



Scoundrel

Zoe Archer

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London Harcourt jumps at the chance to join her father on a voyage to the Greek isles, where she meets Bennett Day. Day is a ladies' man, when he's not dodging lethal attacks to protect the powers of the ancients from men like London's father, who wants to subjugate the world's magic to British rule.

Scoundrel Details

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From Reader Review Scoundrel for online ebook

Catherine says

4.5 Stars

This was an *excellent* follow up to the fabulous first book, Warrior. I was pretty stoked about that, because it gives me confidence about how the rest of the series will turn out! Sometimes an author just cannot live up to how excellent the first book in a series is, and it is such a disappointment to the reader. That's not the case here!

I think the author made an exceedingly smart choice by moving the location of this book. We aren't in Mongolia with this one, we're in Greece and the islands nearby. I loved the Mongolian scenery, but by having this one in Greece I didn't even have the slightest urge to stop and compare it to the first book.

We didn't get quite the same sense of culture and information about Greece that we did about Mongolia in the first book, but that's understandable. The characters were on a ship for most of the book and weren't visiting the islands enough to give a well developed sense of the people there. We did get a glimpse of them now and then, but they did feel more like scenery than full robust characters.

I really liked getting to watch the romance between the secondary characters on the ship. We didn't actually dwell on their relationship from their pov, we just got to watch it from Bennett and London's pov. I liked that because I never felt that it took away time from London and Bennett's relationship (as I sometimes do with secondary romances that have half of the book devoted to them) but I did look forward to a glimpse of their relationship progress now and then. I loved that they felt necessary to the book even if it wasn't their story. I especially enjoyed watching Athena come into her own with her powers. It was really nice getting a glimpse of someone who has gifts that they were born with. Although I do still wonder about Bennett's affinity with shadows...

I really enjoyed watching London move past her initial restrictions. Not only was she the daughter of the enemy trying to fit in with a group who hates her family, she was raised as the traditional delicate English rose. She didn't have adventures and she didn't know how to take care of herself in a fight. It was nice that she wasn't magically a Xena-like character right out of the gate. I enjoyed watching her become someone stronger and more confident in herself. I also liked watching the joy and verve she had for every new experience she came across. Here was a girl who had longed for *life* and finally she got a taste of it.

I really enjoyed the initial struggle and anger London had over the reveal of Bennett's past with her. It added some much appreciated tension. I also enjoyed watching Bennett circle around her trying to find a way to insert himself into her regard. He wanted her to look at him and see someone she wanted to spend time with. I also really liked that London did not cast aside the life that she had known at the drop of a hat. I found her behavior much more realistic and interesting than if she had known Bennett for five minutes and believe him right away. Then I would have just thought she was an idiot!

Bennett was such a fun character! I really enjoyed being in his head. Just like with the first book, his internal dialogue kept me giggling. I really enjoyed his life outlook. He was such an in the moment guy. I don't mean that he didn't have the ability to think long term, I mean that he could take pleasure from the little things that he encountered daily. He didn't need much to stay happy.

I really felt for both of the characters when they had that discussion about what love meant to them. I liked that London wasn't willing to settle for less in the long term, but didn't dismiss his view as foolish. She never dismissed his belief, she just made it clear that it didn't mean the same thing to her. My heart broke for them later when he kept saying something and she kept ignoring it. (vague on purpose to avoid spoilers!) Then when they talked about the "monkey hats..." I couldn't help but sigh. :)

The only reason I gave this .5 stars less than the first one was because I wanted a bit more struggle on Bennett's part winning London. Where I loved the first one for its lack of drama, I really would have appreciated a bit more here. I just felt that everything came easily to Bennett and I would have enjoyed watching him work for it more. Like he did when she was ticked at him on the ship originally. He kept sticking a hand out hoping for her to give him an opening and she just kept slapping it away.

Other than that tiny little niggle I enjoyed the book immensely! I can't wait to get my hands on Rebel!

Audrey says

Okay, I turned the page and saw two pages that contained a total of four paragraphs (two paragraphs on each page). Seriously? I can only take so much description, author.

