



Mercy's Embrace

Laura Hile

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Twelve-thousand a year and an extensive estate can gild a sow's ear, or so Elizabeth Elliot has always supposed. But now that she's fallen for the dashing Patrick Gill, Elizabeth is almost ready to give up Mr Rushworth's fortune. Painfully aware of her bruised pride and vulnerable heart, Elizabeth can only despise herself for loving so common a man. But it has never occurred to her that darling Mr Gill guards a secret of his own--and that he might be responsible for her father's disappearance. So Lively a Chase is book 2 of Laura Hile's delightful series Mercy's Embrace: Elizabeth Elliot's story base on Jane Austen's Persuasion.

Mercy's Embrace Details

Date :

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Author : Laura Hile

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From Reader Review Mercy's Embrace for online ebook

Alexa Adams says

Allison says

I'm loving Elizabeth Elliot's story. Amazing that Hile is turning her into a sympathetic character before my very eyes.

Meredith (Austen-esque Reviews) says

So Lively a Chase, book two in Laura Hile's remarkable Mercy's Embrace trilogy, recommences with our heroine, Elizabeth Elliot, swimming in a sea predicaments and trials, both of her own-making and her father's. In addition to constantly fending off her indefatigable and unwanted suitors, Elizabeth now has to contend with a household full of people (Anne and Mary have returned to Bath with their husbands) who are all highly suspicious of her habits and altered behavior. And to top it all off, Elizabeth has found herself to be in love – deeply and resolutely in love – with Patrick Gill, a man of no fortune or rank. What our humbled heroine doesn't know is that Mr. Gill has deceived her and is not the fortuneless and lowly clerk she believes him to be.

Meanwhile, our dashing and devastatingly handsome hero, Admiral McGillvary, is striving to escape from his own tangled web of lies and waiting for the perfect opportunity to come clean and confess his true identity to Elizabeth. Will that moment ever come?

There is much more to this series than Elizabeth Elliot and Admiral McGillvary, however. Sir Walter, still hiding from his creditors, soon finds himself in a disastrous situation to which Lady Russell devises the most astounding solution. One which her faithful servant, Longwell, vehemently disapproves of. Moreover, per their usual, Charles and Mary Musgrove are experiencing some marital discord. Mary continues to be peevish and ill, while Charles finds the company of Wentworth's plain and friendly neighbor, Miss Owen, to be refreshingly agreeable. Not only are these many plots and story-lines absorbing and amusing, they are ingeniously and deftly interwoven with each other. The action of the story jumps from plot to plot as the events of the story are often occurring simultaneously. Furthermore, Ms. Hile seems to have a penchant for leaving her readers on tenterhooks, so be prepared for each story to be interrupted at the most inopportune moment!

The second novel in a trilogy must be the most challenging for an author to write. The first novel is where the reader becomes acquainted with all the characters and is introduced to the conflict. The third novel is where all loose ends are tied up and everything is satisfyingly concluded. But the second novel is where the author needs to keep their readers enthralled and entertained without resolving the story. In this second installment of the Mercy's Embrace series, author Laura Hile capably maintains her readers' engagement and leaves them ravenously longing for a conclusion! Ms. Hile's writing is powerfully engrossing, witty, and exhilarating. The action of the story is fast-paced and there is a copious amount of tension and drama. When

reading one of her novels I become so invested that sometimes my heart beats faster or I anxiously hold my breath. Other times I am laughing out loud and wearing a perpetual smile upon my face. Laura Hile is truly an exceptionally skilled author, and I am a devoted admirer of her writing!

If you love to read Austenesque novels and have ever wondered what happens to the haughty and beautiful Elizabeth Elliot after the close of *Persuasion*, I encourage you to read the *Mercy's Embrace* series by Laura Hile. It is brimming with romance, drama, and humor!

(Potential readers should be made aware that this is the second book in the *Mercy's Embrace* series, and that it will be necessary to read all three books to attain the complete story).

Austen-esque Reviews

Yiota says

Good followup to the 2nd - really starting to feel for Elizabeth!! Curious to see how it ends.

Maureen Chritzman says

Hard to Put Down

In this second installment of the series, Elizabeth is trying to figure out how to bring about a semblance of independence for herself....but at what price? And what about her growing feelings for Mr. Gill? Lady Russell tries to save Elizabeth's father, and comes up with a rather crazy scheme. Mary and Charles are having problems of their own, leaving the Wentworths stuck trying to keep everything under control. With so many twists and turns, this is a fun, humorous read. Bring on Part 3!

