



## The Soldier's Rebel Lover

*Marguerite Kaye*

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## **The Soldier's Rebel Lover** Marguerite Kaye

When Major Finlay Urquhart was last on the battlefield, he shared a sizzling moment with daring Isabella Romero. Two years later, Finlay has one final duty to perform for his country, one that reunites him with this rebellious señorita! Except Isabella has her own mission, which means that no matter how much she craves Finlay's touch, she can never tell him the truth. But she's underestimated Finlay's determination to protect her, and soon she finds herself letting her guard down, one scorching kiss at a time!

## **The Soldier's Rebel Lover Details**

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Author : Marguerite Kaye

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## From Reader Review The Soldier's Rebel Lover for online ebook

### Kay (aka) Miss Bates says

Sometimes ye olde Regency feels like tired romance material, and sometimes, there's Marguerite Kaye! Major Finlay Urquhart, with enough of a brogue to make him sexy and fun, is also a man of honour and integrity, the best kind of hero. Now that the Peninsular Campaign, indeed the war, is over, his growing realization of how dispensable England's war veterans are leaves him disillusioned. But he cannot deny his friend Jack Trestain's, Wellington's code-breaker, request to rescue the Spanish partisan that helped Britain. This leads him to the politically daring Spanish beauty, Isabella Romero. They run from Spanish forces and, in their journey, learn to love by sharing confidences, political debates, and laughter, also some lovely love scenes, hot but not gratuitous. Ms Kaye has written a romance that is historically immersive, exciting, and suspenseful. The gravitas of Finlay and Isabella's circumstances does not deter the novel from also giving us a tender, slow-growth, touching romance. If you'd like to read a more extensive review, please follow the link:

<http://missbatesreadsromance.com/2015...>

I received an e-ARC from Harlequin, via Netgalley.

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### Alison says

I was really excited to read this book, as it follows up Jack's story in The Soldier's Dark Secret - which I enjoyed and follows his friend and army colleague Finlay. I have to say, I found the cover disappointing on this one (the heroine looks bizarrely Edwardian, and it doesn't reflect the story), as Jack's was unusual and gorgeous.

For me, this was a game - or book - of two halves. The first half, I didn't like so much, the second half was much better. My main problem was with the hero and heroine, and in particular the heroine Isabella. Isabella I found irritating, she was supposed to be a heroine of another kind, and a tough Spanish young woman who survived the wars and fought the same - if not as hard as Finlay himself. However, sometimes her naivety and blindness could be quite infuriating. She was a better person than that.

I actually enjoyed the prologue more than I did the first part of the book, as there seemed to be more of a spark then between the hero and heroine than later on, even though I get they both had to grow in actual terms as well as due to their life experiences and to mature enough to want to be together.

Finlay's journey back to Spain on a final secret mission if you will, I didn't engage much with - I felt it was quite obvious who he was looking for, and the violence that was tolerated to keep that person safe made them less worthy of the reader's sympathy. Would you seriously, blithely put your family at risk in post war Spain for some revolutionary pamphlets - could you truly not see that many would die even if not you?

My sympathies were definitely low in this first part - but even though this part was probably more three stars for me - the second finally made up for the shakier start. As Finlay and Isabella try to escape Spain, their attraction grows, as does Isabella's understanding of what she has been doing. There are some sensual scenes and emotional intensity as the gravity of their situation grows. There is no future, I liked this very particular

black moment.

I do like strong female characters, and really enjoyed that Isabella cared so much for her country. Finlay too, shows his love for his country and speaks particularly of his home in Scotland - giving an interesting mix of cultures and beliefs to experience.

An answer to their predicament is well achieved at the end, but I couldn't help feeling a little flat afterwards. We were not really hearing from Finlay and Isabella about themselves and how they felt about the future. I totally understand why, I just feel that after a long wait for an emotional connection I felt a little cheated that I couldn't share a little more of a happy ending with them.

That said, it did turn out to be a good story, just not one of my favourites. But that's ok - not every story can be, and I will continue to buy this author's books in the future.

