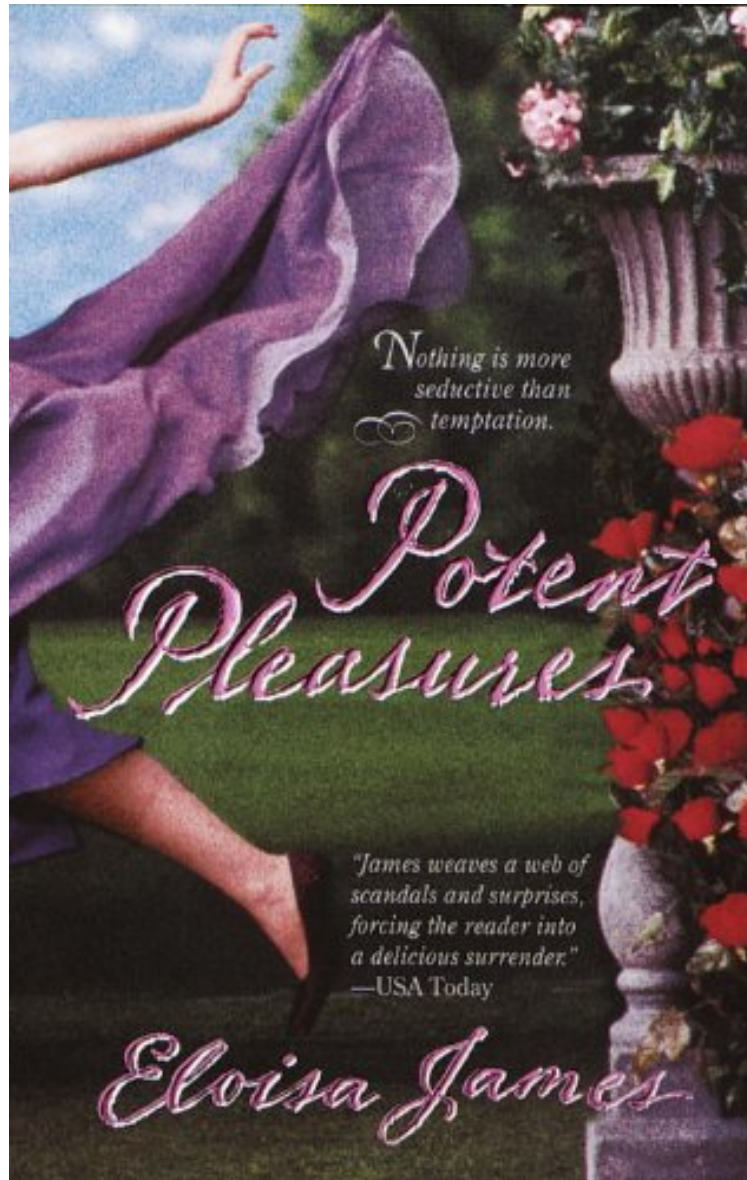


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Potent Pleasures

Von Eloisa James

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Von Eloisa James : Potent Pleasures before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Potent Pleasures:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Hardcover vs. paperback- there is a difference!Von Ein KundeI read the "Potent Pleasure" and I enjoyed the story very much. After reading it, I came online here to read the reviews of other people. I was amazed to see both wonderful and

