



Band Sinister

K.J. Charles

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Sir Philip Rookwood is the disgrace of the county. He's a rake and an atheist, and the rumours about his hellfire club, the Murder, can only be spoken in whispers. (Orgies. It's orgies.)

Guy Frisby and his sister Amanda live in rural seclusion after a family scandal. But when Amanda breaks her leg in a riding accident, she's forced to recuperate at Rookwood Hall, where Sir Philip is hosting the Murder.

Guy rushes to protect her, but the Murder aren't what he expects. They're educated, fascinating people, and the notorious Sir Philip turns out to be charming, kind—and dangerously attractive.

In this private space where anything goes, the longings Guy has stifled all his life are impossible to resist...and so is Philip. But all too soon the rural rumour mill threatens both Guy and Amanda. The innocent country gentleman has lost his heart to the bastard baronet—but does he dare lose his reputation too?

Band Sinister Details

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From Reader Review Band Sinister for online ebook

Nick Pageant says

This was quite entertaining but a little uneven. I was delighted with the language and humor. The main problem I had was the plot was a bit meandering with too many characters for my wee brain to keep track of without strain. Still, it's K.J. Charles, so it's a very good book and worth your time.

K.J. Charles says

I went Full Heyer on this one. This is as near as I'm likely to get to a light-hearted romcom, which is to say it has an official body count of zero. (I'm pretty sure this is my first book in which nobody dies, which is impressive considering I'm supposed to write romance.) There is a scene where someone gets a bad scratch on his Hessians, but it's only his second-best pair, so don't panic.

Also, tropes. We have rakes! Enemies to lovers! Virgin hero!

I thoroughly enjoyed writing Philip the bastard baronet beet farmer, his disreputable set of friends, and his country innocent Guy. I hope it's as much fun to read!

Idrissa says

This is **NOT** KJ Charles' best work. I'd even go as far as saying it's probably her most disappointing book by her high standards. I am so disappointed in it I may as well have gotten a personality transplant.

Not only was this book poor, it was also just boring and dull. My favourite book of Charles', The Magpie Lord starts with an attempted murder. Much like a great movie, you're thrown right into the action. No exposition, no monologue, no Dear Reader wink wink nudge nudge- just smack right into the middle of a conflict.

I didn't expect this to have that level of action what with this meant to be a fluffy regency romance where nobody even sheds blood- at least onpage- but dear me was it so lacklustre.

We're introduced to one of the protagonists reading out loud, I guess, from his sister's torrid novel about their neighbour. Guy is worried that Amanda's novel could bring trouble for them because their family has a bit of a crazy history with the neighbours, the Rookwoods. Of all the things, the book basically starts with an argument between brother and sister about propriety.

Eventually, Amanda decides to defy her brother's sensibilities and goes off to spy on Philip Rookwood at Rookwood Hall and ends up breaking her femur. Her drumstick. Which happened offscreen and is explained in an offhand fashion by one of the millions of secondary characters that we meet barely ten pages in.

When Amanda was late getting home, Guy starts to worry and the person who had given her the horse showed up worried. This builds up some tension as we expect Guy to go looking for her or at least tracing

her steps to the pseudonemesis' house and that would have been the reward for all the fright. But no. A servant from Rookwood Hall instantly shows up with a letter from Philip explaining that Amanda is an invalid and is being taken care of at the Hall.

The Hall is a house of horrors, according to Guy. A place where all manner of debauchery and nihilism is indulged upon to levels that would make the Devil blush. It would ruin them even more than they already are. Now can you see how rewarding it would have been if this had been revealed progressively? By storytelling rather than clunky exposition and ditzy dialogue? It happens a lot in the novel too. Parts of the book that would have made for great storytelling are rushed over through a shortened discussion to make way for Guy and Phil to make moon eyes and wax lyrically at each other about consent and truth. Like, seriously?

Within the first few pages a barrage of names are dropped as heavily as a Mary Calmes novel. Amanda [Manda], Guy, Philip, Lord Corvin, Aunt Beatrice, Sir James Rookwood, Mr Peyton, Mrs Harbottle, Mr Welland, Bluebell, Daffodil [ok, those two are horses but still], Mr Raven, Corvin's servant, Dr Martelo, Jane, Dr Bewdley, Sheridan, Harry, Eleanor, George Penn, Ned Caulfield... And all these names are just in Chapter Two.