This book gets the inaugural spot on my brand spankin' new "not-now-maybe-never" shelf. So...as I enter "don't finish a book you don't think you'll like" rehab, I am *deep breath* setting this one aside. *sobs* It's so hard to break my typical MO of always *always* finishing a book, but as so many people have pointed out, there are just too many out there to put the effort into reading something you think will require "effort" as opposed to "pleasure."

I said it in one of my status updates, and I'll say it again here: I'm not sure if Archer's writing style is for me. I like her voice generally from both main characters' POVs, but I don't appreciate her descriptions and setting. They just aren't interesting enough to merit the number of words she dedicates to them.

That pretty much sums it up. She's not a bad writer, and the "Blades of the Rose" world isn't terrible. It just isn't interesting enough for me to sift through pages of unimpressive description to get to the story.

AH says

That was fun!

Bring on the popcorn, cue the *Indiana Jones* theme music, and let the adventure begin! *Scoundrel* brings to mind those action/adventure movies I loved as a child. It's a cross between the Indiana Jones movies and those old Sinbad movies – remember those? They had really bad special effects but were oh, so fun.

Scoundrel is a combination of a treasure hunt and a race to protect these special artifacts called Sources. The Source objects are protected by a secret dedicated group of men and women in an organization called the Blades of the Rose. An equally secret and powerful group called the Heirs of Albion wishes to collect these objects and exploit them for the glory of England.

Set in the very sunny and romantic Greek Isles in the 1870's, our story begins in Athens where Bennett Day, a serial womanizer and a Blade is running away from an angry husband. The chase takes him through the city of Athens where he runs into the lovely and recently widowed London Harcourt. A chance meeting and Bennett is attracted to her, especially her archeological knowledge.

And so the attraction begins – slowly.

I loved this book. I enjoyed every moment. The main characters were interesting. How many women were educated in ancient languages in the 1870's? I'm guessing not many. Not only is our heroine London well versed in these ancient languages, she is also brave and independent. I found the chemistry between London and Bennett wonderful. There was such a slow burn to this relationship. At times, I thought that the two of them would burst into flames, they were that hot.

I loved that our main characters traveled from island to island in a small sailing ship. Sailing ship, Greek Islands, how romantic is that? They are accompanied by Athena, a witch and Kallas the captain. Athena and Kallas have a love/hate relationship that is very entertaining.

London's father was an absolutely horrible man. His anachronistic ideas about women were his downfall.

I enjoyed the magic in this book. The description of Athena battling the Chernock the Heir sorcerer was amazing. The addition of mythological creatures made the story come alive. Cattullus Graves' inventions were extremely clever. I especially liked the folding glider wings. Very handy.

I'm looking forward to reading *Rebel* next.

Keri says

This book was even better than the first one and I didn't think that would be possible. What I love about these stories is that we don't have silly fighting between our h/h. Instead we get them forming a strong and loving team in which to fight against evil.

These books are kind of like the Indiana Jones series except with a lot more romance and sex. Again Ms. Archer has given us two strong personalities that really work well together. I really liked Bennett and London as a couple. I am looking forward to the next one in the series.

♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

***** 5 ~ "Monkeys in hats" ~ Stars *****

This was a bit sci-fi-ish/paranormal? I don't know how to classify other than ...

IT WAS AWESOME.

I LOVED IT.

WHERE HAS THIS BEEN HIDING?!?!

The story is about Bennett, a cryptographer and consummate ladies man who is a member of a secret organization called the Blades of the Rose (they dedicate their lives to finding and protecting magical Sources from those wishing to use it against humanity), and London, a self taught linguist and English miss thrust into a dangerous war between good and evil. This was packed with flawlessly descriptive passages that painted the world Zoe Archer has created vividly. It had all the elements of a great story - humor, action, mystery, great characters, an imaginative plot and an epic love story.

I loved reading this. I enjoyed the adventure aspect, the magical elements, and even though Bennett had a history as a man who enjoyed his women, I found him to be entertaining, honest, and it didn't take me long to fall for him. Now, normally a connoisseur of ladies, like Bennett, do not score very high with me, but Bennett did a complete 180 as soon as his eyes caught sight of London.

