intimidated by her strong will or her choices. I love seeing them share intimacy and private moments as a couple and as parents to their young son. The author captures their eccentricity as individuals and a couple in that time, but also balances this just right so it never feels over the top or fake just to make them sensational. They are both very much aware of society's rules and just how far is too far and the consequences of crossing the wrong line.

Beyond the main pair of the story, the author doesn't chintz on several other recurring minor characters who make up Sebastian's circle with their own backgrounds and stories ongoing. Hero's powerful father, Lord Jarvis, who ruthlessly wields the power behind the throne and is up to his neck in intrigue, Sebastian's Irish surgeon friend Paul and the enigmatic French midwife Alexis who assist with the medical evidence side of the cases, Sebastian's father the Earl of Hendon, loyal Tom his street-wise servant, and, of late, I am very curious about Hero's mother's cousin Victoria and what she is up to as she insinuates herself into Jarvis' household and seems in on his schemes.

There was a tight mystery plot, lots of twists as Sebastian and Hero work to uncover the truth, and all that delicious family and palace intrigue. I anticipate each new Sebastian story and go into a bit of reading funk when I've finished the latest. Why Kill the Innocent is no exception. While this is a historical murder mystery, I think those who enjoy historical fiction that provides well-drawn characters, authentic historical elements, complex character and action-driven plots should give the series a go.

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

London, 1814. In one of the coldest winters ever is the body of a woman found in the snow by no other than Hero, the wife of Sebastian St. Cyr, Viscount Devlin. She recognizes the woman as Jane Ambrose, a piano teacher to Princess Charlotte, the only child of the Prince Regent. Since Jane is connected to the royal house the investigation quickly shut down, but Sebastian and Hero will not let the murderer get away. The question is who would want to kill a piano teacher?

READ THE REST OF THE REVIEW OVER AT FRESH FICTION!

Veronica says

I'm once again visiting my all-time favorite historical mystery series. It's book thirteen now and, at this point, Sebastian and Hero are about as dear to me as any literary characters can be. The year is 1814, the month is January and our sleuthing aristocrats are anticipating their son's first birthday even as the city is facing one of its coldest winters. When Hero literally stumbles into the murder of the piano teacher of none other than HRH Princess Charlotte herself, it's a foregone conclusion that Sebastian will turn his acute, mystery-solving skills to the task of solving the case.

As Sebastian tries to pin down the sequence of events in the piano teacher's final days, he finds himself following her down paths that lead to high placed palace intrigue as well as the more mundane matters of domestic unrest in hearth and home. It's a complicated puzzle that seems to only add more suspects and motives without ever ruling anyone out. But there is always so much more going on in a Sebastian St Cyr mystery book than just the solving of a murder. It's these "extras" that breathe a sense of realism into the stories and lend weight and emotional depth to the actions of the characters.

As usual, Hero is staunchly on Sebastian's side and helps him in his investigations in any manner she can. She shares his passion for justice but she also seeks it out on a much larger scale than he does. Throughout their marriage, and even before it, Hero has used her research and writing skills to highlight the plight of England's most vulnerable citizens. Her drive for reform is one of the reasons I love her so much and why she has always been the perfect match for Sebastian. Her work has also always been the reader's window into those seedier and sadder parts of regency England that aren't typically featured in your usual Jane Austen story. This time around we learn a little bit about the "hardships faced by the families of men snatched off the streets by the Royal Navy's infamous press gangs." The plight of the young wife who provides a "face" to this harsh practice is truly heartbreaking.

"It's not right, what we do. Kidnapping men and carrying them off as essentially slaves to serve on our warships, all without a thought to the wives and children they leave behind to starve. As if their hopes and dreams - as if their very *lives* - matter not at all."

Accompanying Hero on this very personal journey is Alexi Sauvage, the French physician/midwife who has become involved with Gibson, Sebastian's surgeon friend. I'll admit that I hadn't really warmed up to Alex much since her introduction way back in book nine but I actually enjoyed seeing the friendship blossom between her and Hero here. I wouldn't mind seeing more of that in future books.