Honestly when Romeo and Juliet were mentioned I briefly wondered if they were also another set of new characters. Considering the main players are Guy and Philip- I didn't see the need to be knocked over the head with a dictionary of Regency names.

This book was infuriating and for a book that was as predictable as it was entertaining, I don't even know how I feel about it. I am honestly going to reread Jackdaw to purge this out of my mind.

The cover design is also iffy and gives the impression that the lady has a lot more importance to the plot but it honestly gets to a point where it seems as though Amanda is forgotten.

Maybe this was all me as I have been in a big slump and under a lot of stress lately but come on, can't I be spared a fishy book from such a great author?

? percy says

kj charles hasn't quite been her usual stellar self these past few releases, but i still thought this book was tremendous fun.

Richard Derus says

I read this delightful fluff in a sitting. (A lying, to be more precise.) I'm pretty sure I was expecting the chuckles I got, but not the lesson in how to make explicit consent offered by the debauchee to the debaucher so well-integrated and even steamy. I've always contended that the largest sex organ is the brain, so really all it took was a bit of imaginative effort to make consent part of seduction and foreplay. Author Charles did this deftly, erotically, and satisfyingly.

I liked Guy, our virginal debauchee, more and more as time went by. He annoyed me to no end at first. I

think he was expected to. His deep devotion to his younger sister was disarmingly sweet, so he wasn't one of those characters one wants to smack in the occiput with a niblick, but he did try my not-legendary (lack of) patience to its uttermost extent.

Rookwood is, not to put too fine a point on it, too good to be true. Beautiful, rich, thoughtful...*sigh*repine* (Speaking of rePineing, have y'all piped Chris Pine's lovely genitalia in *Outlaw King*? If not, get thee hence to Netflix! I suppose he had lines and stuff, but ya couldn't prove it by me.) So, Rookwood. Yes. Lovely man, his past is very deftly integrated into his present-day actions, as is Guy's; this being a KJ Charles book, that is unsurprising. She just does that. Part of the service. So why mention it? Because it's both satisfying and anachronistic for men to reveal their hurts and scars to...anyone, really...and Rookwood is an aristocrat, so his upbringing is simply not going to include emotional honesty. How Author Charles side-steps that issue is one of my great pleasures taken from this story.

Lord Corvin and John Raven, well, window dressing has never looked so good. Heh. Read the Society of Gentlemen books, y'all. Read KJ Charles. This is escapism done well.

Eugenia says

All the LOVE and all the STARS!!!!

What a wickedly, salacious country romp in Recency England!!! KJ Charles latest recency romance is pure heart and comedy!! ???

I think I fell in love with every single crazy character Charles created!!

Guy and Philip, our two MCs make a delicious pair together. Philip, a libertine of the worst sort and a family enemy, to boot, has set his sights on the virginal Guy. His plans to debauch the young man go astray as he finds himself caring for Guy.

Guy, brought by circumstance of his sister's near fatal accident to the home of Sir Phillip, soon realized that his host is not as scandalous as rumours have made him out to be. He also realizes that he very much likes being debauched by Philip whilst his sister convalesces in his drawing room.

The DEBAUCHING of Guy is a joy to read and see!!! This has to be one of my favorite debauching books EVER!!! Why? Because it took more than one scene to debauch our young hero. Because he loved every second of it. Because he threw himself into learning with such gusto. Because Guy is one of the dearest characters I have ever encountered!

Ok, ill stop rhapsodizing about the DEBAUCHING of GUY and move on. The rest of the story was simply lovely!! ?? We meet the notorious Murder hellfire club and it's wonderful members--all notorious in their own way, yet allyou know what? I'll leave the mystery to what they are to the book...it's just more fun without spoilers!!

I so so so so HOPE there is another book in the making. This cast of characters cannot disappear! I need more of my notorious rake, Corvin and more of the irascible artist, John. And then there's a part of me that want to see all four in bed together at the same time. It's a hellfire club, after all and isn't orgies what they do?!

Read this book, you'll love it!! There are a lot of characters I introduced at the beginning, but hold out because you'll soon keep them straight (ha ha) in your head!

Ahhh, now I want to read it again and take my time to savor the humor and the LOVE!!! Thanks the gods for this book that catapulted me out of a major book slump!!??

Super highly recommended with fireworks and laughs!!

Kaje Harper says

This is great fun, a classic historical romance in the tradition of Heyer et al (were they allowed to see past the bedroom door, and were they fans of love in all its forms.) There is the rake with the heart of gold, the severe family holding the purse-strings, the virgin swiftly falling in love with the "wrong" man, the whispers of the ton with their dire effect on marriageability of young women.

