



The Rules of Engagement

Catherine Bush

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A gripping novel of love and war, risk and responsibility

Arcadia Hearne is a war researcher, specializing in military intervention. But her immersion in contemporary war is offset by her refusal to put herself at risk, and by her insistence on keeping her past at bay.

Ten years earlier, in the mid-1980s, Arcadia had fled Toronto for London after two university students--rivals for her love--fought a pistol duel over her. Now, through the interventions of her sister, Lux, and her increasingly complicated relationship with a new lover, Amir, who has secrets of his own, Arcadia is forced to confront what really happened on the day of the duel.

Moving from the verdant ravines of Toronto to the secret canals of a gritty, vibrant London, *The Rules of Engagement* has an extraordinary sense of time and place. A powerful exploration of the nature of love, the novel provocatively explores the crossing of emotional, ethical, and literal borders.

The Rules of Engagement Details

Date : Published August 2nd 2000 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

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Author : Catherine Bush

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From Reader Review The Rules of Engagement for online ebook

Tim Grace says

Found it an interesting read but it did not grab me. Some interesting thoughts on war / conflict and what motivates people to act.

Candice Pitman says

Disappointing main character. Failed righteousness. She annoyed me pretty much the whole time.

Meredith says

Interesting topic, well-written. Listened to while running-good audio book.

Paul Lima says

This book has a strong female lead and is exceptionally well written. I had a few problems with how it develops, but overall it's a solid read. The main character, Arcadia Hearne, is a war researcher, specializing in military intervention. But her immersion in contemporary war is offset by her refusal to put herself at risk, and by her insistence on keeping her past at bay. However, she plunges into the past, and this is where I had some issues. We seem to leave a perfectly interesting present behind and I don't fully understand her plunge into the past, other than she deals with an issue she had fled when she moved from Toronto, Canada to London, England after two university students--rivals for her love--fought a pistol duel over her. Arcadia is forced to confront what really happened on the day of the duel, but it falls kind of flat for me and feels less interesting than her present reality. But again, there is a lot to like about the book, especially the overall writing and strength of the main character.

Stephanie says

It was a long read... I found it rather boring at times and not very exciting, however I enjoyed the story

Belinda says

The premise of the book seemed weak to me. I felt the reason for fleeing her family did not justify the length and breadth of distance.

Debbie says

Found the story soulless so didn't do a lot for me.

Bill says

In its simplest form, Arcadia Hearne has run away from home and past events and relationships and settled in London where she works for the Center for the Contemporary War Studies, studying war and intervention. Catherine Bush spins this story in such a manner that it's very difficult to put the book down. She interweaves present events with Arcadia's past in Toronto, slowly winding these two stories together to provide a clear picture of Arcadia and the reasons for her running off to London. While Arcadia studies war, she does so only theoretically, never actually visiting the places where these wars are taking place. She has relationships, most recently with an Iranian immigrant who also has a secret life trying to help refugees. Arcadia, while she likes the relationship, avoids the messier side of life. Discovering more about Amir, she runs away again, back to Toronto, where she tries to confront her past events and also deal with her parents. Catherine Bush is a wonderful writer, her prose is intelligent and thoughtful and her story telling skills superb. I enjoyed reading this book so very much and loved how Bush tried to resolve the various story lines, but also leaving enough unsaid that you can come to your own conclusions. Excellent!

Marguerite says

A complex, well-paced and thoughtful book about conflict: on a personal/romantic level as well as tribal and national levels. It touches on global hot spots, but applies the same analysis and reason to "agents of intervention" and "humanitarian aid" for personal relationships. In either case, we're forced to make choices about getting involved, which carries risk, or observing, which has its own price. Bush's writing is spot-on. the novel moves from now to then clearly, and the characters are nuanced. I finished this during a four-hour root canal. Thanks to Bush and a hefty dose of novocaine, it was a snap.

Leanne says

An intriguing novel - a very subtle psychological thriller.

Jen says

<http://kirbc.com/2008/09/13/the-rules...>

Bonnie says

I thought I had read this, but I picked it up the other day. (Along with Claire's Head)