We also got some updates on a few other matters in Sebastian's and Hero's personal lives. There is the

matter of Stephanie's marriage. She's Sebastian's niece and things are going more or less as expected. There is also a brief glimpse into the Jarvis household and I really can't wait for Hero to catch wind of that. Then there were the events of the Frost Fair, which I had never heard of, that were woven seamlessly into the narrative. Oh! And I can't possibly forget to mention the dropping of another clue pertaining to Sebastian's paternity - though admittedly this personal mystery is moving at a snail's pace. Sebastian does consider the possibility that he may never know the truth and I'm starting to wonder if this might indeed turn out to be the case. With Sebastian and Hendon reconciled, would identifying Sebastian's natural father really serve any purpose at this point? Whether we ever find out the answer or not, I hope the author is planning for many more books in this wonderful series because I won't be ready to say goodbye to it anytime soon.

Phrynnne says

It was so nice to get a new Sebastian St Cyr novel and to be able to revisit one of my favourite literary couples, Sebastian and Hero, now with the addition of their one year old son.

This continues to be an excellent series which always presents an intriguing fictional mystery set against actual historical fact. This time we were in London in 1814, the year of the very last Frost Fair, the last year in which the Thames froze solid so that people could walk and in fact trade upon it. The atmosphere and the excitement of the people is described perfectly. If I could travel in time it would be an event on my list of things to visit.

Sebastien is the perfect main character for an historical mystery and carries this one off with his usual intelligence and charm. And no wonder Hero is his perfect woman. We have seen her in earlier books defending herself in bad situations. In this one she really takes control and literally shoots to kill. Perfect.

This is such a good series. Long may it continue.

LJ says

First Sentence: A howling wind flung icy snow crystals into Hero Devlin's face, stinging her cold cheeks and stealing her breath.

London is experiencing one of its most severe winters. Returning to her carriage along with midwife Alexi Sauvage, Hero Devlin falls onto the body of a woman buried in the snow. This is no pauper frozen to death, but a well-dressed woman who had been killed and dumped. This is Jane Ambrose, music teacher to Princess Charlotte, the Regent's daughter. Entangled in politics and lies, Hero and her husband, Sebastian seek to find Jane's killer.

The weather can be a powerful element for creating a sense of place. In this case, it also serves as an effective backdrop for meeting our two main protagonists, Hero and Sebastian, and their two friends, Paul Gibson and Alexi. The four are very strong and effective characters, but not without flaws. This makes them also seem more real.

One issue, however, is that when one becomes involved with the British Royal family, particularly in past times, there are so many connections, lines, and political machinations, the author is required to spend considerable time, and repetition, helping the reader keep it all straight. In the process, it is easy to lose focus of the plot. Still, the plot is effective in which Harris lays a pathway of clues with each character laying a

step to each clue along the way. Part of the fun of the story is that Harris has created a garden of historical figures.

Another area in which the plot, and indeed, the series, becomes mired, is in Devlin's question of his birth, and the hatred between Devlin and Hero's father. Harris does do a good job of conveying the enmity and difference in viewpoints between the latter of these two—"Justice." Jarvis rolled the word with distaste off his tongue. "This maudlin obsession of yours with vague and essentially useless philosophical constructs is beyond tiresome. Justice comes from God." They are also issues for which resolution in the near future would be desirable.

Much is made of the weather as the book is set during the winter of the Great Freeze. It is nice that the time can also provide a lovely image which lightens the mood of the story—"An older man and a little girl sailed past on the ice, the man skating, the grinning child simply holding on to the tails of his coat and gliding along in his wake." Harris also ensures one understands that this is a period of tremendous poverty and suffering—"It's just that I have the most lowering reflection that I'm doing this simply as a pitiful sop to my own conscience. In the grand scheme of things, what does it matter if I help one desperate mother and her children when thousands more are starving to death?"—and later—"She's in Newgate. She was arrested before Christmas trying to steal a ham and is scheduled to hang on Tuesday."

Harris also raises the issue of press gangs and the futility of war—"This blasted war. Sometimes I think it will never end. For how many years can the nations of Europe continue fighting each other? Some of the men dying today must be the grandsons of those who fell two decades ago." She also reflects on the—"differences in attitude and posture that distinguished the men from the women, the boys from the girls."

"Why Kill the Innocent" is a story of duplicity. The plot is way over-complicated yet, when stripped of the overabundance of historical detail, the story is quite good.

