



# Let There Be Light

*R. Cooper*

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In war-torn Europe of 1872, Karol and Hart devoted themselves to protecting England and the peace England maintained. Hart was a spy and bodyguard for Karol, a brilliant but hotheaded scientist. Their partnership was almost unstoppable... until Hart could no longer bear to see Karol in danger-or with other men-and seeing Hart repeatedly put his life on the line came to terrify Karol. Then a horrible accident separated them for what they believed would be forever. Now the enemy's plan to kidnap Karol has Hart volunteering to guard him once again. Alone together with their fear and pain from the past might destroy them... or it might give them hope for a brighter future.

## Let There Be Light Details

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Author : R. Cooper

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## From Reader Review Let There Be Light for online ebook

### Anne Crow says

Not my favorite R. Cooper - this one was especially tortured and twisty. Interesting premise but required a lot of close attention and I'm still not sure I got aspects of it, nor that I will especially remember it.

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### Joyfully Jay says

*A Joyfully Jay review.*

#### 3.25 stars

If you are a true steampunk fan, this will most likely go into the category of Steampunk Light. The book is shorter and while it does offer a blended feel at times, the story focuses more on the relationship between Hart and Karol. It was only by reading the published synopsis that I was aware that the story was taking place in 1872, and the time frame was not the focus. What is the focus is the oh-so complicated relationship between Karol and Hart.

We are dropped into the middle of the story and the men have a past that comes through slowly. They were not exactly friends and they were not exactly enemies and they just worked well together on missions. The story only allows us twenty-four hours with the men and it takes a bit to piece everything together. Karol is the brilliant scientist who lives for his work, but can also take a man to bed for the night and have him begging for more. Hart is focused and for years his focus was Karol. The men have been circling around each other for so long that's all they know how to do. But, when the walls start to come down, there is a quite a story with these guys. The sexual tension between the two of them is almost its own character it is so prominent.

**Read Michelle's review in its entirety [here](#).**

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### Jaylee says

This is one of R. Cooper's earlier books and it's wordy as hell, lol. We have to have a description of every single muscle twitch either of these guys have. But OH MAN. This book is still AMAZING, just like everything she does. She is very, VERY good at longing, mutual pining, mutually unrequited, and finally getting to be with the person who has completely wrecked you for years.

IT'S FANTASTIC.

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### L-D says

This short story had a lot of potential but ended way too abruptly. I think the length of the story made it

difficult to follow the development of the characters. We know they have a past and we learn about it in snatches and scraps, but I didn't really get the entire reason why they were apart or why Karol was such a slut. I think that part of the story bothered me a bit. I liked the storyline a lot and I liked the internal monologues about their past missions and how well they worked together and how they slowly began to act like a team. I think the story could have used a lot more of that so that we can get a better feel for their connection as friends and lovers.

I was also really getting into the story but it felt to me that it ended without a real conclusion or any closure. I liked the story but I think it could have been a fully developed 5 star full length novel.

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### **piranha says**

fabulous short story. oh yes, it'd be lovely if we had a prequel and a sequel, or if this were a full novel, because the glimpse we get into the 24 hours of these characters' lives is fascinating, and i for one want to know more about them, about what happened before, and where they will go from here.

but as an example of a thoughtful, interesting, character-driven, tightly-plotted short story, this rocks, even if i never find out more about the characters. that's why i am giving it 5 stars, even though i almost ache with wanting to know more. it is that good; far better than the genre usually offers. ghods, i sound like a total fanboi. ;)

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### **Alison says**

Superb. This is one of my favourites. I absolutely love it. I've read this several times and it doesn't ever lose its power. It's set in an AU Victorian London and takes place over almost exactly twenty-four hours and the story consists almost entirely of two men with a lot of history in a room together avoiding talking to each other. It's spectacularly good. Completely enthralling. The tension is magnificent. This is a tight little story full of depth and subtlety and subtext where not just every word, but every eye blink and breath and not-look matters and it gets me right in the heart every time. On the surface, Hart and Karol are cold and distant and a little tetchy and wishing they weren't stuck together in this room, but at its core, it's an intensely emotional love story and it's so moving and they are wonderful together. There are no sweet nothings or grand romantic gestures or passionate declarations of love; there's mostly just hard words, and raw emotion is suffused into every mundane little action and it's so powerful, and so full of love underneath it all and between the lines. It's a gorgeous story about love and it's so well crafted. I think it's kind of perfect. I love this book.

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### **Laura says**

#### **Mutual Pining is definitely R Cooper's speciality**

I'm finding I much prefer R Cooper's newer stuff to her older stories. Both My Man Godric and Wicklow's Odyssey are frustrating in the same way this one in, starting in the middle, and not just in the middle of like the relationship timeline, but in the middle of the story. It's really hard to follow what's going on, what this world entails, at first.

I love her relationship development and she is definitely the queen of mutual pining. The execution is distinctive and beautiful. I will say this one wasn't as fulfilling as some other endings have been, more of a cozy ending than an epic conclusion, a resolution of all the feelings Hart and Karol had for each other.

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### **Eon Beaumont says**

I really wanted to love this book. When I started reading it, I found the characters to be just the type I like. Troubled bad-ass Soldier/spy: Hart. Super-intelligent, slightly off balance, aloof scientist: Karol. And they once worked together as a team to thwart plots against Britain. And it's STEAMPUNK!

So here they are reunited after three years and there may be a plot to kill Karol because of his latest invention. Excitement right? Sadly no. The characters spend the entire book reminiscing or lamenting what came before. So ok they have a storied past but we don't get to actually SEE any of it. Lots of mention of daring and dangerous assignments but only mentions.

