



# Cat Among the Pigeons

*Julia Golding*

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**Cat Among the Pigeons** Julia Golding

MYSTERY, DISGUISES, AND A FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

The second episode in the CAT ROYAL ADVENTURE series plunges readers into the underbelly of London in a mission for justice. Pedro's old slave master wants him back, but his friends on Drury Lane won't give him up without a fight. Disguised as a boy, Cat enters an aristocratic boarding school and scales the heights of London society before joining a street gang to probe its depths, all to secure the freedom of her friend. Like THE DIAMOND OF DRURY LANE, CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS features mysteries, theatrical spectacles, the evil Billy "Boil" Shepherd, and, of course, the irrepressible Cat, who never fails to stir up trouble *and* save the day wherever she goes. Coming in Spring 2009, Cat travels to Paris during the French Revolution in DEN OF THIEVES.

## Cat Among the Pigeons Details

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Author : Julia Golding

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# From Reader Review Cat Among the Pigeons for online ebook

## Simrah says

I honestly forgot how much chemistry there is between Frank and Cat! Also I forgot how easy these books were to read. I'm whizzing through them, not that I have much else to do.

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## Megan says

**(Read from the 16th to the 18th July 2018)**

This has got to be one of my favourite books from the Cat Royal series alongside, Cat O'Nine Tails (Book Four). When you have not read a book series in so long you often forget how good it is. There are many parts of this book that I enjoyed reading, for example Cats growing relationships with her friends both old (Syd, Pedro, Frank, Lizzie) and new (Millie and Charlie - She is acting as their 'brother' whilst she is in hiding from the bow street runners (Authorities) staying with Frank at his school disguised.)

I also enjoyed reading about her relationship with lifelong nemesis Billy Shepherd as he threatens her a lot but has also saved her life multiple times. But at the end of the day he cares for her even though it seems like he's out for blood and is often using her as leverage when bargaining with Syd. He does however still want her in his gang. I Particularly love reading about Cats relationship with all the boys within her friendship group, especially with Syd her overprotective best friend (who she Occasionally has romantic feelings for), Frank who like Syd is her best friend though I do really want him to court her. Her relationship with Pedro however is purely platonic as its shown throughout this book.

The book begins with Cat helping Pedro practising lines and performing acrobatics ready for the show. Cat's loyalty to Pedro is outstanding throughout this book, during this particular scene Pedro's former master comes in and sees them practising. On sight of his 'master' – Pedro begins to cower and goes and hides behind a prop, Cat see's this and realises who the man must be - Mr Hawkins, Pedro's former master who then begins asking her questions about the boy he saw, stating that he recognises Pedro. Cat denies this and says he is mistaken, and tells Hawkins that Pedro past away.

To Pedro she makes a shooin motion behind her back which he listens to and goes and hides. When he is gone, she begins to tell Hawkins that the person he saw was Pedro's understudy. He then makes a remark accusing her of hiding Pedro and withholding his rightful 'property' from him. Then he attacks cat, as she won't let him backstage to see Pedro. Some of the theatre crew came out when they hear the arguing and they make Hawkins leave. Cat then goes to find Pedro to make sure he is okay, she finds him she notices how shaken up and terrified he is – not just for himself but for Cat too as she's now involved and has made an enemy of Hawkins. They then arrange for Pedro to be guarded at all times with the assistance of Syd and his boys (The butcher boys/Gang).

I particularly enjoyed reading about Cat's escapade through the men's lounge, where she was sent to drop off tickets for Pedro's show. She later finds out that the person she is delivering the tickets to is Pedro's former master. Prior to this she had told Hawkins that Pedro was dead in order to protect him from his master. Hawkins realises she has been lying to him and he tries to make an example of her by humiliating her by pretending to buy Cat in front of his friends. During this scene she was placed atop of a billiards table on

display to those present, When Hawkins goes to examine her mouth, she bites down on his thumb. She then proceeds to run along the table kicking the pool balls around the room as she goes. She then exits the room and goes towards the building exit, When she does another club member exclaims

‘And that’, I heard one crusty member say loudly as I bolted onto the street,  
‘is exactly why we don’t admit females’

Through this sexist remark, we readers are able to experience and understand the way society was during the 1700’s and how far we’ve come nowadays. It was very amusing to read about her reactions and what happens after.