WHY KILL THE INNOCENT (Hist May-Sebastian/Hero St. Cyr-England-1814) Good
Harris, C.S. – 13th in series
Berkeley – April 2018

Rebecca says

"Curiosity is a dangerous weakness. You should strive to overcome it."

I have spent the last two months obsessing over this series, and having finally caught up is a bittersweet moment. I am uncertain how I'll make it an entire year before reading a new Sebastian St. Cyr book! Like its predecessors, *Why Kill the Innocent* is brilliantly written and addicting from the first page until the last. The historical knowledge woven with the fictional, always keeps me captivated. There is one scene that is probably one of the best written moments of the series, but difficult to read because of the brutality.

The mystery aspect is unpredictable, and I was left wondering until the final moments how all would be revealed. In addition to the mystery, the plight of women and the poor during this time period is profoundly addressed. I think about the social aspects of life during this time period, days and weeks later. Harris has a lasting affect on me not only as a reader, but as a person.

Of course, this series just wouldn't be the same without the outstanding secondary characters. Jarvis is my

favorite villain of time. He's so evil, but I always enjoy seeing his relationship with Hero. Hero is the cornerstone of this series, and I admire her more than any other heroine.

I cannot recommend this series enough; it will go down as my favorite books of 2018. Looks like I'll be rereading/listening to fill the lonely year until the next installment.

Thank you to Penguin's First to Read Program for my advanced review copy!

Ira says

I really love this series! ♥?♥?♥?

It's getting better and better.

I did both, read and listen at the same time and it was a fabulous experience ?

So many tragedies and sadness in this story though, many based by the true stories happened in those Great Fog time and I don't even know what to say about the killer either, all just very sad ?

I feel like the only happiness in this story was the relationship between Sebastian and Hero.

I love these two so much and they really become a strong and very loving couple ?

Oh, the author's note is excellent too and I learn something new from this story then I went hunting the wiki for more! ?.

I think, since this is a mystery book you don't need to read too many reviews before you start read it, do you???

♥?♥?♥?

Juli says

I discovered this series a bit late in the game, but I'm sure glad I did! Why Kill the Innocent is the 13th book in the Sebastian St Cyr series. I love the mix of historical fiction and mystery. This book kept my attention from beginning to end. Interesting mystery. Great suspense and fantastic characters. I will definitely be backtracking to read the rest of this series! I hope all the books are as interesting and enjoyable to read as this one!

The basics: It's winter in London in 1814. Jane Ambrose is Princess Charlotte's music teacher. Jane is young, beautiful, a talented pianist...and dead. Sebastian St. Cyr's wife, Hero, finds her bloody, frozen body buried in snow. St. Cyr knows they need to investigate the murder fast before the Royals attempt to hush it up due to the tie with Princess Charlotte. Sebastian and Hero work together to discover the identity of the murderer.

I absolutely loved the blend of historical fact and fiction in this book. I'm not sure if it differs from other books in this series, as this is the first one that I've read. But I was definitely sucked right into this story from the start. The plot proceeds at a perfect pace and there were plenty of surprises and suspects.

So happy to have found this series! I'm going to start at the beginning and read every book!

****I voluntarily read an advance readers copy of this book from Berkley Publishing via NetGalley. All opinions expressed are entirely my own.****

Julie says

Why Kill the Innocent by C.S. Harris is a 2018 Berkley publication.

A sad death, shocking revelations, and a wealth of palace intrigue!

A nasty spate of frigid cold, snow, and ice hold London in its grip. As Hero makes her way through the icy sludge, she literally stumbles across the corpse of Jane Ambrose. It becomes apparent immediately that Jane is not a victim of the nasty weather, but has been killed, then dumped out in the snow. As Sebastian and Hero attempt to uncover the truth about Jane's death, once again Hero's father, Jarvis, appears to be at the center of all that is nasty, mean, and cruel....

This is one of my favorite series, of any genre, that I read, because I am never let down or disappointed by it.

This story highlights the vulnerabilities of women in this historical time period, in shocking detail. Poor Jane Ambrose was literally at the mercy of every man she encountered or was involved with.

