



## Undercover Sins

*Hayley B. James*

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Police officer Gabriel Carter refuses to walk away from an assignment without seeing it through. So when he goes into deep cover as a male prostitute named Ty, he intends to do everything in his power to see his case to an arrest. He seduces his mark, Demetrius Prado, the second most powerful man in Las Vegas and a human trafficker, but the man is nothing like he expected.

The more Gabriel learns about Demetrius, the more twists and turns are thrown his way in the convoluted case leading to Demetrius's rival, Arden, and beyond. It's a case of mistaken identities and layer after layer of trumped-up cover stories, and Gabriel is sure there's no way he'll ever be able to trust Demetrius with his life... much less with his heart.

## **Undercover Sins Details**

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Author : Hayley B. James

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## From Reader Review Undercover Sins for online ebook

### **Jay says**

What to say about this book. I have to wonder if it wasn't the theme of human trafficking that cause some of my angst. I am glad I stuck with it.

I will stay away from the plot for the most part so as not to give anything away. You should be as tortured as I was reading this.

There are a ton of plot twists that keep you guessing all the way to the end. The main characters, Demetrius and Ty, are terrific together. How they managed to see through their individual facades to the person below is amazing. I found myself routing for them quite often.

Looking for a sequel here...

It was my first read of Hayley B. James and I will keep this author in my sights for more entertainment.

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### **Trisha Harrington says**

#### **Aww, I'm not sure if I want to laugh or cry at this book.**

Now before I start this review, I must warn you that this book deals with a strong issue (Human Trafficking) and some might not like this book. It is definitely not for everyone.

Undercover Sins is the first Hayley B. James book I have read and it will not be my last. It was a very good read and I had a somewhat good time reading it. I loved the romance in this book and was happy with the couple. I could not really say it was a book you could have fun reading because it deals with such a serious issue, but I can say I did love the book completely.

Gabriel, well he was just an amazing character to read about. I was instantly fascinated by him. He struggled with his feelings and his attraction to Evan. All because he did not know who Evan really was. He had a bad temper and I really did not know when he was going to blow up. In the end though he calmed down and finally he and Evan got together. He was my favourite of the two characters.

Evan, well we did not really find out about him until the half way mark or there about's anyway. His past was something that really gave me a feeling for why he was able to do such a horrible job. I could not have felt more sorry for him when he talked about his sister. He was a sweet character and I loved how he fell in love with Gabriel and never stopped trying to win his heart.

I would recommend this book but remind people that they should be warned. Well done Hayley B. James. :)

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### **Natalie says**

Started off strong, then lost me around the 30% mark. This story had so much potential but fell victim to its convoluted plot and uneven characterization. Even though I made it to the end, I'm still not sure what happened.

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### **Smith Barney says**

**That was f'ing fantastic and f'ing underrated.** I really, really enjoyed it and was thoroughly entertained. It deserves a much higher rating compared to some of the other overrated shit this genre comes up with. For me it was a pleasure to read...and really...that's all that matters. My gratitude is always immense for all of my good reading journeys.

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### **Chris says**

Trainwreck. This m/m romantic suspense about an undercover cop working as a rentboy in order to get close to one of the honchos in a human trafficking ring was extremely convoluted. The plot had as many holes as loops, no one behaved consistently or believably, and I never came to care what happened to the main characters. Be warned that there's noncon and a complete absence of lube.

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### **Ami says**

When it comes to undercover m/m story, the best that I have read is Laura Baumbach and Josh Lanyon's Mexican Heat. The summary in this one, makes me feel intrigued to read it.

Unfortunately, I don't feel as satisfied. The back and forth secret that Demetrius gives to Ty annoys me after I reach about 1/2 of the book. It's a little bit hard for me to believe that Demetrius falls in love with Ty, with the way he treats Ty (including making him participate in a pet game, where Ty is being fuc\*ed by another man). I don't know the world of undercover agents, so I don't know how far one should go to reach the goal. But since I expect "romance" in this story, that one act just does not fit my liking.

I don't believe that the two of them are in love, like what they confess to one another. I am not in love with both characters. In fact, the character that I enjoy to read is a secondary character, by the name of Jackson. The rest feels blah and I do not feel any emotion even until the last chapters.

I guess "Mexican Heat" still stands as the best undercover m/m romance then ...

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### **Kelly H. (Maybedog) says**

This book is brutal. It's disturbing, and at times, difficult to read. There is a ton of violence, and although most is done off page, the reality is there in every action. It's believable and it made me think about the things that have to be done by undercover officers in order to survive. This is not a pretty story. The undercover situation is human trafficking, one of the sickest and most disturbing criminal activities I can think of. You all know how much I love danger and death-defiance and don't mind violence. But that's all

action thriller type stuff. This is a different kind of violence and it made me ill.

The pacing was good, though, and most of the situations felt fairly realistic to me. The book definitely wasn't predictable. The romance happened as slowly as it could, given the timeline of the book, and it mostly worked, although I did have some issues with why Ty was at all emotionally attracted to Demetrius. There were points at which he willingly had sex with the man when it would have made more sense for him to run screaming.