Later that evening, during Pedro's Performance, Hawkins turns up with his friends and tries to stir up some trouble. Pedro with the help of the cast and crew begins to direct his performance towards his former master instead. This causes the public to join in showing their support to Pedro by throwing insults at Hawkins and his men. However the happy atmosphere is very short-lived, as that evening Mr Sheridan wakes up Cat in a panic as Hawkins has reported her to the Authorities for assault, from when she bit him earlier that day. Because of this Sheridan encourages her to run away, so she goes to Frank who is currently away at boarding school. He allows her to stay with him and his best friend/ room mate (Charlie), she will however have to be in disguise and becomes Frank's shadow (He will mentor her)– and she pretends to be Charlie’s younger brother. This is because Charlie’s brother would be unrecognisable so no one would be able to tell the difference between him (Thomas) and Cat as no one has seen Thomas as he was taken ill before he left for boarding school with his brother. So for now Cat is Thomas Hengrave’ – Charlie and Millie’s younger brother who’s recovering/recovered from an illness. At this point Millie is unaware Cat is role playing as her brother. So when she visits with Lizzie (later in the book) Cat is just introduced as another pupil as Millie would of known the difference between her brother Thomas and Cat straight away.

Throughout the book Cat manages to get herself in multiple fights when Charlie and Frank are nowhere near her to help. However, whilst this is all happening, Pedro gets kidnapped from his new masters house, Hawkins had paid the music instructor to do it for him. Syd comes to Frank’s housing accommodation, delivering meat from his parents butchers shop. He's in a panic due to the disappearances of Cat and Pedro's worrying for both of their safety. Once Cat reveals herself and see's that she is injured he blames Frank for not looking after her and preventing her from being attacked.

He then begins to tell Frank, Charlie and Cat his other news - Billy is being paid to keep Pedro locked up, however he offers to tell Syd information about Pedro but only if Cat goes with Syd, Frank and the gang to meet with him and his gang. Once they all meet up he allows Cat to go with him ALONE much to Frank and Syd’s Displeasure to go see Pedro. He gives Syd his word that she will come back unharmed, he also gives 100 pound, his knives and his gang too - telling Syd he can harm them if Cat returns harmed in any way. However Cat’s friends do not want her going with Billy unarmed, so Syd gives her one of the knives that Billy has removed, so that she can protect herself.

She then goes with Billy to visit Pedro and that he's being treated well. Billy allows Cat time to talk with Pedro, but as she’s leaving Hawkins comes down to visit Pedro, when he sees Cat he attempts to lock her up too. He then goes to attack her – seeing this Billy steps in and removes his knife from where Cat hid it and begins to protect her from Hawkins (He also begins to use the many knives he has hidden on his person). She is then returned back to her friends still in one piece then her, Charlie and Frank return to school. However when both Charlie and Cat have gotten out of the carriage, Frank says he is going to go home to see if there has been any word of Pedro. He asks Charlie to make up an excuse of why he's gone home, to their tutor.

The next day Frank returns to school, bringing with him news that they are unable to help Pedro escape due to him being with his 'rightful owner', it would be against the law to take action at that time. Frank then accuses Cat, saying she encourages Billy's sinister intentions towards her because she always argues with him, Cat ends up getting annoyed with Frank so she leaves the room and goes to bed. However once she is in the next room she hears Charlie defending her and asking Frank if he would rather have Cat become 'Another stuck up lady' to which Frank denies and states that he would never want Cat to change the way she is.