But all those familiar elements become something delightful in this author's hands. This is a fun romp with a few tender moments, as a young man who was barely aware of his own nature learns to accept and enjoy who he is. Guy is well-meaning, innocent but not prudish, and so starved for affirmation you can see him open like a flower to the sun around Sir Philip Rookwood. His sister, Amanda, is a delight - self-aware, creative, and unwilling to be constrained to a silent, faultless exile by the severe aunt who holds the purse strings. And I was particularly taken, almost more than with the central romance, by the deep and long-standing love between the members of the Murder threesome in residence at the Hall, who truly care about each other in non-traditional ways.

There is less social commentary and less emotional range than in some of Charles's other historicals, but that doesn't mean it's less entertaining. If you ever read a Regency and yearned to see the rake go off with his handsome secretary or country neighbor instead of the beautiful girl, this book is everything you were waiting for.

Nichola says

This is a deliciously tropetastic homage to the works of Georgette Heyer (particularly Venetia and Sylvester), albeit considerably more x-rated and much less heterosexual.

It presents us with an earnest country virgin and his spinster sister (and closeted budding gothic novelist) and their encounters with the wicked, misbegotten aristocrat next door and his "hellfire club" friends; but, this being KJ Charles, it's also an exploration of the intersections of class, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion and power. The Hellfire Club is not so much a den of vice and iniquity as it is a group of open minded and artistically inclined free-thinkers with a fondness for science and social justice - with, admittedly, an array of sexual orientations which would NOT meet the approval of your average dowager about town. One finds oneself wishing for a "murder" of one's own - and not so much for the orgies as for the impassioned debates over dinner, the sense of having found one's tribe.

The fair country mouse's seduction is as much about his introduction to trilobites, Jews, former slaves and atheists as it is about the finer points of sex or love, and the wicked aristocratic next door is very different

from the rakish figure local gossip depicts.

It's lovely; very much like reading a Heyer, but without that whole "problematic fave" thing. (Well, and of course WITH lgbtq protagonists, and characters who are neither white nor Christian.)

I believe this is a standalone book, but like many of the best books it is blessed with a supporting cast of sufficient variety and interest that I find myself wishing wistfully for sequels, or companion volumes, to unpack the back stories of the other characters. I should love to know more about Corvin's hinted-at past, or how the improbable Mrs Salcombe came to woo and wed her spouse while digging for fossils, or about the besotted musicians, or indeed the absent Isabella and Marianne. Their half-glimpsed stories fill the text with life and depth and interest above and beyond the charming romantic entanglements of the young Frisbys.

...it's perhaps a curious thing to say about romantic fiction- gleefully tropetastic and explicitly sexual romantic fiction, at that - but one of my favourite things about this book (and this is true of all the rest of KJ Charles's work, I think) is its focus on what real connections people form beyond the stock-in-trade elements of sexual and romantic desire. Philip's relationship with John and Corvin is as important to him as his new relationship with Guy, and it is depicted just as sympathetically, even though it isn't the focus of the story; Guy's fraternal love for his younger sister is the foundation stone of his life, and his romance with Philip must be built around this understanding that her safety and happiness will always be his first priority - just as single parents must navigate romances around the reality that their child will always come first.

There are a lot of people out there writing romances, and a lot writing LGBTQ romances, but not so many of them eschew the titillating "zipless fuck" and place awkward, nuanced human connections front and centre. She does not objectify her characters any more than she tries to crowbar them into familiar cis-het relationships - they are always uniquely themselves, with their own truths and fears and desires.

They're also operating within this real, imperfect world; even when writing what is more or less a fluffy queer mashup of Venetia and Sylvester, Charles doesn't let her readers forget about what else was happening in the world at this time: that the sugar sweetening all those cups of chocolate and jams and trifles that characters nibble in Regency novels was the product of slave labour.

And another feature which is reliably front and centre is consent. It's an unfortunate fact that romance fiction (like TV and cinema) tends towards the romanticisation of rape culture; this is particularly prevalent with this particular trope of the experienced rake and wide-eyed virgin. Charles, however, makes no bones about considering communication and active!enthusiastic consent to be vital in a healthy relationship, and she consistently makes consent sexy AF.

TL;DR - this is very much what one would expect from a KJ Charles-penned Heyer novel. It's got less in the way of murder and machiavellian plotting than most of her other books, but delivers a thoroughly enjoyable comfort read Of the sort that I know I'll return to rereading time and again in the future.

