



The Amethyst Cat Caper

Charlie Cochet

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Two years ago, Remington Trueblood left England and everything he held dear for the chance at a new life. Now the successful owner of The Purple Rose Tea House in Manhattan, Remi has come across the perfect addition to his business: a stunning amethyst cat. But Remi's acquired something else with his latest purchase: the attention of the notorious Gentleman Thief.

Detective Stanley Hawk doesn't know the first thing about tea. He's strictly a java kind of guy. What he does know, is crime, and someone's just committed one. As a Pinkerton's, Hawk always gets his man, and when his investigations lead him straight to Remi, the words have never been truer. Can Remi and Hawk resist each other long enough to figure out who the thief is and what the heck is going on? Or will the Gentleman Thief get his hands on more than just the Amethyst Cat?

From a quirky antique shop, to a high-society tea house, The Amethyst Cat Caper is a delightful little romp through 1930s New York. Whether you prefer tasty tea or steamy java, grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy

The Amethyst Cat Caper Details

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From Reader Review The Amethyst Cat Caper for online ebook

Elisa Rolle says

A light historical romp on a Gentleman Thief, the 1930s prototype of a twink and an handsome detective... and no, don't worry, this is not a ménages a trois.

When Detective Hawk is taking the case about a break-in in an antiquities shop, he doesn't expect to find love. Hawk is homosexual, but while in the 1920s it was easier to be gay in New York (for reference please read the fabulous *Gay New York*), in the 1930s people are starting the witch hunt, and so Hawk prefers to take for himself his preferences in bed companions. But when he meets Remington Trueblood, Englishman transplanted in New York and fashionable owner of a tea house, he knows he has met his destiny.

Remi is very young and despite his role as successful businessman, very innocent. He had a bad break-up with an older man, someone who is still holding a place in his heart, and he was not believing possible to fall in love again. But as for Hawk, it's love at first sight, and the little detail he is on the focus of a thief is not so important like the task to know better Hawk.

Despite Remi's young age, 23 years old, and being the 1930s (or maybe right since it's the 1930s and so when you see a chance it's better not to let it go), Remi and Hawk move very quickly and in the blink of a day they went from strangers to lovers. True there is nothing against them, they are both free, independent and willing, so why should they have to wait? And for what? And if someone is wondering about the chance of two men having an happily ever after in that age, well, I suggest you to read the above mentioned essay, you will be surprise how it seemed easier to be gay and discreet in the 1930s, and being a couple when most people don't really care what you did in the privacy of your bedroom.

There is really no mystery on the real identity of the Gentleman Thief, and the dangerous adventures are not so dangerous after all; the main focus are Remi and Hawk and their blossoming love. I have the feeling this was only an appetizer for this author, and the idea is to have more and more adventures centered around the antiquities shop.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B007FGWQOE/?...>

Julio Genao says

abandoned at 20 percent.

the writing drove me nuts.

when it wasn't anachronistic irritations chapping my ass, it was needless repetitions of uncommon phrases. when it wasnt either of those, it was just plain inelegant.

poorly-edited, in other words.

it's a shame. I enjoy period stories set in this era.

but things like aristocrats with surnames like "Trueblood" and really, really silly errors in plotting began to add-up almost immediately, so that when a real whopper of a nunbnutz plot point arrived it was all I could do not to delete the thing outright.

I will not die reading a book that drives me crazy.

Erastes says

This is the second book I've read by Ms Cochet (When Love Walks In was the first) and like the first one, I was impressed, and also the author has a talent for creating characters and situations which we'd not only like to see more of - we can say that about many books - but which stories lead naturally to a conclusion, whilst still leaving the door open for More Adventures.

Set, like her other book, during the Great Depression in America, this deals with the top end of society. Englishman Remi (Remington) has left his wealthy family in England due to his incapacity to please his father--marry where ordered, continue the line, that kind of thing--and came to America and is living the American dream. He starts a tea house in the centre of Manhattan and it's doing really rather well, making him a millionaire twice over in his early twenties.

So, although the struggling masses of the depression are mentioned a few times, you don't really get to see them. This is a world of Hollywood style opulence, art deco interiors and shiny shiny things. And it's described very well with just enough scene setting to see where we are, but not overdoing the detail by telling us who made every knick-knack and trinket.