During one of her Latin classes she is cast as a female role in the play for that year. She is then taken to meet some guests who are visiting the students involved in the play. When she is introduced – she realises that the guests are the Prince of Wales and her former guardian Mr Sheridan. She is worried that once when Sheridan sees her, he will blow her cover. Luckily he doesn't! He does however seem happy to see her and looks proud of her. She knows she has to leave now that the principle has notified 'Thomas's mother about his/her participation in the play. So on the brink of her cover being blown Cat decides that it's best for her to leave the school permanently and go back on the run. She goes back to her shared room and changes into a disguise that she had Lizzie send. Now disguised as a maid she starts writing an 'apology' letter to Charlie. Which

she then gives to Frank when he returns and he tells her that she has possibly gotten Charlie out of trouble. She then begins to plot with him an escape plan – He decides to start a fight with the group of boys who had beaten up Cat (earlier on in the book) Whilst this is going on she attempts to leave the school, however at that moment the principle is showing his guests out to their carriage, but upon seeing the fight goes to break it up. The prince seems rather entertained by it all, however Sheridan spots his former ward and distracts the prince long enough for her to escape through the main gate of the school.

She seeks refuge in an abandoned (or so she believes) wash room. Where she is then attacked by an old woman and her sons - who she tells to get Cat's money from her, causing Cat to run. She is rescued by a milkman who allows her to ride with him to the Miss Millers house (Three women who are part of a group that's helping Pedro). They allow her to stay with them and they help her get settled. A few days later they all go to a meeting about Pedro – at Frank's house. Whilst they are there they receive news that Pedro has been placed aboard a ship. The men of the group go to the destination they've been told. During this time Syd's been at a boxing match so he is unaware of what is happening with Pedro, So Millie offers to go and retrieve him with her go ten footman who the Duchess of Avon (Frank and Lizzie's Mother) sent to accompany her.

Cat soon realises that the news was a diversion and that Pedro would be at the opposite side. She takes the three Miss Millers with her to go find Pedro. They then come face to face with . . . Billy. Cat realising she's walked into a trap, instead tries getting through to Billy in order to get him to help her get to Pedro. The Miss Millers then try to cleanse his soul by praying – this begins to unnerve him especially when Cat begins to join in. He eventually gives in and offers to take her to the ship that Pedro is on, with her she takes the eldest Miss Miller and asks the other two to wait for everyone else and to tell them where they have gone.

Cat and Miss Miller travel with Billy in a row boat towards the main ship where Pedro is kept. Once they get on board Miss Miller goes and distracts the captain so that Cat can search for Pedro. When she has located him she goes to wake him but before she can everyone else arrives on-board the ship. Mr Hawkins then threatens to kill Pedro – he throws a knife at him, seeing this Cat holds up a broom in front of her friend to prevent the knife from hitting him. This causes for her to now be in front of Mr Hawkins instead, so he goes to attack her, however Pedro (who is now awake) throws a circular disk at his master which causes Hawkins to release Cat. The authorities arrive and arrest both Cat for her assault on Hawkins and Mr Hawkins for kidnapping Pedro. They along with everyone else travel to the court – where Cat's Charges are dropped but when she is asked to do the same, she demands Hawkins to give Pedro his freedom back and

only then will she drop her charges against Hawkins.

At the end of the book it shows Cat and Pedro discussing his freedom and the future for both of them. He is now a freeman and is no longer a slave, he tells Cat about his new last name and how he picked it. Cats no longer a wanted criminal, however she's now indebted to Billy because of the help he gave her with Pedro, whenever he sends for her she has to go to him . . .

Really can't wait for book 3!! ?

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### **Laura says**

Since this book is written for the younger end of YA (12/13 years old), there isn't any romance, but as I read, I kept wondering who Cat might end up with. Pedro? Frank's friend Christopher? Possibly even the horrible Billy? It was certainly implied that Billy was interested in Cat even if she is oblivious to it at this point and a bit too young besides.

I don't normally think of slavery touching England all that much, but this book centered on Pedro, a former/escaped slave who is now an apprentice at the Royal Theater with Cat. His former master comes to town looking for him, determined to get back his "property." Apparently, Pedro had been *loaned* to someone who then thought to make a buck or two. This person sold Pedro without permission to the person who eventually freed him and became his mentor during his apprenticeship at the theater. But, since he wasn't legally sold, he still technically belonged to his original master. At times this was a hard book to read because of the subject matter. Hawkins, Pedro's former master, is a disgusting man who not only wants Pedro back merely to kill him to set an example, he also tries to kill Cat and treats her in an equally disgusting manner.