Still, it was hard to forget her, even harder to ignore that strange, vivid moment when his fingers had touched her hand. In all his years, after countless encounters with a vast array of women, Bennett couldn't recall ever having so visceral, so immediate a reaction to touching a woman. And it had gone beyond the physical, too. A sudden profound connection with no known origin other than something in his body that recognized her, knew and needed her.

He wasn't your typical player, Bennett just loved women. He loved all types of women and he wasn't callous, disrespectful or disparaging towards them. He genuinely cared for them, in his own way. He was a handsome guy who lived day to day. He was charming and seductive and carefree. Although he fought himself and denied deeper, more lasting feelings for London, it wasn't long before he caved.

And London, she was his perfect match. Smart, brave and so ready to live and love. I liked her from the very first. It was hard to resist her brand of magic.

"When I am with the man I love, 'everything else' will disappear. I'll see only him. He will be the person I want to share everything with. If I am walking alone and I see something beautiful, like a wildflower poking up from the pavement, or something ridiculous, like a monkey in a hat, I will rush to tell him these things. And in the dark of night, he alone is who I will want beside me, and I'll listen to him breathe in sleep and I shall put my hand upon him and hope he dreams of me, for I couldn't bear even a moment apart from him."

She was a blend of sheltered innocent and daring adventurer. She is the type of heroine I instantly connect with, because she's everything you'd want to be - courageous, independent and strong. It was a blast to see her go from fragile to kick ass. In the end, someone so awesome deserves getting everything her heart desired and I think Bennett definitely gave it his all - even if it did take him a few dense moments to realize it, Lol! It took a while, but the wait was worth it.

"Monkeys in hats," he said again, with a growing heat. "That's what I mean when I say, 'I love you.' I mean that you're the woman I need beside me, all day, every day. I mean that I can't imagine my life without you. I mean that when you hurt, it feels like a knife in me, cutting me from the inside out. I mean that I hate the idea of anyone but me touching you. Just the thought makes me want to kill. I mean that I hate the idea of me touching anyone but you. I meant that when I see a goddamn monkey wearing a goddamn hat, I want to tell you about it. You and no one else."

Needless to say, I was left with no doubt in my mind/heart that he was in love with London. That she was special, significant and the *ONLY ONE* when it came to his love - he was committed to her in mind, body and soul and I loved that. Not only did he give me that moment when he proved his love was forever but he

was also damn alpha about it :)

"I don't care what words anyone uses . . . Use the words of all the languages you know. Or make some up. Doesn't matter. What matters is that I want to be with you forever. only you.

This was a five star read for me because I know this story and these awesome characters will live in my memories and every once in a while, I'll remember monkeys in hats, or recall a snippet of a scene about sea strumpets and I'll find myself hunting down this book and sitting down to a nice comfortable re-read.

This is part of a series but can be read as a stand alone. Ends with a HEA and doesn't have Cheating. (view spoiler)

Shawna says

5+ stars – Paranormal Romance

This is another kick-ass read in the awesome, wildly entertaining *The Blades of the Rose* series that's an intriguing, unique blend of Victorian-era historical and paranormal. **Scoundrel** is an exciting combination of action, adventure, magic, mystery, treasure hunting, seafaring, dangerous intrigue, humor, and steamy romance with an exotic Greek setting and fabulous characters.

It reads like a thrilling action-adventure movie that grabbed my attention from the very first page and never let go. I *loved* it! I didn't think the series could get any better than *Warrior*, but I enjoyed this just as much. And that's largely because of sexy, shameless Scoundrel hero, Bennett Day, who's just to die for yummy.

Bennett Day loves the ladies. As an agent for The Blades of the Rose, a secret society dedicated to protecting the world's magic sources from the evil Heirs who seek to obtain and abuse them for their own gain and power, his primary duty is always to the mission. But if all in a days work, the success of an operation should happen to involve getting under a woman's skirt and petticoats or seducing a married woman to obtain vital information? Well, then that's just gravy. The notorious ladies' man has always been able to keep things carefree, easy, and aloof when it comes to women he's attracted, seduced, and/or bedded, but then again, Bennett's never encountered a woman like London Harcourt before.

