

periodicallydramatic.com

ISSUE 9 | JUNE 2022

PERIODICALLY DRAMATIC

THE HISTORICAL MAGAZINE



A LOVE OF HISTORY THROUGH THE ART OF FICTION

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PERIODICALLY DRAMATIC

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

The last issue with outside writers! Truthfully, this *would* have been the final issue if not for my wanting to end on an even number. As you will see on page four, I wrote a book and it's being published! This takes up *all* of my free time and makes it extremely difficult to focus on the magazine. There are dozens of tasks on my plate. I had to get rid of some things and sadly, the magazine did not make the cut. *Periodically Dramatic* is an era of my life I must move on from. I had so much fun with each and every writer. The final-final issue will not include articles or the other elements typically included. I started this because there was a shortage of diversity in the period drama community; I created my account for black women. Therefore, the final issue will only be lists of my *personal* recommendations of period dramas (TV and movies) and historical fiction novels featuring women of African descent.

Stay safe,


Marina Hill Editor-in-Chief

CONTACT

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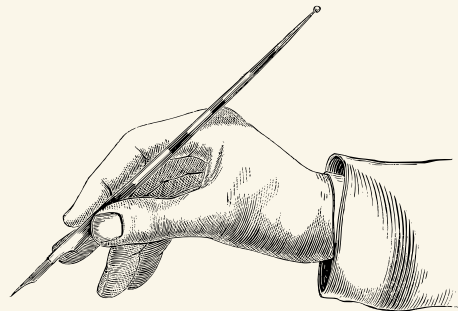


Picture: Shannyn / @personally.speaking

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OUR FAVORITE PERIOD DRAMAS!



PERIODICALLY DRAMATIC

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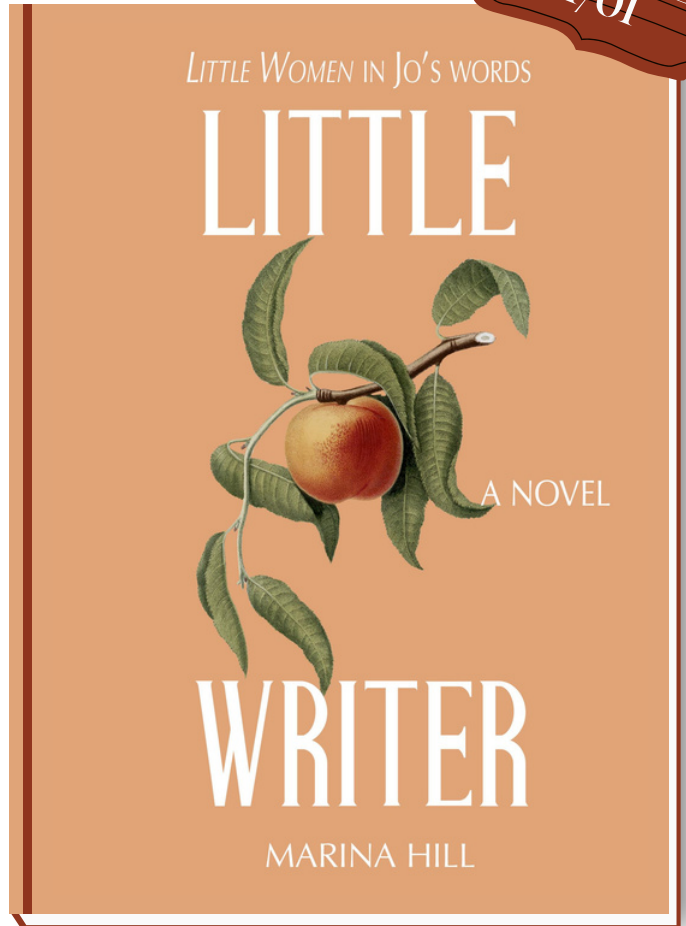
LITTLE WRITER



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FOR A PERSONALIZED LETTER FROM JO AND AN ART PRINT OF HER
(SEE ABOVE)!

CAN YOU GUESS?



Can you
guess the
exact decade
of this
fashion
plate?

THE ANSWER IS ON PAGE 13!

A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS

BY MICHAELA MAKUSHA

The final season of BBC's *The Musketeers* introduces a new character and love interest for Athos: Sylvie Bodaire. And what a pair they make!