The character interplay is wonderful and well done. I really felt their emotions were true with subtle layers but maybe too subtle for me. But Hart is spending the night in Karol's lab because the next day is the big presentation and that's when this whole plot is about to come to a head. Ok. So all this subtle tension and build-up has been for this super exciting scene where Hart and Karol finally work together again and we get to see it and it's AWESOME?! Sadly no. The story ends without us even finding out what happens. Boo.

I was terribly let down. I'm not a big prequel person unless there's a real reason for it. But I think these boys deserve something more.

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### **Mandi says**

3.5 stars rounded up to 4. Really, really wanted a little more at the end. What happens next!?!?

The sexual tension between the characters was great and liked the steampunk setting.

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### **Plainbrownwrapper says**

This is an odd but very interesting steampunk romance. It's a sort of vignette looking into the lives of these two characters -- it drops you into the middle of their lives and only lets you see one short day of it.

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### **Deja Dei says**

I was a little apprehensive about reading this book because I really don't know anything about steampunk. I was worried it might be overly technical and bogged down with a lot of mechanical descriptions, but it really wasn't. The story is character driven and the action is never confusing. I took a chance on this book because some friends described it as being very different and unique, two qualities I am always seeking in my fiction. I'm so glad I decided to give this book a chance, because it really is quite original. My fears about long,

boring passages describing weird gadgets were completely unfounded.

The story takes place in a fantasy version of Victorian England. I guess this is pretty typical to steampunk, but like I said I am really new to the genre. Carol is a brilliant and eccentric scientist and inventor. He's also unabashedly gay and quite promiscuous. He gets away with this behavior because his skills are so valuable to the government, they're willing to overlook his indiscretions. Hart, the spy charged with protecting Carol from foreign enemies who want his secrets, is much more reserved.

These two have had quite a history together, been on many adventures and in many dangerous situations. Eventually neither can stand seeing the other in danger, and their partnership dissolves. Though there has always been tension, the two of them have never taken their relationship beyond friendship and business. Part of the reason for this is that Carol likes to take things apart, to dissect them and see how and why they work as they do, and Hart is just not comfortable under that kind of scrutiny. Also, the events of the past weigh heavily on both Carol and Hart and influence their present-day behavior. At times, the novella feels almost like a psychological portrait of these characters and how everything they've been through together has shaped the men they've become.

I highly recommend *Let There Be Light*. It is very different from anything I've read in a long time, and the characters are spectacular: very well-rounded, subtle, and enthralling even when they're not at their best. The author has done a great job of making them seem human. Their thoughts and actions stem logically from the events of their pasts.

If I could change one thing, I'd like this to be a full-length novel so I could actually watch Hart and Carol on their adventures instead of seeing them in flashback. This doesn't detract from the story, though. I'm just wishing for more of a good thing.

~De

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## **Raymond Mathiesen says**

*Let There Be Light*

### **Love and hatred: two sides of men.**

Victoria is Queen of England and hostilities rage in Europe as enemy states vie for supremacy. Technology is struggled over in a secret war of espionage and counter espionage. Karol, a brilliant but temperamental scientist, has been caught up in this war. Hart, an agent of Victoria, has been sent to protect him. But this is not a first meeting. The two have a long history of adventure, struggle and conflict. Old disputes between them re-emerge, but for the next few hours, the two must be together.

R. Cooper really excels in this tense psychological piece. She portrays two men, both tough in their own separate ways, circling around one another, fighting, playing games, calculating, joking, reminiscing, and admiring one another. If you are looking for a plot driven story you would do well to look elsewhere, but if you want to get into the minds of people, to see the complexity of their thoughts, and to feel their emotions, then this is the book for you.

The story covers a few short hours so the book is necessarily brief. Cooper keeps the characters moving around one another, skilfully revealing more and more of the truth so the reader is kept intrigued. This tale is never boring. The conversation between the two characters is filled with tension. We cannot help but wonder where things are going, who will 'win'?

The characters, as I say, are complex. Cooper has created two men that 'live'. There is nothing standard about either. Under less skilled hands this could have been a simple 'spy' and 'mad scientist' story (cardboard cut outs), but Cooper instead intrigues us, keeps us guessing as to history, actions and motivations.

Cooper's theme is the love/hate relationship that can develop between strong minded men. Pride keeps men separate, yet friendship, shared struggle, draws them together. This is no simple gay romance.

There is a sex scene in the story, but I would hardly call this book erotica. Cooper is more interested in the meeting of two minds than the mechanics of two bodies touching.

This story really intrigued me and I am happy to award it five stars.

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### **Sammy Goode says**

The ONLY reason this got 4 stars is because it is in desperate need of a sequel AND a prequel--I want to know more about these boys, the time period and their relationship! This book sizzles with tension both sexual and relational--it is a really fast read and a good one! Please, please, R. Cooper--more??

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### **S says**

Let me say first that as a new fan to both steampunk and m/m, I was intrigued the moment I saw the description for this novella. If I enjoy both separately, why not together, right? In the case of *Let There Be Light* there is no separating the two genres, the story just is. Comfortably, achingly, beautifully is. This is storytelling at its best - when you stop looking for a familiar plot formula and instead breathe with the characters, happy to live in the moment with them.

To read more of Karol and Hart would be bliss.

R Cooper's writing style is fluid and descriptive. She weaves complex emotions deftly into the interplay between the two men, as they attempt to banter their mutual, and yet unfulfilled, attraction to each other away. The past between them is slowly unfurled, but never fully explained, and the future looms heavily between the two as the novella closes. There is so much more to know that I can only hope R Cooper decides to share it.

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### **Smch says**

the story was good but the end was too abrupt like it was missing some part.