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### **Trudy Miner says**

While in Spain Major Finlay Urquhart spent the night in a field with guerrilla fighter Isabella Romero on a scouting mission during the war with France. He never dreamed that two years later he would be back in Spain seeking to find the elusive El Fastisima or The Ghost in order to protect English secrets nor did he think he'd see the feisty Isabella again. As Spain seeks to put an end to the Resistance fighters, Finlay and Isabella face danger together and must flee for their lives. In the process, the spark that was ignited that night in the field two years before flamed into true passion and a love that cannot be denied. As they fled across Spain for the coast and the boat for safety, original plans evolved into an ending that is unexpected.

I was given this book by the author for an honest review. There are twists and turns with possible outcomes that keep you guessing until the end. The description of post-war Spain is enlightening and keeps the reader engaged. Be sure to read the author's notes at the end; female fighters did exist then.

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### **Linda says**

An intensely intriguing historical tale of passionately compelling romance...

"What the hell do you think you are doing, creeping about in the night in woman's clothing? I could just as easily have killed you?"

The sheer audacity of her remark rendered him speechless for a moment, and then Finlay laughed. "This, senorita, is a kilt, not a skirt, and you did not for a moment come close to killing me, though I don't doubt that you'd have tried if I'd given you half a chance."

THE SOLDIER'S REBEL LOVER by Marguerite Kaye is an excellent addition to her Comrades in Arms series. This is the story of Major Finlay Urquhart, a brawny Highlander soldier for Wellington, and Isabella Romero, a feisty Spanish resister. It's set mostly in Spain in the early 1800s although there are a few scenes in England.

The couple first met in a Basque trench and the quote that opens my review is pulled from that scene. It was one of my favorite scenes from the book and, while there was danger surrounding them, there was also much

humor in that scene. Their meeting stretched to include the whole night. Before I go any further, please know that this particular scene is sweet and clean - there was chemistry galore but no hanky panky that night.

Over the ensuing two years, Finlay doesn't forget Isabella - but he never expected to see her again. Then he was assigned the task of finding El Fantasma, The Ghost, who, if captured, would cause problems for Wellington's political aspirations. Finlay's first thought - because Isabella had professed to knowing El Fantasma - is to locate her and request her assistance. He sets out to do just that and is surprised to find her so easily - though she is not the person he expected her to be.

I connected easily with both Finlay and Isabella. Both were accustomed to action and not sitting on the sidelines. Finlay, the son of a Scottish farmer, had been nicknamed "The Jock Upstart" by Wellington as Wellington believed that Finlay did not know his allotted place in the scheme of things. The army has been the only life Finlay has ever known and he doesn't believe he can ever settle down.

Isabella could also be said to not accept her place in the scheme of things as women were normally constrained by the rigid rules of Spanish society and not allowed to voice their opinions. During the war, she was not watched closely and wartime can serve as a catalyst for change. However, since The French had been defeated, she had reverted to hiding her real self behind a demure countenance - unfortunately, she was not as good at hiding as she believed. Thankfully, Finlay had her back. But... would it be enough to save her?

Each of the books in this series can be easily enjoyed as standalone reads if that is your preference even though there are interconnected characters. This is the final book in the author's Comrades in Arms series. That said, the author has shared that SCANDAL AT THE MIDSUMMER BALL, a duet release next summer with Bronwyn Scott, will feature the story of Fergus, another Scottish soldier and friend of Jack's from the first book. So, although SCANDAL AT THE MIDSUMMER BALL is not technically part of the author's Comrades in Arms series, another comrade's story is still scheduled to be told.

This book was just as good as the first book in this series. Marguerite is a very talented storyteller who transports the reader to another era with her intensely intriguing tales of passionately compelling romance. If I had any complaint about this book at all, it would be that I'd hoped that the epilogue would have given us more of the couple's happy ever after. Regardless, I highly recommend THE SOLDIER's REBEL LOVER to anyone who enjoys historical romances.