Still, I thought it was a good book, and I will continue to read the series.

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### **Mary says**

I love it!!! For the first book and half of the second I was totally in love with Syd. And now for some reason, it's all Billy!! He's without a doubt the most captivating bad guy I have ever know. (He beats out Heathcliff for me) I wish he was real. I can't get over him. These books have me caught in their grasp!! I love them. Golding has hit that sacred realm of my favorite authors. She is matched up with Jacques, Alcott, and Montgomery, and a couple others whose names escape me!

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### **Bookworm1858 says**

Cat Among the Pigeons by Julia Golding

Roaring Brook Press, 2006

362 pages

YA; Historical

4/5 stars

Source: Library

I didn't mention this but just like the first book, the first pages of this book share hilarious blurbs from such distinguished personages as Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Beethoven.

Sequel to *The Diamond of Drury Lane*, where we are introduced to Cat Royal, Pedro Hawkins, and her assorted friends, acquaintances, and enemies in and around the theater.

I think I actually liked this even more than the first book as the personalities were already established so we got to dive right in to the story, which revolves around a very important historical event: the battle for abolition of slavery across Great Britain and its territories. Per my research, slavery was abolished in England itself in 1772 but it was not until 1833 that it was abolished across Great Britain and its colonies. Consequently it was a hot button issue. Pedro had thought he had escaped his cruel master Hawkins but that man shows up here, determined to reclaim his property. Although he cannot do so in England, once he sets sail for the West Indies, he can legally do as he wants.

Cat, of course, inserts herself fighting on behalf of Pedro and finds herself wanted, leading to a series of improbable disguises. First she masquerades as a boy in Lord Francis's public school and then she hides out with Quakers, attempting to act as a prim and proper lady. I loved those scenes of her disguise and Cat continued to be a charming narrator.

However I am somewhat uncomfortable with the role of Billy "Boil" Shepherd, whose twisted relationship with Cat becomes even more so. His behavior is really quite frightening, even if he does have some scruples. He has also moved up in the world, gaining more areas under his control for his power and financial prosperity. SPOILER: I think I've read that they become a couple in later books and I'm wondering how Cat gets past his boorish behavior in this and the previous book. There must be a lot of development of his character. END SPOILER

Overall: Another enchanting diversion with Cat Royal; superior to the first book and with the promise of a Parisian trip amid revolution in the third.

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## **Brooke Shirts says**

Lovely sequel to *The Diamond of Drury Lane*, with more irrepressible behavior and spiffy 18th-century slang from Cat Royal, resident orphan of the Drury Lane Theater.

Like its predecessor, this story's best asset is in its cast of characters, and includes both high- and low-born alike. Pedro, the former slave/violin prodigy and co-inhabitant of the theater, is in peril. His former owner has tracked him down and claims to have the right to reenslave him. The theater and theater-going public protests, and when Pedro mysteriously disappears, Cat decides to rescue him herself.

For added interest, there's a funny sequence in which Cat hides from the law in a boarding school for aristocratic young gentlemen, a eerie trip into a den of thieves known as the Rat's Nest, and a wonderful moment in which the vile gang leader known as Billy Boil gets roused in the street by a trio of prim Quaker ladies. (I believe they pray him into oblivion.)

Altogether a worthy sequel in what is shaping up to be my favorite new children's mystery series.

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## **Judy says**

great series.

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## **QNPoohBear says**

Cat Royal's second adventure begins with her friend Pedro about to become the darling of London with his performance as Ariel in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Pedro's owner arrives to claim Pedro as his slave and return the boy to the plantation in Jamaica. Cat must call upon her friends, Lord Francis and Lizzie and their mother's abolitionist friends for help. Cat manages to run afoul of Master Hawkins and has to flee the only home she's ever known. Cat needs the assistance of her friends more than ever, especially her street friends to help keep her safe. Her adventure takes her to unexpected places, including a boys' school. This is another fun adventure featuring Cat Royal. The suspense and tension begins early and doesn't let up until the end. There's nothing predictable about this plot. As in the first book, Cat is spunky and brave and her eccentric friends showcase the different types of people who inhabited 18th century London. This adventure is more frightening than the first and contains more detailed and accurate descriptions of London. I enjoyed this book even more than the first!