The characters come to life quite beautifully on the page. Remi for instance, seen through the eyes of the burly detective Hawk is easily conjured to mind. Slim, wonderfully tailored and gorgeous to boot. It's nice that he doesn't consider the man's wealth as part of the deal. What I particularly liked was that Remi was damaged a little, from his relationship with his family, and from the first man he ever fell in love with who "done him wrong." Hawk, sadly, although I liked him as a character doesn't have this particular depth and I bonded with him much less than I did with Remi. Hawk seems to get swept away with Remi so easily and the problems that their relationship might bring aren't even considered until right at the end of the book. I think I'd have liked him to be a bit more noir, as I feel he considers himself a Sam Spade but he doesn't come over that way, he's more protective and lustful.

There's a lot of eye colour detail too, which I have to say I'm over when it comes to romance novels. I don't know anyone with violet or emerald eyes and I'd probably punch them if I did.

The story is good too, and tight, having a definite arc which begins and ends with exciting well-written action. Having struggled with action myself, I know how damned hard it can be to write when three men are struggling and there's a gun involved, but Cochet pulls it off with cinematic style.

The third person is, of course, the Gentleman Thief and I was delighted when I entirely missed the clues as to who it might be and plumped for someone it absolutely wasn't. That kind of re-herring-ism is a bit hit with me and I enjoyed guessing.

So, what with good period detail, movie-style flair, good characters and an ending which practically sets itself up for a whole series of "Capers" in the future, I have no problems with thoroughly recommending The

Amethyst Cat Caper and look forward to more from Ms Cochet.

And it has to be said, because I've pointed out their errors so often, this was lacking in errors which was a refreshing change! I also liked the cover a lot, but sadly on Kindle it's only in black and white.

ttg says

Very fun and enjoyable historical mystery novella about Remi, the young owner of a New York City tea house who gets mixed up with a stolen cat statue and finds knocking at his door one grouchy Pinkerton detective by the name of Stanley Hawk.

I was looking for something light and fun, and this novella definitely fit the bill. Well-written, great period dialogue, a little cheeky, very romantic, and low on angst. I loved the chemistry between Remi and Hawk, and how they flitted equally between being attracted, entertained, and infuriated by each other. Their lust is pretty insta, but the story is only a little over 36,000 words, so I'm pretty forgiving on that point (and the romance between them is very sweet.)

The book, its story and its scene-switching reminded me a lot of an old black and white 1930's mystery comedy, like the Thin Man. Nothing's too dangerous or angsty, and there's a light flow that carries you along. (I wish I could watch this as a movie, although in color to get the full impact of Remi's purple-covered tea room.)

Recommended especially if you like historicals, and also if you're looking for a lighter pick-me-up read. This one is a lot of fun.

I'd definitely look forward to more Remi&Hawk adventures. In the meantime, there's a free sequel novella The Only Star you can grab from the author's website. I'm looking forward to checking it out. :D

Jenre says

I read a fabbo short story by this author a few weeks ago and so when I saw this novella I snapped it up. The story is set in 1930's New York and tells of Remi, an ex-aristocratic Brit who moved to New York to escape a tyrannical father. He now owns a very successful tea shop with a garish purple theme (fancy pants ladies like lavender, apparently). A friend of his comes into possession of a cat statue made of fake amethyst and sells it to Remi. However, unbeknown to him or his friend, the cat statue is the real deal, stolen from an Egyptian museum. Before long Remi is embroiled in a mystery, along with rough around the edges 'Pinkerton man' Hawk, on the trail of the elusive 'gentleman thief' who wants his stolen statue back.

I really enjoyed this caper type story which pairs up a mix-matched couple in Remi and Hawk. Remi is very posh and upper-class but with a fierce independent personality and a temper. Hawk is a native New Yorker with a strong protective streak. Sparks fly when the pair are together and much of my enjoyment of this book was as a result of the banter between the characters. They get on so well that I could believe how quickly they find themselves falling for each other. The sexual tension is high too and led to some very satisfying sex scenes.

The mystery isn't too much of a mystery really because we know who took the statue and I guessed pretty easily who the identity of the 'gentleman thief' was. Still it was pretty fun to watch these guys figure it out and I also enjoyed the sly way the thief attempts to get back his stolen statue. As a historical story, there are a few interesting details about the way the detective agencies worked in the 1930's and I learned a few things I hadn't known before - always a bonus for me. However, there was a slip in the British side of historical accuracy when Remi tells Hawk that he wanted to go to "Eaton" (it's spelled Eton, BTW) and his Father sent him to Cambridge. Eton is a school for up to 18 year olds and Cambridge is a university for 18+ so that didn't fit. It jarred me out of the story slightly and annoyed me because the rest seemed so accurate.