Not only that, the novel explores the practice of recruiting men to fight in wars they have no emotional or patriotic stake in, which left their wives and children all alone with no way to provide for themselves, which often led to very tragic and heartrending results. These passages are nearly unbearable to read about, but is a terrible historical truth, nonetheless.

Then there is Princess Charlotte and all the palace machinations at play, pitting her between two warring, competing, manipulative parents and all those who would hope to use her, and her proposed engagement, to their own advantage.

Once more, Harris has done a fantastic job of exploring the dark, seedy sides of London, from the perspectives of the very poor to the very powerful, examining the cause and effect of all those caught in their vicious nets. I'm loving the way Sebastian and Hero work together in tandem, the way their relationship continues to solidify, and the excellent points the author always drives home to the reader, while weaving such absorbing and riveting murder mysteries.

4.5 stars

Giedre says

Sebastian and Hero investigate a murder while trying not to freeze their bits off. Winter is a bitch. Regency era winter even more so. Anyway, there's a lot of sadness in this book. Sebastian and Hero's relationship-slash-partnership helps balance it out somewhat, but CS Harris's depiction of the Regency era is not in any way rosy. I really like that.

p.s. Hero once again proves she's a badass.

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

Great story loaded with history and mystery!

~~~~~

This book has been an experience. I've read a lot of historical books in my time but I have to say the detail and the authenticity of this story added so much to the underlying theme.

One of the things I got me worried was the fact that I had never read any of the series. This was my first book and was missing the intimate knowledge of the main characters, Sebastian and Hero. While I was at a deficit to begin with it only took me a few chapters to break into the story.

There was some things to overcome in this book. One of which was, of course, my unfamiliarity with the characters and the authors writing style. The other was the amount of characters in the book. It became difficult at times to keep track of everyone.

However, once the book had ended and you look back on the minuscule threads and the authors ability to paint a picture of mystery surrounding the incident, you understand why there were so many fingers in the pie, so to speak.

For me, the first third of the book was a little more difficult to get through but by the time I got into the investigation and started connecting dots, I was thoroughly engaged and loved the minute detail the author developed.

She is definitely at the top of her game with the intricacy of her story and plot. This book is thoroughly enjoyable! For those that love history and mystery, this is an author you must check out and Why Kill the Innocent is full of the twists we crave!

I especially loved the mini history lesson at the end where she detailed the truths in the history and her creative license in developing the story. So interesting! And the cover is awesome!

I never felt like I was missing a big portion of the background by not reading the other books before. However, I will definitely check out more of this series. Great escape reading! 4 Stars!

---

## Empress Reece (Hooked on Books) says

2.5 stars...

I was very dissappointed when I finished this book. I felt like Harris just shortchanged me as a reader and her characters with this cut and pasted drivel. I normally love this series but I didn't get any warm fuzzy feelings from this book at all. The whole time I was reading it I was completely bored and it was painstakingly obvious how particular sections of writing were exactly the same and located in exactly the same places within chapters as in previous books. I know some authors like to use an outline which I don't mind in increments but when the rest of the story is so boring that, that's all I can focus on then something is not right. I just got the impression that Harris put very little time or effort into this book. If you're tired of writing about your own characters, then it's time to move on and it's time for me to move on too! Don't put out half-assed written books and expect your readers not to notice or care because we will and we do.

\*I received this ARC from Penguin Random House First-to-Read program in exchange for an honest review.

Thank you!

---

## Caz says

C.S. Harris has maintained a consistently high standard throughout her long-running **Sebastian St. Cyr** series of historical mysteries, but the last two or three books, in particular, have been outstanding – which is quite remarkable when one considers that this latest instalment, **Why Kill the Innocent**, is number thirteen. The individual mysteries are extremely well-constructed and set against a superbly researched and realised historical background; and so far, each one has been self-contained, so that each book *could* be read as a standalone. Notice I used the word *could* – because actually, this isn't a series I would recommend dipping in and out of or reading out of order, because there are overarching plot threads that run from book to book you really don't want to miss out on. But unlike the other books in the series, the previous one – *Where the Dead Lie* – left some aspects of the mystery unsolved and readers wondering whether the main villain of the was ever going to be made to pay for his crimes. As we're at book thirteen of a fifteen-book series, I'm guessing the answer is yes, but we're going to have to wait a little while longer to see it!