(The above is based on reading an ARC copy which I received from the author in exchange for an honest review.)

Simone says

I'm feeling marvelously debauched now...

Umm, no, it's not what you think, so you should probably pull your mind out of the gutter. ;-)

Band Sinister is a nice little romcom about Guy Frisby, a bit naive but endearing local yokel coming to the rescue of his sister...

... in order to retrieve her out of the clutches of Sir Philip Rookwood, a deliciously notorious bastard baronet and his fellow notorious outcasts of society and realizes slowly but surely that said baronet is about to run not only his worldview but his whole life off the rails...

You can expect a slow burn enemies-to-lovers romance with the burn turning into quite the wildfire, some steamy debauchery, a lot of banter and KJ Charles's typical dry sense of humor...

"I have never in my life forced myself on the unwilling. It's not my fault if the willing aren't willing to admit they were willing."

... but also a good portion of questioning of moral standards - or rather *double* moral standards of society - and people's inability to look beyond their own noses and therefore their tendency to judge others too readily.

It's different as it can get from The Magpie Lord, so if you expect to see people die left, right and center or want to read about unhinged mutant rodents, you should look elsewhere. ;-)

What threw me a bit was the beginning and I felt a bit like...

... because of quite the info dump of names on me.

At once, at least. ;-) Overall this was a quite enjoyable read and I recommend it to all fans of romcoms set in the Regency period. :)

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

Band Sinister is a strangely sexy romp through the English countryside that explores how an infamous heathen and uptight gentleman come together against all odds.

I didn't love this book as much as my peeps did, and I feel kind of guilty about that.

I really like K.J. Charles' writing style and enjoyed the banter and enemies-to-lovers relationship between Phillip and his, uh, "plank." Amanda, Guy's sister, was absolutely badass, and I got a kick out of Phillip's

“Murder” gang.

But I had a hell of a time keeping track of the secondary characters. They were all introduced in the first couple of chapters and referred to interchangeably by both their first and last names, seemingly at random, which I found confusing. It didn't help that everyone seemed to be sleeping with everyone else.

This doesn't appear to be a common complaint, so I'm convinced that either A. I've lost a few IQ points since graduate school or B. the wine and candy (undoubtedly a lethal combination) did me in.

Nevertheless, I persisted. And the romantic ending was worth it.

Bev says

5 ????? from me...oh, and 5 ????? too for Philip and Guy's lovely, gentle romance.

The laughs, the sarcasm, the naughty Latin words [former bored Latin scholar here hehe], the comeuppance for the dreadful Aunt Beatrice ?, but most of all the brilliant Murder [read the story, you'll then understand the reference] Hellfire Club and more importantly its witty members, who were supportive of Philip to a man.

Lots of authors try to imitate KJ Charles, but she reigns supreme as far as *this* reader is concerned for her marvellous wit and delicious characters. Bravo!!

Lost in a Book says

Buddy read with Adam and Chelsea

4ish Stars

Whoa! Anyone else have to reread the title page on this one just to make sure it was a KJC book? No murder? No angst relational and/or time period peril? This is insanely lighthearted compared to her previous writes. It's practically fit for teenage consumption if you throw a chastity belt on it. (Is that still a thing?) I couldn't help comparing the feel of *Band Sinister* to her others and I think the Grinch KJ Charles' heart has increased in size.

Ok, so I'm a huge fan of KJC whether we are chasing antacids with alcohol just to get through the angst/death or this spoon full of sugar featuring Sir Phillip Rookwood and Guy Frisby. The blurb does a great job setting the stage for this story so let's get this party started.

Rookwood and Frisby dislike each other greatly. It's more of a *my family has had awful interactions with yours and your family has ruined my family* type dislike and not really between the two men. Unfortunately during that time period, past family shame is enough to cloud the rest of the generations. Much to

Rookwood's dismay, Frisby's sister (Amanda) is injured on his property and will be recovering there for at least a fortnight. Guy is devastated about his sister's injury and beside himself with the idea of staying in the same location as the Murder. Well, he is until the men of the house begin to seem actually human; kind, compassionate, sociable, and spirited.

Frisby becomes aware of Sir Phillip's preferences and that sets off a sexual awakening long suppressed. Phillip is like a blood hound and is on the trail as soon as Frisby begins to question what he desires. The men get to know each other as Amanda heals and Phillip volunteers to teach Guy in all things pleasure.

