

Book Review: May 2009
by June Thomas (reviewer at Slate)

**Honor Series: *Above All Honor, Honor Bound,*
& Love And Honor, Honor Guards, Honor Reclaimed
Honor Under Siege, and Word of Honor
Radclyffe**

Trade paper
Lesbian Romance/Action
Bold Strokes Books, Inc. www.boldstrokesbooks.com

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Strong, Silent Types

The red-hot new stars of lesbian romance novels: Secret Service agents.

...like many consumers of lesbian romance novels, I have developed a bit of a thing for the men, and especially the women, of the protective services...

...In the last few years, though, a new hero has emerged: Braver, fitter, and more sensitive than a cop, more honorable than a PI, the Secret Service agent is the perfect romance paragon, particularly for lesbian readers...

...2002, the Philadelphia surgeon published *Above All, Honor*, a slim novel in which gorgeous, brooding Secret Service agent Cameron Roberts is assigned to protect gorgeous, troubled Blair Powell, the president's daughter. Six years and six installments later, Radclyffe brought the series to an apparent end in *Word of Honor*, in which Cam and Blair tie the knot at a Colorado ski resort...

...It's easy to be snarky about the *Honor* series and about lesbian romances generally. I certainly was. I worked in feminist publishing for a decade, and although I knew that the buy-them-by-the-armful down-market dyke romances kept a lot of feminist bookstores in the black, I wasn't in the business to churn out trashy bonk-busters. I read one every few years, maintaining an expression of smug superiority throughout. Then, a couple of years ago, I picked up *Honor Bound*, the second title in the series. Within a matter of weeks, I'd inhaled more than 20 of Radclyffe's novels and reread the *Honor* series several times.

The books are quite explicit; and since Radclyffe introduces more couples as the series progresses, toward the end, there's far more sex than intrigue, which probably accounts for much of their popularity. But there's also a more high-minded appeal, something aspirational about the archetype of the honorable agent. Everyone admires a civil servant who will take a bullet in the line of duty, but one section of the population may feel the attraction more strongly than others, because the traits that make a good Secret Service agent are especially valuable in a lesbian.

June Thomas is *Slate's* foreign editor. You can e-mail her at intpapers@slate.com
Excerpt of a review at *Slate*.

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Book Review: 2005

by Sherry Stinson (reviewer at Outlook Press)

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“My first exposure to ...Radclyffe’s...work was the Honor series featuring a Secret Service agent and her unwilling protectee. I would not hesitate to say this is one writer who creates believably great characters that are just as strong as mainstream publishings' Kay Scarpetta or Kinsey Milhone (Patricia Cornwell and Sue Grafton's characters, respectively)! Starting with her "*Above All, Honor*" story that introduces you to Secret Service Agent Cameron Roberts, and her charge to protect, Blair Powell, the uncooperative and elusive President's daughter, you are instantly immersed in a believable world of politics, psychos, and the lengths some people will go to have their freedom. Cameron's job is further complicated by her growing attraction to the First Daughter, as well as the stalker who is determined that Blair will be his. Next up is *Honor Bound*, which immediately hits the ground running. The tenuous new relationship they have started is once again jeopardized, not only by the stalker, but by Cameron, who feels the pressure to protect Blair. But at what cost? During one intense scene in this title, I actually found myself on pins-and-needles, just dying to find out what happened! In *Love and Honor*, we find Blair and Cam suddenly the focus of a media frenzy regarding their relationship. But who tipped off the media and why? Will her career come first or will Cameron lose everything to keep Blair? And last, but not least, we have *Honor Guards*. This is a new release that I just recently ordered from Amazon, so I'll have to let you now what I think later. Trust me, if you're looking for a great romance, read anything by Radclyffe.”

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