My full review is posted at Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Please check it out here:  
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>

4 Wine Glasses!

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### **Charlotte Mcfall says**

With the Soldiers Rebel Lover there is no need to worry about historical accuracy with Marguerite Kaye, you can be rest assured the author will have done her research.

This is the last book in the Comrades in arms series, although perhaps a book updating the readers on Isabella's family would be good.

Our kilt wearing hero is Finlay Urguhart, and i must say i love a man in a kilt. Caputures our heroine Isabella

whilst on duty. Initially he thinks that she is a French spy. The novel is set during the Napolionic wars. After a brief meeting they part from each other, although both are intrigued by the other, When they next meet Finlay is on a mission to rescue some mysterious person he knows only as El Fantasma or the Ghost. Isabella and Finlay meet again but pretend they don't know each other. Finlay is dressed and acts like a wine merchant eventually our heroine tells finlay she is one of the rebels and they both have to escape or loose their own lives.

Another great read and one i would happily pick up again at some point. It is hard to find any fault with this book because there isn't one.

\*Received a copy from netgally for honest review.

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

Spain during the Napoleonic era is the setting for this strong story of love, danger and sacrifice.

A kilted Scots Major is spying out a French arms cache when he meets a partisan Spaniard on the same errand. They are in the wooded, rough, Basque country. The partisan turns out to be a girl, dressed as a man. She agrees to tell El Fantasma, the Phantom, who is a rebel leader, about the arms so that the British soldiers don't need to risk splitting their forces to take it out of French hands.

After the war, with the Spanish royalty restored, partisan leaders are a troubling source of liberal ideology and the King orders them killed. So much for gratitude! Word reaches Wellington's staff in England and our Scot is sent to try to remove the Phantom from harm. Only, he's never met the man, so he goes disguised as a wine merchant and tries to find the tough-minded lovely girl who was scouting the woods. Cue an exploration of the Spanish wine industry and vineyards. We also learn to work an old printing press with woodcuts and see how returned soldiers were shamefully treated, surplus to requirements.

I thoroughly enjoyed this adult romance which has many thrills and chases as well as a look at well-off Spanish society. I'm finding that this author really does her research and has a historical note at the end of her books. The tales are lively and full of engaging characters.

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### **Wendy says**

This, the second in Marguerite Kaye's Comrades in Arms duo, is set during the aftermath of the Peninsular campaign or what the Spanish preferred to call the War of Independence. It has at its centre, dashing and honourable Major Finlay Urquhart and bold, beautiful Isabella Romero.

Finlay is at a loose end after the bloody war that has seen so many of his comrades killed and injured; however, he is a career soldier, so when his friend and army colleague, Lieutenant Colonel Jack Trestain (Wellington's code breaker from *The Soldier's Dark Secret*) requests his help on a delicate matter, he eagerly complies. He is to mount a covert mission in which he will attempt to find and repatriate the elusive Spanish partisan, El Fantasma (The Ghost). El Fantasma is still very much operational in post-war Spain and has become an embarrassment to both governments. In Spain, he is surreptitiously printing and circulating propaganda leaflets proclaiming the rights of the common man: Spain has returned to a feudal culture, the

Inquisition has returned, freedom of the press has been lost, and poverty and injustice is rife. From being a respected ‘soldier’ for the cause he has now become a dangerous traitor and must be removed. The threat to Wellington is also keenly felt; the duke and his coterie do not wish for certain, less savoury aspects of his leadership during the war to become known, either to the Spanish or the British public, especially as he makes his bid to become Prime Minister. So the race is on, who can get to El Fantasma first? Whomsoever catches The Ghost, will almost surely dispose of him, as what can be safely done with him? Finlay and Jack have their own agenda – they don’t feel that El Fantasma deserves death when he was responsible for saving hundreds of lives.

Finlay has a very weak lead in his search for El Fantasma; he has never forgotten his meeting with the bold, dark eyed beauty he encountered one dangerous night two years previously whilst Britain and Spain were allies in fighting the French. She has stayed vividly in his mind and he remembers that she told him she had direct contact with the partisan he seeks. He therefore sets out – with the cover story of being a wealthy wine merchant – to find the lovely, brave young warrior from the little information she gave him on that night. He finds her, not working on the estate she had mentioned, but very much to his surprise, living as a high born lady, sister of the wealthy owner of that estate, the largest vineyard in the area.