**Why Kill the Innocent** is set in the winter of 1814, which is on record as being one of the coldest ever experienced in England. On her way back from a charitable visit in the East End, Sebastian's wife Hero stumbles – literally – on a body lying in the street, and is surprised to recognise the dead woman as Jane Ambrose, a talented musician who taught piano to a number of the children of the nobility – including Princess Charlotte, daughter of the Regent and Heir Presumptive to the throne. It's immediately obvious that Jane was murdered – she died from a blow to the head – and that the lack of blood around her indicates she was killed elsewhere. Hero immediately sends for her husband and for Henry Lovejoy, the magistrate from Bow Street who has aided Sebastian on a number of investigations and has become a friend; all of them know that once the news of Jane's death is made public, the palace machinery will move fast to prevent any scandal being attached to the princess by covering up the truth and preventing any further investigation into the matter. Or trying to – because Sebastian isn't about to allow the brutal murder of a young woman to go unnoticed or her murderer to evade justice.

I don't want to say much more about the plot, which is utterly compelling and kept me turning the pages into the small hours. Although Jane Ambrose is dead when we meet her, the picture built up of her through the eyes of others is poignant and intriguing. A musical genius at a time when ladies were never supposed to excel at anything other than being decorative, Jane had to suppress her gift for performing and composing and instead spend her time teaching others. Her marriage was not happy, and her husband's infidelities and abuse, coupled with death of her two children from illness a year earlier eventually led to a profound change in the woman who had previously been a model wife. She was clearly a woman driven to the edge, but who, instead of falling over, found or rediscovered an inner strength that gave her the will to stand up and fight for herself and others. Her desire to protect Princess Charlotte from an enforced marriage to a man bound to make her miserable meant that Jane put herself in the middle of what proved to be deadly palace intrigue and political manoeuvring – most of it masterminded by Hero's father, Lord Jarvis, a cold, ruthless man who will do whatever it takes to maintain his position as the power behind the throne.

As usual, Sebastian finds himself baulked at many a turn of the investigation; everyone has secrets they are determined to keep and nobody can be trusted... and those in positions of power are actively trying to prevent him from uncovering the truth which, of course turns out to have implications far more wide-

reaching than he could ever have suspected.

One of the many enjoyable things about this series has been Ms. Harris' obvious love for and knowledge of the period in which it is set. She has a splendid grasp of the volatile political situation of the time, and makes very good use of that knowledge to provide a solid historical background to her stories. In this novel, however, I think the author has outdone herself. The background to the tale, the terrible relationship between the Prince Regent and his daughter, how he almost hated her for her popularity and tried to control every aspect of her life... it's all true. The Regent really did treat his wife in the appalling manner described, and his paranoia, his excesses, his narcissism and lack of interest in the people he ruled are all matters of record, gleaned from correspondence with friends and family. Many of the secondary characters in the story are real, or are closely based on historical figures, and many of the events – such as Princess Charlotte deliberately procrastinating over an unwanted betrothal – actually happened. All these things – and more – are seamlessly and skilfully incorporated into the story without the reader ever being subjected to info-dumps or a static history lesson – which just goes to show that truth really is stranger than fiction at times.

The setting of a London so cold that the Thames froze over is hard for the modern Londoner to envisage, but Ms. Harris' descriptions of a city blanketed in white and the Frost Fair on the river are wonderfully evocative and paint a detailed picture in the mind of the reader of what it must have looked like. But as well as the Christmas-Card imagery, she takes care to show us the other side of the pretty picture; of the extreme hardship faced by the poor when the extraordinary weather conditions led to shortages of food and fuel.

The reparation of Sebastian's relationship with his father continues apace, and I loved watching Sebastian's interactions with his young son. He and Hero are obviously very much in love and are devoted to each other – yet they don't live in each other's pockets. They know each other very well, and the trust and confidence Sebastian places in his wife is admirable, while Hero's ability to listen and understand have become his bedrock.

The long running plot thread concerning Sebastian's parentage doesn't get much screen time here and the threads left over from the previous book are also not forgotten, but both are passing mentions, which I thought a wise move given that there is more than enough here to keep the reader glued to the story. There is also, clearly, more to come from the recently widowed Jarvis and Hero's manipulative cousin Victoria, and I can't wait to see how things pan out.