The womanizing adventurer finally meets his match in intelligent, spirited widow London and finds himself strangely and completely captivated by her. It's too bad that she's the daughter of a top member of the Blades sworn enemy, the Heirs. Now it's up to Bennett and some of his Blade allies to convince expert linguist London to help them translate an ancient dialect in order to find a magical source that's hidden somewhere in the Greek isles before the Heirs find and use it for their evil aims.

Bennett is a flirtatious, affable, and charming adventure seeker who plays the part of devil-may-care scoundrel, rake, rogue, wastrel, and libertine proudly and with debonair ease. He and London share an explosive attraction and magnetic chemistry that turns into a wildly passionate affair in the midst of exploration and danger. He's certain that he'll eventually be able to move on easily when things cool down, like he always does. But when Bennett and London traverse the perilous waters of emotion, will he still be able to play the unaffected scoundrel? *Whew...*the scenes between these two are intense, fun, and smokin'

HOT!

And Bennett? He had me melting and swooning as if I'd been baking out under the blazing Greek sun all day. And I really liked that much of the story is told from Bennett's POV because his internal thoughts flat-out cracked me up. He's sexy, fun, infectiously cheerful, witty, wickedly charming, protective, strong, honest, and courageous, and when he realizes and declares his feelings...it's utterly romantic, sweet, and sigh-worthy.

There's also a great side romance between quirky secondary characters, witch Athena and sea captain Kallas, whose constant bickering masks an underlying attraction and simmering sexual tension that they fight like hell to ignore but eventually comes to a boil.

If you like romance with lots of action and adventure, humor, steamy love scenes, a smart, plucky heroine, and a to die for, scoundrel hero with a heart of gold, then don't miss this highly enjoyable read! Big 5 stars!

Here's my casting for "Scoundrel" Bennett Day:

Lisa Kay says

caique (Greek fishing boat)

★★★★½ Loved this one. Why did I wait so long to continue this second in the *Blades of the Rose* series? It is a wonderful paranormal-romance action-adventure set in a stunning local: Greece! I enjoy a good "road trip" story, and this is one that takes place on the ocean. Seems to me to have more romance this time around than the first one did, or is that just my imagination? There's certainly magic in the air, as well as on the sea. A delight!

I was as enchanted with the heroine, London, coming awake and aware of the world, as much as with the superhero, Bennett, realizing there really *can* be just one woman for him, especially if it is London. Bennett sure painted himself into a corner with his philosophy on the "three little words" and it was neat to see how Ms. Archer was going to get him out of it. Here is a hint: (view spoiler) Regardless, here are more pictures of the beauty that pertains to this story:

The narrow streets of Athens, Greece, where we first meet Bennett Day, ladies man extraordinaire, recreating his own version of the Olympics.

[image error]

Poseidon's Temple

(Credit: by madux)

Temple of Hephaistos #1
(Credit: by logios)

Ancient agora, Athens.
[image error]

Monastiraki Square, Athens, Old Mosque in marketplace.

"Portara", the emblem of Naxos, overlooks the port's entrance on the Palatia islet. Built on such a site which stares at the sacred island of Delos.
(Credit: Portara Naxos by nbournas)

Demeter: Greek goddess of harvest, grain, fertility of the earth, the sanctity of marriage, the sacred law, and the cycle of life and death. (view spoiler)

dolphins
[image error]

sea Nereid

Drawing of Colossus of Rhodes, (considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World), illustrated in the Grolier Society's 1911 Book of Knowledge.

Looking forward to reading the next in the series:

Suzanne (Under the Covers Book blog) says

In the second of the Blades of the Rose series, we see Bennett Day, the charming scoundrel, in a race across the seas with the Heirs of Albion to try and find a powerful source and keep it out of the Heirs hands. However, the only person who can read the ancient writings leading to the source is London Harcourt, the widow of a man he has killed, daughter to Joseph Edgworth the leader of the Heirs and the woman he cannot get out of his mind...