I find it difficult to explain why I did not immediately connect with Isabella. Marguerite Kaye normally excels at creating strong, likeable female characters, but I did not whole-heartedly take to Isabella. She did not seem to me to be the type of woman who would appeal to the pragmatic and discerning Scottish born Major Urquhart, a man with bucket loads of integrity and who is also by the way, utterly gorgeous! This is a man who has dragged himself up against the odds, through the ranks of the British army, without benefit of a wealthy and influential family and been so successful in his career that he is brought to the notice of Wellington himself. Sarcastically the Iron Duke dubs him ‘The Jock Upstart’, even while using his considerable talents to his own ends. Isabella makes some very thoughtless decisions based on her ideals, and although – with the help of Finlay – she eventually sees the error of her ways, I found it hard to credit that an intelligent woman in her position would think in such a way, without thought to the cause and effect of her actions. She isn’t lacking in courage – but perhaps in sense. In spite of this, however, I did eventually warm to Isabella (thanks to Finlay’s view of her) and by the end of the story I was happy enough with her.

That’s my only biggish niggle though, because as usual Ms. Kaye has crafted a thoughtful and beautiful love story with impeccable historical research. The sensuality and attraction between the protagonists is sparkling and when they eventually get together, which is way down the story line, the scene is beautiful and tastefully done.

What I particularly like is the way this author always draws parallels between history and life today. Whether she does it intentionally or not, it shows her to be a thoughtful and caring person. Nothing much has changed in the way our returning soldiers are treated after fighting for their country. Through her careful research, Marguerite Kaye has shown Wellington – the great hero – as a vain and egotistical man, deeply and unfairly critical to the soldiers who had no choice but to follow HIS orders. Comrades in Arms is a serious and thought provoking duo of stories about the dark and sordid side of war and the effect on the people left to pick up the pieces; the glorified side is definitely played down. Ms. Kaye never disappoints in her content and it is rare for me to be unhappy with one of her characters. All in all, The Soldier’s Rebel Lover is a highly recommended, excellent historical romance.

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**Ingrid says**

Lootsin paremat aga kahjuks jäi see raamat ikka lahjaks.

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## Caz says

### I've given this a B+ at AAR, so that's 4.5 stars

The second book in Marguerite Kaye's *Companions in Arms* duo, **The Soldier's Rebel Lover** is a worthy companion piece to the equally good *The Soldier's Dark Secret*, and like that book, takes a thoughtful look at the after-effects of war on those who fought and what happens to them when war is over. As well as all that, there's a swoonworthy hero, a tender, well-developed romance, and a dash of adventure – all of it beautifully written and developed in just under three hundred pages.

We are re-introduced to Major Finlay Urquhart, a man who has, most unusually for the time, worked his way up through the army ranks on his own merit, and whose occasional insubordination and unorthodox methods caused the Duke of Wellington to nickname him the "Jock Upstart". Some months after the decisive victory at Waterloo, Finlay's closest friend, Jack Trestain, asks him to return to Spain on a mission of the utmost delicacy; namely to effect the rescue of El Fantasma (The Ghost), a notorious Spanish partisan who aided the British during the war. With the new Spanish regime having returned to a much more strict, almost feudal system of government, El Fantasma is now targeting that government in the seditious pamphlets he writes and distributes, decrying the loss of freedom and railing against the injustices that are being perpetrated upon the people. During the war, Jack – as Wellington's premier code-breaker – worked closely with El Fantasma and feels strongly that someone who helped to secure the British victory over Napoleon deserves better than death at the hands of his countrymen. But there is an added complication; even though the British have cause to be grateful to the partisan, he was witness to some of the less honourable things done by the British army, and so is a threat to Wellington and his political ambitions. Stuck between a rock and a hard place and knowing nothing about it, El Fantasma is in danger from both sides, and Jack wants Finlay to get him out of Spain and to a place of safety as quickly as possible.