As a pairing, at first, it seems as if they cannot work. Sylvie acts as a representative for the refugees made by the war against the Spanish. She is unapologetically passionate in her pursuit of rights for refugees and the poor of Paris. She is compassionate to all and cares for her friends and her community. She doesn't compromise her ideals or goals for other people.

Athos is the captain of the King's Musketeers. He is brought in to *stop* the refugees when they are framed and blamed for various crimes. First, he

and Sylvie meet while she is holding a gun on him. And he respects her for it. Then he sees her kill a member of the Red Guard and well, I think *that* is when he realizes he's falling for her.

After this, there is a clear change in Athos. He begins to really see, or at least tries, to understand the problems of the poor. And he wants to help despite it potentially being treasonous. This is miles away from Athos in the first season, when he was a drunk and only held together by his sense of duty to the Musketeers. He had sworn off love, marriage, children, etc. He really was a shell of the man he had once been. But Sylvie shakes him up for the better.

This is the first time we see Athos truly struggle between duty, trauma, and belief. He wants to know Sylvie but is haunted by his past and his devotion to the crown and Musketeers. Sylvie struggles, too. She also wants to know Athos and love him, but she's dedicated to her community. A community that is actively against what the crown stands for.

What is also important is that they subvert the traditional trope of a black woman being brought in to *fix* someone (a la Marina Thompson in season two of *Bridgerton*). Sylvie isn't brought in to fix anyone. She and Athos challenge each other. She asks him up front: "What life do you want?" and encourages him to question what purpose the Musketeers really serve, if not to (*cont.*)

protect the rich of France and not the people as so claimed. Athos and Sylvie are a roller coaster, constantly up and down as they fight to understand one another and be a partner with each other in a way that doesn't completely erase who they are as individuals.

And they take care of each other. She shot a man for him! He saved her and defied the King's orders for her. But there is not an element to this that shapes it as a favor or an I-owe-you. This is a couple who love and protect each other--even before they actually become one.

This is certainly a contrast to Athos' relationship with Milady de Winter. His then-wife turned Cardinal's assassin turned sometimes lover brings out his anger, and dredges up awful memories of the past, especially knowing his brother was not the honorable man he thought.

This is not a slate against Milady--but he looks at her as if he is in pain. And they keep on trying to kill each other; it's toxic. Whenever he looks at Sylvie, the weight of the world seems to lift from his shoulders. There is relief and it is the same for Sylvie, despite how mistrusting she is of anyone working for the Crown--she trusts Athos and allows herself to be vulnerable with him.

"Misogynoir is nothing new in fan spaces but preferring a character you like to be in a toxic relationship with a white woman is really something."

Sylvie encourages him to find happiness outside of his life as a Musketeer. Even Milady, when she is somewhat reformed (I do support women's wrongs and rights!) still wants his focus to be on her, even if he suffers for it.

The reaction to Athos and Sylvie was to be expected--many online fans didn't like how she 'forced' him to give up his captaincy or how Sylvie doesn't need a man. All usual reactions to interracial relationships, especially when a woman of color is involved. Misogynoir is nothing new in fan spaces but preferring a character you like to be in a toxic relationship with a white woman is really something.

Regardless, the show ends with them riding off into the literal sunset, about to have a baby, and happily in love. A rare ending for a couple on a show like this demonstrates that despite an awful past and trauma, hope and love are still possible.■

The Book Nook

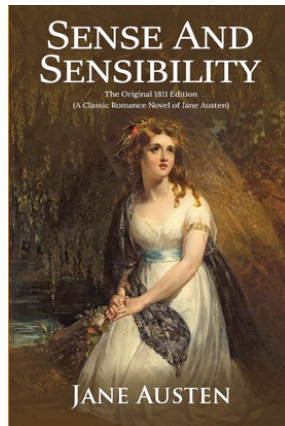


What have we been reading?

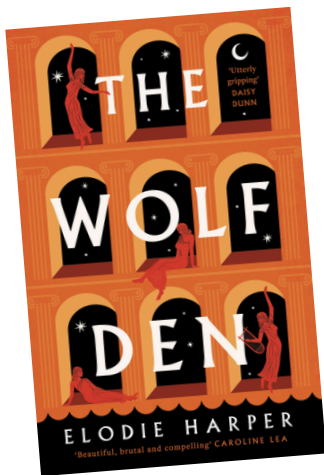
@periodicallydramatic is reading *Legendborn*!