This was another great book in the cover, with another great bookcover to match! It had plenty of adventure, magic and romance. I really liked the chase across the highseas in this one and loved the storyline and following the clues to the source, however I preferred the romance in Warrior. I think this is more personal preference rather than one being better than the other. The romance in this one was more declarative and personally I got bored about hearing about London's courage and thirst for life! But I did like both the main characters of Bennett and London. Bennett was a charming and loveable rake who finally finds a woman that he is willing to devote his life and body to, and London has finally found an outlet for her curious and thrill

seeking spirit after a lifetime of being repressed by her conservative father.

Scoundrel also has a secondary romance in it, with the beautiful and proud Athena, another member of the Blades and a witch and the earthy Kallo's, the ships captain. I love a secondary romance in the story and although there wasn't that much page time spent on this, it was told through London and Bennett's perception, I still enjoyed watching it unfold.

This book is also written really well, although I found it could be wordy and some of her sentences didn't quite flow correctly, over all she paints a beautiful and intriguing world of magic and the quest of the Blades.

So after reading the second book in this series I would definitely recommend this to any fans of romance, especially if they are looking for something a bit different to read.

The best and most original way to "I love you":

"I monkeys in hats you, too."

Bennett Day:

London Harcourt:

Quinn says

Now *that's* what I'm talking about! *Scoundrel* was the experience I was hoping and expecting to have with *Warrior*. What a relief to know that there's nothing wrong with me after all! Now, I can completely understand the hype for this series. Loved. It. I may even consider joining the fangirl ranks if the next book hits me like this one did.

Before I go any further, if there's anyone reading this review who, like me, was a little underwhelmed by *Warrior*, give the series another chance with this book. I complained in my review of *Warrior* that the book just didn't grab me. Well *Scoundrel* grabbed me with both hands, gave me a good shake, and didn't let go.

I also had some vague concerns about the pacing and narration of *Warrior*, but there was nothing vague about my complete and utter enjoyment of this novel, and the pace was absolutely perfect.

Blades of the Rose agent Bennett Day is dedicated to keeping the world's magical Sources from the hands of the nefarious Heirs. That the cause provides him with action, adventure, excitement and danger on a daily basis is a very happy bonus. The fact that seducing women can sometimes get him the information or results he needs – well that's just the icing on the cake.

Yes, Bennett is a scoundrel, and he loves every minute of it.

London Harcourt is the daughter of one of the Heir's leaders. Being a woman, she has never been made privy

to the work of her father and late husband, also an Heir and killed by the Blades of the Rose. Her life has been one of repression, first by her father, and then by her husband.

When London's secretly self-taught linguistic skills become essential to the success of one the Heir's missions, London discovers the truth about her family and herself. Despite the fact that they are potential enemies, Bennett and London cannot deny their fierce attraction to each other, and soon find themselves on the adventure of a lifetime through the Greek Isles.

Scoundrel is the perfect adventure romance, with the adventure and romance elements perfectly balanced and immensely satisfying. This book grabbed my attention from the very first page and never let go.

Bennett was a wonderful hero. I absolutely adored him with his devil-may-care attitude. He was honest and upfront about his reputation and intention to continue as something of a ladies man, believing himself incapable of committing to just one woman. I really appreciated his honesty with London. He determined that London should leave the richer for having known him, and he allowed her the freedom to discover and be herself, guiding and encouraging her along the way.

Seeing London find her wings was a pleasure to witness. I shared in her joy of her long denied freedom and it was wonderful to watch her finally living and breathing unstifled life. Her pleasure was infectious, and her adventurous spirit once uncovered was a perfect fit to Bennett. And watching him fall was just... *sigh* Even better, we didn't have to wait 'til the last page.

I'm really looking forward to Rebel, because this book.... Monkeys in hats.

K. says

Trigger warnings: Super controlling parent, torture

3.5 stars.

Okay, here's the thing. I really like the stories in this series. They're set in fun locations. The magic system is super cool. The female characters are badassess. The male characters are...ridiculous, but they're always respectful of the badassery of their love interests. The villains are a little one dimensional, but you can't have it all.