But that's easier said than done. Jack never met El Fantasma and the Spaniard's operation was carefully constructed so as to keep secret the identities of the man himself and his operatives. Finlay does, however, have one, very small lead. A couple of years previously, while reconnoitring a French ammunition dump, he encountered a beautiful Spanish woman named Isabella who claimed to know El Fantasma. He believes that if he can find her, he might be able to track down the partisan and find a way to meet with him. It's a slight chance, but it's the only one they have. Finlay believes Isabella may have been a worker on the extensive Romero estate and vineyard so, posing as a wine merchant, he makes his way there on the pretext of brokering a deal with Señor Xavier Romero, for the export of his fine Rioja.

He can hardly believe his luck when he encounters Isabella almost immediately – and is surprised to discover that she is far from the humble servant he had thought her. She is Romero's sister and is, Finlay quickly discovers, continually chafing against her brother's overprotectiveness and his insistence that she adhere to the strict code of behaviour expected from well-born Spanish ladies.

The undeniable frisson of attraction that had sparked between the couple on the night they first met roars back to life, but much as he would like to explore the possibilities, Finlay can't afford to spend too much time with the Romeros. For one thing, he knows little about wine and is sure his cover story won't hold up for too long; and for another, the Spanish authorities are closing in and time is running out for El Fantasma.

Ms Kaye very skilfully blends together the different elements of her story, bringing the historical detail to vivid life and creating a sensual and tender romance between two attractive, well-characterised protagonists. If the book has a fault, it's that some of Isabella's actions seem rather naïve and thoughtless, especially when faced with imminent danger – but while I can't deny that her intransigence is sometimes frustrating, the author's presentation of her as a character whose idealism is untempered by pragmatism feels very realistic. Isabella is by no means stupid, but her intense desire to rid her homeland of the threat posed by Bonaparte, and then to speak out about the injustices perpetrated by the new regime has caused her to lose sight of the bigger picture; and I found that aspect of her character very plausible.

Finlay is, as I've said, a hero to swoon over; intelligent, handsome and honourable, he is, like so many other returning soldiers, at a bit of a loose end and not sure where he fits in in a post-war world. As in the previous book, Ms Kaye's attention to historical detail is impressive, the writing is excellent, and all in all, **The Soldier's Rebel Lover**, is a thought-provoking and eminently readable historical romance.

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### April says

“The Soldier’s Rebel Lover” is the final installment in the series “Comrades in Arms”, but can be read as a stand alone. I absolutely adored this series! Although, I must say I adore ALL of Ms. Kaye's stories. She is an amazing storyteller who transports the reader to another era with her strong, feisty heroines, her alpha heroes, and her alluring, compelling and compassionate stories.

Another intense, intriguing, compelling and passionate tale of romance and love with some twists and turns along the way. The H/H will capture your heart and keep you on edge as you are ensconced into a story where a country is in turmoil, powerful secrets, a desperate rescue attempt, treason, sacrifice, a possible treasonous act by the hero and finding true love. Ms. Kaye's never disappoints her readers with her powerful, compassionate, sensuous and compelling stories. A must read! I would highly recommend “The Soldier’s Rebel Lover” to fans of Historical Romance, war, sacrifice, romance and anyone who enjoys a wickedly, seductive tale.

I very much enjoyed this story, however, I was left with a question or two about the heroine's brother/family, how they escape the aftermath of the heroine and would love to see an epilogue or a bit more on our H/H new circumstances, what happened? Etc. I would love to see the rest of the story....I see a new series in the future, maybe? An awesome read!! Don't miss out on this fabulous story!!

\*Received for an honest review from the publisher via Net Gallery\*

\*\*Cross-posted on My Book Addiction Reviews dot com\*\*

Rating: 4.5

Heat rating: Mild

Reviewed by: AprilR,courtesy of My Book Addiction and More

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## **Amanda says**

If there's one thing British authors can write brilliantly and with accuracy, its historical romance. Marguerite's sequel to The Soldier's Dark Secret does not disappoint at all.