Carole (in Canada) says

Oh my goodness the tension is rising! Not only do we have Elizabeth trying to juggle her suitors, but we have Sir Walter Elliot still refusing to face his financial ruin and making announcements that he has no right to make. Lady Russell has decided to help her long time friend, Sir Walter, and may be regretting those decisions. Mary and Charles Musgrove have arrived back in Bath and we all know how Mary loves to complain. I was also thrilled to see Miss Bingley in Bath as well. Amazingly enough, she turned out to be useful for Elizabeth!

Each of Elizabeth's suitors have their own agendas and will stop at nothing to have her. However, the enigmatic Patrick Gill, a mere 'person', wants desperately to reveal his secret but there never seems to be the perfect opportunity.

Elizabeth, in the meantime, is dealing with a guilt that is crushing her. As she struggles through her trials, she begins to slowly transform, and for me, this is beautifully done.

I ran the gamut of emotions in this book, but there were times I wanted to slap Sir Walter silly! Well, maybe

not silly, for he is that already, but knock him many rungs off his ladder. There are a lot of tangled webs in this story that need to be unraveled and I'm all anticipation to begin reading the last book in this story!

Reminder: This is Book 2 of 3 - you do need to start with Book 1 Mercy's Embrace So Rough A Course.

Anita B says

Kerry's Embrace: So Lovely a Chase Book 2: Elizabeth Elliot 's Story

We continue with Elizabeth 's story in her search for a husband while dealing with her father and two sisters. A wonderful Regency Romance!

Sheila Majczan says

4.5 rounded up to 5 stars

This is the second of three and it is definitely not to be read alone.

Elizabeth Elliot and Patrick Gill continue to meet for tea every Tuesday and Thursday but family and acquaintances demand attention for her while disguise and having to remember his role is the part Mr. Gill plays.

Elizabeth is not one of my favorite Jane Austen characters and she is slow to win my regard in these books. I do believe it is mainly because the man she befriends and falls in love with is so witty and even generous on his part that I finally care about her working it all out and having her HEA.

We do read about Lady Russell (and she has a few surprises for us) and well as her other goddaughters, Mary and Anne, and their husbands, Fredrick and Charles and a neighbor and cousin. The servants play a part in this story, also.

Persuasion based much of the story on the retrenchment needed by Sir Walter Elliot. And in this book we find he has learned nothing but how to ignore demands for payments of debts as well as how to safely his from the bailiff.

Elizabeth is beautiful and knows how to act in a crowd: what to say, what to wear and whom to approach. But she also attracts the attention of several men. You may find amusement in the identity of one such person.

This story gradually caught me in its web and now I must go on to the next and last in the series.

Susan says

In this Persuasion sequel (Book 2) Elizabeth Elliot's problems continue. Having fallen for poor Patrick Gill can she give up Mr. Rushworth and his fortune even if he is getting a divorce. With Sir Walter's debt

mounting what can be done. And what are Lady Russell's plans

A very enjoyable well-written story, I like this Elizabeth in the first Book and I continue to do so. Sir Walter and Mary Musgrove are as annoying as ever.

Claudine DiMuzio / Just Jane 1813 says

Just finished this book tonight... WOW!! Even better than the first book in this series!! Review & giveaway of Book two coming this week to Just Jane 1813.

Go to justjane1813.com for my review & giveaway of Book One. Thank you to all of my Goodreads friends for visiting my review today. I always love reading your comments!!

Nely Shih says

It is a Romantic book.

Jane Greensmith says

Laura Hile is the author of *Mercy's Embrace*, a three-book novel, of which the first two books are now available. *So Rough a Course* (Book One) and *So Lively a Chase* (Book Two) tell the story of Elizabeth Elliot, the older sister of Anne Elliot, the heroine of Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, and how she comes to fall in love with Patrick McGillvary, the man she vows to hate. I just finished *So Lively A Chase* and I'm eagerly awaiting publication of the third and final volume in this wonderful story.

In the meantime, I thought my blogger friends would be interested in meeting Laura, whom I first met about ten years ago, when we were both writing fanfiction at the Derbyshire Writers Guild and Bits of Ivory, the now-defunct story board at the Republic of Pemberley. I fell in love with the story that she and Susan Kaye were co-authoring, *Love Suffers Long* and *Is Kind*, a *Persuasion* alternate universe story, and I have been following her writing career ever since.