That slip wasn't enough to ruin my enjoyment of this story though. The characters sparkled on the page and the story was very amusing and I would recommend it.

Ami says

Hmmm, I think my biggest issue with this one is the Insta-Love. I'm not such a huge fan of that theme, personally.

Considering the blurb and the cover, I kind expect some investigations into the identity of The Gentleman Thief, in addition to the romance. Unfortunately, it's goes straight to acknowledging the lust. They flirt, they kiss, there's a threat to Remy's life, and Hawk takes Remy to his place (easily), and more makeout session. Then of course, they realize they love it each other

I don't hate the characters though, I do think they are quite likeable. It's just that it's not what I expect when I pick this. It might work for others who look for light story, with backdrop of the 1930s. But yeah, it's a bummer for me :(

Since I don't dislike it, it's just so-so, then it still gets my standard 3-stars rating.

Chris says

Very good mystery and romance set in Manhattan in the 1930s, in which the owner of a teahouse purchases a cat statue that he assumes is a forgery until a Pinkerton's man comes knocking on his door...

Lady*M says

4.5 stars

Lighthearted, fun, with two excellent protagonists who were funny (duck & penguin!) and hot and endearing. I liked them both a lot and I'm so happy there will be more of them.

I was glad Gentleman Thief survived and maybe we will see more of him too in the future (his identity was easy to guess). I liked how the author connected this story with The Auspicious Troubles of Chance. Recommended.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Gennie's review posted on Guilty Pleasures

4.5 Stars and a Recommended Read Award

I loved this book! The Amethyst Cat Caper is a short story filled with mystery, sweet romance and lovable characters. This book is set in the 1930s and begins with the theft of an artifact (an amethyst cat) from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. By chance this priceless artifact ends up in the hands of one of the main characters Remi, who is a born Englishman and has come to NYC to find his way in the world. The thief of the cat is desperate to get it back and that's when we meet the other main character Detective Stanley Hawk, who goes by Hawk.

Remi and Hawk have a whirlwind romance as both are swept into the path of danger. In many ways this is a love at first site kind of story, which unless it's PNR I'm never quite sure about, but the timeframe didn't bother me with this story. I felt all the characters were well developed and believable. I don't want to give away too much, but I will say there was some drama and all ends well. In fact, the story left me wanting more and hoping that this is the beginning of a series! If you want a nice short read, with well-rounded characters and a happy ending, this one's for you!

Cole Riann says

4.5 stars

A wonderfully written 1930's historical that made me laugh and smile. There isn't much mystery as to the real identity of the Gentleman Thief, but as I understood it the intent is for the reader to know and witness the characters trying to unravel the mystery, which worked rather well. A great couple of characters, I'm excited to see more of them in the future!

Don Bradshaw says

I'm not a big fan of historical fiction but this book wowed me. I found the story of Remi and Hawk to be very sensual and the way Ms Cochet wove the refined Remi and the coarser Hawk together was solid gold or perhaps amethyst. The slang of the day could have ruined the story but instead made it shine and made me chuckle. Tom was a great character and the Gentleman Thief was a nasty right out of an old movie. This is a book well worth picking up and polishing off in one sitting.

MostlyDelores says

Romantic, almost syrupy-sweet, with Remi the aristocratic young beauty and Hawk, the tough detective with a marshmallow centre. Very enjoyable.

Jayhjay says

This review was originally published on my blog Joyfully Jay.

It is early 1930s New York and Remington Trueblood is thrilled when his friend Tom sells him his latest acquisition - a beautiful amethyst cat, a reproduction of famous Egyptian artwork that Remi plans to display in his tea house. Remi moved to America two years ago when his father kicked him out of his home in England for refusing to give up his life to follow his father's wishes. Remi quickly made a success of himself, even in the midst of hard economic times, and now is a successful businessman.

When Tom is attacked a few hours after selling Remi the cat, Pinkerton detective Stanley Hawk is called in to investigate. He quickly figures out that the cat they assumed was a replica was actually a priceless artifact recently stolen from a museum in Cairo by the notorious and elusive Gentleman Thief. The thief has made his way to New York to regain his wayward treasure and is now trying to track it down, placing Remi in danger.

Hawk and Remi hit it off immediately when the detective comes to investigate. Hawk is big and imposing and scares most people off, but the younger Remi is quite a match for him. They both let down their guard and it seems like things might be developing between them. But as the investigation heats up, the men must figure out if they can make it work between them while still catching the thief.