The writing was fine, although there was a weird reluctance to use contractions, usually in awkward places. I was absorbed in the story, though, torn between not wanting to put it down and needing a break from how awful the situations were. I really liked Ty, and I liked that he wasn't one-dimensional. He sometimes said or did things where I wanted to shake him and ask, "Are you trying to get yourself killed?" But Ty was a good person with a big heart and I ached for him many times.

Frequently Demetrius says or implies that Ty is just as bad as he is for what he's had to do. No way is selling your body as bad as the stuff Demetrius does. At one point, I really began hating Demetrius for this and allowing Ty to feel so much guilt. Typically, Ty takes on himself most of what goes wrong between them. He acknowledges he has low self-esteem, but Demetrius never sees or acknowledges that he has treated Ty like shit.

There were at least two dubious sex scenes and both bothered me for different reasons: (view spoiler)

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Demetrius lies about himself throughout most of the book, even when it's not really necessary. Some of those times are just to make conflict. Near the end, (view spoiler)

I'm torn with the rating for this. My enjoyment was around a 3 at most but the quality of the story and writing was much higher.

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### **Beck says**

This was an incredible book. Not only was it amazingly sexy, but it stood up as a really good crime drama too. This will be a book I re-read. It is so rare to find a book of this calibre in the romance genre. This book felt a bit like a Lee Child book with the amount of twists, turns & convoluted plot.

Highly recommended for lovers of good crime drama but this isn't a light fluffy romance or straight erotica. There is a story to get your teeth into with this one.

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### **AliciaJ says**

I enjoyed the story ok, but there were a few issues. First off, the dialogue was extremely stilted and weird. People just don't talk so formally in real life, especially if they're scum-sucking criminals. And there was no differentiation between characters' voices at all, not even the one main woman character (yes, I said **one**).

So that was the first and probably the biggest issue. The second "problem" was the so-called relationship between Ty and Demetrius. Talk about weird. I just didn't get the attraction and the push-pull dynamic between them.

I did like Ty, even with his weird way of talking. He's a character that caught my imagination from the first page, with his fun personality and determination. He's what brought this rating up from two stars to three. He's dynamic and a guy I could root for. And I was always curious to see how much further he would go to achieve his mission.

Hopefully the next book in the series will be better.

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### **Feliz says**

I found the plot idea appealing — an undercover cop reluctantly falling in love with the target of his investigation is a fascinating premise with loads of heavy conflicts both internal and external waiting to happen.

Some of the characterizations were pretty good, first and foremost Demetrius. He's like those Russian Matryoshka dolls, layer upon layer of different personalities and backstories. His character is to act out of character, make erratic moves and decisions, irrational and growingly conflicted. I found his inner disunity nicely done and comprehensible, although I couldn't make myself like him. There was Lee, Demetrius's cool and inshakeable bodyguard, and Lesley, Ty's protective Sergeant, which were both well-drawn, likeable characters.

I had problems with Ty/ Gabriel. From the very beginning, I couldn't help stumbling upon inconsistencies that kept pulling me out of the story flow with wait, what? — moments. If there had been only a few, I could have just shrugged them off since this is fiction, after all, but it happened again and again, adding up to a serious bother.

The fact that Ty's supposed to be deep undercover, but obviously has broken cover early on to a fellow rent-boy, Jackson, and Ty's contact officer meets with him in front of Ty's pimp who's obviously also in the know — seemed to me terribly bad police work. Demetrius, who is supposed to be a powerful kind of Mafia don in human trafficking, confronts Ty about stalking him and using a fake ID, and still Ty doesn't fear unmasking when Demetrius hires him?

The worst character was Arden. Admittedly Arden is The Villain, and he's described as feared and hated, one who has no qualms putting a bullet between the eyes of everyone who steps into his way. Yet, Arden plays petty games, pouts if something doesn't go according to his whims and doesn't have himself under control. If he did so being merely the Don's son, fine, but he's supposed to be a big player himself and leading his own branch of business.

What actually bothered me most with the writing in itself was the fact that time and again, inconsistencies were actually addressed, only to be wiped away as "that's just the way it is". It felt like the author noticed them, but didn't feel like polishing them in order to clear them up. I couldn't help feel cheated.

With this story, the reader is drawn into a world which is supposed to be realistic, but reminds more of an urban fantasy setting which sometimes seems rather artificial. Nearly everything between Demetrius and his

adversary, Arden, is about sex, and pretty soon about sex with Ty. This leads to some rather disturbing sex scenes outside the main pairing, some of which were non-con, precariously close to rape.

Also, there were the so-called pets, kind of like sex slaves of either gender, who read like something right out of a not very realistic BDSM master/slave fantasy. While pets weren't mentioned in the beginning, they later seemed to be a required accessory for every bigwig and wannabe in the world of human traffickers. I must admit that I wouldn't know, since I don't have in-depth knowledge about human trafficking. But for this, I had to seriously suspend disbelief.