If you would like to win a copy of *So Lively a Chase*, here's what you can do: visit my blog: <http://janegs.blogspot.com/2010/04/la...> and follow the instructions.

Welcome, Laura. I want to congratulate you on the publication of *Mercy's Embrace*. It's really a thrill for me to interview you on my blog today.

As you know, Jane, I spend my days shut up with middle-school students, helping them cope with the agonies of pre-algebra, English grammar, sentence diagramming, and the like. While I do enjoy their company -- thirteen-year-olds are an endless source of comic inspiration! -- it is a pleasure write this for you today. Thinking readers! Civilized manners! Culture and refinement and peace! For a weary middle-school teacher, these are heady themes ...

Now that the formalities are out of the way, can you tell us a little about yourself and how you came to write about Elizabeth Elliot of all characters? Before I read your story, she was one of the characters that I truly loved to hate!

Ah yes, our Elizabeth is a real stinker, isn't she! And I was in there with you, Jane, hating away ... until one day I realized that Elizabeth is an eldest daughter, like me. She has an ill-concealed superiority complex...and I do, too! In fact, if I'd been born beautiful, I would have been just as awful as Elizabeth! I suppose this is why she is easy to write -- she's me! I should also add that Austen's Mary Musgrove is easy to write...

I began dabbling in Austen fiction in 1999, when the the Internet was young, for the sole reason that I wanted to accomplish something! Seriously. At that time I was a stay-at-home mom. My sons were in elementary school (and younger) and the cycle of household chores was never-ending. Every single thing I did -- even at work! I delivered a daily newspaper, The Oregonian -- had to be done again and again! The woeful state of my checking account meant that any hobby I took up had to be cheap. Writing qualified! The wheezy 486 desktop computer in our bedroom was perfect for my purposes, and dial-up Internet was a gateway to the wide world. Ah, the thrill of posting a story installment on the web! I watched the chapters pile up in my notebook. Here was accomplishment!

These days my sons are older, and I'm teaching full time. I've exchanged household chores and newspaper delivery for needy students! The time available for writing is much less, and my brain is weary and cluttered. On Saturdays and during school vacations (when I am, in theory, able to think) I write like mad.

I discovered Elizabeth Elliot's potential while working on Love Suffers Long and is Kind with Susan Kaye. What could be better than a beautiful, opinionated woman in want of a fortune? Although I've made Elizabeth more intelligent than Austen did, she's not as smart as she thinks. She's a well-bred Regency "Lucy Ricardo" whose schemes go sadly awry.

I never thought of Elizabeth Elliot as Lucy Ricardo, but I can see the connection! That's hilarious.

What is the title of the third book in the series and when can we expect it to be available?

The third book is called Mercy's Embrace: The Lady Must Decide, and it should be available in May. The title reflects my struggle, for as I wrote I became convinced that a "real life" Elizabeth would abandon the risk of true love and would settle for social position and security offered by her loathsome cousin!

Do you blog, and if so, what role does blogging play in the life of an author in the 21st century?

I've tried blogging, but I've yet to hit upon a topic that comes naturally and is interesting! (How sad is this?) What I do best is write fiction, so I began posting a work-in-progress Regency story, Mare's Nest, and, between book manuscripts, have been inching along. A link to my fiction blog can be found at LauraHile.com. I also blog at Crownhillwriters.com.

Are you a plotter or a seat-of-the-pants writer?

I am a plotter, although not a very organized one. Too often I find myself in a fix (due to some detail or other that I've overlooked) and have to write my way out. In this respect, writing a book manuscript is very

different than writing a serialized novel. In a book, mistakes can be fixed! Not so with serialized fiction. Readers remember, so the writer must twist the plot around yet again ...

Do you ever feel like your characters take on a life of their own, and do you let them dictate the story or do you rein them in?

As much as I like to think that I have the characters under my thumb, I don't. A story is a living thing, and readers aren't the only ones to be entertained by an unexpected change of direction! The biggest surprise for me came when Lady Russell's staid butler, Longwell, lifted himself from the very proper speech I'd planned and gave vent to his true feelings. Astonished, I kept typing as words rolled out. Magic moments like these make the grinding work of writing worthwhile.

I find Mercy's Embrace to be a lovely mix of Austen characters in a Georgette Heyer world. Are you a Heyer fan? If so, do you have a favorite?