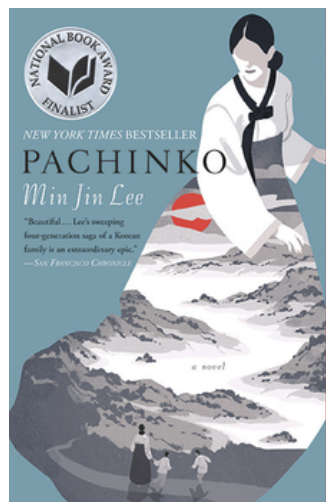
@personally.speaking is reading *Tender is the Night*!



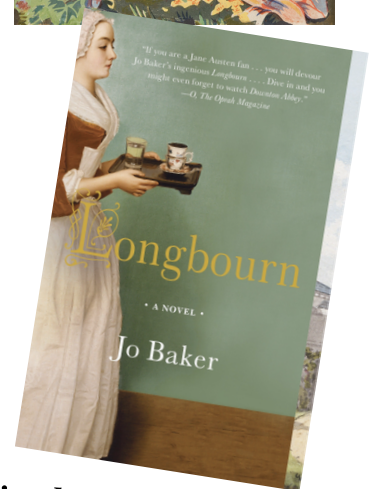
@ohmyperioddrama is reading *Sense & Sensibility*!



@rachelnatmcg is reading *The Wolf Den*!



@timeperiodfilm is reading *Pachinko*!



@stitchinaddiction is reading *Longbourn*!



THE BRIDGERTONS' LATEST GOSSIP

Dearest Readers,

This season, *Bridgerton* has given us much to talk about indeed. What has this season taught us, other than how stubborn two people can truly be? It showed us yet another way that we can stand in the way of true love: by not being honest with ourselves.

We are already familiar with Lord Bridgerton from his meddling with the matchmaking process of his sister. This season, it is *his* turn. He is in search of the perfect Viscountess (with questionable criteria: half a brain not required). Why eliminate true love from a match? Because he does not wish to mourn the loss of someone he loved once again.

But is this what he truly wants? He professes several times that "It does not matter what I want," suggesting a match without love is not necessarily what he desires. Yet what *do* you desire, Lord Bridgerton?

Then enter not one newcomer this season, but two: the diamond Edwina Sharma and her sister Kate. Miss Kate Sharma is an interesting addition, for she seems similar to Lord Bridgerton himself. Only she resolves to remain unmarried and to return to India after she finds the perfect match for her sister.

Yet, is this what Kate Sharma truly wants? She, like Anthony, seems determined to continue down this path. Yet several times over, both her mother and Lady Danbury suggest that refraining from a possible love match may make Kate's ideal life lonelier than she thinks. It is through a conversation with Eloise that we see Kate's awareness of life on the outskirts, for she tells Eloise it is 'hardly ideal' being an unmarried woman in society. If that is what she truly wanted, would she not be content with the effects?

Does anyone else notice how both Kate and Anthony willingly sacrifice the possibility of true love? And how no one asks them to? Or, more importantly, is it not interesting that both Anthony and Kate could obtain what each wanted without that sacrifice? It is not really necessary for Kate to harden her heart to love in order to remain independent while finding eternal happiness for her sister. Though uncommon, one can hypothetically find a partner without sacrificing independence, and even benefit from the prospects of a secured income (*cont.*)



(and a place in society that does not rest on the outskirts, I may add). As for Lord Bridgerton, is it impossible to find a woman with half a personality, wit, and grace to become Viscountess and, God forbid, enjoy a love-filled marriage? Their stubbornness to refrain from pursuing love provides the underlying reason for the mess throughout the season.

In the beginning, Kate and Anthony were honest about their intense dislike for one another. It only takes the eavesdropping of a conversation among this season's most eligible bachelors to fathom the underbelly of male intentions and one strong thorn in the way of a smooth proposal to make a bachelor's season miserable. Yet, one cannot help but notice the dynamic between the two enemies while watching an 'innocent' game of Pall Mall. As a newly married member of the Bridgertons, Daphne senses similarities between Anthony and Kate even if they refuse.