I didn't hate this book at all, I "only" had to many issues too really enjoy it. Despite my reservations, I'd give a tentative recommendation. As I said above, it's a very ambitious book with a challenging setting, dealing with equally daring topics, and I can very well fathom how people might overlook a lot of weaknesses for the emotional, unusual romance. Those who really hate over-explanation, repetitive telling and unlikeliness that pushes disbelief might rather want to wait for this author's next offer.

Read the full review at [reviewsbyjessewave.com](http://reviewsbyjessewave.com)

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• \* ° \*•**Gwendolyn**•°\*\*\*★°\*\*\*★ says

2.75 Stars

There is a point where you know a book is simply not for you. My breaking point was somewhere around 50%

Things that broke me.

1. The use of "pet" never my favorite, even for the greater good.
2. The concept of "sharing is caring" but, weirdly enough he was sweet afterwards to him. So I thought I could learn to like it. But...no...sadly I did not.
3. The writing, felt a little mechanical...I have no idea why? Maybe it was the theme. \*shrug\* dunno...but what I do know is this book was not for me.

do I hate the book, no...

1. The theme was pretty good.
2. The storyline was pretty good.
3. The MCs were still very much likable.

Nevertheless, this book, was just not for me :-(

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**Ayanna says**

Ehh...Not bad, I guess, but still...

It just doesn't seem really realistic to me. The characterization just seemed...incredibly off. And the entire thing just seems like a weird parallel universe (would anyone really pay with a thousand dollar bill?). And the prose is just stiff enough that the inconsistencies and weirdness in the characterization really stands out.

This seems like a not-as-good version of Mexican Heat to me, especially the random revelation thing towards the end-ish.

(view spoiler)

There doesn't seem to be any drama. It's rather dry. Heck, even the sex seemed dry to me.

I also kept getting the feeling that the author couldn't quite decide whether this was a parallel universe or not. I mean, of course all fiction is to some extent an alternate universe, but I feel like this one was a bit... more... The way they talked about the pets made it seem like a matter-of-fact part of life in general and not just in the little underworld whatever thing they got going on.

The lampshading of psychological issues from the sting op didn't do anything for me. There was nothing to really back it up; it felt like whatever psychoses the characters might have had were already in place well before the mission started. It also made it benignly melodramatic, and I didn't even think that would be possible.

It was...boring. I think about half way through, I had to fight the strong urge to ditch it and reread Mexican Heat again.

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### **Natalia says**

4.5 stars

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### **Mel Bradley says**

An undercover officer spends three months as a rent boy, just to get close to his biggest enemy – a human trafficker. He won't walk away from an assignment, especially one that means so much to him but soon he realizes that he could be in too deep. He enjoyed sex with his target more than he could forgive himself for – was he playing a role, or being played?

A very surprising and fast-paced read with so many unexpected twists and turns. I couldn't put this down as the relationship between Demetrius (the human trafficker), Ty/Gabriel (the undercover cop) and Lee (the bodyguard) evolved throughout. Each character had substantial weight and depth, and I found myself being sympathetic with the bad guy, more than I would have thought possible. The story and twists kept me on the edge of my seat and were unexpected – usually you can feel something coming, but not once did I know what would come next. I read this in one day, it was a real page-turner.

The sex was hot, dirty and plentiful, although not gratuitous. There were so many dimensions to their sexual

interactions that it greatly deepened their connection with each other, and also furthered the story significantly. This is a good read for experienced m/m readers or those looking for a quick-paced story with a lot of hot sex – be forewarned, this is not a typical love story and the sex is reflective of that.

Out of four...

Overall Read: ♥♥♥♥

Sex Heat: ♥♥♥♥

Plot: ♥♥♥

Almost a perfect score, this is a fantastic read! The only caution here, is to be prepared to fall a little in love with a criminal – but don't worry, you won't hate yourself for it in the end! Be sure to read it all the way to end for a few last-minute twists!

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### **Marc | Rainbow Gold Reviews says**

I listened to the audio book of this one and I must say, while it was mostly good, the laugh and simulated sex sounds the narrator immitated annoyed me so much that I made the audio book go faster (so the laughter was shorter) and might not have connected with the character (especially Dim) as much as I would have needed to to really root for them in this hard to swallow but well written tale. This book had many twists and turns and the reader didn't know until the very end what the real truth was. There were some logic holes, but it was a mostly very engaging plot. However, it was very dark and while encouraging interesting thoughts, it also made my stomach turn. I'm still not quite sure how to rate it, but I know that the great writing and interesting and twisty plot deserve at least 3 stars. Right now with the queasy feeling I got from the plot and my inability to really connect with Dim, I can't really give the story 4 stars, though. So I'm gonna award 3.49 stars, rounding down to 3. If you don't mind stories that seriously challenge the way you see the world and push your boundaries, you might wanna give this a try. Probably better to read it, though ...

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