Finlay and Isabella's romance is seamless in the way both points of view are woven in, capturing the reader's imagination from the very first page, leaving me (the reader) reluctant to say farewell at the end.

Their relationship keeps the reader turning over page after page, 'willing' them to have their happy ending, and allowing the reader to experience the rollercoaster for themselves.

An absolute joy to read. Can't wait for more

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## **Susan says**

Good book about two people whose lives are defined by what they see as their duty. Finlay and Isabella meet in 1813 as both come across a cache of French weapons. As one of the Spanish guerilla fighters, Isabella promises to get the information to El Fantasma, a guerilla leader, so that it can be taken care of. Finlay and Isabella are intrigued by each other and share an instant connection, but are parted by the needs of the war.

Two years later, Finlay receives a request to return to Spain and find El Fantasma. The leader is in danger from the Spanish government, who now considers him a traitor and threat. Wellington wants him rescued so that the Spanish don't torture uncomfortable secrets about British activities from him. As Finlay remembers that Isabella claimed to know him, he returns to Spain to look for her and enlist her help.

Once he arrives there, undercover as a wine merchant, he discovers that she isn't the peasant girl he thought, but sister to one of the local landowners. Isabella is worried when she sees him, as her brother and others don't know about the part she played in the war. When Finlay tells her of his mission, she is shocked, and he is more so by what she has to tell him.

I liked Finlay a lot. He is a man who worked his way up to Major through the ranks, which was nearly unheard of. It has also given him a different perspective than most other officers, one that has him willing to do unconventional things. His life has been the army and his sense of honor and duty are what drive him. He is shocked by what Isabella tells him, but understands what drives her. As his feelings for her grow, he becomes even more concerned for her safety.

Isabella was one that I had mixed feelings for. I really liked her strength and determination at the beginning, as she fought against the French in her own way. In the current time, I was also impressed by the way she wanted to help work for the changes she felt Spain needed for its people to prosper. However, I wasn't so happy with the way that she didn't seem to realize the danger that she put her family in. While I fully understood her desire to stay and continue her work, it took some really blunt talk from Finlay to show her the danger she was in.

Their feelings for each other continued to grow as Finlay worked to convince her of her danger. Once he did, and the escape plans were explained, they realized that their feelings had no future. Isabella was headed for a new life, and Finlay to return to his duty as a British soldier. But as they made their escape across Spain,

each of them begins to understand the toll that their service has taken on them. Both realize that they want something different for their futures. But can they grab that future without destroying the honor that is such a big part of who they are? I really liked the way that they finally made it happen, though I would have liked more details.

The epilogue was good, but left some questions unanswered. First, and most important, how did Finlay and Isabella get their new life? Where is it and what are they doing? Second, what happened with Isabella's brother and his family? Did they escape the consequences of Isabella's activities?

One of the things I really enjoyed about this book was the deeper look at the effects of the war on Spain. I liked the bits about the guerrilla activity, and how some of it was carried out. I also liked learning more about the conflict between the rich and the poor after the war, something that isn't usually included.

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### **Connie Fischer says**

Major Finlay Urquhart of the Ninety-Second Regiment of Foot has been fighting in Spain during the war with Napoleon. A Scottish man, he prides himself on wearing his kilt. He is on lookout when he catches a Spanish woman named Isabella. At first thinking she is a French spy, he soon learns that they are on the same side. They rest, share some food, and talk. Finlay is intrigued by her but they part soon after.

England - 1815

Finlay has returned home after the war to live with his brother at Trestain Manor. But now Finlay has been asked to return to Spain on a mission to find El Fantasma, a.k.a. The Ghost, and get him out of Spain. Although no one knows what he looks like, El Fantasma is part of a group of people rebelling at what the government wants repressed. When Finlay recalls that Isabella claimed to know him, he decides to travel to Spain to ask for her help in locating him. He will pose as a wine merchant looking to purchase a large amount of wine and meet with Isabella's brother who owns a large winery.

