

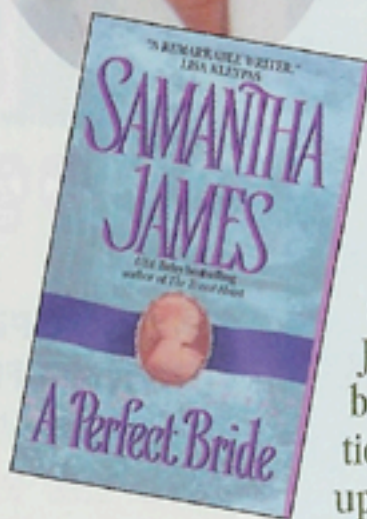
THE RETURN OF SAMANTHA JAMES

AFTER A THREE-YEAR ABSENCE, THIS POPULAR HISTORICAL AUTHOR IS BACK WITH A "PERFECT" REGENCY TRILOGY

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS since a new book by Samantha James came off the presses, and her hiatus from publishing was not by choice. For more than a year, neurological problems had caused pain in her hands, wrists and arms that prevented her from writing. James searched for the cause and a remedy for her condition—it wasn't carpal tunnel—and it took surgery and treatments with an occupational therapist for her to improve.

Now James is back with not just one but three books—a Regency-era trilogy about Sterling siblings Sebastian, Justin and Julianna, who are trying to put family scandal behind them as they move forward with their lives. In book one, *A Perfect Bride* (Avon), Sebastian, the Marquess of Thurston, ends up playing Henry Higgins to Devon St. James' Eliza Doolittle, a girl from the streets who turns up in his bed.

"His task of turning this outspoken urchin into a proper lady takes an unexpected turn," James says. "And the lessons to be learned are not all hers." Justin's story follows



in November's *A Perfect Groom*, while Julianna's unfolds in next year's *A Perfect Marriage*.

James' previous 12 historicals have been set in a variety of eras, from medieval, Regency and Victorian times to the Old West. Unlike many authors, however, James didn't harbor writing ambitions while growing up. That changed after she was mar-

ried and had three daughters. Inspired by Laurie McBain's novel *Moonstruck Madness* and her older brother's own attempt at writing and submitting stories, James began writing and hit publishing paydirt with her fourth manuscript.

Once she was able to write again, James says she fell back into it with ease: "It was like riding a bike. It was such a relief to know that the words were still there and not forever buried. Of course, having three wonderful characters whose stories were clamoring around inside my head all that time made all the difference in the world."

Read an excerpt at www.samanthajames.com.