



Revolutionary Temptation

Silvia Violet

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1777 New York City

The American colonists are fighting for their independence, but the battlefield is not the only place to wage war. When General Washington's head of intelligence asks Captain Jack West to spy on the British in New York, Jack agrees, despite reservations about this ungentlemanly pursuit.

Jack's contact in the city recruits bookshop owner Elias Ashfield, an impeccably dressed sensualist who flaunts his desire for both men and women and seeks a place in high society. Jack longs for a simple life guided by clear principles. Eli is a risk-taker who knows how to get what he wants. And he wants Jack in his bed.

Events in Jack's past have made him fearful of acting on his secret craving for a man's touch, but Eli intrigues Jack as much as he infuriates him. As Jack and Eli search for the information the rebel army needs, they realize there's more between them than mere lust. But finding a way to be together may prove more difficult than defeating the British Empire.

Words: 67,550.

Revolutionary Temptation Details

Date : Published January 17th 2017 by Silvia Violet Books (first published January 14th 2017)

ISBN :

Author : Silvia Violet

Format : Kindle Edition 254 pages

Genre : Historical, Romance, M M Romance, Historical Fiction, Historical Romance, M M Historical Romance

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From Reader Review Revolutionary Temptation for online ebook

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

Alright, let's do this thing!

There are a couple things that will be dealbreakers for some, so let's just get those out of the way so I can squeal, k?

Eli is bisexual. He makes no secret of enjoying both genders and he is a bit of a libertine. There is no MF on page sex but there are MF interactions. Readers who are sticklers for their MCs only sexing up the other MC will probably balk. I'm in the "they were on a break" camp in this Ross/Rachel debate or Eli/Jack, as it were, but there you have it.

Also, there is a considerable amount of push/pull between Jack and Eli which annoys me in contemporary reads, but when actual hanging is likely for one's sexual proclivities, I give latitude.

If I haven't lost you then let's get this party started!

This was my first experience with Silvia Violet and I am hooked! I've no idea if historicals are her usual fare, but this was SO GOOD and I tend to be persnickety when it comes to historicals. I get fussy if the verbiage and details get too lax. My goal is to immerse myself in the time period, in this case the American Revolutionary War and I did. If you're a fan of *TURN*, you should pick this up.

Eli is a dandy who owns a bookshop that also serves as a front for his smuggling business. Do not mistake him as superficial. There's more to him than meets the eye. He's an outgoing, genial, an opportunist, exceedingly observant and approaches life with gusto. Yes, he's a bit devil may care at times and once recruited as a rebel spy he plays the game fast and loose, but he's just so damn charming! It's hard to hold it against him. He's got any number of people willing to share his bed but relationships he shies away from. Until he meets Jack.

Jack is his opposite. Jack is honorable. He's honest to his core and the most basic, fundamental thing about himself he's forced to perpetually lie about, so he'd rather keep busy and to himself. He's harder to warm up to but his characterization was subtle, compelling and I ended up loving him and Eli equally. He's suffered a fairly severe leg injury which precludes him from the battlefield where he'd much rather be and puts him in New York under Constance Sullivan as a spy.

You catch the gender of that name? Yerp, Constance is at the top of the spy game food chain. She's sharp, canny and has a panache about her that draws people in-all the hallmarks of a master spy. Can I just say how much I love when women aren't portrayed as the catty/bitchy friend/ex/sibling/parent and/or shallow and vapid? Cuz I do. A lot.

Anywhat. Constance trains Jack who's a quick study and eventually they recruit Eli. The references to Washington, Hamilton, the rampant smuggling and how information was conveyed to the military were but part of why I loved this so much. I've said before how much I love thrillers but espionage and the inherent guessing game that brings gets my blood pumping and keeps me engaged. Marry that to historical accuracy, likeable characters and smart writing and I was glued to the kindle.

The character development was above reproach. They aren't infallible and that's what I like in my characters, makes them more relateable than the plastic people. The story is also nicely paced with a balanced division between the romance and espionage plot lines.

Lastly, **THE SEX!!!!!!**

"I want you to hold me down while you drive into me. I want you to wreck me."

squeaks

Eli and Jack like it **rough**. They also have dirty mouths and are a little kinky. The frantic need they have for each other was something I found **extremely** sexy. Seriously, I'm glad I was not in public when I read this because the gasping, grunting, squealing and pancake eyes surely would've landed me in the ER by some benevolent soul had I been.