Ah, so you have found me out! I discovered Heyer at a time when most of her books were out of print, and for years I kept a lookout in libraries and used bookstores. Now that I think on it, the combative courtship of Elizabeth and Patrick was very probably influenced by Regency Buck. Other Heyer favorites include The Masqueraders, The Toll Gate, and Cotillion. I might add that fans of Heyer's A Civil Contract will see undertones in Love Suffers Long and is Kind.

Do you take a fiendish delight in writing cliff-hangers? You're awfully good at bringing us tantalizingly close to resolution and then WHAM! Another monkey wrench throws everything up in the air again.

My love of the cliff-hanger was perfected during the years I wrote serialized fiction. Smarty-pants readers were too fond (I thought) of posting their ideas on message boards, thus thwarting the element of surprise. The Elizabeth Elliot in me took delight in outsmarting them!

I hope I rank in the smarty-pants category--I remember trying to figure out where you were taking the story and was surprised more often than not. Next question, how do you balance research—getting the details right for a historical fiction—with the need to get on with the storytelling? Do you do all your research up front or research as the need arises?

For me, research happens on an as-needed basis. Most of what I've learned comes from my love of reading old books. Also, because of television and cinema, modern readers expect the story to be told in action and dialog. This works in my favor, as I am not very good at description!

Tell us about your publisher, Wytherngate Press, and the Crown Hill Writers Guild.

Wytherngate Press is a small publishing house based in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Pamela Aidan's very popular Fitzwilliam Darcy, Gentleman trilogy was first released by Wytherngate, and was later picked up by Simon and Schuster. The Crown Hill Writers Guild is a group of like-minded writing friends.

What kind of a writing project do you think you will tackle next? Have you started your next novel?

Susan Kaye and I have decided to experiment with the Kindle market. This spring and summer we are editing our epic-size tale, *Love Suffers Long and is Kind*, for release (at Christmas?) as a series of ebooks. The idea is to have all five volumes available at the same time, and for a very low price apiece. Readers either adore or loathe this "what-if" story featuring Anne Elliot and Captain Wentworth, and Kindle is the perfect venue for it. I must say, it's been wonderful to work with my beloved James Benwick once again. I'm hopeful that Susan and I will at last be able to write the concluding (two?) volumes to this story.

For 2012, I am planning to release *Mercy's Hard Bargain*, the sequel to *Mercy's Embrace*.

I for one am looking forward to reading *Love Suffers Long* again front-to-back, but I'll have to stock up on tissues. There were a couple of scenes near the beginning that just devastated me--so powerful, so poignant. Also, I absolutely adore your James Benwick. Turns out to be a real hero.

Moving on... What do you like to read? Who are your favorite authors?

My sentimental favorite is Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, with Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* running a close second. Although I love sparkling romances, I find myself more often reaching for cozy mysteries. Dorothy L Sayers, Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, PD James, and Ralph McInerney are favorite authors.

What is the best and the worst things that have happened to you since you've become a writer?

After teaching creative writing at our high school for eight years, a schedule conflict prevented me from offering it this fall. I shake my head and smile. Just when I become a published author, the writing class is canceled...

On the other hand, I am amazed and humbled to hear how I've entertained and amused "real life" friends, even my very well educated cousins. I've become a bit of a celebrity to my students, and I use this for all it's worth. Now when I tell them, "Somebody will write the songs / the television scripts / the adventure novels of the future, and it might as well be you," I hold up published books. "If I can do this," I tell them, "so can you. Do not abandon your dreams just because they involve hard work."

Thank-you, Laura, for sharing your thoughts, dreams, and insights with us. It's been great getting to know you over the years, and I absolutely adore your Austen-inspired stories. You're a wonderful writer who deserves a huge following.

Marguerite Gray says

Just when I think Elizabeth has a problem solved, another twist arrives. I love this series. Now I have to read Book 3 immediately.

Rima says

Great continuation to Elizabeth's story, with some Bible verses and Christian themes woven in lightly and naturally.

Kathleen Buckley says

I got *So Rough a Course*, Book 1 of Laura Hile's trilogy, *Mercy's Embrace: Elizabeth Elliott's Story* for free and liked it so much I immediately bought Books II (*So Lively a Chase*) and III (*The Lady Must Decide*). As I read them compulsively, one after another, I'm reviewing them together. The books are reminiscent of Jane Austen's, and are a good read, even if you aren't an Austen fan. Her characters think and act like early 19th century English gentry, not like 20th or 21st century people in costume. Also, there is no sex. Not that I am against sex, you understand: but I do think it's often overdone in romance novels. The essence of a romance novel is the pursuit, not the capture.