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## **Alyssa says**

2 books down 5 to go for BookTube-A-Thon!!!

This was a reread for me and I still enjoyed it as much as I did when I was younger. It's a fun adventure story in England and it's full of action and fun and I love it.

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## **Cherrylea says**

Finally I found this book - my library only had the first and the third, whatever that was about, and I'm a stickler for reading in order.

In this book, I think the greatest thing is probably Cat's voice. She's such an entertaining narrator - no wonder she wishes to be a writer, and will certainly be successful in that venue. Her voice is bright, and this book certainly falls into the category of books with "voice," obviously. Drury lane never gets old, now with Pedro's freedom in jeopardy and Cat in trouble, again, with the law. She's on the run, masquerading as a boy and other guises to get by. The fun never stops - Cat's disguise as a boy was quite delightful, really. She really has a sense of humor, and her friends are great. That's another thing - the loyalty between her and her friends is so great. It really is wonderful, the bond they have. I loved reading about their fun escapades. I can't wait to see how more these characters that we've met develop.

So, I'd recommend this to middle schoolers who love adventure and some real fun. This is a great book, but don't forget - it's a sequel! Look for the first: *The Diamond of Drury Lane*! I'll be looking for the third now - too bad my school is closed, they had it!



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## Emilee says

More like a 4 3/4. I like the part when Cat goes to school with Frank and Charlie, pretending to be Charlie's little brother and Richmond calls her a nan boy and she is picked to be Electra in the play! :D That made me laugh.

The conflict between Billy Boil's like for Cat and his hate for her is even stronger in this book. He really creeps me out in the way at some points in the book I think he's not so bad. I have to remind myself just like Cat this he's evil.

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## Selena (Life of a Random) says

\*detailed review to come\*

(but this was one of the best Cat Royal books I've read. yes, I'm reading them out of order woops. it does get a *little* confusing but they can be read as standalones pretty easily as the whole cast and terms are reintroduced every book)

(Cat is a darling)

(Frank and Charlie are friend goals. SO CUTE. SO MISCHIEVOUS. I am HERE for the mischievous grins and plots and curly, messy hair)

(Pedro my babe. so soft and squishy but at the same time unbearably insufferable because he's so full of himself. bust mostly soft and squishy and vulnerable in this book)

(AND HIS AND CAT'S FRIENDSHIP IS SO PURE. I cry.)

(If you hadn't noticed, I adored getting to read these characters and live in their world again ?)

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## GSGS says

This series REALLY doesn't deserve the stars I give it XD But still, I have to because I love them so much.

Basically this is the next book in the Cat Royal series. Just as much fun as the first one. There's something oddly addictive about this book. I have come to the conclusion that it's the charries I love - the hot tempered and often sarcastic Cat, the protective butcher Syd, the full-of-himself ex-slave Pedro, Frank, Lizzie, and - yes!- even Billy. The plotlines aren't the best but these characters will always have me coming back.

I think the main problem with these books is that they're aimed at the wrong people. Readers my age are likely to enjoy them but the huge print and cover and stuff are aimed at ten year olds. If they made the books grow up a bit, then they'd get a wider audience. Because, TBH, not many 10 year olds are going to appreciate a historic novel, even if it is in disguise.

- Three Quaker women attacking the villain with prayers
- Cat running through a 'gentleman's club' shouting insults
- Cat in Dr Vincent's office with Mr Sheridan (that awkward moment when your adopted father catches you illegally parading as a boy at a prestigious boy's school...)

This is probably better than the first one, it made me love SO much! Cat pretends to be a boy and it is funny when Frank & Charlie try to protect her at the boys school!!!!?

[illegible]

It just occurred to me that I have possibly reread this one an extra time in comparison with one and three or four. Oh well. I'll put three on to-re-read as soon as possible. I just have to taper off the rereading as we come

to the end-that-isnt-the-end, which is painful for all involved.

.....16-21 April 2013.....