The conflict and resolution were both believable and irresistible. Even Constance got an HFN! The entire narrative was like butter and the next thing I knew it was over. I am holding out hope that there will be a sequel because this was so gorgeous and also because I want to know who was in those woods. Either way I can envision rereading this in the future.

Recommend to historical and espionage fans.

A review copy was provided.

Eugenia says

Well....

Thank god. I finished the book. That's not what I should be thinking at the end of a book. That's what you say at the end of a long race, a tough work week; not at the end of a book.

I admit that I truly and sincerely liked the first third of this book. This is the reason for the three star rating, otherwise I would have rated this a 2.5. I felt that the writing was good, and the spy plot was intriguing. I

liked the tension between the two MCs. But once they got together, the plot fell away in favor of sex, sex, sex. I love sex in my romances as much as the next person, but when I find myself skimming through yet another melodramatic sex scene, well, then I know it's just a bit too much.

The balance of plot to sex was just way off. That's a pity, really, because this could have a very intriguing novel, and the author could have made the reader work for those lascivious scenes and then feel like they earned them. As it was, if I felt like I was at the bargain bin tossing about one worthless item after another.

I'd heard many good things about this book, too bad they didn't prove true for me.

Carra says

The only books I had read by Silvia Violet previously were her contemporary Thorne and Dash books, so I my interest was piqued when I saw this historical romance coming out. I was really pleased by what I got with Revolutionary Temptation, and I loved the mix of intrigue, romance and a bit of suspense. As an M/M story set during the fight for American independence, it also has the added tension of what might happen if our main characters are caught together.

Jack is more than willing to do what is needed for the rebel cause, even if what he must do is distasteful to him. He knows the importance of his mission, and is determined to do what is asked of him to help their cause. He's also very careful not to let his proclivities be known-even if that means denying himself. Thank goodness for Eli...who I absolutely loved. He's a bit flashier than Jack, more outgoing and has some secrets of his own. He's discreet-for the most part-but has no qualms about making his intentions known to Jack. The two can't help themselves around each other, and I liked watching them go basically from hookup to dalliance to falling for each other.

All of that is set against the backdrop of spying on the enemy during the revolution, making for a nice bit of tension and drama. There's also some society moments that balance out that drama, some of which can be a little tedious-but I find that to be the case in most every historical I read, mostly because I become impatient with all the proper manners and conversations.

I really enjoyed this story, and the last quarter of the book had me not wanting to put it down at all when the anxiety of what might happen to our rebel characters was heading for its peak. Revolutionary Temptation was a very solid 4-star read for me, and any fan of M/M historical romance will want to add this one to their library. This story is meant for readers 18+ for adult language (yes, even back then over 300 years ago) and M/M sexual content.

Amanda says

This is a story about the honorable Captain Jack West and the scoundrel Elias Ashfield. When Jack got his leg injured he was tasked to spy on the British, which he deemed the assignment totally humiliating. He rather face the bullet in a battle like a gentleman rather than spying on the enemies for information.

While working as a reluctant spy/informant, Jack met Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Elias. Mrs. Sullivan is a woman he grows to admire, while Mr. Elias proves to be a sinful temptation.

On the romance part, I felt that Jack and Elias lack the emotional connection. They seem to be attracted to each other simply because they met their fellow sodomite. They even sense each other inclination during the first meeting. On the professional front, they doesn't seem to get along and Jack keep resisting Elias blatant flirtation. But too many times, Jack just flip a switch and succumb to his desire without any build up. I'm also rather disappointed that I didn't get to see them being committed to each other. Jack is too much of a coward to form a relationship, while Elias did try to fight for them, but in the end he also decided to move on.

On thing I didn't expect is for this book to have an unresolved ending. The couple got a rather unsatisfying HFN and the war is nowhere near done. It sounds like there is more to Mrs. Sullivan, but since I read this because is a m/m, I'm not really invested in her character.

Lost in a Book says

4.5 Stars

RL is kinda cray-cray at the moment so a review isn't coming. This was a top notch historical romance with some angst and smokin' chemistry. Definitely enjoyed Jack and Eli together and had a great time being lost in the time period with the world the author built.