Miss Edwina's misguided determination for Kate and Anthony to spend time together allows them each to confront their feelings. Or continue to avoid them by conversing more on shared "familial duty." Why, then, when they profess their future plans to each other, do they continue to insist "it does not matter what I want"? They seem to be convincing themselves by lying to one another about the damp cloud that hangs over each of their future plans. A loveless marriage and a lonely life on the outskirts do not seem enticing at all.

An escape from the eyes of the watchful town provides an opportunity to declare what they truly desire. Though they do not quite reveal exactly what they want, they finally are honest with one another in terms of the spell they are under, and it is not quite the hate they initially professed.

If one thing is clear, it is that their stubbornness to stay in the way of what they truly desire is what they share in common the most. Anthony stubbornly remains on his path by proposing to Edwina while Miss Sharma continues to talk of India. If it is what they truly want, why then, as Miss Sharma drifts on the water, one cannot help but notice how intently Anthony fixes his gaze upon the lake? Is there something so enthralling about the ducks when there is a wedding to be planned, Lord Bridgerton?

Lady Violet Bridgerton senses his hesitations and throws him a lifeline by reassuring him he does not need to proceed with the match, for a woman can always change her mind without repercussions. *(cont.)*

The catch? He needs to be honest with himself. Is duty really in conflict with the heart's true desire? Could duty not join honestly with desire? No, taking the honest way would be much too complicated, for it is much easier to convince ourselves to continue down the road we initially set out than it is for us to admit to ourselves we do not want what we set out to seek. Why fight harder for a future of love when it is easier to take the path of inaction?

So it culminates to... the drop of a bracelet. A single look undoes an entire wedding. Here is their chance to be honest with one another and themselves, yet what do they do in the midst of the scandal? Continue down the paths they set for themselves from the beginning. How maddening it is, dearest readers, to watch the strength of a flame between two people burn those closest to them, all simply because they do not admit what they truly desire is a satisfying companionship. To swallow one's pride and to admit the path taken is not the right one turns out *not* to be a common trait for eldest siblings.

It takes Kate having a brush with death for Anthony to have an honest conversation with his mother, saying the words aloud for the first time to himself as well. Would Lady Violet Bridgerton lose her true love again? If it meant reliving all the best parts, she would do it without hesitation. Is Anthony ready to face the truth and remedy the situation, to look at it from another perspective, as an unassuming artist once said? Their conversation initiates action as Anthony calls upon Kate to ask her a most important question.

Her answer? A resounding *no* with a stubborn determination to return to India. One must ask why she refuses to see his true love, especially with the truth out in the open to everyone around them. Kate has been acting for the sake of others yet does not believe she herself deserves all the love in the world. Her mother confirms it is okay to want true love, to allow yourself to fall, no matter how daunting the fall may seem, for it is worth the bruises if it means you allow yourself to reach for the glimpse of happiness. What a disaster the season would be if it were not for our watchful mothers.

Finally, they submit to their desires and allow themselves to dance with one another without a care as to who is watching. Once the Queen saw the spark of true love she knows all too well, her approval paved the way for their future. They have yet another conversation, filled with (*cont.*)

mention of familial duty, of course, but finally profess their love to one another out loud.

We complicate love when we are dishonest with ourselves. If we refuse to admit what we want most, or, rather, at least that we find the path we chose is less satisfying than we initially thought, we stand in the way of what could be the beginning of a happy ending. There were obligations for both the Viscount and the Viscountess, but they themselves chose to eliminate a key aspect. It was not familial duty to avoid true love, but they chose familial duty over true love as if the two were mutually exclusive. Duty and desire can combine together to form a future for us only if we entertain the notion that we deserve to fall. It simply requires us to admit to ourselves we were wrong, to toss aside the importance of our egos, and to allow ourselves to reach for that happiness many have been fortunate to obtain by doing the very same.

So congratulations to the newlyweds and good luck to the Bridgertons, I have a feeling the Pall Mall game will bring bloodshed sometime soon thanks to an even playing field.

Yours Truly,

Megan Williams ■



Upcoming Period Dramas!



AMSTERDAM

**THE THREE
MUSKETEERS:
D'ARTAGNAN**



**PETER PAN
& WENDY**

**DON'T
WORRY
DARLING**