When Finlay and Isabella meet again, they try to act like they don't know each other. When they get a chance for a private talk, Finlay tells her that he must find El Fantasma and help him escape the country. But when she finally tells him the identity of this person and that she has been a part of the rebels, Finlay is shocked but intent on helping the cause of the rebels. Thus ensues a daring escape as they flee to save themselves.

This was a story full of intrigue. The author's descriptions of the area and the trials of the people who experienced the war are quite vivid.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Carol \*Young at Heart Oldie\* says**

**This is the final book in Marguerite Kaye's *Comrades in Arms* mini-series and, whilst I enjoyed it, I didn't find it as compelling or emotionally charged as *THE SOLDIER'S DARK SECRET*.**

The son of a Scottish farmer, Finlay has succeeded in rising to the rank of major against all the odds, resulting in Wellington dubbing him “The Jock Upstart”. The army has been the only life he has ever known and, after the war ends, although he loves his family, he knows he could never settle for a life that is safe and predictable. He is a man of action who needs a sense of purpose in his life and he finds that purpose in rescuing and protecting Isabella, the brave partisan he met two years earlier.

Isabella fought bravely for her country but, following the French defeat, she is once again constrained by the rigid rules of society; never allowed to voice her own opinions and forced to hide her true nature beneath a demure façade. But she conceals a secret which is threatened by the reappearance of the brawny Scotsman, she met two years ago.

Finlay is everything a hero should be – intelligent, brave, protective and honourable, but I love that he still maintains a rebellious streak by wearing his kilt. He is a loyal soldier but one with a conscience which sometimes leads him to disobey orders.

My thoughts about Isabella are somewhat conflicted. On the one hand, I admire the feisty, brave partisan who fought to free her country from the French and understand her desire to fight against the return to the old feudal system in Spain and the injustice she sees around her. On the other hand, I found it difficult to accept her failure to see that her reckless actions endanger the lives of her brother and his family. Even when Finlay voices his concerns, she still refuses to accept the truth. It takes a tragic event to make her realise how misguided she has been.

I like how the relationship between Finlay and Isabella evolves as they journey across Spain and each of them grows and changes in different ways. Isabella comes to accept the reality of her situation and understand the consequences of her actions while Finlay has to confront some difficult choices.

The romance is tender, poignant and passionate and when they finally make love it feels right. It’s the only chance to show their love for each other before they are parted forever and the scene is a perfect blend of the sensual and the emotional. Although I knew there would be a happy ending for Finlay and Isabella, Ms Kaye kept me on tenterhooks at the very end until Finlay finally decides to follow his heart.

I was disappointed in the Epilogue because I wanted to spend more time with Finlay and Isabella and share some moments of their Happy Ever After.

Once again, Ms Kaye’s historical research is meticulous and I like how she weaves interesting political and social commentary into the fabric of the story.

**MY VERDICT: This may not be my favourite book but Marguerite Kaye still writes a story that is well worth reading.**

#### **REVIEW RATING: 4 /5 STARS**

*Comrades in Arms mini-Series (Click on the book covers for more information):*

Also *Seduced by a Soldier* (a free on-line read - click on the link below):

<http://www.harlequin.com/articlepage....>

*\*\*My sincere thanks to Marquerite Kaye for sending me a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.\*\**

This review is also posted on my Rakes and Rascals Blog:

<https://rakesandrascals.wordpress.com...>

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### **Vana says**

The book had likable characters with a strong female heroine and an honourable hero. The plot sees Major Finlay Urquhart venturing into Spain to rescue a Spanish Partisan and falling in love along the way. The plot was good with a realistic historical setting and although predictable it was a good a read. With the exception of the end, it was a clean read. If I have a niggle, I found the build up to the end of the story a little laboured, only to be followed by a sudden finish. The historical background, the commoner rising in the ranks and the female partisan reminded me a little of the Sharpe books and television series, although in this case, it is set post war.

Highly recommended.

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