The Amethyst Cat Caper was a really enjoyable historical. I haven't read many books set during this time period and Cochet really captures the feeling of the time. The story includes lots of historical details, including the technology, the dress, and the style of speaking. The whole feel of the story fits within the setting and I could really believe it all happening in this era.

I really loved Hawk and Remi and the way that there was more to both of them than you see at first glance. Remi appears wealthy and privileged and people often assume he is too pampered to handle anything on his own. Yet he has built his fortune from nothing, making a totally new life for himself in America. He is generous with his money and much tougher and more resourceful than most people give him credit for. And while Hawk has a tough and intimidating detective side, when he lets down his guard his is gentle and caring and a bit goofy. The guys are a great match together and really enjoyable characters.

Some small quibbles with the story. First, I think that the identity of the thief (or at least a key clue about him) felt like it was given away quite early. This is a short novel so things have to develop quickly, but I wish this reveal had been held off a bit longer. I also think the relationship between Remi and Hawk goes quite quickly from hot hookup to totally serious about it each other awfully fast. Again, perhaps an issue with the shorter format, but it did pull me out of the story a few times as I wondered, "wait, how long have they known each other?" This type of instalove is not uncommon in romance novels, but I do wish we had seen things develop a bit more slowly and realistically between them.

Despite these issues I really enjoyed the story. The setting was so well done I really felt immersed in the time period. The book was fast paced and quite interesting. We get some hints at the end that there might be more to come in for the guys, and if so, I will be looking forward to reading more.

Vio says

4.5 stars

Love my historical romances and The Amethyst Cat Caper was no exception. This was a lot of fun an enjoyable mystery/caper, Remy and Hawk have great sexual tension between them, they are delightful. I loved the interaction, teasing jokes and the sex was lovely too. I actually didn't mind the instant love/attraction it somehow fit the story and didn't cause me any problems. The Gentleman Thief, I worked him out early on in the piece so no surprises there he was a very resourceful chap and might just make a reappearance in the future, hopefully. As for the object of their desire the Amethyst Cat I wanted one who wouldn't the description was gorgeous, I think I fell in love!

Tam says

I've been meaning to read this for some time. I had read the author's short story set in this time period and really enjoyed it and Jen had said good thing about this book. So I finally settled down and picked it up. I don't think it's any secret that as a rule I'm not a fan of historicals. It's just not my thing, not that I never read them or haven't read some I've quite enjoyed, but I don't usually pick them up. But I think the trick is that I just never hit the time period that worked for me. Now I don't know if it's just the time period or just this author, but it seems the 1920/30s are my thing. I just adore the stories I've read set in this time and this was no exception.

Remi left England and his father behind when he refused to marry a woman to fulfill family obligations. He has since made a success of himself running a purple tea house. He's also become good friends with an older antiquarian and when he goes to visit is shown some of the new finds the man got from Egypt. One of the items is an amethyst cat which would look perfect in the tea house, however most of the things he sells are fakes (openly sold as replicas) so they don't think much of it. However, earlier there was someone who calls himself the "Gentleman thief" who stole something from a museum in Cairo, unfortunately in a storm, the item became redirected. Guess where?

When the man drugs the shop owner to get information, in comes Pinkerton detective Hawk who sets out to find the thief and in the process, meets Remi to whom he is instantly attracted. Before long he's more worried about protecting Remi when the thief breaks in and attacks him, and maybe the thief is more than he first appears. I really enjoyed Remi's insistence to be true to himself and his wonderful relationship with shopkeeper Tom, a true friend. Also seeing Hawk slightly confused by his strong feelings for Remi, rather than his usual casual attitude towards men was fun and I swear the details are so fun. Is that really what it was like in that time period? Did they use that language? I have no clue, don't care. I'm a historical wallpaper reader. I want it to be fun and like movies or TV.

Jeepers Creepers, Hawk was used to fellas dropping hairpins, but this kid was dropping pianos

Accurate or not, it's how I imagine it, a time when "holy fuck" wouldn't have cut it, even with a hardboiled detective. It makes for an enjoyable read along with the clothes, furniture, the tea house, all of it reminded me of an old film noir movie. So if you enjoy historicals I think you can't lose with this one and even if like me, you're not a big fan, you may enjoy this as more like reading/watching an old movie than a sometimes

dry historical novel with a romance.