very terrible reviews. I began reading the 1-2 stars reviews and I discovered that the historical errors the "unhappy" readers talked about were not present in my "Potent Pleasures" book. I was confused and I truly thought that the 1-2 stars reviews must be talking about a different book than I read. I even went back to try to find the numerous historical errors which other people found, but I couldn't find them. Anyway, finally I figured the puzzle out. Apparently, I am the first one to be reviewing the paperback version of this story (which came out in May 2000) and I can tell you that the story errors, that the other readers pointed out, have been cleaned up and/or rewritten before the paperbacks went into print. This is Eloisa James's first novel and on the whole I found the story to be very interesting and enjoyable. However, I am surprised that an unknown author would have had her first historical romance novel printed in a hardcover book. If I had purchased the \$20.00 version of the book and found all the initial errors in the story, I too would have been upset. But for \$6.00 the revised softcover version it well worth the money. It's a good story, and I am looking forward to Ms. James next "paperback" book. This new author has a lot of potential!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. No Research, Bad Editing, A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY Von Ein Kunde I purchased this horror of a novel based upon the rather enticing review, before the book was released. I'll never do that again! Many, many errors of historical research populate this book - I'm glad I wasn't the only one that picked up on the major wanting to become an admiral - gaff isn't the word for that one! But there was one error of historical fact so key to the story that made this book absolutely unreadable - the infamous "Hookers' Ball." Anyone who bothered to do any sort of basic research would have learned that the term "Hooker" (meaning a camp follower, but later to exclusively refer to a low class prostitute) derives from the American General Joseph "Fighting Joe" Hooker, a Union general from Hadley, Massachusetts, whose name became synonymous with prostitutes because of his business-like handling of camp followers, known then as "Hooker's Second Army." And Ms James - FYI, the American Civil War was fought from 1862 to 1865 - a little after the Regency period. Not only is this a "schoolchild's fact", a brief check in a decent dictionary would have provided the origin of the word. Furthermore, there would never have been a "Hooker's" Ball. "Hookers" in the correct historical perspective were camp followers, unattached women who followed armies to tend to enlisted men in both a sexual and menial capacity, doing laundry, cooking, sewing, as well as serving as sexual conveniences. They were considered the lowest form of prostitutes. In the "civilian" context they were equivalent to "streetwalkers" in Regency England. A fancy dress ball to introduce professional streetwalkers to wealthy gentlemen? I DON'T THINK SO. That's why they walk the streets. Only the more exclusive of prostitutes would attend such a function - the "demimonde" - higher class women who had the looks and training to obtain long term "contracts" with such wealthy men. Ms. James is aspiring to a Mary Balogh-like sensibility - but unlike the excellent Ms Balogh, her characters ring false with every action and word - her "wounded" heroine, after wallowing in her pain and grief, seems to miraculously recover after having to have dinner all by herself, to the extent that her entire personality changes from a shy loner filled with self-doubts to an exuberant social butterfly, strong and confident. As for the "floppy poppy" - he is beneath contempt, or rather, his depiction is - inconsistent doesn't even begin to describe this moron. He tries to be the classic "romance misogynist" waiting to be reformed- but all we get is a whiny, foolish twerp who can't make up his own mind. Ms James - I would, as well as the many, many other disappointed purchasers of your premier novel would like an apology. If you are planning to write another novel - I suggest you hire somebody to check facts. Otherwise, stick to teaching.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Failing Grade Von Ein Kunde Historical inaccuracy abounds when Lady Charlotte Daicheston and the Earl of Sheffield and Downes fall in lust. This book is filled with historical details -- most of which seemed to have been included without any regard to their appropriateness. Hence we are treated to time anomalies, such as the cameo appearance of the "formidable Lady Jersey" (page 32) when she was still a child. She may have been a formidable child, but she wasn't Lady Jersey or a "patron of Almack's" yet. At the same ball, guests danced the quadrille (page 33) nearly two decades before its introduction in England. And why did this wealthy duke's daughter have her London debut in August, two months after the customary end of the London season in June? Then there is the repeated misuse of titles, an incredible lapse for a book about British nobility. The younger son of Viscount Dewland CANNOT be Lord Dewland sans the death of his father and older brother (page 160-164). With each error, I found myself pulled out of the period, and consequently, the story. One could argue that the book showcases style over substance. The style problems begin on page 1 when the school mistress hisses "Julia!" How does one hiss a word whose only consonants are 'j' and 'l'? Then there are the pedantic comments inserted into the narrative, provoking in me an impolite urge to hiss "Duh." Furthermore, I found that the constant jumping from the thoughts of one character to another quickly became tiresome. I didn't need to read the mind of Charlotte's sister, Charlotte's maid, Charlotte's suitor, Charlotte's father, Charlotte's mother, Charlotte's family's butler, Charlotte's friend, Charlotte's friend's mother, Charlotte's friend's father, etc. This is not a joke, but it did become something of a game to count the number of characters whose thoughts were included. (I counted 21.) Style is subjective, and I probably wouldn't have even noticed if I'd been involved enough with the characters to care what happened to them. Instead, I give Alex a Jerk Award. His boorish behavior turned me against him so thoroughly that even his concern for his daughter and later regret for his abominable treatment of Charlotte couldn't reverse my opinion. Readers ignorant of the time period or who do not care about accuracy may find something to like in this book. James includes some clever lines, and the plot had great potential. However, as a

longtime reader of Regency-period novels, I found the problems too much to overcome.

Kurzbeschreibung Eloisa James breathes new life into one of the most popular fiction genres with her highly original debut novel *Potent Pleasures*, a charming, vividly peopled Regency romance. With an uncanny wit and an eye for the whimsical, she unravels a complex--and often hilarious--chain of events inadvertently set in motion by a young woman's first taste of forbidden pleasure. About to make her debut in London society, Charlotte Calverstill, beneath the lavish gowns and manners of a well-brought-up young lady, yearns for a taste of freedom. Pushing propriety aside, one evening she sneaks out with a friend to attend a masked ball, and there meets a devastatingly handsome stranger who relieves her--not against her wishes--of her virtue, then vanishes. Years later, when they meet again, the rogue does not remember Charlotte. But she certainly remembers him; she has since learned not only his identity, but also a titillating piece of gossip about him that is sure to set society abuzz. The intricate web that a now-wiser Charlotte weaves to exact her due ensures justice for some and great merriment for all. Taking the Regency historical to fresh new places, with artful smoothness and irrepressible humor, Eloisa James delivers a winsome tale of first love and life's unexpected surprises. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Eloisa James's *Paris in Love*.de When the young Lady Charlotte Caverstill attends a local masked ball while on holiday in the countryside, she has no intention of dishonoring herself. But a handsome man ignites an unknown passion in her, and she finds herself willingly following him into the shadows of the garden. Before the night is over, Charlotte has surrendered her heart, as well as her virginity, to this man whom she doesn't know. Though Alex McDonough Foakes spends the entire summer trying to track down the mysterious maiden from the masquerade ball, he cannot find her. Sent to Italy, he seeks solace in an ill-fated marriage, and returns years later a father, a widower, and a pessimist in love. When Alex meets Charlotte, he falls madly in love with her--despite his inability to recognize her--and proposes. She refuses. How can she marry a man who does not remember her after such an intimacy? And if she does, how can she explain her lack of virginity? In this, her debut novel, author Eloise James takes special care to test and develop her characters in different situations. Unlike books with the familiar cart-before-the-horse plot, James does not restrict her characters to the bedroom; as Charlotte and Alex interact with friends and family in different arenas, they become more realistic and interesting. And though their motives are not always believable, the lovers appear to be a part of a greater world--one that will quickly capture the reader's imagination. --Nancy R.E. O'Brien.com

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