



Why Kings Confess (Sebastian St. Cyr Mystery)

By C. S. Harris

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Regency England, January 1813: The mutilated body of a young French doctor found in an alley beside a mysterious, badly injured woman entangles Sebastian in the deadly riddle of the “Lost Dauphin,” the boy prince who disappeared during the darkest days of the French Revolution.

Thrust into dangerous conflict with the Dauphin’s sister—the imperious, ruthless daughter of Marie Antoinette—Sebastian finds his self-control shattered when he recognizes the injured woman as Alexi Sauvage, a figure from his own past associated with an act of wartime brutality and betrayal that nearly destroyed him.

With the murderer striking ever closer, Sebastian fears for the lives of his pregnant wife, Hero, and their soon-to-be-born child. And when he realizes the key to their survival may lie in the hands of an old enemy, he must finally face the truth about his own guilt in an incident he has found too terrible to consider....

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Editorial Review

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Starred Review The grisly murder of French physician Damion Pelletan—found with his heart removed in a disreputable London neighborhood in 1813—is a puzzle that Sebastian St. Cyr finds increasingly intriguing. Pelletan, recently arrived in London as part of a secret mission seeking peace between England and France, is the son of the doctor who briefly attended the Lost Dauphin, the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, during the boy's imprisonment after the revolution, and later autopsied the boy, removing and keeping his heart. Pelletan's sister, the physician Alexi Sauvage, badly injured while accompanying her brother when he was killed, is being stalked by the vengeful relative of a former patient. Solving the murder becomes secondary to St. Cyr's concern for his beloved wife, Hero, as her delivery date approaches with the probability of a breech birth, which both mother and child rarely survived in the early nineteenth century. And although Sauvage is an accomplished accoucheur, St. Cyr's history with her prevents his trusting her with treating Hero. This ninth St. Cyr outing offers a winning combination of the political and the personal with a tangled plot deftly handled in Harris' trademark brisk prose. A compellingly readable addition to a solidly researched historical mystery series. --Michele Leber

Review

"Best historical thriller writer in the business!"—*New York Times* bestselling author Lisa Gardner

Praise for *Why Kings Confess*

"Harris's best Regency whodunit yet...[She] melds mystery and history as seamlessly as she integrates developments in her lead's personal life into the plot."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Harris's novel shows an intimate knowledge of both the political and social history of Regency England....The history, characters, mystery, and atmosphere all draw the reader in and don't let go."—*RT Book Reviews* (Top Pick)

About the Author

C. S. Harris has written more than twenty novels. *Why Kings Confess* is the ninth book in the Sebastian St. Cyr Mystery series, following *What Darkness Brings*, *When Maidens Mourn*, and *Where Shadows Dance*. Harris is also the author of the C. S. Graham thriller series coauthored with former intelligence officer Steven Harris, including *The Babylonian Codex*, *The Solomon Effect*, and *The Archangel Project*, and, writing as Candice Proctor, is the author of seven award-winning historical romances, including *Beyond Sunrise* and *Midnight Confessions*. A respected scholar of nineteenth-century Europe, she is also the author of a nonfiction historical study of the French Revolution entitled *Women, Equality, and the French Revolution*. She lives in New Orleans with her husband and has two daughters.

Users Review

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