Thanks for the rec CC. <3

Donna says

Yes, I will admit... I love historicals! There, I have said it and I feel NO shame! *grin*

This was a story after my own heart! A "true" historical with a "true" gentlemen that just happens to desire men instead of women and a "not-so-true" scoundrel that will bed anything that moves if it will better his position in life... or, at least that is how it seems at the beginning of the story... but, things are not always what they seem! There are many tangents taken in Eli and Jack's relationship... duty to country, information to be gathered just to name a couple. Living in this time is such a hardship for our two heroes (but they are not the only heroes in this story... women were rocking this spy business also!) with the unrest of the Revolutionary War around them and their duty to their country and the fact that their being together was a hanging offense... not a good time at all! One thing we learned from this story is that evil wears many faces and that our enemies can sometimes be our greatest allies... hmmmm...

Even though I am in the minority when it comes to those of us that love historical M/M stories, I read them every chance I get and then run on and on about how great they are... I apologize for you having to suffer through my gushing comments... but such is life! *grin*

CrabbyPatty says

The setting of this book intrigued me - a network of spies in NYC over the winter of 1776-1777 socializing with British officers to discover information on troop movements for General Washington. As Jack, Eli and wealthy widow Constance Sullivan set about unearthing information, each character deals with multiple layers of deception. **Jack West** is gay at a time in history when it was extremely dangerous (and his past serves as a horrible reminder of this) and while Jack keeps his desires close to the vest, he knows that his attraction to bisexual **Elias Ashfield** will not end well. Eli, on the other hand, is a risk taker and almost enjoys flaunting his sexual exploits but he, too, has a lot of emotional baggage. **Constance Sullivan**'s husband was a British supporter while her allegiance lies with the Americans, but can she depend on her clandestine lover?

I liked the general plot but personally needed more than a few tidbits of information to frame the time period, and some scenes (especially in the first half of the book) seemed stilted as they are comprised of short conversations with little other details. Once Jack and Eli become lovers their relationship deepens as they slowly reveal their pasts and we get a better sense of what drives each man. Silvia Violet knows how to write a steamy sex scene (and this book contains several very hot ones), but at times I feel Jack and Eli were two contemporary characters placed into a historical rather than men of the era with beliefs and attitudes that reflected their time.

There were several similar scenes of parties with Jack, Eli and Constance teasing information out of British officers which slowed down the pace of the story a bit, but the ending was suspenseful as the spies race to save one of their own and make some unusual alliances. *AND extra bonus points for Alexander Hamilton's brief cameo!*

My rating is 3.5 stars but I realize that my comments about historical background and attitudes of the characters may not be a factor for other readers. Silvia Violet says she has more stories to tell about Jack, Eli and Constance and I'm looking forward to reading them to see how/if Jack and Eli craft their relationship in a dangerous time, and as all the characters work to help win the War for Independence.

I received an ARC from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

Shandra says

Historical romance has always been a favorite of mine since it was the first "naughty" reads I ever indulged in. I have to admit I did always want stories about gentlemen finding love with other gentlemen though I never found them when I was young and curious. As a queer woman, I love reading about love between people like myself throughout the ages; I don't need history to be compromised for the sake of my enjoyment which is why I am so glad Silvia Violet writes fiction where it's dangerous to be together yet the benefit is found to be worth the risk.

Revolutionary Temptation has a fantastic background in the American Revolution with plenty of intrigue to

keep everything fascinating while the two main protagonists work out how they intend to work out their feelings for one another. I was captivated by the wickedness of Eli, charmed by the honor of Jack, and thoroughly thrilled by the unrepentant resourcefulness of Constance. I sincerely hope Constance gets a book or a short of her own because she and her Major Bradford completely deserve their own Happy-Ever-After.

There's lots of spying to go with the romantic entanglements. I enjoyed the addition of the details regarding the status of the troops of the rebel forces. I'd recommend Revolutionary Temptation to anyone who enjoys books written about Historical Americas, not only fans of M/M romance. If you ordinarily wouldn't take a chance on a historical yet are a fan of queer romance? I'd definitely say give this one a try. I doubt you'll regret it. To give the book credit where it's due, I borrowed the book through the Kindle lending program then bought it for my permanent collection because I know I'll read it again and I can't wait for the sequel to come out in February 2018!