There's some heat along the way with the MCs and the added spice of the other men in the house having the propensity to share. Throw in some family drama, town drama, a *very* lively Amanda, KJC's trademark humor laced with snark, a HEA, and *Band Sinister* is an entertaining, low angst read. I have to mention that Amanda is a kick ass female character and I highly enjoyed when she was on page.

It took a bit of a time getting in the groove. Due to the slow start, I liked the second half more than the first. It was another enjoyable read by one of my favorite authors. I think I prefer the Tums and alcohol compared to the low angst sweetness but I can't wait to read Corvin's story and see him brought to his knees. I'll definitely continue on if this is a series. Recommended.

Copy provided for honest review.

Chelsea says

5 hearts

Magical. Charles can do no wrong, seriously! Sweet, sexy, and beautifully romantic, this book had me doing nothing for a whole day until I'd completely devoured it.

I've never read a book by Georgette Heyer but from what I hear people will be very excited to hear *Band Sinister* was inspired by Heyer's writing. I obviously can't compare but all I know is every single character in this book was wonderfully crafted and that was KJ Charles and her alone (with the help of editors of course :-P). Once again the Charles writes amazing female characters and Amanda is one of my most favourite female characters ever! *I would loooove to see a short story revolving around her love story.*

Guy has not admitted his attraction to other men, therefore when Phillip starts revealing truths and demanding honesty, Guy finds his virginity in a somewhat shaky state.

“But, well. Would I like sodomy?”

“That is without a doubt the best question that has ever been asked . English was invented purely so that you could ask that.”

Let's just say I love a good deflowering and the build-up between Philip and Guy was superb. Slowly getting to know Phillip and his Murder was engaging and so much damn fun as well!!

The tension, ridiculously sexy climax and heart melting happily ever after has this book being an all time favourite and will definitely be reread many times in the future.

Caz says

4.5 stars rounded up

K.J. Charles has made no secret of the fact that her latest book, **Band Sinister**, is an homage to the works of Georgette Heyer, and in it she has great fun playing in the trope-pit of regency romance and turning quite a few of them on their heads. We've got the stranded-injured-sibling trope; the man-of-the-world-falls-for-country-innocent trope; the oops-I-(not so)-accidentally-wrote-you-as-the-villain-in-my-racy-book trope – and those are just the ones I can remember of the top of my head. I'm sure I've missed some.

But trope-tastic as it is, **Band Sinister** still manages to delight, breathing life into the tried-and-tested by virtue of Ms. Charles' sharp wit, deft hand and obvious love for the genre.

The storyline is a simple one. Siblings Guy and Amanda Frisby live a secluded life in the village of Yarlscote, just a few miles from Rookwood Hall, the country estate of Sir Philip Rookwood. The Frisbys and the Rookwoods are all but mortal enemies, owing to the fact that Sir James Rookwood (elder and now deceased brother of the present holder of the title) ran off with Guy and Amanda's mother some years earlier, driving their father to drink and an early grave. He left them completely dependent on their aunt, a dictatorial and unsympathetic woman who supports them for the sake of appearances rather than because she has any love or affection for them.

When the story opens, Guy is reading the manuscript of the gothic novel Amanda has just had published – and is rather appalled to discover that she has modelled her villain – in physical appearance anyway - on Sir Philip Rookwood, and some of the other characters in the book on his friends. Sir Philip and his set have the most dreadful reputations as degenerates and rumour has it that the 'Murder' - as the group is known - is a kind of hellfire club that engages in orgies, satanic rituals and other reprehensible activities. When Amanda expresses the wish that they might actually visit to find out for themselves, Guy is appalled. He wants nothing to do with Rookwood, but circumstances conspire against him when Amanda is thrown from her horse while riding on Sir Philip's land, and badly injured – which means Amanda gets her wish to visit the hall, although under less pleasing circumstances than she would have liked.

When Guy receives the news of Amanda's situation, he's doubly panicked - terrified because she's been hurt and worried for her reputation, which has already got a few dents in it courtesy of their mother's exploits and a youthful indiscretion. Guy goes to the hall with the intention of taking her home immediately, but is dissuaded by the doctor attending on her – a friend of Sir Philip's – who explains that her injury is such that moving her could prove fatal. Guy accepts the wisdom of that, but he's not happy, especially as it's impossible to persuade any woman of suitable consequence to come to the hall to act as chaperone.