Where this series falls flat for me is the romances and the sex scenes. Don't get me wrong, I think there's a great dynamic between the characters. But the sex scenes are SO CHEESY and questionably written.

I knew it wasn't going to be great when on their second encounter, London is asleep in her tent and Bennett sneaks in and watches her sleep and thinks "I could totally wake her up with sex right now". BRO. THAT IS RAPE. BACK RIGHT THE FUCK OFF. And, like, I get that he's meant to be a cad and a scoundrel. But noooooooooooooope.

So yeah. The sex scenes were laughable (especially the part where his dick left "a trail of moisture" up the inside of her thigh, which just made me think of a snail), but the actual story? Pretty stinking fun.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

With Scoundrel, Ms. Archer takes us adventure-loving romantics on a splendid journey around the Aegean Sea on the hunt for mystical treasure. Readers who enjoy Indiana Jones will get a kick out of this book, with its very real magic and a dash of steampunk-like adventure.

London is an admirable heroine. Despite the way she was raised, she wants to live her life, and have something grand to contribute. It took a lot of courage for her to break free from her family's expectations and restrictions, to realize that she was essentially orphaning herself. I loved that she was three-dimensional. She is both beautiful and intelligent. She is womanly and strong. What she isn't good at, she strives to improve. While loving a man like Bennett was a huge risk, she took the chance.

Bennett isn't my favorite type of hero. While I love a dangerous and edgy hero, I just don't have a taste for womanizers. I did like that though Bennett doesn't have a problem with loving and leaving women, he really does respect women and cherish them in his somewhat shallow way. When London comes into his life, he learns what saying "I love you" truly means. She doesn't force him to change. Instead, his love for her changes his feelings about his life with one woman in it. I liked how courageous Bennett was and his exploits help to make this book incredibly fun and exciting.

The romance between Bennett and London was good, but it's hard to me to get excited about a supposedly dead end/finite relationship in which sex is the main component. With that expectation that nothing would come of their time together except some good sex and companionship, I felt kind of sad for Bennett and London. What I did like was that each time they came together, it got harder for Bennett to hang onto his beliefs about love and forever afters.

I liked the secondary love story between Athena and Kallas. They challenged each other in pivotal ways and forced each other to reevaluate their own preconceived notions.

I like this world of magic where each culture has objects that are vital to them. There are a few 'wow' scenes in this book that I ate up. Let me say that if you are a Greek Mythology geek, you will too.

This book has some interesting things to say about Imperialism, the belief that one nation should forcibly ensure their superiority over others. I can't get behind that, even if I do have my share of patriotism simmering within. I could understand how Bennett and London and some of the other English Blades must have felt.

All in all, a very good book. While Bennett isn't my favorite hero in this series so far, I did like him. He was fun and exciting. He knows how to kick butt and he showed how much he did love London in the end.

Looking forward to the next two books, Rebel and Stranger, particularly my geeky darling, Catullus!

~Megan~ says

I monkey in hats this series!!!

I enjoyed Warrior so much, and was a little worried Scoundrel couldn't live up to it, but it completely did. Bennett was a super sexy hero, and I loved London's strength and determination. She was no wilting flower heroine.

This book/series is filled with magic and adventure, and it's really so different from anything out there right now. It's paranormal with a lighthearted twist. So many paranormal series get bogged down in drama and intensity, and while these books definitely have their dramatic moments, it never takes itself too seriously. Where Warrior was an Indiana Jones type tale set in the desert, Scoundrel was a swashbuckling adventure on the seas.

I loved the secondary romance with Athena and Kallus. I'm excited to read the next book about the exiled Astrid. She has a very sad backstory, so it should be an emotional story. I hope we get to see more Cattalus Graves, whom I love, in the next book! I'm happy to see he has his own happy ending in the fourth book.

Can't recommend this series enough!

Kathleen says

LOVED IT! I must say that Scoundrel did amaze me. Someone should make these book's into movie. Of course they would have to tame the heat down LOL.

Once again Zoe Archer has used her wonderful imagination in this book too. She wove a great story with love, magic and honor. This book was exciting from beginning to end. Non stop action with fantastic characters. I have no doubt in my mind that I will continue on with the next book, Rebel.