Heather says

As a lover of historicals, I can honestly say that I absolutely LOVED Revolutionary Temptation! The detail to the time really heightened an already great story of drama and love. Jack is wary of his inclination, with good reason, and Eli is not. Eli may not flaunt his lifestyle for all to see, it is a dangerous time to be gay afterall, but he also doesn't restrict his wants and he's certainly not as quiet as Jack thinks he should be. When they find themselves brought together for the cause of freedom from the British, well, lets just say nothing is ever the same for either of them again. Throw in Constance Sullivan, their boss in the New York spy ring, and you have an intriguing tale of love, espionage, freedom, that adds up to a wonderful read with just the right amount of angst and a little humor thrown in for good measure. A great addition to my historical library that I'm already looking forward to re-reading.

?♥? Michaelle & ♥? says

Re-read June 2017

I think I liked it better the second time around. For certain I hope this comes out in an audio version.

4.5 Stars

I'm so glad I started reading more historical gay romance novels, otherwise I might have missed out on this gem. Color me beyond impressed with the tale and with the details. Also, fuckyeah for a strong, competent, amazing female spy leader; Constance was probably my favorite part.

SV also mentioned in the afterward that she has more stories to tell of Jack, Eli and Constance and I cannot WAIT to read them.

Adam says

An MM romance set in the midst of the American Revolution.

Jack and Eli are complete opposites.

Jack is an officer in the Continental Army. He's reserved and suppresses his attraction to men.

Eli is an up-and-coming socialite and a patriot sympathizer. He's hedonistic and goes after who he wants, man or woman.

When the two are thrown together in a plot to gain intelligence on the British forces, they immediately clash. But there's also an immediate attraction between them.

Eli's seduction of Jack is slow and calculated. And when Jack finally gives in, it's **hot**.

While they're getting busy in the bedroom, the two also busy collecting intel for the patriots. I thought this aspect of the plot was very entertaining. There's a feeling of suspense throughout the book as Eli and Jack get closer to vital information.

Also, I really liked the spymaster, Constance Sullivan, a cunning upper-class widow. She was a total badass.

Eventually things come to a head, and it forces Jack and Eli to decide what they really want and what they're willing to give up. These two don't make it easy at all. Jack is afraid to commit for fear of being discovered, while Eli has a tendency to lash out when hurt.

But they do eventually get their happy ending. It takes a lot of work, but it's well deserved. By the end, I had no doubt that Eli and Jack would make it in the long-run.

If you're looking for a unique MM historical romance that delivers in romance, hot sex, and political intrigue, I'd definitely recommend 'Revolutionary Temptation'!

Cadiva says

This is a great historical which looks at the Culper Spy Ring established by Washington during the Revolutionary war in the late 1700s.

It very much reminded me of TURN: Washington's Spies, an excellent TV show which is also based on the same subject.

Although the characters in this are fictitious, the events they centre around were very much real in the turbulent time of the 13 Colonies trying to break free from British rule.

I liked that in this there are no good and bad, both sides act in the manner in which you'd expect in a time of war, with honour and cruelty alongside each other.

The characters are engaging and Jack and Elias are wonderfully drawn and fully fleshed out men with radically different morals and methods of behaviour. Their relationship is fraught with tensions but neither man can deny their passion either.

There are also wonderfully strong and resourceful female characters, again based on real life people, and it

was a delight to read about how they were as important as their male counterparts in the Colonies efforts for independence.

The cover is absolutely beautiful, although Jack perhaps is drawn a little older than he is in the book, but it wonderfully depicts the strengths of each man.

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

Trio says

I really enjoyed that one. I'm not a huge fan of historicals but Silvia Violet definitely pulls it off. Eli and Jack are great together, and the way she handles the whole issue about being gay back in the 1700's was really well done.

The spying/war time part of the novel is very interesting and shares the spotlight with the gorgeous sex scenes I expect from Violet (you won't be disappointed, believe me).

Thankfully I didn't start this one till I had *Of Hope and Anguish* in my hot little hands. I wouldn't say that *Revolutionary Temptation* ends in a cliffy *exactly* but it is clear that the story continues from here. I've got an ARC and no moss will be growing on that one, that's for sure!

I wonder if Constance will get her own book...?

Becca Waldrop says

Im not always a fan of historical books, mostly because they get so boring. And it saddens me because I love history. But this was one hell of a book. Set in Washington's time when the rebels are trying to overcome the British. When sodomy was a hanging offense. It's got thrills add chills, betrayals, offenses. Keeps you interested on every page!

Svenja says

I really liked this. Can't wait for more of these characters.