Given the bad blood between their families, Guy is torn between gratitude to his host for allowing Amanda to remain at his home, and determination to remain aloof and retain his animosity. That, however, soon becomes difficult when Guy comes to realise that Philip and his friends are nowhere near as black as they are painted and have in fact encouraged the gossip about them that has given them all such tarnished reputations. (Especially Lord Corvin who lives to be talked about!) The Murder (and once we learn the names of Philip's friends, it's easy to work out the reason behind that appellation) is actually a group of free-thinking, like-minded friends who gather to engage in spirited (and to Guy's tender ears, alarming) debate, enjoy each other's company and love who they wish without having to continually look over their shoulders. It's a real eye-opener for Guy, who at first isn't sure how to take anything he sees or hears; dinner table discussions are about anything and everything from art and literature to science and the newly emerging theories which seem to disprove the Bible's account of creation (shocking!) and are stimulating and fascinating - and he can't help but be drawn in by the liveliness of the discussion and by the conviviality of his surroundings.

He also can't help being drawn to Philip, whose kindness and generosity are completely unexpected, and whose attractiveness and desire for Guy are equally so.

Philip holds these gatherings for his friends in order to give them all a safe haven from the strict conventions of society. He met his two closest friends, Lord Corvin and John Raven, when they were all unwanted or forgotten ten-year-olds and the three of them forged lifelong bonds. Friends – and friends-with-benefits when they want to be – they love each other deeply, and the openness and honesty of their relationship is superbly conveyed, teasingly affectionate and full of the perfect amount of snark.

I really enjoyed all the characters, a disparate group that encompasses a diversity of racial and sexual orientation – a former slave, a bisexual viscount, a Jewish doctor, a married couple in which 'Mrs.' is trans FtM, a black composer and his violinist lover – even those we meet only briefly add richness and colour to the story and are beautifully crafted. Amanda Frisby is wonderfully bright and spirited and I was so glad that she got her own happy ending, too. Philip is intelligent, charming, kind, and forward-thinking, with a well-developed conscience that owes nothing to society and everything to his own inner compass. He is turning over much of his land to the production of sugar beet with a view to creating a home-grown sugar industry which will remove the necessity for importing so much sugar produced by slave labour – a laudable ambition but an uphill struggle given that his tenant farmers are resistant to change. Guy is perhaps a little passive at times, but he's far from being the "plank" Philip originally believes him to be; he's quiet and unassuming, but ferocious and passionate in defence of the things that are important to him. My heart broke for him a bit when it became clear how lonely he was and had always been, and I loved watching him gradually break out of his shell and begin to truly live.

The romance between Philip and Guy is sweetly sensual, and witnessing the development of their mutual attraction as they navigate the waters of their new relationship was a complete delight. And it's not just about the physical; Guy is seduced as much by the new ideas to which he is exposed and to the new experience of acceptance and being part of a friendship as he is by Philip's more sensual approaches, which are heartfelt and honest, with an explicit focus on consent. Their romance is also conducted within the parameters of their other important relationships; in Philip's case, with Corvin and Raven, in Guy's with Amanda – and the fact that they both understood and accepted those relationships made their HEA that much stronger.

Band Sinister is a wonderfully entertaining read that, for all its light-heartedness, nonetheless manages to convey a number of important ideas about love, friendship, social responsibility and the importance of living according to one's lights. It's a sexy, warm, witty trope-fest and works brilliantly as an homage to the

traditional regency and a tribute to those who dared to think enlightened ideas in a time of entrenched views. It's not often you get impassioned debate about geology, women's rights and religion, dirty talk derived from Latin, and information about the ins-and-outs of sugar beet farming in the same book, but Ms. Charles incorporates everything quite naturally and with great aplomb – and I loved it from start to finish. Brava!

Hollis says

After a string of meh m/ms (you won't find them in my feed as I didn't bother to review so don't go looking for them), diving into a KJ Charles book was a breath of fresh, fabulous, funny, fucktastic, air. The fact that this particular KJC is basically her take on a rom-com makes it even better. What can't this author do.

BAND SINISTER was lighthearted but not overly silly, dramatic but not OTT, emotional without leaving my feels black and blue, and sensual af. I went into this completely blind (#noblurbsclub) and I don't regret it. Nor do I regret the time I spent totally lost and wrapped up in it. Nor do I regret it's over, really, because I am absolutely going to reread this on a rainy day. Or a sunny one. The weather will not determine my rereading, really. But you get the idea.

Highly recommend.