.....January 20-21 2011.....

page 55: 'the Duchess is my favorite! '

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## **Abicxx says**

In my quest to re-read this entire series, one of my absolute favourite historical fiction series and the subject of my obsession a couple of years ago, it was time to tackle the second book. I remembered this book not as one of my favourites but just one I was required to get to in order to read my personal favourite the third book. However, on re-reading this I realised just how hilarious this book really is. I absolutely adore the way Julia Golding writes dialogue – and I particularly love how dialect is used to distinguish the characters from each other – and there were various scenes in this book that I'd forgotten about that had me giggling out loud and wondering how the heck I'd forgotten about them. The setting of Georgian London is so vibrant and vivid that it's so easy to immerse yourself in the story and the characters. I also love that while the majority of the events are fictional there are threads of historical accuracy running through the book. And there are so many things to be gathered from the title about the character of Cat that I just can't fault it.

The second episode in the Cat Royal adventure series plunges readers into the underbelly of London in a mission for justice. Pedro's old slave master wants him back, but his friends on Drury Lane won't give him up without a fight. Disguised as a boy, Cat enters an aristocratic boarding school and scales the heights of London society before joining a street gang to probe its depths, all to secure the freedom of her friend. This book features mysteries, theatrical spectacles, the evil Billy "Boil" Shepherd, and, of course, the irrepressible Cat, who never fails to stir up trouble and save the day wherever she goes.

The main thing that stands out about this book to me, and a few other books in the series too, is that it uses a historical event or events and uses them for a backdrop of the story. So not only does this book teach you about the Abolition of Slavery and introduce you to some of real historical figures who played a part in it, it also gives you a chance to get to know these fictional characters that Julia Golding has created. And what characters they are. They are all so diverse and unique and it really does give a great flavour of all the figures that you would come across in typical Georgian London. I especially like how Golding uses dialogue to distinguish the different classes, professions and genders because it shows just how segregated things were. And the banter between the characters is just genius – I forgot just how funny this book is in general. And I need more books about the exploits of Charlie and Frank with Lizzie looking on disapprovingly but secretly loving it.

I know that this book is probably aimed at a slightly younger audience but I still found myself being swept away by the characters and the plot, despite having read the book once before. And while the plot may clean up a tad bit too nicely and easily for my liking, and there a few scenes that do border on being slightly unrealistic and too cheesy, I still didn't find any glaring issues with the over arcing story which I thought I might do, looking back on it with a more mature set of eyes. I do think that sometimes the characters can be a tad two-dimensional; they are all portrayed as either 'good' or 'bad' and sometimes it's nice to have a little overlap just to make the characters more interesting. But, yet again, this book is aimed at young teens.

Overall, this book was incredibly enjoyable and entertaining and I absolutely flew through it in a matter of days. I'd give it a 4 out of 5 stars because it was a fun and engaging read with some fantastic world-building

and dialogue between the characters.

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### **Anna Bergmark says**

I gave the first book in this series 4 very weak stars, out of the goodness of my heart really. Truth be told, I found it a bit hard to stitch it together... On one hand the gritty realism of poverty, inequality and violence, and on the other hand the outlandish! ease with which every difficulty always sorted itself out in the end, like when a fairy godmother waves her magic wand. And how many fairy godmothers did there float about in the London gutters of the 1790's? Not many, that's my guess, so no... At times it was a hard chew indeed.

And now?

Now the humour's been turned up a notch, making it a much more fun and sassy read. Like when our heroine Cat hides from the police by barbing her hair and posing as a pupil in a prestigious school for boys. It's quite amusing. And what do you know! When delivered with a smile and a wink even the most incredible of lucky turnouts and narrow escapes - there's still a lot of them about, let me tell you - seems almost natural. They didn't stick in my craw so much anyhow, and so this time my 4 stars are of the solid variety. Hope they stay that way, and on towards the third installment. Tally-ho and hop the twig and you're not worth a fart you hog-grubbing skivvy!

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### **Erin says**

Cat Royal (am I the only one who pronounces it like roy-ahl?) is a delight. Also, She should totally end up with A certain boxing leader of a gang...(yes, the good one!)

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### **Negin says**

[????? ?? ??? ???? ?? ?????? ??.. ? ????????! (hide spoiler)]

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