The murder mystery is satisfyingly complex, the historical detail is fascinating and I continue to adore Sebastian St. Cyr, a character who has come such a long way since we first met him as an angry, damaged and resentful veteran of war. With its masterful storytelling, intricate plotting and intriguing characters, **Why Kill the Innocent** is a truly gripping read and I'm sure that fans of the series need no endorsement from me to be waiting to pounce on it upon release.

---

## Barbara Rogers says

Series: Sebastian St. Cyr #13  
Publication Date: 4/3/18

I anxiously await each new release in this series and can hardly wait to start reading. Then, I am bereft when it ends. I always think that I'll pace myself, read slower, enjoy longer, but, I always find myself flying through because I can't wait to see what happens next. This book falls right into that mold. I really wish this author could write as quickly as I read! I love the characters, of course, but I also love the accuracy of the history that the author weaves into the stories – and she always includes our characters meeting one real

historical character – this one included the widower of Mary Wollstonecraft. Harris' command of the English language is unparalleled – I learned several new vocabulary words. She used one word, 'broquins' that I can't even find in any of the dictionaries but I remember my grandmother using it when referring to a particular type of shoe. The online dictionaries keep showing me the definition of 'bruins' – say what.

I love the way this author writes, her research is impeccable and her character development is superb. This book concentrated more on the mystery than on any new developments in the relationship between Sebastian and his father (Hendon) or any real hints of what is happening between Hero's father and her cousin. There were some hints of what might be coming – a new hint surfaced about Sebastian's natural father. There was somewhat less life-threatening excitement in this book than in the others – one small scene for each that was very quickly resolved. I'm still anxious to see whether Hero's father (or her cousin – or both) had a hand in the death of Hero's mother – she was ill, but maybe they helped her along a bit . . .

Hero and her friend Alexi Sauvage traveled to Clerkenwell in a raging snowstorm during one of the worst winters in English history. Hero was researching a story on the families left behind when the men were impressed into the English military. While they were there, the woman went into labor and Alexi and Hero stayed to deliver the baby. As they headed back to the carriage, it was long past dark, the snow was blowing and the wind was howling when Hero tripped, pitched forward and landed in a deep snow drift. She froze in place as she realized she had landed on a body. When they turned the rapidly freezing body, they realized two things. First, it was a woman who had been murdered and second, Hero knew who she was.

As Hero and Sebastian investigate, there are clues and suspects everywhere – not to mention the palace intrigues and interference from Hero's father, Jarvis as well as international intrigue. How could one sweet, gentle, caring and sad young piano teacher have so much happen to her and then end up murdered? There are so many possibilities, so many suspects and it takes a lot of effort to unravel it all – especially when more bodies start to turn up. Can they solve it before one of them becomes a victim? You'll just have to read this exciting new entry in the series to find out.

Please check out my reviews at:

Blog: <https://flippinpages.blog/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/flippinpages...>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FlippinPagesRev>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BarbBookReview>

"I requested and received this e-book at no cost to me and volunteered to read it; my review is my honest opinion and given without any influence by the author or publisher."

---

## Diane S ? says

When Hero stumbles on the body of Jane Ambrose, music teacher to Princess Charlotte, her husband Sebastian St. Cyr the viscount Devlin quickly becomes involved. Knowing he has little time before the palace hushes the murder up, he ascertains that her death is not a natural one and that her body has been moved. Who among the political players of the day, or of Jane's family wanted this young woman dead?

Love this historical series, Sebastian has a very storied past, things he still does not know, but he is very unusual in that unlike most of those of status, he honestly cares about justice for all people, not just the wealthy. It is well written, and the best part is that the history is accurately portrayed, the mystery woven amongst known facts. In 1814 the last Frost fair was held on the Thames. Underestimating the thickness of

the ice and snow number of people were killed. This was at the culmination of s horrid winter that included the great fog. This story takes place during this time period. The Royal family in all it's disarray and the political manuverings of this time are also described. All this and more is included in the authors note at books end.

It is the characters though that I enjoy, Sebastian, Hero, Kat, and meeting different notsbles of the day. A great mix of the personal, political and history.

ARC from Netgalley.

---