Beanbag Love says

Four and a half stars rounded up.

I liked this installment in the "Blades of the Rose" series better than the previous. "Warrior" was very good, but this one captured my attention earlier and kept it longer. I really enjoyed the action and the romance -- it was an excellent mix.

The leads are great. Bennet is an unrepentant ladies' man and London is just finding her way in a totally new world. Their chemistry was very apparent and they were an engaging couple throughout. I did skim through some of the sex scenes ... sorry ... but the romance outside of the sack was what was the most compelling.

My one complaint about the series is the presentation of the villains. They're part of a group called "The Heirs" and they're out for the glory of England. Um. And? They say they work for the government, but is their work government sanctioned? It's hard to tell. And what of the other nationalities that have similar groups that have been referenced? Why are the Blades never running into any of them? They're all after the same "sources", right? For all the specificity regarding the "sources" I feel like the villains are left fairly vague. Seems lazy, especially when compared to the amazing detail of the rest of the narrative.

In any case, this installment is really enjoyable. I have the bundle so I've already got the next two on deck and I'll be getting to them in due time. With bundles it's hard not to just turn the page and continue on, but

I've managed to stick with Dina's Rules.

I recommend this series to people who like adventure romance. It's highly entertaining, has unique settings and a bit of paranormal. Some have likened it to Indiana Jones and I think that fits. Enjoy.

Rane says

I didn't think it would be possible for this series to get any better, but Zoe Archer proved me wrong with Scoundrel. Everything that made Warrior great only made Scoundrel better. The more ZA builds this world of The Blades of the Rose; the need to want to know more just keeps growing.

This time around the setting is Greece and their islands, while it didn't go as in depth as Warrior did in the culture, it turned out to be done very well, with most of the story revolving around island jumping and the rag tag team racing against time and the evil Heirs in order to protect the magical Source.

As the world of The Blades of the Rose grows with each book, we learned more about types of magical Sources, because of the ancient language that surrounds the recent Source, Lord Edgeworth and the heirs go against their own rules to involved women in their matters-asks London Edgeworth Harcourt her help decode some artifacts, London is the dark of what her father and the Heirs are really about, until she runs into Bennett Day and the Blades, whom turn her world around and open her eyes to more than magic. I'll be honest, I didn't total care for London when I first read about her. She seem smart but stuck in a golden cage, slowly though I grew to really love her, and her enjoyment of just being free and life away from under her father's thumb. London truly blossom into a strong woman no scared of life, but willing to embrace everything that came her way.

Bennett Day, ah be still my beating heart. Bennett Day just gone and stole my heart! Bennett is a Scoundrel, a pain in the butt and just a lot of fun, and if you don't fall in love with him, well there's no doubt, he'll have you head over heels for him in no time. The glimpse we got of him in Warrior was just a piece of the daredevil, who loves adventure, protecting magical sources and the ladies, and if his missions leads him to have all three, well good for him! Bennett wasn't some torture hero, loved life and everything it held. At times this made him a little shallow with his feelings toward women, but that was Bennett and when he finally gives his heart, he gives his fully and wholehearted. It's really cute and sexy how hard both London and Bennett fall for one another, both even each other out, Bennett gives London the freedom and acceptance she always craved, while London grounds Bennett and gives him the steady rock in the world whirl he may get stuck in.

The secondary romance also gave us another view of a growing romance between Athena a witch and Kallus the captain of their small boat. The only really slip I had with the book is how quickly London went from hate to love for Bennett whom was a suppose foe of the heirs and her family. This was just a blip in overall amazing book, and really just overlooked it and continued to enjoy this book. The story moves quickly with London dealing with her father's actions and Bennett dealing with his new found love for London, with the action and the yummy sexy parts keeping the reader wondering what's going to happen next, and ZA does an amazing job of keeping the reader guessing.

ZA wraps up everything so nicely with the evil guys getting theirs and how the Blades win another battle, but there's still some battles left to fight, leaving the reader waiting and wanting the next book as quickly as possible! I know for a fact this Blade of the Rose fangirl can't wait for the next installment to this amazing

series!
